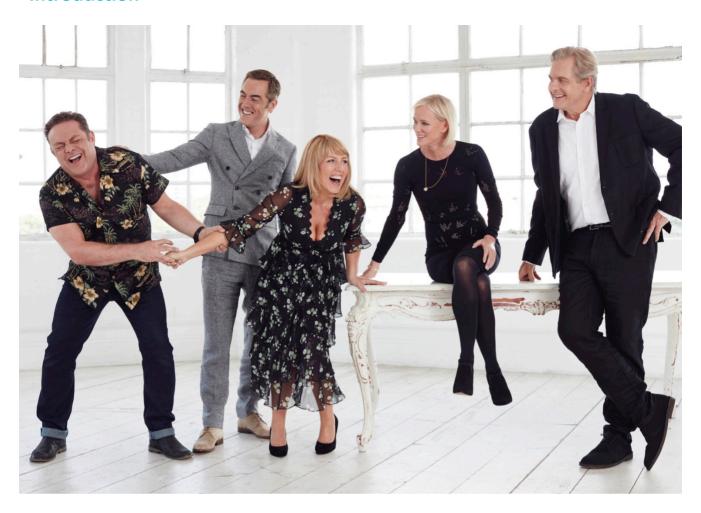


### **Contents**

Introduction	3
Character biographies	5
Production interview: Q&A with Mike Bullen	7
Cast interview: Q&A with James Nesbitt	13
Cast interview: Q&A with John Thomson	18
Cast interview: Q&A with Fay Ripley	23
Cast interview: Q&A with Hermione Norris	29
Cast interview: Q&A with Robert Bathurst	33
Cast interview: Q&A with Ceallach Spellman	37
Episode one synopsis	42
Cast credits	43
Production biographies	44
Big Talk Productions	48
Production credits	50



#### Introduction



BAFTA winning comedy drama Cold Feet returns, reuniting James Nesbitt, Robert Bathurst, Hermione Norris, John Thomson, and Fay Ripley.

The new eight-part series has been produced by ITV Studios owned indie, Big Talk Productions, and executive produced by series creator and writer Mike Bullen, and CEO of Big Talk Productions Kenton Allen.

The nation's love affair with Cold Feet began in 1997 when the television audience was first introduced to friends Adam and Rachel, Pete and Jenny, Karen and David. Thirty-three episodes and five series later our favourite couples have earned themselves a place in television history.

Cold Feet is undoubtedly one of the UK's most popular comedy dramas, achieving both critical and ratings success as well as numerous awards for its truthful depiction of friendships, relationships, parenthood and love.

We rejoin the characters in 2016 with stories written and conceived once again by Mike Bullen.

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.



#### Introduction continued:

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 singlehandedly. 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.

Creator of Cold Feet, Mike Bullen, said: "This feels like the right time to revisit these characters, as they tip-toe through the minefield of middle age. They're 50, but still feel 30, apart from on the morning after the night before, when they really feel their age. They've still got lots of life to look forward to, though they're not necessarily the years one looks forward to!"

Cold Feet will also introduce viewers to actor and Radio 1 presenter, Ceallach Spellman who plays Matthew, the teenage son of Adam and Rachel. Other actors joining with significant roles include Leanne Best, Karen David, Art Malik, James Bolam and Robert Webb.

Filmed on location in Manchester the new series has been directed by Terry McDonough, Juliet May and Jamie Jay Johnson and produced by Rebecca Ferguson.

Elbow frontman, Guy Garvey, and Peter Jobson, from legendary Manchester band I AM KLOOT, have written the title track 'The Rover Returns'.

Exec producer, Kenton Allen said: "We're thrilled and flattered that these two iconic sons of Manchester wanted to write and perform an original song to mark the return of Cold Feet. Amazing music has always been part the show's DNA and it's great to give a nod to the rich musical heritage of Manchester with Guy and Pete's beautiful new composition."



#### **Character Biographies**

#### **Adam Williams played by James Nesbitt**

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 Gifford played by John Thomson

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.

#### Jenny Gifford played by Fay Ripley

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. Jenny adores her kids; young musician Adam, (Jack Harper) and 13-year-old Chloe (Madeleine Edmondson), but still hasn't found the right way to tell Chloe that Pete isn't her biological father.

#### **Karen Marsden played by Hermione Norris**

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.



#### **Character Biographies**

#### **David Marsden played by Robert Bathurst**

David is married to his divorce Lawyer, Robyn. 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.

#### **Robyn Duff played by Lucy Robinson**

Robyn, David and Karen's divorce Lawyer, is experiencing her own problems as twelve years on and her marriage to David is also on the wane. Her legal success is down to her ruthlessness, not one to suffer fools gladly, she's been looking for an opportunity to find grounds for her own divorce for some time now and David may just have handed it to her on a plate.

#### **Matthew Williams played by Ceallach Spellman**

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



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen



#### Q: Why bring Cold Feet back now?

"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."

#### Q: How did it happen?

"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.



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen continued:

"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."

Q: You included Rachel (Helen Baxendale) as a figure in Adam's (James Nesbitt) imagination in the last episode, after her death. Is it true you wrote a draft script this time also including Rachel?

"I'm quite sentimental. I wanted to find a way of doing Cold Feet with the original six. So even the third version of the first script for this series still had Helen as Rachel in it, in the way we did in the last episode of the last series. That she appeared in Adam's mind.

"I sent that script to Helen to say, 'Do you want to do it?' She was very sweet about the script but she said, no, it wasn't for her. And I'm pleased she did because it was the right decision both for her and the show. I was clinging to something that we needed to let go of.

"But Rachel was such a key part of the show and to all those characters. So it is inevitable that she is in their thoughts at times. I'm sure Adam thinks of her every day."

#### Q: Adam (James Nesbitt) has worked in several different countries since we last met him?

"Yes. When we did the pilot Adam was very much me. He isn't now. He's much more confident and stylish than I am. But he does still echo my world view. In my time I've lived in Amsterdam, Sydney and various locations in Britain and I've always had that thing of after a while you realise you're taking everywhere for granted and it's quite good to shift yourself and try and shake things up a bit."



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen continued:

#### Q: Where is Jenny (Fay Ripley) when we meet her again?

"Jenny is in a bit of a rut. She has a boring job where she's just an automaton organising conferences in a hotel. So she is an intelligent woman who isn't getting to use her mind much. Now a mother to two teenagers, which is a thankless task, and putting her own life on hold.

"And, frankly, Pete (John Thomson) is being a bit dull. She's thinking, 'Is this it now? Is this all there is?' She doesn't aspire to a great deal but is still unfulfilled. Jenny is also still very good at sorting out other people's lives. She doesn't necessarily give good advice but she's very happy to give it.

"The thing about Fay's performance as Jenny is she absolutely feels real. You just imagine that once she walks off set, the character continues living. That's been the case from day one. I know that Fay is very different to Jenny but when she's wearing that role you don't see Fay at all. She's 100 per cent Jenny."

#### Q: Why do so many people identify with Jenny and Pete?

"Because they are the most normal, in the sense they're just getting on with it. I live in Australia where people like them are described as 'battlers'. They're just going from day to day trying to get by and do right by each other and their family. They don't have a lot of ready cash and when we meet them again they are struggling more than they were because they were victims of the global financial crisis. So to use another Australianism, 'they're doing it tough'. But they just knuckle down and get on. And Jenny in particular is not someone to complain. She rolls her sleeves up and mucks in."

"At each age I got to, I looked at the age above me and used to think they had it sorted. Wisdom is realising they haven't. Basically you never get it sorted. It's just the issues change the older you get.

"That's the thing with this age. When they were young these characters were trying to work out what life was all about. Now they have given up trying to work it out. They're just trying to make do with the hand life has dealt them."

#### Q: What can you tell us about John Thomson's performance as Pete in this series?

"John is a wonderful comic actor. But I find his greatest strength is when he goes to a really emotional place. I remember when we did this the first time around. There was a scene where Jenny left to go to America. Pete was waving them off at the airport and then he realises he's still holding the kid's cuddly toy and he breaks down in tears. Actors quite often use a tear stick to make them tear up. They offered that to John and he said, 'No, I think I could do this myself.'"



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen continued:

"That's the thing. He can. And when he can, God it is so truthful. And raw. And I love him for it so much. There's a scene at the end of episode two where he breaks down and clings to Jenny. That breaks my heart because I have lived that moment myself and it's exactly like that. That sense that you are holding that person because they are your anchor to the Earth. I think John has taken something from life there as well and it absolutely comes across."

#### Q: What did you want to explore in Karen's (Hermione Norris) story?

"Karen has always been the character who seems to have it most together. Who is most comfortable in her own skin. And so what interested me was the idea of taking a strong, independent woman who slightly has the rug pulled out from under her in her late 40s. And to what degree is she capable of being the mistress of her own destiny?

