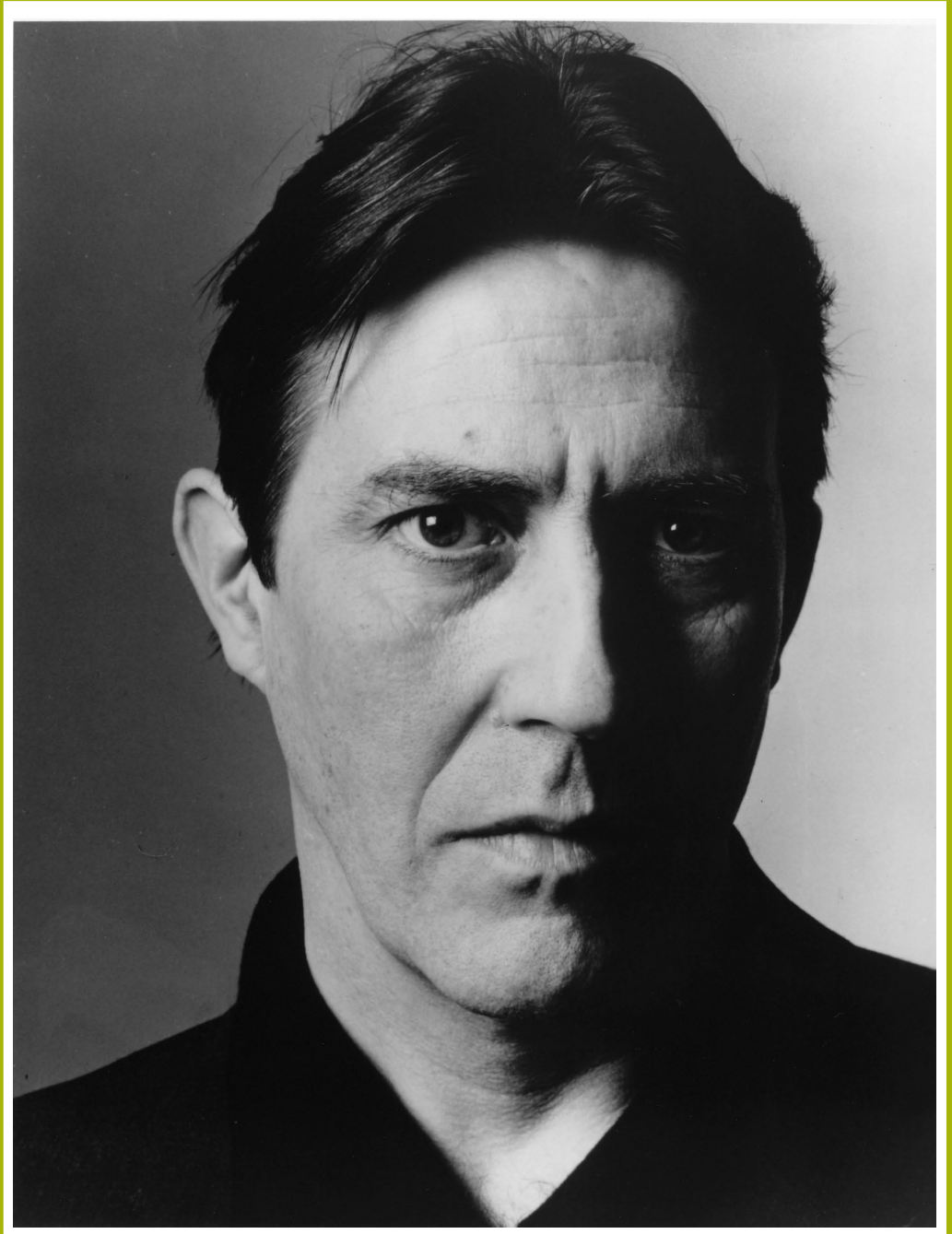


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Week 15

April 7 - April 13 2012



## **Titanic Letters**

New BBC Radio Ulster series shares the stories of those on board the Titanic through the letters they wrote



**BBC**

NORTHERN IRELAND

## Programme Information

## New this week



The hit comedy panel show *The Blame Game* is back on BBC Radio Ulster on Saturdays at 12pm as comedians Neil Delamere, Colin Murphy and Jake O' Kane join host Tim McGarry to give us the funny side of the people, places and events who are making the news at home and abroad. Repeated on Mondays at 7.30pm.

