



a Jay Martin film

RED t'BLUE

A town changed, 94-years in the making



Basic Information

- Directed By: Jay Martin
- Produced By: Sharp Edge Productions
 - Budget: £5000~
 - Runtime: 18 Minutes
 - Resolution: 4K
- Sound Mix: 5.1 Surround Sound
- Edited On: Adobe Premiere Pro
- Shot On: Panasonic LUMIX G DMC-GH4
 - Exported As: ProRes



Lee Anderson

Conservative MP For Ashfield & Ex-Coalface Worker

Logline


'REDt'BLUE is a documentary short, focusing on how, and why, the ex-mining town constituency of Mansfield swung from the Labour party, which had held it for a consecutive 94-years, to the Conservative party in the 2017 snap-election. A party which had not claimed the seat since its creation in 1885.'

Synopsis (Warning Spoilers Ahead)

REDt'BLUE begins its' first act by recounting the town's history, Mansfield was born off the back of the coal industry, and was once a centre for coal, and fabric production for the whole of the north. All that changed when Margret Thatcher came to power in the 1980's, sparking riots, closures, and an end to life as we once knew it, in Mansfield.

We then jump into an examination of the various factors which led to Mansfield finally changing blue, in 2017. Beginning with the 2015 election, and the rise of UKIP in Mansfield. Through to the 2016 Brexit Referendum, of which Mansfield returned the 7th highest LEAVE vote in the whole country, at 70.9%. Ending in 2017, when Ben Bradley, a hungry young Conservative campaign manager sought to win the town, turning it blue for the first time in its' history. His strategy of Brexit, and the lack of progress made by then sitting Labour MP Sir Alan Meale, began to resonate with the disenfranchised voters of Mansfield. On June 8th 2017, Mansfield would become one of the first ex-pit town's to flip to the Conservatives, shocking the nation, and seemingly turning its back on the Labour Party, and the town's troubled history.

Our film final act kicks off by asking the question, 'Did Mansfield stay blue, or was it won back by the Labour Party, in 2019?' This question is answered by joining Mansfield parliamentary candidates out on the campaign trail in November 2019, and seeing if then two-years of Conservative rule had really changed the area for better, or for worse. Our film ends by returning to the people at the heart of our story, the ex-pit workers who made Mansfield what it is today, they each make their case for why they vote for the party they do, and if Mansfield is truly better off under a Conservative banner. Mick Newton ends the film by giving a reflective, but hopeful speech towards our towns heritage, it's legacy, and our future, hopefully finalising the answer asked at the start of our film, 'Why did Mansfield finally change, from red to blue?'



Sid Pepper

UKIP Parliamentary Candidate

About The Film

I was inspired to create REDt'BLUE when the 2017 general election results began to roll in. I was taken aback that a pit-town, born off the back of the coal industry, had elected a member of parliament belonging to the party most deemed responsible for its downfall.

After a six-month research period, I knew there was a fascinating story to be told here. One challenged our political biases, that details the towns' history, and rich mining heritage, but also a fascinating political story, full of twists and turns, and a perfect set of circumstances which finally allowed for that Conservative banner to fly above the town.

Once I had planned out my proposed story, I went to work contacting as many people as I could, with a story to tell about Mansfield. Beginning with Ben Bradley, the first Conservative MP to be elected to serve Mansfield. Sir Alan Meale, the former Labour MP for Mansfield who was elected during the miners strikes. And lastly Sid Pepper, the UKIP Parliamentary candidate who many credit as the catalyst for Ben Bradleys' victory in 2017.

Playing both filmmaker and journalist, all while trying to conceal my own political beliefs proved difficult at times, but I knew it was essential to leave my own biases at the door, in order to take a neutral look at the factors. I had decided early on that this was a fascinating enough story, without me inserting my own political ideologies into the story. In the end, it worked out for the best, I'm proud of REDt'BLUE, being my first documentary, and second ever film project, it was a huge undertaking and a difficult road, but I'm proud that my town now has a film that can both inform, and hopefully move a few viewers in a way that no other project about our town has done before.

At a recent private screening, an old miner came up to me after the film had finished, and said that he felt, 'You've really captured the beauty of the town, and you know what, I know a little bit more about Mansfield's politics now than I did before.'

For me, this man's review meant more than any other. For him to see the place he once worked up on a cinema screen was an emotional experience, and having him also come away with a more engaged view of our political story fills me with pride. I can confidently say that the film answers its' founding question: 'What were the factors that led to Mansfield finally turning blue, in 2017?'

Martin Lee

Mansfield Labour Party Chairman



Directors' Bio

Jay Martin is a Nottingham-based filmmaker, with an unparalleled passion for visual storytelling. Jay began studying at the Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies in September of 2015, from there he began to develop Catharsis, his directorial debut. The film was made over a year, in, and around the greater Nottinghamshire area, with the help of some of the most dedicated, and passionate creatives in the Midlands. In May of 2017, Jay began developing his next short film project under the working title: 'After Dark'. In 2019, Jay launched pre-production for a political documentary-short, 'REDt'BLUE'.



Cathryn Fletcher
Local Council Candidate



Directors' Statement

On 'REDt'BLUE'

"I have always had a strong fascination with the legacy of the coal industry in Mansfield. The resonance of such an important part of my towns' history, coupled with the imposing beauty of the Clipstone Headstocks, looming over the entire town, meant that, the history, would not soon be forgotten.

