

Citizens: Lockout 1913-2013

6x52' documentary series 'Citizens: Lockout 1913' – begins Saturday 10th August 2013 at 6pm on RTÉ Radio 1

3X20' live discussions on the Lockout on Today with Myles Dungan show – begins Friday 09th August

An Athena Media production for RTÉ Radio 1 made with the support of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's Sound & Vision Fund.



A six part documentary series narrating the events that led to the landmark labour versus capital conflict in Dublin in 1913. This series starting August 10th will explore the leaders on both sides and question the legacy of Lockout 1913 for Ireland today.

Citizens: Lockout 1913-2013 brings to life a city where 100,000 people lived in one bedroom tenements and a conflict dominated by big personalities like union leader Jim Larkin and industrialist William Martin Murphy. But while Larkin's statue dominates O'Connell Street today, the lockout was a crushing defeat for the city's workers and in 1914 it was Murphy not Larkin who was honoured. Historian **Diarmaid Ferriter**, Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD, says with the Lockout '*we tend to read history backwards*' and see 1913 through the prism of 1916. This series starts at 1900 with the visit of Queen Victoria to Dublin and the emerging labour, nationalist and suffrage movements. Its key characters are not just Larkin and Martin Murphy, but socialist James Connolly and women activists in the Women's Workers Union including Larkin's sister Delia and Constance Markievicz.

'This was one where it was workers on one side and employers on the other' says Lockout historian **Padraig Yeates**. *'If Larkin's achievement was to unite workers for better conditions, Murphy's achievement was to unite employers, both catholic and protestant. It was a battle of personalities'*.

The series features leading historians on the period including **Mary Daly**, **James Curry**, **Emmet O'Connor**, **Felix Larkin**, **Leeann Lane**, **Lauren Arrington** as well as **Diarmaid Ferriter**, **Padraig Yeates**, author **Thomas Morrissey** and includes contributions from the descendants of **Connolly**, **Larkin**, **Martin Murphy** and **Markievicz** as well as dramatic readings by actors **Barry McGovern**, **Donna Dent**, **Stephen Murray**, **Ronnie McCann** and playwright **Peter Sheridan**. Contemporary leaders also share their views about the legacy of the Lockout including Minister for Education **Ruairi Quinn**, IBEC CEO **Danny McCoy**, General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions **David Begg**, Former Fine Gael cabinet Minister **Gemma Hussey**, SIPTU Vice-President **Patricia King** and Senator **Ivana Bacik**.

Across August beginning on **August 9th** there will be three live discussions on the **Today with Pat Kenny** programme from **10am** on RTÉ Radio 1 which will feature some of our key historians and authors like historians **Mary Daly**, **Ann Matthews** and author **Ciaran Wallace** and the descendants of the key characters from the period. The live features will include short segments of the documentary series which begins in full on **August 10th** at **6pm** on RTÉ Radio 1 and runs for six weeks.

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Producer/Presenter Helen Shaw

Helen Shaw is an award winning radio producer. She has a Masters in Modern History from UCD and in 2012 won a New York Gold for the history series '*Death of an Empire*'. Helen's Grandmother Elizabeth Connolly, grew up in the Dublin city tenements on Lower Gloucester Street and was involved in the Irish Women's Workers' Trade Union during the lockout.

Episode billings

Episode 1: 10th August 2013 Foreshadows. 1900-1912

"What you have by the census of 1911 is some twenty thousand households living in one room tenements." historian **Mary Daly**. Dublin 1900 and Queen Victoria's month long visit captures a city divided. Maud Gonne and James Connolly protest at her visit and Gonne's anti-royal children's party launches Inghinidhe na hEireann. In the same year the politician and businessman William Martin Murphy buys the Irish Independent.

The census of 1901 and 1911 show the scale of poverty, the divide of wealth, with twenty thousand households, about a hundred thousand people, living in just a one room tenement with little sanitation. Yet Dublin's inner city poverty sits cheek by jowl with an emerging catholic middle class who own many of the tenement buildings and pubs. Yeats said of Ireland at this time that it was made of 'plastic' ready to be moulded and the next decade see an explosion of social, political and economic tensions.

In the Liverpool docks trade union leader Jim Larkin is coming to the fore and by 1903 Constance Markievicz has moved to Dublin with her Polish husband Casimir. Maud Gonne and James Connolly influence her politics and she writes, when she first hears James Larkin that he was '*a tornado, a storm-driven wave*'. By 1909 Larkin has launched the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and the next two years are marked by a series of strikes which shape the stand-off between employers and workers in Dublin 1913.

