

TRIBECA FILM in partnership with AMERICAN EXPRESS presents a

6 SALES presentation a FASTNET FILMS/PODEROSA PICTURES production in association with FILM FUND LUXEMBOURG, LUCIL FILM, FILM I VAST, QUICKFIRE FILMS and with the participation of BORD SCANNÁN NA HÉIREANN / THE IRISH FILM BOARD

A film by IAN POWER

# THE RUNWAY

# Limited theatrical release:

Scottsdale, AZ: July 20, 2012 at Harkins Theatres Shea 14 Salmon Arm, British Columbia: November 2 at Shuswap Film Society

Available on VOD July 18, 2012

**Running Time: 93 minutes** 

Press Materials can be downloaded at:

http://www.tribecafilm.com/festival/media/tribeca-film-press

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# **FEATURING**

DEMIÁN BICHIR KERRY CONDON JAMES COSMO JAMIE KIERANS JOHN CARPENTER and BRUNO BICHIR

COSTUME DESIGN	ULI SIMON
SOUND MIXER	ROBERT FLANAGAN
PRODUCTION DESIGN	RAY BALL
EDITOR	AMINE JABER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	P.J. DILLON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	JAMES ATHERTON
	JAN PACE
	MARINA FUENTES ARREDONDA
CO-PRODUCER	BERNARD MICHAUX
	TOMAS ESKILSSON
PRODUCER	MACDARA KELLEHER
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	IAN POWER

#### **SYNOPSIS**

In this charming comedy, Oscar-nominee Demián Bichir (A BETTER LIFE, "Weeds") stars as Ernesto, a Colombian pilot whose plane has crashed in a small Irish village. Not able to speak a word of English, a precocious 9-year old boy named Paco, the only one in his town who knows Spanish, becomes his translator. Rewriting Ernesto's mysterious and questionable past, Paco turns him into a hero and a celebrity, motivating the entire town to rally behind Ernesto to help rebuild his plane. When a seedy Colombian detective arrives and threatens to reveal a dark secret about Ernesto, the town begins to question who they can trust. Inspired by true events, THE RUNWAY tells the story of a boy needing a father, a man wanting a family, and a town willing to do anything for a hero.

#### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

About six years ago I saw an archive TV news report about a South American pilot who made an emergency landing in rural Cork in 1983. Amazingly, the locals came together and built a runway to get his plane back in the air again. And at the heart of this report was the image of this handsome Latin man among a group of local Irish people that struck me as a master image – a great fish out of water story...

And the 1980's in Ireland were terrible. Unemployment was rife and for many, emigration was a foregone conclusion. Ireland more closely resembled a former Soviet block country than the affluent society it is today (or at least as it was before the current financial crisis - Ireland used to boom in the 'Celtic Tiger' economy).

And in the context of our financial boom there was something about this act of altruism in 1983 at a time when people had nothing that seemed familiar but absent...

Later that year I was working in Belfast and on my second night I ordered a drink at the bar of the hotel where I was staying. I paid for the drink and as I lifted it off the bar the barman said something to me. Without thinking I reached in my pocket and handed him more money. He looked at me, smiled, and said that he had only asked how I was doing. And then it struck me – a simple but profound thought - that I didn't remember the last time anyone behind a counter in Dublin had said anything remotely social to me. And I started to think about those people in Cork again...

I lived with the idea of making a film about the runway for a long time but while the situation was interesting, the story was not immediate. Some other work interrupted and about a year later I came back to the idea and started to think about whose story it might be. Drawing a blank I fell back on the old writer's trick of trying to make it personal...

In 1983 my parents moved from Dublin to rural Wexford in the South East. I was six years old and the culture shock was extreme. At that time, unemployment in Wexford was around 70%. I moved through a few different schools and found it difficult to settle. What was, on reflection, a rural idyl seemed only quiet and boring. About this time I saw Spielberg's E.T. and I remember being quite convinced that an alien dropping out of the sky would be a great alternative to my current struggle with being the new kid...

