



M A R V

# Kingsman

## THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

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### PRODUCTION NOTES V2

Certificate – 15

Running time – 141 minutes

When Matthew Vaughn's *Kingsman: The Secret Service* opened in early 2015, several things happened. First of all, it introduced the Kingsmen, an independent, self-funded British spy organisation dedicated to keeping the world safe whilst, thanks to their cover as a high-end tailors, looking like they'd just stepped out of a Savile Row shop front window. We met Harry Hart aka Galahad, a suave gentleman spy played by Colin Firth with grace, charm and the ability to wield a lethal umbrella. There was Merlin (Mark Strong), the organisation's fastidious Scottish tech guru; Chester King aka Arthur (Michael Caine), a leader with a dark side; Roxy (Sophie Cookson), an eager new recruit. And, last but certainly not least, Eggsy (Taron Egerton), a kid from the wrong side of the tracks who is recruited, taken under Harry's wing, and who finally becomes a true Kingsman, rough edges and all.

Secondly, it was a no-holds-barred, boundlessly inventive action film that played with and subverted the tropes established by a thousand spy movies before it, with Vaughn and co-writer Jane Goldman coming up with a fast, funny and consistently surprising concoction that constantly broke the rules and brought us things that had never been seen in a mainstream movie before, from an exhilarating action sequence set in a church to a setpiece where dozens of heads explode to the strains of Edward Elgar's "Pomp & Circumstance".

Thirdly, audiences around the world ate up the combination of old-school spy thrills and bright, new, modern twists. *Kingsman: The Secret Service* made over \$400 million worldwide, and paved the way for a sequel. That sequel is *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, in which Eggsy and the Kingsmen return to team up with an American organisation to tackle a megalomaniacal, deluded villain with designs on taking over the world. And it presented Vaughn — a man who has reinvigorated the gangster movie, the superhero movie and the fantasy movie with aplomb — with the challenge of his career.

## **PLANTING THE SEEDS**

"I set up the first one so there could be a sequel," says Vaughn. And *Kingsman: The Secret Service* does end with Eggsy and Roxy, having combined to vanquish the global threat posed by billionaire villain Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson), becoming fully-fledged Kingsmen. "As a director I enjoyed making the first one so much that the idea was appealing. But sequels are very hard. The audience loves what's gone before, but if you do the same thing, it's boring and unoriginal."

Vaughn looked at a number of sequels that he felt matched, or even surpassed, their predecessor, including *The Godfather Part II* and *The Empire Strikes Back*; films that were

neither boring or unoriginal. “The sequels I love are a continuation of a story,” he says. And the chief story he wanted to continue was Eggsy’s. “We didn’t want it to be a James Bond-style sequel where Eggsy’s facing another threat, but he’s static as a character,” says Jane Goldman, who has been Vaughn’s writing partner on every movie he’s directed since 2007’s *Stardust*. “We talked about another journey he could take.”

That journey sees Eggsy holding down a relationship with Princess Tilde (Hanna Alström), the Swedish princess whose life was saved by Eggsy at the end of *The Secret Service*, and who rewarded him for his endeavours in rather an unorthodox manner. “In spy movies, there’s a parade of different women in every film,” says Goldman. “With *Kingsman* we wanted to subvert and challenge everything and loved this idea — what if that wasn’t just casual at the end of the first movie? What if that turned into a serious relationship — how does that affect his position?”

*Kingsman: The Secret Service* represented the first time Egerton had ever set foot on a movie set, let alone taken the lead role. Since then the young Welsh actor has gone from strength to strength, with roles in the likes of *Legend*, *Eddie The Eagle* (also produced by Vaughn), *Sing*, and the upcoming *Robin Hood*. Yet he was delighted to return to the role where it all began for him. “It’s my first experience of coming back for a sequel, but it’s never felt daunting because Matthew is still at the helm,” he says. “Eggzy is very much a part of me.”

Even though the movie begins with Eggsy having been a *Kingsman* — codename Galahad — for almost two years, both Vaughn and Egerton were keen that the character not be infallible; that elements of the cocky lad from a council estate remained. “The rough edges haven’t sanded off,” explains Egerton. “He still fucks up. He still has to escape through sewers and emerge covered in shit. That’s not Harry Hart, that’s Eggsy. We even see him return to his Adidas hoody — that’s who he is on his downtime.”

When it came to sketching out Eggsy’s journey, Vaughn looked again to one of his favourite movies for inspiration — *Star Wars*. “The best example for me of a mainstream character taking a journey over several films is Luke Skywalker,” he says. “In *The Empire Strikes Back*, there’s this feeling that your hero is still not quite a hero, he’s still got conflict going on. I tried to apply that to *The Golden Circle*.”

## A POPPY GROWS

Every hero is only as strong as their villain, of course. And in *The Golden Circle*, that conflict comes from the introduction of Poppy Adams, a drug dealer who, as head of the mysterious Golden Circle criminal enterprise, sets in place a nefarious plan that sets her on a collision course with Eggsy. For Vaughn, the villain's plot was of paramount importance.

"One morning I woke up with the whole storyline in place," he recalls. "I was worried about the villain. It's really hard to come up with a villain plot that doesn't seem silly, and that's relevant, and that's believable." In the first movie, Valentine's scheme to reduce the world's population significantly, and thus ease the burden on the environment, by transmitting a signal that caused people to give into homicidal urges may have been utterly insidious, but came from a vaguely well-meaning place. "Valentine's plot made sense, and the environment is a problem," adds Vaughn. "Poppy's plot, I guarantee people will be debating. Is she right? Is she wrong? Her aspirations make sense, but her method of making that happen really isn't very nice!"

For the role, Vaughn and Goldman were keen to once again bring the audience something they hadn't seen before, so reached out to Moore to play Poppy (via Colin Firth, with whom she had worked previously). "I loved the first one, I thought it was wildly inventive and funny," says Moore. Clinging to dreams of her homeland, Poppy has taken over an ancient ruin in Southeast Asia and ploughed some of her vast fortune into building Poppyland, a villain's lair-cum-theme park complete with all things Americana – including a beauty salon, a bowling alley, a concert hall, and a lavish diner that doubles as her office, dominated by a shiny and terribly sinister mincing machine. "She's very interested in American pop culture and misses it," adds Moore. "Everything in her world is there to satisfy her need to be at home."

Vaughn's fondness for practical, old-school stunts, effects and sets meant that Poppyland had to be built for real at Longcross Studios, just outside London. "That was a fully made interior/exterior set," says producer Adam Bohling of the astonishing set, described by fellow producer David Reid as "Cambodia, just off the M25!"

The Poppyland set was overseen by the film's production designer, Darren Gilford and his art director, Joe Howard. "He basically lived there for five months," laughs Gilford. "Every detail was under his supervision. Poppyland was so much fun to think about. Matthew wanted something that would frame Poppy in a cross between Vegas and Disneyland, but built into a crazy old ruin. What would Poppy want in terms of her businesses? So we did a bowling alley, a beauty salon, a hotdog shop. All of these whimsical fun things. She wants to build a piece of Americana in her prison, so we mashed in the Martha Stewart vibe."

Vaughn describes Poppy, an ex-pat who is unable to return to the United States for legal, and very illegal, reasons, as “America’s sweetheart gone very wrong”. Moore elaborates: “There’s something very human and appealing and approachable about her. But she’s still very much a villain. She’s a funny character but clearly a sociopath. Being able to play that duality, so she’s nothing like a moustache-twirling villain and has some charm, was really intriguing.”

When it came to designing a look for Poppy, Moore worked closely with Arianne Phillips, returning as costume designer from the first movie. “Arianne is awesome,” says Moore. “Matthew wanted a very classic American ladylike look, and Arianne and I wanted to make it timeless. Her look is so American and appealing and ladylike.” Not giving any hint of what lies underneath, which was very deliberate on Phillips’ part. “I wanted her to be very vibrant in colour,” she explains. And Poppy’s colour, which is splashed all over Poppyland, is predominantly red. “She has an American optimism, and a friendly demeanour. As evil as she is, she’s likeable and all smiles. I wanted to create that juxtaposition in her costume.”

