Shine Brighter Terminale

SnapFile 23 Irish, British or both?

Extrait p.201 – Article de Andy Pollak, *sluggerotoole.com*

Challenging Traditions: Reimagining Northern Irish Identity…

Catherine Pollock […] from Derry is an unusual and remarkable woman. From a working class unionist background, she now works for the Irish language and cultural organisation Cultúrlann. She says of herself: “I’m not a unionist, but I’m not a nationalist or a republican either. I am British, and also Irish.” […]

Is the British element in her culture and identity important to her? Yes. “It’s the culture I grew up understanding. I understand how the place works. English is my first language. I went to university in England and lived in England. I feel comfortable getting off a train in Glasgow, Birmingham or Swansea. I like the secularism[1] of Britain–they’re not rooted in a religious identity. I love its trade union history and can identify strongly with working class communities right across the UK. I love a lot of its music. If I’m watching the Olympics I feel that wee beast in my stomach whenever there’s a British athlete competing. I have an emotional reaction which is maybe not rational but it’s there.”

On the other hand she is passionate about Irish language and culture […]. “One Day I walked into a Gaelscoil[2], into a roomful of nine-year-olds who spoke

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[1] when a state is separated from religious institutions

[2] a school where lessons are given in Irish

fluent Irish. I was blown away! I lived three or four hundred yards from that school and I had no idea of what was happening there, that you could raise children in this place bilingually–that they could be fluent in two languages by the age of seven or eight. I had quite an emotional reaction to that school […]. I feel a responsibility to change perceptions and to get people to think more empathetically about the value of the language and how important it is to this place, and to this island as a whole."

Andy Pollak, *sluggerotoole.com*, 2024

Extrait p.203 – Article de Emma DeSouza, *The Guardian*

‘Why would we want to be part of the UK?’ Young people will probably soon deliver a united Ireland

A recent Lucid Talk/Sunday Times survey showed that 57% of 18 to 24-year-olds in Northern Ireland would vote “yes” to reunifying Ireland if a border poll[1] were held today, despite there being no official campaign or unity plan in place. More than 600,000 people have been born in Northern Ireland since the signing of the Good Friday agreement, and they have grown up during a sustained period of peace that has given rise to a new set of priorities. This is a generation that wants more rights, more progressive change–and to confine the division of the past to the dustbin of history. […] It’s perfectly legitimate and understandable for young people to aspire to a constitutional arrangement that better protects the rights and identities of people in Northern Ireland and minoritised communities,” said one activist I spoke to, 25-year-old Tara Grace Connolly. “Why would we want to stay part of a union that fails to show basic respect to its own citizens?”

For 19-year-old student Ellie-Jo Taylor, Brexit fundamentally changed the pull of a united Ireland among younger generations. “We are campaigning for our future, for a return to the European Union within a united Ireland,” she told me. “We have an opportunity to create an entirely new country.” […]

The gap between generations is growing. Forty-five percent of respondents to the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey aged 18 to 24 identified as more Irish than British, in stark contrast with the 15% of 18 to 24-year-olds who identified as

[1] a survey about people’s opinions

unionist. It is of little surprise that 41% of respondents over 65 years old identified as more British than Irish, with this age cohort also leaning predominantly unionist (43%).

Emma DeSouza, *The Guardian*, 2023

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Extrait – Article de *The Guardian*

Kenneth Branagh and Ciarán Hinds: Belfast boys on growing up across the divide

The film Belfast *stars actors Kenneth Branagh and Ciarán Hinds.*

When the Troubles kicked off in Belfast in August 1969, Kenneth Branagh was eight years old. […]

Branagh was from working-class Protestant stock, while [Ciarán] Hinds was a 16-year-old former altar boy[1] from a Catholic family, whose school was close to the Branagh house. Though they never knew each other, they would have gone to the same cinema, hung out in the same park, and suffered the same Sunday doldrums. "Belfast Sunday evening, you know, was a grim time," says Branagh. Even the kids' playground in the park was shut, Hinds adds: "And not only was the playground locked, but each individual swing was too, and the roundabout was padlocked[2]." […]

The Troubles are not the only bit of history that has shaped this most personal film.

Branagh started work on *Belfast* in March 2020, emerging from his shed after his first day's writing to find Boris Johnson on television announcing the lockdown. "I've always known that the separation from Ireland, and the separation from a settled sense of knowing who you were, was a big thing in my life," he says. […] It sent me

[1] a church assistant

[2] locked

back to that sense of this story being about separation, and whether, in the telling of it, you could reconnect to something that was permanent, and not merely an exercise in sentimentality or nostalgia." […]

Hinds still has sisters in Belfast, though he lives between Paris and London and has visited less frequently since his mother died a few years ago. It's a very different city today, he says. "You really don't want things to break out again. I would despair if they did. But as we know, it only takes a single match to strike a tinderbox[3]. I'm hoping that in a few years' time, the British public will see sense and vote to go back into Europe. It's not about surrendering[4]. It's got to do with understanding that things might take longer than you think, and having patience and thinking further ahead to what it means to generations to come."

Kenneth Branagh, *The Guardian*, 2022.

[3] a small action can make a tense situation explode

[4] giving up