

killing bono

KILLING BONO is an Irish music-based comedy from the writers of *The Commitments*. Based on Neil McCormick's autobiography it tells of him and his brother's disastrous attempts to become global rock stars. Failing spectacularly they can only watch while old school friends U2 become the biggest band in the world.

director	Nick Hamm
writers	Dick Clement & Ian La Frenais and Simon Maxwell with additional writing by Ben Bond adapted from the autobiography <i>I Was Bono's Doppelgänger</i> by Neil McCormick
producers	Piers Tempest, Mark Huffam, Ian Flooks
cast	Ben Barnes Robert Sheehan Krysten Ritter Pete Postlethwaite Martin McCann Peter Serafinowicz
genre	Comedy

tagline

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have the misfortune to go to school with Bono.

synopsis

Neil McCormick, a punk schoolboy in Dublin in the 1970s, wants to be famous. More than famous, he's certain his destiny is to be a Rock God. Neil and his brother Ivan have it all worked out: the albums, the stadium concerts, the quest for world peace.

There's only one thing they hadn't counted on. The boy sitting on the other side of the classroom has plans of his own. And his name is Bono.

When Ivan auditions for Bono's new band, U2, Neil feels betrayed. So when Bono tells Neil that they want Ivan to be their guitarist Neil makes an executive decision that will change his and Ivan's life forever. He tells Bono that his brother isn't interested...

As U2 soar into the stratosphere, the McCormick brothers gig in strip clubs and smoky bars to enthusiastic audiences mostly made up of their own family. Coming agonizingly close to stardom a number of times their fortunes are somehow always thwarted, usually by Neil's uncanny ability to make spectacularly bad decisions such as turning down the chance to be on U2's label...and sleeping with the wife of the record exec just about to sign them.

One fateful day in 1985 LiveAid confirms to the brothers that their school friends have somehow become the biggest band in the world. Shite.

Neil finally realises that he is no longer seeking success for himself. He owes it to his brother to succeed to make up for denying him his place in U2. A secret that is bound to come to light sooner or later...

Based on Neil McCormick's autobiography, *Killing Bono* is a funny, raucous, heartbreaking celebration of brotherly love and the glory of failure, set to a sing-a-long 70's and 80's soundtrack. But most of all it is a valuable lesson in how *not* to become a rock star.

elements

director	Nick Hamm		<i>Godsend, The Hole, Martha Meet Frank Daniel & Lawrence</i>
writers	Dick Clement Ian La Frenais Simon Maxwell Ben Bond		<i>Across the Universe, The Commitments</i>
producers	Ian Flooks Nick Hamm		<i>Confetti</i> <i>Godsend, The Hole, Martha Meet Frank Daniel & Lawrence</i>
production co.	Mark Huffam Piers Tempest Greenroom Entertainment Generator Entertainment		<i>Mamma Mia!, Johnny English</i> <i>Like Minds, The Oyster Farmer</i> see below
music superv.	Tarquin Gotch		
music producer	Mike Hedges		<i>Harry Potter, U2</i> (for more info see below)
composer	Joe Echo		song writing credits include Madonna's <i>Celebration</i>
casting	Lucy Bevan		<i>The Duchess, The Golden Compass</i>
cast	Ben Barnes	Neil	<i>Dorian Gray, Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian</i>
	Robert Sheehan	Ivan	<i>Season of the Witch, Cherrybomb</i>
	Krysten Ritter	Gloria	<i>Veronica Mars, Breaking Bad</i>
	Pete Postlethwaite	Karl	<i>Brassed Off, The Lost World: Jurassic Park, The Usual Suspects</i>
	Martin McCann	Bono	<i>Clash of the Titans, My Boy Jack</i>
	Peter Serafinowicz	Hammond	<i>Shaun of the Dead, Run Fatboy Run</i>

Ben Barnes (right) is attached to play Neil. A rising star most recognisable for his leading roles in gothic thriller *Dorian Gray* and fantasy epic *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*



Robert Sheehan (left) is confirmed to play Ivan. He will be seen in the upcoming British drama, *Cherrybomb*, alongside Rupert Grint and has recently finished filming *Season of the Witch* with Nicolas Cage.

Nick Hamm

Nick's feature work includes *Martha, Meet Frank, Daniel and Lawrence* (US title *The Very Thought of You*, released by Miramax) starring Monica Potter and Joseph Fiennes, UK hit *The Hole*, starring Thora Birch and Keira Knightley with Pathé and Film4; and Lionsgate Films' *Godsend*, starring Robert De Niro and Greg Kinnear.

Previously Nick was resident director with the RSC, and artistic director at Sadler's Wells; his TV work includes documentary *The Bottom Line* featuring Arthur Miller and Dustin Hoffman, *Out of the Blue* starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Colin Firth, and the acclaimed series *Rik Mayall Presents* for Granada.

In recent times Nick and his brother set up Greenroom Digital, a highly successful digital marketing company specialising in the entertainment business, whose clients include Sony, Fox, Paramount, Lionsgate, Momentum Pictures and Pathé.

"This story is close to my heart. I grew up during this period in Belfast, I remember Thin Lizzy concerts in Bangor, Rory Gallagher at the Belfast Opera House. The thematic journey echoes my experiences and creates a story of ambition, hope, and fragile dreams that I am burning to tell." (Nick Hamm)

Greenroom Digital

The award-winning agency was founded in 2000 by brothers Jon Hamm and film director Nick Hamm. Greenroom Digital grew to become a leader in applying the discipline of content and storytelling to marketing on the internet, and its ever broadening client base now includes 20th Century Fox, Paramount Home Entertainment, Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, Optimum Releasing and EnjoyEngland. In 2008 the agency was awarded the British Video Association "Agency of the Year" award. Greenroom Media is its sister film and TV production arm.

Mike Hedges

In a career spanning four decades acclaimed music producer Mike Hedges has collaborated with a wide ranging list of successful artists, including hits with *U2*, *The Cure*, *Siouxsie and The Banshees*, *Dido*, *Travis* and the *Manic Street Preachers*. He also produced several tracks on *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.