## ENTER THE STATESMEN

The Golden Circle begins with a huge shock: a devastating attack is launched on the organisation. “It puts Eggsy in a position where he has to go out, spread his wings, and meet other people,” explains Vaughn of this epoch-shaking moment. “I didn’t feel I *had* to blow up Kingsman, it was just the natural thing to do.”

After the attack, Eggsy teams up with Merlin — who appears to be the only other survivor — to investigate the circumstances behind it. The Kingsman’s ‘Doomsday Protocol’ leads them to Kentucky, where they discover that Kingsman isn’t the only name in international espionage. Welcome to the lavishly-funded all-American organisation, Statesman.

“They’re the American equivalent to the Kingsmen, and now they have to work together,” explains Vaughn. “American and English share a language, but we’re very different culturally. I wanted to riff on the special relationship. What people loved about Kingsman: The Secret Service was seeing Colin Firth and Taron Egerton’s different worlds colliding, and I wanted to continue that with the American world colliding with ours.”

Vaughn and Goldman conceived of the Statesmen as self-made billionaires whose foray into the bourbon business had given them immense wealth and the wherewithal to build incredible gadgets and weapons, on a scale beyond even the Kingsmen. But where Kingsman is all about

style and sophistication, Statesman embraces all out Americana. “I used to love cowboy movies as a kid,” says Vaughn. “I thought they were amazingly cool characters, and wanted to have some fun with Americana. So where we had an action sequence with an umbrella in the first Kingsman, here I wanted to do an action sequence with a lasso. We’ve given them whips that are cool as hell, and six-shooters which we’ve altered to make 12-shooters.”

Where Kingsman operates — or operated — out of a Savile Row tailor’s shop, a discreet and elegant front befitting of a discreet and elegant organisation, the Statesman HQ is a very different, much larger, and brasher kettle of fish. It’s a giant whiskey distillery in the heart of Kentucky — another huge challenge for production designer, Darren Gilford. “Matthew was definitely looking for an American sensibility to steer that,” says Gilford, who also had to build the Statesmen’s grand private plane. “We started doing research into Southern culture. That was the fabric we started to grow everything from for Statesmen. So with the distillery, there’s no hint of the spy organisation above ground. Below ground, we wanted to carry that same bourbon culture into a spy lab, which was really fun.”

Vaughn worked closely with Arianne Phillips to carve out a distinctive look for the Statesmen. As Halle Berry notes wryly, “They don’t go to the same tailors.” That thought was uppermost on Phillips’ mind. “I thought of what was quintessentially American,” she says. “Denim was a no-brainer, and cowboy boots. There’s a rogue cowboy Americana feel, and yet there’s similar tailoring to the Kingsmen. Different fabrics, but you can see the subtle connection that binds the two worlds.”

Although Statesman is a large organisation, the chief agents encountered by Eggsy and Merlin are: Champagne (Jeff Bridges), Tequila (Channing Tatum), Ginger Ale (Halle Berry) and Whiskey (Pedro Pascal). “All of the secret agents at Statesman happen to look like Hollywood A-listers,” laughs Egerton. “It’s very weird.”

The first Statesman we meet is Tatum’s Tequila, a swaggering spy who quickly gains the upper hand on the two British interlopers. “He’s one of the younger Statesmen, experience-wise,” says Tatum of his character. “And definitely the problem child.” Tatum was Vaughn and Goldman’s first choice for the role. “Channing is enormous fun,” says Jane Goldman. “He has such great physicality.”

Berry’s Ginger Ale is the team’s tech guru, the equivalent of Merlin in many ways. “I’ve never played a techy, cerebral character like this before,” says the Oscar-winning actress. “And there’s more to Ginger than meets the eye. And I think she can be deadly.”

As Champ (short for Champagne, which he thinks is “too frilly”), the experienced leader of the organisation, Vaughn turned to the great Jeff Bridges. No stranger to playing cowboys over the years, Bridges drew upon memories both of his father, Lloyd Bridges, and previous characters like Wild Bill Hickok for the role. “Champ can be laconic at times, and quite tense as well,” says Bridges. “And he loves his booze, that’s for sure. He really enjoys his job heading this organisation with these brilliant people — that fondness for play and work is something I observed in my father.”

The Statesman we, and Eggsy, spend most time with is Agent Whiskey, played by former Game Of Thrones star Pedro Pascal. “The relationship with Whiskey is fantastic,” says Egerton. “Eggzy is craving Harry’s fatherly guidance, and Whiskey begins to step into that role a little bit. But he’s a younger man, a rogue, a bit of a lothario and it’s not quite as wholesome as he would expect from Harry.”

Just as Harry Hart was inspired by David Niven, Vaughn had a very specific set of references in mind when creating Agent Whiskey. “I would describe him as the Marlboro Man sprinkled with James Coburn and Burt Reynolds,” says the director. “He’s got swagger. He has that Reynolds vibe. When was the last time we saw that Burt Reynolds-type character, with the smile and the cowboy hat and the moustache? Then Pedro walked into my life and I thought, ‘I’ve found him’.”

Pascal, best known for playing The Red Viper on the HBO’s, Game Of Thrones, came on board after a phone call with Vaughn, who outlined his vision for the character. He confesses that he was attracted by Whiskey’s roguishness. He’s a man who, somewhat aptly, lives his life perpetually on the rocks. “Jack has a very practical logic,” he says. “Seize the day and seize any opportunity to enjoy oneself. I wouldn’t call that sleazy. I’d call it smart. It’s just important for him to have a really good time.”

One thing that unites all the actors who play Statesmen is a fondness for Kingsman: The Secret Service. “I jumped at the chance,” admits Bridges. “I thought, that would be a fun party to attend.” Pascal talks fondly of arriving in London to find that the original movie has become something of a national treasure. “You talk to people and they just absolutely love Kingsman,” he laughs. “They’d be like, ‘what are you doing in London?’ I’d say, ‘I’m shooting a sequence for Kingsman’ and they’d be like, ‘OH MY GOD! I LOVE THAT MOVIE!’”

As for Tatum, he admits to being blown away by the first movie. “It turned the genre on its ear,” he says. “Matthew says, ‘there are no rules. As soon as you make a rule, you break it.’ And that’s a special tone to hit...”

And when it comes to breaking the rules...

## **WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT HARRY**

There’s no getting around it. Harry Hart is dead. Killed by Richmond Valentine outside the Kentucky church where Harry had just laid waste to a hundred or so people in *Kingsman: The Secret Service*’s most celebrated action sequence. And, just to remove any doubt, he was shot in the head. Fairly definitive.

And yet...

“I remember feeling sick when Harry died,” says Vaughn. “But the way I shot it, you never saw him die.” And it’s true — Harry’s death scene is shot from a distance, the audience spared the gory details. Almost as if subconsciously Vaughn was leaving the door open, even just a crack, for Harry’s return.

Which is what happens in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. Harry Hart is back. Vaughn and Goldman remain tightlipped on the details of Harry’s return (all Vaughn will venture is that Harry has “a cracking headache”), but both are adamant that they couldn’t envisage a sequel without the dapper, debonair gentleman spy. And certainly not without his reuniting with his protege, Eggsy. “The dynamic between him and Eggsy is so interesting,” says Goldman. “I found it was incredibly touching in the first movie. And we wanted a story and arc for them here that was impactful. We’ve had a lot of fun exploring their relationship and putting it under pressure.”

Vaughn is even more emphatic about the need for Harry’s return. “He is *the* Kingsman,” he says. “The franchise is the two of them. It’s extraordinary how much people loved their relationship in the last movie. The chemistry is there. I’ve always loved movies where it’s a double act, and they’re my double act.”