"After her marriage Karen concentrated her efforts on bringing up her children well so they were not damaged by the breakdown of her relationship with David. Having done that she can now turn her attention back to herself. She has told herself she doesn't need anyone. She has built this little armor around herself.

"Women of that age are not meant to win. The stories are often about how they are invisible, past their sell-by date and it's all over for them. Karen is not the sort of character who is prepared to accept that. She refuses to be judged by society's values. The most important thing to her is judging herself. It's not how others judge her, it's how she judges herself. In a way she is a template for us all because that's the best way to live your life."

#### Q: And where do we find David (Robert Bathurst) in this series?

"David is the sort of character who has judged himself by how successful he has been. Success in terms of accumulation of wealth and 'stuff' and judging yourself against your peers. Being able to say, 'I am doing better than them.'

"He's reached the age where he's no longer rising up the corporate ladder. Now he's just trying to hold on to his place. But he's also realising that what he's aspired to is a little empty. That it hasn't fulfilled him. David grows as a character over the course of this series and regrets some of the choices he has made."

#### Q: Tell us about James Bolam, who appears in episode two as Harry?

"His name was suggested and I just leapt all over it. He's one of my favourite actors. I remember when I was a kid watching Whatever Happened To The Likely Lads? But The Beiderbecke Affair and The Beiderbecke Tapes were partly why I wanted to become a writer. Because to me they were just the perfect tone. That was comedy drama. And I've always aspired to write about that stuff. He's brilliant at the honesty of the emotions he's feeling. He can take it in both a comedic and dramatic direction because he always finds the truth in it.



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen continued:

"Cold Feet is at its best when it touches on subjects which are real in life and society. And we need to have a grown up debate about the way we deal with the elderly. We expect them to still hang around when some of them wish they weren't here. I'm hoping that story might make people think."

## Q: Leanne Best is a new addition as Tina to the cast. How does she fit in to the mix of this new series.

"I enjoyed writing Tina. She's a bit of an iceberg. Not that she's cold at all. But there's a lot going on under the surface which you don't initially see. We learn it over the course of the series. If you meet someone, as our characters did, reasonably early in their lives then you grow up with them. But when you meet someone new later in life there is a lot of their history you only learn slowly over the passage of time. That rather intrigues me.

"There are people I've met later in life and it's only quite a distance into the relationship that you suddenly learn something incredibly significant about them and you have to shift your whole perception of them.

"Like all of us, Tina is acting a part for the rest of the world. She's presenting a face to the world of who she'd like to appear to be. But that's not necessarily who she is."

## Q: Adam re-visits the house where he lived with Rachel. Are there any other nods back to the previous series?

"It was a consideration: To what degree do we want to acknowledge the old show? Initially we had the idea that we would use clips of the old series and drop them in. Because it's really nice to reflect on how people have grown up and changed. There were a few moments that lent themselves to that.

"But we decided not to. Like life, you can't go back. So we do have nods in terms of references to the old show which fans will get and notice. But nor did I want it to be too 'in'. Because there's nothing worse than sitting there thinking, 'Well I must have missed something because I don't know what's going on.'

"So there are moments that might be a bonus to people who really know Cold Feet well. But I hope there is nothing where you would feel you missed out if you are coming to the show new. Or if your memory is like mine and pretty poor.

"You can't make a show thinking what the audience will make of it. We had a big disagreement over the end of the first series when someone said, 'But the audience want a happy ending.' And I thought, 'Well, let's do the opposite. Surprise them.' I wrote to please myself, and hoped enough people would share my taste. And fortunately it turned out they did. More than I'd expected actually.



### **Q&A** with Mike Bullen continued:

#### Q: You were born in Britain and spent much of your life here but moved to Australia?

"I lived in Manchester for the best part of six months while we were filming this new series. But my wife and kids were still over in Sydney. I've been home briefly to see the family and have seen them for around six weeks in the past nine months because my life has been Cold Feet again."

#### Q: Did you go on set much during filming?

"I wasn't on set for the first day of filming in Manchester. I was in an office writing the rest of the series. Typically we were always late with Cold Feet scripts and we were later than ever with this. When we started filming we only had three out of eight scripts. There were other writers involved but the filming was catching us up and by the end they were almost upon us.

"But I did go on set. In the past I've always done little cameos just for my own amusement. Sadly, I didn't get any opportunity to shoot a cameo this time, so that's the end of my TV screen career!

"The script read-through before we started filming the new series was the first occasion where I saw the cast all back together. And the weirdest thing was how not weird it felt. It was as if we'd been on holiday for a few weeks and were just getting back together. Everyone had aged in that time but not as much as you'd expect.

"Like when you have reunions with old schoolmates, you just slip straight back into the old ways of reacting to each other. It was exactly like that. Everyone was quite nervous and then after five minutes you'd completely forgotten about that. Just like being among old mates again."

#### Q: The series is filmed and set in Manchester. Why is that location so important?

"Manchester is much more of a character in this series than it was before. When we did the first five series, I didn't live in Manchester. But because I was based in Manchester this time it's coloured the way I've written and Manchester feels like much more of a personality. I'm really pleased with that. In the time since we've been away Manchester has gone through a renaissance and it's a great looking city now with a real buzz about it. So we wanted to reflect that in the show."

#### Q: What are your thoughts as the date nears for Cold Feet's return?

"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. Of course it's down to the audience reaction as to whether we do more. But I certainly think there is space to do more with these characters. We've set them on a journey where they've got a long way to go. Hopefully we'll all want to go with them."



### **Q&A** with James Nesbitt – Adam Williams



#### Q: Why did you want to return to Cold Feet?

"I never thought we would do it again. Then I opened the script and thought, 'Oh my God, there they are.' Enough time had gone by. Those familiar, yet distant, characters leapt off the page and they still had something to say. It was fascinating to see them after that gap of time, where their lives were and where they were going to go. The new dynamics with the children and yet the familiar friendship. So I thought all the ingredients were there to have another crack at it. The script was the hook.

"Mike Bullen's scripts are brilliant. It's easy to forget just how innovative Cold Feet was at the time. And I think that magic is still there. Mike is an intelligent writer. He's able to take ordinary people and put them in extraordinary circumstances. A very clever, accessible writer with Cold Feet in his DNA."

#### Q: Was it easy to recall the cast chemistry?

"There was a bit of trepidation because we hadn't really seen each other for a long time. Many, many years for some of them. So we didn't know what to expect. And it was a relief, which then turned into joy as we were filming, that actually it seemed we had only been away a couple of months and we got on so well. Cold Feet was as happy this time as it's ever been, if not the happiest.

"It was amazing. We slipped right back into it and were surprised at how much we were enjoying it. We all looked at each other in one of the very first scenes we filmed and just laughed, thinking, 'Here we are. We're back.'



### **Q&A** with James Nesbitt continued:

"One of my favourite scenes is when Adam, Pete (John Thomson) and David (Robert Bathurst) are in a Chinese restaurant. It's truthful, touching and funny. What was always strong about Cold Feet was - and still is - its humour, pathos and honesty. Those are the ingredients that make Cold Feet what it is."

Q: Helen Baxendale, who played Adam's late wife Rachel, appeared on screen in his grieving imagination in the last episode of Cold Feet in 2003. But she decided not to come back as a ghost in this series?

"I think that was the right decision for Helen to make. I've missed her terribly. She was such an important part of Cold Feet and my professional life. I loved my time working with her. But it would have been stretching it a bit too far to bring her back. Adam talks about Rachel a lot in this series and there's a little tribute to her as well. So her presence is felt throughout."

#### Q: You filmed in Singapore?

"Cold Feet sets its stall out pretty clearly from the start. Those opening scenes in Singapore say we are back. They set the new series up really well ahead of a homecoming for Adam."

#### Q: What has Adam been doing since we last saw him?

"Adam has travelled the world, trying to move on after the death of his wife Rachel while at the same time keeping her memory alive. His work has clearly been successful and he has lived all around the globe, taking his son Matthew with him. But when Adam moved to Singapore, Matthew was 12 and wanted to go to boarding school back in England. So Adam is at a point where he has to re-establish that relationship with his son."

## Q: Adam's son Matthew is now 15 and played by Ceallach Spellman. How was it working with him?

"Cel is a very important part of this new series. He's brilliant. He gets it. Cel reminds me a lot of Helen. Anyone would be very proud to have him as a son and I'm very proud to have him as a screen son.

"One of the challenges of a new series is to ask, 'What happens in late-40s, early-50s? Where are our lives? What is past, what is finished with, what is new, what are the potentials?'

"The relationship with your child is a big thing. That was what really excited me about it. My own two daughters weren't born when we filmed the pilot episode of Cold Feet. That's been the backdrop to my life in the intervening years. Adam has misjudged his role as a father. Which is certainly not something he planned. Breaking the covenant he would have made to Rachel about being a great father. He's let that slip and realises something needs to change before it's too late."



