

Collected Data on Cinematic Representations of the Northern Irish Conflict

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This article aims to provide a quantitative overview and a comprehensive list of feature-length fiction films that appeared in cinemas about the Northern Irish conflict and its legacy. Owing to the sample and methodology chosen for my research, a focus is on the period from 1981 to 2021 because an emergence of cinematic representations of the Troubles appeared in British and Irish cinema after 1981. Before this, only several films released in cinemas can be understood to represent the conflict. Furthermore, this is strictly a list of cinematic representations; therefore, representations intended for television through the mediums of the television film or drama are not included here. It also does not include documentaries (even those that include a significant element of re-enactment) or short films. In line with the British Film Institute's definition, feature-length fiction films are considered films that run for more than 40 minutes.

Figure 1. Feature-length fiction films about the Northern Irish conflict or its legacy 1981-2021

Title	Country of Origin	Year	Genre	Director(s)	Production	Literary Adaptation
Maeve	Ireland/UK	1981	Drama	Pat Murphy and John Davies	BFI	No
Angel	Ireland/UK	1982	Drama	Neil Jordan	Irish Film Board/ Channel 4 Films	No
Ascendancy	UK	1982	Drama	Edward Bennett	BFI/ Channel 4 Films	No
Giro City	UK	1982	Drama	Karl Francis	Channel 4 Films	No
Acceptable Levels	UK	1983	Drama	John Davies	Frontroom Films Ltd.	No
Cal	Ireland/UK	1984	Drama	Pat O'Connor	Enigma Productions	Yes
No Surrender	UK	1985	Comedy	Peter Smith	Channel 4 Films	No
Eat the Peach	Ireland/UK	1986	Comedy	Peter Ormrod	Irish Film Board/ Channel 4 Films	No
A Prayer for the Dying	UK/US	1987	Thriller	Mike Hodges	Samuel Goldwyn Company	Yes
Reefer and the Model	Ireland	1988	Drama	Joe Comerford	Berber Films/ Film Four International	No
Hush-a-Bye Baby	UK	1989	Drama	Margo Harkin	Channel 4 Television Corporation	No
Hidden Agenda	UK	1990	Thriller	Ken Loach	Hemdale	No
December Bride	Ireland/UK	1991	Drama	Thaddeus O'Sullivan	Channel 4 Films	Yes
Patriot Games	US	1992	Thriller	Phillip Noyce	Paramount Pictures	Yes
The Crying Game	UK/US	1992	Drama	Neil Jordan	Channel Four Films	No
High Boot Benny	Ireland	1993	Drama	Joe Comerford	Sandy Film Ltd.	No
In the Name of the Father	Ireland/UK	1993	Drama	Jim Sheridan	Hell's Kitchen Films/ Universal Pictures	No
Blown Away	US	1994	Thriller	Stephen Hopkins	MGM	No
Patriots	US	1994	Thriller	Frank Kerr	Boston Pictures	No
Nothing Personal	Ireland/UK	1995	Drama	Thaddeus O'Sullivan	Irish Film Board/ Channel 4 Films	Yes
The Run of the Country	Ireland/US	1995	Drama	Peter Yates	Castle Rock Entertainment/ Columbia Pictures	Yes