Although it wasn't until the 2017 general election results, that I thought of a way to make a film which looked back at the towns' coal-faced history, as well as it's fascinating political landscape. After scratching the surface just a tad, I found a wealth of stories just waiting to be told, and REDt'BLUE, is just one of them."

On Filmmaking

"I've always had a passion for telling stories, and making films. This started from a young age, reading novels, drawing, playing video-games, all collated to a love of fictional worlds and storytelling.

This passion would come to fruition when I joined Confetti College and began studying the art of filmmaking in Nottingham. The city is buzzing with creative talent, and making connections with some of these people allowed me to create my first film 'Catharsis', in 2017.

After that, I had the bug, and I've spent the last several years studying screenwriting and direction, in anticipation of creating my next narrative project.

Alongside this, the documentary bug also bit me, with the first film I ever made being 'NG2', the story of Nottingham's first serial killer. Although that film never quite came to fruition, I found an interest in telling factual based stories that interested me just as much as ones I wrote myself.

Off the back of a love for storytelling, a fascination with the visual medium, and a slight obsession with politics, my hometown documentary, REDt'BLUE was born."

A portrait of Mick Newton, a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and red striped tie. He is seated in a red chair, looking slightly to the left. The background features light-colored curtains and a white radiator.

Mick Newton

Coalfield Campaigner

THE CAST



Ben Bradley
CONSERVATIVE MP
FOR MANSFIELD



Lee Anderson
CONSERVATIVE MP
FOR ASHFIELD



Mick Newton
COALFIELD
CAMPAIGNER



Martin Lee
MANSFIELD LABOUR
PARTY CHAIRMAN




Cathryn Fletcher
LOCAL COUNCIL
CANDIDATE



Sid Pepper
UKIP PARLIAMENTARY
CANDIDATE



Stephen Harvey
INDEPENDANT PARLIAMENTARY
CANDIDATE

A medium shot of Stephen Harvey, an Independent Parliamentary Candidate, standing outdoors. He is wearing a brown tweed flat cap, a blue shirt, a brown patterned tie, and a green tweed jacket with a brown collar. He has a small black microphone clipped to his jacket. The background is slightly out of focus, showing other people and signs, including one for 'coffee lounge'.

Stephen Harvey

Independent Parliamentary Candidate

Useful Links

- Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/redtbluedocumentary
- IMDB Page: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11171496/?ref=ttmi_tt
- Radio Interview: https://soundcloud.com/mansfield-103-2/points-to-jay-martin-070619?fbclid=IwAR3kpLkwv0swlzvdUs9AZV9IKLXVc6X-YbZ3v3Hapf1JS_66r5U_cfW0Tbg
- Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/jaythefilmguy>
- Kickstarter:
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/jaythefilmguy/409265730?ref=c1qswi&token=097ce2d5>



Ben Bradley
Conservative MP For Mansfield

FAQ

Q: 'Is your film bias towards a political perspective?'

A: Hopefully not, I've strived to tell this story from a neutral perspective. Making use of an equal amount of interviewees from both sides of the aisle, as well as those in-between. My team is also made up of various political beliefs, and so we've kept a constant check on if our own biases have bled into the film, hopefully they haven't!

Q: 'How was the film funded?'

A: The film was funded personally by myself (Jay Martin), as well as contributions from a Kickstarter campaign we ran to raise money to cover the costs of BBC licencing fees.

Q: 'What was the biggest surprise you encountered while making the film?'

A: Lee Anderson and Mick Newton. These two ex-pit workers have completely different political views, but their love for Mansfield, and the industry they spent years of their lives working in, was truly inspiring to hear about.

Q: 'What was the biggest challenge you encountered while developing this film?'

A: It was a mixture of securing interviewees and hiding my political beliefs from my interviewees. I found it very difficult to bring The Labour Party on side, they were extremely suspicious of the film due to us signing Ben Bradley, a Conservative, as our first interviewee. However through months of back and forth, I was able to bring them on side. Secondly hiding my political beliefs, I thought that if each of my interviewees thought that I agreed with their side, they'd be more willing to open up to me, and that proved to be true! I think by the end of filming each interviewee believed that I agreed whole heartedly with their POV, which of course wasn't true, but proved a sneaky way of getting the most out of my interviewees.



THE CREW



Jay Martin
WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



Herbie Elton-Rowley
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



Alex Stroud
SOUND RECORDIST



Richard Lozberg
EDITOR



Jack Bennett
COMPOSER



Edmund Wignall
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

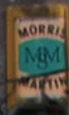


A framed photograph of a modern building with a curved roof and a staircase, mounted on a wall. The building has a prominent curved roofline and a large staircase on the left side. The photograph is set within a dark, rectangular frame. The background of the image is a light-colored wall with a subtle texture.

Stills & Media







BEN BRADLEY

Member of Parliament for Mansfield



Follow my work for Mansfield

 [benbradleymp.com](https://twitter.com/benbradleymp)


 [/benbradleymansfield](https://www.facebook.com/benbradleymansfield)



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Longy
Welcome to the
District of

MANSFIELD



In friendship with
Heiligenhaus and Mansfield, Ohio







CHANGE







AMY COMMUNITY SHOP





CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions, queries, thoughts or suggestions on REDt'BLUE, please find my personal contact information below.

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- REDt'BLUE Social Media Contact: www.facebook.com/redtbluedocumentary