### **Q&A** with James Nesbitt continued:

#### Q: Adam visits the house where he lived with Rachel. Was that poignant to film?

"I found it very emotional, going back to the very same house. I wanted to say something in that scene about Rachel - and Helen in a way. It really took me back. The very last scene of the show was me leaving that house and jumping into a taxi. And here I am back again all those years later. So it was very moving."

## Q: He presents his son with his first Manchester United shirt. In real life you are a big fan but Cel is not?

"We've had a lot of chat about that. Cel is a mad Manchester City fan. So I was delighted he had to wear the United shirt. I think that was his biggest acting challenge in the whole of the five months of the shoot. We filmed at Old Trafford and he felt he was being terribly treacherous."

# Q: Adam and Pete's (John Thomson) friendship is as strong as ever. But they are also worlds apart?

"Adam can be blind at times to what's really going on. He can be very selfish, as well. Adam always thinks he can fix things and make things work. But actually Pete is going through a very difficult time, which a lot of people have gone through over recent years.

"John Thomson has been amazing in this series. He's been a revelation and he's fantastic as always in these new episodes."

#### Q: How do you view middle age?

"You're not quite sure what's left in your late 40s and 50s. There are still plenty of blank sheets of paper ahead. But sometimes you just don't know what to fill them with and you can't find the pens."

## Q: One character talks about the different paths life takes us on. What other path might you have taken?

"I'm constantly reminded of how lucky I am by the level and range of work I've been doing. I was planning to be a teacher. That was the plan. Occasionally I have regrets about that - that I didn't fulfill that. But acting has been so good to me and I've been able to do so many other things that I'm constantly aware of how lucky that is."



### **Q&A** with James Nesbitt continued:

#### Q: Pete describes how he'd like to be when he is old. What about you?

"There's so much I'd like back. I'd like another crack at things. I just hope I'm near the sea, playing a bit of golf, seeing my friends, having the odd pint and my daughters are with me a lot."

#### Q: Leanne Best joins the cast as Tina. What does Adam make of her?

"Leanne Best is really brilliant as Tina. Tina is strong with her own past and her own story which has led to the person she is now. I think that's classic Cold Feet again. You're not quite sure what is going to happen."

#### Q: How was filming back in Manchester, the home of Cold Feet?

"Manchester has changed a lot since we filmed the last series. But it's still got its soul. Obviously I've got a connection to Manchester because of United. And people were so thrilled we were back. People are so warm, friendly and welcoming. Everyone in Manchester feels Cold Feet is theirs. So it's been wonderful to be back. Manchester is an incredible city. I hope we've brought it alive on screen again."

#### Q: Did you watch any previous episodes to refresh your memory?

"When we came back from filming in Singapore I got quite bad jet lag. I stayed up late a few nights and just happened to see Cold Feet was re-running. I hadn't seen it in years and years and I watched a couple of episodes, going, 'I can't remember that at all.' It was really strange. I literally couldn't remember quite a lot of it. I could place myself. It was like watching someone I used to know, in a way, in a familiar place. But not quite remembering. It was really interesting."

## Q: You had a day off from filming to collect your OBE from the Queen for services to both drama and Northern Ireland?

"That was a great day. My father is 88 and I was delighted he was there, along with my daughters. It was just wonderful to have them all there. A really brilliant day. For both of those things to be mentioned in the citation meant the world to me. The Queen talked about horses. I've met the Princess Royal a few times at the races, so we talked a bit about that and Northern Ireland. She was wonderful."

#### Q: Did you take the medal back to the Cold Feet set?

"I didn't take the medal back to the set. But in the make-up truck there's always photos pinned up of all the cast. So beside my name I wrote, 'OBE'. Which drove them mad, I think."



### **Q&A** with James Nesbitt continued:

#### Q: The cast and crew played bingo at the wrap party after filming. Is that your true calling?

"I used to call bingo in Northern Ireland at Portrush for a summer when I was 16, 17. So the bingo was a bit of an in-joke. We had a great night. I called the bingo at the wrap party with unwanted gifts everybody brought in to recycle. It was a bit different from the old wrap parties. But we're all much wiser. It was a wonderful night."

#### Q: How many times have you been asked over the years, when is Cold Feet coming back?

"A lot. And now we can say...very soon.

"We all watched the first episode of this new series and found it very moving. It holds a mirror to your life and the past. There's a melancholy to it but also there's excitement. It's all those things we ask ourselves at our age. But it's underscored with love, family and friendship."

#### Q: And if Mike writes more, would you return?

"Oh yeah. In a heartbeat. I think there's more to do."



### **Q&A** with John Thomson – Pete Gifford



#### Q: Why is now the right time to return to the Cold Feet characters?

"There was talk of Cold Feet coming back around five years ago. For various reasons it didn't come together. But now is a very good time for it to return. There was no recession when we did Cold Feet the first time around. Everyone was on a relatively even keel. Times are different today.

"Also after the doom and gloom of recent months it will be nice for people to seek solace in something they know and loved from before. But you can also come to Cold Feet fresh, without having to know too much background. It's self-explanatory. The problems they're experiencing aren't necessarily just late fortysomething problems. They are people problems."

#### Q: Was it difficult recapturing the cast chemistry?

"Not at all. It just happened. It's been a joy working with everyone. I relished every single minute. Because we all get on. And it shows. You pick up where you left off. Like old friends who haven't seen each other for a while do.

"The script read-through before we started filming was the most nerve-wracking thing because it's not a natural situation. There's a lot of people at that initial meeting. Every head of department and his brother. It's a daunting prospect.

"Also, the first day of filming is always a bit nerve-wracking. Especially if you've not worked for a bit because your brain is not trained for the lines. If you're a jobbing actor and are going from job to job, your brain gets into such a good rhythm for learning. I hadn't had too long off work but the first day is always nervous.



## **Q&A** with John Thomson continued:

"And then three weeks later, Jimmy, Robert and me were filming a scene in the pub and Jimmy said, 'How weird is this? It feels like a few weeks ago we did this. Not 13 years.' And I went, 'It's great, isn't it?'

"We don't hang out together. I'm in Manchester and we're spread all over the place. We've got families now as well. That's the big difference this time. We're not as free. That's why we filmed the new series of Cold Feet over five day weeks because it was very manageable to have a family life and work.

"If it had been six days it would have been impossible. I don't think Hermione or Fay would have done it and I would have struggled. That was one of the things that had to be in place, five day weeks. Because back in the day none of us had kids."

Q: Asked several years ago where you saw Pete if Cold Feet returned, you replied, 'I'm half the size I used to be, so probably down the gym with a beautiful model for a wife and splitting his weekends between Didsbury and Monte Carlo.' It hasn't quite turned out that way for him?

"No. I'm devastated! When I finished the last series of Cold Feet I was huge. I saw a clip recently of Rachel's funeral and I couldn't believe how big I'd got. I'm a bit more mindful about what goes in my body these days. So I am half the size but sadly no model or Monte Carlo for Pete."

#### Q: What happens to Pete?

"Pete's storyline is huge. Because I'm sober - 10 years this Christmas - I think they knew I was no maintenance. Not low. No. When they realised that they made sure I had something meaty to try and deal with to see if I could handle it. And I have.

"There is, of course, light and shade in Cold Feet but a little more shade for Pete this time which was tough to play. There were days when I'd go home and I would be just washed out because of the emotion and the scenes, some of the stuff I had to do. I found it quite hard. I saw a little bit of one scene where they screened a tease at the wrap party. The room went quiet.

"For me, it's been a fantastic opportunity. I didn't anticipate Cold Feet coming back. I feel blessed to be able to play Pete again and be given such amazing storylines. I couldn't be happier.

"Even though I've done five series of Cold Feet before, people ask, 'Have you ever thought about straight acting?' And I think, 'Well, what's Cold Feet then?' Unless they mean Hamlet. I don't know!"



### **Q&A with John Thomson continued:**

#### Q: Did you draw on some of your own life experience to play Pete's story in this series?

"Absolutely. Oh God, yeah. With the ups and downs of my life there was a lot I could draw on. It was useful. The Americans don't admit they have off days. That's why they're all in therapy. It was good. But it's nice for me because my pedigree is comedy and it's expected of me. I think it's a very personal storyline to the writer Mike Bullen. He's delighted with what I've done, which is great.

"There was huge amount of pressure on us to deliver in so many different packages. When I saw that first episode on screen I thought it was excellent and it did make me cry. Because of the emotion of the show. It was so well acted by everyone it got me a couple of times. I just shot off afterwards because I was overwhelmed. I felt we had achieved what we wanted to achieve.

"It's more than just the fact of doing a good acting job. Did it gel? Is it true to what the fans want? All these different things. So when the first episode screening finished I was like, 'Oh God, yes. I think they'll be happy with that.' That was a massive relief. Because we haven't messed with it. We've kept the spirit of Cold Feet and been very true to our original format.

"Cold Feet is not a comedy drama. It's a drama with comic elements. If you watch it objectively as an ensemble thing, I think it's brilliant."