There is one thing about Harry that is immediately noticeable: as hinted at in a teaser poster that featured a pair of glasses with different lenses, “he’s lost an eye,” concedes Vaughn. This afforded the director and costume designer Arianne Phillips an opportunity to play with



Harry's look. While he does don the classic Kingsman suit at some point in the film, his new spectacles "are a permanent reminder of it," according to Phillips. "The idea of having a blocked-out lens was Matthew's brainchild, and really helps remind the audience that Harry is back, but different. Better than ever."

## **'ACTION!'**

If Kingsman: The Secret Service's bold characters and use of humour helped set it apart from the crowd, so too did its action sequences. From the introduction of Jack Davenport's short-lived Lancelot, nonchalantly taking out a group of bad guys before having to split, to the church massacre set to the strains of Lynyrd Skynyrd, and the final battle in Valentine's mountain lair which finally sees Eggsy earn his stripes, Vaughn and his second unit director, Brad Allan, crafted a string of kinetic, propulsive and exhilarating setpieces. Vaughn admits the challenge on The Golden Circle was not to simply repeat those moments. "We've got action sequences which are different," he says. "There are no exploding heads. Story made that sequence happen, and people enjoyed it because it was visually nuts, but there was a story behind that. So we have two or three sequences where the story has led me to some crazy, cool setpieces, but everything I try to do is for a reason."

Kingsman: The Golden Circle won't skimp on that patented Kingsman craziness, though, from an opening car chase in which Eggsy has to fight for his life in a Kingsman cab hurtling across London, to an all-out assault on Poppyland, and a barroom brawl which deliberately recalls the pub fight sequence from the first movie. "The fights are even more crazy," says Egerton. "But in terms of the setpieces, Matthew has tried to do different things. There's a sequence in the movie that has that hyper, one-shot feel, but you can't top the church scene. He'd rather move on and find something new."

Again, Vaughn is a stickler for doing as much of the stunts and action setpieces as practically as possible. "The planning that had to go into the car chase was incredible," says producer Adam Bohling. "We filmed a fair bit of that in London itself. We had to build two drift taxis that had never been built before." Steven Warner, the special effects supervisor on the movie, further explains how that happened. "Matthew wanted the Kingsman taxi to be able to behave like a drifting racing car. So we had to build the cars, bespoke, from scratch. The body of the original taxi is on a bespoke chassis with Chevy V-8 engines and 680 brake horsepower. The stuntmen seemed to enjoy it!"

The director also drew upon personal experience for one of the other key action setpieces, where Eggsy and Whiskey go undercover in the Italian Alps and get more than they bargained for while taking a ride in a gondola-type ski lift that starts spinning wildly out of control. “These things spin around for real,” says Vaughn, who got the idea while riding in a far more sedately-paced gondola on a family holiday. “I wondered what would happen if you started spinning around.” The result is a furious and frenetic sequence that required Egerton and Pascal to actually go for a spin. “We produced a cable car which would spin up to thirty revolutions a minute,” says Steven Warner. “So when you see the actors stuck to the wall, they really are stuck to the wall.”

And Vaughn is planning to up the ante further, with a third instalment of the franchise that will take Eggsy, Kingsman, and the Statesmen on a brand new adventure. “I have a great idea for Kingsman 3,” teases Vaughn. “And it’ll take it to a level that no-one will guess. This movie sets up a lot of what will happen in Kingsman 3. That’s where it all comes together. There’s a whole new world waiting to explode...”

## **KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE BIOGRAPHIES**

### **COLIN FIRTH (Harry Hart / Former Agent Galahad)**

A classically trained British theatre actor, Academy Award winner Colin Firth is a veteran of film, television and theatre, with an impressive body of work spanning over three decades. He has appeared in three films that have won the Academy Award for Best Picture: *The King's Speech*, *Shakespeare In Love* and *The English Patient*. Colin's performance as King George VI in *The King's Speech* garnered him an Academy Award as well as a Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild Award, British Independent Film Award, Critics' Choice Award and his second consecutive BAFTA Award in 2011. Colin also won the BAFTA Award in 2010 and the Volpi Cup for Best Actor at the 2009 Venice Film Festival for his performance in Tom Ford's *A Single Man*.

In 2008, Colin starred in Universal Pictures' global smash hit *Mamma Mia!*. The film grossed over half a billion dollars around the world and is the highest grossing film of all time in the UK. He also starred in the Universal/Working Title hit film series *Bridget Jones's Diary* and in the Universal hit *Love Actually*, written and directed by Richard Curtis. At the time of its release, *Love Actually* broke box office records as the highest grossing British romantic comedy opening of all time in the UK and Ireland, and was the largest opening in the history of Working Title Films.

In 2012 Colin was seen in Tomas Alfredson's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* opposite Gary Oldman and Tom Hardy. The thriller is based on John Le Carré's Cold War spy novel. The film garnered three Academy Award nominations including 'Best Writing' and won the 2012 BAFTA Film Award for 'Outstanding British Film' and 'Best Adapted Screenplay.'

In 2013 Colin appeared in *The Railway Man* directed by Jonathan Teplitzky, which also stars Nicole Kidman and Jeremy Irvine. The film is based on a true story of Eric Lomax, played by Colin, who sets out to find those responsible for his torture during his time as a prisoner in World War II.

In 2014 he was seen in Woody Allen's *Magic In The Moonlight*, in which he stars opposite Emma Stone. The same year he starred in *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, directed by Matthew Vaughn and based on the acclaimed comic book of the same name in which Colin plays the role of a secret agent who recruits and trains an unrefined but promising street kid into the agency's competitive training program. The cast includes Samuel L Jackson, Michael Caine and Taron Egerton.

Colin recently appeared in *Genius*, a chronicle of Max Perkins's time as the book editor at Scribner, where he oversaw works by Thomas Wolfe, Ernest Hemingway, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. The film premiered at this year's Berlin International Film Festival and stars Nicole Kidman, Jude Law, Guy Pearce, and Vanessa Kirby. The film was released in the US on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Colin also starred as Mark Darcy in *Bridget Jones's Baby*, released worldwide in September of the same year.

*Eye In The Sky* was released on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 and is Colin's first film produced and distributed by his production company, Raindog Films, with partner Ged Doherty. Most recently Raindog Films produced the British-American feature *Loving*, a true-life drama about interracial couple Mildred and Richard Loving, which was inspired by Nancy Buirski's Emmy Award-winning documentary, *The Loving Story*. The film is directed and written by Jeff Nichols and stars Joel Edgerton, Ruth Negga, Michael Shannon, and Nick Kroll. The drama is set in Virginia in 1958 and follows the story of Mildred and Richard Loving, a couple sentenced to prison because of their interracial marriage. The film was released in November 2016, and was nominated in both Best Actress and Best Actor categories at the 74<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards. The film was also selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Later this year Colin will star alongside Rachel Weisz and David Thewlis in drama *The Mercy*. Colin portrays Donald Crowhurst, a yachtsman who attempts to win the 1968 Golden Globe Race but ends up creating an outrageous account of traveling the world alone by sea. A release date has not been confirmed yet.

Colin will also be seen in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, a sequel to *Kingsman: The Secret Service*. Starring alongside Taron Egerton, Julianne Moore and Mark Strong, and directed by Matthew Vaughn, Colin will reprise his role as Harry Hart. The film is due for release on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

It has recently been announced that Colin will play William Weatherall Wilkins in Disney's *Mary Poppins Returns*. Colin will star alongside Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep and Lin-Manuel Miranda. The screenplay will be written by Oscar nominee David Magee and based on "The Mary Poppins Stories" by P.L. Travers. Directed by Rob Marshall, it is set for release in the US on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

His other film credits include the Oscar-nominated *Girl With A Pearl Ring*; *Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason*; *Devil's Knot*; *Arthur Newman*; *Then She Found Me*; *When Did You Last See Your Father?*; *Easy Virtue*; Micheal Winterbottom's *Genova*; *A Christmas Carol*; *The Importance Of Being Ernest*; Atom Egoyan's *Where The Truth Lies*; Marc Evans' thriller *Trauma*; *Manny McPhee*; *What A Girl Wants*; *A Thousand Acres*, with Michelle Pfeiffer and Jessica Lange; *Apartament Zero*; *My Life So Far*; Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*; *Circle Of Friends*; *Playmaker* and the title role in Milos Forman's *Valmont* opposite Annette Bening.

