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FILM TITLE:

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

Programme: Real to Reel

Director: Kim Bartley, Donnacha O'Briain

Country: Ireland

Year: 2003

Time: 74 minutes

Film Types: Colour/35mm

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SCREENING TIMES:

Saturday, September 06 09:00 PM ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM
Monday, September 08 01:15 PM ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Production Company: Power Pictures 2002 Ltd.

Executive Producer: Rod Stoneman

Producer: David Power

Cinematography: Kim Bartley, Donnacha O'Briain

Editor: Angel H. Zoido

The reality of television is starkly exposed in this gripping chronicle of a coup. On April 12, 2002, the world awoke to the news that Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez had been removed from office and replaced by a new interim government. What had in fact taken place was the first Latin American coup of the twenty-first century – and the world's first media coup.

Elected president in 1998, the populist Chávez redrafted the country's constitution, established reforms aimed at redistributing Venezuela's significant oil wealth and created an infrastructure to stimulate a participatory democracy. Washington was watching.

Filmmakers Kim Bartley and Donnacha O'Briain had been making a documentary about Chávez and were present as political friction was ripping through the streets. On April 7, Chávez announced the dismissal of seven executives from the state-owned oil company and ordered a twenty-per-cent increase in minimum wages. Neither the Venezuelan establishment nor the anti-Chávez White House were thrilled with the news. So, they made their own.

Venezuela's largest television stations are privately owned, and the most widely watched – Venevisión – is linked to global political and media muscle. Blatant misinformation, calls for Chávez's resignation and military uprisings are common fodder on the private channels. On the weekend of the crudely conceived right-wing coup, coverage of the protests outside the presidential palace was ludicrously distorted, yet was picked up unchallenged by the mainstream Western media.

Power changed hands twice over this tumultuous weekend and, with a ringside seat inside the palace, Bartley and O'Briain kept their cameras rolling. This is extraordinary stuff – the filmmakers document the unfolding drama with urgency, minimal intrusion and vivid clarity. Its obvious Chávez sympathies will rankle some, but the piercing coverage of a remarkable forty-eight hours makes *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* one of the most rivetting documentaries of the year – and one of the most timely.



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– **Sean Farnel**

Kim Bartley is a freelance producer and director. Most of her work takes her to Africa and Latin America, where she has filmed documentaries for international aid agencies in crisis or conflict situations. *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (co-director, 03) is her first feature documentary.

Donnacha O'Briain is a freelance producer and director. He has made several documentaries for the Irish Public Service Broadcasting Organization, Radio Telefís Éireann. *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (co-director, 03) is his first feature documentary.

Associated with *European Film Promotion*,
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