#### Q: What's the state of Pete and Jenny's (Fay Ripley) marriage?

"I think Pete and Jenny are closer than ever. Because they've been through so much. Jenny is a stalwart. That's one of the beauties of this new series. Pete and Jenny are very popular because they're the average couple. That's why people identify with them."

#### Q: James Bolam plays Harry in this new series. What was it like working with him?

"He was absolutely brilliant. On the money. Word perfect. Just a joy to work with."

# Q: Adam (James Nesbitt) and Pete remain huge Manchester United fans. Did that require plenty of acting on your part?

"A friend of mine saw a trailer for the new series and said, 'It was you, in a Man Utd strip, drinking a pint. I've never seen anything so weird in my life.' Because I hate sport and I don't drink! To be doing that, drinking a pint watching football is my absolute idea of hell.

"Pete's not so great in his choice of clothes. You have to keep things real but at the same time my rule of thumb for Pete is, 'I wouldn't wear that.' The costume people love it. But it's a bit weird putting football strips on. I wouldn't be seen dead in one. Even if I liked football. Certainly not every day. I don't mind people wearing them on a match day. But not day to day."



### **Q&A** with John Thomson continued:

#### Q: Pete is in a cycle race with Adam and David (Robert Bathurst). How was that to film?

"Oh what a day that was. I couldn't walk at the end of it. It was epic. With Pete in pink Lycra. I have a mountain bike and I do go out on it. That's fine. You get on your bike, you ride a bit and then you go home. But for filming it was, 'Right back to the top of the hill and down again.' People don't realise how many takes we did. So it was probably 10 hours in the saddle. Despite the fact I had foam reinforced cycling shorts on, I looked like John Wayne at the end of the day."

#### Q: Tell us about the Cold Feet children, a visible reminder of how much time has gone by?

"My eldest daughter Olivia is 13 now, around the same age as Pete's daughter Chloe. Having a 13-year-old daughter really helped. That was easy to draw on. It's nice to be a dad to be able to play what it's like. To have that experience and not guess at it."

# Q: David makes a speech about the bleak outlook of his own middle age. Are you as pessimistic?

"It really makes you think, what David says. For me it has a positive effect. Because I don't want to be like that. I try to live in the moment a lot more these days, spiritually. I'm quite centered. So that kind of fatalist outlook doesn't really go with my character make-up. Because you'll never be happy, will you?"

#### Q: Choices we make in life are also discussed. What different path might you have taken?

"A drummer would have been one. I could have been a full-time professional drummer in a band. And I do love to cook. Despite MasterChef being an absolute disaster, which we won't go into, I still cook and love to cook. I love food. I'm a real foodie. So catering would have been something I might have liked.

"Something creative, definitely. I'm not a number cruncher. That's one of the things you realise. When you don't really identify with people you wonder why. What's the boundary between someone you meet? And you realise creative people bond very well. Whereas left brains and right brains...I find conversation stilted with systems analysts. You find yourself lost. I'm not socially inept by any standard. But for those people I have to really pull out all the stops because they're not creative. And I love creativity.

"I'm grateful every day because I do a job I love and I'm paid for it. Not many people have that luxury these days."



## **Q&A with John Thomson continued:**

#### Q: Tell us about the location of the final scene you filmed for this series?

"It was at Salford Boys' Club, made iconic by The Smiths. I'd never been in the place. I was born at Hope Hospital in Salford and so were my two girls, Olivia and Sophia. Which is great. The maternity ward has gone now at Hope. It doesn't exist. Sophia was one of the last babies to be born there.

"So I'm Salford-born and I was adopted in Didsbury. It all inter-links. I live in Didsbury, as does Pete. That's my spiritual home. Just a nice place to be."

#### Q: Is Salford's neighbour Manchester still an important ingredient of Cold Feet?

"Absolutely. As a city it was great 13 years ago. But it's got better and better. Manchester has changed so much. It's been massively regenerated and I hope that continues. It's thriving."

#### Q: What happened at the end of series wrap party?

"Because I don't drink, wrap parties aren't great. So I said, 'Let's try and make it a bit Phoenix Nights-ish.' We had bingo and a comedy raffle. It was my idea to bring in unwanted gifts wrapped in newspaper. The greater the comedic value the better. The bingo went down a storm."

#### Q: How do the cast feel about filming another series after this one?

"We'd love to. I don't see why not."



### **Q&A** with Fay Ripley – Jenny Gifford



#### Q: What led to the return of Cold Feet?

"It has been talked about for so long that when eventually it was muted as a real live, grown up idea, I don't think any of us believed it. There had been a lot of false alarms over the years so all of us were rather cynical. I had put it to bed. I was totally assuming Cold Feet was never going to come back.

"It always needed Mike Bullen to want to write it. And when the right time for Mike came, I guess then came the knock-on effect. Then we all spoke to each other with an initial reaction of, 'Really? Is this actually going to happen?' Initially I probably said yes thinking, 'Well I'll say yes but it'll never happen.

"Then we got a script and suddenly it all seemed very real and we started to get our heads around it. I was very nervous in the lead up to filming. For a few reasons. I was nervous for some obvious ones about revisiting something. In the same way I've never gone to school reunions. I was worried about disappointing people who liked it the first time around.

"But once I'd read the first script, it felt so familiar and so like Cold Feet that it put my mind at rest. And I thought, 'Well, it was a good show then and I think it's a good show now.' So I don't see why one shouldn't make a good show, independently of what's gone before"



### **Q&A** with Fay Ripley continued:

#### O: How did it feel to be back?

"It's that familiarity of bumping into somebody you knew really well some years ago. I'm like that. I forget about the bad bits when I bump into people from my past and I just go, 'Oh my God! How are you? Did you get married? Divorced? Did you have kids? What's your job now? What happened? Where do you live?' The same questions apply to Cold Feet. What's happened to them?

"That is quite an emotional thing because you do a bit of a fast forward over your own life and you look at where you are as well, don't you? Inevitably you go, 'Actually, what have I done since the last time I sat down and watched that show?'

"Once we were all in the room together it literally felt like five minutes ago. Nothing had changed. It was like one of those family or friends' barbecues where you turn up and you're slightly dreading it but it's lovely and you don't ever remember being away. You remember the jokes they laugh at and why you found them funny. It all happened shockingly quickly when we got back together.

#### Q: Where is Jenny when we meet her again?

"I think Jenny's is a recognisable story. Her and Pete (John Thomson) are back together. When we left Pete and Jenny, she had gone off to America and had returned for the funeral of her friend Rachel. But she was eight months' pregnant with a child that wasn't Pete's. So there's a missing gap there and all of that will be explained.

"Jenny had a daughter called Chloe and Pete brought that girl up. She's the same age as my real life daughter because I was, of course, actually pregnant then. It wasn't padding. So I have a daughter in Cold Feet the same age as my daughter. While Jenny and Pete already had a child together called Adam.

"So Jenny and Pete have patched up their marriage but there has been some financial strain on the family and they're only in the same house by the skin of their teeth with a dark financial cloud hanging over their heads.

"Pete and Jenny are not poor by any stretch of the imagination. That's important to say. They still live in Didsbury. But they're living in the shoes of their former, better off selves and they don't quite fit anymore.

"No-one is ever pretending Cold Feet is a fly-on-the-wall documentary. This isn't Seven Up! where you follow the lives of people and see where they've got to. That's real. Cold Feet is a drama and charming to watch. Even though you recognise things in your own life, it also takes you away from real life."



### **Q&A** with Fay Ripley continued:

#### Q: Fortysomething into fiftysomething can be a difficult time for some?

"It is an interesting time. Maybe it's particularly confusing for men as us women take over the universe! But through all that, Cold Feet still charms and still makes you chuckle. In the way real life does. When you fall over you want to cry but you also want to laugh because you look so ridiculous. That's what Cold Feet does and why it's the show people will still recognise. It does that really well. Cold Feet looks at life, acknowledges it but then cuts through it and sees the funny side."

#### Q: How does Jenny view her job?

"Jenny has ended up in a job that is not a passion for her. Again, highly recognisable. I was not somebody who left drama school and was picked to star in a massive West End production. I struggled away for about 10 years before my big break, which was more or less Cold Feet, in my late 20s.

"In between leaving drama school and starting to earn money as an actual actress, I did basically hundreds of similar and awful jobs. From selling men's shirts door to door, I was a clown - as has been reported a lot - and I lasted a day on checking information from a computer print out. Checking surnames to addresses. I sat down at my desk at 9am and had to look at these bits of paper to 5pm. Falling asleep at five past nine, I woke up at lunchtime having only checked one line. I got the sack.

"So Jenny does it for the money to help support her family. This is a modern family where they are sharing responsibility for everything. But it's starting to become a real grind for Jenny and I think she would like something else in her life."

#### Q: And is Jenny still dishing out advice?

"Mike Bullen writes Jenny as saying what she thinks. You'd want to be behind her in a fight, basically. She's not going to be at the back giving gentle support. She's going to be up front leading the fight."

