



Don Patricio – A flawed legend

6 Episodes Script by Andrew Hindle-
Based on the book 'The Man who saved FC Barcelona'
by Sue O'Connell



LOGLINE

An Irish football visionary flees his domestic responsibilities to become a Spanish managerial legend, bigamously marrying the woman he loves and saving FC Barcelona from extinction during the Spanish Civil War—only for his buried past to catch up with him and destroy his legacy.

Genre = Drama

Length = 6 x 50-minute episodes

Rating = 12



WINNER
Best Drama Script
Award - London
2025

SYNOPSIS

Patrick O'Connell rose from humble beginnings in Dublin to play for Belfast Celtic and Manchester United where he was involved in the most notorious match fixing scandal of his generation.

On retirement from playing, he abandoned his wife Ellen and his four children and moved to Spain to become a very successful football manager. The story intertwines from Patrick's triumphs in Spain to the poverty-stricken family he left behind in Manchester.



SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

Patrick became the first and only manager to win La Liga with Real Betis before managing FC Barcelona. He then marries again but without seeking a divorce, which leads to disastrous consequences.



SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

At the outbreak of the Spanish civil war in 1936, the President of Barcelona, Josep Sunyol, was assassinated leaving the club in crisis. Don Patricio as he was affectionately known took the club on tour to Mexico, Cuba and New York and the money they raised ensured the club's survival.

After the civil war he returned to work in Spain before heading to London where, unable to find work and abandoned by his second wife, after she uncovers the truth that he was bigamous, he dies destitute in 1959.



Themes

The key theme in Don Patricio is the profound conflict between Patrick's personal ambition of football and his family obligations.

