

The awful season continues to be illuminated by brief moments of quality provided mainly by Dave's hero and Bromley's star player, Alan Stonebridge. During a search to ask 'Stoney' some questions for his scrapbook, Dave stumbles in to the Chairman's office and across a secret that will change Bromley Football Club forever. But before he can investigate further he is interrupted by the Chairman's daughter, and child genius, Ruby... a girl who appears to now have a twinkle in her eye for young Dave.

What follows is a catalogue of hilarious attempts by Dave and his new friends to find out what's going on at their beloved and astoundingly awful Bromley FC. To complicate matters, Dave is sent to boarding school and subsequently expelled; he battles with his world-weary father, starts at a comprehensive school, and embarks on a seemingly sham relationship with the Chairman's daughter in order to infiltrate the club. A relationship that will lead him to a party at the Chairman's house where he will learn the terrible truth...

The final act finds Dave and his new friends thrust deep in to the biggest story in Non-League football history. With furious club Chairman Charlie McQueen on the warpath, Dave must choose between his undying love for Bromley FC, the wishes of his parents, and his growing feelings for Ruby. His life is unravelling fast. He just needs one thing to make it all better.

A Bromley win on the last day of the season...

OVERVIEW

Football is undoubtedly the world's most popular spectator sport but many fans in the UK regard the stratospheric rise of Britain's top-level football with mixed feelings. As the game moves further and further from its roots, fans are increasingly returning to Non-League football to recapture the local spirit of the game and enjoy the close-up quirks that come along with it.

The Bromley Boys is a funny yet touching coming-of-age story that uses Non-League football as the backdrop. And while the story will resonate with any true football fan, the film has a much broader universal theme. It is at its heart a love story - first love to be precise - and all the beautiful awkwardness that comes with it.

Adapted from the hilarious novel from Dave Roberts, and with a great British cast assembled, The Bromley Boys is a laugh-out-loud feel-good comedy played out to the sights and sounds of Britain in the 1970s. The film is something of a nostalgic trip that fully embraces the era from the fashion and cars, to the music and moustaches.

This is the story about a boy, a girl, and the worst football team in the 'World'. . . well, you can't choose who you fall in love with.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

LOCATIONS

The 1970s' Bromley FC was recreated at Crockenhill FC. Immediately their little turnstile, uneven pitch and scrubby exterior envisaged the innocence of low-level football clubs.

It was very important to film locally within Bromley Borough. We were very fortunate to use two local schools: Wickham Court School, West Wickham and Langley Park School for Girls, Beckenham. The 15th century Wickham Court School was a beautiful little school tucked away which was perfect for Dave's boarding school. With its wood panelled classroom and Headteacher's office, the essence of a strict 1970s' public education could be depicted. Likewise, Langley Park School for Girls was used for the comprehensive school scene. Built in 1959, both the interior and exterior of the school was perfect and was the closest to the actual Langley Park School for Boys Dave Roberts actually attended just next door, but had been rebuilt in 2011.

We used the Crofton Heath Estate, Orpington for David's family home. This quintessential British suburb offered the perfect original family 1970s' ambience.

AUTHENTICITY

To recreate the level of detail to transport the audience into the period; the set, costume, make-up and art

departments had to adapt some modern scenes for the movie. Our first problem was finding a football club that we could dishevel and take over and Crockenhill FC, offered their grounds, since Bromley FC had had a recent refurbishment.

The Chairman's office was built inside the Crockenhill clubhouse and the stunning detail of everything in the scenes was exceptional. Every inch of the office was full of props including crates of champagne and boxes of cigars.

Finding authentic costumes that not only matched the period, but the style of the movie was a task achieved above and beyond. Vintage shops, markets and costume hires were scoured for the perfect outfits to suit the characters and setting. The care of finding Dave's suit for the party and even his pyjamas was very important to endorse the era.

The vintage cars and motorbikes added authenticity to each character that drove them. The Aston Martin DB5 of the Chairman, Charlie McQueen emphasised his large ego and money spending. Likewise, the motorbike and side car driven by Ginger Warburton added some comedy to his lifestyle, and finally Alan Stonebridge had a super cool bright orange Capri.

To engage the audience with the story, fitting music of the sixties and seventies was specifically needed. Tracks such as Dusty Springfield's I Only Want To Be With You and Middle Of Nowhere and Stevie Wonder's Yester-Me, Yester-You, Yesterday encompassed the era of a nostalgic time. Other artists include Georgie Fame and The Blue Flames, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Troggs, Brian Hyland and Tommy Roe.