#### Q: How did you feel about your growing Cold Feet children, 'Young' Adam and Chloe?

"It's frightening. I get to have an actual human man as my child. A whole man. It's not right. I don't know how that happened. How is that medically possible? My eldest in real life is 13 and I've got a nine-year-old. So I'm still on the school run. Although I've got 13-year-old Chloe in Cold Feet, the presence of this older boy freaked me out. Apparently my character has a child that needs to shave. Which is a worry."



### **Q&A** with Fay Ripley continued:

#### Q: Will your own children watch you in Cold Feet?

"My kids don't watch me on the telly. They find it really weird if I kiss anyone. Fair enough. But I think they might let me kiss John Thomson. Because they know him, think he's funny and really like him. So they might watch Cold Feet. I've done a lot of stuff they can't watch. But this is family viewing."

## Q: Rachel (Helen Baxendale) was killed in the last series. But she's remembered in the new episodes?

"Rachel is still very much present in this series without appearing. Because Adam and Rachel had a child together. Also she was our friend and you would try and keep that alive for the sake of that child, apart from anything else. While part of the story is about Adam (James Nesbitt) essentially trying to replace that love of his life."

#### Q: Did filming bring back lots of memories?

"All the time. It was like going back to an old house you were brought up in. Also we had filmed everywhere in Manchester. So every time we went past somewhere I'd have a deja vu moment thinking, 'What happened? Was I drunk there or was I acting drunk? I can't remember.'

"Pete and Jenny are back in the same house. Although it has different owners now. On the same street. It's really bonkers. Manchester is fabulous. New trams everywhere, snazzy restaurants and great hotels. It's a nice place to film.

"It's hard for me to work away from home. It's something I've chosen to not do. I've chosen to work near home, within easy distance of my kids. So it helped me a lot that I was going somewhere I knew. And now the train is amazing. A few times I did there and back in one day.

"People are adorable and very sweet when you're filming and couldn't be more helpful. Because they are proud of Cold Feet.

"They also think I'm from Manchester. Thankfully I seemed to have pulled the wool over most people's eyes when it comes to that. And I do not tell them otherwise. The best moment for me of Cold Feet was when I was asked to voice over the Town Hall car park in Manchester. They said, 'We want a famous local to do it.' I thought, 'I've made it.'"



### **Q&A** with Fay Ripley continued:

## Q: As the author of three best-selling cookbooks, what did you make of Jenny's present day kitchen?

"They managed to find me some cookbooks for Jenny, mainly from 1970. I spent quite a lot of my down time having a look at them. Let's just say, there's a lot of fondues in those recipe books and a few prawn cocktails. I was like, 'These cookbooks need updating. I have three options that would be great...'"

## Q: Cold Feet has a new title track written by Elbow's Guy Garvey and Peter Jobson from I Am Kloot. What do you think of it?

"The new song is absolutely gorgeous. That's such a cool thing to have. Music was always a strong part of Cold Feet. I've still got all the old CDs somewhere."

# Q: Pete and Jenny can't afford an air fare in the first episode. Have you had a similar experience?

"I had met my now husband after the first Cold Feet and had started to fall in love with him. He was living in America and he suggested I come out there. I couldn't believe it but I just didn't have the money and I knew I couldn't afford to go. It was just one of those things.

"Now at that stage I did not have the responsibility of two children, the commitments of a family and a large mortgage over my head. Because I was 30. And in that situation I managed to beg and borrow.

"My friend was going out to America and traded in her business class ticket for two economy tickets, got me on the flight, and my dad leant me some spending money. But he held back my birthday presents, which was some new saucepans, until I paid him back! So it reminded me of that situation."

#### Q: How do you reflect on the return of Cold Feet, having now filmed the series?

"I left Cold Feet in series four when Jenny moved to New York and returned in the final episode of series five, the last one we filmed. When I left I had asked Mike Bullen to kill me off because I wanted a big, dramatic dying scene. And then I came back at the end because they asked me, I was nostalgic for the show and I was delighted to do so.

"But what I hadn't thought about was that 13 years later it was going to be really handy that I did come back. Because now I can be in Cold Feet in 2016. So I am very grateful for having not been killed off."



## **Q&A** with Fay Ripley continued:

#### Q: Would you like to do more?

"In this day and age you certainly don't count that chicken before it's hatched. But it would be nice to do it again because we all had a great time making it. I really do think the people that used to like Cold Feet will still like it. And then on top of that I hope it will also find a new audience. I guess time will tell on that one."



### **Q&A with Hermione Norris – Karen Marsden**



#### Q: What persuaded you to return to the role of Karen?

"It was the writer Mike Bullen who persuaded me to come back. He felt this group of characters and their generation would have interesting things to say and now would be a good time to revisit them. And it was about time we did.

"The thing that struck me most about it all was just being back with those characters. When I agreed to do it we had the script for episode one and Mike Bullen's promise. So everything is unfolding as you're going along.

"But I am very glad I said yes and did it. Having originally decided if the chance to do Cold Feet again came up I would never do it. Now I will never regret having revisited it. Whatever the audience reaction, I'm really glad I took part in it again."

#### Q: Was there a moment where you really felt Cold Feet was back?

"For me it was when we heard it off the page at the script read-through. I felt quite emotional. Normally at a read-through you're setting up stories, place, environment, relationships and dynamics. But so much has happened to all of those characters and that was already there. All of the foundations were laid down and actually some of them were very sad, poignant and oddly emotional.

"Honestly, it was just like walking straight back into it. That was the other thing that was really weird. There was no effort. It was just there."



### **Q&A** with Hermione Norris continued:

#### Q: Where is Karen in her life when we meet her again?

"Karen 13 years on is not in a relationship. Her focus has been on raising her two girls Ellie and Olivia, son Josh ,and her work. Obviously David is still very much a part of their lives because they have children together. So they've been navigating their way through the children and raising a family.

"She has also been the guardian to Adam's (James Nesbitt) son Matthew (Ceallach Spellman) in Adam's absence. So she's been Matthew's point of contact as well."

#### Q: So Karen is not looking for anyone else?

"If you've been married to David, had children with David and she's chosen to divorce David, why would she get into a relationship with somebody else?! She's got her sock drawer back and her life how she wants it. She wants to keep it simple, having disentangled herself from something quite complicated and compromising. It would have to be something quite amazing to make her go back into a relationship again, co-habiting and sharing.

"The prospect of going 'out there' and dating again is just awful. I'm married but the thought of doing all that again, seriously?' Being interviewed? No thanks. I'd rather be on my own!'"

# Q: Heading towards 50 is a tricky age for many. David says maybe in middle age all you can hope for is fleeting glimpses of happiness?

"I think that maybe true for a lot of us. It's in the small moments that you find the joy as a grown-up. I'm turning 50 in December and it's a time of reflection for me. You've made, the major decisions you're going to make in your life and you're now living in the consequences of all of those choices you made. Those choices are behind you.

"I will certainly want to see my very close friends when I'm 50. But I definitely don't want a big party."

#### Q: Rachel (Helen Baxendale) died in the last series but she is still a presence in this new one?

"I really missed Helen but the character Rachel is present all the way through this series, even though she is no longer with us. Made more so by Adam and Rachel's son Matthew, played by Cel Spellman. It's him that draws the old and new Cold Feet together. A teenage boy without his mum and the challenges that brings to Jimmy's character Adam.

"Cel is a fantastic actor. He brought a huge amount to Cold Feet this time. A lovely bloke, a really good guy."



### **Q&A** with Hermione Norris continued:

#### Q: The Cold Feet children are a visible reminder of the time that has gone by?

"Absolutely. I couldn't believe it when those two stunning girls walked in as my 16-year-old screen daughters. I thought, 'Oh my God.' And Karen's son Josh is on his gap year. I hadn't had any children when I did Cold Feet. So you really felt the passing of time. That's the ages they would be."

#### Q: Karen is still in publishing but has a younger boss who doesn't appreciate her?

"Anyone approaching 50 who has managed to raise a family and work would be quite experienced by that age and stage. Karen certainly is. So she would find it very frustrating to have some young pup come in and try to move the company away from her passion for authors and books. I totally identified with her in that regard. I hope people will identify with that story. I certainly did when I read it."

# Q: Cold Feet is primarily an entertainment but will this series give the audience pause for thought?

"I hope so. It always did.. I do think many of the reflections Mike Bullen has written are true."

#### Q: Had you forgotten things about Karen?

"I couldn't even remember how many children Karen had. Fairly fundamental. But I've read hundreds of scripts since the last series. And as an actor you just move on. As soon as a scene is shot, - your mind just erases it. Otherwise you'd be like some mad crazy person wandering around London muttering all the various lines you've learned and said over the years.

"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 Bullen's words. The onus and responsibility is entirely his . No pressure Mike!"

## Q: One of the characters talks about making a leap of faith. Is that something you have done at times in your life?

"Everything in my life has been a leap of faith, really. I would honestly say that. It's all a leap of faith, isn't it? I am grateful for the choices I have made."

