

SAVING THE TITANIC

Drama-Documentary, 2x52min, 44/90min, English/German, HD, 2012

100 years after the sinking of the Titanic, "Saving the Titanic" is the untold story of the self-sacrifice and dignity of the ship's engineers, stokers and firemen in the face of impending death.

Seeking to answer the question of what happened in the engine and boiler rooms after the collision this film tells the story of the disaster from below deck, with the action taking place between the time the crew embarks the Titanic at Southampton and the eventual sinking of the ship. Based upon eyewitness accounts, this is the remarkable story of nine central characters from the engineering crew as they work among the huge, coal-fired furnaces heating the boilers and massive dynamos whirring to satisfy the ship's demand for electricity. These nine men – among them 18-year-old electrical engineer Albert Ervine (Andrew Simpson) from Belfast, leading fireman Frank Barrett (Ciarán McMenamin) and Chief Engineer Joseph Bell (David Wilmot) – are the heroes of this epic film. Their personal stories of bravery are recounted as the men fought courageously to hold back the power of the sea and keep the power systems running, even when they learned that all is lost. Most of these men die but their actions save many lives.

Underscoring the superior quality of this drama-doc are the informative yet never overbearing technical details, the unparalleled CGIs and the high-end drama shot in Ireland and the UK that bring to life the last hours of the "unsinkable" Titanic. This film is scheduled for release on the 100th anniversary of this catastrophic event in April 2012.

Saving the Titanic is a co-production between **Tile Films Ltd.** in Ireland and **Gebrueder Beetz Filmproduktion** in Germany. Funded by **Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Film Board, RTÉ, ZDF** and **ZDF Enterprises** the drama-documentary „Saving the Titanic“ is not only a stunning example of a successful international co-production, but also a milestone of the History Genre.

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| Director: | Maurice Sweeney |
| Script: | Colin Heber-Percy / Lyall Watson |
| Cinematography: | Richard Kendrick |
| Main-Cast: | David Wilmot (Joseph Bell), Owen McDonnell (Thomas Dillon), Ciaran McMenamin (Fred Barrett) |
| Executive producers: | Stephen Rooke, Reinhardt Beetz |
| Commissioning Editor: | Ralf Peter Piechowiak (ZDF) |