In episode one **Citizens: Lockout 1913-2013** historians and writers including **Padraig Yeates, Diarmaid Ferriter, Emmet O'Connor, Francis Devine, Theresa Moriarty** and **Mary Daly** trace the roots of the Lockout, depicting Dublin in 1900-1912 and the arrival of Larkinism in Ireland through the Belfast strike of 1907. Authors **James Curry, Mark O'Brien, Thomas Morrissey** and **Felix Larkin** give an insight into Murphy as a newspaper czar while **Ciaran Wallace** explores the significance of the empire in Irish identity. *'There was no burning desire by the majority to break free,'* says Wallace *'certainly the nationalist favoured Home Rule, but it wasn't the British Empire, for many it was our empire'*.

We get to meet the key characters of the period Connolly, Larkin, Markievicz and Murphy and understand more of their motivation. Academic **Lauren Arrington** shares insights from a forthcoming biography of Markievicz on Constance Gore Booth's journey from the big house to the picket line and ultimately 1916. **Terry Fagan** of the North Inner City Folklore Project through his archive collections describes the life of the poor. Producer and presenter **Helen Shaw**, whose grandmother Elizabeth Connolly, grew up in the Dublin city tenements, and was one of the children at Maud Gonne's 1900 protest party, explores the events, people and personalities that define the period and shape modern Ireland society.

Episode 2: 17th August 2013 Bread & Roses 1913

"We certainly shall prevent any man in our service using threats and intimidation against any other man to force him to join the association. We have given authority to the manager to summarily dismiss any man who is guilty of that conduct, and he can go to Mr. Larkin for his pay." **William Martin Murphy** says. He is central to the employers' strategy of crushing Larkinism.

"I have got a divine mission - I believe to make men and women discontented. I want to make you discontent... to want for better." **Jim Larkin**

In this episode we get behind the two opposing forces of 1913 Jim Larkin and William Martin Murphy and explore the timeline of 1913 and the run-up to the tramway strike on August 26th which sparks the six month worker lockout by 300 Dublin employers.

In popular history Larkin is the hero on the day, despite the defeat of the workers and it's his statue which sits in O'Connell Street. But what kind of man was he? We hear from Larkin's great grandchildren **Jim** and **Aoife Breslin** about Larkin's personality and Lockout historian **Padraig Yeates** *"He was driven by his ego and any meeting he was in he tried to dominate it and assume leadership role within it."*

We explore the relationship between Larkin and his second in command James Connolly. Historian **Emmet O Connor** remarks there was little between them ideologically but they didn't like each other. *"The curious thing about Connolly and Larkin is that their ideas were absolutely identical, you could hardly put a cigarette paper between them... And yet they didn't much like each other."*

On the other hand William Martin Murphy is seen as the villain of the piece. Actor **Barry McGovern** brings him to life through his speeches and letters.

By 1913 the elements and characters that dominate the six month Lockout are coming in place with the growing strength of Larkin's new Irish union the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. The Cork-born businessman Martin Murphy dominates Irish enterprise as President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and leader of the Dublin Employers Federation but his energy is also focused on blocking the proposed Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery which results in a cultural war between him and poet W.B Yeats as author **Ciaran Wallace** details. Actor **Barry McGovern** depicts Murphy through his lengthy letters to his own newspaper the Irish Independent where he attacks both Lane and proposed gallery while we hear WB Yeats' response in his poem September 1913.

Murphy's biographer **Thomas Morrissey** brings us into the mind of the man who refused a knighthood in 1907 and leads, not just the employers in 1913, but the newly launched Rathmines and Rathgar Musical Society. **Ruth Dudley Edwards** shares her critical take on the leadership of Larkin, James Connolly, Larkin's second in command, and Constance Markievicz, *"Larkin was a terrible leader. He was utterly ruled by emotion. He didn't know where he was taking people. Connolly wasn't much better."* Labour historian **Francis Devine** brings to life the songs and stories of the labour movement from 1911-1913 including ballads written by Connolly himself and the song which became the anthem of the workers 'Who Fears to Wear the Red Hand Badge'.

Episode 3: August 24th 2013

Conflict. August 26 1913

'Larkin's agenda was that he wanted to organise employees, to grow his union. But Murphy wanted to destroy Larkin. It became about Murphy and Larkin', historian **Emmet O' Connor** says about the motivation of the two sides in Lockout 1913. But while the events triggered by August 26th and the six month worker Lockout, are symbolized by the two men it represents a class war with some 200,000 workers on one side and 300 employers on the other. In this episode we unravel the events that spark the Lockout, the forces driving both sides, and re-enact the one meeting and exchange between Larkin and Murphy in the Askwith Inquiry. Actor **Barry McGovern** takes the voice of Murphy while playwright **Peter Sheridan** gives life to Larkin.

