

  
TRANSMISSION

Presents

# BREATHE



Directed by **Andy Serkis**/ In cinemas **26 December 2017**

Starring **ANDREW GARFIELD, CLAIRE FOY, TOM HOLLANDER** and **HUGH BONNEVILLE**

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## IMAGES

High res images and poster available to download via the DOWNLOAD MEDIA tab at:

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## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Andy Serkis (*War for the Planet of the Apes* *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*) makes his feature directorial debut with BREATHE. Based on a script by twice Academy Award-nominated writer William Nicholson (*Everest*, *Les Misérables* and *Gladiator*), BREATHE is an inspirational true story of love without limits.

Adventurous and charismatic, Robin Cavendish (Andrew Garfield - *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Silence*) has his whole life ahead of him when he is paralysed by polio whilst in Africa. Against all advice, Robin's wife Diana (Claire Foy - *Golden Globe Winner*, *The Crown*, *Wolf Hall*) brings him home from hospital where her devotion and witty determination transcends his disability. Together they refuse to be imprisoned by his suffering; dazzling others with their humour, courage and lust for life. BREATHE is a heart-warming and highly emotional celebration of bravery and human possibility, a love story about living every breath as though it's your last.

Based on the true story of producer Jonathan Cavendish's own parents, BREATHE shows how Robin's handling of and reaction to his illness had a huge impact on mobility and access for the disabled.

The film's supporting cast members include Hugh Bonneville (*Paddington*, *Downton Abbey*) and Tom Hollander (*Jungle Book: Origins*, *The Night Manager*) as Robin's devoted, long-time friends. Stephen Mangan (*Rush*) and acting legend Dame Diana Rigg (*Game of Thrones*) complete the cast with a soundtrack by the acclaimed composer Nitin Sawhney.

The film is produced by Jonathan Cavendish (*Bridget Jones's Diary*) for The Imaginarium. Financing is from Silver Reel, BBC Films and the BFI, brokered by Embankment Films.

In 1957 Robin Cavendish, a dashing, charismatic young Englishman, meets a beautiful woman named Diana Blacker and swiftly decides to marry her. He takes his new wife out to Kenya, where he works as a tea broker. But within months he is struck down by polio, which leaves him completely paralysed from the neck down, and dependent on a respirator to 'breathe' for him.

More than anything, Robin wants to live in the world rather than in a hospital bed, and Diana resolves to help him achieve his wish. Against all medical advice, Robin leaves hospital, and moves around in a remarkable wheelchair with a respirator attached, developed by his friend, Professor Teddy Hall.

With this act of defiance, Robin is already a pioneer, but he goes further, crusading for other severely disabled people to benefit from the kind of mobility he fought for himself. Confounding medical experts simply by surviving, he battles tirelessly for the rights of the disabled – with his beloved Diana always at his side.

BREATHE is a tender love story about two strong, resourceful people whose existence is jolted by a devastating setback, but who together choose to fight back and live meaningful lives filled with love, laughter and joy.

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When Robin Cavendish, aged 27, first sets eyes on Diana Blacker at a village cricket match, he knows immediately she will be his lifelong partner. But neither of them could have foreseen the extraordinary, often tumultuous life they would live together.

Soon after their wedding, they set out together for Nairobi, where Robin works as a tea broker. Fascinated by this new, very different existence, Diana travels with him on his buying trips. Diana becomes pregnant, which delights them both; friends from England come to visit, and their life at both work and play seems idyllic. But then comes an appalling blow: Robin is suddenly stricken down by polio, and is rushed to hospital, where he is attached to a respirator enabling him to breathe. The prognosis is gloomy – at best, he only has a few months to live.

When their baby son Jonathan is born, arrangements are made to transport the family back to Oxford, where Robin enters another hospital and has to learn how to talk again. He asks Diana's brothers Bloggs and David to be allowed to die. Diana will not accept this; she wants him to survive and get to know his infant son. He begs her: "Get me out of here," and she resolves to find a way for him to live outside a hospital.

She organises for Robin to break out of hospital, though one doctor warns him: “you’ll be dead in two weeks.” He moves into their new house, and lives in bed, his breathing driven by a respirator. Their brilliant friend, the inventive Oxford professor Teddy Hall, sets about developing a home-made wheelchair for Robin, with a battery operated pump. It means Robin is no longer confined to bed and can enjoy a mobility he thought was lost to him forever.

The couple’s wanderlust remains as strong as ever. In order for Robin to travel, an old Bedford van is adapted so his wheelchair can fit in the passenger seat. With a new zest for life, he admits he always wanted to see the sun rise over the Mediterranean. Diana organises the trip, including travelling with racehorses aboard a transport plane to carry the family and their van to Spain. Despite a nail-biting incident when the respirator burns out, it’s an idyllic experience for them all.

Having already survived beyond the point his doctors expected, Robin wants to forge ahead and help other severely disabled people. He secures financing for more wheelchairs like his own to be built, and attends a conference in Germany where experts on severe disability are astonished by what he has already achieved.

Against all odds, Robin’s severe illness has given him a new purpose in life – fighting tirelessly for the rights of disabled people. Diana and Robin’s love for one another imbues their pioneering adventures with purpose, joy and laughter.

Written by Academy Award-nominated William Nicholson (*Gladiator*, *Shadowlands*), BREATHE is directed by Andy Serkis (*The Hobbit*, *War for the Planet of the Apes*). It stars Andrew Garfield (*Hacksaw Ridge*, *The Social Network*), Claire Foy (*Wolf Hall*, *The Queen*), Hugh Bonneville (*Downton Abbey*, *Paddington*), Tom Hollander (*The Night Manager*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*) and Stephen Mangan (*Green Room*, *Episodes*).

Academy Award winner Robert Richardson (*The Aviator*, *JFK*) is director of photography. The production designer is James Merifield (*The Deep Blue Sea*, *Brighton Rock*) Charlotte Walter (*Pride*, *Four Lions*) is the costume designer, and Nitin Sawhney (*Midnight’s Children*, *The Jungle Book*) composed the music. Masahiro Hirakubo (*Trainspotting*, *The Duchess*) edited the film. The film is produced by Jonathan Cavendish (*Bridget Jones’ Diary*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*).

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

### THE ORIGINS

Jonathan Cavendish had always believed that his father's life story would be powerful material for a compelling film. Robin Cavendish had been a trailblazer, a remarkable, larger-than-life figure. He was diagnosed with polio in his late 20s and remained paralysed from the neck down. Totally reliant on a respirator that 'breathed' for him, he faced a life confined to a hospital bed. Yet he refused to accept that fate: with the help of his wife Diana, and their inventive and supportive friends, he found a way to live his life in the world, outside of hospital.

With the help of maverick Oxford Professor Teddy Hall, he designed a revolutionary wheelchair with a respirator attached. With the extraordinary support of his wife Diana, Robin became a celebrated campaigner for the disabled, devoting himself to fighting for the quality of life for other paralysed people.

Jonathan's plan to make a film about his parents took concrete shape when he went to the theatre to see William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*: "I thought not only was it a very good play, but it also had a voice and tone that I recognised, and one I knew would suit a film about my parents and their life. It summed up British understatement and emotional complexity."

Jonathan already knew Nicholson well. He had produced *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, for which Nicholson had written the screenplay: "So I took Bill out to lunch and asked if I could tell him a story. When I started talking about my father's life, he had a forkful of food held up towards his mouth. When I'd finished, about 15 minutes later, it was still there!"

Nicholson remembers that day too: "Jonathan said: 'I have a story to tell you. It's about my father.' And as soon as he'd finished, I said: 'I'm in. It's incredible.'"

"For a long time now I've been in the position where I only write what I want. And that's exactly what happened with this story. There was no money, no contract and no prospect of it ever being made. But I thought it was great and I wanted to do it."

Nicholson insisted that he should not take a payment up front for writing the script: "It was Jonathan's own money, and I didn't want to work under those circumstances. It felt like a privilege to be asked. So what I said was: 'I will share the risk with you. If the film happens, give me a share.' And that's exactly what happened."

Bill started writing, and over the years they continued to hone script and story. Jonathan recalls: "Bill and I would work on a draft of the script, put it down and then pick it up again."

He would ring me when he had a few weeks between films and books, and then we would have a short flurry of activity.”

In the meantime, Jonathan formed a company called The Imaginarium with actor Andy Serkis, best known for playing ‘Gollum’ in Peter Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and ‘Caesar’ in the *Planet of the Apes* films. The Imaginarium is a multi-platform production company, dedicated to “next generation story-telling”, linked to a performance capture studio. It was Jonathan and Andy’s ambition also to make films together, which Jonathan would produce and Andy would direct. Andy worked as second unit director on Jackson’s *Hobbit* trilogy, and then directed *Jungle Book: Origins (currently in post-production)*, produced by Jonathan Cavendish for The Imaginarium, to be released in 2018.

By curious coincidence, when Andy and his wife (actress Lorraine Ashbourne) decided to buy a house in the English countryside near Oxford, it turned out that the property was a few hundred yards from Diana Cavendish’s home, where so much of the action of *Breathe* takes place. “As a result, Andy got to know my mother very well,” Jonathan says.

“I read the *Breathe* script.” says Andy, “And blubbed my eyes out. One day I said to Jonathan ‘I really want to direct this.’ The Imaginarium had only recently started – and I had only done second unit directing on *The Hobbit* – so Jonathan could have turned round and said – ‘well, I don’t know’ - But he didn’t. He said: ‘I think that’s a great idea.’”

## THE DIRECTOR

It turned out that Andy Serkis had his own personal reasons for wanting to direct *Breathe*: “In my life, I’ve been very linked into the world of disabled people,” he observes. “My mum taught disabled kids when she was young. Jonathan had seen and loved the film *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*, in which I played the singer Ian Dury -- who of course was a famous polio sufferer. Also my sister is an MS (multiple sclerosis) sufferer. She’s wheelchair-bound, and has been for 10 years now. My dad was a doctor, so I grew up around a lot of medical issues. Out of my Mum’s pupils, I knew a lot with polio, spina bifida, thalidomide, all those older diseases.

I told Jonathan: ‘what’s extraordinary about the script, apart from it being the most amazing love story, is that it’s both true and humorous.’ And I also responded to the fact that Robin and Diana were pioneers.

