

Don't Go Far...

Documentary on One
RTÉ Radio 1
Ireland



The near unbelievable adventure of two Dublin children who in August 1985 chanced a free ride on their local city train and travelled further than they could ever imagine.

Narrated and Co-Produced by Paul Russell
Co-Produced by Ronan Kelly

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- FX:** *People talking and sound of train door beeping alarm*
- Narrator:** Dublin, August 1985
- FX:** *Train Door Beeping*
- Narrator:** Two Dubliners on the D.A.R.T (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) This is the new suburban rail system - just opened.
- FX:** *DART train (electric) moving – Sound of wheels on track*
- Narrator:** It has changed their lives. They could now venture far afield from their home in Darndale, North Dublin. (Darndale is a poor working class estate in Dublin suburbia)
- FX:** *DART Train sound fades out*
- Keith Byrne:** We used to always get on the DART and go out to Bray (seaside resort 20km south of Darndale) and go out to Dun Laoghaire (Rich Dublin suburb/port 10km south of Darndale) and... so these were all kind of new places so we just, and then, we realised that there was a boat, the ferry (Car/Passenger ferry), that went from Dun Laoghaire over to England so that was an extended version of the adventure if you like.
- FX:** *DART Train on Tracks*
- Keith:** We went over a couple of times, like, we used to do this kinda on a regular thing, we’d go over to bunk (hide) on the ferry over to England and then go from there, jump on a train or coach or whatever and go on an adventure.
- FX:** *Train Doors*
- Narrator:** That’s Keith Byrne, talking about heading off with a couple of friends. But that’s Keith Byrne now.
In 1985, when he was getting the DART to Dun Laoghaire and sneaking on the ferry to England - Keith was ten (yrs old).
- FX:** *Ferry Boat Horn*
- Music:** *Song » Lloyd Cole & The Commotions » Lost Weekend*

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- Keith:** We’d gone to Pwllheli, the holiday camp like Butlins, and Pontins and Blackpool (All holiday resorts along the west coast of England/Wales) I think, as well, we went to as well
- Music** *Song » Lloyd Cole & The Commotions » Lost Weekend [Fade out]*
- Narrator:** So, Keith Byrne, aged 10, and his friend, Noel Murray, aged 13 are sitting on the DART train into town (Dublin city centre). But the town they’re heading for isn’t Dublin, in fact, it isn’t even in Ireland.
Keith and Noel’s final destination is so far away and the story of their epic journey there causes such a fuss, that within a couple of days, these two boys – sitting on a Dublin train – in August 1985, will become front page news.
- FX:** *DART Train on tracks*
- Radio Archive News from 1985:**
- Presenter:** “This is ‘Morning Ireland’ (Largest radio news show in Ireland). It’s a quarter past eight (8.15am) The news headlines, two Dublin boys.....
- Newsreader:** The news headlines: Two Dublin boys, aged 10 and 13, have been returned to Ireland after stowing away..... [Fade out]
- News Reporter:** The boys, 13yr old Noel Murray and 10 yr old Keith Byrne are now back home, none the worse for their adventure [Fade out].....
- Presenter:** Welcome back, and first today that amazing journey by two young stowaways from Dublin. Noel Murray and Keith Byrne first [Fade out]
- Music** *Song » Lloyd Cole & The Commotions » Lost Weekend [Music Fade Out]*
- FX:** *Airplane / Children Playing Football*
- Narrator:** The day of Keith’s adventure began quietly enough.
- Keith:** We were just kind of hanging around the, our local area, basically, we had, Noel had just knocked in (called around) for me into me house and my Mam (mother) has asked me to go around and get some potatoes in the shop.
I brought them back and my Mum says “ Don’t go far, your dinner’s nearly ready” or whatever, and I said “I won’t”. I was in