#### Q: What was it like filming back in Manchester, the home of Cold Feet?

"Manchester is very important to Cold Feet. It's like its sixth character now Rachel is not there. It's surprising how important the fact that it's Manchester is. When we filmed the first series the city was glitzy, New Labour and trendy. And it has grown and changed and modernised since we've been away."



### **Q&A** with Hermione Norris continued:

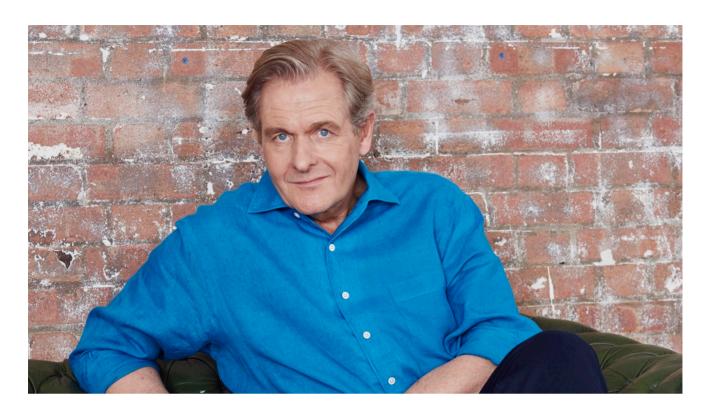
#### Q: How do you reflect on the fact it's now 20 years since the pilot episode was filmed in 1996?

"Revisiting Cold Feet was like entering a strange time zone where it was simultaneously twenty years ago and yesterday for the 41/2 months it took to shoot! Strange and bizarre! It was a huge privilege to do it.

"I really hope people enjoy the new series and are both comforted and entertained by it. That's what my wish is. As for more, who knows! More will be revealed!"



### **Q&A** with Robert Bathurst – David Marsden



#### Q: How did the Cold Feet cast reunion happen?

"We each had lunch with the writer Mike Bullen and he explained what he wanted to do. Talking to Mike it became clear that the show might be richer for the gap, he's always allowed the characters to develop and it could be enjoyable to see where they are now."

"Some writers give a character certain set qualities and that's what you've got to carry through for the whole series, that's the flag you wave. Mike has always thrown things at these characters and allowed them to behave in unexpected, very human ways. So having been away from the character for 13 years, he's allowed all of those things that might have gone on in the meantime to inform how we are now."

"I hope people want to know what has happened to these characters. But you don't have an eye on the audience at all when you're doing it. Couples would come up to me in the last few years and say, 'We courted to Cold Feet.' Which is a great, being part of a Show that people got so involved with.

"But it's really important when you're doing it not to second guess the audience. Not to think, 'Oh, this will go down well.' You just do it, and hope it works."

#### Q: Was bonding as a cast again a simple matter?

"It was quite extraordinary. It was unexpectedly easy. Because we hadn't seen much of each other in the time since the last series. Meeting up again was very pleasurable."



### **Q&A** with Robert Bathurst continued:

#### Q: Where do we find David when we meet him again?

"David is older but not wiser . He's got monumentally poor judgement and yet he does his best. That's what I enjoy about him, if there's a decision to make, David will often make the wrong one. But for the finest of motives. Usually. Sometimes his natural greed and self-absorption takes over. Often he thinks he's doing things for the right reasons and maybe he is. But the result is deeper personal chaos."

# Q: He is still with divorce lawyer Robyn (Lucy Robinson). After 13 years how would you describe their relationship?

"Robyn has had enough of David. Whatever ambitions she had for their relationship look as though they're dwindling.

"He's obviously all right at business. But what's rather good about Mike's writing is people aren't defined by what they do for a living. It's always been very loose as to what we actually do. Adam (James Nesbitt) is loosely in IT, Pete's (John Thomson) occupation is clearer in this series. David's is office work. Loosely financial."

#### Q: How does David feel about getting older?

"He talks about it on a miserable night out with Adam and Pete. It's a rather bleak outlook. He's never spoken like that before, and he says it while he's with the boys. In the early series they only tolerated David because they liked Karen (Hermione Norris). That's true to life because there are partners of your friends where people think, 'Oh, have they got to come too?'

"And then over time, because of the weight of shared history, you tolerate them and then there grows an acceptance, even a friendship, because they are now part of each other's history.

"David is rather like that. He found himself in their company, initially derided, and now he's at ease with them and they seem to be at ease with him. Which is another example of how Mike allows his characters to develop.

"Will it make the audience reflect on their own lives? One of the keys of the show has always been that the characters are rubbish at life. That inevitably makes you reflect on your own condition and how you approach things, how much store you put on success, aspiration and relationships. So yes. It can possibly be seen as a mirror to what's going on in the audience's life. Or it can be something you just enjoy watching."



## **Q&A** with Robert Bathurst continued:

#### Q: Do you think the audience will be sympathetic towards David at any stage?

"As an actor you interpret what Mike's written. But I've always attempted, where I could, to find a chink of humanity in David. Originally he was the white-collar professional, ex-yuppie and at heart an unsympathetic sort of character. He still has unsympathetic traits but David does things for the best. He does try. That might, or might not, engender sympathy in this series."

#### Q: Robyn describes David as "morally slippery'. Do you agree with that description?

"What's good fun is that David simply doesn't see it. People run a fine line in all walks of life. Morally slippery? I don't think David sees it that way. He's not that self-aware. It takes somebody else to point it out."

#### Q: Did you watch any of the old episodes before working on this new series?

"I didn't, no. The only time I've seen it was when I was on the train travelling up to Manchester for filming and somebody was sitting with their back to me in the row in front. I could see in the reflection of the train window the pilot episode, which I hadn't seen since 1997. I was intrigued. I was looking at it in reverse in the reflection of the window. It turned out to be Art Malik, who plays Eddie Zubayr in this series. He was doing his homework. But I didn't know it was him. It was strange to be watching the pilot on the day before filming series 6."

#### Q: How does David view globe-trotting Eddie Zubayr (Art Malik) when he arrives?

"As soon as he hears about Eddie, David sees a business opportunity and is like a dog with a bone: 'What first attracted you to the multi-millionaire Eddie Zubayr?' He's right in there."

#### Q: David is a victim of mistaken identity. Has that ever happened to you?

"I had my bottom grabbed by somebody at an M6 service station earlier this year. I had just finished a phone call and suddenly had a double-handed goose from somebody behind me. She looked at me amazed that I didn't know who she was and insisted, 'I work for you. You're my boss.' And I replied, 'I'm afraid to say I'm not.' She said, 'Oh you look like my boss and you sound like my boss.' The conversation didn't go any further. She just ran off into the ladies and I never saw her again.

"A long time ago, during the early days of the show, I delivered one of my daughters to a party and one of the other fathers said, 'You look just like that guy off Cold Feet.' I didn't say anything. But I wrote to my agent and said, 'We've got a revenue stream here. I can do my own look-a-likey at the low rent fete openings. We can corner the market.'"



### **Q&A** with Robert Bathurst continued:

#### Q: Would you be keen to come back for another series following this one?

"Absolutely. I do think this new series is strong but I make no presumption that anyone else is going to like it. Whether other people agree is up to them.

"I hope it isn't trumpeted it as the return of the hit series because we've got to earn that again. We can't and mustn't ever say, 'Oh, it worked before. It'll work again.' No-one's thought that during the making of it or had any presumption it's going to be a hit again. People have to make their own minds up."



# **Q&A with Ceallach Spellman – Matthew Williams**



### Q: What did you know about Cold Feet before this new series?

"My mum was a Cold Feet fan and I knew it was one of the most famous British television series. So I was very aware of Cold Feet and the legacy it left behind. But it was only when I talked to people that I got a real understanding and grasp of how great the show really was. And how much of an honour it is to be involved in it.

"Once I was lucky enough to get the role I watched all of the old series. Then I watched the last two episodes on a train from Manchester to London and was sat there like a blubbering mess. Just facing out the window trying to sort myself out.

"So I suddenly got what Cold Feet was about, its essence and everything it brought to television and people's lives. The thing about Mike Bullen's writing and what Cold Feet did in all the previous series was that beautiful journey it could take you on. With an undercurrent of sadness you don't realise is there and then it hits you."

### Q: How did the role of Matthew come about?

"It was bizarre. John Thomson was on ITV's This Morning. They asked him about the rumours and if Cold Feet was coming back and he said the cast were in talks about it. That's when I realised my mum was a fan. Then the audition came through my agent. After about three or four auditions I had a chemistry read with James Nesbitt and was offered the role. You just feel so lucky when a role like this comes along.

"My mum and dad were delighted. They've both been really supportive of what I want to do. My mum later came down on set and met everyone."



# **Q&A** with Ceallach Spellman continued:

### Q: Was it daunting joining the established cast?

"It was definitely daunting to join the Cold Feet cast. If it wasn't, there would have been something wrong. I just wanted to make sure I did the best I could do and also not take anything away from what they've got.