I thought of it this way: it’s hard for my sister to get around in a wheelchair even now. But in 1960, to choose to take yourself out of hospital, where the risk of survival was practically zero, and to invent a life and to invent technology to allow yourself to survive – to choose to be two minutes away from death at all times: it’s like an epic climb.

I'm a mountaineer too, and I liken what Robin did to the idea of climbing Mount Everest in your back garden. And then those other people who came after him, who were out of hospitals but also on those machines - they came to be called 'responauts.' I just loved that idea -- that Robin and Diana were constantly pioneering."

Jonathan observes: "When Andy and I started *The Imaginarium*, I knew he would become a great director. I was totally convinced he had it in him. And when he asked if I'd consider him directing the movie, he agreed with me that it's a story about the power of love in overcoming all the difficulties that Robin and Diana faced.

But Andy also saw it as a story about people doing things no-one had ever done before, and doing them in their own way. Though I'd obviously lived through all of that, I hadn't realised quite the trail-blazing nature of my parents' lives."

For his part, Bill Nicholson was delighted by the choice of Andy as director: "He's a wonderful person, a proper grown-up. He has almost no ego. He's been an actor so long, and watched the process so often. Maybe he's seen people having tantrums, so there's none of that. He's pleasant, calm -- humble even. And he was very nice to me about the script. In fact, he gets a lot more out of the script than I put in.

Andy has two big strengths. One is his directing with actors. The acting in *Breathe* is mind-blowing. It's real film acting. He's got wonderful work from his leads, Andrew and Claire. But then Andy gets good performances all the way through the cast, down to the smallest roles. He also thinks his way through the movement of each scene in terms of the camera. He often constructs a scene in terms of camera moves – his attention to where it begins and ends is very thorough."

## THE WRITER

In screenwriting circles, veteran Bill Nicholson (*Gladiator*, *Les Misérables*) is known as a master of what he calls "the double ending" – one which has elements of both triumph and sadness. "I try to do it every time," he jokes, "but then, so do most good stories. There are very few stories that head towards an unremittingly happy ending. And every ending has to be earned. So I've deliberately selected stories that have that wrench at the end, the up and the down. It feels as if that's actually what life is like."

He found himself genuinely intrigued by Robin Cavendish's remarkable story, "but the thing I responded to most was that because of his condition he was faced with a choice the rest of us are not faced with – it was forced upon him, this choice.

First he wanted to die. Then he learned he wasn't immediately going to die. And then he made an active choice to live. I felt that for him that choice was renewed every day. So to

tell the story of someone who at the beginning of every day might die that day, but chooses to live – it’s an extraordinarily strong affirmation of the power of being alive. That was the heart of it for me.

So yes, I was touched and moved and impressed by Robin Cavendish – and I suppose, to be brutally honest, I thought: ‘I could make a damned good story out of this.’ My name would be on a good piece of work, which is what motivates us writers. It’s not so often these things come up.”

## THE LEAD ACTORS

Andrew Garfield vividly recalls reading the script of *Breathe* for the first time: “I was on my travels, and I was told they needed an answer very soon.

When I read it, I cried so much, I fell in love with it. I was so moved by the story. It felt like a road map of how to live, in terms of following the footsteps of Robin and Diana. ‘How do you live a life of joy with the hand that fate deals you?’ That’s what it felt like to me. I was deeply moved by it.

It felt so unique and specific, very different from other true stories one reads. It never felt saccharine or sentimental; it felt honest, specific, and full of wisdom. It answers the question: ‘how do you live your life?’ And there’s this whole issue of choosing joy in your life above all other ways, no matter what. I found that very inspiring.”

Andrew Garfield swiftly accepted the role of Robin: “I spoke to Andy Serkis on the phone with a couple of concerns that he allayed very quickly. I wanted to make sure this wasn’t just a biopic and that it didn’t follow the conventional tropes of a biopic. In script form it certainly didn’t. Andy said: ‘no, that’s not the film we’re making.’ So I was very happy to hear that.

There’s something humble about this story, which I like. There’s nothing grandiose about it, it’s just people getting on with their lives and living as fully as possible.”

For her part, Claire Foy found herself fascinated by the real Diana Cavendish, who she plays in the film and who still lives in Oxfordshire. She is in now her 80s. Claire spent time with Diana before and during filming: “I felt very fortunate to have Diana to talk to,” she reflects.

“She now has three grandchildren and a very full life. But she did this extraordinary thing for Robin, purely out of love. She’s just a very strong woman.

Diana would never admit to being anything special or anyone extraordinary. She’d say she did what anyone would do. And she’s the sort of woman who, once she’d committed to caring for Robin, would never go back on her vows and pledges.”



Andrew was equally impressed by Diana: “There’s no frills and no fuss about her. She has such elegance and grace and kindness. She also has a spine of steel, but in the most loving way. You feel she’s holding the walls up.”

Both actors were also aware of the unique situation they were in – on the set of a film playing two real-life characters whose son was producing it. Andrew and Claire both readily admit that not only Diana but also Jonathan Cavendish was an invaluable resource for them.

“I did a lot of research and having Jonathan as a main point of contact was incredibly useful for us,” says Andrew. “Claire and I both fell in love with the story so much, and all we wanted to do was do justice to the life Robin and Diana lived. The best barometer of that was Jonathan, so we would look to him all the time.

It wasn’t just their journey and the emotional aspects of it, but also the technical things: how did they practically do this? When Robin’s lungs were being pumped, what was he feeling? What kinds of faces would he make? What would be his experience of that and the breathing, all those things. So it was important that Jonathan was around and was so supportive. He wanted us to own the parts -- but we wanted *him* to own the parts too.”

Playing Robin Cavendish from his younger days, when he was a dashing athletic young man, to his long years coping with the deeply threatening ravages of polio, presented a massive challenge for Andrew Garfield.

“It was a lovely challenge and it matched up with what the character was going through, so I could use everything I was feeling while playing Robin: How do you communicate, how do you get a word in edgeways, how do you let people know what you need? How do you stay in control of your reality?”

There was a period of depression that Robin went through when he was paralysed, and that was obviously not fun to shoot.”

Director Andy Serkis, watching Andrew playing Robin, reports that he approached playing those troubled periods of Robin’s life with steely discipline: “On set he chose to be very isolated from the rest of the crew. He would sit by himself or just sit alone or lie on the bed.

Andrew is such a chameleon – and such a grafter. He really had to study. We had all this footage of Robin and the people around him, and he totally immersed himself in the role throughout the entire period of prep and the shoot.

He studied Robin’s journey of learning to talk again with a respirator. He went through different transitional phases, and Andrew studied furiously how to make that work.

Robin's speech was in the rhythm of the respirator, as he had to pause momentarily as it reset, so that made the phraseology very interesting.

And in order to play Robin as a younger, healthy, vigorous man, Andrew had to brush up on his tennis and cricket skills. He wanted to do it all as Robin, a great athlete, would have done it."

For his part, Andrew gives full credit to Claire Foy, whose reputation was already high, thanks to her starring roles in two prestigious TV series – *Wolf Hall* and *The Crown*. He attributes the successful portrayal of the Cavendishes' partnership to her.

"It was down to my relationship with Claire. In Robin's relationship with Diana, his mind was active but effectively I think she was Robin's body. There had to be this almost 'one person' thing that Claire and I did, which was really beautiful to create – and a strange experience.

"You mustn't get me started with Claire," Andrew jokes. "I'd never worked with her before, but thank God it was her, because if we hadn't gotten along it would have been hell."

The admiration was thoroughly mutual. Claire recalls that when she first heard about *Breathe*, "I was just coming off nine months working on *The Crown*. I felt as if I needed a rest. But as soon as I heard Andrew was playing Robin, I felt I couldn't not do it.

"I've admired him from afar! He's extraordinary, there's no other way of putting it. He has an amazing ability to be strong and masculine, but also completely vulnerable and open. It's rare you get all that in a younger actor. He seems older and wiser than his years."

Bill Nicholson confirms that the two actors clicked immediately: "What's remarkable is that they look as if they love each other. They did get along well, and it was terribly charming. It gives *Breathe* that old-fashioned notion of chemistry, and you can't have a good film without it. The film's about a loving marriage, and we were really lucky with Andrew and Claire."

Before and during shooting, Diana Cavendish made herself accessible to Claire – something the actress regarded as a gift: "The fact that Diana was very much there when we were making the film – that felt like it was a very special thing we were all part of. It was a short shoot, and very hard work, but we did it all together. It felt like we were a family.

"Diana is remarkable, though she would never admit to being anything special or extraordinary. She'd say she did what anyone else would have done. And she's the sort of woman who, once she's committed to something, would never go back on her vows and pledges."

Playing Diana in *Breathe*, Claire says, has changed her attitudes to acting: “I’d always taken the view that my work is my work. I’d never ‘take a character home.’ And I’d find it easy to forget it once I’d done it. That was my idea of myself.

Then I did this film, and it’s not like that at all. The way Diana and Robin loved each other and the way they lived their lives really affected me. It’s made me realise on a lot of levels that life is so short. I feel they’re an example of two people who got dealt a pretty bad hand but were determined to get the most out of life as humanly possible.

I still think about her and them, and the experience of making the film, all the time. It’s very rare to be involved in something which is so personal. But it really was personal -- Jonathan the producer is the Jonathan in the story.”

### GOING INTO PRODUCTION

Jonathan Cavendish recalls: “The moment I met Andrew Garfield in a restaurant in Los Angeles, I sensed he could play my father. Andrew is modest and courteous, but also sensitive and fascinated by people.

“There was something about Andrew’s complexity and his softness. I thought: ‘Yes, that’s the quality.’”

Jonathan saw an early promo for *The Crown*, and he and Andy met Claire Foy immediately. Jonathan recalls: “It was clear within 30 seconds that she was the one.”

In the summer of 2016, the film suddenly started to come together. BBC Films decided to back *Breathe* and London-based Embankment Films agreed to help finance it, along with Silver Reel and the BFI.

*Breathe* was a relatively modestly budgeted film that needed to be shot on a tight schedule – in England and in South Africa. The action of the film goes from England to Kenya, Spain and Germany.

The problem, as Bill Nicholson recalls, was finding a timeslot in which Andy Serkis and the actors would all be available: “And then an eight week window emerged in the summer of 2016 in which everyone was available. Shooting had to be in those eight weeks.”

This gave only seven weeks to raise the money and prepare for the start of shooting.

“So Jonathan had a decision,” Nicholson continues. “Do we pull the trigger and go into pre-production with only seven weeks before the first day of photography? If we don’t we’d lose the actors.”

