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BARBARIC BRITAIN IS BACK! NEW INDIE DOC ON ENGLISH  
PAGANISM

## FROM **RUNES** TO **RUINS**

The first ever documentary film about Anglo-Saxon paganism - independently produced and funded, unique in its emotive and artistic approach to religious history.



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All over Britain there are people whose lives are influenced by the largely forgotten culture of the Anglo-Saxon barbarians who founded England. There are landmarks, place names and aspects of the language which are remnants of Anglo-Saxon paganism. It is from Woden, the god of war, that we take the name for the third day of the week, Wednesday (Woden's day). There are many places around England named after Woden, like the ancient earthwork of Wansdyke which was a cult-centre of the god.

In this film, Tom Rowsell, an expert in the paganism of early medieval England, travels around the country looking at ancient sites of pagan worship and talking to people whose lives are influenced by the Anglo-Saxons and their pagan religion. The film features all kinds of peculiar characters; like neo-pagan followers of Thor in Oxfordshire, the swashbuckling leader of the London Longsword Academy and historical reenactors who like nothing more than to get dressed up in armour and swing axes at each other.

From Runes to Ruins combines amusing and characterful interviews with informative history all presented with beautiful cinematography and an original and haunting synth soundtrack. Despite the significance of Anglo-Saxon paganism to the history of Britain, no one has ever made a documentary exclusively on this subject. The documentary reveals a forgotten aspect of English history that many are oblivious to by uncovering ancient paganism in runes and ruins.

Thomas Rowsell's YouTube videos have already amassed **over 1 million views**. His previous films were made available online but From Runes to Ruins is intended for broadcast and public distribution.

[www.runestorains.co.uk](http://www.runestorains.co.uk) / [www.facebook.com/fromrunestorains](http://www.facebook.com/fromrunestorains)

**For further information about the release or to request interviews with From Runes to Ruins crew, please contact Thomas Rowsell on**

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## PRODUCTION CREDITS

**Presenter:** Thomas Rowsell

**Director:** Thomas Rowsell, James Roper

**Writer:** Thomas Rowsell

**Producers:** James Roper, Thomas Rowsell

## ABOUT THOMAS ROWSELL & JAMES ROPER

Writer / Producer / Director / Presenter/ Thomas Rowsell has been making amateur documentaries and films for seven years. Now living in London, he comes from rural Oxfordshire and learned to make films at the University of Brighton, where he graduated in 2007. Having spent 4 years working as a freelance journalist writing for Dazed and Confused and I-D magazine, he returned to university to study Medieval history at UCL in 2011. He has previously produced *Boobs and Revolution* (2010), a political documentary on breast surgery in Venezuela and directed a music video in 2007 which was critically acclaimed on BBC Radio 1. From Runes to Ruins was created with James Roper who works for Quite Frankly Productions. James Roper has worked on film projects across Europe and Asia, including promotional videos for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

