

The World Can be yours for 49.99

Brian Stynes (c) 2013

INT: Large boardroom

open on a close up of two forefingers tapping against each other
cut to a close up of an official looking document with the header “Freedom of Information”
cut to a wide shot of a large boardroom, Norman Hodgins is sitting in a seat on left of the screen, while Company exec, in the distant mid screen is tapping her fingers together and turned away from Norman, she gets up and walks to a podium, turns a page of a document that is resting on the stand, all the while not addressing Norman, The exec stares blankly out of the window.

Cut to Black:

Fade in:

INT: Airport waiting area

Sounds of a busy airport terminal with PA announcements. From the sound of overlapping voices, we focus on one conversation,

Black fades up to a rear view of Norman listening to Louise, they are sitting in an airport waiting area.

(Very slow zoom centering on Louise, zoom will finish as Louise finishes her dialogue)

LOUISE

...if laser technology didn't keep pace
the testing phase would still be going
on, lasers keep photons on target,
all I want to get across.... (audio blurs)

Norman stares at Louise as if listening but occasionally shows his disdain, he wanted to appear on the show alone but Thompson had insisted that a science advisor be present at all television appearances.

NORMAN

(internal)

Does she ever see the light of day?
Sexy, in a smart older woman way
wasted her youth, gave it all to learning
what a waste.

Cut to:

A series of vox pops intercut with the new advertisement for the Thompson Transport portal, vox pops are a mix of positive, even elation to stern warnings about the use of the device, some snippets are from television interviews from the time the device was in development stage. Montage ends with the final shot of the advert with the contact details for the company.

Then....

INT: University Lecture Hall

Television Question Time Monday February 09th 2032

We can see a University Lecture Hall in preparation for a live broadcast, its a political programme similar to Question time.

In the centre of the floor is the device that has been in the news for the past five days, The Thompson Transportation portal.

We can see a busy studio atmosphere just prior to airing, Virtual camera (see diagram for description) has been mapped to the studio and audio recorders are hovering and a make up

person is with one of the panel members, echoed orders and requests can be heard over a PA. The stage manager walks onto the floor and shouts, informing of time to air (sixty seconds). The audience is full and some audience members have been invited especially to give evidence and ask specific questions relating to the Thompson invention which has been a working product for almost twelve months. This programme was rushed on air to lend voice to the public and concerns raised by the leak.

A wide shot sees Brian (Deane) leaning toward his nearest panel guest (Louise) but we cannot hear the exchange.

Noel Adams looks nervous, Brian has finished talking to Louise and notices Noel, a close up of Brian reveals that he is smirking at the sight of the nervous TD.

Norman walks onto the set and waves to some audience members, he diverts from his path to his panel seat to go to the people he waved to who proceed to greet him and have a photo taken with him, Norman gives the impression that he is a peoples person.

Cut to:

Close up of Stage manager shouting "ten seconds"

Brian looks into Virtual camera A, (only a seasoned professional will know where to look)

Cut to:

Black for five seconds, then we hear the intro theme music and back to close up of Brian.

Just as he is about to welcome the gathered audience and home viewers, camera angle changes to wide shot indicating that we will be seeing both subjective and objective camera angles, the wide-shot shows overhead of audience, panel is in the distance but in centre screen.

BRIAN DEANE

You know, I'm sure, why we changed tonight's programme, and I won't delay the session with updates of any kind, I hope it will be sufficient to say that the usual sensationalist headlines of the tabloids and the reviews in Friday's Independent act as pre text to whatever we discuss here tonight.

As always, I encourage anyone wishing to record the evening on your phone to do so bearing in mind that copyright remains with the producer so if you want to share, share using the RTE app.

Left to right, Brian Frewer the minister for science and technology, Sarah Buttimer, not too long in the post of deacon at St Patricks, and no stranger to our screens, welcome!, Noel Adams, deputy minister for transport, Norman Hodgins, a special welcome and thank you very much for agreeing to be here this evening, I know you have to go to London immediately after this, and Louise Barnes, leading the project at Thompson since the beginning seven years ago, please join me in welcoming the panel before they get eaten alive

APPLAUSE

BRIAN DEANE
(holding up The Daily Star) “soul searching”
I'm always amused, can we start with the church's
view please Sarah

INT: Control room

CU of rear of Control booth technician shows how he is getting the shots with the Virtual camera's. He uses a special glove to highlight a section of a 3D diagram of the room, and a video appears, this is Camera B

Camera B moving behind the panel while Camera A frames Sarah, another camera, C, holds position on Brian.

We can see the technician positioning the cameras on the 3D diagram and the video appears on his virtual screen, he is then able to adjust the frame to the desired image, the lone technician has complete control over the sequence of images being transmitted.

CUT TO:

rear of panel, over shoulder of Sarah and into audience, then CU of Sarah.