A Further Gesture/The Break	Ireland/UK	1996	Thriller	Robert Dornhelm	Channel 4 Films	No
Some Mother's Son	Ireland/US	1996	Drama	Terry George	Castle Rock Entertainment/ Hell's Kitchen Films	No
My Brother's War/Flashpoint	US	1997	Thriller	James Brolin	Concorde Pictures	No
The Devil's Own	US	1997	Thriller	Alan J. Pakula	Columbia Pictures	No
The Jackal	US	1997	Thriller	Michael Caton-Jones	Universal Pictures	No
This is the Sea	Ireland	1997	Drama	Mary McGuckian	First Look International/ Pembridge Pictures	No
Divorcing Jack	UK	1998	Comedy	David Caffrey	BBC Films/ Ima Films	Yes
Resurrection Man	UK	1998	Drama	Marc Evans	Revolution Films	Yes
Ronin	UK/US	1998	Thriller	John Frankenheimer	United Artists	No
The Boxer	Ireland/US	1998	Drama	Jim Sheridan	Universal Pictures/ Hell's Kitchen Films	No
The General	Ireland/UK	1998	Drama	John Boorman	Irish Film Board/ Merlin Films	Yes
The Ultimate Weapon	Canada	1998	Thriller	Jon Cassar	The John Strong Company	No
Titanic Town	UK	1998	Drama	Roger Michell	BBC Films/ Arts Council Northern Ireland	Yes
Accelerator	UK	1999	Thriller	Vinny Murphy	Flash Point Pictures	No
The Craic	Australia	1999	Comedy	Ted Emery	Crack Pty. Ltd.	No
With or Without You	UK	1999	Drama	Michael Winterbottom	Film Four	No
An Everlasting Piece	US	2000	Comedy	Barry Levinson	Dreamworks Pictures	No
Ordinary Decent Criminal	Ireland/UK /US	2000	Comedy	Thaddeus O'Sullivan	Irish Film Board/ Icon Entertainment International	No
H3	Ireland	2001	Drama	Les Blair	Metropolitan Films	No
Mad About Mambo	Ireland/UK	2001	Comedy	John Forte	Phoenix Pictures	No
Mapmaker	Ireland/UK	2001	Thriller	Johnny Gogan	Grand Pictures	No
The Most Fertile Man in Ireland	Ireland/UK	2001	Comedy	Dudi Appleton	Irish Film Board/ Samson Films	No
Bloody Sunday	Ireland/UK	2002	Drama	Paul Greengrass	Irish Film Board/ Granada Television/ Hell's Kitchen Films	No
Man About Dog	Ireland/UK	2004	Comedy	Paddy Breathnach	Irish Film Board/ Potboiler Productions	No
Mickybo and Me	Ireland/UK /France	2004	Drama	Terry Loane	Universal Pictures/ Studiocanal/ Working Title Films	No
Silent Grace	Ireland	2004	Drama	Maeve Murphy	Crimson Films/ Irish Film Board	No
Breakfast on Pluto	Ireland/UK	2005	Drama	Neil Jordan	Pathé/ Irish Film Board/ Northern Ireland Film and Television Commission	Yes
The Mighty Celt	Ireland/UK	2005	Drama	Pearse Elliott	BBC Films/ Irish Film Board	No
Closing the Ring	Canada/UK/US	2007	Drama	Richard Attenborough	Premiere Pictures	No
Fifty Dead Men Walking	Canada/UK	2008	Thriller	Kari Skogland	Handmade International/ Future Films	No
Hunger	Ireland/UK	2008	Drama	Steve McQueen	Film Four/ Northern Ireland Screen	No
Five Minutes of Heaven	France/ Ireland/UK	2009	Drama	Oliver Hirschbiegel	BBC Films/ Irish Film Board	No

Good Vibrations	Ireland/UK	2012	Drama	Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn	Canderblinks Films and Music/ Northern Ireland Screen/ Irish Film Board	No
Shadow Dancer	Ireland/UK	2012	Thriller	James Marsh	BBC Films/ Element Pictures	Yes
A Belfast Story	Ireland/UK	2013	Thriller	Nathan Todd	Aduco Pictures	No
'71	UK	2014	Thriller	Yann Demange	Film Four/ BFI/ Screen Yorkshire	No
Shooting for Socrates	UK	2015	Drama	James Erskine	New Black Films/ Northern Ireland Screen	No
The Journey	UK	2016	Drama	Nick Hamm	Greenroom Entertainment	No
The Truth Commissioner	UK	2016	Drama	Declan Recks	Big Fish Films	Yes
A Bad Day for the Cut	UK	2017	Thriller	Chris Baugh	Six Mile Hill Productions/ Northern Ireland Screen	No
Maze	Germany/ Ireland/ UK	2017	Thriller	Stephen Burke	Mammoth Films/ Cyprus Avenue Films/ Filmgate Films	No
T2: Trainspotting	UK	2017	Drama	Danny Boyle	DNA Films/ Film Four/ Creative Scotland	Yes
The Foreigner	China/UK/ US	2017	Thriller	Martin Campbell	STX Entertainment	Yes
A Bend in the River	Ireland	2021	Drama	Colin Broderick	MK1 Productions	No
Belfast	UK	2021	Drama	Kenneth Branagh	TKBC/ Northern Ireland Screen	No
Wildfire	Ireland/UK	2021	Drama	Cathy Brady	BFI/ Film Four/ Northern Ireland Screen/ Screen Ireland	No