### **Titanic Letters**

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American soul singer Mirenda Rosenberg is back on BBC Radio Ulster with a new series of *The Gospel Train* on Sundays at 4.30pm, where she takes listeners on a personal journey through the glorious world of gospel music, from old spiritual standards to more recent soulful songs of praise.

# Titanic Letters

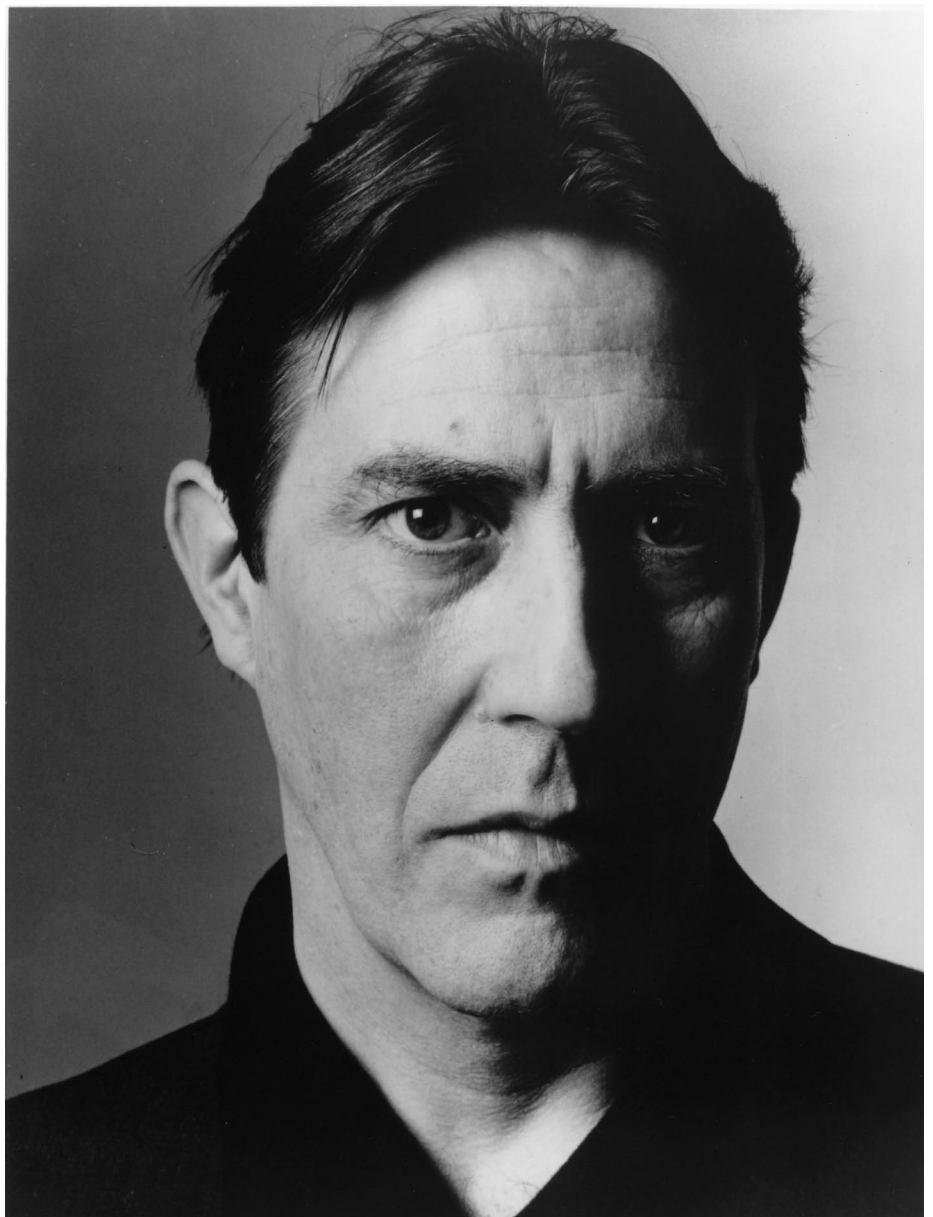
New BBC Radio Ulster series shares the stories of those on board the Titanic through the letters they wrote

**Titanic Letters** starts BBC Radio Ulster, Monday, April 9 at 8.55am.  
[bbc.co.uk/radioulster](http://bbc.co.uk/radioulster)

**In a landmark new series for BBC Radio Ulster, some of Northern Ireland's best known and most respected stars of stage, screen, sport and music read real letters written by people who stepped on board the RMS Titanic for its ill-fated maiden voyage.**

Starting on Easter Monday, April 9, this epic 42-part series is led by acclaimed Belfast-born actor Ciaran Hinds (Tinker Sailor Soldier Spy, The Debt, There Will Be Blood) as he presents letters written by staff and passengers of different classes who boarded the ship for its first journey to New York.