On the small screen, Colin is infamous for his breakout role as Mr. Darcy in the BBC adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice", for which he received a BAFTA nomination for Best Actor and the National Television Award for Most Popular Actor.

In March 2004, Colin hosted NBC's Saturday Night Live. He was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2001 for Outstanding Supporting Actor in the critically acclaimed HBO film *Conspiracy* and also received the Royal Television Society Best Actor Award and a BAFTA nomination for his performance in *Tumbledown*. His other television

credits include BBC television movie *born Equal*; *Donovan Quick*; *The Widowing Of Mrs. Holroyd*; *Deep Blue Sea*; hostages and the mini-series *Nostromo*. His London stage debut was in the West End production of *Another Country* playing Guy Bennett. He was then chosen to play the character Judd in the 1984 film adaptation opposite Rupert Everett.

He was honored with the Humanitarian Award by BAFTA/LA at their 2009 Britannia Awards. In 2008 he was named Philanthropist of the Year by *The Hollywood Reporter* and prior to this, in 2006, Colin was voted European Campaigner of the Year by the EU.

### **JULIANNE MOORE (Poppy)**

Academy Award, BAFTA and Emmy winning actress Julianne Moore is the ninth person in Academy to receive two Oscar nominations in the same year and the only American actress to be awarded top acting prizes at all 3 major European film festivals (Berlin, Venice and Cannes). A NY Times Best-Selling author who has appeared in more than 60 films, Julianne is a Founding Chair of Everytown For Gun Safety's Creative Council, is on the Advisory Council of The Children's Health Fund and Honorary Chair and supporter of the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance.

### **TARON EGERTON (Gary "Eggsy" Unwin / Agent Galahad)**

RADA trained actor, Taron Egerton starred as the lead role of Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin in Matthew Vaughn's 2015 box office smash hit *Kingsman: The Secret Service* opposite Colin Firth, Michael Caine and Samuel L Jackson. For this role, Egerton won Best Male Newcomer at the Empire Awards.

2015 also saw the release of *Legend*, a biopic feature about the Kray twins, where Taron played Edward 'Mad Teddy' Smith opposite Tom Hardy, and *Testament of Youth*, based on the life of Vera Brittain. For his role as Edward Brittain he was nominated for the Rising Star Award at the BFI London Film Festival. Taron then

went on to take the title role of Eddie “The Eagle” Edwards in 2016’s blockbuster hit, *Eddie The Eagle*.

Egerton’s first role out of drama school was on stage in *The Last Of The Haussmans* at the National Theatre, opposite Helen McCrory. He was then cast as series regular, Dennis ‘Asbo’ Severs in Sky’s well-reviewed drama “The Smoke”. Egerton was named on the Screen International’s ‘Stars of Tomorrow’ list for 2014 and as one of the top 50 best dressed men in the UK of 2015 and 2016 by GQ. In 2016 Egerton was named one of the ‘30 under 30’ Forbes list and was nominated for a BAFTA EE Rising Star Award.

Alongside Matthew McConaughey and Reese Witherspoon, Egerton has leant his voice to recently released new musical animation comedy *Sing*. Egerton recently finished filming opposite Ansel Elgort in a movie version of *Billionaires Boys Club* and has just completed filming for the much anticipated second *Kingsman* film *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. Taron is currently filming as the lead in Leonardo DiCaprio’s Robin Hood.

## **MARK STRONG (Merlin)**

One of today’s most compelling and charismatic actors, Mark Strong will soon be seen in Toa Fraser’s *6 Days* and Robert Burdreau’s *Stockholm*. He is currently filming *Deep State* - Fox Network Group’s first scripted commission for Europe and Africa.

Moviegoers have seen him in notable collaborations over the years with directors Guy Ritchie, on *Sherlock Holmes*, *RocknRolla*, and *Revolver*; Ridley Scott, on *Robin Hood* and *Body of Lies*, for which he received a London Film Critics Circle Award nomination; and Matthew Vaughn, on *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, *Kick-Ass* and *Stardust*.

Mr. Strong’s other films include Mark Elijah Rosenberg’s *Approaching the Unknown*, Richie Smyth’s *Jadotville*, John Madden’s *Miss Sloane* with Jessica Chastain Mortem Tyldum’s *The Imitation Game*, Jorge Dorado’s *Anna*, Nae Caranfil’s *Closer to the*

*Moon*, Eran Creevy's *Welcome to the Punch*, Nick Murphy's *Blood* Jean-Jacques Annaud's *Black Gold*, Andrew Stanton's *John Carter*, Tomas Alfredson's *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* with Gary Oldman and Colin Firth, Peter Weir's *The Way Back*, with Jim Sturgess; John Michael McDonagh's *The Guard*, with Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle; Martin Campbell's *Green Lantern*, opposite Ryan Reynolds; Jean-Marc Vallée's *The Young Victoria*, opposite Emily Blunt; Pete Travis' *Endgame*; Vicente Amorim's *Good*, with Viggo Mortensen; Danny Boyle's *Sunshine*; Stephen Gaghan's *Syriana* with George Clooney; Roman Polanski's *Oliver Twist*; Kevin Reynolds' *Tristan + Isolde*; Thomas Vinterberg's *It's All About Love*; Mike Figgis' *Hotel*; David Evans' *Fever Pitch*; István Szabó's *Sunshine* (1999); and, also for Focus Features, Bharat Nalluri's *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* and Kevin Macdonald's *The Eagle*.

He was a BAFTA Award nominee for his performance in *The Long Firm*, and also won the Broadcast Press Guild Award for Best Actor. His other telefilm and miniseries credits include "Nosferatu", "Our Friends in the North", directed by Simon Cellan Jones and Stuart Urban; Adrian Shergold's "Low Winter Sun" (which won the BAFTA [Scotland] Award for Best Drama – he recently recreated the role in the US) and "Births, Marriages and Deaths"; Pete Travis' "The Jury", "Henry VIII"; David Drury's *Trust*; Diarmuid Lawrence's *Emma*, opposite Kate Beckinsale; Roger Michell's "The Buddha of Suburbia"; Danny Boyle's "Screenplay" episode "Not Even God Is Wise Enough," and, opposite Helen Mirren for directors David Drury and Tom Hooper, respectively, "Prime Suspect 3" and "Prime Suspect 6".

Mr. Strong has also performed in radio and stage plays, most recently appearing in the National Theatre's *The Red Barn*, and the Young Vic's critically acclaimed *A View From the Bridge* which also transferred to the West End and Broadway. For his performance in *A View From the Bridge*, he received both the Olivier Award and Critics' Circle Award for Best Actor. He was an Olivier Award nominee for his performance in Sam Mendes' Donmar Warehouse staging of *Twelfth Night* (which he played in repertory with *Uncle Vanya*). U.K. audiences have seen him perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, in Danny Boyle's staging of *Hess is Dead*, among other productions; with the National Theatre, in four productions for Richard Eyre, David Thacker's *Death of a Salesman*, and Patrick Marber's *Closer*, among other



shows; at the Royal Court, in Lindsay Posner's production of *The Treatment* and Hettie MacDonald's staging of *Thickness of Skin*; and Peter Gill's New Ambassadors production of *Speed-the-Plow*.