Figure 2. Country of Origin

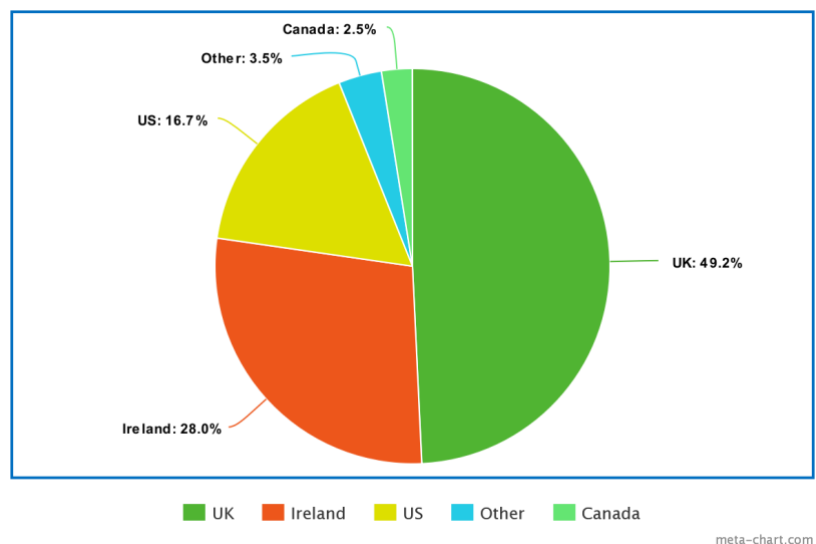


Figure 3. Frequency of Production

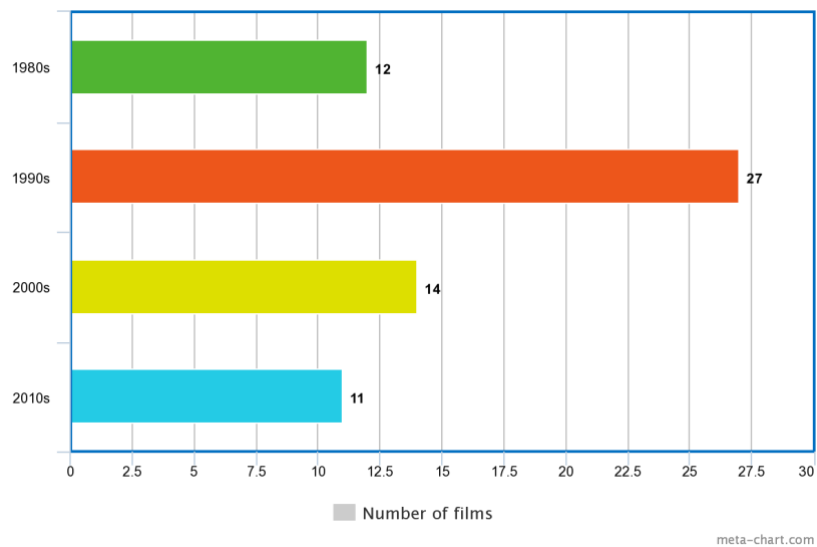


Figure 4. Genre

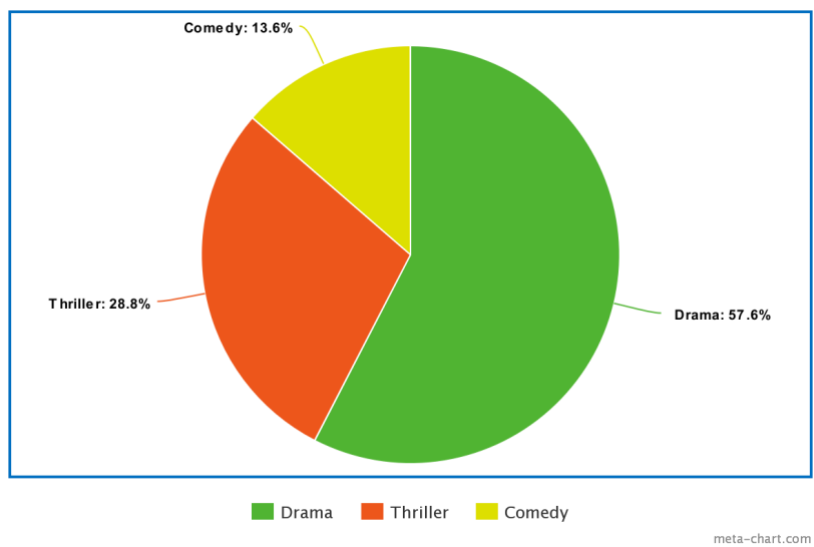


Figure 5. Directors

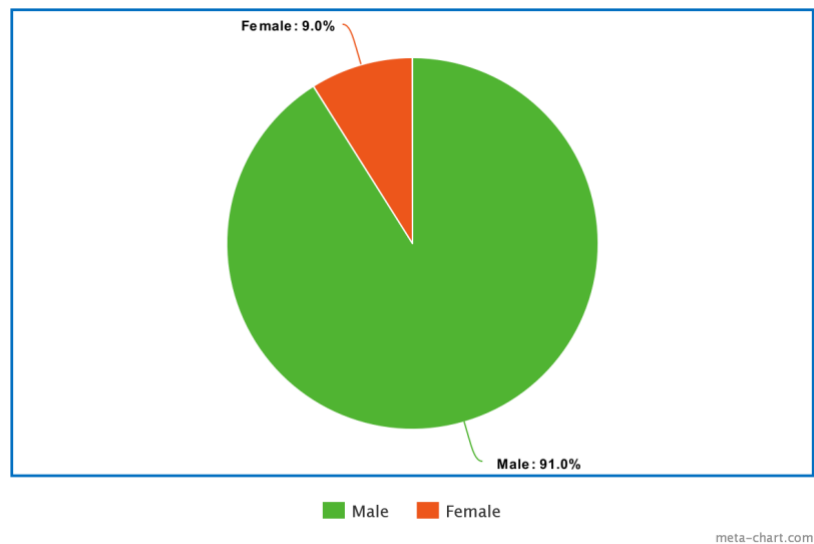
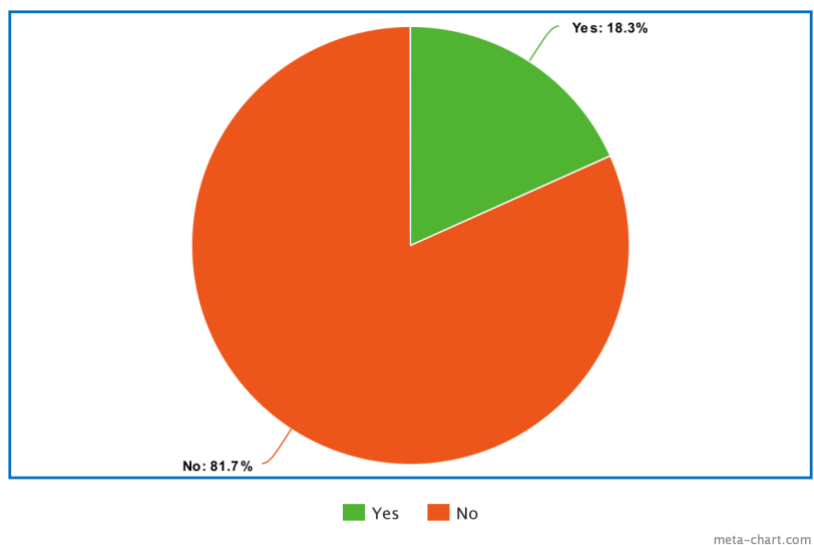


Figure 6. Literary Adaptation



About the Author

Richard Gallagher has a PhD from Queen’s University Belfast. His research focuses on cinema about the Northern Irish conflict and the cinematic representation of Northern Irish unionists. Articles written by him will be published in forthcoming editions of the *Journal of British Cinema and Television* and *Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media*.