Nicholson is full of praise for Jonathan Cavendish’s courage in deciding to forge ahead: “Jonathan took an extremely risky decision and pulled the thing together in seven weeks. Sets had to be built, the other actors had to be cast, locations had to be arranged, everything.

But he did it. This was real seat-of-the pants producing. In an odd kind of way, a lot of pressure falls away. You just have to get it done. And as it turns out, the film is extremely polished.”

Andy and Jonathan were hugely excited to bring onto the film Robert Richardson, one of the world’s most distinguished cinematographers, a three-time Academy Award winner (for *JFK*, *The Aviator* and *Hugo*) and favourite collaborator of such eminent film-makers as Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino and Oliver Stone.

A copy of the *Breathe* script had made its way to Hollywood, where Richardson’s agent read it, and had a hunch the cinematographer would like it. So it turned out: Richardson immediately made his interest in the film known. “Bob’s accustomed to a completely different level of budget,” Nicholson observes. “For him, this was a relatively small movie. But he wanted to do it.”

Tom Hollander was attached to play Diana’s brothers, the identical twins Bloggs and Blacker. He is an old friend of Andy Serkis, “I worked with Tom a long time ago on stage in Jez Butterworth’s play *Mojo*,” says Andy. “We were old buddies, really. He’s in my *Jungle Book* film too.”

Serkis used a mixture of techniques to allow Hollander to play identical twins in the same scene. Andy says: “We used a camera with a repeatable head. Tom would play one of the twins in profile, and he always had a stand-in to act against. Then we’d come round the other side of him and shoot the ‘other’ brother. It required extraordinary technique from Tom, who really is a virtuoso actor.”

The leading cast members were rounded out by Hugh Bonneville, now famous globally for playing the Earl of Grantham in TV’s *Downton Abbey*; he plays Robin’s friend, the astonishingly inventive Professor Teddy Hall, who enabled Robin Cavendish to leave his hospital bed, and travel around in a wheelchair specially equipped with a lightweight respirator so he could breathe.

“Hugh was amazing and we were lucky to get him,” says Andy Serkis. “We wanted someone special, someone avuncular, but who you could imagine also had an enormous brain, and an eccentricity and directness about him.”

Teddy Hall’s brilliant career is worth a film in its own right: not only did he invent what came to be known as ‘the Cavendish chair,’ he was also a pioneer in the field of carbon-dating – he authoritatively dated the Turin Shroud, (reputed to have been wrapped around the body of Christ after the Crucifixion). He also devised advanced scientific techniques to examine archaeological finds, and declared the ‘prehistoric’ skull of the infamous Piltdown Man as a hoax.

Another leading British actor, Stephen Mangan (*Green Wing, Episodes*), plays Dr. Clement Aitken, director of the Disability Research Foundation.

“Stephen balances a light touch with a serious element,” says Andy Serkis, adding that he, Andrew and Hugh Bonneville relished their scenes together: “We thought of them as the Three Musketeers, playing characters who lived life to the full. Jonathan refers to his father and his friends as ‘boho toffs.’” There’s certainly a sense of devil-may-care adventure about these characters that may be inherited: Diana’s father was the first person ever to fly over Mount Everest, as well as living for 20 years in the Hindu Kush.

In other roles, no less than six young actors (including two sets of twins) were needed to portray Jonathan Cavendish as he progresses in the story from toddlerhood to young adult. Dean-Charles Chapman plays Jonathan at age 22, Harry Marcus is Jonathan as a 10 year old; Frank and Jack Madigan share the role of Jonathan at 5, while Dallon and Deacon Brewer play him at age 2.

Bill Nicholson’s script for *Breathe* takes Robin Cavendish’s story to far-flung places: Spain; a conference hall in Munich, a hospital and the government house in Nairobi; a tea warehouse in Mombasa; various villages in Kenya and country roads in Spain. All these scenes were shot in England and throughout South Africa.

But most scenes of events that took place in Britain were shot at various locations within 50 miles to the north or west of London. The grand Jacobean stately home Hatfield House in Hertfordshire was put to good use for a number of locations: the drawing room of a country house, a ballroom, the car park of an Oxford hospital and the interior of a German hotel among them.

Robin and Diana’s home, Furlongs, was represented by a house near Luton: “We created a version of Furlongs, that wasn’t exactly like it but had a similar eccentric quality,” says Jonathan Cavendish. Interior scenes at the Oxford hospital were shot at a performing arts

school in Tring, Hertfordshire. Englefield in Berkshire was the location for the idyllic game of cricket that opens the film.

### READY FOR RELEASE

Bill Nicholson, who has been on a journey to make *Breathe* with Jonathan Cavendish from the start, speaks of him in glowing terms: “This was an extraordinary experience for him. He’s like a permanent bystander in the real story. And for him to be making the film as well!

Jonathan the producer has been ruthless. There was more of Jonathan in earlier drafts of the script, but he cut some of those scenes. He said: ‘This is about Robin and Diana.’ He’s focussed on making a film that works.”

“I think it one of the most accurate biopics ever made,” says Jonathan now. “Many of the conversations in the film actually took place. For example, the consultant at the Oxford hospital did actually say to my father ‘You’ll be dead in two weeks...’

And of course I watched as my mother took constant responsibility of keeping my father alive. And they both took responsibility for providing food and entertainment for all their friends, and all my friends too.

The people around my parents were an assorted cast of characters. My father and mother had a totally equal partnership. She enabled him to break out of his sense of loss, and start to know life with lots of friends coming in and helping. It’s amazing what those friends did. I have since learnt that for many of them this was among the best experiences of their lives. And what they all did was to help give my father back his life.”

Jonathan jokingly refers to *Breathe* as “the most expensive home movie ever made.” He explains that just as his father was helped by friends, so was he by the cast and crew on the film: “They were like a family. Everyone was earning less than they normally do, and giving more than they normally would. It was remarkable.

I feel so proud of what we have done,” he adds. “This film shows what love can do in the most difficult circumstances. If you are lucky enough to love and be loved, that partnership can carry you through the most difficult problems – and to do so with laughter and joy. This is a film made by a family for a family.”

ends

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### ANDREW GARFIELD – ROBIN CAVENDISH

Andrew Garfield is an Academy Award®-nominated actor who captivates global audiences with his transformative performances spanning feature films and notable theatre productions. He continues to evolve his body of work in powerful roles and compelling narratives.

In 2016, Garfield appeared on the big screen in Mel Gibson's Academy Award®-nominated World War II epic, HACKSAW RIDGE. Based on a true story, Garfield plays U.S. Army medic Desmond T. Doss, who was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Truman for single-handedly saving the lives of over 75 of his comrades while simultaneously under constant enemy fire during the brutal Battle of Okinawa. The film, which co-starred Vince Vaughn, Hugo Weaving, Brenda Griffiths and Teresa Palmer, was released by Lionsgate on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Garfield's critically acclaimed performance earned him lead actor nominations at the Academy Awards®, Golden Globe Awards®, Screen Actors Guild Awards and BAFTA Awards.

Garfield also starred in Martin Scorsese's adaptation of the literary classic SILENCE, distributed by Paramount Pictures. The film tells a story of young 17<sup>th</sup>-century Jesuit missionaries who were persecuted during their search for a priest who had forsaken his faith. The film also starred Liam Neeson and Adam Driver.

He is currently on stage once again in the National Theatre's production of ANGELS IN AMERICA directed by Tony Award®-winning Marianne Elliott. He plays "Prior Walter," alongside Denise Gough, Nathan Lane, James McArdle and Russell Tovey. The multi-award-winning play, written by Tony Kushner, began its sold out run with previews on April 11<sup>th</sup> and will continue through August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Later this year, Garfield will star in the modern noir crime thriller UNDER THE SILVER LAKE. Set in the underbelly of Silver Lake, California, the film follows an eccentric man who becomes obsessed with the disappearance of his neighbor and the murder of another man. The film is written and directed by David Robert Mitchell and will be distributed by A24.

Additional film credits include: Marc Webb's THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2, which combined grossed over 1.5 billion at the box-office; Ramin Bahrani's 99 HOMES opposite Michael Shannon and Laura Dern; David Fincher's THE SOCIAL NETWORK, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe® for Best Supporting Actor; Mark Romanek's NEVER LET ME GO opposite Keira Knightley and Carey Mulligan; Terry Gilliam's THE IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS; Spike Jonze's robot love story I'M HERE;

Robert Redford's LIONS FOR LAMBS; Julian Jarrold's RED RIDING TRILOGY - 1974; and John Crowley's BOY A, for which he earned BAFTA's Best Actor Award in 2008.

Garfield made his Broadway debut in 2012 in the revival of Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play DEATH OF A SALESMAN, opposite Phillip Seymour-Hoffman and directed by Mike Nichols. His portrayal of Biff Loman earned him a Tony® nomination for Best Featured Actor in a Play.

### **CLAIRE FOY – DIANA**

With a diverse and exceptional range of work across television, film and theatre, Claire Foy is one of the UK's most respected actresses.

Foy was most recently seen in the much coveted role of Queen Elizabeth II in Netflix's critically acclaimed series about Britain's Royal Family, "*The Crown*" (2017). Her performance won her a Golden Globe and a SAG Award, along with a BAFTA TV nomination. The drama explores the Royal Family from both a public and private perspective. It is the largest series Netflix has commissioned, and was devised and written by Peter Morgan, and directed by Stephen Daldry. Other cast include Matt Smith as Prince Philip, John Lithgow as Sir Winston Churchill and many more notable British actors including Eileen Atkins, Jared Harris, Greg Wise and Vanessa Kirby. The series launched globally in November 2016 and the second series will be released later this year.

Foy will next be seen in *Breathe* (2017) alongside Andrew Garfield, directed by Andy Serkis and written by William Nicholson. The film tells the remarkable story of Robin and Diana Cavendish, who navigate life after he is struck down with paralysing polio. The film will be released in October this year. Foy was seen as 'Anne Boleyn' in 2015's "*Wolf Hall*" (2015); the BBC adaption of Hilary Mantel's 'Man Booker Prize' winning novels *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*, for which she was nominated in the Leading Actress category for the BAFTA TV Awards. The critically acclaimed six-part series, written by Oscar nominated Peter Straughan (*Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*), also starred Mark Rylance as 'Thomas Cromwell' and Damian Lewis as 'Henry VIII'.