GIVING THE MOVIE THAT 'HOMEGROWN' ESSENCE

The auditions to find a Bromley boy and girl to play the roles of Dave, Ruby and Angie took place over the summer of 2016. Producer TJ Herbert toured Bromley schools and theatre groups holding auditions and later recalls at The Churchill Theatre, Bromley. We found some fantastic talent from a range of teens who had an amazing passion for acting. The role of Angie went to Betsy-Blue English (Which is Witch, X-Factor) from these auditions.

Many of the supporting artistes were locals too. The footballers, supporters and passers-by braved the autumnal chill to film while in summer costumes for six weeks!

The children in the school scenes were chosen from the summer's audition search and we hope their first taste of working on a movie encourages their performing and creativity.

Many of the crew and cast were living or had lived in Bromley. Steve Kelly grew up in Hayes Lane so knew Bromley FC well, likewise Ross Anderson played football at Langley Park and attended boarding school in Sevenoaks. Jamie Foreman also lived in Bromley and Martine McCutcheon's husband was a pupil at Langley Park School for Boys. The background of the crew and cast really helped with telling the story of a little-known town with a Non-League football club that only survived through the love of its supporters.

HOW THE PROJECT CAME TOGETHER

Producer TJ Herbert, whilst browsing in the Bromley Waterstones store in 2010 spotted a poster of Dave Roberts the author of The Bromley Boys book, wearing a Bromley FC scarf. The tagline of the book 'The True Story of Supporting the Worst Football Team in Britain' attracted TJ immediately. He bought the book and read it twice, knowing it would make a great movie before finding Dave Roberts in Connecticut, USA to ask for a deal. TJ commented ***"Dave's story was full of charm and comedy" and its "Ealing-esque style makes for a great British film"***.

Bringing in a past film collaborator and writer Warren Dudley who had previously written a football-based pilot COME ON YOU CHICKENS showed his experience in writing a football drama. His love of Non-League football especially enabled Warren to transfer his passion and knowledge to make the book into a screenplay.

TJ continued; the ***"key characters are real people" and we were fortunate that they are "sprinkled throughout the film" as supporting artistes. We are pleased there will be a "lasting memory of Bromley FC of that era" which many can connect to. The main characters: Dave, Charlie, Peter, Roy, Derek and Alan 'Stoney' Stonebridge in the movie are caricatures and we were fortunate to have the backing of those 'real' people to be on set almost every day to watch and be a part of the action.***

*The investors and production team have backed the movie with all their support. From lending their cars to being supporting artistes, everyone has come on board to make **The Bromley Boys** come alive. TJ said "It has been a long journey, but I am proud of the film and its authentic journey into a nostalgic era of Non-League football. With the highs and lows of Dave's awkward teenage love for Bromley FC and Ruby; there is a magical story that audiences can relate to. We've all had a first love after all!"*

THE BROMLEY BOYS CHARACTER NOTES:

Dave Roberts (15) played by Brenock O'Connor. Dave is a bit of a loner who did not really fit in at school - as much as he tried to. He was considered a little odd and awkward. He lived a lot of the time in his head often dreaming of football glory, and the acceptance of his peers... and the seemingly distant hope of an actual girlfriend. From a suburban background Dave's strict father fought against his love of football.

Gertie Roberts (Dave's Mother - 40s) played by Martine McCutcheon. Gertie is a salt of the earth London mum, often seen in an apron and curlers. Married to her childhood sweetheart she now dotes on her family as best she can. Like many women of the time she puts up with her very serious husband. She was at her most happy when Dave was a little boy and still wants the best for him.

Donald Roberts (Dave's father - 50s) played by Alan Davies. A very stern man and typical 1960s' Dad, with a secret: SPOILER ALERT!!! Donald had played schoolboy football for England when he broke his leg and was forced to walk with a stick for the rest of his life. What Donald said was gospel in the Roberts household including his seemingly over the top hatred of football. He is a man desperate to stop his son falling in love with the beautiful game.

Charlie McQueen (Bromley's spivvy Chairman - 50s) played by Jamie Foreman. Charlie was a scary man and a gambler. He liked to think of himself as Mr Bromley. He was club secretary/chairman for some 34 years, eventually leaving in 1971. He was not a popular man and what he said was 'law'. Currently going through a split with his trophy wife, Charlie now has to have his daughter Ruby on Saturdays.

Herbie Lane (Bromley's Midfielder - 28) played by Adam Deacon. One of the team's better players and a scholar of the game. Also happens to be a teacher at Langley Park Comprehensive. As a Bromley player he played twice a week and trained once a week. He earned an extra £8 a week for his efforts to top up his teacher's salary.