SARAH
Thank you Brian, anyone that heard the bishop on
Ger Faulkner's radio one programme will have heard
the official stance of the church in Ireland, we haven't
rushed into rash statements for a long time, we'd
like to keep up the practice, but I will say that the
information leaked to the press is very interesting,
and I personally find it no surprise that the media
jumped at the opportunity to speculate, spiritually.

Brian Deane gives Sarah his trademark look of disbelief

BRIAN DEANE
Do you have an opinion?

SARAH
Of course I do Brian, you wouldn't have invited
me if I didn't

Brian looks at Sarah as if waiting for a more thorough reply

SARAH
I want to see more

Camera angles will change sporadically showing reactions of audience and other panel members.

Brian looks bemused at this response and looks to Norman

BRIAN DEANE

**What about Thompsons take on articles of faith?
I have to assume the conference rooms at Reading
and Albany have been occupied with talk of the
companies reactions to the wilder accusations or
at least to the speculations of the public.**

A close up shows Norman sending a text or something on a device and laying the device on the desk in front of him.

NORMAN

**An understatement, the recent uninformed
newspaper articles have naturally harmed the
reputation of a great organization but we want
and need to be transparent in our
communications to the public and, moreover,
will make any availability of the company's
senior officers to programmes like this one,
this programme has a similar reputation to
ours for clarity and honesty in conveying
truth to the public.**

BRIAN DEANE

**Does the Thompson device alter the composition
of any being that moves through it**

Norman picks up his hand held device and reads something from it

LOUISE

Of course it does

Silence

LOUISE

**this was not withheld from the public when the
device went live.**

**Any mass entering the stream is de-constructed
and reconstructed proportionately in the receiving
portal, does anyone here deny that this is common
knowledge?**

Silence again

SARAH

**I'm sorry Louise, you know why we're here,
the question is, does a body lose mass when
using the device?**

LOUISE

It does, only once

BRIAN DEANE

**This much we know, or at least have read all
this week, the real question is, why?**

LOUISE

**Its a negligible loss, less than two grams and
repeated uses have shown no further loss to
the same person.**

BRIAN DEANE

**And the public are concerned that the question
of the existence of a soul is clearly brought to
bear. (looks at Sarah)**

SARAH

**Naturally there is a concern if a human being,
transported to a place thousands of miles
away in seconds, loses mass, the very fact that
the person only loses this weight on the initial
use is even more worrying, if the weight were
continuously lost, it would be reason enough
not to use the system, but just once ?
Its interesting to say the least, I think its
evidence enough that there is something to
study, I personally believe that the persons soul
is in question.**

APPLAUSE

SARAH

**Can I put it to you Louise, and Norman, that
the portal's computing system has difficulty
finding all the human elements and because
of this, the receiving portal constructs what the
computer sees as the entire human being and
the reconstituted being is actually not the same
person that went through on the other side?**

LOUISE

**That is preposterous Sarah and can I add,
unworthy of someone with your education**

As the audio lowers, we can see Sarah defending her opinion and shots of the front row of the audience.

CU of Norman Hodgins disinterested and glancing at Louise, Louise affirms by expression that the company has to deal with spiritual argument

Fade to Black

Fade up on an audience member standing and floating recording device moves to hover over her

JESSICA
almost every day

BRIAN DEANE
For work..... business purposes?

JESSICA
yes

BRIAN DEANE
since.....?

JESSICA
July..... no side effects, it is the future
of travel

BRIAN DEANE
you're not endorsing for Thompson

low laughter from audience and panel

JESSICA
(embarrassed) no, I just wanted to testify
to the Thompson transporter from a users
viewpoint, I think there's been too much
media circus and nothing from actual users
of the machine

Brian (Deane) applauds which makes a small number of the audience applaud

SARAH
(interrupting) can I ask, sorry, Jessica?

Jessica nods

SARAH
Do you feel that the Transporter has added
value to your life?

JESSICA
I do, I can take up employment in any part
of the world

SARAH
and leisure time, do you find the device
allows you more time for yourself?

WS of panel looking as if watching a tennis match

JESSICA
if I wished

SARAH
and you don't avail of that?

JESSICA
I know I could, I choose to stay at work,
I enjoy my work

Brian Frewer seizes an opportunity to pounce

BRIAN (FREWER)
Sarah, Sarah, I hope you're not going to
press this lady to account for her preference
for work

Sarah turns almost violently towards Brian Frewer

SARAH
No Minister, I want to open up a discussion
on the quality of life that the portal has introduced
into the lives of those using it, I believe that
the Thompson portal has left people with a sense
of uselessness

Jessica stands with one hand outstretched trying to get the attention of Sarah

JESSICA
Can I....