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- Keith (cntd):** the garden and then we just says “Let’s go out to Dun Laoghaire (port 10km south of their home)” and it kicked (started) off from there
- FX:** *Children playing and Airplane* [Fade out]
- Keith:** I was born and bred in Dublin, reared in Cabra (working class area in Dublin), and then we moved to Drumcondra (middle class area in Dublin) for a couple of months and then we eventually moved out to Belcamp (Poor working class area in Dublin) twenty-six years ago.
- Narrator:** Keith’s school life was unsettled too. In 1985, at the time of this story, he was in St Joseph’s Industrial School in Clonmel. (Church run prison type school for young boys who misbehaved located in the middle of Ireland)
- Keith:** I was basically ‘truanting’ (running away/non attendance) from school and not going to school and acting the eejit and whatever else and I was sent down there (Industrial School) for me sins.
- We were very, very streetwise for our age, you know, kinda, like when we were living in Drumcondra - I was only around seven years of age, eight years of age, and my Mam (mother) used to have to collect our money (social welfare money from Govt) up in Cabra.
- Because she had young kids, she couldn’t make the journey and I used to get on the bus, I was only seven or eight, I used to get on the bus, get off the bus at Phibsboro (Dublin suburb) and get on the Cabra bus up to Cabra, get off the bus up there, meet me Nanny (Grandmother), go to the post office, collect the money and make the journey (6km each way) back and you know, I was, like, wide (smart/wise) enough to do that at that age, and wide (wise) enough I used to put the money in me sock (hide some) and you know like I would have been way ahead other kids at that stage, you know.
- We were quite streetwise, you know.
- FX:** *DART and beeping of opening doors*
- Keith:** We got off at Blackrock first (rich Dublin suburb 5km south of city centre enroute to Dun Laoghaire Ferry Port)
- Music:** *Song » Madonna » Like a Virgin*
- FX:** *Bell rings*

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Keith: We had got some haversacks and tracksuits and things like that we had shoplifted (stolen) them in the shopping centre out there. ...

Music: *Song » Madonna » Like a Virgin*

FX: *Bell and Seagulls*

Keith: And then got off at Dun Laoghaire (Ferry Port), and then had tried to get on the ferry once, got stopped and then we managed to get on to the next ferry.

FX: *Ships fog Horn*

Loudspeaker - Ferry Captain: Weather conditions en route, they are improving all the time although we do have a fresh westerly wind only slight seas and swells mid-channel, on the last crossing and if I could just take a few more minutes of your time please

Music: *Song » Wham! » Freedom*

FX: *Sea/Boat Engines/Boat sailing through water.*

FX: *Railway Station / Station Whistle/ Train Engine*

Keith: We got over to England then, and then we just waited on the train then, the train went directly from Hollyhead (Ferry Port) to London

FX: *Train Engine*

Keith: And we met some guy on the train who, got chatting to him and told him we had nowhere to stay for the night and he said

“Youz (Dublin slang for you) can stay, sleep on my floor for the night and I’ll bring youz back to the train station and you can do what you want from there the next day”

That like London was a dangerous place in the night time and he didn’t want to leave us on the streets kind of thing. We stayed in his house for the night and he drove us back to the train station the next morning.

London Underground Tube Station Announcements: *This is Hatton Cross. Customers for Heathrow Terminal 4 should change platform at this station for a train to terminals 4 and 1, 2, 3. This is a Piccadilly Line service to Cockfosters.*

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FX: *London Tube*

Keith: We had got on the Tube we had seen the sign, Heathrow Airport, and we just got off there and went up the escalator stairs

FX: *Airport Announcement Bell*

Keith:and we were smack bang (arrived) in the middle of Heathrow Airport

Airport Announcements: “Please contact the information desk....”

Keith:And we were kinda thinking, ‘Oh, we’ll fly home, we’ll see could we get on a plane and fly home to Dublin.
That was, that was our idea at the time, so we kind of come up the escalator and we were smack, bang in the middle of this huge place that was nothing like Dublin Airport at all, it was like 10 times the size and we were just amazed.
There was like some kind of a fountain (water) thing that you throw money in, like a wishing well thing, and we had taken some money out of that.

FX: *Coins being dropped into machine*

FX: *TV tuning in – Commercial break – “You know Microwaves are really so simple and that’s what makes it so.....”*

Keith: And in the airport we had found these like, lounge chair seats,

FX: *TV Commercial – Timotei Shampoo.....*

Keith: where you put a coin in and you can watch a TV screen

FX: *TV Commercial: Monday, wrote Mr. Kipling, and the form of my exceedingly delicious apple pie....*

FX: *TV Show: (A-Team Theme Music) No one else can help and if you can find them, maybe you can hire the a-team*

Keith:and we were sitting there for an hour or two, just putting money in the machine and sitting there watching the telly (TV)

FX: *Airport Bell Announcement.*

Keith: ...and you know, but that was it, we were just having fun, basically.