Roy Oliver (die hard Bromley fan - 45) played by TJ Herbert. Roy (not quite' of the Rovers) is a myopic bin man by day - Bossa Nova ballroom whiz by night - Bromley FC fan the rest of the time. Ungainly, clumsy, and confused most of the time, he has a big heart, and his own fashion sense. Very excitable but has a bit of a short temper when it comes to watching his beloved Bromley FC.

Ruby McQueen (15) played by Savannah Baker. Ruby spends every other weekend with her father following the split of her parents six months ago. Her father is Bromley FC's Chairman Charlie King. This means Ruby is roped into long footballing weekends that she really does not like. Ruby is a plain girl who blossoms toward the end of the film. She is something of a child genius and wants to become a doctor. She takes quite a shine to Dave Roberts when she meets him by chance at a game though cannot understand his love for Bromley.

Derek Dobson (die hard Bromley fan - 40) played by Ewen Macintosh. Derek is a slightly pompous tax consultant and amateur referee. The self-appointed spokesman of the Bromley fans Derek helped run the club's tea hut and would occasionally help organise a fundraising dance in the clubhouse. Married with a small child, Derek is also goalkeeper for a local Sunday side.

Peter Batchelor (die hard Bromley fan - 40) played by Mark Dymond. Peter was regarded as something of an enigma. Suave, amiable but mysterious; he never gives too much away about himself. Lived with his Mum. Possibly worked for Scotland Yard or the Ministry of Defence - could have been a spy. Also, a member of the Supporters club. Helped run the tea hut and souvenir shop; and acted as manager and physio for Derek's Sunday side Hayesford Park Reserves.

Dick Ellis (Bromley FC's Manager - 50s) played by Gareth Hale. In charge for Bromley's initial five games before being sacked. Dick has the club's best interests at heart, but his lack of experience and over polite manner means he is not cut out for the job. He is a genuinely nice chap who runs a family printing firm.

Anoushka (Charlie McQueen's love interest - 26) played by Anna Danshina. It's something of a mystery how this Russian ice maiden came to be with Charlie. Acts as his Personal Assistant down at the

Club. Expensive taste and makes sure Charlie showers her with the same! Sees Ruby, Charlie's daughter, as something of a nuisance getting in the way of her bigger plan – cleaning Charlie out.

Alan Stonebridge (Bromley's star striker - 26) played by Ross Anderson. Dave's favourite player whom he nicknamed Stoney. Very good looking, friendly and stylish. Sported a Beatles-style haircut. Cool temperament on the pitch and off it!

BIOGRAPHIES

Brenock O'Connor - David Roberts

Brenock made his acting debut in HOLBY CITY in 2012 and has appeared in several television dramas (DICKENSIAN 2015-16, LIVING THE DREAM 2017) and films YOUNG HUNTERS: THE BEAST OF BEVENDEAN (2015) and ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON (2017) but for now is best known for playing Olly in GAME OF THRONES (2014-16).

Jamie Foreman – Charlie McQueen

Jamie has extensive experience working in film and television, having worked on a number of projects including EASTENDERS (1991-2012), NIL BY MOUTH (1997), LAYER CAKE (2004), OLIVER TWIST (2005) and BIRDS OF A FEATHER (2014-16).

Martine McCutcheon – Gertie Roberts

Martine is an English singer, television personality and actress. McCutcheon's first television role was the role of Mandy in the TV show BLUEBIRDS in 1989. She also had minor success as one third of the pop group Milan in the early 1990s, but it was her role as Tiffany Mitchell in the BBC's EASTENDERS that she is best remembered for, as well as her role in the 2003 romantic comedy LOVE ACTUALLY. For the former she won the 1997 National Television Award, while for the latter she received the 2004 Empire Award and the 2004 MTV Movie Award. She was written out of EASTENDERS at the end of 1998 and then embarked on a pop career, this time as a solo artist.

McCutcheon's debut studio album YOU ME [HYPERLINK “https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You_Me_%26_Us”](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You_Me_%26_Us) & [HYPERLINK “https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You_Me_%26_Us”](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You_Me_%26_Us) US (1999) peaked at No. 2 in the UK, was certified platinum and spawned the UK No. 1 single “Perfect Moment” and two other top 10 hits. Her second studio album, Wishing (2000), was less successful, peaking at No. 25. However, it produced two top 10 singles and was certified gold. Her portrayal of Eliza Doolittle in MY FAIR LADY won her a Laurence Olivier Award in 2002. She released her autobiography Who Does She Think She Is? in 2000. In 2017, she returned to music with the album Lost and Found, which peaked at No. 17 in the UK, becoming her highest-charting album since her debut.