In 2014 Foy was seen in US TV show "*Crossbones*" (2014), a series set during the golden age of piracy in the 1700's and centring on legendary pirate 'Blackbeard'. The show which premiered on NBC saw Claire star alongside John Malkovich, Ezra Buzzington and Tracy Ifeachor. Foy has appeared in a number of prestigious theatre projects. She last starred as 'Lady Macbeth' at the Trafalgar Studios opposite James McAvooy in "*Macbeth*". In 2012 Claire appeared at the Royal Court in two separate productions, Mike Bartlett's "*Love, Love, Love*", and "*Ding, Dong the Wicked*". She made her professional stage debut at the National



Theatre in “DNA/The Miracle/Baby Girl”, one of a trio of acts, directed by Paul Miller.

Perhaps best known for her incredible television roles Claire has been on our small screens since she made a name for herself in the title role of the critically acclaimed BBC adaptation “*Little Dorrit*” (2008). The drama won ‘Best Mini-Series’ at the 2009 Emmy Awards and was nominated for ‘Best Mini-Series’ at the Golden Globes. Claire’s outstanding performance earned her a nomination for ‘Best Actress’ at the 2009 RTS Television Awards.

In 2012 audiences watched Foy in the lead role of ‘Charlotte’ in “*White Heat*” (2012) for the BBC alongside Sam Claflin and MyAnna Buring, a semi-autobiographical drama by the award winning writer Paula Milne. Foy appeared on our television screens in the controversial and political one off film for Channel 4, “*Hacks*” (2012); and in both series of the BBC’s popular revival of “*Upstairs Downstairs*” (2012). She also played the female lead in the four-part hit serial “*The Promise*” (2011) by multi- award winning writer/director Peter Kosminsky. In this topical drama based on the conflict in the Middle East, Claire played lead character ‘Erin’ alongside Christian Cooke. Foy’s other television projects include “*The Night Watch*” (2011), a one off film for the BBC in which she took one of four leads alongside Anna Maxwell, Jodie Whittaker and Anne Wilson Jones, and Sky 1 series, “*Going Postal*” (2010) an adaptation of Terry Pratchett’s popular novel of the same name.

Foy’s film credits include, *Rosewater* (2014), Jon Stewart’s directorial debut, in which she starred opposite Gael Garcia Bernal. In 2011 she starred as the female lead alongside Nicolas Cage in the fantasy thriller *Season of the Witch* (2011) directed by Dominic Sena, and feature film *Wreckers* (2011) in which she played ‘Dawn’ opposite Benedict Cumberbatch.

### **TOM HOLLANDER – BLOGGS / DAVID BLACKER**

Thomas Hollander is an English actor, who began his acting career in theatre, and subsequently went on to appear in numerous award winning film and television productions.

Hollander is best known for his film roles, particularly Cutler Beckett’s *Pirates of the Caribbean* sequels, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest* (2006) and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End* (2007), where he starred alongside Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley. More recently he starred in Richard Curtis’ *About Time* (2013), with Rachel McAdams, and Christopher McQuarrie’s *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* (2015). Hollander worked with director Joe Wright for the first of time in 2005 on the acclaimed film *Pride & Prejudice* with Keira Knightley, Matt Macfadyen and Donald Sutherland, it was given four Academy Award nominations and awarded a BAFTA.

Hollander starred in Bryan Singer's historical drama *Valkyrie* (2008) alongside Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh and Bill Nighy. Then in Wright's *The Soloist* (2009), alongside Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. In 2011 Hollander worked with Wright to star in the award-winning thriller *Hanna*, performing alongside Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana and Saoirse Ronan. His further film credits include Tom Hunsinger and Neil Hunter's British Independent Film Award winner *Lawless Heart* (2001), and Armando Iannucci's Academy Award nominated *In The Loop* (2009), among many others.

Hollander will next be seen on Andy Serkis' *Jungle Book: Origins* (2018) with Cate Blanchett, Christian Bale and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Hollander has also appeared in a great number of television productions, his performance in Susanne Bier's Golden Globe winning mini-series *"The Night Manager"* (2006) alongside Tom Hiddleston and Hugh Laurie, led to Hollander being awarded a BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor. He has worked on several series produced by the BBC, including Tim Fywell's *"Cambridge Spies"* (2003) for which he was awarded Best Actor at the FIPA International Television Festival. Hollander then went on to star and co-create with James Wood the BAFTA winning BBC Comedy *"Rev."* (2010-2014). Hollander most recently appeared in Amazon's Drama, Mystery *"Taboo"* (2017) alongside Tom Hardy, David Hayman and Leo Bill.

### **STEPHEN MANGAN - DR. CLEMENT AITKEN**

Stephen Mangan is a stage, film, television and voice actor.

After graduating from Cambridge University and then RADA, Mangan began his acting career in the theatre. In 2008, he played the title role in *"The Norman Conquests"* at The Old Vic and then on Broadway. Mangan was nominated for a Tony Award and the play won Best Revival. Other theatre credits include, *"Birthday"* and *"The People Are Friendly"* (Royal Court Theatre), *"Jeeves and Wooster"* (Duke of York's Theatre), *"Hayfever"* (Savoy theatre), *"Midsummer Night's Dream"* (RSC) and *"Rules For Living"* (National Theatre).

Mangan has an extensive list of television credits, he plays the lead role of Sean Lincoln in the comedy series *"Episodes"* (2017), opposite Tamsin Greig and Matt LeBlanc. This year Mangan can also be seen starring in the new comedy series *"Bliss"* (2017) for Sky Atlantic. Previous TV credits include the BAFTA-winning British sitcom *"Green Wing"* (2006), *"Free Agents"* (2009), *"Dirk Gently"* (2012), in which he played the title role, and *"Houdini & Doyle"* (2016).

Mangan film credits include Stephen Daldry's *Billy Elliot* (2000), Sky's "Birthday" (2015), Mike D'Isa's *Postman Pat: The Movie* (2014) (Voice), Ron Howard's *Rush* (2013), David L. Williams' *Beyond The Pole* (2009), Debbie Isitt's *Confetti* (2006) and Annie Griffin's *Festival* (2005).

### **DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN- JONATHAN 22 Y.O**

After a few roles in television, Dean-Charles Chapman was cast as Small Boy in "Billy Elliot" when he was 8, in the original cast of the show. He began training when he was 10 and went on to play Michael and then Billy in the production. He was the longest serving Billy and the second longest serving cast member. Credits include BBC 3's comedy series "Cuckoo" (2012), playing the title role in "The Revolting World of Stanley Brown" (2012) for CBBC and "The White Queen" (2013) for the BBC and Starz. Dean has most recently been seen in Rowan Joffe's *Before I Go To Sleep* (2014) with Nicole Kidman, Colin Firth and Mark Strong, E4's critically acclaimed series "Glue" (2014), "Ripper Street" (2014) for BBC 1, Ben Palmer's feature *Man Up* (2015) with Simon Pegg and Lake Bell and series VI of "Game of Thrones" (2011) on Sky Atlantic. Chapman has just wrapped on Andy Serkis' *Breathe* (2017) with Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy and Jaume Collet-Sera's *The Commuter* (2018) with Liam Neeson.

### **HARRY MARCUS – JONATHAN 10 Y.O**

Harry Marcus career has already spanned stage, screen and TV. Earlier this year he appeared in Bill Condon's *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) starring Emma Watson, Dan Stevens and Luke Evans. He also played Simon in the short film *Well Done Keith*, produced and directed by Harry Potter star, Chris Rankin. Marcus was also the voice of 'Bip' in the hugely successful video game "Dreamfall Chapters" (2014).

On stage Marcus's career has included playing Gavroche in "Les Miserables" at the Queens Theatre London (2015), Graham O'Grady in "Made in Dagenham" at the Adelphi Theatre London (2014), Benji in "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" National tour (2013) and more recently was cast as Prince Arthur in "King John" at the Rose Theatre Kingston directed by Sir Trevor Nunn (2016). Marcus also featured as Graham O Grady in the original London cast recording of "Made in Dagenham".

Marcus has just finished filming the third series of BBC's "Poldark" playing the role of Geoffrey Charles Poldark to great acclaim.

## **PENNY DOWNIE – TID**

Penny Downie is an Australian actress who has appeared in film, TV and stage shows.

Downie's film career has most recently seen her in Pablo Larrain's Academy Award nominated Jackie (2016) alongside Natalie Portman and Peter Sarsgaard. In 2016, Downie appeared in Babak Najafi's London Has Fallen alongside Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman. Downie also starred in Clint Eastwood's award winning Invictus (2009) with Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon.

Downie has appeared in series 5 of the award winning "Downton Abbey", created by Julian Fellowes, alongside Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and Maggie Smith. Downie also starred in two seasons of "New Street Law" in 2006, starring John Hannah. In 2005, Downie starred in "All About George", a sit com, alongside Rik Mayall, Sian Brooke and Gemma Jones.

Downie is a RSC Associate - she performed in Hamlet as Gertrude alongside Patrick Stewart and David Tennant. Other performances at the RSC include: "A Winter's Tale", "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Romeo and Juliet" and many more.

## **HUGH BONNEVILLE – TEDDY HALL**

Hugh Bonneville was a member of the Nation Youth Theatre, studied Theology at Cambridge, and made his professional debut at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, in 1986 bashing a cymbal in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and understudying Ralph Fiennes as Lysander in "School for Wives", "Yerma", "Entertaining Strangers", "Juno and the Paycock", and played Charles Surface in "The school for Scandal" and the title role in "The Devil's Disciple". Bonneville joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1991, appearing in "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "The Alchemist", "Tis Pity She's a Whore", "The Virtuoso" and "Amphibians". Bonneville also played "Laertes to Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet". Bonneville's work at the RSC brought him a nomination for the Ian Charleson Award. Other theatres include "Habeas Corpus at the Donmar", directed by Sam Mendes, and seasons at Colchester, Leicester Haymarket and Chichester. Bonneville also appeared in "My Night with Reg" (Criterion & Playhouse), "US and Them" (Hampstead) and "Cloaca" (Old Vic, directed by Kevin Spacey). In the spring of 2016, Bonneville played Dr Stockman in Howard Davies' acclaimed production of "An Enemy of the People" at Chichester Festival Theatre.