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- FX:** *Airport Bell Announcements throughout...*
- Narrator:** At one point in the airport, Keith and Noel were spotted by security. The officer thought it was suspicious that, two boys, aged 10 and 13 years old, were wandering (walking) around the terminal, seemingly alone.
It was then the boys came out with the response that was to carry them on much further in their journey.
- Keith:** We just says,
“Oh, my Mam’s (mother) coming with the tickets now and the bags and things”
and she (security guard) just says, ‘Okay, just wait for your parents’. So we just walked and stopped for a minute and when she wasn’t watching we just kind of legged it off (ran away)so she didn’t see us, like, kinda thing.
- FX:** *People in Airport Terminal*
- Narrator:** The same trick got them through the main airport security and into the shopping area.
- FX:** *Inside Airport Terminal/Duty Free Area*
- Keith:** We walked on through, like we just had a little carry bag (hand luggage) with us, a plastic bag with a few sweets and things like that in it, that was it basically, they let us walk through kind of thing, when we told them our parent was coming with the tickets.
- FX:** *Inside Airport Terminal*
- Narrator:** For the two boys, this wasn’t so much ‘duty free’ as plain old - free
- Music:** *Song » Don Henley » Boys Of Summer*
- Keith:** We were walking around all the shops and we were fascinated by all the stuff like, and, like how easy it was like to just pick things up and, like, take things (stealing), like basically you know.
- Music:** *Song » Don Henley » Boys Of Summer*
- Keith:** We got another little rucksack thing and we start taking bits of jewelry like chains and bracelets.
- Music:** *Song » Don Henley » Boys Of Summer*

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- Keith:** We took a Philishave (electric face shaver) and other kind of little knicky knacky (Dublin slang for small/delicate) items and things like that, and, then, like
- When we were kinda bored at the shops part, we kinda started walking in the direction where all the people were walking and there was these flat escalators that move along the ground, and I remember we got on one of them and we just asked a person, a man, where is this plane going and he says,
“New York”
and we kinda just looked at each other and says
‘Yeah, we’ll go’.....
- FX:** *Airport Announcements*
- Narrator:** Finally they got to the boarding gate and the airline staff checking boarding passes. This would be the end of their adventure.
Surely the line about parents lagging (following) behind wouldn’t work again?
- FX:** *Airport Announcements*
- Keith:** They asked the same question, like you know, who are you with, or whatever, and we just said,
“Oh, our Mam’s coming she has the boarding passes”, like and, “Mam and Dad is coming, they have the boarding passes”. So they just says “Okay, go on”.
- Music:** *Indian Instrumental Music [Fades in]*
- Keith:** They (airline attendants) were obviously just busy and we just slipped their mind and we just walked on down the plane and just sit on two seats, and one person comes down and says
“They’re our seats”
so we just get up and move back two sets of seats and sit down and the plane was only half full so no-one came near us. There was like, I can remember there was a lot – 20, 30 seats around us that was empty, so like we were kinda, it would have been a jumbo jet, kinda, like, they hold a lot of people. So there was a lot of seats that were empty.
- Narrator:** There may have been a good reason a lot of seats were empty....
The plane the two boys had wandered onto was an Air India jumbo jet. Two months previously, almost to the day, an Air India jet had blown up off the southwest of Ireland.
329 people had perished (died/were lost)

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- Keith:** Before we knew it, like, the doors closed on the plane and it was ready to take off
- FX:** *Air India Announcements before lift off: “The overhead unit, in case of a fall in cabin pressure individual oxygen masks will drop automatically. Cover your nose and mouth with the mask and breathe normally.....”*
- Keith:** We couldn’t believe, like, that no one had actually copped on to (realised), like, what we were doing, or like, these two kids (children) are sitting on their own and like, who’s with them, or anything like that, like.
- FX:** *Airplane taxiing / taking off*
- Keith:** It wasn’t actually ‘til the plane had taken off and was in the air, when they were going around with the meals
- FX:** *Opening and pouring of can of fizzy drink (Coke/Fanta etc)*
- Keith:** The air hostess came up to us again, and I remember we were sitting on our own, and she says would we like something to eat, and where was our parents and we just says that they were up on the front of the plane and they gave us a curry, kinda, an Indian curry, which I can remember was too hot for me. So I didn’t take it, I didn’t eat it. I just ate the bap (bread) that was with it and some water
- Music:** *Movie Soundtrack » A View To Kill*
- Keith:** We were watching a James Bond film on the TV screen.
- Music/Movie FX:** *Movie Soundtrack » A View To Kill.*
Film Extract:
Man: Have security keep a good eye on him, oh, by the way, you didn’t say what part of the States you come from, Miss?
Woman: Um, no, I didn’t..
- Keith:** So we were sitting there just kinda beat into that (fascinated), watching that
- Music/Movie FX:** *Movie Soundtrack » A View To Kill » Action sounds/screams from film.*