He studied English and Drama at London University, and then acting at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

## **HALLE BERRY** (Ginger Ale)

Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry continues to break down barriers with a multitude of critically acclaimed, diverse roles and continued success at the box office. For her brilliant performance in *Monster's Ball*, she won the Academy Award for Best Actress, as well as the SAG Award, the Berlin Silver Bear Award and was named Best Actress by the National Board of Review. No stranger to accolades, Berry earned the Emmy, Golden Globe, SAG and NAACP Image Award for her extraordinary performance in HBO's telefilm, "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge", which she also produced, and was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actress for her role in *Frankie And Alice*. Berry joined the prestigious list of actresses starring in the James Bond franchise with her role of "Jinx" in *Die Another Day* opposite Pierce Bronson, which also marked *Bond's* 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and one of the top five grossing *Bond* movies of all time.

Up next, Berry will be seen in 20th Century Fox's *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* starring alongside Taron Egerton, Channing Tatum, Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Mark Strong and Jeff Bridges. The movie is set for release on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Berry recently wrapped production on Deniz Gamze Erguven's English-language directorial debut *Kings*. The movie focuses on the 1992 Los Angeles riots that followed the acquittal of four police officers in the Rodney King case.

Berry will also star in the Luis-Prieto directed thriller *Kidnap*. In the film, Berry, who also serves as executive producer on the project along with her producing partner Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas for their production banner 606 Films, plays a mother who will stop at nothing to save her abducted son.

In 2014, Berry reprised her role as 'Storm' in the summer blockbuster *X-Men: Days Of Future Past*. The film continued the franchise's critical and commercial success, debuting at #1 at the box office. Berry also starred in the hit Sony Pictures thriller, *The Call*, in which she plays an emergency operator who must confront a killer from her past in order to save a girl's life. Prior to that, she appeared in the Warner Bros. film *Cloud Atlas* alongside Tom Hanks, Susan Sarandon, Hugh Grant, directed by Tom Tykwer and the Wachowski's. The film, which earned Berry a 2013 NAACP Outstanding Actress nomination, follows six stories set in a different time and place that become intricately related to each other.

In 2007, Berry was seen in the drama *Things We Lost In The Fire* opposite Benicio Del Toro, for which she received critical praise for her portrayal of a widow who befriends her husband's drug addicted, childhood friend after his untimely death. Also in 2007, Berry was seen starring opposite Bruce Willis in the box-office thriller, *Perfect Stranger*. In 2000, Berry appeared in the role of 'Storm' in the first installment of the *X-Men* movie franchise. She later reprised the role for *X2* in 2003 and *X-Men: The Last Stand* in 2006.

Also in 2006, Berry received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for her acting work in the Oprah Winfrey-produced movie *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and as executive producer for the HBO telefilm "Lackawanna Blues". In 2005, Berry also voiced the role of 'Cappy' in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox animated hit, *Robots*. She also starred in the psychological thriller *Gothika*, which helped to cement her status as an international box office draw.

In her early years, Berry studied at The Second City in Chicago before continuing her acting education at The William Esper Studio in New York City. Critics and filmgoers first took notice of Berry in her feature film debut, Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*. She went on to star opposite Warren Beatty in the socio-political comedy, *Bulworth*. Her other film credits include *Losing Isaiah* opposite Jessica Lange, *Executive Decision*, the live-action version of *The Flintstones*, *The Last Boy Scout*, *Strictly Business*, *Boomerang*, opposite Eddie Murphy, and *Swordfish* with John Travolta and Hugh Jackman.

Other television credits include starring in and producing the Stephen Spielberg produced ABC drama “Extant”, ABC mini-series, “Oprah Winfrey Presents: The Wedding”, directed by Charles Burnett, as well as the title role in Alex Haley’s mini-series, “Queen.” The latter performance earned Berry her first NAACP Image Award for Best Actress, as well as the Best Newcomer Award from the Hollywood Women’s Press Club. She also starred opposite Jimmy Smits in Showtime’s original telefilm, “Solomon and Sheba.”

Berry has garnered praise not only for her numerous leading roles, but for her work with a range of organisations. She is an active supporter and chair member of the Jenesse Center in Los Angeles. The Jenesse Center was founded in 1980 and assists victims of domestic violence and aims to change the pattern of abuse in the lives of women and children. She previously partnered with Michael Kors’ Watch Hunger Stop campaign and the United Nations World Food Programme to raise awareness for building a world with zero hunger. This partnership saw Watch Hunger Stop commit its global reach and resources to WFP’s goal of building “a world with zero hunger.” In support of this, Berry visited rural Nicaragua to raise awareness. Berry joined forces with Novo Nordisk and the Entertainment Industry Foundation to launch the Diabetes Aware Campaign and has supported a vast amount of charities and organizations such as, Revlon Run/Walk, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Afghanistan Relief Organization, Stand Up to Cancer, Love Our Children USA and Clothes Off Our Back.

## **CHANNING TATUM (Agent Tequila)**

Channing Tatum is known for his work both on the screen as an actor and behind the scenes as a producer.

Tatum will next appear in Matthew Vaughn’s film *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. FOX will release the film on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Most recently, Tatum was seen in Steven Soderbergh's film *Logan Lucky* which was released on 18<sup>th</sup> August, the Coen brothers' latest film *Hail, Caesar!* and Quentin Tarantino's critically-acclaimed film *The Hateful Eight*.

In 2015, Tatum reprised his role as 'Mike Lane' in *Magic Mike XXL*, directed by Greg Jacobs. The first *Magic Mike*, directed by Steven Soderbergh, was released in 2012. Tatum's other credits include *Foxcatcher*, *The Vow* and *Dear John*, among others.

In 2014, Tatum announced his production company, Free Association, with his two partners, Reid Carolin and Peter Kiernan. Free Association is currently producing *Magic Mike Live* at the Hard Rock hotel. The company also produced films including, *Logan Lucky*, *22 Jump Street* and the *Magic Mike Live* franchise, among others.

## **JEFF BRIDGES** (Agent Champagne)

One of Hollywood's most successful actors and a six-time Academy Award® nominee, Jeff Bridges' performance in *Crazy Heart*—as Bad Blake, the down-on-his-luck, alcoholic country music singer at the center of the drama—deservedly garnered the iconic performer his first Oscar® for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role. The performance also earned him the Golden Globe, SAG Award and the IFP/Spirit Award for Lead Actor.

The film follows Blake, who, through his experiences with a female reporter (Maggie Gyllenhaal), is able to get his career back on track while playing mentor to a hotshot contemporary country star and simultaneously struggling in his shadow. The movie, directed by Scott Cooper, is based on the debut novel by Thomas Cobb and also stars Robert Duvall and Colin Farrell. Bridges' moving and multi-layered performance is one of many in a career that spans decades.

He earned his first Oscar® nod in 1971 for Best Supporting Actor in Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show*, co-starring Cybill Shepherd. Three years later, he received his second Best Supporting Actor nomination for his role in Michael Cimino's *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. By 1984 he landed top kudos with a Best Actor

nomination for *Starman*; that performance also earned him a Golden Globe nomination. In 2001, he was honoured with another Golden Globe nomination and his fourth Oscar® nomination for his role in *The Contender*, Rod Lurie's political thriller, co-starring Gary Oldman and Joan Allen, in which Bridges played the President of the United States.

In December 2010 his reunion with the Coen Brothers in the critically acclaimed western *True Grit* landed him his sixth Oscar® nomination. The film focuses on fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) whose father has been shot in cold blood by the coward Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin), and she is determined to bring him to justice. Enlisting the help of a trigger-happy, drunken U.S. Marshal, Rooster Cogburn (Bridges), she sets out with him — over his objections — to hunt down Chaney. The same month he was seen in the highly anticipated 3D action-adventure *TRON: Legacy*. Bridges reprised his role of video-game developer Kevin Flynn from the classic 1982 film *TRON*. With state-of-the-art technology, *TRON: Legacy* featured Bridges as the first actor in cinematic history to play opposite a younger version of himself.

He was last seen in *Hell or High Water* a modern action bank heist thriller set in west Texas starring opposite Chris Pine, Ben Foster and Gil Birmingham. The film that premiered Un Certain Regard at the 2016 Cannes Film festival was written by Taylor Sheridan and directed by David Mackenzie.

