



Presents

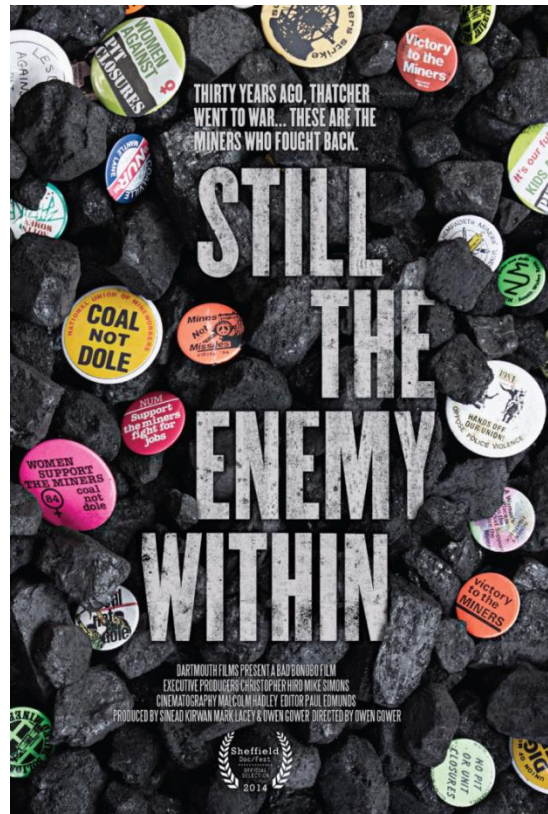
# STILL THE ENEMY WITHIN

Directed by Owen Gower

Produced by Sinead Kirwan, Mark Lacey & Owen Gower

Executive Producers Christopher Hird & Mike Simons

**IN CINEMAS 3 OCTOBER 2014**



**Winner of the Sheffield Doc/Fest Audience Award 2014**

[www.the-enemy-within.org.uk](http://www.the-enemy-within.org.uk) Running Time: 112mins | Cert: TBC

Twitter: @EnemyWithin1984 | [www.facebook.com/StillTheEnemyWithin](http://www.facebook.com/StillTheEnemyWithin)

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN  
 ★★★★★ SUNDAY TIMES  
 ★★★★★ MAIL ON SUNDAY  
 ★★★★★ DAILY EXPRESS  
 ★★★★★ EVENING STANDARD  
 ★★★★★ TIME OUT  
 ★★★★★ THE INDEPENDENT

★★★★★  
EMPIRE

"A documentary as gripping as a thriller"  
PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★  
TOTAL FILM

'This was a moving tale, brought brilliantly to life by some incredible archive footage' **THE REEL DEAL**

"The mainstream media didn't tell the truth about the miners' strike when it happened. And the same lies are still being told. It's therefore important that we tell this story." **KEN LOACH**

"Still The Enemy Within is inspiring, uplifting, moving and sad. It is also important, telling as it does the story of a key conflict in British History. A conflict that was not about coal but about the fundamental principles of Trade Unionism and the States determination to destroy them" **BEN ELTON**

"This is an important film. What happened to the miners in the 1980s is happening again in other forms as an increasingly totalitarian, surveillance state touches our lives. If you can, please support this project." **JOHN PILGER**

For all press queries: interviews, stills, clips, screeners and further information please contact:

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## Log line

Thirty years ago, Thatcher went to war. These are the miners who fought back.

## Synopsis

Still the Enemy Within is a unique insight into one of history's most dramatic events: the 1984-85 British Miners' Strike. No experts. No politicians. Thirty years on, this is the raw first-hand experience of those who lived through the UK's longest strike. Follow the highs and lows of that life-changing year.

In 1984, a conservative government under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared war on the unions, taking on the strongest in the country, the National Union of Mineworkers. Following a secret plan, the government began announcing the closure of coal mines, threatening not just an industry but whole communities and a way of life.

Against all the forces the government could throw at them, 160 000 coal miners took up the fight and became part of a battle that would change the course of history. Still the Enemy Within tells the story of a group of miners and supporters who were on the frontline of the strike for an entire year. These were the people Margaret Thatcher labelled 'the Enemy Within'. Many of them have never spoken on camera before.

Using interviews and a wealth of rare and never before seen archive, Still the Enemy Within draws together personal experiences – whether they're tragic, funny or terrifying – to take the audience on an emotionally powerful journey through the dramatic events of that year.

Follow Norman Strike, from devising ingenious ways of getting past police road blocks in a key battleground, Nottingham, to suddenly finding himself a minor celebrity after a mishap on national television; Paul Symonds, from the optimism and excitement of a young man fighting for his future to the tragic death of his best friend on a picket line; Joyce Sheppard, from her life as an ordinary housewife to becoming a political activist and facing violence as huge numbers of police are sent in to Yorkshire villages to break the strike.