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- Keith:** And we were kinda bored so we were just walking around the plane and going back to our seats and Noel had fallen asleep and I was just rambling (walking slowly) up and down and then I come back down and I fell asleep and then....
- FX:** *Airplane descending.*
- Keith:** We kinda just landed then in America.....
- FX:** *Airplane landing.*
- Keith:** When the plane landed at John F Kennedy Airport (New York), and taxied over to where you got off the plane, the doors opened and everyone just started getting off and we just kinda just milled in with (walked amongst) the crowd getting off the plane.
- FX:** *Airport Customs Announcement: “...representative, please proceed to the information counter located in the arrivals hall.”*
- Keith:** There was a kinda security thing there again, where they look for your passport and things like that.
They stopped us and they kinda asked
“Where’s your passport, where’s your papers and things like that” and we just told them the same thing like
“Oh, yeah, our Mam’s (mother)” cos (because) we were pretty much at this stage up near the front of the people so we just said
“Oh yeah”, we pointed kinda in a backwards direction, “Oh yeah, Mam’s coming with the papers now”
and kind of when they (security) weren’t looking and were dealing with other people we kinda like just ducked (bent down) under the, they were kinda in like little security boxes with glass on them and they had kinda wood kind of halfway up, if you like, about three feet up, and we kinda just ducked (bent down) down, ducked under and went, and once we got past them like, like we were out into the y’know the centre of the airport
- FX:** *Airport Announcement: “Your attention please, this is the final call for American flight 317 with service to.....”*
- Keith:** We're kind of looking, kinda just walking around the airport, it was so big, huge, we were fascinated by everything, all the different people like, cos (because) like at this stage in Ireland there wasn’t that many black people or different, like, nationalities or anything like, in the middle of John F Kennedy Airport in 1985, you have all

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Keith (Cntd): different kind of people, so we were just totally fascinated, and everyone was so tall and you know, everything is just bigger and so we were walking around the airport for nearly two, three hours, just looking at everything and fascinated by everything before we even ventured outside the airport.

FX: *TV Seat » Changing television stations » Now the news at six*

Keith: They had them telly (TV) things on the seats things again

FX: *TV Seat » Changing television stations » TV Game Show »
”Glenda Prentice, Come on down!!! You’re the next contestant on
the price is right!!!”*

Keith: We sat in them, looking at them for about an hour

FX: *TV Seat » TV Game Show » ”Glenda, Come right over here!!!”*

Keith: We had the backpack (ruck-sack) with the stuff that we had stolen in Heathrow (Dutyfree) and things like that, and we were wondering, like, well, if we sell this, who can we sell this to to get some money or whatever....

FX: *TV Seat » TV Game Show » “The actual retail price is \$1,570,
Kathleen you win!!!” Bell rings....*

Keith: We kinda had decided like, we’ll go into the town (NY City centre), as we called it like, because over here (Dublin) it’s called like town. You go into town, you go into Dublin city centre. But we weren’t thinking like, this big, New York City. We weren’t thinking on that scale.

FX: *Airport Traffic*

Narrator: So now, you have two Irish schoolboys, in the middle of JFK Airport, one aged 10, one aged 13.

FX: *Airport Traffic/Aircraft*

Narrator: Keith was supposed to go in for in his dinner in Darndale (Dublin) on a Thursday afternoon. Instead, he and Noel bunked off on the DART. They stayed on as far as Dun Laoghaire ferry port, they sneaked onto a ferry bound for England, got a train to London, got the Tube to Heathrow Airport and blagged (tricked) their way onto a New York bound jumbo jet.

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- FX:** *Policeman’s Whistle*
- Narrator:** All this they did, with a bit of boyish charm, cunning and the odd few words.
- FX:** *New York Traffic*
- Narrator:** They were ready to take on Manhattan, but it was not to be, for it was the few words that would let them down.
- Keith:** We had seen this person in a uniform who we thought was a security guard
- FX:** *Policeman’s Whistle*
- Keith:** and so we walked up to him, and anyway, not realising that he was a policeman and asked him, like,
“Here mister, like, how do you get into town?”
and he kinda looked at us a bit strange and he kinda says,
“Who are you guys with?”
and we just says
“Ah, we’re with our Mam and Dad”, you know,
and he says “Where’s your parents?”
and at that stage I think it dawned (began to realise) on us,
that, like, oh shit, like, what are we after doing, like?
we kinda got afraid then, like we’re after being travelling
on a plane for so many hours, we’re like thousands of miles away
from home and we kinda just said to him,
“Look it, we’re not with anyone, we’re on our own”, and
we says, “we’re after bonking (sneaking) on the plane’ and he didn’t
understand what we were meaning.
He just says, “Hang on guys for a minute”
- FX:** *Policeman’s Walkie Talkie*
- Keith:**and he got on his radio his walkie talkie and a police car just pulled up then and he put us in the back (back seats) and brought us to I think the 15th precinct or something like that
- FX:** *Sirens*
- FM RADIO:** “On top of the empire state building whtz, newark, new jersey, new york and connecticut’s hot rockin z100
- MUSIC:** *Axel F »Theme from Beverly Hills Cop »*