And this was the seed of my story – a story about a kid in need of a father, and the most inappropriate father figure dropping out of the sky. The story of a town wracked by unemployment, empowered to build a runway for a man they didn't know. And the story of the pilot himself, who would be inspired by the town's selfless act. After that I wrote quite quickly and passed an early draft on to my manager, Brendan Mc Donald who would end up producing, and to Macdara Kelleher, the producer, who is a friend from film school.

After that we made steady progress. Macdara started to put the finance together – no small feat given the scope of what was required with a first time director on board, and Brendan started to look for our pilot. When Demián Bichir read the script, we had no finance attached. We had no other cast, and frankly, no guarantee that the film would ever be made. And he made an unconditional commitment to be in the film. I loved him for that. I had seen him in 'Ché' and it was clear that he was a real star, with all the screen confidence that comes with that, without being overexposed to an English speaking audience, which meant that we could preserve an all important sense of mystery around our pilot and still have a charismatic lead. Demián's commitment never wavered through a tough shoot. (Don't get me wrong – I know all low budget films are tough, but throw an airplane, a 1,300 foot runway, three countries, two kids, a car chase, a bull, and the Irish weather into the mix and you get an idea of how what we had to contend with).

I saw over 2,000 kids in Cork for the parts of Paco and Frogs. I've cast children before. Not a fan of showkids, I tend to look for non-actors. Sometimes you go out and the first group of kids you see produces the most brilliant little actor. But for whatever reason on THE RUNWAY, John Carpenter and Jamie Kierans were literally the last kids we saw, but they were brilliant. For Grace, the boy's mother, we chose Kerry Condon, who from the outset found the perfect balance between the practicality of being a single mom and the warmth of character the story needed. I had a sense that a young mother would be more like a friend than a mom and Kerry and Jamie sparked off each other brilliantly from the outset. She was terrific.

The script was well received by the people with the money, and Demián's attachment didn't hurt. Less than a year later we were fully financed with commitment from The Irish Film Board, The Luxembourg Film Fund, Film I Vast in Sweden, and Quickfire Films. A true European Co-Production, we would shoot interiors in Luxembourg, exteriors in Ireland, and do some of the post in Sweden.

In August 2009, eight weeks after the birth of my first child, I began shooting THE RUNWAY. The seven week shoot was extremely challenging but I loved every minute of it, largely thanks to a terrific and fun cast, who made it a real pleasure to go to work. James Cosmo, who I loved in BRAVEHEART, combined with a group of brilliant Irish character actors to bring our story to life. They all deserve a mention but I think Donacha Crowley did a brilliant turn as the town's hapless mayor, Tommy Carmody. In Ireland we filmed in the environs of the town of Schull in West Cork, a really beautiful place where the locals pulled out the stops to help our little film. Our budget was modest, some thought impossible to pull off given the logistics and requirements, but we boxed clever, keeping the unit as small as possible and only getting 'big' for a few days. We shot on RED and moved as quickly as we could, thanks in no small part to PJ Dillon, our versatile and fast moving cinematographer, side-stepping weather and all the other pitfalls that threaten to stop the show on a low budget film.

The film is set in 1983 and I was really conscious of the slew of naff 80's flash back films over the years. So rather than have everyone strolling about in "Miami Vice" jackets I pushed to shoot the film the way they made films in the 80's. And so we shot with a set of antique lenses and pro-mist filters and chose a soundtrack from the 50's because those songs seemed to populate films in the 80's. I made THE RUNWAY for an audience. For people. An uplifting film, which would live and die in the audience's response, which I would never defend by saying it was misunderstood, like some art film. This was always my intention, but as the first screening drew close, I suddenly felt very exposed, like someone ready to do a stage dive from a perilous height, counting on the audience to catch him...

THE RUNWAY premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh in July of this year. It won the audience award for Best Feature. When you work on a film for that long, especially a comedy, you forget the effect you intended – you forget that it's funny or that someone might be moved by it. It was a real joy to be reminded by laughter.

#### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

# **DEMIÁN BICHIR (Ernesto)**

Demián Bichir is one of the most well-known and well respected actors in his home of Mexico and all of Latin America. He recently received an Academy Award, SAG Award and Independent Spirit Award nomination for his searing portrayal of an undocumented gardener trying to connect with his estranged teenage son in Chris Weitz's feature A BETTER LIFE.

Prior to A BETTER LIFE, Bichir became known to United States television audiences for his portrayal of Esteban Reyes opposite Mary Louise Parker in the hit Showtime series "Weeds." He also portrayed a young Fidel Castro in Steven Soderbergh's CHE opposite Benicio Del Toro. He is currently in production on the film MACHETE KILLS for director Robert Rodriguez.

In Mexico, Bichir is an Ariel award winner for Best Actor given by the Mexican Academy of Cinematography and has received numerous other nominations and prestigious honors including being garnered with a Medal of Honor for Merit in the Fine Arts given by the Legislative Assembly of Mexico City. He co-stars in the upcoming Universal film SAVAGES this summer, directed by Oliver Stone, based on the acclaimed novel by Don Winslow.

Bichir comes from a strong theater background and a well respected theatrical family. He is the son of famed theater director Alejandro Bichir and acclaimed actress Maricrúz Nájera. His brothers Odiseo and Bruno are two of the most talented actors of their generation. Throughout his career, Bichir has amassed an impressive resume of theater credits in Mexico and in the U.S. impressed audiences in 2008 starring in the play *By the Waters of Babylon* which opened at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles.

His films have been seen by millions of people throughout all of Latin America. His credits include such films as: ROJO AMANCER (winner of the Grand Jury Prize in the San Sebastian Film Festival), Alex de la Iglesia's PERDITA DURANGO with Javier Bardem, HASTA MORIR (winner Best Actor Ariel, The Mexican Academy of Cinematography), SIN NOTICIAS DE DIOS with Victoria Abril and Penélope Cruz, SEX, SHAME, AND TEARS (Ariel Best Actor nominee), AMERICAN VISA (Best Foreign Film nominee at the Goyas in Spain), FUERA DEL CIELO, ENEMIGOS INTIMOS, and HILDALGO, THE UNTOLD STORY (Ariel Award nominee and winner of the Best Actor award at the Huelva Film Festival in Spain). Early on in his career, he starred opposite Salma Hayek in the Showtime film, IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIEST.

In his native México he's starred in plays such as Shakespeare's A Mid Summer Night's Dream and Richard the III, Strindberg's The Ghost Sonata, Peter Shaffer's Equus, O'Neill's Ah! Wilderness, Neil Simon's Broadway Bound and The Odd Couple, Halliwell's Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs and Sabina Berman's Extras. He recently completed the starring role in the Mexican theater adaptation of the film Swimming with Sharks, in Mexico City.

Demián resides in Los Angeles and Mexico City.

# **KERRY CONDON (Grace)**

First seen in the Oscar nominated film ANGELA'S ASHES, Irish actress Kerry Condon has garnered much praise for her numerous roles in some of Hollywood's most talked about films, including THE LAST STATION, which was nominated for two Academy Awards in 2010. Praised for the casts' "spellbinding performances," Condon co-starred opposite Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren and James McAvoy.

For two complete seasons, Condon brought the ancient city of Rome to life in Bruno Heller's HBO series "Rome." Playing Octavia of the Julii, she helped the show win four Emmy Awards in 2006 and secure a nomination for a Golden Globe Award in the category of Outstanding Television Series – Drama.

Condon was last seen as Rosie on the small screen in the critically acclaimed HBO series "Luck." The series, directed by Michael Mann, centered around characters who are all tied to the same horse-racing track and starred an all star cast including Dustin Hoffman and Nick Nolte.

Condon will next be seen on the big screen in The Weinstein Company's THIS MUST BE THE PLACE starring Sean Penn and Frances McDormand. The story centers around a bored, retired rock star set out to find his father's executioner, an ex-Nazi war criminal who is a refugee in the U.S.