Bonneville is a familiar face to television audiences, having played leading roles in "The Cazalets" (2001), "Take a Girl Like You" (2000), "Armadillo" (2001), "Daniel Deronda" (2002) and "The Commander" (2003). Bonneville also appeared in the Emmy award-winning

*"The Gathering Storm"* (2002) and played the poet Philip Larkin in *"Love Again"* (2003). Other credits range from comedies like *"The Robinsons"* (2005), *"The Vicar of Dibley"* (1994), *"Freezing"* (2008), *"Rev"* (2010), *"Getting On"* (2009), *"Mr Stink"* (2012) (BAFTA nomination, Best Comedy) and *"Galavant"* (2015), to dramas such as *"Diary of a Nobody"* (2007), *"Tsunami: The Aftermath"* (2006), *"Miss Austen Regrets"* (2008), *"Five Days"* (2007), *"Hunter"* (2009), *"The Silence"* (2010), *"Doctor Who"* (2005) and *"The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses"* (2012).

*"Twenty Twelve"* (2011) won a British Comedy Award (2011) and a BAFTA (2013) for Best Comedy, Bonneville being nominated two years running as Best Comedy Actor. In 2014, Bonneville's character, Ian Fletcher, appeared in *"W1A"* (2014), a follow-up series about life at the BBC, which won the Broadcasting Press Guild Award for Best Comedy. Bonneville received a third TV BAFTA nomination for his performance.

*"Downton Abby"* (2010) has won dozens of awards worldwide, and Bonneville has received a Golden Globe and 2 Emmy nominations for his performance as Robert, Earl of Grantham. The cast has won 3 Screen Actors Guild awards for Best Ensemble and the show was awarded with a special BAFTA for its unique contribution to TV drama. The sixth and final series aired in the UK in September 2015.

Bonneville made his feature film debut in Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* (1994), directed by Kenneth Branagh. Bonneville's many film appearances since then includes *Notting Hill* (1999), *Mansfield Park* (1999), *Stage Beauty* (2004), *Asylum* (2005), *Scenes of a Sexual Nature* (2006), *Man to Man* (2005), Julian Fellowes' *From Time to Time* (2009), *Glorious 39* (2009), *Burke & Hare* (2010), *Third Star* (2010), *Shanghai* (2010), George Clooney's *The Monuments Men* (2014), and *Paddington* (2014). Bonneville received a BAFTA Best Supporting Actor nomination for *Iris* (2001) and won Best Actor at the Monte Carlo Film Festival for his performance in *French Film* (2008). Gurinder Chadha's *Viceroy's House* (2017), in which Bonneville co-stars with Gillian Anderson, it's currently in post-production. Behind the scenes, Bonneville co-produced the first West End production of Jonathan Harvey's acclaimed *"Beautiful Thing"* at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1994, and wrote *"Half Time"* with Christopher Luscombe, which he also directed.

Bonneville is a patron of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, The National Youth Arts Trust, Scene & Heard, Giant Olive Theatre Company, The Primary Shakespeare Company, The Centre Stage Academy, and Mousetrap Theatre Projects. He is also an Ambassador for Water Aid.

Bonneville lives in West Sussex with his wife, Lulu Williams. They have a fourteen year-old son, Felix.

## **DAVID WILMOT – PADDY**

David Wilmot is an Irish stage, screen and television actor.

Wilmot drew acclaim for his role of Padraic in “The Lieutenant of Inishmore”, which originated in Stratford-upon-Avon and later moved to Broadway in 2006, leading to Wilmot being nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor.

Wilmot’s notable film credits include, Joe Wright’s *Anna Karenina* (2012) starring Keira Knightley and Aaron Taylor-Johnson, James Marsh’s *Shadow Dancer* (2012), starring Clive Owen, John Michael McDonagh’s multi award winning *Calvary* (2014) starring Brendan Gleeson as the lead, Yann Demange’s *'71* (2014) with Jack O'Connell and recently John Michael McDonagh’s *War on Everyone* (2016), starring Alexander Skarsgård and Michael Peña.

On screen, Wilmot has an extensive list of TV credits including RTÉ’s production, “*The Clinic*” (2004), for which he was nominated for the Irish Film and Television Award for Best Actor in a TV Drama for his portrayal of Dr Ed Costello. Wilmot has also starred in Starz’, “*Black Sails*” (2017), “*The Tudors*” (2010) and BBC One’s “*Ripper Street*” (2012-16) as a regular.

David is currently playing a series regular in upcoming drama, “*The Alienist*” for TNT starring Dakota Fanning, Luke Evans and Daniel Bruhl.

## **AMIT SHAH – DR KHAN**

Amit Shah recently filmed the role of Faisal in Scott Mann’s *Final Score* (2017) alongside Dave Bautista and Pierce Brosnan as well as the role of Dr. James Khan in Andy Serkis’ *Breathe* (2017), alongside Andrew Garfield, directed by Andy Serkis. Last year Shah was seen playing regular roles in Channel 4’s hit series “*Crashing*” (2016) penned by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and BBC’s dark comedy “*Stag*” (2016). Shah played the role of Mansur in Dreamworks and Lasse Hallström’s *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014), produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey and was recently seen playing Sunny in brand new BBC comedy “*Hospital People*” (2017).

## **BEN LLOYD-HUGHES – DR DON MCQUEEN**

Ben was born on 14th April 1988, in Hammersmith, London. He was educated at St.Paul's School in Barnes. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, graduating in 2011. He is currently one of the most exciting young British actors in the industry. Whilst

still at St Paul's School, Lloyd-Hughes notched up a series of television roles in established shows such as *“Love Soup”* (2005), *“A Touch of Frost”* (2006), and *“Casualty”* (2007) (starring opposite Brenda Fricker, written by Richard Curtis).

At the end of his graduating year, Lloyd-Hughes auditioned for the original series of what would become the hugely popular *“Skins”* (2007) on Channel 4. The creators of the show would go on to write a character specifically for Ben, named Josh Stock - the psychologically unhinged rival of Tony. Lloyd-Hughes played opposite Nicholas Hoult and Kaya Scodelario. This then led to lead roles in the BBC series *“Roman Mysteries”* (2008); the BBC series *“Personal Affairs”* (2009); and Jon Wright’s feature film *Tormented* (2009) for Pathe, alongside Alex Pettyfer and Tuppence Middleton. Lloyd-Hughes then went on to study acting at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he spent three years working with some of the best acting, voice and movement teachers in the country. Whilst at Guildhall, Lloyd-Hughes still managed to find time in holiday periods to film *The First Days of Spring* (2009) (a film directed by Charlie Fink from the band Noah and the Whale, in which he starred opposite Daisy Lowe); *“Miliband of Brothers”* (2010) for Channel 4, starring as Ed Miliband opposite his real-life brother Henry as David; an online campaign for Hugo Boss (directed by Marco Brambilla); and the BBC series *“The Hour”* (2011), as Ralph Sherwin, opposite Dominic West, Ben Whishaw and Romola Garai. A monologue Lloyd-Hughes wrote in his final year at Guildhall, entitled Best Man's Speech, also won the year's 2011 Spotlight Prize.

He then left his third and final year of Guildhall a few months early to take a lead role in *“Young James Herriot”* (2011), the new BBC drama about the university years of James Herriot. Lloyd-Hughes played one of the three leads: Rob McAloon, opposite Iain De Caestecker as James. The three-part drama was released around Christmas 2011. Lloyd-Hughes then went on to film the new feature film version of *Great Expectations* (2012) for Number 9 Films and BBC films. Directed by Mike Newell, Lloyd-Hughes plays the character of Bentley Drummle in a cast that also includes Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Robbie Coltrane, and Sally Hawkins. The film closed the BFI London Film Festival and was released in the UK in November 2012.

Before Lloyd-Hughes left Guildhall, he wrote and developed a one-man show entitled *“Nicholas Robert Basil Jones”*. Telling the tale of one-man's life throughout the twentieth century, Lloyd-Hughes played the character from childhood through to old age. Performed first at Guildhall, Lloyd-Hughes then took it to the Studio Theatre at the Lyric Hammersmith in September 2011. The acclaimed director Charles Sturridge saw Lloyd-Hughes in this and asked him to be a part in his new film for ITV, *The Scapegoat* (2012). Lloyd-Hughes played the part of Myerson, opposite Matthew Rhys, Andrew Scott and Sheridan Smith.

Lloyd-Hughes then went on to perform his professional stage debut, playing the lead in William Congreve's famous Restoration Comedy "The Way of the World" at the Sheffield Crucible, opposite Sinead Matthews, Deborah Findlay and Samuel Barnett. Directed by Lyndsey Turner, his performance as Mirabell received excellent reviews (the Stage describing him as "a charismatic leading man"). Lloyd-Hughes then went on to play the part of Cam in the successful run of the play "Jumpy" in the West End, where he starred opposite Tamsin Greig.

He also shot the short film *Tom and Issy* opposite Ellie Goulding, directed by the award-winning director Roger Michell. In 2013, Ben went to Chicago and filmed the lead part of Will in the Hollywood feature film *Divergent* (2014), alongside Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet. Based on the hugely popular novels by Veronica Roth, the film was a massive box-office success. After filming that, he came back to the West End to play The Dauphin in "Henry V" starring Jude Law and directed by Michael Grandage. The Dauphin is the French prince, the rival to Jude Law's King Henry, with The Daily Mail writing: "Mr Law has a worthy opponent in the glamour stakes in Ben Lloyd-Hughes, who must have a big future."

Following this, Lloyd-Hughes went on to star in Bill Mechanic's film *The Moon and the Sun*. Filmed in Versailles and Australia, he starred opposite Pierce Brosnan, William Hurt and Kaya Scodelario.

He then went to Atlanta to shoot Robert Schwentke's *Insurgent* (2015), the sequel to *Divergent*. This was followed by the television dramas "Life in Squares" (2015) for the BBC about the Bloomsbury Group, in which he played the writer David Garnett, opposite James Norton and Phoebe Fox; the BBC film *The Eichmann Show* (2015), opposite Martin Freeman, directed by Paul Andrew Williams; and the BBC's "War & Peace" (2016), opposite Paul Dano and Lily James, where he played Tsar Alexander, the Emperor of Russia.

Lloyd-Hughes then filmed the feature film *Me Before You* (2016) for MGM. Based on the popular novel by JoJo Moyes, the film was a huge success at the box office. Lloyd-Hughes appeared in the romantic comedy opposite Sam Claflin and Emilia Clarke. He played Rupert, the best friend of Claflin's Will, who goes on to marry his ex-girlfriend Alicia, played by Vanessa Kirby.