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FX: *Sirens / Telephone Rings / Typewriter*

Keith: Brought us there (15th precinct police station) and we were kind of celebrities, y'know when we got there it was kinda
“Look at these two guys, like, they're with no one and they says they're after stowing away on a plane”
and that's when we first heard the word “stowaway”
because we had never heard of that word before or anything

FX: *Office ambience*

Keith: We were with the Guards (police) so we kinda knew we were safe, if you know what I mean and that they'd kinda organise some way of getting us home, like, although nobody had said that to us or anything like that they had just kinda asked us questions of what we had done and how we had done it and things like that, and we just decided amongst the two of us that we'll tell the truth and we'll tell them everything because, like we just wanted to go home as quickly as possible at this stage

Narrator: The fact that Keith and Noel decided to fess (confess) up and cooperate didn't mean they still weren't going to have fun.

Keith: They had us in a room and with a desk and there was a police officer sitting with us asking us questions, and every couple minutes there was detectives coming in you know, sitting down and laughing and joking with us, and,
Like one particular, one detective come in and he had a gun on the side of him and I was fascinated by this and I asked him
“Is that a gun you have?”
and he says “Yeah”
and I says “Can I hold it' y'know?”
and he says “Yeah”
and he took out this big thing, like, that's wooden, well brown, brown wooden handle then steel and it had the, the barrel on a thing.
Well he had actually (laughing) he had actually took the bullets out onto his hand first then clipped the barrel back up and handed it to me then and me hand, kind of jerked in a downwards motion, you know like, with the weight of it, and I was kinda holding it and pointing it around, I pointed it at me friend Noel, and went,
“Bang”

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- Keith (cntd):** you know like that, and messing, and pointing it at them and he just took it back off me and started laughing and saying
“You guys are crazy” and all, like saying to us, like you know.
- Narrator:** The stowaway boys’ arrival at the police station was entertaining - until they said what airline they had arrived on.
- Keith:** When we told them the airline that we had come on was an Air India plane, this was like a security issue, like because one of their planes had been blown up out of the sky or whatever like that so like they were literally like going mad, you know.
They decided that they wanted to investigate this, like properly and see how we had done it because it was getting a bit serious at that stage like, the kinda the laughing had stopped and it was more of a kinda security reason and like
“Jesus, how are these guys after doing this?”
and you know what I mean, like, it was kinda they were kind of thinking more on the lines or terrorists and things like that like that like
“You guys could’ve had bombs or anything with you and you done this, like, this is very important that you show us how yez (you) done this and how you managed to get through these (security borders)”
- FX:** *Cityscape / Elevator Music*
- Keith:** They put us in a hotel in a penthouse suite
- FX:** *Elevator Bell*
- Keith:** with five security guards overnight and got us BLT’s (Bacon/Lettuce/Tomato sandwiches) and chips and everything. Fed us like lords, like, we loved it.
At first they had us handcuffed to the bed, and like we kinda, I kept slipping me hand out of the handcuffs cos (because) I’d only tiny little hands and they were getting annoyed by that so they ended up just taking the handcuffs of us and just letting us sit on the beds and whatever. They wouldn’t let us go outside the room. They let us watch any telly (TV) we wanted
- TV Sounds:** *Turn it on, leave it on, America, see..... I want my my MTV.....
Born in the USA, I was born in the USA...*