Ambition vs Duty

Illusion vs Reality

The "Fallen Hero" Narrative

The impact of war

The establishment of the Spanish La Liga

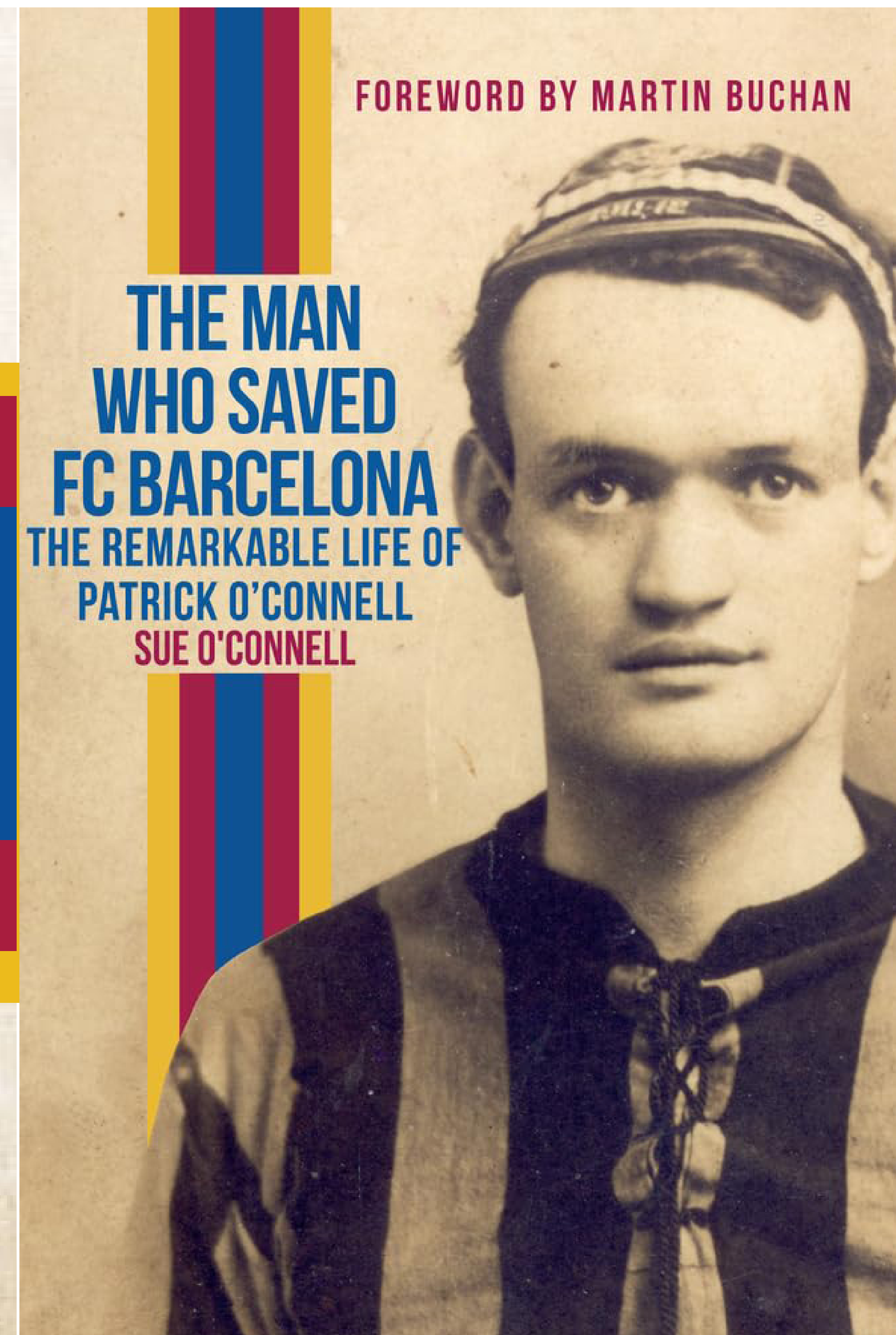
Poverty in Manchester



Writers

- Award winning writer and filmmaker Andrew Hindle – Director of Main Road Films <https://mainroadfilms.co.uk/>

- Screenplay adaptation of ‘The Man Who Saved FC Barcelona’ by Sue O’Connell the wife of Michael O’Connell, grandson of Patrick.



Recommendations by Industry

Professional coverage reports for Don Patricio are available upon request.

Rating = Recommend
Top 1% = Concept
Top 1% = Characters
Top1% = Plot



Unique Hook

“This TV drama grabs our attention immediately with its compelling premise of an underdog hero who saves FC Barcelona against all odds. The concept of delving into the life of Patrick O’Connell, a lesser-known yet pivotal figure in football history, is not only entertaining but also educational “.

“What I truly loved about this film is that the combination of historical depth, personal struggles, and the dramatic backdrop of early 20th-century football creates what is an epic drama. This unique blend of sports, history, and personal redemption makes the script, to my mind, intriguing from the outset”.