They along with a range of fascinating characters who fought alongside them, give a frank, emotional and ultimately inspiring account of ordinary people at the centre of extraordinary events. From the infamous Battle of Orgreave, where miners found themselves in a brutal confrontation with over five thousand police, to the hardship endured after almost a year on strike – their story is not just one of personal drama but one that shaped the world we live in today.

'Still the Enemy Within' is ultimately a universal tale of ordinary people standing up for what they believe in. It challenges us to look again at our past so that in the words of one miner, "we can still seek to do something about the future".

## Director's Statement

I was just one when Britain's 1984-85 Miners Strike ended but growing up in Scotland, I saw first-hand, the industrial devastation that happened in its wake. For the generation before me, it seemed to be a battle that had defined its era and now shaped the Britain I was growing up in. However, for such a momentous event, the reality was I knew little about what had actually happened that year.

What I did know came from fragmented accounts in the mainstream media. The strike was usually portrayed as a dark period in British politics; of an old-style industrial dispute best consigned to history; the simple story of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her inevitable defeat of Union Leader, Arthur Scargill. What was nearly always absent were the voices of the hundreds of thousands of ordinary people who had actually fought for the strike.

When I met Mike Simons, the author of three books on the strike and who later became the Executive Producer of the film, I was introduced to an entirely different side of the story. I got to hear first-hand accounts from the miners and supporters who he had kept in contact with for 30 years.

They spoke with passion and eloquence about why they still believed they were right to fight for their jobs and communities. They were filled with anger at what had happened but also spoke with warmth and humour about the joy and excitement of joining with thousands of others to fight for a common purpose. Most of all, they remained defiant, determined that there was nothing inevitable about their defeat.

They were truly remarkable characters that certainly didn't fit with the common image of them as blind followers of a fanatical leader. They also contrasted starkly with the label they'd been given by Margaret Thatcher; 'the enemy within'.

We immediately set out to make a film that would tell the story of the strike from their point of view. I wanted to capture what it was really like for the ordinary people involved at the centre of such a huge confrontation – the human story behind events that many of us had only ever seen on the news. Why had the strike been such a life changing experience for everyone involved? What does it take to give up everything, even your family and friends, for something you believe in? Why continue to fight even when everything tells you you've lost?

I didn't want to do a traditional 'all sides' film. Instead, by following the journey of this single group of characters, I wanted to give you as an audience the chance to get to know them as people and to understand their point of view – so that you can then make your own mind up on whether you agree with them or not.

Ultimately, I wanted to make a film about people pushed into extreme circumstances and how their story remains one that is woven into the fabric of British society. Each person we spoke to was tested to the limit during the strike and it is this universal story of standing tall in the face of adversity, that I hope you can relate to whether you know everything or nothing, about one of Britain's most dramatic periods.

## Staying Independent

We have raised a substantial amount of money for the film from a combination of crowdfunding and direct donations from individuals, trade unions and community organisations across the country. It has been a hugely challenging process but incredibly rewarding, helping to raise over £75,000 towards the film's production.

So far, our donations page has been viewed over 50,000 times, and our Facebook link shared over 25,000 times. We've received donations from individuals in Australia, America, Vietnam, Turkey, Switzerland, France, Sweden and Germany to name a few.

Trade unions alone represent over six million members in this country and eight of the major unions having pledged financial support at a national level. This has meant the film will be publicised throughout those unions, reaching their members across the country.

The film was a roaring success of the Sheffield Doc/Fest, where the film won the prestigious audience award. Full cinematic release is scheduled for Autumn 2014, with further funding sought for distribution.

The support we've received has been overwhelming and shown us just how big an appetite there is out there for the film, while allowing us to stay truly independent in telling this story.



## **Filmmakers**

### **Director & Producer – Owen Gower**

Owen has an extensive background in factual television and documentaries, most recently producing on the landmark natural history series 'The Burrowers' for the BBC. Owen began his career co-shooting the flagship Channel 4 documentary 'Antony Gormley: Making Space' with acclaimed director Beeban Kidron. Since then he has worked on a number of major television documentaries including the triple Emmy award winning 'First Life', with David Attenborough, as well as a huge range of productions for the BBC, Channel 4, Channel 5, Sky One, National Geographic, Discovery and The History Channel. This will be his first feature film as director.

### **Producer – Sinead Kirwan**

Sinead has worked in television as a Producer and Production Coordinator. She started off working with Spectacle productions, where she developed a strong ability to maintain quality and integrity on a budget. She soon moved into factual television, working for the BBC, BBC Learning, Discovery and UK Living TV. Most recently she has worked in broadcast journalism producing in-depth packages for Bader TV in the US and Germany for broadcasters CNN, Fox News and the Trinity Network, as well as producing high-end corporate projects for General Motors, Volkswagen and Levis. Sinead is Mike Simons' (Executive Producer) step-daughter and has known many of the miners in the film since childhood.