Lloyd-Hughes then returned to the stage, where he starred in "Future Conditional" at the Old Vic. Opposite Rob Brydon, the play focused on the education system and was Matthew Warchus' first play as Artistic Director of the theatre. He then filmed a part in the Channel 4 television drama "National Treasure" (2016), opposite Robert Coltrane, which won the BAFTA award for best Drama. Following that, he went to Glasgow to film the lead in feature film *Hush* (2017) for Sigma Films. Starring opposite Florence Pugh, they play a brother and sister at Glasgow university in the 1980s who operate a fake ghostbusting service to earn money. He followed this by going to South Africa to film *Breathe* (2017), opposite Andrew



Garfield and Claire Foy. The period feature film, directed by Andy Serkis, is about the true story of Robin Cavendish (played by Garfield). Ben plays Robin's best friend and doctor, Don McQueen.

Lloyd-Hughes then starred in the new two-hander play "Kiss Me" at the Hampstead Theatre. Written by Richard Bean and based on true events, Ben played a man in 1929 London who visits war widows' houses to impregnate them. The success of the show led to it transferring to the West End at the Trafalgar Studios in the summer of 2017.

### **MIRANDA RAISON – MARY DAWNAY**

Miranda recently filmed Kenneth Branagh's new feature *Murder on the Orient Express* (2017). Earlier this year, she also starred leading roles in feature films, Alexandra Boyd's *Widow's Walk* (2017) and Tamar Halpern's *Missing in Europe* (2017) produced by Rick Benattar.

Raison recently starred alongside Tom Brooke in ITV Drama "*Dark Heart*" (2016) produced by Chris Clough and can also be seen on Netflix in the Canal+ television series "*Spotless*" (2015) as the female lead alongside Marc-André Grondin, Brendan Coyle and Denis Ménochet, directed by Pascal Chaumeil. This followed with a role in the latest of the Kiefer Sutherland-lead action series "*24: Live Another Day*" (2014), with Yvonne Strahovski and Tate Donovan

Raison had a well received run in "Strangers on a Train" in the West End alongside Laurence Fox and Jack Huston, prior to which she played a series regular in BBC One series "*Silk*" (2014). Also known for playing series lead Georgina in BBC's "*Vexed*" (2012), series regular Jo Portman in BBC's "*Spooks*" (2009), among an array of quality credits in Film, Television and Theatre.

Raison's most recent theatre performance was alongside Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench and Zoë Wanamaker as Hermione in "A Winter's Tale" and Edna in "Harlequinade" as part of Kenneth Branagh's West End season at the Garrick Theatre. Prior to this, Raison starred in two-hander "Hello/Goodbye" alongside Shaun Evans and directed by Tamara Harvey at Hampstead Theatre.

## JONATHAN HYDE – DR. ENTWISTLE

Jonathan Hyde's credited work includes starring roles in award-winning film, television and theatre productions. He graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 1972, winning the Bancroft Gold Medal for excellence.

Hyde is best known for his film performances in Joe Johnston's *Jumanji* (1995), alongside the late Robin Williams and Kirsten Dunst, and his later performance in James Cameron's 11 Academy Award winning *Titanic* (1997), alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. Hyde starred in Luis Llosa's horror, *Anaconda* (1997), with Jennifer Lopez, Owen Wilson and Ice Cube. Hyde appeared in the critically acclaimed *The Mummy* (1999), directed by Stephen Sommers, starring Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz. Hyde was then cast in Bruce Beresford's *The Contract* (2006), alongside Morgan Freeman and John Cusack, along with many other impressive film performances.

More recently, Hyde has appeared in Nirpal Bhogal's horror film, *First Born* (2016) with Antonia Thomas and Luke Norris.

Hyde has also starred in a number of television productions, playing the notorious Eldrich Palmer in the Guillermo Del Toro apocalyptic 46-episode thriller *The Strain*, for FX, now entering its final season. He currently appears in Guillermo del Toro's animated series, "*Troll Hunters*" for Dreamworks, playing the changeling teacher Mr Strickler on Netflix. Also on Netflix is *Tokyo Trial* with Hyde playing the President of the Japanese War Crimes tribunal, Sir William Webb.

*Hyde's work in theatre spans four plus decades. He has appeared in many productions with the National Theatre, the RSC and the famous Glasgow Citizen's Theatre. More recently he has appeared as Caesar in Rob Hastie's brilliant production of Julius Caesar at the Crucible Theatre Sheffield, and in Chris Luscombe's innovative Travels With My Aunt at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London. Hyde also starred alongside Charles Edwards in the Adrian Noble production of The King's Speech in a national tour and at Wyndham's in the West End, a world tour of King Lear starring Ian McKellen, and The Seagull, both directed by Trevor Nunn. Hyde was nominated for an Olivier Award for his performances at the Citizen's Theatre of Mirandolina and for his celebrated Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest.*

## **EMILY BEVAN – NURSE MARGARET**

Emily Bevan is a British actress singer/songwriter and a very talented poet.

Bevan starred opposite Luke Newberry in the BBC's award-winning series "*In The Flesh*" in 2013, playing daring and loveable zombie, Amy Dyer. Before this breakthrough role, she had worked predominantly in comedy, where credits include "*Hung Out*" (2010) for Channel 4, Oliver Parker and Barnaby Thompson's feature *St Trinian's* (2007), Russell Howard's *Good News* and Peter Capaldi's award-winning *The Thick of It* (2012).

After studying Classical Acting at Central School of Speech and Drama, Bevan proved she is an acting powerhouse with her starring role in J.K. Rowling's much-anticipated 2015 drama "*The Casual Vacancy*" (2015), an HBO and BBC co-production starring alongside Michael Gambon, Keeley Hawes and Julia McKenzie. Bevan also played the key role of Salit in Kenneth Glenaan's "*The Ark*" (2015), another epic BBC1 primetime drama starring David Threlfall and Joanne Whalley as Noah and Emmie.

## **SYLVESTER GROTH – DR ERIK LANGDORF**

Sylvester Groth is a German film actor and trained tenor. Groth studied acting and singing at the Drama School "Ernst Busch" in Berlin.

Groth starred in his first major German film role *Stalingrad* (1993), directed by Joseph Vilsmaier. Groth's performance in the comedic war drama *My Führer* (2007) directed by Dani Levy, lead Groth to win the German Critics Association, Critic Award and several nominations. In 2002, he won an Adolf Grimme Award for his performance in Hermine Huntgeburth's *Romeo* (2001), which subsequently saw him nominated for an award of Outstanding Individual Achievement.

Groth is best known to English language audiences for his appearance in Quentin Tarantino's Academy Award winning *Inglorious Basterds* (2009) alongside Brad Pitt, Christoph Waltz and Diane Kruger. His more recent performances include Guy Ritchie's *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (2015), where he starred alongside Henry Cavill and Hugh Grant; and Stephen Daldry's Academy Award winning Post-WWII drama *The Reader* (2008) with Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes.

Groth has starred in several TV series, including popular American series' "*Sense8*" (2015) alongside Doona Bae and Jamie Clayton, and "*Fargo*" (2017), directed by Michael Uppendahl and Keith Gordon.

## CAMILLA RUTHERFORD – KATHERINE BARING

Camilla Rutherford is an English actress and fashion model, who has appeared in film, television and theatre productions, alongside her modelling career.

In 2001, Rutherford starred in Robert Altman's Academy Award winning *Gosford Park (2001)* which starred Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon and Kristin Scott Thomas. In 2004, Rutherford appeared in Mira Nair's *Vanity Fair (2004)*, alongside Reese Witherspoon, and starred in Alki David's *The Freediver (2004)*. Rutherford was in Wes Anderson's critically acclaimed comedy *The Darjeeling Limited (2007)* alongside Owen Wilson and Adrien Brody.

Following this in 2008 Rutherford starred alongside Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller and Matthew Rhys in the romantic drama *The Edge of Love* directed by John Maybury. In 2011, Rutherford performed as a female lead alongside Henry Lloyd-Hughes in Sloane U'Ren's multi-award winning sci-fi drama *Dimensions*. Rutherford was then cast in Bill Condon's *The Fifth Estate (2013)* starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Carice Van Houten and Daniel Bruhl. Recently Rutherford has appeared in and Mandie Fletcher's *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie (2016)* with Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders.

Rutherford's television work includes the multi award winning series *Rome (2007)* co-produced by BBC and HBO co-starring with Kevin McKidd, Ray Stevenson and Polly Walker. Then performing in Matt Whitecross' more recent "*Fleming*" (2014), alongside Dominic Cooper and Lara Pulver. She also appeared in episodes of Marc Munden's multi-award winning "*The Crimson Petal and the White*" (2011) and John Maybury's "*The Borgias*", which was nominated for a Golden Globe.

Rutherford has also starred in Riverside Studio's theatrical production, "Three Women".

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES

### ANDY SERKIS – DIRECTOR

**ANDY SERKIS** is an award-winning actor who has earned acclaim from both critics and audiences for his work in a range of memorable roles. He gained legions of fans around the globe for his performance as Gollum in the Academy Award®-winning *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, directed by Peter Jackson. Serkis won an Empire Award for his role, in addition to sharing in several Outstanding Ensemble Cast Awards, including a Screen Actors Guild Award®. Reuniting with Jackson, he played two roles in the director's epic retelling of *King Kong*, taking performance capture to another level as the title character of Kong, and also appearing as Lumpy, the ship's cook.

Serkis is currently in post-production on his directorial debut, *Breathe*, which brings to life the inspiring true love story between Robin Cavendish (Andrew Garfield) and his wife Diana (Claire Foy), an adventurous couple who refuse to give up in the face of a devastating disease. The film is scheduled for an October 13th release in the United States. In addition, Serkis is in post-production on *Jungle Book: Origins*, an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" for Warner Bros, in which he serves as director, producer and actor (in the role of "Baloo").

This summer, he starred in *War for The Planet of The Apes*, for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox and director Matt Reeves. His performance as "Caesar" in 2011's *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* received acclaim from both journalists and audiences worldwide, earning him a Critics Choice Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor from the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

Most recently, Serkis appeared as "Supreme Leader Snoke" in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and will reprise his role in the next installment of the Star Wars Saga in *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*.

