

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **QUEER CASE OF THE IRISH CROWN JEWELS, THE**
[TV-PG] [Stereo] [CC]

LENGTH: 1/56

NOLA CODE: QCIJ

CATEGORY: Documentary

OFFERED: Fall 2003, S18

EXPECTED RELEASE: April 1, 2004

CONTRACT TERMS: Six releases to be completed by March 31, 2006. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Network Ireland Television

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A collection of diamonds and rubies known as The Irish Crown Jewels are at the center of one of the most mysterious and sensational robberies of the early 20th century. On the eve of King Edward's royal visit to Ireland in 1907, the Irish Crown Jewels were stolen from Dublin Castle, Britain's most impregnable Irish stronghold. The priceless gems, known as the regalia of the Order of St. Patrick, were a symbol of the unity between the British Crown and the loyal landed gentry in Ireland. **THE QUEER CASE OF THE IRISH CROWN JEWELS** tells the story of the theft, the investigation, the cover-up and scandal that ensued. It is a story of blackmail, sexual corruption in high places and murder in darkest Ireland.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: A press kit, including fact sheet and press release, will be posted to FirstClass and aptonline.org. Color photos will be available via email and posted on aptonline.org.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS: Directed and produced by John Murray.

BROADCAST HISTORY: U.S. television premiere.

VIEWER INQUIRIES: www.network-irl-tv.com

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PRESS RELEASE

THE QUEER CASE OF THE IRISH CROWN JEWELS

February 2004, Boston, Mass. — On April 1, 2004, American Public Television will begin distributing **THE QUEER CASE OF THE IRISH CROWN JEWELS** to public television stations nationwide. Produced and directed by John Murray, this hour-long documentary takes place in the early 20th Century and is a story of blackmail, sexual corruption in high places and murder in darkest Ireland.

A collection of diamonds and rubies known as The Irish Crown Jewels are at the center of one of the most mysterious and sensational robberies in the world. On the eve of King Edward's royal visit to Ireland in 1907, the Irish Crown Jewels were stolen from Dublin Castle, Britain's most invincible Irish stronghold. The priceless gems, known as the regalia of the Order of St. Patrick, were a symbol of the unity between the British Crown and the loyal landed gentry in Ireland.

Several men were suspected of stealing the priceless jewels. Sir Arthur Vicars, the custodian of the Irish jewels, and Francis Richard Shackleton were among the top suspects in the case. While being investigated, secrets about the men were unveiled which only made the case harder to crack. Nevertheless, no one was found guilty for stealing the jems, and the whereabouts of the jewels is still unknown today.

THE QUEER CASE OF THE IRISH CROWN JEWELS was acquired by Network Ireland Television for syndication to public television station nationwide, and is a U.S. television premiere.

About American Public Television:

For 42 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT has more than 10,000 hours of available programming including ***Discovering the Real World of Harry Potter, Globe Trekker, Muhammad Ali: Through the Eyes of the World, Nightly Business Report, Rick Steves' Europe, Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home, Ballykissangel, Brian Jacques' Redwall*** and ***Sinatra: The Classic Duets***. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In more than four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. Press should contact Donna Hardwick at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to donna_hardwick@aptonline.org. For more information about APT's programs and services, log on to aptonline.org.

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