He can also be seen in the first animated feature film adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's iconic masterpiece *The Little Prince* as the Aviator for director Mark Osborne. The film is streaming on Netflix.

In August 2014, Bridges starred in *The Giver* opposite Meryl Streep, Brenton Thwaites, Alexander Skarsgard, Katie Holmes, Odeya Rush and Cameron Monaghan. Based on the bestselling young adult novel by Lois Lowry, the film – which he also produced – was a passion project of his for more than 2 decades and was directed by Phillip Noyce.

Prior to *Crazy Heart*, Bridges was seen in the war comedy *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, playing Bill Django, a free-spirited military intelligence officer, who is the

leader of a secret group of warriors in the army. The Peter Straughan screenplay (based on the Jon Ronson book and directed by Grant Heslov) is based on a true story about a reporter in Iraq, who meets a former member of the US Army's First Earth Battalion, a unit that employs paranormal powers in their missions. He stars opposite George Clooney (also a producer), Ewan McGregor and Kevin Spacey.

Additionally, he starred in *A Dog Year* for HBO Films/ Picturehouse, based on the memoir by Jon Katz and directed by George LaVoo (who also wrote the screenplay) and garnered an Emmy nomination; as well as opposite Robert Downey, Jr. in the Paramount Pictures/Marvel Studios blockbuster *Iron Man*, playing the character of Obadiah Stane.

He starred opposite Shia LaBeouf as Geek, a cantankerous and washed-up surfer penguin, in the Academy Award®-nominated *Surf's Up*, from Sony Pictures Animation. Prior to that, he was in his second film for director Terry Gilliam, entitled *Tideland*, where he played Noah, a drug addicted, has-been, rock guitarist.

The actor's multi-faceted career has cut a wide swathe across all genres. He has starred in numerous box office hits, including Gary Ross' *Seabiscuit*, Terry Gilliam's offbeat comedic drama *The Fisher King* (co-starring Robin Williams), the multi-award-nominated *The Fabulous Baker Boys* (co-starring his brother Beau Bridges and Michelle Pfeiffer), *The Jagged Edge* (opposite Glenn Close), Francis Ford Coppola's *Tucker: The Man and His Dream*, *Blown Away* (co-starring his late father Lloyd Bridges and Tommy Lee Jones), Peter Weir's *Fearless* (with Isabella Rossellini and Rosie Perez), and Martin Bell's *American Heart* (with Edward Furlong, produced by Bridges' company, AsIs Productions). That film earned Bridges an IFP/Spirit Award in 1993 for Best Actor.

In the summer of 2004, he appeared opposite Kim Basinger in the critically acclaimed *The Door in the Floor* for director Todd Williams and Focus Features, which earned him an IFP/Spirit Award nomination for Best Actor.

He played a major featured role in *The Muse* (an Albert Brooks comedy starring Brooks, Sharon Stone and Andie MacDowell); appeared in the suspense thriller

*Arlington Road* (co-starring Tim Robbins and Joan Cusack, directed by Mark Pellington); and starred in *Simpatico*, the screen version of Sam Shepard's play (with Nick Nolte, Sharon Stone and Albert Finney). In 1998, he starred in the Coen brothers' cult comedy *The Big Lebowski*. Before that, he starred in Ridley Scott's *White Squall*, Walter Hill's *Wild Bill*, John Huston's *Fat City* and Barbara Streisand's romantic comedy *The Mirror Has Two Faces*.

Some of Bridges' other acting credits include *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*, *K-PAX*, *Masked and Anonymous*, *Stay Hungry*, *Fat City*, *Bad Company*, *Against All Odds*, *Cutter's Way*, *The Vanishing*, *Texasville*, *The Morning After*, *Nadine*, *Rancho Deluxe*, *See You in the Morning*, *Eight Million Ways to Die*, *TRON*, *The Last American Hero* and *Heart of the West*.

In 1983, Jeff founded the End Hunger Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to feeding children around the world. Jeff produced the End Hunger televent, a three-hour live television broadcast focusing on world hunger. The televent featured Gregory Peck, Jack Lemmon, Burt Lancaster, Bob Newhart, Kenny Loggins and other leading film, television and music stars in an innovative production to educate and inspire action.

He is currently the national spokesman for the Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry campaign that is fighting to end childhood hunger in America.

Through his company, AsIs Productions, he produced *Hidden in America*, which starred his brother Beau. That television movie, produced for Showtime, received a Golden Globe nomination in 1996 for Best TV/Cable Film and garnered a Screen Actors Guild nod for Best Actor for Beau Bridges. The film was also nominated for two Emmy Awards.

One of Jeff's true passions is photography. While on the set of his movies, Jeff takes behind-the-scenes pictures of the actors, crew and locations. After completion of each motion picture, he edits the images into a book and gives copies to everyone involved. Jeff's photographs have been featured in several magazines, including *Premiere* and

*Aperture*, as well as in other publications worldwide. He has also had gallery exhibitions of his work in New York (at the George Eastman House), Los Angeles, London and the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego. In 2013, Jeff was the recipient of an Infinity Award, presented by the International Center of Photography, NY.

The books, which have become valued by collectors, were never intended for public sale, but in the fall of 2003, powerHouse Books released *Pictures: Photographs by Jeff Bridges*, a hardcover book containing a compilation of his photographs taken on numerous film locations over the years, to much critical acclaim. Proceeds from the book are donated to the Motion Picture & Television Fund, a non-profit organization that offers charitable care and support to film-industry workers.

In February 2015 Jeff released a spoken word/ambient album titled “Sleeping Tapes.” The collaboration was co-produced with musician Keefus Ciancia who also supplied the music. The album was released by web hosting service Squarespace as part of its Super Bowl advertising campaign, with all proceeds from the album sales going to Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry campaign.

In August 2011 Jeff released his self-titled major label debut album for Blue Note Records. Multiple-Grammy Award-winning songwriter, musician and producer T Bone Burnett produced the album. It is an organic extension and culmination of his personal, professional and music friendship with Burnett, whom he has known for more than 30 years. The critically acclaimed album was a follow up to his first solo effort “Be Here Soon,” on Ramp Records, the Santa Barbara, CA label he co-founded with Michael McDonald and producer/singer/songwriter Chris Pelonis. The CD features guest appearances by vocalist/keyboardist Michael McDonald, Grammy-nominated Amy Holland and country-rock legend David Crosby. In 2014 he released his first live album “Jeff Bridges & The Abiders Live” and has been touring off and on when he is not working.

Jeff and his wife Susan divide their time between their home in Santa Barbara, California, and their ranch in Montana.



## **PEDRO PASCAL** (Agent Whiskey)

Pedro Pascal stars in the critically acclaimed, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominated Netflix original series “Narcos”, the true-life story of the growth and spread of cocaine drug cartels around the world. Pascal plays DEA agent Javier Peña, who led the manhunt for Colombian drug kingpin, Pablo Escobar. The show is executive produced by José Padilha, Eric Newman, and Chris Brancato. Season 3 of *Narcos* will premiere globally in September.

Also this fall, Pascal will star as *Jack Daniels* in Matthew Vaughn’s action adventure film *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, alongside Taron Egerton, Channing Tatum, and Julianne Moore. The film will be released by FOX on September 22, 2017.

Earlier this year, Pascal starred opposite Matt Damon and Willem Dafoe in Zhang Yimou’s film *The Great Wall*. Legendary Pictures released the film in China and Universal released it in the United States. In 2014, Pedro starred in HBO's hit series “Game of Thrones” where he played the fan favourite Oberyn Martell. Pedro has had recurring roles on USA’s “Graceland”, ABC’s “Brother’s & Sisters”, CBS “The Good Wife”, FX's “Lights Out”, CBS’ “The Mentalist” and ABC's “Red Widow”. Other television credits include Showtime's award-winning “Nurse Jackie”, the “Law & Order” trifecta, “Body of Proof”, “Without A Trace”, “NYPD Blue” and “Buffy The Vampire Slayer”, among others.