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- Keith:** We still had the bits of jewelry (stolen from duty free) and that and we’d been thinking like, cos (because) we had no money, what we were going to do with this.
- When we were in the police precinct, we had asked a few of the detectives and that, who had, as I said, shown us the gun and that, what their money had looked like.
- Now we kinda knew what dollars looked like, but we were kind of being, cute (smart) and like, kind of playing dumb and whatever and when they were taking out like a dollar or 10 dollars and showing us it we were looking at it, like, saying like,
- “Aw, Jesus, look at that, can I have that and all?”
- A few of them had given us “Yeah, yeah go on” like, and we had like about 70 or 80 dollars at the time, and we just, as we kinda got talking to the security detail (police on watch) I took some of the jewelry out of the little haversack thing that we had and was looking at it and they were looking at it and saying
- “Where’d you guys get that?”
- and we asked them did they want to buy it and like they bought some of it off us, y’know? and we asked, like, “Who was it for?”
- and they says they were going to give it to the hookers over there and they told us in detail, like prostitutes or whatever, we were like “Well here” (Dublin phrase of shock), we didn’t care we were just getting, we were selling it, they were giving us money and so. We hadn’t a penny going over and like coming home we’d like two or three hundred dollars.
- Narrator:** The boys may have been living like lords, but back in Ireland, the boys’ parents were frantic.
- Keith:** My Mam, she got a knock on the door, now she had reported me missing obviously, like, and, cos (because) we were gone, at this stage we were gone for 3 or 4 days, and it was quite serious like, she was totally worried sick and that but she told us that she’d just got a knock on the door like in the evening and it was a Policeman from Coolock (nearby police station) and he says “Miss Byrne?”
- “Yes.”
- “You’ve a son, Keith Byrne?”
- “Yeah?”
- “Well we’ve found him” and she says
- “Oh, that’s great” and that and he says
- “We found him in JFK Airport”, and me Mam says
- “Oh great, the airport he’s only in the airport (Dublin)” and she says
- “What airport? JFK airport? Where’s that?” and he says
- “America” and she says
- “What, America, what the hell is Keith doing in America?”

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FX: *TV programmes – Dynasty Theme Music*

Keith: The following day they kinda woke us up, gave us some breakfast and that

FX: *TV programmes – “This week on Good Morning Ameica, GI Joe, Weekdays at 5 on Channel 30.*

Keith:and em.... brought us to the airport

FX: *Airplane taxing on runway*

FX: *Airport Announcements – “Please proceed to the information counter located in the arrivals hall”*

Keith: When we got to the airport they kinda had some part of it shut down kinda thing and they brought us right up to where the plane had come in and we showed them which corridor, cos (because) we remembered which corridor we had come through and come down, and showed them, like, like we got off the plane here and we walked down here,

And we told him when we got to the immigration kind of thing, how we got through that and like, what we had told the immigration guy and ducked (sneaked) under the thing (barrier) like, and, like, he was busy, it wasn’t his kinda fault, you know, like, cause we knew he’d kinda probably get into trouble or something like that, y’know, so, like, we showed them every way that we went and everything and then told them we were in the airport for two or three hours later after that.

FX: *Elevator Music*

Keith: They brought us back to the hotel and there was reporters trying to get up to the room to see us and things like that. They actually kept us in New York for about two days.

FX: *Airplane taxing on runway*

Keith: We went back (to the airport) later on that evening and we had to go back over what we had told them earlier on that day, go through the whole thing again and you know, because the airport was so big and we had to show them every way. They wanted to get everything right down to detail and we showed them all that and then, like, we were told then, we were going home then the next day.

FX: *New York City Ambience/Traffic*

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‘Documentary on One - Don’t Go Far’, RTÉ Radio 1, Ireland .

- Keith:** The security guys – two of them – brought us out in a car
- Music:** *Song » Starship » We Built this city*
- Keith:** brought us to the Empire State Building and bought us a monument, little tourist kind of think if you like, of the little square piece of marble with the Empire State Building on it.
- Music:** *Radio Commercial – ‘We’re having a great vacation in New York’*
- Keith:** We had flags with ‘I love New York’ on it, banners,
- Music:** *Radio Commercial – ‘I love New York’....*
- Keith:**things, they bought us things like that and all and gave us that
- Music:** *Radio Commercial – ‘We’re having a great vacation in New York – I love New York’*
- FX:** Airport sounds/plane taxing on runway
- Keith:** They brought us back to the airport
- FX:** *NY Airport Announcement: Can I have your attention, all Aer Lingus passengers, at this time I would like to welcome all remaining passengers to board....*
- FX:** *Airport sounds/plane taxing on runway*
- Keith:** We were on an Aer Lingus (Irish airline) plane, we were safe, you know, we knew then we were going home, we were going to meet our parents.
- Radio News Archive - August 20th, 1985:** This is Morning Ireland (largest radio news show) it’s a quarter past eight, the news headlines. Two Dublin boys who stowed away on an ‘Air India’ flight from London to New York are due back home shortly.....
- Air pilot radio:** *Shamrock one, flight level 330, estimating overhead.....*
- Narrator:** Despite feeling safe, and looking forward to meeting their parents, Keith and Noel decided they had played along with the authorities for long enough.