### **Producer – Mark Lacey**

Mark Lacey has worked on a number of Bafta and Oscar nominated shorts and feature films as well as high end corporate films as a Production Manager and Assistant Director. He recently had the pleasure of working as lead 3rd Assistant Director on Tim Burton's animated feature Frankenweenie. Through these, he has gained valuable contacts throughout the industry and the skills needed to drive a project forward. He brings a wealth of experience in budgeting, scheduling, organisation and experience in managing large and small budget productions.

### **Executive Producer – Mike Simons**

Mike Simons is a journalist, editor and author who has worked on two acclaimed books about the 1984–85 Miners Strike: 'Striking Back' and 'Blood, Sweat and Tears: Photographs from the Great Miners' Strike' alongside photographer John Sturrock. He is an expert on the period and has had relationship with miners, supporters and photographers from across the coalfield for over the thirty years. His work has been widely used by academics and writers about the strike.

### **Executive Producer – Christopher Hird**

Christopher Hird is a leading figure in UK independent documentary making. He is a former chair of the Sheffield International Documentary Festival, was the founding chair of the Channel Four BRITDOC Foundation, and is a trustee of the Grierson Trust ([www.griersontrust.org](http://www.griersontrust.org)), the Wincott Foundation ([www.wincott.co.uk](http://www.wincott.co.uk)) and One World Media ([www.oneworldmedia.org.uk](http://www.oneworldmedia.org.uk)). He is managing editor at the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, City University London and founder and managing director of Dartmouth Films, pioneers of independent documentary funding, production and distribution in the UK. His credits as Executive Producer include Sundance selected films Black Gold (2006), The End of the Line (2009), The Flaw (2011) and Fire in the Blood (2013), the last two of which premiered at Sheffield DocFest.



## **Director of Photography – Malcolm Hadley**

Malcolm Hadley is a British Cinematographer best known for his Oscar and Bafta nominated work in feature films. Malcolm worked on the highly acclaimed Oscar nominated short, *The Periwig Maker* (1999) and Tim Burton's animated features, *Corpse Bride* (2004) and *Frankenweenie* (2012). Malcolm's work has featured consistently in commercials for London's most creative and respected production companies including Nexus Productions, Passion Pictures, RSA, Partizan, Gorgeous, Th1ng and Red Bee Media. More recently his skills have been turned towards documentary and drama production and in 2014 his *Crisis at Christmas* films won the Grand Prix at the IVCA awards. Malcolm is a visiting lecturing in Cinematography at London's Metropolitan Film School.

## **Edit Producer – Amelia Lavington**

Amelia Lavington is a highly experience television producer. From producing on prime-time Channel 4 Constructed Reality series to working across Bafta award winning Specialist Factual & Ob Doc series, Amelia has an extensive background in television documentary. Starting out in short film and following a traineeship in ITV's Factual & Current Affairs department, Amelia has gone on to work for many major national and international channels such as National Geographic; Discovery; Al Jazeera; BBC 1&2; ITV and Channel 4 & 5 on such shows as the highly acclaimed 'Who do you think you are?' and Bafta – winning 'One Born Every Minute'. This is her first foray into feature docs and has been her favourite project to date.

## **Editor – Paul Edmunds**

Paul Edmunds is an award-winning editor, who has been working in film and television for the last 40 years. Paul's career highlights including wining, among others, a prestigious Grieson award and a Prix Italia award for the three part BBC documentary series 'Iran and the West', a Prix Italia award for drama series 'The Vampyr' and a Bafta for Sky's 'Ross Kemp on Gangs'. His vast experience in both historical documentary and drama, from Channel 4's 'D-Day as it happened' to the BBC's 'Merchant of Venice', has been invaluable in bringing a wealth of complex and different material together to form a single powerful narrative.

## **Photographers**

The team worked with a range of photographers from the period of the miners' strike, who provided their images free of charge to 'Still the Enemy Within'; Most notably John Sturrock, John Harris from Report Digital.co.uk and Martin Shakeshaft, who took the most iconic images from the strike. They also allowed the team access to hundreds of undeveloped negatives from the period, making the film a truly original account of the strike.

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Amelia Lavington

Archive Producer  
Gerard Wilkinson

Composer  
Rael Jones

Researcher  
Alex Morris

Production Assistants  
Rhys Williams & Sam Thomson

Sound Recordist  
Geoff Wong

Sound Design  
Jay Price

Animations  
Ben Joly

Main Photographs Courtesy of  
Reportdigital.co.uk & NLA  
John Sturrock, John Harris, Stefano Cagnoni, Peter Arkell, John Smith, Ray Rising, Martin Shakeshaft,  
Philip Wolmuth



Photo: John Sturrock/reportdigital.co.uk