He served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Director on Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit* trilogy (most recently, *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*) and reprised the role of "Gollum" in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

In 2011, Serkis founded The Imaginarium alongside producer Jonathan Cavendish, a multi-platform production company linked to a performance capture studio focusing on next-generation storytelling. The first Imaginarium projects include two films released in October 2017- *Breathe*, directed by Serkis, starring Andrew Garfield & Claire Foy, and *The Ritual*, starring Rafe Spall, for which Serkis is Executive Producer. The Imaginarium and Warner Bros' *Jungle Book: Origins* will be released in 2018.

Other recent credits include a starring role as “Captain Haddock” alongside Jamie Bell’s “Tintin” in *The Adventures of Tintin*, from director Steven Spielberg and producers Spielberg, Peter Jackson and Kathleen Kennedy, and had co-starring roles in *Death of a Superhero* and *Brighton Rock*.

In 2010, Serkis received critical acclaim and accolades for his portrayal of punk-rock legend “Ian Dury” in the film *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll* for director Mat Whitecross. The role earned Serkis a BAFTA nomination for Best Actor. He also played C19<sup>th</sup> grave robber “William Hare”, opposite Simon Pegg’s “William Burke”, in John Landis’ black comedy *Burke & Hare*.

On the small screen, Serkis appeared in the BBC miniseries *Little Dorrit*, based on Charles Dickens’ classic tale, which garnered him a 2009 Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He also starred in as Nobel Prize-winning physicist “Albert Einstein” in the BBC/HBO production of *Einstein and Eddington*.

Serkis previously earned Golden Globe and BAFTA TV Award nominations for his performance as “Ian Brady” in HBO’s *Longford*. He also garnered acclaim for the role of “Bill Sikes” in the PBS presentation of *Oliver Twist*. British television audiences also know him for a wide range of roles in telefilms, miniseries and series.

Serkis’s feature film credits include Christopher Nolan’s acclaimed drama *The Prestige*; the comedy *13 Going on 30*, with Jennifer Garner; and the indie films *The Cottage*, *Extraordinary Rendition* and *Sugarhouse*. He also lent his voice to the animated feature *Flushed Away* and starred in Michael Winterbottom’s *24 Hour Party People* and Mike Leigh’s *Topsy-Turvy*. Serkis includes among his additional film credits such independent releases such as *Deathwatch*, *The Escapist*, *Shiner*, *Pandaemonium*, *The Jolly Boys’ Last Stand*, *Five Seconds to Spare*, *Sweetie Barrett*, *Among Giants*, *Mojo*, *Career Girls*, *Loop*, *Stella Does Tricks* and *The Near Room*.

An accomplished stage actor, Serkis has received acclaim for his work on the stages of London and across the United Kingdom. He starred as “Iago” in *Othello*, at the Royal Exchange Theatre; played the Emcee in *Cabaret*; and originated the role of “Potts” in Jez Butterworth’s *Mojo*, at the Royal Court Theatre. His stage work also includes productions of *King Lear*, *Hush*, and *Decadence*. In 2003, he made his directorial debut with the play *The Double Bass* at London’s Southwark Playhouse.

As a director, Serkis also helmed the award-winning *Heavenly Sword*<sup>™</sup> for PLAYSTATION®3 and *Enslaved: Odyssey to the West* for Namco Bandai Games. In addition, he wrote and directed a short film called *Snake*, starring his wife, Lorraine Ashbourne and Rupert Graves.

## **JONATHAN CAVENDISH – PRODUCER**

Jonathan studied Modern History at Oxford University before working at London advertising agency BMP, where he ran the marketing for the launch of Channel 4.

In 1991 his first film DECEMBER BRIDE was released and won over 30 international awards, including the Special Jury Prize at the European Film Awards. Many other award-winning and commercially successful independent films followed, including Mike Newell's INTO THE WEST starring Gabriel Byrne and Ellen Barkin, Paul McGuigan's GANGSTER NUMBER 1 starring Paul Bettany and Malcolm McDowell, Thaddeus O'Sullivan's ORDINARY DECENT CRIMINAL starring Kevin Spacey and Colin Farrell and Mike Hodges's CROUPIER starring Clive Owen.

2001 saw the release of BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY, starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant. The film's worldwide box office totaled \$280 million, and was followed by the equally successful BRIDGET JONES : THE EDGE OF REASON. The award-winning ELIZABETH : THE GOLDEN AGE starred Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush.

Jonathan has produced a wide variety of successful television projects including the ratings hit Irish famine series THE HANGING GALE starring the McGann brothers and Michael Kitchen, Emmy winning DIRTY TRICKS starring Martin Clunes and multi-Emmy and Golden Globe nominated BERNARD AND DORIS starring Susan Sarandon and Ralph Fiennes.

Alongside actor/director Andy Serkis, Jonathan founded the Imaginarium Studios. The company has provided performance capture and character creation services for an array of international hits including STAR WARS, THE AVENGERS and GODZILLA. Imaginarium Productions is a multi-platform production company, which creates its own IP. Its first two movies come out in October 2017, BREATHE directed by Andy Serkis and starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy, and THE RITUAL, directed by David Bruckner and starring Rafe Spall, both produced by Jonathan. He is also producing Andy Serkis's THE JUNGLE BOOK: ORIGINS for Warner Bros, starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Andy Serkis and Benedict Cumberbatch.

## **WILLIAM NICHOLSON – WRITER**

William Nicholson was born in 1948, and grew up in Sussex and Gloucestershire. He was educated at Downside School and Christ's College, Cambridge, and then joined BBC Television, where he worked as a documentary film maker. There his ambition to write, directed first into novels, was channelled into television drama. His plays for television include Shadowlands and Life Story, both of which won the BAFTA Best Television Drama

award in their year; other award-winners were *Sweet As You Are* and *The March*. In 1988 he received the Royal Television Society's Writer's Award. His first play, an adaptation of *Shadowlands* for the stage, was Evening Standard Best Play of 1990, and went on to a Tony Award winning run on Broadway. He was nominated for an Oscar for the screenplay of the film version, which was directed by Richard Attenborough and starred Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger.

Since then his film credits include: *Sarafina, Nell, First Knight, Grey Owl, Gladiator* (as co-writer, for which he received a second Oscar nomination), *Elizabeth: the Golden Age, Les Misérables, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, Unbroken, and Everest*. He has written and directed his own film, *Firelight*; and four further stage plays, *Map of the Heart, Katherine Howard, The Retreat from Moscow* (which ran for five months on Broadway and received three Tony Award nominations), and *Crash*.

His fantasy novel for older children, *The Wind Singer*, won the Smarties Prize Gold Award on publication in 2000, and the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award in 2001. Its sequel, *Slaves of the Mastery*, was published in 2001, and the final volume in the trilogy, *Firesong*, in 2002. The trilogy has been sold in every major foreign market, from the US to China.

His second sequence of fantasy novels is called *The Noble Warriors*. The first book is *Seeker* (2005), the second book, *Jango* (2006) and the third book *Noman* (2007).

His love-and-sex novel for teens, *Rich and Mad*, was published in 2010.

His novels for adults are *The Society of Others* (2004), *The Trial of True Love* (2005), *The Secret Intensity of Everyday Life* (2009), *All the Hopeful Lovers* (2010) *The Golden Hour* (2011), *Motherland* (2013), *Reckless* (2014) and *The Lovers of Amherst* (2015).

He lives in Sussex with his wife, the social historian Virginia Nicholson, and their three children.

## **ROBERT RICHARDSON – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Robert Richardson – Three Time Academy Award Winner (*JFK, The Aviator, Hugo*)

Prior to becoming a regular collaborator with such prominent directors as Oliver Stone and Quentin Tarantino, cinematographer Robert Richardson served his apprenticeship shooting second unit on *Repo Man* (1984) while filming television documentaries for PBS and the BBC.



His television work led Stone to hire him to shoot *Salvador* (1986) and *Platoon* (1986), both of which required a cinema verite style that only a documentary cinematographer could offer. From there, he worked almost exclusively for Stone, filming *Wall Street* (1987), *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989) and *The Doors* (1991), while occasionally branching out to shoot films like John Sayles' *Eight Men Out* (1988) and *City of Hope* (1991). But it was his stunning work using a multitude of stock and cameras to create a documentary feel for *JFK* (1991), which earned the cinematographer his first Academy Award.

While he sharpened the hyperkinetic style of *JFK* in *Natural Born Killers* (1994), *Nixon* (1995) and *U-Turn* (1997), Richardson was in-demand by other top Hollywood directors like Tarantino and Martin Scorsese, both of whom tapped the director of photography for films like *Bringing Out the Dead* (1999), *Kill Bill, Vol. 1* (2003) and *Kill Bill, Vol. 2* (2004). Richardson earned Oscars two and three for his work with Scorsese on *The Aviator* (2004) and *Hugo* (2011). As he continued to earn acclaim for projects like Tarantino's *Django Unchained* (2012), *The Hateful Eight* (2015) and *Live By Night* (2016) for Director Ben Affleck and *Breathe* (2016) for Director Andy Serkis there is no doubt that Richardson is one of the finest cinematographers working in Hollywood.

### **JAMES MERIFIELD – PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

James Merifield began his career as a theatre designer which led him to work closely with director Ken Russell on various operas. This resulted in James designing his first drama for the BBC, Ken Russell's *LADY CHATTERLEY*.

James' most recent credits include *GUERNSEY* with director Mike Newell, starring Lily James; *BREATHE*, directed by Andy Serkis and starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy for The Imaginarium Studios; and *FINAL PORTRAIT*, directed by Stanley Tucci for Olive Films starring Geoffrey Rush.

In 2001, James was nominated for his first BAFTA TV Award for Best Production Design for Channel 4's *THE LIFE & ADVENTURES OF NICOLAS NICKLEBY* and then went on to be nominated for a BAFTA and won the EMMY for Outstanding Art Direction in 2008 for BBC's *LITTLE DORRIT*.

Previous film credits include *BRIGHTON ROCK* directed by Rowan Joffe and starring Helen Mirren and *THE DEEP BLUE SEA* directed by Terence Davies, starring Rachel Weisz. James has also worked on the Jerusha Hes directed feature *AUSTENLAND* which was produced by Stephenie Meyers, Richard Laxton's *EFFIE GRAY* starring Dakota Fanning and Emma Thompson and *A LITTLE CHAOS* directed by Alan Rickman and starring Kate Winslet.

James is currently working on MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS with director Josie Rourke for Working Title, starring Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie.