Condon also played Patricia in the 2012 Oscar-winning short film THE SHORE starring opposite Ciarán Hinds and Conleth Hill. The film documents the story of Joe and Paddy, whose childhood friendship is shattered by the troubles in Northern Ireland. Twenty-five years later they are reunited. The film was released in February 2012.

Condon's other films include UNLESASED (2005), she portrayed Kate Kelly in the 2003 film NED KELLY and INTERMISSION (2003).

On stage and at the ripe age of 19, Condon originated the role of Mairead in the *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* by Martin McDonagh, which she performed at The Royal Shakespeare Company and The Atlantic Theatre Company in New York. For this production she recorded the song, *The Patriot Game* with The Pogues. In the same year, she played the role of Ophelia in *Hamlet*, making her the youngest actress to ever play that role for the Royal Shakespeare Company. In 2009, she appeared in another play by Martin McDonagh called *The Cripple of Inishmaan* for which she won a Lucille Lortel award and a Drama Desk award.

## JAMES COSMO (Sutherland)

James won the 2011 Scottish BAFTA award for Best Actor or Actress in a Film for his role as Alfred in DONKEYS. The film, directed by Morag McKinnon, aslo won the Scottish BAFTA for Best Film.

James' other recent credits include the lead role of the Priest the upcoming feature film CITADEL, and the role of Mormont in "Game of Thrones" for HBO, which for which he has filmed the second series in 2011.

# JAMIE KIERANS (Paco)

From an early age Jamie dreamed of being an actor but never thought it would come true. The part of Paco is his first professional role and he was chosen from a pool of over two thousand boys who auditioned. He loved every minute of the experience, and has since played the part of Petie in Terry George's WHOLE LOTTA SOLE, which recently premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. He hopes to continue his work as an actor, and also loves sports and takes part in soccer and hurling.

# **BRUNO BICHIR (Francisco)**

Since the age of 6 Bruno Bichir has been working as an actor in television, theater and film. His entire family is dedicated to the theater, his father is a director and his mother is an actress. In 1986 he studied to become film director in the CCC. In 2001 his production CRÓNICA DE UN DESAYUNO (A BREAKFAST CHRONICLE) won the Caligari award for Best Avangarde Film in the Berlinale. In 2002 he became the artistic director of the Foro Shakespeare, one of the most respected and visionary independent theaters in Mexico. He is currently the leader of TriFoPA (Triangular Forum For Performing Arts).

He is best known for his work in the films FRIDA, UNDER FIRE, ROJO AMANECER (RED DAWN), HIGHWAY PATROLMAN, PRINCIPIO Y

FIN (BEGINNING AND THE END), EXTRAÑOS, CASTIDAD and PORTION 71. Stage credits include *M. Butterfly, Rita, Julia, Enemigo De Clase (Enemy Class), Mary Stuart, Extras (Stones in His Pockets), Cabaret, Closer,* and *Nadando Con Triburones (Swimming with Sharks),* which he also directed.

He has won numerous awards from the Mexican Theater Critics Association – starting in 1980, when he won Best Child Actor for *Oh Wilderness*, and five more awards over the course of his career. He has also won numerous APT (Mexican Press Awards). He has been nominated for seven Mexican Academy Awards, and won for Best Actor in 1993 for his work in the film PRINCIPIO Y FIN.

#### **FILMMAKERS**

#### IAN POWER (Writer and Director)

With a first class honors from the MA Film in Dublin's D.I.T. Aungier St. in 1999, Ian Power followed his graduation film with the 15 minute short film BUSKERS, which scooped first prize at a number of international film festivals.

He began directing commercials in 2001 and has won numerous awards for his work. Previous clients include BT, The National Lottery, RTE, Axa, Invest NI, and Three Mobile.

In 2004 he won a Short Cuts Award to make THE WONDERFUL STORY OF KELVIN KIND which was picked up by Warner Bros. for a nationwide theatrical release in January 2005. In April, the film won Best Short Drama at The Celtic Film & Television Festival in Cardiff.