In each of these five-minute programmes, Ciaran Hinds introduces the letters with the story behind the individual who penned it and concludes with the information of their fate when the ship sank. The 42 letters featured in the series were written by those who worked in different areas of the ship and passengers from all walks of life, from the aristocracy to those residing in steerage. Some letters were written before the ship set sail, others during its voyage and just after the ship struck the iceberg, some on board the rescue ship the RMS Carpathia and some once the survivors had docked on dry land.



Ciaran Hinds presents Titanic Letters on BBC Radio Ulster



Ciaran McMenamin portrays of the people on board the ill-fated Titanic

Actress Susan Lynch features in Titanic Letters

A different Northern Ireland personality portrays the writer of the letter in each programme. Those reading the letters are: actors Amanda Burton, Jimmy Ellis, Ian McElhinney, Bronagh Gallagher, Ciaran McMenamin, Francis Tomelty, Maggie Cronin, Dan Gordon, Susan Lynch, Conleth Hill, Charles Lawson, Stella McCusker and Olivia Nash; television personalities Eamonn Holmes, Christine Bleakley and Gloria Hunniford; comedians Patrick Keilty, John Linehan, and Colin Murphy; musicians Tim Wheeler, Phil Coulter, Brian Kennedy and Barry Douglas, sports personalities Eddie Irvine, Dame

Mary Peters and Janet Gray; writers Brian Keenan, Colin Bateman and Glenn Patterson; entertainer Leila Webster; playwrights Martin Lynch and Marie Jones; chef Paul Rankin; Accelerator physicist Steven Myers; and BBC Northern Ireland's Wendy Austin, Donna Traynor, Noel Thompson and Sarah Travers.

Ciaran says: "Being from Belfast, I've always been aware of the Titanic and of course, there have been many books and films which tell of the history of this iconic ship. However, making this series truly opened

my eyes to the more human side to the Titanic story. These letters were written by real people embarking on an adventure, be it professionally or personally, and they bring to life the personalities, hopes and dreams of some of the 2000-plus people on board.

"In this series we learn that some of the people who put pen to paper perished in the icy waters of the Atlantic, while others survived and went on to rebuild their lives, trying to escape the shadow of that fateful night. Making Titanic Letters was an insight-

ful and moving experience which spares a touching thought for the many lives affected and lost in the disaster. Titanic isn't just the story of a famous ship which hit an iceberg, it is also about the people who were there."

Producer Ian Dougan says: "This series of letters doesn't just focus on the doomed ocean liner, it's also about the lives and many stories of those on board the great ship on the night it hit the iceberg. This series allows the listener to first hear about each of the 42 authors of each letter, then they will hear a different Northern Irish 'Voice' read an actual letter. Following this their fate will be revealed.

"While researching the series I read many letters and was surprised - knowing the fate of each author - how poignant even the simplest of letters could be and how some of them, unknown to the writer, would contain twists, turns and tragic irony."

"To bring together 42 well-known voices to read these 'Titanic Letters' was a huge task but one which all of those involved took great pride in doing"

Titanic Letters starts on BBC Radio Ulster on Monday, April 9 with three programmes broadcast each day until Sunday, April 22. Monday, April 9 - Friday, April 13 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 4.55pm; Saturday, April 14 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; Sunday, April 15 at 9.45am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; Monday, April 16-Friday, April 20 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 4.55pm; Saturday, April 21 at 8.55am, 11.55am and 6.05pm; and Sunday, April 22 at 8.25pm, 11.55am and 6.05pm. 92-95FM & DAB digital radio, digital TV and online at [bbc.co.uk/radioulster](http://bbc.co.uk/radioulster)



Eddie Irvine reads a letter written by a person on the Titanic in the BBC Radio Ulster series Titanic Letters