"There were nerves and I was very aware I was coming into a well-received and well-renowned show. But all of the cast were so welcoming. I really settled in which I was very happy about. My on screen dad Jimmy has been an absolute dream to work with. Apart from the fact he's a Manchester United fan!"

### Q: You're a Manchester City fan?

"I was born in Salford and lived there for about three years before we moved to Urmston - and I'm a Manchester City fan. In our first weeks we were actually filming at Old Trafford. Having to wear a Manchester United shirt is probably my best bit of acting. Jimmy took great pleasure and delight in those scenes. I'm just sorry to my dad and grandad who will be bitterly disappointed when they see that on screen."

### Q: Where is Matthew in his life when we meet him?

"Matthew is at a troubled point in his life. He was close to his dad Adam and they had a great bond. But after travelling with him for a number of years, Matthew has gone to boarding school in England and Adam now lives and works in Singapore. So Matthew has become a bit lost and disconnected.

"Having lost his mum Rachel when he was a baby, Matthew's family foundation isn't really there anymore. Karen (Hermione Norris) has been important to him but at that point where you're growing up as a teenager you need parental figures in your life to guide you.

"You definitely want your mum or dad to be strong and be that person that tells you right from wrong. Every parent makes mistakes but we know they're our mum and dad and we love them.

"So Matthew doesn't really know who he is. That closeness with his dad they once had has totally gone. He needs to re-kindle the love and affection they had before Adam went travelling.

"I actually went to boarding school myself - Sylvia Young in London. I started living away from home when I was 11. So I did feel a real connection with Matthew and totally understood what he was going through. I was lucky to have my family there. But without family it would be really tough."



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# **Q&A** with Ceallach Spellman continued:

### Q: Is it fair to say Adam has misjudged his skills as a father?

"Parenting is so complex today. Adam is definitely not as good a father as he thinks he is. The relationship isn't where he thinks it's at. Matthew has had no real outlet and has been dealing with his problems on his own. He's very independent and doesn't want to trouble anyone.

"But as with anybody and anything, there's only so much you can take before you need to release it. A lot of teenagers feel they can't open up but that's exactly what they should do. It's never as bad as you think. Just let it out because it will always feel better afterwards."

### Q: Matthew is a part of his late mother Rachel living on in the new series?

"Matthew's got his mum's genes, good at exams, and his dad's genes, good at sport. My dad is a teacher so he always made sure me and my little brother did our schoolwork. But I'm quite sporty as well.

"I've been very lucky in knowing I've always wanted to act. I got my first acting role when I was seven. Then my first series - Blue Murder - when I was eight. I played Caroline Quentin's son. My mum and dad saw I loved drama and performing. They were great supporting me at what I wanted to do. Then I got an agent, was lucky enough to keep working and Sylvia Young was the perfect opportunity for me to carry on and do what I wanted to do."

### Q: Does it feel like Matthew is a member of the next Cold Feet generation?

"We had Daisy Edgar-Jones and Ella Hunt, who play Karen and David's twins Olivia and Ellie, now 16, and Jack Harper, who plays Jenny and Pete's son, young Adam. It does feel like we are the younger, next generation, particularly in the party scenes when we're all together.

"Watching the old episodes and seeing those characters as babies and young kids was a bit surreal. Now they're teenagers and grown-ups. It's scary how time has flown by. Yet it doesn't feel that long ago."

### Q: What would you say to a younger audience who may never have seen Cold Feet?

"It's a wonderful piece of television. I don't think there is anything on TV like it at the moment. And not only have you got the younger cast, you will be able to relate to the older characters, to any character, as well as the scenarios and stories. There's something in there for everyone."

### Q: Which scenes were your favourites?

"I love the big group scenes. Having everyone together on set. There is a real special energy about them. John Thomson is also amazing as Pete in one of those party scenes.



## **Q&A** with Ceallach Spellman continued:

"There was one scene with me and Hermione and I think we were laughing for about 15 minutes. We could not get this scene done. I cannot remember what she said but just before they called 'action' she turned to me and said one line - and then that was me gone. Neither of us could stop laughing as they tried to do the scene.

"It's been a truly amazing time filming this new series of Cold Feet. To have been welcomed into such a great show has been a joy and a privilege. I feel I'm a part of something really special which, hopefully, will be seen as great television.

"I can't even really put into words how that makes me feel inside. The five months have flown by. It's been a real honour and pleasure. And as if the job couldn't be any better, it is set and filmed in the best place in the world, in my opinion...Manchester."

# Q: You also have a successful show on BBC Radio One. How do you balance presenting with acting?

"The presenting is still very new for me. It's only been for the last two or three years. But having done both acting and presenting now, I very much want them both to run alongside each other.

"My love and passion is 100 per cent the acting. That's what I've known since I was seven. But it's been nice to prove to myself and others that I don't need to choose one or the other. So hopefully I can keep them both going."



## **Synopsis**

# **Episode 1 | written by Mike Bullen**



Episode one sees the gang reunited when Adam (James Nesbitt) returns to Manchester after years of working abroad.

Whilst Adam travelled the world on business, his 15 year-old-son, Matthew (Ceallach Spellman) chose boarding school and, under the guardianship of Godmother, Karen (Hermione Norris), has turned into a well-adjusted young man, or so it seems.

It breaks Karen's (Hermione Norris) heart to see what Rachel is missing out on, and unlike Adam, she's not fooled by Matt's bravado. What this kid needs more than anything right now is his Dad.

Pete (John Thomson) and Jenny (Fay Ripley) are down on their uppers. With two teenagers to support, Pete's juggling two jobs; cabbie and home-help, and Jenny's work in Events Management at a grand hotel is hardly bringing home the bacon. Fast approaching 50, mortgaged up to the eyeballs, Pete is understandably miserable but is pleased to see his best again.



# **Cast and Production Credits**

# **Cast Credits**



Adam Williams	JAMES NESBITT
Karen Marsden	HERMIONE NORRIS
David Marsden	ROBERT BATHURST
Pete Gifford	JOHN THOMSON
Jenny Gifford	FAY RIPLEY
Robyn Duff	LUCY ROBINSON
Matthew Williams	CEALLACH SPELLMAN
Ellie Marsden	ELLA HUNT
Olivia Marsden	DAISY EDGAR-JONES
Chloe Gifford	MADELEINE EDMONSON
Adam Gifford	JACK HARPER
Tina	LEANNE BEST
Angela	KAREN DAVID
Eddie	ART MALIK



## **Production biographies**

### **Kenton Allen**

Kenton Allen is CEO of Big Talk Productions. He is a multi award-winning producer who holds the record for the most individual awards for the Situation Comedy in the history of BAFTA, with multiple wins for **Rev.**, **The Royle Family** and **Him & Her**.

Other notable credits include the Oscar-winning film Six Shooter, the comedy series A Young Doctor's Notebook, Brotherhood, Cockroaches, Crashing, Free Agents (US series), Friday Night Dinner, Give Out Girls, Mr. Sloane, The Job Lot and drama series The Town, Youngers and Our Zoo.

Kenton is the Executive Producer on all series that Big Talk is producing this year including: **Mum, Friday Night Dinner S4, Raised by Wolves S2** and the return of **Cold Feet**, plus 3 pilots: **Back, Timewasters** and **We The Jury** for Channel 4, ITV and BBC respectively.

Kenton has led the dynamic growth of Big Talk Productions over the past 8 years, including BBCW's investment in Big Talk in 2008, culminating in the sale of Big Talk to ITV Studios in 2013.

He is also leading the company's strategic growth into internationally co-produced drama and original programming for North America, where Big Talk has a number of original and changed format comedy and drama projects in development with the major US cable and broadcast networks.

## **Terry McDonough**

Terry McDonough is a distinguished director who has worked extensively in the USA and the UK. Before **Cold Feet**, Terry was directing the pilot **The Expanse**, a 10-episode space opera based on the international best-selling book series that premiered on Syfy in 2015.

McDonough won a BAFTA for directing the acclaimed UK series **The Street** and has worked on notable shows such as the Emmy-winning **Breaking Bad, Eleventh Hour, Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior, An Adventure In Space And Time, Wire in the Blood, The Red Road** and **Suits**.

Most recently, Terry directed episodes of AMC's new 1980s drama **Halt and Catch Fire** and NBC's adventure drama **Crossbones**, starring John Malkovich. McDonough recently wrapped filming episodes of AMC's upcoming show **Better Call Saul**, the spinoff to Breaking Bad.



## **Production biographies**

### **Edmund Butt**

Winner of the **2011 RTS Award for Best Television Score for Garrow's Law**, Ed is renowned for his artful command of melody, harmony and contemporary approach to composition.