### **NITIN SAWHNEY – COMPOSER**

The choice of opening notes in a composition about Nitin Sawhney is dizzying. They could be about his 2017 Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement Award, his new Sadler's Wells production or the next entries in a distinguished catalogue of major film scores, his shows at Shakespeare's Globe, his exciting television ventures with Tony Visconti, or his incredible voyage through every style and medium you can think of.

Finding the start point for a Sawhney biography presents as many options and avenues as his remarkable career itself. "Renaissance man" is a phrase often used, but his endless artistic inquisitiveness make him the modern music industry's embodiment of that expression.

As he was preparing for a typically intense period of progressive new work, Sawhney's Lifetime Achievement recognition at the Ivor Novello awards stood as a staging post for what he's delivered to date. He is rightly seen as one of the architects of Britain's so-called Asian Underground movement, but he's done more than almost anybody to help it go overground. Not that he ever usually stands still long enough to glance over his shoulder.

As an artist, producer, songwriter, club DJ, broadcaster, multi-instrumentalist, orchestral composer and cultural tastemaker, Nitin Sawhney is a talent for the British music industry to be truly proud of. Now, with a depth of experience admired by workmates from Brian Eno to Jeff Beck and from the London Symphony Orchestra to Paul McCartney, he has a host of challenging new ideas.

At any given point, Nitin's diary bulges with projects stretching months and years ahead, but summer 2017 sees the fruition of several particularly fascinating endeavours. In late July, he served as Musical Director for Tony Visconti's *A Life In Music* concert at London's Union Chapel, featuring guests Stewart Copeland, Bob Geldof, Imelda May and Holy Holy, the latter Visconti's salute to the early music of one of the legends he helped create, David Bowie.

Filmed for a Sky Arts special, those would be ingredients enough for a remarkable night, but it doesn't end there. Recognising the 50-year career of Visconti, a muse who is Sawhney's direct forebear in many ways, the gig will feature music by other artists whose sound Tony shaped, including Marc Bolan & T. Rex and Thin Lizzy. But the stage will also be adorned

with some outstanding fresh talent, leading to Sky Arts' upcoming six-part series *Tony Visconti's Unsigned Heroes*, airing in September with Sawhney again as Musical Director.

The pair may have had vastly different geographical origins, Visconti growing up in Brooklyn and Sawhney in Kent, but they were almost fated to work together. Visconti stated that Nitin has accomplished everything he always wanted to do but never had the time. - A prolific composer who has contributed countless scores to many films, TV shows and documentaries, Nitin is a very accomplished and talented guitarist and on other instruments, too, but Visconti, having heard his amazing guitar playing face to face, was so stunned it made his 'jaw drop'.

September holds the appetising promise of Sadler's Wells' fully choreographed production of Sawhney's 2015 album *Dystopian Dream*. As an Associate Artist of the revered performing arts venue since 2010, he's worked there on myriad collaborations, and now sees the fruition of a long-held ambition, to mount an already remarkable album in this groundbreaking audio-visual setting.

After an acclaimed first performance at the Royal Albert Hall last year, the music and dance production — created from Sawhney's own concept and co-devised with Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez — will receive its world premiere in Luxembourg in September. That will be followed by a UK premiere at Sadler's Wells in autumn 2018.

Even before that, in August, Sawhney takes to the stage in his own right, firstly as part of the *India & Me* series inspired by the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian independence. Virtually a one-man presentation at London's Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, part of Shakespeare's Globe, the show will be rich with his own experiences growing up as a British Indian. It will be followed, at the Globe itself, by a full gig with his band, only the second time the hallowed space has been used for such a show.

Raised in Rochester, Kent, Sawhney played classical and jazz piano, guitar, tabla and sitar and was friends from school years with a fellow enquiring mind, keyboard virtuoso James Taylor. Nitin became an early touring member of his celebrated James Taylor Quartet, but as a second-generation British Asian with so much to say, it was already obvious that his scope couldn't be limited to any one medium.

After Sawhney left university he teamed up with his college friend Sanjeev Bhaskar in a comedy duo, the Secret Asians. Years later, they would work together again on the smash hit TV sketch series *Goodness Gracious Me*, for which Nitin won a Sony Radio Award as both a writer and performer. Other passion projects in radio accrued in later years, including several series of his own BBC Radio 2 show, *Nitin Sawhney Spins The Globe*, in which he not only introduced global treats on disc, but created some of his own.

Back in earlier days, Sawhney's name appeared above the title on an album for the first time with 1994's *Spirit Dance*, on the seminal World Circuit label. It won immediate admiration, became his first to break into the mainstream UK charts, and set in motion a bespoke body of recorded work that was realising its full potential by the time of 1999's seminal *Beyond Skin*. That album took the theme of nuclear conflict and spoke so loudly that it won the South Bank Show Award and was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize.

A deal with V2 Records ensued and led to three releases for the label, two of which, *Prophesy* and *Philtre*, won the Boundary Crossing title at the BBC Radio 3 Music Awards. *Prophesy* went silver in 2013; the same year, *Beyond Skin* arrived at gold certification. Another album landmark was 2008's *London Undersound*, featuring guest appearances by McCartney, Imogen Heap, Natty and Anoushka Shankar; Sawhney went on to produce Shankar's Grammy-nominated 2013 release *Traces Of You*.

Sawhney's stage work has also seen him as a director, for Sadler's Wells with *Confluence* and for National Theatre workshops of his own play, *Trust*. He won a New York Performance and Dance Award for best score with Akram Khan's *Zero Degrees*, scored *Bahok* for the Royal Ballet of China and wrote the music for Théâtre de Complicité's Olivier Award-winning *A Disappearing Number*, among many others.

With some 50 movie scores to his name already, he's written the music for *Breathe*, an inspiring true love story, starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy and directed by Andy Serkis to be released in theatres in October. Upcoming film credits include *Jungle Book: Origins* starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett and Benedict Cumberbatch, directed by Andy Serkis and scheduled for release in 2018.

Sawhney is passionate about the field of musical education, and has six honorary doctorates from British universities. He has been patron of the British Government's training provider Access to Music and is a fellow of LIPA (the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) and the Southbank University.

Not only does Nitin work in just about every traditional medium you can imagine, he helps develop the newest ones. He's worked extensively with the UK games developers Ninja Theory, composing the music for their cutting edge, bestselling video games, *Heavenly Sword*, *Pigsy* and *Enslaved*. His orchestral score for *Enslaved*, with the Prague Philharmonic, won an Ivor Novello nomination.

Now Sawhney is on the leading edge of Virtual Reality. Notably, he's been working on a version of his *Dystopian Dream* album with Serkis. Nitin believes that music always has a part to play in every version of reality we have. So on each platform, or each medium, there are new ways of looking at music. Virtual Reality, as a way of recording, gives you a new way

to become intimate with the listener and get into their mindset, and find new ways of making that connection.

### **MASAHIRO HIRAKUBO – EDITOR**

Masahiro Hirakubo started his career in the BBC Editorial Department where he edited documentaries, plays and drama series including *Mr Wroe's Virgins* and *The Green Man* for which he was BAFTA nominated. Feature films include *Trainspotting*, *Shallow Grave*, *Life Less Ordinary* and *The Beach* for director Danny Boyle. Other Feature Films include *The Pass*, *The Duchess*, *Machan*, *Bel Ami*, *Ella Enchanted*, *The Hi-Lo Country*, *Bullet Boy*, *The Chatroom* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Following the success of titles such as *Uncle Howard* and *We Are Together*, which won multiple awards including the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival, Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival, Amnesty International Film Festival and the Special Jury Award at the Prague One World Film Festival. He also edited the brilliant *Virunga* which was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Tribeca Film Festival and the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature for the 87th Academy Awards and the feature documentary *White Helmets* which won Best Documentary Short at this year's Academy Awards.

### **CHARLOTTE WALTER – COSTUME DESIGNER**

Charlotte Walter is a highly acclaimed Costume Designer with an enviable list of credits.

Her versatility has seen her work on a varied range of films including Michael Winterbottom's *A Mighty Heart* starring Angelina Jolie, Chris Morris' *Four Lions*, Richard Ayoade's *Submarine* and Dan Mazer's *I Give it a Year*.

Her television work also reflects her ability to adapt. She won the BAFTA for her work in *Birdsong*, an adaptation of the much loved novel by Sebastian Faulks. Further, she has designed costumes for *This is England: 86* for which she was also nominated for both a BAFTA and RTS Award, and *Red Riding: 1980* one of the four part adaptation of the David Peace novels.

### **JAN SEWELL – HAIR & MAKE-UP AND PROSTHETICS DESIGNER**

Jan Sewell has won a BAFTA Award for her hair and make-up work and has been nominated a further five times. Her most recent nominations came in 2015 for *The Theory of Everything*, starring Eddie Redmayne in his Academy Award-winning portrayal of Stephen Hawking, and in 2016 for *The Danish Girl*, again starring Eddie Redmayne alongside Alicia

Vikander. As well as receiving BAFTA nominations, her work on these films also earned her consecutive dual Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist Guild Award nominations.

Some of the other films that Jan has designed include: Alejandro Amenábar's historical epic *Agora*, starring Rachel Weisz, for which she won a Goya Award; *Everest*, directed by Baltasar Kormákur and starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Josh Brolin; Richard Ayoade's *The Double*, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Mia Wasikowska; and Lee Tamahori's *The Devil's Double*, starring Dominic Cooper in a dual role.

Upcoming films include: Benedict Andrews's *Una*, adapted by David Harrower from his acclaimed play, starring Rooney Mara and Ben Mendelsohn; *Tomb Raider*, reuniting her with Alicia Vikander who takes on the iconic role of Lara Croft; and *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a biopic about rock icon Freddie Mercury starring Rami Malek and directed by Bryan Singer.

### **LUCY BEVAN - CASTING DIRECTOR**

Lucy trained with the casting director Mary Selway. Her credits include British independent films *An Education*, which garnered breakout star Carey Mulligan an Oscar nomination for Best Actress, Dustin Hoffman's *Quartet* and Lone Scherfig's *Their Finest*.

Upcoming US studio films that Lucy cast include Fox's '*Murder on The Orient Express*', Steven Spielberg's '*Ready Player One*' and recently released '*Beauty & The Beast*' for Disney. Lucy also cast Kenneth Branagh's 'Cinderella' for Disney and his West End Theatre Season, including *Romeo & Juliet* starring Lily James and *The Winter's Tale* starring Judi Dench.