

Cola Fëët



bigtalkproductions



Mike Bullen

Creator, writer and executive producer

British screenwriter and novelist Mike Bullen shares his thought process behind the return of BAFTA winning comedy drama Cold Feet, which reunites James Nesbitt, John Thomson, Fay Ripley, Hermione Norris and Robert Bathurst after 13 years.

The decision to bring back Cold Feet...

“We’d held conversations about it a couple of times over the years. But the characters were then of an age where they were basically bringing up children and I didn’t think that was a particularly interesting time of life to explore.

But now our characters are a bit older and are actually looking beyond their children. They are on the cusp of a change. The first five series were about having kids and settling down. So they really were changing their stage of life. Now they are emerging from looking after their children and they’ve got to look at their own lives again. Which felt like another interesting area to explore.

It’s a generational shift. When my parents were that age their lives were fairly well set. But people approaching 50 now can hope for another 25 years of health without having to think so much about the children. They’ve still got a lot of life to live. That’s both refreshing and confronting. The question is: How are you going to fill it?

When you’re young you’re just working out the world. When you’re older you’re trying to come to terms with what you’ve learned.”

How it all happened...

“It took three attempts to get a script we thought was worthy of being commissioned. That was me finding my way into the story and characters again. So there were three attempts at telling the story.

Then it was a case of sending it to the cast to get their reaction and I met the actors to talk them through what I was imagining for each of their stories over the course of the series. They needed to be reassured they weren’t going to let themselves or the show down. Obviously they weren’t going to do it unless they thought we could do it well.

Having left those characters for that long, you can decide to start wherever you like. It’s a question of deciding what feels right for them and truthful to their histories but also gives you scope for them to develop over eight episodes. Putting them in the position, which allows you to step off and then say, “OK, these things are going to happen to them and it’s going to be entertaining and interesting to watch that evolve.”

The main challenge was, “Why are we coming back now? And where do we find them all?” You could have just picked up and said, “It’s 13 years on, we meet them again, they’re all living in Manchester” and it’s as though we’re just jumping back into their lives.

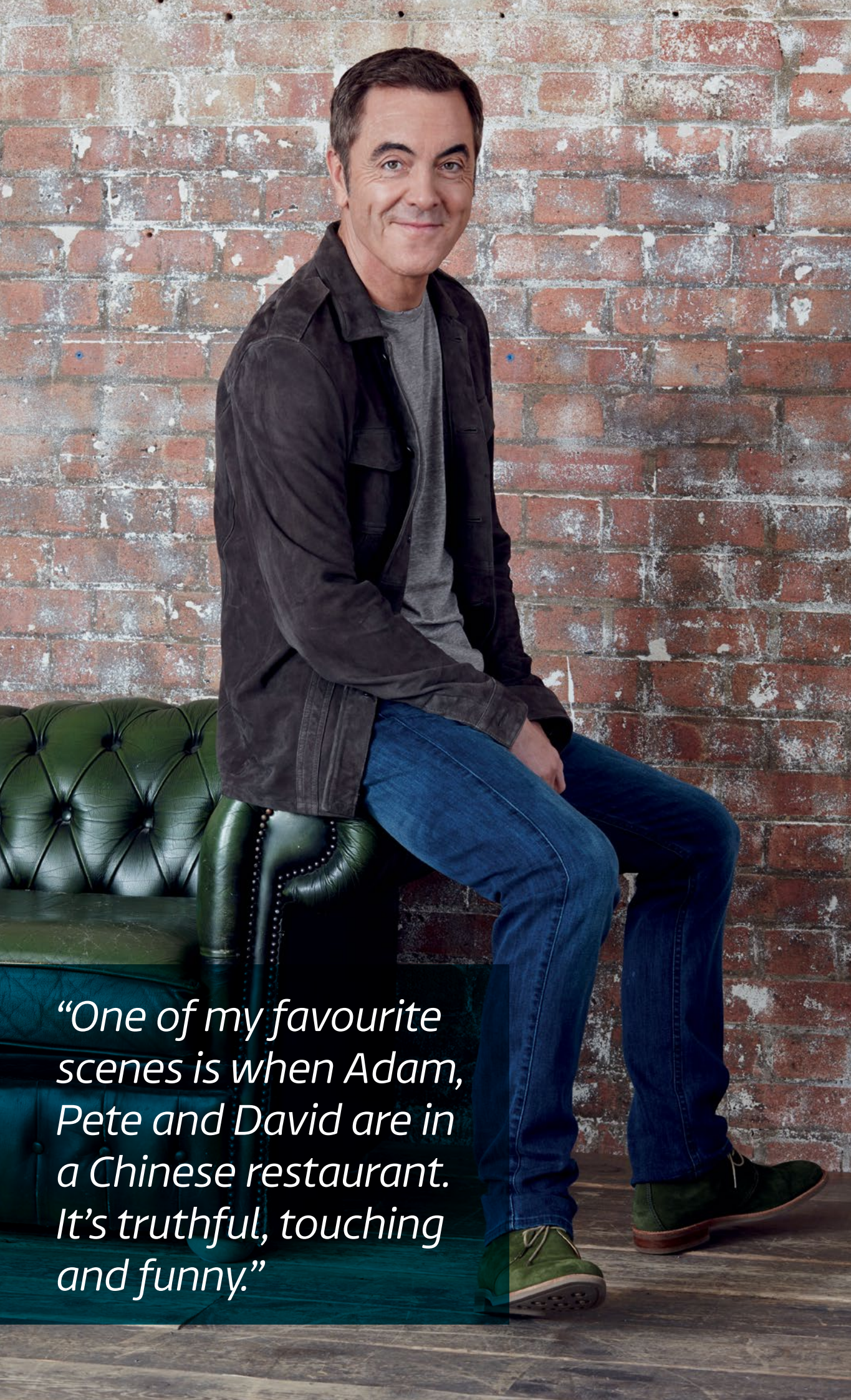
But there needed to be something more special than that. For an audience sitting down to watch it, there needed to be a reason to re-join them rather than just it seeming like the week after the week before.”