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Keith:

So we were kinda thinking then,

“Oh, me Mam’s going to kill me and me Dad’s going kill me” and we were thinking,

“Jeez, what are we going to say, and y’know like, what’s going to happen like, who’s going to be there when we get off the plane?”

Because we were so worried, like, what’s mam and dad gonna do, we’re going to get killed, like, Jesus, look what we’re after doing, we says like, we kind of found out on the plane that it stopped off at Shannon (Airport 150km west of Dublin) on the way.

When we heard that we kinda, we says,

“Right, we’ll jump, off at Shannon, and then like we’ll make our way home. Nobody will know and then we’ll make our way home quietly and, you know, everyone will forget about it and we’ll just go home and you know everything will be alright, you know”

..... and I don’t know but I think they drugged us or something on the plane because we got a drink about half an hour before we arrived in Shannon and it just totally knocked the two of us out. The two of us fell asleep.

FX:

Airplane Landing/Taking Off

1985 Radio News Archive: Two Dublin boys who stowed away on an Air India flight from London to New York have arrived home.

Keith:

And when we woke up, like the police was standing beside us, everyone else had gone off the plane and like we had to come down the stairs and walk across the runway and they brought us into the security area and Coolock Gardaí (police) were waiting there for us and they took control of us then.

Radio News Archive: And the details now from Anne Doyle.

Newsreader Anne Doyle: Two Dublin boys who stowed away on an Air India flight from London to New York at the weekend are now home, none the worse for their adventure, and a little richer. The boys, 13 year old Noel Murray and 10 year old Keith Byrne, are both from the Dublin suburb of Darndale.

They were discovered by New York police on Saturday, standing on a pavement near the airport terminal. They first told police they had lost their tickets and their Mothers had their passports, but the police contacted Gardai in Dublin and found they had been missing from home for several days. Earlier last week..... (Fade out)

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Keith: There was a Guard (policeman) from Coolock who knew us quite well, we used to put him through like a lot of bother kinda thing you know. He was there and when he’d seen us he said, “You know what, you two feckers, you know”. He says, “What have you got up to now?” and he kind of grabbed us and took, and there was another guard with him, and they just thrown us into the back of a squad car (police car)

Newsreader Anne Doyle: New York police had given them money, with which they bought souvenirs for their families and still had a few cents left over.

Keith: There was all photographers, and all snapping photographs and everything else and we were kinda waving out the window, rolled down the window and out with the flags, and he was like “Get them windows up” and “Don’t be waving, who do you think you are?” and all “Celebrities?” and y’know all this and we were just having great craic (fun) you know, like

Radio News Archive: Our reporter Padriag O’Ciadhra was there and spoke to a somewhat subdued young Keith Byrne and to his parents. The boys first attempt to get to Britain on a Hollyhead ferry last Thursday failed, and they were sent back to Dublin then, but, as Keith explains, they were not to be put off

10yr old Keith in 1985: We went back on the boat to, ahhh..... Hollyhead again, got the train to, London, the plane to New York.

Reporter: Was it hard to get out to the airport in London?

Keith: No

Reporter: How did you do that?

Keith: By train and bus.

Reporter: Did you have tickets?

Keith: We paid on the bus but not on the train.

Reporter: So, when you got to the airport, did you know what you wanted to do?

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Keith: No, not really.

Reporter: And why did you pick on New York? Did ye want to go to New York?

Keith: No, we just asked the man where was the plane going. He says, ‘New York’ so we just got on the plane.

Reporter: Was there many people at the gate checking for tickets and that?

Keith: Yeah, a good few.

Reporter: And did any of them stop you?

Keith: Yeah, but we just says, ‘Me Ma’s coming with the tickets’

Keith’s Mother: Me ma’s coming with the tickets.

Reporter: And they believed that? So when you got on the plane then, did somebody ask you for a ticket there?

Keith: No.

Reporter: And was it a long journey or, did you enjoy it?

Keith: Yeah.

Reporter: And were you hungry? Did you get anything to eat?

Keith: Yeah, they..... they were serving me things on the plane.

Reporter: And did you eat them?

Keith: No

Keith’s Mother: He didn’t like them.

Reporter: What did they give you?

Keith: Curry stuff, curry and rice.