Alan Davies – Donald Roberts

Alan began performing stand-up comedy in 1988 at the Whitstable Labour Club. In 1991, he was named Time Out's Best Young Comic. Whilst building a successful career in stand up with shows such as ALAN DAVIES LIVE AT THE LYRIC (1994), URBAN TRAUMA (1998) and LIFE IS PAIN (2012) Alan moved into television drama JONATHAN CREEK (from 1997), BOB AND ROSE (2001), two series of THE BRIEF (2004), AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MARPLE (2008), LEWIS (2010), WHITES (2010) and more recently on the Channel Four's comedy set in a social services department of a local authority DAMNED (2016-2018).

Adam Deacon – Herbie Lane

Adam is an English film actor, rapper, writer and director. He is best known for his lead role in the films KIDULTHOOD (2006), sequel ADULTHOOD (2008) and for his directorial debut, ANUVAHOOD (2011). He has had a wealth of television roles SPOOKS (2003), LOVE SOUP (2008), BEING HUMAN (2009), INSIDE NO. 9 (2014) and SUSPECTS (2016) and as a musician he has appeared in music videos of PLAN B (2006) AND PROFESSOR GREEN (2009). In November 2012, he co-hosted the Music of Black Origin Awards telecast with Miquita [HYPERLINK “https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquita_Oliver”](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miquita_Oliver) Oliver where Deacon played a comical part in the awards.

Ewen MacIntosh – Derek Dobson

Ewen's big break in television when he was cast as the deadpan accountant Keith Bishop in THE OFFICE

(2001-03). Besides THE OFFICE, he has also appeared on various shows such as MIRANDA (2009) and LITTLE BRITAIN (2003-04) and films (THE LOBSTER (2015)). He formed a double act with Tim [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_FitzHigham"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_FitzHigham) and they performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2007. In 2009, Ewen appeared alongside several other celebrities in a charity music video for the Chris Rea song "Driving Home for Christmas". He is also a regular on the BBC radio sitcom CABIN PRESSURE (2008-14) as Carl, the bored ATC operator.

Gareth Hale – Dick Ellis

Gareth is an English comedian and actor, who is best known as one half of the comedy duo HALE AND PACE, with his friend and comic partner Norman Pace. As a straight actor, he also appeared in many TV dramas including FAMILY AFFAIRS (2003-05) and THE ROYAL (2008-11); as well as making a guest appearance together in SURVIVAL, a 1989 Doctor Who serial.

Hale was a regular on the five soap opera FAMILY AFFAIRS (2003-05), playing Doug [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doug_MacKenzie_\(Family_Affairs\)"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doug_MacKenzie_(Family_Affairs)) MacKenzie. In 2007 Hale and Pace appeared in the Christmas special of EXTRAS, called "The Extra Special Series Finale", playing themselves. In 2008, Hale joined the cast of THE ROYAL in the role of the head porter, and in late 2009 he played Scrooge in an adaptation of Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

In 2015, Hale appeared as Commissioner Busby in the BBC TV series FATHER BROWN episode 3.15 "The Owl of Minerva". In 2015 he made a guest appearance as Teddy Arseholes in an episode of the BBC comedy series CRADLE TO GRAVE based on the autobiography of Danny Baker, Going to Sea in a Sieve. In 2018 Gareth is appearing in the TV comedy series BENIDORM with Norman Pace.

TJ Herbert – Roy Oliver/Producer/CEO Itchy Fish Film

TJ is an award winning producer and actor working on both sides of the camera. He received a BBC Scotland TV Award for Best Comedic Performance in his role as Wally O'Ga in WHERE'S WALLY. His screenplay TRAGEDY AT BETHAL GREEN picked up Best Adaptation and Best Historical Drama at The Monaco International Film Festival. Recent movie credits include factual drama A DARK REFLECTION (2015), critically acclaimed horror flick THE CUTTING ROOM (2015), snooker comedy PERFECT BREAK (2015) and BLOOD MONEY (2015).

Steve Kelly – Director

Steve is a highly creative director having worked on motion pictures, prime time TV and films and commercials for over 30 years and has been nominated for many craft awards. His debut feature CITY RATS (2009) – 'Brit-flick of the year' (Blockbuster) was a commercial smash hit. Critics have judged his work 'Laugh-out-loud funny' (Daily Telegraph), 'Compelling' (Daily Mail), 'Terrific' (Radio Times), 'Gripping' (Mail on Sunday), 'Excellent' (Daily Star), 'Accomplished' (Guardian) & 'Powerful and Principled' (The Sunday Telegraph).