Pascal has originated roles in New York for The Manhattan Theatre Club, Classic Stage Company, Playwrights Horizons, and Terrence McNally's Drama Desk Nominated play *Some Men* at Second Stage. He starred alongside Jennifer Ehle and Liev Schreiber in Shakespeare in the Park's production of *Macbeth*, as well as their Production of *Much Ado About Nothing* with Lily Rabe. He won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award and Garland for *Orphans* at The International City Theatre. Pedro has also directed Florencia Lozano's *Underneathmybed*, David Anzuelo's *Killing Play* and Daniel Talbott's *Yosemite* at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre in New York. Pedro is also a member of the Labyrinth Theatre Company.

Pascal's other film credits include: Universal's *The Adjustment Bureau*, Joe Saunders' *Sweet Little Lies*, and B. Hayward Randall's *I Am That Girl*. He also appeared in Julia Solomonoff's *Sisters (Hermanas)* and Freya Billington's *Window Shopping*.

## **EDWARD HOLCROFT** (Charlie Hesketh)

Former Screen International 'UK Stars of Tomorrow', Edward Holcroft has quickly secured several distinguished roles across television, film and stage. He is quickly emerging as one of the most exciting young British actors in the industry.

Edward is currently shooting the BBC mini-series "Gunpowder" written by Ronan Bennett. The script tells the visceral and resonant story behind the Gunpowder Plot. Edward stars as Thomas Wintour alongside Kit Harington, Peter Mullan, and Liv Tyler, and TX will be November on BBC One.

In 2016, Edward flew to Toronto to shoot Sarah Polley's TV adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel, "Alias Grace", a six-part miniseries produced by Halfire Entertainment and co-commissioned by CBC and Netflix. Edward stars as 'Dr. Simon Jordan' alongside Anna Paquin, Sarah Gadon, and David Cronenberg. "Alias Grace" is inspired by the true story of Grace Marks (Gadon), a poor, young Irish immigrant and domestic servant in Upper Canada, who along with stableman James McDermott, was convicted of the brutal murders of their employers, Thomas Kinnear (Gross) and Nancy Montgomery (Paquin) in 1843. It is set to be broadcast on CBS in Canada and Netflix globally in 2017.

Later this year, Edward will be reprising his role as 'Charlie Hesketh' in the highly anticipated sequel *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, starring alongside a stellar cast including Taron Egerton, Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Jeff Bridges, Halle Berry, Channing Tatum and Elton John. Directed by Matthew Vaughn, the film will be released worldwide on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

In March, Edward appeared as 'Jack Ford' in the BBC Films adaptation of *The Sense of an Ending*, based on Julian Barnes' prize-winning novel and directed by Ritesh Batra from a screenplay by Nick Payne. Jim Broadbent and Charlotte Rampling, Michelle Dockery and Emily Mortimer also star in the adaptation of Julian Barnes's novel, about a man haunted by his past, who is presented with a mysterious legacy that causes him to re-think his current situation in life.

In January 2016, Edward starred in the National Theatre Live's broadcast production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, in celebration of its thirty year revival. Directed by Josie Rourke and adapted by Christopher Hampton, Edward performed alongside Janet McTeer and Dominic West.

November 2015 saw Edward starring opposite Ben Wishaw and Jim Broadbent in the five-part BBC thriller, "London Spy". Edward plays 'Alex', a mysterious and brilliant employee of the secret service who wins the heart of Danny (Wishaw), an outgoing and hedonistic romantic. The mini-series was directed by Jakob Verbruggen and received a positive response from national critics, airing in the UK on BBC Two and BBC America in the US.

In September 2015, Edward appeared in BBC One's 90 minute drama, "Lady Chatterley's Lover", as 'Duncan Forbes', alongside Richard Madden, Holliday Grainger and James Norton. Produced by Hartswood Films in association with Serena Cullen Productions, the period drama tells the legendary and romantic story of Lady Chatterley's affair with her gamekeeper. The film was directed and adapted by Jed Mercurio, from D.H. Lawrence's 1928 novel and was a part of a series of four 20<sup>th</sup> century literary adaptations by the BBC.

January 2015 saw Edward's take on the role of 'Charlie Hesketh' in Matthew Vaughn's highly anticipated feature *Kingsman: Secret Service* in January 2015. Edward stars alongside Taron Egerton, Samuel Jackson, Michael Caine and Colin Firth. Vaughn and Jane Goldman wrote the screenplay, based on the comic book by Matt Millar and Dave Gibbons, and - as *Kick Ass* - demonstrated, Vaughn has an amazing eye for new talent.

In the same month, Edward's appeared in Golden Globe-winning BBC mini-series, "Wolf Hall", as 'George Boleyn', in which he starred opposite Mark Rylance, whom he was worked with before on the set of *Jerusalem* at the Royal Court. Written by the Oscar nominated writer, Peter Straughan, and highly-acclaimed director, Peter Kosminsky, "Wolf Hall" was described by critics as "close to perfect television", receiving a total of eight Primetime Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe win for Best Miniseries or Television Film.

In February 2014, Edward made his feature film debut as 'Aaron Drozdiv' in *Vampire Academy*. Directed by Mark Waters, Edward appeared opposite Olga Kurylenko, Gabriel Byrne and Sarah Hyland in the story of a half human/vampire and her legacy to protect her kind.

#### **SOPHIE COOKSON (Roxy / Agent Lancelot)**

British actress Sophie Cookson was still at drama school when she was cast in her first lead role. In 2014, Sophie was recognised as one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow and with each project she takes on, she increasingly draws the industry's attention and the next few months will firmly establish her as one to watch.

Sophie has just wrapped on Netflix's psychological thriller series "Gypsy". She will portray young female lead 'Sidney', starring opposite Naomi Watts, in the psychological thriller from Universal Television, Working Title and writer Lisa Rubin. Sam Taylor-Johnson is directing the first two episodes of the drama, which has a 10-episode, straight-to-series order for a 2017 premiere in July. "Gypsy" follows the journey of 'Jean Holloway' (played by Naomi Watts) a therapist who begins to develop dangerous and intimate relationships with the people in her patients' lives.

Following this, Sophie will reprise the role of 'Roxy' in the second installment of Matthew Vaughn's hit *Kingsman* franchise, *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. The first film, *Kingsman: The Secret Service* was released in January 2015 and went on to make £319,000,000 worldwide. Sophie starred alongside Samuel Jackson, Michael Caine

and Colin Firth, with Taron Egerton playing 'Eggy'. Vaughn and Jane Goldman wrote the screenplay, based on the comic book by Matt Millar and Dave Gibbons. The second film will see new additions to the cast, including Channing Tatum, Julianne Moore, Jeff Bridges, Halle Berry, Vinnie Jones and Elton John, and is slated for release internationally on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Also coming up, Sophie has World War II drama *Ashes In The Snow*, with Bel Powley. Filming took place in Lithuania and the feature is based on Ruta Sepetys' New York Times bestseller 'Between Shades Of Gray'. Ben York Jones wrote the screenplay and Marius Markevicius directs the coming-of-age story of 16-year-old 'Lina Vilkas' who is deported to Siberia amidst Stalin's reign of terror in the Baltic region during WWII. Sophie plays 'Ona' and the film will be released in 2017, date tbc.

In April 2016, Sophie appeared in *The Huntsman: Winter's War* and, the same year, filmed *The Crucifixion*, playing the role of 'Nicole Rawlins'. Also starring Brittany Ashworth, Mathew Zajac, and Radu Banzaru, the horror film is directed by Xavier Gens and penned by Carey Hayes and she also portrayed the lead role in *Emperor*. Her character, 'Johanna of Ghent', is a daring 21-year-old who infiltrates the court of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V to avenge the death of her father. Set at a time when the emperor is struggling to hold together a fragmented empire in a world of wealth, debauchery, intrigue and treason, Sophie stars alongside Adrien Brody, Bill Skarsgard and Thomas Kretschmann. Both films are slated for release in 2017.