Mike’s thoughts on the audience seeing the new series...

“It’s amazing how many people still remember and love Cold Feet. Hopefully both old and new viewers will find this series entertaining. And by the end they will feel they’ve been on a journey, which has both moved and amused them.

I aspire to make people laugh out loud and a tear to form in their eye. I feel we’ve achieved that.”





“One of my favourite scenes is when Adam, Pete and David are in a Chinese restaurant. It’s truthful, touching and funny.”



“Mike’s scripts are brilliant. He’s able to take ordinary people and put them in extraordinary circumstances. A very clever, accessible writer with Cold Feet in his DNA.”

James Nesbitt plays Adam Williams

Adam is a born charmer with a permanent twinkle in his eye and an answer for everything. He and Pete have been best friends since school. When his beloved wife Rachel was killed tragically, leaving their young son behind, Adam was understandably distraught. Although his friends rallied round, Adam dealt with his grief by leaving Manchester and the gang to travel the world in the name of IT.

With his young son, Matthew in tow, any chances of romance have been fleeting with nobody coming close to what he had with Rachel, until now. Matthew has his own life after starting boarding school in Cheshire and Adam finds himself settled in Singapore.



*“Pete and Jenny
are closer
than ever.”*

*“It feels like a
few weeks ago
we did this.
Not 13 years!”*

John Thomson plays Pete Gifford

Pete is back together with Jenny and bringing up her daughter, Chloe, as his own. The years haven't been particularly kind to Pete. Laid off during the last recession, Pete's now working two jobs in an effort to make ends meet. Taxi-driver come home-carer, this is not where he'd planned to be during the mid years of his life and Pete can't help but compare himself to his more successful friends; Adam and David.

As much as he loves his kids, his wife, and his beloved Manchester United, Pete finds himself struggling to cope with the imminent onset of middle age.





“Once I’d read the first script, it felt so familiar and so like Cold Feet that it put my mind at rest.”

“Mike Bullen writes Jenny as saying what she thinks. You’d want to be behind her in a fight.”

Fay Ripley plays Jenny Gifford

Jenny is the glue that holds the Gifford family together, juggling her job with childcare and looking after hapless Pete. Bored of the domestic grind and Pete’s maudlin, Jenny’s always on the lookout for fun, if not always in the right places. She loves a giggle and desperately wants her friends to be happy.

