



## **Crowe cut by family member**

Author: Linda Barnier & Ben Doherty

Date: 23/04/2002

THERE'S been a bizarre twist to the Russell Crowe/BAFTA speech saga, with the revelation that the television producer who first decided to cut his acceptance speech was a cousin of the poet whose lines Crowe was reading.

Melanie Smith said she did not know she and Patrick Kavanagh were related when she decided to cut his poem from the BBC broadcast of the awards ceremony in February. She said she would do it again too, even though her decision led to Crowe's heated confrontation with her boss Malcolm Gerrie at the post-awards dinner.

“The initial decision to cut the poem was mine. I have no regrets at all,” Smith told a British newspaper.

A furious Crowe berated Gerrie, pushing him up against a wall and swearing at him, after discovering that his recitation of Kavanagh's poem Sanctity had been cut from the BBC broadcast for time reasons.