Reporter: So when you got to New York, then, did you walk off the plane with the other people?

Keith: Yeah.

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- Reporter:** And what were you hoping to do? Did you want to get a bus into town (New York)?
- Keith:** My friend did and he asked the policeman
“Where... what, what way is it into town?” (New York centre)
And he just asked us what was our names, and have we got tickets for being over there, and we just, and we said ‘No’ and he brought us over to the police station.
- Keith (2011):** My Mam and Dad just thrown their arms around me like I was expecting to get killed you know, but my Mam was just in floods of tears and me Dad was, they were just like, so happy to see us.
- (1985 Radio News Archive)**
- Keith’s Mother:** I don’t think I could have done anymore, than putting him down there (Industrial School in Clonmel) letting him home on holidays. He was told not to move out (go outside), his dinner was on at half-one on Thursday, and when I looked out again, Keith was gone.
- Reporter:** They apparently had tried to get out of Ireland twice last week. Are you afraid that they might do this again?
- Keith’s Mother:** Yes, that’s all I was worried that once they had tight security on them this morning when they got to Dublin.
- Reporter:** Did they ring you from England or did they contact you?
- Keith’s Mother:** No, America did, Sargent Harrison, he was terrible nice. He asked me ‘Did I love him?’ – ‘Did I want him home?’ - and when I last seen him, and I told him since Thursday.
- Keith’s Father:** Well I think they might have been expecting that they would be caught, but it’s just when they weren’t caught.
- News Presenter:** Lieutenant Richard Richards of the New York Port Authority Police at JFK Airport has been telling us about the two boys’ journey.
- Lieutenant Richards:** One of the things that they wanted to see was some of the sights here in New York. The Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building was one that they mentioned and we also have some tall towers down at the foot of Manhattan Island here, the World Trade Centre.

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- News Presenter:** So they had an itinerary planned out?
- Lieutenant Richards:** Well, yeah, I think they kind of were an adventuresome twosome, and they were certainly prepared for their itinerary and their journey.
- Reporter:** You think they might try it again?
- Keith’s Mother:** I don’t know.
- Keith’s Father:** I wouldn’t say he’d try it again. No, I think he’s learned his lesson. Well, hopefully he has this time.
- Reporter:** For now he’s home to stay.
- Keith’s Mother:** He’s home, thank God. That’s all I want.
- News Presenter:** Well do you find it amazing that they managed to make it all the way to Kennedy (JFK Airport)?
- Lieutenant Richards:** Well, they’re quite enterprising young people. They appear in the American vernacular, to be what we consider ‘Streetwise’. I think that perhaps if they continue this, some day, they will be the head of some large corporation....
- Narrator:** Keith or Noel didn’t become CEO’s (Chief Executive Officers)
- Keith (2011):** Me and Noel split up around sixteen. I just kind of stayed with me mates and he went on and done whatever he was doing, you know.
- Narrator:** But for Keith, he did just as well as anyone during the boom time (Celtic Tiger), before losing his job in the building trade.
Keith’s a family man; loves his kids (children) and it’s clear he and his partner plan to raise them right.
When they’re out playing in the garden, he keeps a close eye on them and they always come in for their dinner.
- Keith:** I don’t think there’d be any chance that you’d get away with it nowadays with everything that’s going on with the planes and the security that they have nowadays, you know, like, there’d be no way you’d get away with it now, or they wouldn’t fall for that old trick, “Oh, me Mam’s coming behind me” Y’know like, they’d be too wide (wise) for that you know like.

Prix Europa 2011 – Radio Documentary
‘Documentary on One - Don’t Go Far’, RTÉ Radio 1, Ireland .

Music *Song » Lloyd Cole & The Commotions » Lost Weekend*

Keith: Nowadays I don’t talk about it. I wouldn’t bring it up in conversation, but like if it’s brought up in conversation or whatever, like, I’ll talk a little bit about it, kind of, you know. It’s a happy, like, experience, or a happy memory, you know, like, it’s not a sad memory or anything like, you know.

Music *Song » Lloyd Cole & The Commotions » Lost Weekend*

Keith: I still haven’t lost that adventurous nature, you know, like, I love travelling different places and me and my partner would go off on drives and we’d drive down to Kilkenny and Carlow (Irish towns within 50km of Dublin) still in the week and things like that, y’know, I bring the kids off on walks around, you know. . .

Music Fades out

ENDS



1985 - Keith Byrne aged 10 with his mother – reunited after his adventure.



2011 – 36 yr old Keith Byrne