# MACDARA KELLEHER (Producer)

Macdara Kelleher is the managing director of Fastnet Films. Nominated for over twenty-five Irish Film & Television Awards, previous films have premiered at Cannes, Toronto, Berlin, Locarno, Edinburgh and Telluride as well as been nominated for the European Film Awards and long listed for the Best Foreign Film Oscar.

Credits include KISSES sold by Focus Features, it became the highest grossing Irish film of 2008/9. It was later nominated for Best Foreign Film for the Independent Spirit Awards 2011 alongside THE KING'S SPEECH.

Other credits include THE INVESTIGATOR which won five national film awards including Best Director, Genre Film and Best Actor; NOTHING PERSONAL, which won five awards at the Locarno Film Festival, five Dutch Golden Calf awards and was nominated for two European Film Awards in 2010; and the feature documentary COLONY which screened at the 2009 Toronto Film Festival, won the First Appearance award at IDFA and was nominated Best Documentary at the 2010 Irish Film Awards.

Fastnet's latest releases include CIRCUS FANTASTICUS which won nine national film awards including Best Picture and Best Director, and was shortlisted for the EFA's and longlisted for best foreign language film at the Oscars; THE GOOD DOCTOR directed by Lance Daly and starring Orlando Bloom; THE OTHER SIDE OF SLEEP which received its premiere at Cannes Film Festival, Director's Fortnight 2011 and ANTON CORBIJM INSIDE OUT, which premiered at the Berlinale 2012.

## **END CREDITS**

Ernesto Cordoba **DEMIÁN BICHIR** Grace Thomas **KERRY CONDON** Sutherland JAMES COSMO Paco Thomas JAMIE KIERANS **Frogs Connors** JOHN CARPENTER JR. Tommy Carmody **DONNCHA CROWLEY** 

Manus **PAT LAFFAN** Francisco De Caldas **BRUNO BICHIR** Eddie MARK DOHERTY Seamus JOHN KAVANAGH Martin AIDAN O'HARE

Joe JEAN-FRANCOIS WOLFF

Frog's Da **DAVID PIERCE** Cathal JOHN MOLLOY Laura Kelly **CAROLINE POWER** 

**Detective Higgins PAUL ROE** 

Garda Frank JOHN D. DESMOND Marie JULIE SHARKEY Ned MARTIN LUCEY

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MIRKA VALOVÁ

MARIANNE FOBEL Assistant Co-ordinator

> SUSAN CHANDLER CAITRIONA CREGAN

Pre-Production Co-ordinator JESSICA REAVIS

Production trainee BEATRIX SCHWINDEN Sound Mixer **ROB FLANAGAN Boom Operator PAUL NAUGHTON Trainee Sound ANDREW DOUGLAS** Assistant to Mr. Kelleher **RORY DUNGAN** Production Accountant **NIALL DELANEY** Assistant Accountant **EMER FITZPATRICK** Post-Production Accountant **BILLI WEBSTER** Action Vehicle Designer **GARY GREENBERG** 

Vehicle Co-Ordinator

For Fastnet Films

Production Co-ordinator **Production Assistant** IAN JACKSON

**BEN KEENAN** 

LES KELLY

Art Director

Set Dresser / Stand-By Props

**Prop Master** 

Assistant Set Dresser

**Dressing Props** 

Prop Buyer (Luxembourg) Prop buyer (Ireland) Trainee Prop Buyer Trainee Art Director

1st assistant director 2nd Assistant Director 3rd Assistant Director

Extras Co-Ordinator

Trainee

Trainee AD/Stand-In

Make-Up Artist

Hair Designer Additional Hair Design

Make-up Assistant

Hair/Make-Up Trainee

Focus Puller 2nd Assistant Camera

**Trainee Camera** 

AOIFE MCGONIGAL

**AEVEEN FLEMING** BARBARA PRATI **ALAIN BOUCHERIE** 

HARALD RUDE JEROME MCDONNELL

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**OWEN MAGEE** SUSAN DRENNAN **THANOS GOLTSOS** 