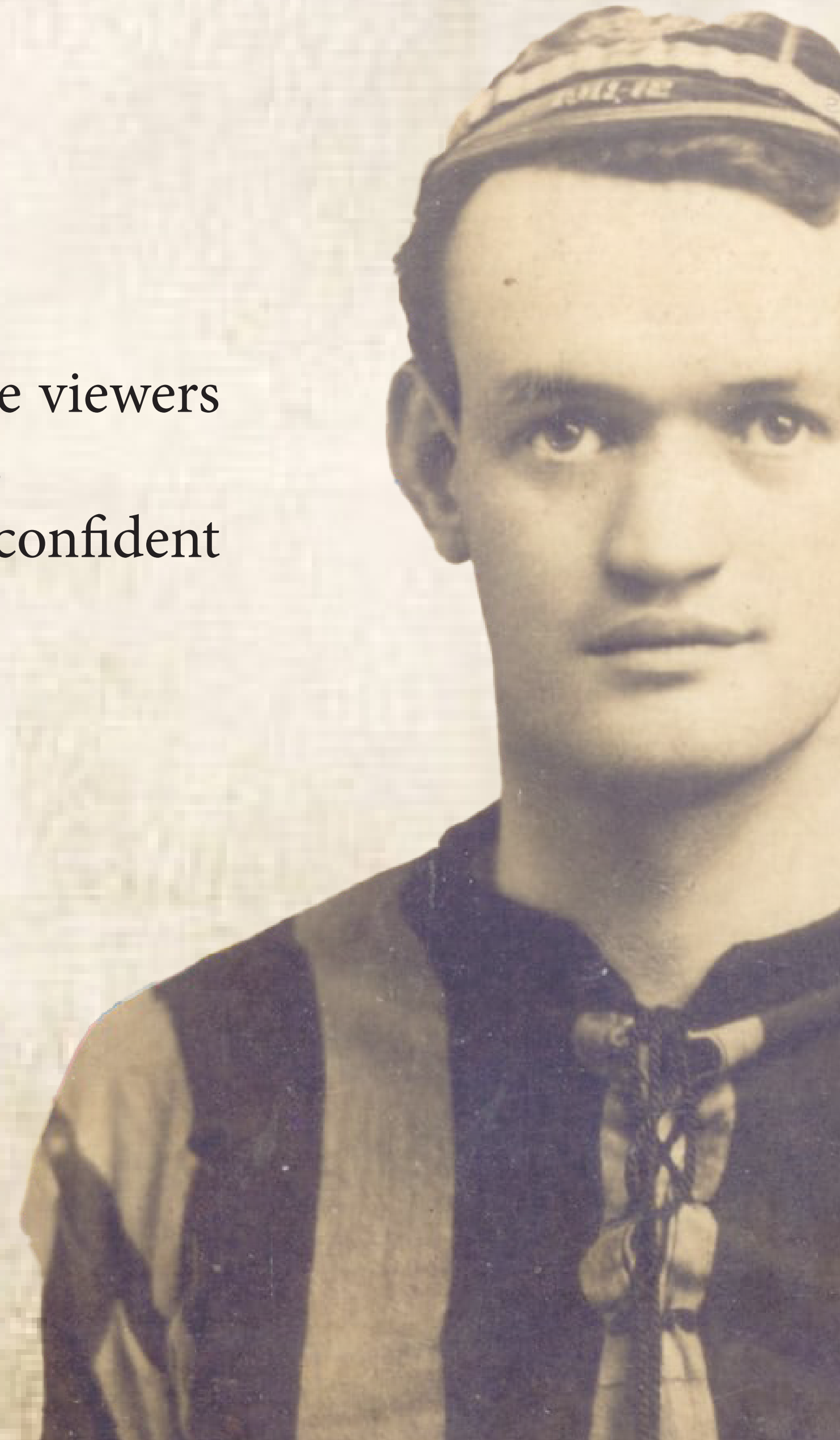
Dialogue

“The dialogues are masterfully crafted, capturing the essence of the characters and their complex relationships with powerful and dramatic lines. Firstly, it’s not easy to stay true to the era all while ensuring that you’re differentiating between British and Irish humour and colloquialisms. The way you’ve nuanced the script is terrific”.



Target Audience

“The buzz this drama would create is unimaginable. It would entice viewers who are interested in epic romances, world war films, sports dramas frankly, Don Patricio has a little bit of everything for everybody. I’m confident that this drama will find its audience”.