Ed recently finished scoring a four-part drama for BBC One, From Darkness (2016 Ivor Novello Nominated) and Midwinter of the Spirit for ITV. Before this he wrote the music for Ecosse Film's three-part serial for BBC Two, Life in Squares, series 2, 3 & 4 of the hugely popular The Suspicions Of Mr. Whicher (2015 Ivor Novello nominated), and series 1 and 2 of the BAFTA winning BBC's Zombie-drama In The Flesh. Other landmark projects include Ashes To Ashes, Life On Mars (series 1 & 2), the BBC's An Adventure In Space and Time, Combat Hospital, Mistresses (series 1, 2 & 3), Yellowstone for BBC2 (RTS Craft and Design Award 2009 for Best Original Score), Come Rain Come Shine, and the tense thriller Case Sensitive (Point Of Rescue).

A highly experienced composer, performer and producer, Ed has always lived and breathed music. He won a double music scholarship (violin & piano) to the Royal College of Music, gaining a first class performers degree as well as a Countess of Munster Scholarship to study in New York & Japan. He became the youngest player in the London Philharmonic Orchestra and went on to play with the LSO, BBC Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Philharmonia, & the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. Whilst performing with these world-class orchestras, Ed played on the scores to Basic Instinct & The English Patient and began to realise his lifelong ambition of beginning to work within the field of film score. He then began orchestrating for several Hollywood composers on films such as Desperate Measures, Dark City, Merlin & Dangerous Beauty whilst at the same time enjoying parallel successes as musical director for such artists as Madonna, Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs and George Martin.

### **Ben Smithard**

Ben's first TV production was **Wire in the Blood** in 2005. Since then Ben has shot almost 20 TV Films, Series and Mini Series, including **Cranford, The Royle Family, Spooks, Vincent, Henry IV(The Hollow Crown), The Dresser, True Love, Esio Trot, Money, The Trip, The Day of the Triffids, The Street and <b>A Short Stay** in Switzerland. In 2010 Ben won a Primetime Emmy for Best Cinematography for 'Cranford'.

Ben's first feature was **The Damned UTD**, directed by Tom Hooper and he has since worked on the features **My Week with Marilyn** starring Ken Branagh, Judi Dench, Michelle Williams and Eddie Redmayne, **Belle**, directed by Amma Asante, starring Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tom Wilkinson and Emily Watson, **Alan Partridge Alpha Papa** with Steve Coogan, and **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** with Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Richard Gere. In 2015 Ben shot **Viceroy's House** for Grinder Chadha and he is currently in Pre Production on a Feature for Fox Searchlight shooting in London during Autumn 2016.



## **Production biographies**

### **Rebecca Ferguson**

Cold Feet is Rebecca's first major series as Producer. A graduate of Royal Holloway University of London, where she studied theatre. Rebecca has spent over ten years working at the independent productions companies Red, Kudos, & Talkback Thames as a script executive. Rebecca storylined and script exec'd the final two seasons of **Spooks**, closing the series. Since then she has worked as Head of Development at Slim where she conceived and developed **Legacy** by Paula Milne for BBC 2 and comedy **The Art of Foley** for C4.

Rebecca's passion is collaborating with writers and she worked closely with Mike Bullen on the script development of the new series. She loves both comedy and drama and Cold Feet is the perfect fit for her sensibilities.



## **Big Talk**

## **About us**











Big Talk Productions is one of the UK's leading television production companies. It has enjoyed an exceptional output of outstanding original scripted television comedy and drama, and a track record of nurturing talent since the company began with Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Edgar Wright and Nira Park's cult television series 'Spaced'. Big Talk has enjoyed many successes over the years, including being named 'Production Company of the Year' at the 2014 Edinburgh TV Festival Awards.

Led by Chief Executive Kenton Allen, Managing Director Matthew Justice and Founder Nira Park, the company has expanded significantly over the last eight years. Highlights of this award-winning output include 'Rev.' (BBC2) and 'Him & Her' (BBC3) both winning the BAFTA for situation comedy in 2011 and 2014, and multi-award nominee 'Friday Night Dinner' which has just completed production on its fourth series.

In 2015, Big Talk produced 'Cockroaches' (ITV2), a comedy series set in a post-apocalyptic world, written by Freddy Syborn (co-writer of *Bad Education*) and starring Daniel Lawrence Taylor, Esther Smith and Jack Whitehall. 'The Job Lot', starring Sarah Hadland and Russell Tovey returned to ITV2 for a third series, and 'Brotherhood', from new writers Patrick Carr and Paul McKenna was broadcast on Comedy Central.

Another big hit from 2015 was 'Raised By Wolves', written by Caitlin and Caroline Moran, which was re-commissioned for a second series after it premiered to rapturous reviews and ratings. The family from 'Wolvo' returned to screens in March 2016 on Channel 4. A US version is being created by Oscar winning writer Diablo Cody.

Big Talk also stormed into 2016 with 'Crashing', written by and starring multi-award-winning actress and playwright Phoebe Waller-Bridge, which aired on Channel 4 to rave reviews. And in May, 'Mum' (BBC2) - the continuing collaboration between Big Talk and 'Him & Her' creator Stefan Golaszewski - made its critically-lauded debut.

Big Talk also continues to make its mark in drama programming. 'A Young Doctor's Notebook' (Sky Arts), starring Jon Hamm and Daniel Radcliffe won a Broadcast Award for Best Multi-Channel Programme. 'Youngers' (E4) proved to be a big hit and also returned for a second series. 'Mr Sloane' starring Nick Frost and Olivia Colman launched on Sky Atlantic from Emmy-award winning writer and director Robert Weide, and from the Oscar nominated Matt Charman came the drama series 'Our Zoo', which broadcast on BBC1.

2016 saw the launch of 10 x 60 supernatural detective series 'Houdini and Doyle' from House creator David Shore, his long-time collaborator David Hoselton and leading Canadian screenwriter David Titcher, directed by Stephen Hopkins (Californication, 24). The crime series starred Stephen Mangan and Michael Weston, and was an Anglo Canadian co-production for ITV, Fox (USA) and Shaw (Canada). Big Talk is also bringing back the much-loved and BAFTA award-winning drama series 'Cold Feet' to ITV with creator Mike Bullen and the original cast for broadcast later in 2016.



## **Big Talk**

## **About us continued:**

Big Talk's first feature film was cult-comedy 'Shaun of the Dead', for which Nira Park received a Carl Foreman Award nomination at BAFTA. The film was the first installment of Wright's iconic 'Three Flavours Cornetto Trilogy', starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost. 'Shaun' was followed by 2007 hit 'Hot Fuzz' and 2013's 'The World's End'.

Big Talk produced Edgar Wright's 'Scott Pilgrim vs. The World' in 2010; Joe Cornish's SXSW audience-award winning debut feature 'Attack the Block' in 2011, and that same year Greg Mottola's 'Paul', written by Pegg and Frost. In 2012, Big Talk produced Ben Wheatley's Cannes-premiered black-comedy 'Sightseers'; in 2013 Jeremy Lovering's critically-acclaimed psychological horror 'In Fear', which premiered at Sundance; and in 2014 'Cuban Fury', starring Nick Frost, Chris O'Dowd and Rashida Jones.

Most recently Big Talk produced rom-com 'Man Up', starring Simon Pegg, Lake Bell and directed by Ben Palmer. The movie premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and won 'Best Comedy' at the 2016 National Film Awards. Big Talk also produced Sacha Baron Cohen's action-comedy 'Grimsby', which was released February 2016. Big Talk is currently producing Edgar Wright's latest movie 'Baby Driver', which stars Ansel Elgort, Lily James, Jon Hamm, Jamie Foxx and Kevin Spacey. The film was shot in Atlanta, GA and is scheduled for a spring 2017 release.

Big Talk continues to work with some of the most exciting voices in both the UK and the US to bring fresh, dynamic, authored stories to screen.

**bigtalk**productions



# **Cast and Production Credits**

# **Production Credits**

Executive Producers	KENTON ALLEN
	MATTHEW JUSTICE
	MIKE BULLEN
Creator and Writer	MIKE BULLEN
Writers, episode 5	AMY ROBERTS & LOREN MCLAUGHLAN
Writer, episode 6	MIKE BULLEN & JOHN FORTE
Directors	TERRY MCDONOUGH
	JULIET MAY
	JAMIE JAY JOHNSON
Producer	REBECCA FERGUSON
Co Producer	DEANNE CUNNINGHAM
Line Producer	MAGS CONWAY
Directors of Photography	BEN SMITHARD
	TOBY MOORE
	DAVID ROM
Casting Director	ANDY PRYOR
Composer	EDMUND BUTT
Costume Designer	DARREN FINCH
Make Up Designer	JANET HORSFIELD
Production Designer	DAVE ARROWSMITH
Props Master	DAVE SIMONS
Sound Recordist	DAVE SANSOM
EditorsMARK DAVIE	S, SELINA MACARTHUR AND EMMA OXLEY
First Assistant Directors	JACK CASEY, SIMON TURNER & LIAM LOCK
Location Manager	MARK O' HANLON
Head of Production	LYNDSAY ROBINSON