ROSAI MACCARTHY **HILARY MCCARTHY** 

**AD SONJA OTTO EIMEAR KELLY NIALL OWENS CATHY HEGARTY ORLA O REGAN** JEREMY PAUL

**GUILLAUME BORKHATARIA** 

LIZ BYRNE

ZORRO

ANNA GRÖNÉRUS

**GILL BRENNAN** 

BERNADETTE O'SULLIVAN

**RIAN MCCARTHY** AMANDA CULLEN

FIONN COMERFORD **CHRIS AYOUB** 

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CATHERINE ROLLIN
Locations Trainee HUGH MCCARTHY
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Additional Casting NICK MCGINLEY

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ROBERT KUSTOSIK

Additional Grip GUNNAR JONSSON
Rigger DRACEY JOBBINS
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Rigging Gaffer CON DEMPSEY

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Carpenter RAPHAEL THIRY

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Painter ANTOINE CARTON
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B Camera Focus Puller ANDREW O'REILLY
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Re-Recording Mixer PER BOSTRÖM

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# **Electric Co**

Performed by: U2
Courtesy of Mercury Records (London) Ltd

Under licence from Universal Music Operations Ltd Written By: Adam Clayton, David Evans, Larry Mullen & Paul Hewson Courtesy of Blue Mountain Music (UK) and Mother Music (Eire)

# **Passing Through**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# **Pledging My Love**

Performed by Joe Hinton
Courtesy of MCA Records Inc
Under licence from Universal Music Operations Ltd
Written By: Don D Robey & Ferdinand Washington
Published Universal/MCA Music Ltd.

# **Up The Downbeat**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

#### Hoofin'

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# Yama Yama Pretty Mama

Preformed By: Richard Berry
Courtesy of Ace Records Ltd. (P) 1956
Written By: Joe Bihari & Richard Berry
Published by Universal Music Publishing MGB Ltd

#### **Over The Hill**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

## **The Champion**

Preformed By: Willie Mitchell
(W Mitchell) Burlington Music Ltd
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Written By: Willie Mitchell
Published Universal Music Publishing Ltd

# **Black Saloon Blues**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra

# Courtesy of Runa Music

# Bop-A-Lena

Performed By Ronnie Self
Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment UK Ltd.
Licensed by Sony Music Commercial Markets UK.
Written By: Mel Tillis & Webb Pierce
Published by Universal Music Publishing Ltd

# Blues Ain't Always Blue

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# **Rock Everybody**

Preformed By: The Teen Quenns Courtesy of Ace Records Ltd. (P) 1956 Written By: Maxwell Davis & Joe Bihari Published by Universal Music Publishing MGB Ltd

# **Travel West**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# I Didnt Know The Gun Was Loaded

Performed By: The Cannons
Courtesy of The Decca Music Group
Under licence from Universal Music Operations Ltd
Written by: Fort, Hank/ Leighton, Herb Barquick
Published by Universal/MCA Music Ltd

# The Long Road Here & There

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# **Ag Dul Siar**

Written & Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

**Walking The Dog** 

Written By: Rufus Thomas Jr.

#### Published by Universal Music Publishing Ltd

#### La Bamba

Performed St. Fachtna's Silver Band Skibbereen

#### I Must Be Mad

Performed by: The Craig
Courtesy of Mercury Records (London) Ltd
Under licence from Universal Music Operations Ltd
Written By: Geoff Brown
Published by Universal/Dick James Music Ltd

## Crann Úll

Performed by Fionán de Barra Courtesy of Runa Music

# **Lacken County Blues**

Written by Leon O' Neill Performed by Music For Losers Courtesy of Music For Losers

## **Romeos on Fire**

Preformed by: The Stunning Composer: Stephen Wall Published by: Stunning Songs

Video clip from the English language animated television series entitled BATTLE OF THE PLANETS (1978), Episode No. 1, opening title sequence made available by Tatsunoko Production Co., Ltd.

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