Genre Impact

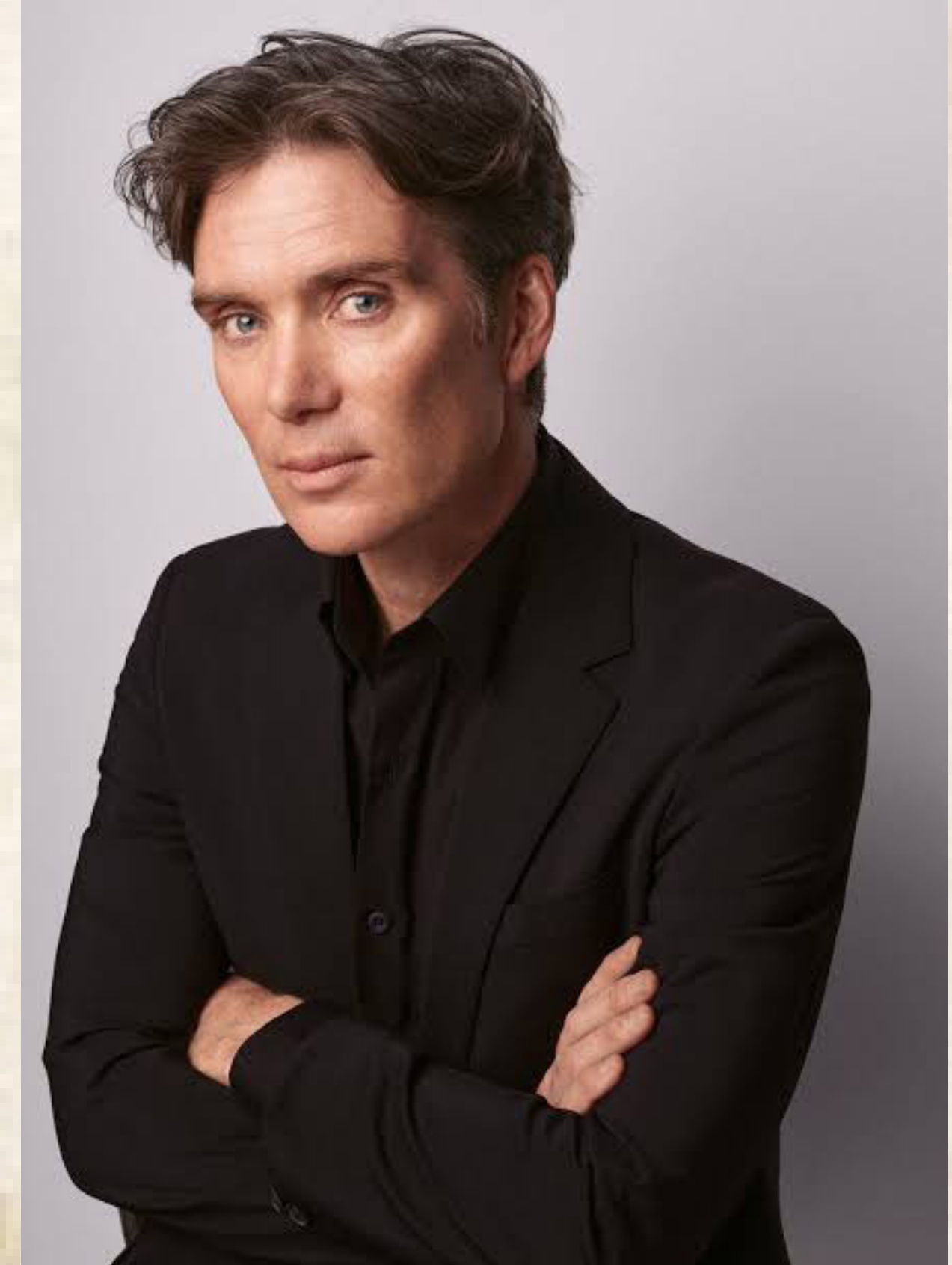
“It’s safe to say that this TV drama can definitely garner interest from A-list directors, studios, and streaming platforms. It has immense festival potential; plus, it’s commercially viable”.



Cillian Murphy

to play Patrick O’Connell Senior-

Cillian Murphy would be the ideal choice to play Patrick O’Connell because his established screen persona aligns with the psychological depth and moral contradictions of a “fallen hero”.