Sarah quickly looks back to Jessica

SARAH
Jessica, you say you prefer to remain at
work knowing that you can be home in
seconds, can I suggest to you that the
portal has made life too easy

JESSICA
I don't agree Sarah, yes it has made my life
a bit easier, but surely that's the point of
new invention

Norman leans forward trying to interject

NORMAN

May I? Thank you Jessica, I feel we owe you an apology, you're getting to feel something of what we've had for the past week and I don't think that's fair to you, thank you very much for your defence of our product. The point I think we are failing to see is that this is the process that history has taught us as par for the course where new technology is concerned. The camera was seen as a soul wrenching device, the film camera and I'm sure the list could be endless, it seems a natural reaction to treat each technological advancement as something to be fearful of, I had hoped that the human race would have reached a more advanced frame of mind by now

SARAH

you're a calculating man Mr Hodgins, hidden in those words is a slanderous comment against the church

NORMAN

I make no mention.....

SARAH

I know you make no mention, as I say you are careful in your choice of words, but its what you're not saying that's hurtful, a more advanced frame of mind! A less spiritual human being is what you're actually saying

Norman leans back in his seat, resigned from the argument, picks up his hand held device

BRIAN DEANE

Our politicians have been very quiet, Noel, has the nation signed up to the Thompson transport initiative?

NOEL

We have followed other EU members and are looking forward to seeing a successful and more affordable mode of transportation

SARAH
at what cost minister?

Cut To:

INT: Control Room

We see the rear of the solitary technicians head, the virtual workspace is filled with multiple transparent monitors and the fully rotational 3D model of the studio. We can see Brian Deane picking up the discussion from Sarah....

BRIAN (DEANE)
On a tangent but as you bring up cost,
Can I bring in Brian Frewer, minister, can you
confirm or deny the states position on
Thompson?

(...continued) camera moves back as the tech leans backward to show that there is another person in the room, standing at the rear wall of the small booth. A close up reveals the woman's expression is concerned, another monitor shows Brian Frewer responding but it is unheard, the technician turns to look at her but says nothing, the woman looks at the technicians head then leaves the booth taking a phone from the breast pocket of her executive suit.

Cut To:

INT: University Lecture Hall

Audience member Jason, a floating recorder was seen rushing to get a mic close to Jason on a monitor in the booth, the recorder lowers to hover over Jason.
Cut to: Studio Wide shot

JASON
As Jessica stated earlier, I think its important
that we hear from the users but while I'm not
a user of the transporter, I would like an
opportunity to bring up the incident of Tim
Coghlan, the incident was never, well, I think,
was never really resolved

A short series of images depicting a horrifying incident using the portal not long after it went live, some newspaper headlines, only a few frames each but enough to show what can happen when the portal malfunctions

BRIAN (DEANE)
Tim Coghlan, in South Africa wasn't it?

LOUISE
I think that case was resolved fully and certainly
we didn't shy away from the press then, just as
now

JASON

I'm sorry Ms Barnes, no, no it definitely was not resolved, there was a media blackout in fact I don't think I've ever....

LOUISE

Jason..... Jason, I'm sorry but you don't know the facts of the case, you probably know what the press reported.....

JASON

excuse me, no, I have a personal interest in this case, and I can tell you...

BRIAN (DEANE)

Can I interrupt, I think we need to get some more people in here, front row, blue jacket

A shot of Jason sitting down looking very unhappy, the man in blue jacket looks over at Jason in empathy.

MAN

(Stands up) Hi, my question is more of a ...I don't know what you'd call it really, and Sarah touched on it earlier, emm, if you de-construct something, anything, isn't it a different thing when you reconstruct it?

BRIAN DEANE

Louise?

LOUISE

That question won't be answered in a half hour television show Brian

Laughter

Slow motion of audience and individuals coupled with off key music denotes the tragedy of the scene, society is desensitized and this show and others like it are little more than circus side shows posing as intellectual programming, Brian Deane knows this only too well. No one questions why the Thompson staff still use air travel instead of their own device.

Cut to:

the rear of the audience, the executive from the booth is standing, rubbing her thumb along the phone she had taken out earlier.

Cut to:

CU of Norman Hodgins noticing her, he looks down trying to hide a smile

Cut to:

CU of executive smiling, then leaves the auditorium, as she leaves, she reads a text, we can see the words “its working” a close up of the executive sees her still smiling.

A Wide pan of the studio shows Sarah arguing her stance, Norman is leaning back, Louise pouring a glass of water.

Cut to:

CU of Brian Deane as he listens to Sarah but looking at Norman

a close up of Norman staring back at Brian denotes a challenge, in the mind of the host of the show, there is something unresolved and this show, and any others like it are being used for misdirection, the foundering religious institutes are being used for gloss while worldwide deals are struck, knowing full well that the leak of this information would serve to hide what Thompson don't want people to know, they have single handedly, ended transportation competition, their invention cannot be duplicated by anyone else, they are poised to become the only commuter system on the planet.

Normans stare at Brian is saying “Prove it”

A track shot from behind Normans head having Brian come into view cuts to the Camera operator shot of Brian

BRIAN (DEANE)

Turn it off John

Cut to:

Black