Episode 4 – August 31st 2013

Defeat. January 1914

"And so we Irish workers must go down into Hell, bow our backs to the lash of the slave driver, let our hearts be seared by the iron of his hatred, and instead of the sacramental wafer of brotherhood and common sacrifice, eat the dust of defeat and betrayal .Dublin is isolated." **James Connolly**

By the end of January 1914 the Lockout ended with a decisive and crushing victory for the employers. Many leave Dublin to seek work in English cities and the striking girls and women from Jacobs are worst off. Most do not get work again and those that do are not allowed back until April. *"And for women to walk down the quays in cold, miserable weather, without adequate clothes, to collect the parcel of food, was degrading... They lost their belongings, and they pawned everything they had. Many ended up losing their homes because they were evicted."* **Ann Matthews**

Actor **Ronnie McCann** voices James Connolly's prophetic words; *'Dublin is isolated'* and we hear from Connolly's great grandson **James Connolly Heron** and from Larkin's great grandchildren, **Jim** and **Aoife Breslin**. Historians **Emmet O' Connor**, **Padraig Yeates**, **Theresa Moriarty**, **Ann Matthews** and **Diarmaid Ferriter** vividly describe events while author **Ruth Dudley Edwards**, a biographer of Connolly assesses the leadership of Connolly, Larkin and Constance Markievicz.

Episode 5 – September 7th 2013

Consequences. 1914-1916

“There is not I think, it’s fair to say, a direct link between the Lockout of 1913 and the Rising of 1916, that would be a misreading of history.” says historian **Diarmaid Ferriter**. By mid 1914 Larkin is in the United States and with the outbreak of war Home Rule is parked. The bitter poverty of Dublin deepens and thousand of unemployed Irishmen enlist in the British Army, much to the horror of the Irish Citizen Army leader James Connolly. Many see 1913 as a precursor to 1916 but for Ferriter that is a rear mirror view of events. *“Sometimes I think that we look back at the Lockout and its legacy and we read history backwards. We think of it as this iconic event and something that was not successful for the workers at the time, but ultimately can be considered a success because of the extent to which it developed a conscience and a consciousness of the status of Labour”*
Diarmaid Ferriter

In Episode 5 we explore the impact of defeat on not just the trade union movement but also on our key characters. Is it the defeat of Lockout or the outbreak of World War One which defines 1916? We hear the voices of Connolly and Larkin read by **Ronnie McCann** and **Stephen Murray** as well as the views of historians and commentators including **Pdraig Yeates**, **Diarmaid Ferriter** and **Ruth Dudley Edwards**.

Episode 6 – 14th September 2013

Legacy. 1913-2013

“I think Lockout was a dreadful tragedy. I don’t see how it can be claimed to have been a success because thousands of families were worse off after it that they were before.” **Ann Matthews**

“I think as a society we like to celebrate glorious failures, there’s an Irish tradition of that. And so that probably fits into that mould, that we don’t see who are the victors of 1913, which were the employers, albeit at a huge human tragedy cost. Ultimately, as we look back, it was a revolution.” **Danny McCoy**

“The significance of the remembering the Lockout was the struggle for the workers to survive, and to honour and commemorate those men and women who led the charge for the betterment of society for the people that were living in the most appalling conditions. That recognition to be given to Larkin, and Connolly and Markiewicz, and those that stood with the people.” **Terry Fagan**

What is the legacy of the Lockout today and how has it shaped Irish society? We hear from contemporary leaders including **Labour party Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn**, **Senator Ivana Bacik**, Former Fine Gael cabinet Minister **Gemma Hussey** and Martin Murphy’s present today in the person of Irish Business Employers Confederation (IBEC) Chief Executive **Danny McCoy** and General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions **David Begg** and SIPTU Vice-President **Patricia King**. We also hear from Managing Director of the Irish Times **Liam Kavanagh** who is currently president of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, one hundred years after William Martin Murphy was president independent equality consultant **Niall Crowley** and newspaper columnist **Kevin Myers** give their views on how the anniversary of the Lockout should be commemorated. *“And on every occasion, I would rather have a world run by William Martin Murphy than James Larkin.”* **Kevin Myers**. Presenter and Producer **Helen Shaw** also looks at how An Post are commemorating the Lockout by speaking with designer **Ger Garland** on the collection of stamps produced to mark the anniversary.

Citizens: Lockout 1913-2013 will broadcast on **RTÉ Radio 1** from **August 10th to September 14th** on **RTÉ Radio 1** at **6pm**.

Across August beginning on **August 9th** there will be three live discussions on the **Today with Myles Dungan** programme from **10am** on RTÉ Radio 1.

Further details on the project visit www.athenamedia.ie and to listen to the series promos click audioboo.fm/athenamediaie.

The producer/presenter is Helen Shaw, the audio editor is Amy Millar and original music is by Michael Gallen. Thanks to RTÉ Archives and Libraries.

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