

Beyond Limits - The Next Generation airs January 23rd

1x50' documentary from Athena Media for Setanta Sports made with the support of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's Sound & Vision Scheme. **Beyond Limits : The Next Generation** is free to air on Setanta Ireland at 10 pm on January 23rd, two repeats are scheduled for January 26th at 10 pm, January 29th at 8 pm and February 10th at 10 pm.

Beyond Limits - The Next Generation follows winning Irish paralympic athletes in the year post the ground-breaking London 2012 Paralympic Games, and looks at the legacy of those results and the impact on the next generation of athletes coming forward. With sixteen medals brought home from London, the documentary takes up the story begun in **Beyond Limits**, which was broadcast just before the 2012 Games started, and finds out what happens next for our heroic champions. It looks at the impact of the London 2012 achievements in changing public attitudes to disability sport as well as the inspiration it has given to the next generation as they look to compete in 2016 at the games in Rio.

The presenter is **Mark Pollock**, the blind and paralysed adventure athlete, who meets experienced champion Irish athletes who take the next generation of future sporting stars under their wing and mentor them as they look towards not just competing, but winning at the next Paralympics.



Key characters featured include elite athletes and mentors to the next generation such as the fastest paralympian on earth **Jason Smyth** who added to his double gold in Beijing by winning two more in London, shattering world records along the way, *"People coming through see me on TV, so they look at myself as someone who has been there and done it and somebody who has the experience that they want to*

learn from". Tandem cyclist **Peter Ryan**, swimmer **Ailbhe Kelly**, and discus thrower **Niamh McCarthy** are lucky enough to be mentored by Jason as they try to gain some of the winning mentality that now comes naturally to him.

Double gold medalist in the 800m and 1,500m at London 2012, **Michael McKillop**, was officially recognised as the athlete who best exemplifies the spirit of the Paralympic games when he was awarded the prestigious Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award during the closing ceremony, and he continues to exemplify this spirit by mentoring fellow cerebral palsy athlete **Heather Jameson**, *"I now have the experience and need to pass it on to the younger generation. And that younger generation in CP sport is Heather Jameson"*.



Veteran Paralympic athlete **Catherine Walsh** who at 39 years of age has competed at six Paralympic Games winning silver and bronze in London is the perfect ambassador for disability sport and imparts her wealth of knowledge to the also visually impaired tandem cyclist, **Peter Ryan**, who within the space of a year has

gone from barely ever riding a bike, to competing at the UCI World Championships and World Cup in Canada. Catherine also mentors **Heather Jameson** whose specialty of the long jump is a sport very familiar to Catherine, *"I feel that I definitely have something to give back to people who are starting off, whether that would be in athletics or cycling or just paralympics sport in general"*.

Swimmer **Darragh McDonald**, a veteran of two Paralympic games and still only 19, became a silver medallist in Beijing in 2008 at the age of just 14, and finally became a gold medallist at London 2012. We find out what happens next for Darragh after London and what advice he has along with able-bodied Olympian and pentathlete **Natalya Coyle** for swimmer **Ailbhe Kelly** who is now the same age Darragh was in Beijing. Darragh feels that paralympic sport is finally getting the public recognition it deserves, *"the main analogy I used before London was it felt like we were on the crest of a wave, and the wave kind of crashed down in London and I think perceptions are finally changing"*.



Whether it be discus thrower and bronze medalist in London **Orla Barry** helping **Niamh McCarthy** with her throw, or Para Equestrian rider and winner of three medals **Helen Kearney** giving wheelchair tennis player **Garreth Greene** advice on how to deal with the pressure of major competition along with Wimbledon veteran **Conor Niland**, this next generation of athletes learn that regardless of the sporting discipline, many of the same principles apply and in the context of Irish Paralympic Sport after the London Games, the great success achieved will hopefully breed similar success in Rio.

Athena Media is an award-winning production company led by **Helen Shaw**. The company makes broadcast and online content. Its TV credits include **Winning Women** (Setanta Sports 2008); **Is It Just Me?** (RTE Two 2009); **Pat Falvey: My Private Everest** (Setanta Sports 2011); **Beyond Limits** (Setanta Sports 2012); its film production **Belmayne: Gorgeous Living** (2013); and **Get Off The Couch!** (Setanta sports 2013). Its Radio productions include the acclaimed history series for RTE Radio 1 **Citizens: Lockout 1913 - 2013**. Athena Media won The New York Gold Award (2012) for the history and current affairs series **Death of an Empire** for RTÉ radio 1 and the Celtic Media Torc Award for its sports series **Winning Women** for Newstalk. For more information on Athena Media go to www.athenamedia.ie

Beyond Limits - The Next Generation

Presented by Mark Pollock. Produced and Directed by Helen Shaw. Principal Camera by Raja Nundlall. Assistant Producer Robert Hope. Production Coordinator Leon O'Neill. Production Administrator Lisa Essuman. Music by Michael Gallen, Robert Hope, Mark Gavin, Senakah and Ana Gog. Edited by Barry MacNeill.

For more information on **Beyond Limits - The Next Generation** please contact Rob Hope at (01) 4883352 or at rob@athenamedia.ie.