TALENT WISH LIST



Saoirse Ronan
to play Ellen O’Connell



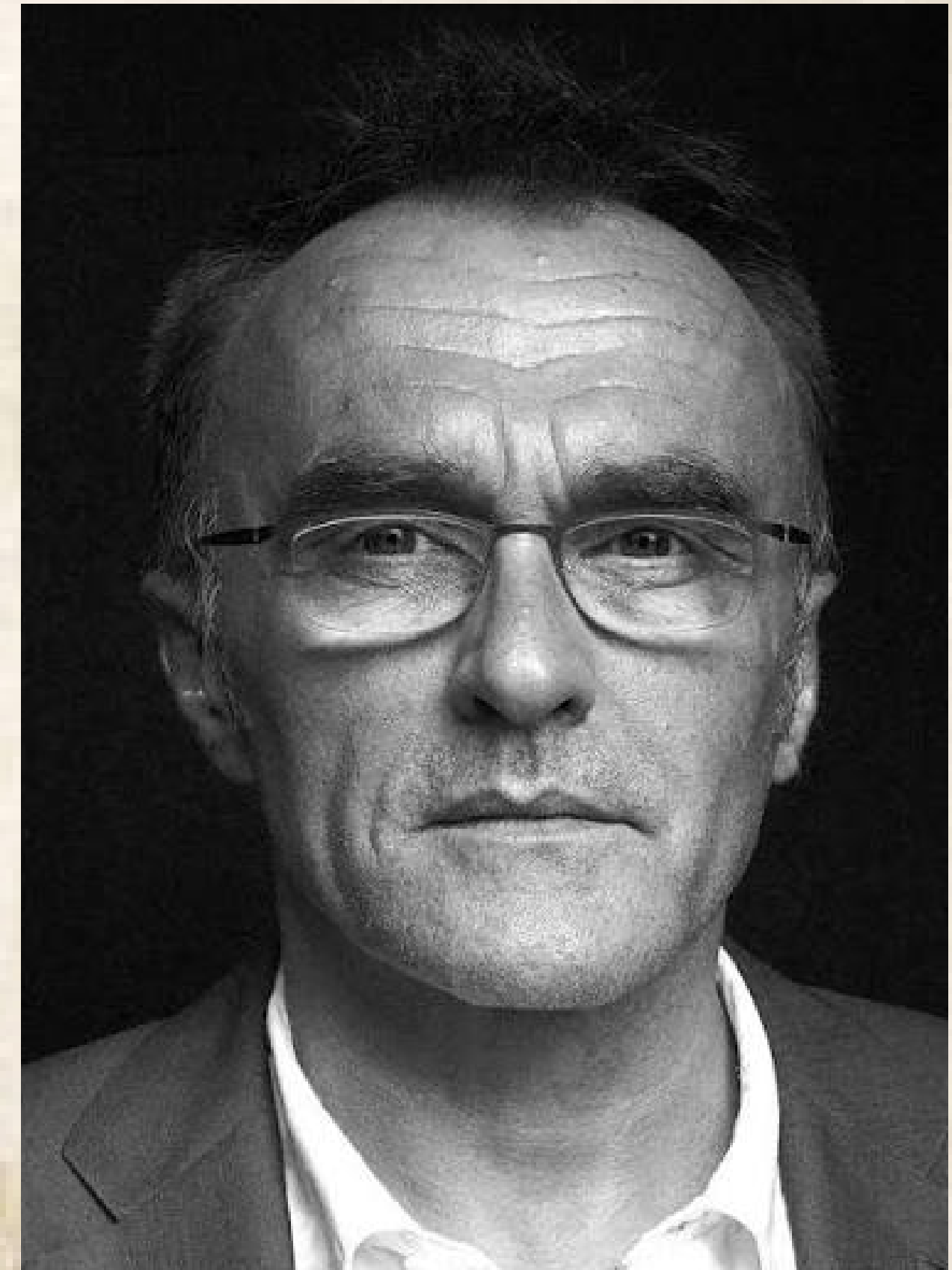
Aran Murphy
to play Patrick O’Connell as a young man.

DIRECTOR WISH LIST

Danny Boyle

Danny Boyle has filmed several acclaimed films and TV series based on historical events and true stories.

He would have affinity with the project given his Irish heritage and as a lifelong supporter of Manchester United.



