



INSERT SEASON TITLE HERE IN CAPS

Brian and Charles + Q&A

+ Q&A with director Jim Archer, and writer-actors David Earl and Chris Hayward

A winning new 'odd couple' comedy based on a successful short film. Comedian David Earl (*Derek, Extras, After Life*) co-wrote and stars as the eccentric recluse Brian, who, trapped on a remote farm in northern Wales, tinkers meaninglessly with scrap machinery. One day, to combat loneliness, he makes something that actually works: Charles, a seven-foot tall walking and talking robot (Hayward) with his own awkward but loveable personality and a taste for cabbages. They quickly develop a father-son bond (put to the test during the bot's 'angry teen' phase), and take on the village bullies – to comic and heart-warming effect. It's the film we need now. Unmissable.

Mia Bays, Director of BFI Film Fund

Director's Statement

Brian and Charles is about a lot of things. I wouldn't want to dictate to anyone who watches it what interpretation they should have. Primarily, it's about loneliness and the power of friendship and companionship. Charles is such a blank slate that you can put a lot of interpretations onto him and I think it works. When we made the short (which inspired the film), we got a lot of comments about how people related to their relationship to the characters in totally different ways, whether it is raising a child or having a parent with dementia. Therefore, whatever interpretation you have, you are CORRECT! But also, it is there just to make you laugh.

It's such a bizarre premise and Charles is so ridiculous looking that my intention with this film was always to treat it as seriously as possible. Make it look like a real documentary, not a tried and tested Mockumentary but something more cinematic and atmospheric. Initially, I wanted to do that as I thought it would be funny to treat these characters completely earnestly. But additionally, in the story, there is a lot of heart and tragedy, and it deserved to be taken seriously. You need to believe in their relationship and that Charles is more than a mannequin's head stuck onto a washing machine. Once we achieved this, then I think the comedy takes care of itself. I'm excited to see if audiences agree and can't wait to share it with you all!

Jim Archer (Director)

Jim cut his teeth shooting comedy sketches with friends before writing and directing his debut short film *Intervention*. He has since gone on to win gold at the 'Young Director Awards' in Cannes, be awarded 3 Vimeo 'Staff Picks' (one a 'best of the month' Staff Pick) for his short films and earn plaudits for his Television work. He directed the second series of the hit BBC sitcom *The Young Offenders* and most recently wrapped on new Channel 4 series *Big Boys*.

David Earl (Brian)

David Earl is a British actor and comedian, best known for his stand-up comedy character Brian Gittins. Alongside Chris Hayward, he's written and stars in *Brian and Charles* for Film4. He is a frequent collaborator of Ricky Gervais and has appeared in many of his projects, including comedy-drama *Derek* as the seedy role 'Kev' and more recently as 'Brian' in the award-winning series *Afterlife* for Netflix.

Other credits include *Sick Note*, *Drunk History* and *Extras*. Earl also works frequently with comic Joe Wilkinson. Together they co-wrote and starred in the sitcom *Rovers*, and the comedy series *The Cockfields*.

Chris Hayward (Charles)

Chris is an imaginative writer/performer with extensive experience of the UK comedy scene. He has written for shows including *Cardinal Burns* and *Trollied*, and landed development deals with Channel Four, Sky, BBC, ABC, Fox and CBS. As an actor, he has appeared in shows such as *The It Crowd*, *King Gary*, *Pls Like*, and *Friday Night Dinner*.

BRIAN AND CHARLES

Directed by: Jim Archer

©: Brian and Charles Film Ltd, Channel Four Television Corporation, The British Film Institute

Developed with the assistance of: Film4

Made with the support of: BFI's Film Fund

Presented by: Focus Features

This production was made possible by the support of: HM Treasury & DCMS' Film and TV Production Restart Scheme

International Sales: Bankside Films Ltd

Executive Producers: Damian Jones, Lauren Dark, Ollie Madden, Daniel Battsek, Mary Burke, Jim Reeve Halmi

Produced by: Rupert Majendie

Line Producer: John Palfrey-Smith

Production Manager: Tricia Cooklin

Production Accountant: Patrick Kelly

Supervising Location Manager: Julia Gurry

Location Manager: Geraint 'Giz' Jones

Post-production Supervisor: Jackie Vance

1st Assistant Director: Ina Lüders

Script Supervisor: Dionne Grant

Casting Director: Catherine Willis

Written by: David Earl, Chris Hayward

Director of Photography: Murren Tullet

Special Effects Supervisor: Pert Costello

Editor: Jo Walker

Production Designer: Hannan Purdy Foggin

Art Director: Jo Scholar

Costume Designer: Gabriela Yiaxis

Hair and Make-up Designer: Red Miller

Colourist: Matthieu Toullet

Music by: Daniel Pemberton

Music Supervisor: David Fish

Production Sound Mixer: Calum Sample

Re-recording Mixer: Robert Farr

Supervising Sound Editor: David Crane

Stunt Co-ordinator: Kevin Smith

Cast

David Earl (*Brian*)

Chris Hayward (*Charles*)

Louise Brealey (*Hazel*)

Jaime Michie (*Eddie*)

Nina Sosanya (*Pam*)

Lynn Hunter (*Winnie*)

Lowri Izzard (*Katrina*)

Mari Izzard (*Suki*)

Cara Chase (*June*)

Sunil Patel (*Phil*)

Rishi Nair (*Stephen Anderson*)

Colin Bennett (*Arthur*)

Vivienne Soan (*toffee apple woman*)

David Edwards (*Oliver*)

Nicholas Asbury (*Stu*)

UK 2022

90 mins

BECOME A BFI MEMBER

Enjoy a great package of film benefits including priority booking at BFI Southbank and BFI Festivals. Join today at [bfi.org.uk/join](https://www.bfi.org.uk/join)

BFI PLAYER

We are always open online on BFI Player where you can watch the best new, cult & classic cinema on demand. Showcasing hand-picked landmark British and independent titles, films are available to watch in three distinct ways: Subscription, Rentals & Free to view.

See something different today on [player.bfi.org.uk](https://www.player.bfi.org.uk)

BFI SOUTHBANK

Welcome to the home of great film and TV, with three cinemas and a studio, a world-class library, regular exhibitions and a pioneering Mediatheque with 1000s of free titles for you to explore. Browse special-edition merchandise in the BFI Shop.

We're also pleased to offer you a unique new space, the BFI Riverfront – with unrivalled riverside views of Waterloo Bridge and beyond, a delicious seasonal menu, plus a stylish balcony bar for cocktails or special events. Come and enjoy a pre-cinema dinner or a drink on the balcony as the sun goes down.

Join the BFI mailing list for regular programme updates. Not yet registered? Create a new account at www.bfi.org.uk/signup

Programme notes and credits compiled by the BFI Documentation Unit

Notes may be edited or abridged. Questions/comments? Email prognotes@bfi.org.uk

The British Film Institute is a charity registered in England and Wales No. 287780