When Adam announces that he’s in love, she’s convinced he’s making a big mistake and isn’t afraid to speak out - if not for his sake, for Rachel’s. Jenny adores her kids; young musician Adam, (Jack Harper) and his 13-year-old sister Chloe (Madeleine Edmondson).





“I really missed Helen Baxendale but her character, Rachel, is present all the way through this series, even though she is no longer with us.”

“It’s very odd revisiting a character and was slightly strange playing her again. Karen’s emotional life and destiny is utterly dependent on Mike’s words.”

Hermione Norris plays Karen Marsden

After her divorce from David, Karen has made a life for herself as a successful career woman and single mum to 19-year-old Josh (Callum Woodhouse), who is currently enjoying his gap year, and 16-year-old twins Ellie (Ella Hunt) and Olivia (Daisy Edgar-Jones). A reformed alcoholic, she’s dabbled in love over the years but found herself happiest alone. As her kids reach the age where they’ll soon be leaving home, Karen is left asking herself – what comes next?

Stunningly attractive, it’s no surprise when Karen catches the eye of a multi-millionaire businessman, but Karen’s not entirely sure if another relationship is the answer. Karen also starts to question her career and despite oozing confidence, can’t help but feel nervous about dipping her toe into the unknown, both personally and professionally.





“Couples would come up to me in the last few years and say, ‘We courted to Cold Feet.’”

“David is older but not wiser. He’s got monumentally poor judgement and yet he does his best.”

Robert Bathurst plays David Marsden

David is married to his divorce Lawyer, Robyn (Lucy Robinson). He’s climbed the ranks as a successful financial advisor and the pair live in an enviable house in the leafy suburbs. But the trappings of wealth haven’t always meant happiness for David and he still has a lot to learn. Things are far from rosy with sharp-tongued Robyn and David misses Karen and the kids. David is a loyal friend to Pete and Adam and enjoys the escape they bring.



“I was very aware of Cold Feet and the legacy it left behind.”

“Matthew doesn’t really know who he is. The closeness he had with his dad Adam has totally gone. He needs to re-kindle the love and affection they had before.”

Ceallach Spellman plays Matthew Williams

Adam and Rachel’s son is level headed and bright and, when it comes to his mother, this apple hasn’t fallen far from the tree. Tired of being dragged around the world on his father’s business trips, Matt chose to lay down roots near Manchester at a Cheshire boarding school. Just 12-years-old when he made that decision, he picked the nearest thing to Hogwarts and Adam still shudders when he visits. Godmother, Karen has been his guardian, but right now what this teenage boy needs more than anything is his dad.





“This feels like the right time to revisit these characters, as they tip-toe through the minefield of middle age!”

Creator of Cold Feet, Mike Bullen

Series Overview

It's been over ten years since we last caught up with the lives of Adam, Pete, Jenny, Karen and David and although many things have changed, deep down they haven't. Older, but not necessarily wiser, the gang are reunited when Adam returns from working abroad to make an announcement but not everyone is as thrilled as he is.

Pete and Jenny have their own worries. Victims of the economic downturn, working two jobs to make ends meet, Pete is losing his zest for life. Jenny's work as an Events Organiser is hardly raking it in. The only couple to have stood the test of time, theirs is a marriage set in stone, one which others aspire to, isn't it?

Meanwhile, David's marriage to his divorce Lawyer, Robyn, has run its course. His professional life also leaves a lot to be desired and David is all too aware of the bright young things in the office ready to jump into his swivel chair. As the pressure of work and his expensive lifestyle mounts, can David retain his professional status without resorting to dirty tricks?

Karen on the other hand appears sorted; her marriage to David well behind her, she's successfully climbed the ladder at work and raised three children almost single-handedly. But it won't be too long before the kids fly the nest and at work she's hit a glass ceiling. So what's next? Content and confident, Karen stopped looking for love years ago, but the question is; has love stopped looking for her?

As the series develops we follow the highs and lows of these much loved characters as they, like us, continue to find their way in life.

Production Credits

Executive Producers:

Kenton Allen, Matthew Justice and Mike Bullen

Creator and writer: Mike Bullen

Directors:

Terry McDonough, Juliet May, Jamie Jay Johnson

Producer:

Rebecca Ferguson



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