TV SERIES COMPARISONS

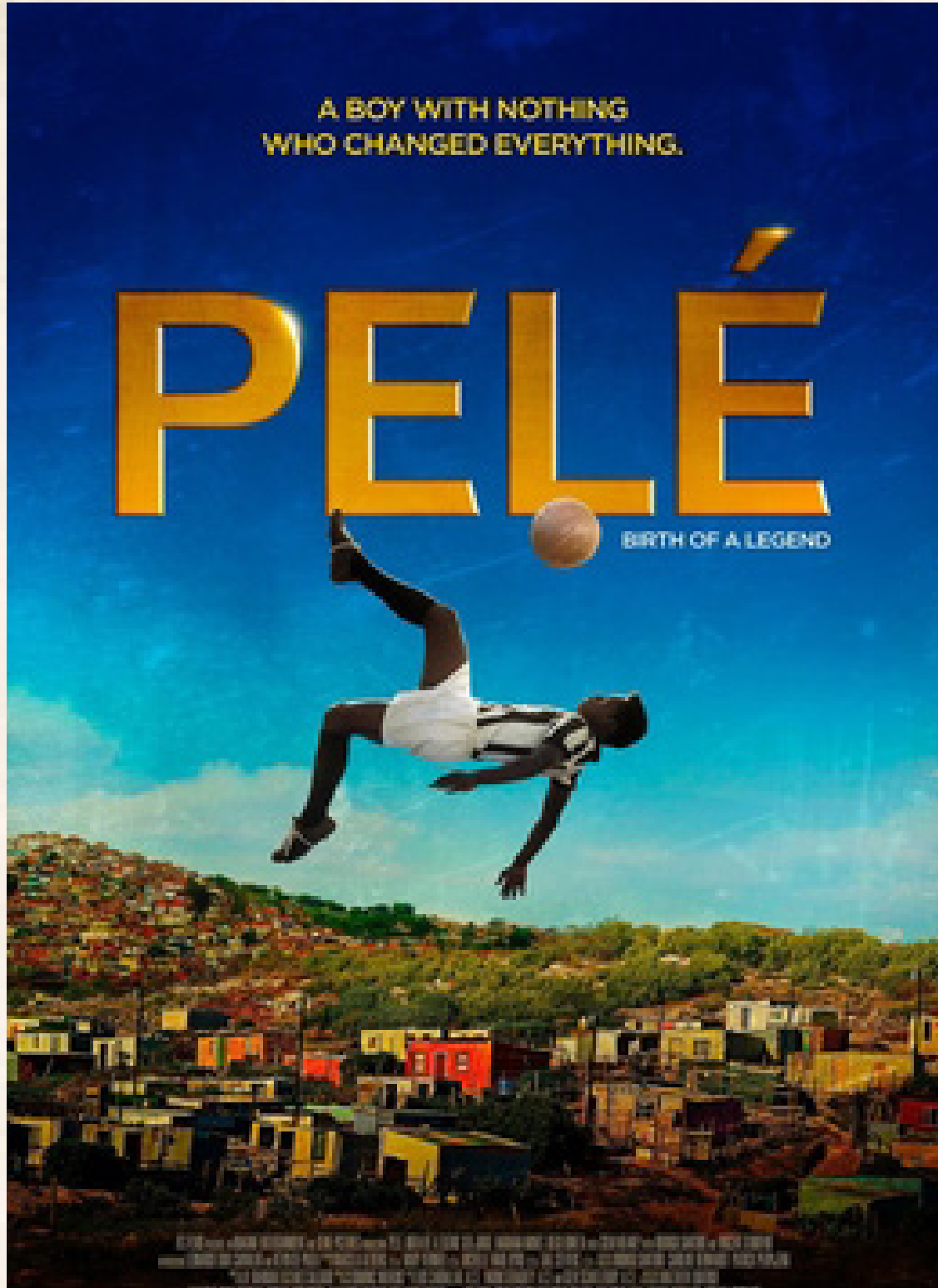


Dear England



The English Game

FILM COMPARISONS



Pelé



The Damned United

Option Agreement

An Option Agreement is in place between Andrew Hindle (Main Road Films Limited), the author of 'The Man who Saved FC Barcelona' Sue O'Connell and Amberley Publishing Holdings Limited. This was arranged via Level Law.



Historical Drama - 1908-1959 Locations

- Dublin

- Belfast

- Sheffield

- Manchester

- Dumbarton

- Santander

- Seville

- Barcelona

- Mexico City

- New York

- London

THANK YOU

For further information please contact
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