In December 2013, Sophie made her television debut starring as 'Grace Mohune' in SKY1's popular two-part drama "Moonfleet", with Aneurin Barnard and Ray Winstone. Set in eighteenth century Dorset, and directed by Andy De Emmony, "Moonfleet" is an adaptation of the John Meade Falkner novel of the same name, and tells the story of orphan John Trenchard and smuggler Elzevir Block journey to find pirate Blackbeard's treasure.

Sophie studied at The Oxford School of Drama.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

## **MATTHEW VAUGHN** (Director/ Producer/ Writer)

Matthew Vaughn is a leading British filmmaker who has produced, written and directed an impressive array of films. Vaughn began his career as producer with Guy Ritchie's *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *Snatch*, which starred Brad Pitt and received wide acclaim. Through his production company, MARV Films, Vaughn debuted as a director with *Layer Cake*, which starred Daniel Craig. Vaughn followed that up by directing and co-writing with his writing partner Jane Goldman, *Stardust*, which starred Robert De Niro and Michelle Pfeiffer. In 2009, Vaughn produced *Harry Brown*, which starred Michael Caine. 2010 saw Vaughn producing and writing *The Debt*, which starred Helen Mirren and Jessica Chastain, and directing, producing and writing *Kick-Ass*. In 2011, Vaughn wrote and directed *X-Men: First Class*, wrote 2014's *X-Men: Days of Future Past* and produced *Eddie the Eagle* starring Hugh Jackman in 2016. 2014 also saw the debut of *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, written, produced and directed by Vaughn, with its follow-up *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* set to release in September 2017.

## **JANE GOLDMAN** (Writer)

Jane Goldman is a former journalist and the author of eight books, including the number-one best-selling 'The X-Files Book of the Unexplained', which was nominated for Writers' Guild and Nibbie awards. She has also worked in television as a presenter, writer and producer on documentary and entertainment programmes.

Her first screenplay, *Stardust* (2007), marked the beginning of her long-standing collaboration with Matthew Vaughn and won a Hugo award for best screenplay. She worked again with Vaughn again on director John Madden's *The Debt* (2010) and Vaughn's own *Kick-Ass* (2010), which she also co-produced, garnering awards from The Writers' Guild (Best Original Screenplay), Women in Film and TV (The UK Film Council Writing Award) and *Total Film* magazine (Best Writer). Vaughn and Goldman followed up with the critically acclaimed blockbuster *X-Men: First Class* (2011), and the international hit *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2014), both of which won Empire awards.

In addition to her collaborations with Vaughn, Jane also wrote the screenplay for *The Woman In Black* (2012), directed by James Watkins, winning an Empire Award and garnering her the *Glamour* magazine Women of the Year award for Best Filmmaker for the second time in her career. She then went on to work with director Tim Burton, writing the screenplay for his most recent release, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (2016), and penned historical thriller *The Limehouse Golem* (2017), coming to cinemas in September.

Jane's has recently completed an adaptation of Daphne DuMaurier's *Rebecca*, and she is currently working on a feature project at Disney studios, as well as collaborating with 'Game of Thrones' author George RR Martin to develop a spin-off series for HBO.

#### **DAVID REID** (Producer)

David Reid is an English film producer. Having worked in the British film industry for over 20 years, he has been an important part of the teams responsible for some of the UK's most iconic and successful films.

He is known for producing such international hit films as the crime thriller *Layer Cake*; the superhero comedies *Kick Ass* and *Kiss Ass 2*; the action adventure comedy *Kingsman: The Secret Service*; the biopic comedy drama *Eddie The Eagle*; and the upcoming *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*.

David is best known for his collaboration with director/producer Matthew Vaughn, which began with the hugely successful *Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*, before continuing with *Snatch*; *Mean Machine* and *Swept Away*.

#### **ADAM BOHLING** (Producer)

Adam Bohling is an English film producer. Having worked in the British film industry for over 20 years, he has been an important part of the teams responsible for some of the UK's most iconic and successful films.

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Adam is best known for his collaboration with director/producer Matthew Vaughn, which began with the hugely successful *Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*, before continuing with *Snatch*; *Mean Machine* and *Swept Away* and *X-Men: First Class*.

### **DARREN GILFORD** (Production Designer)

Darren Gilford is a feature film Production Designer who recently completed *designing Kingsman: The Golden Circle* for Director Matthew Vaughn. Darren's previous feature film production design credits include *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, (Co-Production Designed with Rick Carter, Walt Disney/Lucas Film 2015), *Oblivion* (Universal Pictures, 2013), *Tron Legacy* (Walt Disney Pictures, 2010), and *Idiocracy* (FOX, 2005).

Darren is a 1992 graduate, with distinction, of Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. While studying at Art Center, he held prestigious internships at Kodak (product design), General Motors Advanced Design Center (show vehicle design), and at Walt Disney Imagineering (theme park design for Euro Disneyland).

After college, Gilford worked in traditional art departments as a concept illustrator and storyboard artist.

Gilford's early credits include *Fire in the Sky*, *The Crow*, *Judge Dredd* and *Inspector Gadget*.

Gilford was one of the initial hires at pioneering visual effects house, Digital Domain, and served as the senior managing art director from 1994 - 1998. At Digital Domain he worked on dozens of commercials and feature films and production designed his first commercial for director David Fincher. He also worked closely with James



Cameron on *Titanic*, *The Terminator 2: 3D ride* for Universal Studios and the very early stages of *Avatar*. Other feature film credits at Digital Domain include *Interview With the Vampire* and *The Fifth Element*.

In 1998 Gilford left Digital Domain to pursue a career in production design. He has since production designed dozens of commercials, feature films, a live studio audience Internet broadcast show, Live Sets, for Yahoo! which showcased some of the music industry's best talent in 48 concerts.

Gilford resides in Pacific Palisades, CA with his wife, a senior executive at the Walt Disney Company, and their two children.

### **ARIANNE PHILLIPS** (Costume Designer)

Arianne Phillips is a twice Oscar nominated costume designer, known for her cutting-edge designs and attention to detail.

2017 will bring Arianne's continuing collaboration with director Matthew Vaughn for *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*... The follow-up to the success of *Kingsman: The Secret Service* which received rave reviews. With overwhelming success Arianne has continued and expanded her designs from the film into the *Kingsman* "costume to collection" available on [www.MRPORTER.com](http://www.MRPORTER.com).

2016 Arianne was recognized with a Costume Designer Guild nomination for her work in Tom Ford's *Nocturnal Animals*.

In 2014, she was recognized for her work on the Broadway musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" starring Neil Patrick Harris earning her a Tony award nomination for Best Costume Design. Arianne also has a long standing 20-year relationship with Madonna, with collaborations including photos shoots, music videos and designing tour costumes for the past two decades. She also earned an Oscar nomination in costume design for Madonna's directorial debut, the biopic *W.E.*.

In 2010, Phillips received the BAFTA nomination for Tom Ford's *A Single Man*, as well as a 2006 Oscar nomination for *Walk the Line*. Her work includes notable films such as *Knight and Day* starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz, *3:10 To Yuma* starring Christian Bale and Russell Crowe and Mark Romanek's *One Hour Photo*. In between film and music projects, Phillips also works as a freelance fashion editor and stylist, collaborating with photographers for publications such as Italian Vogue, V magazine, Harper's Bazaar, Interview and W magazine. Most recently in 2015 Arianne was invited to participate in PRADA's esteemed "The Iconoclast's" project that was installed in both London and Beijing, which included a short fashion film she directed called *Passengers*. Her diversity in the world of fashion and costumes is a natural fit for her far-reaching interests and talents, which has set her apart from her peers as a tastemaker and visionary.

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