Warren Dudley – Screenwriter

Warren is a writer with a love of football and a passion for story-telling. His feature THE CUTTING ROOM (2015) was a critical success and his upcoming feature CAGE (2016) has already received worldwide distribution.

Bart Sienkiewicz – Director of Photography

Bart is an award-winning cinematographer working internationally on features, TV series and commercial projects. After graduating in cinematography from the Film and Television Academy in his native Poland, Bart moved to the UK in 2008 and has been working on a large variety of projects. His features and television credits include GREAT PERSIANS (2011), WORD ON THE STREET (2011-14), PIERCING BRIGHTNESS (2013) and SOLIS (2018).

Dean Fisher - Producer

Dean's first feature was the cult NIGHT JUNKIES in 2006, with a budget of only £45,000. His second feature CITY RATS (2009) became a UK top three hit when it was released by Revolver Entertainment. In that year it also screened both at Slamdance and the East End Film Festival. Dean's third feature films STORMHOUSE (2011) a high concept horror premiered at the prestigious Edinburgh Film, Scream Fest and was seen at Frightfest. 2012 saw the theatrical release of Dean's fourth and fifth feature film INTERVIEW

WITH A HITMAN, a crime thriller starring Luke Goss which was made in partnership with Kaleidoscope Film Distribution, North Star Ventures and Northern Film and Media. This was followed by THE MAN INSIDE, a boxing thriller starring Peter Mullan, Michelle Ryan, Ashley Bashy Thomas, David Harewood, Jason Maza, Carl Barat and Ray Panthaki. In August 2013 Dean went into production on his next feature film an Urban Comedy IT'S A LOT. The film stars a whole host of film actors, radio stars and key cast from the hit films Adulthood, Kidulthood and Anuvahood; followed swiftly by the gritty London crime thriller THE CONTRACT (2016) and romcom ONE CRAZY THING (2016) starring Ray Panthaki and Daisy Bevan.

Erran Baron Cohen – Composer

Erran is a British composer and trumpet player, known for collaborations with his younger brother, Sacha Baron Cohen and scored the original music for all his brother's films such as BORAT (2009), BRÜNO (2006) and THE BROTHERS GRIMBY (2015) as well as the TV series DA ALI G SHOW (2000-04). In addition Erran is a founding member of the world music group Zohar and has also composed for THE CONTRACT (2015) and JUST BEFORE I GO (2014).

CAST INTERVIEWS

BRENOCK O'CONNOR plays Dave Roberts in The Bromley Boys

Taking on the lead role in The Bromley Boys was certainly a far cry for young Brenock O'Connor from his role as Olly in the fantasy television drama series, Game of Thrones.

The Worthing-born teenager plays Dave Roberts, both the most central character in the film, as well as the real-life author of the Bromley Boys book, which has been so expertly adapted for the big screen by screenwriter, Warren Dudley.

Nevertheless, despite fulfilling a lifelong ambition, Brenock confessed his nervousness about his first major film assignment: ***“Being the lead role is terrifying. It is the first lead role I have had - touch wood there are more to come - but it was daunting as a sixteen-year-old going into it.”***

“It is the longest time I have been on one job and it has been hard work. I was exhausted, but I've enjoyed every minute of it. Because I worked on it non-stop, I didn't have a chance to fall out of the character.”

“That made it so much easier to act because it made me feel throughout filming that I was just Dave. I didn't have time to be Brenock, I am Dave. I was able to maintain the same through-line, ideals and emotions that my character would have.”

Nevertheless, portraying a teenage boy, particularly during his own adolescence, was a role Brenock immensely enjoyed: ***“It's a very relatable character for me. It's a teenage boy - slightly socially awkward, not very good around girls - that sort of thing. I found real identification, I could really identify with the character.”***

“I think most teenage boys going through that period of their life feel socially awkward at some point. Awkward moments like talking to girls, just as Dave does with Ruby. He just doesn't get it at all. He is seeing that she is interested but it doesn't click in because he's so focused on Bromley FC.”

Brenock clearly appreciated the opportunity to star alongside an experience contemporary actor in the calibre of Jamie Foreman, adding: “Any scene I'm in with Jamie - who plays Charlie McQueen - is just a joy because we worked so well together. I think we get the comic timing right along with the softer moments as well. He's a lovely man to work with.”

But Brenock acknowledged that the Bromley Boys script played a pivotal role in him accepting the part: ***“The writing is incredible, he continued.***

“It's a really funny script, I genuinely found myself laughing out loud when I was reading it, which is a great sign.”

“With the concept and the incredible writing of Warren, it just made it a perfect project for me.”

ALAN DAVIES plays Donald Roberts In THE BROMLEY BOYS

FANATICAL ARSENAL supporter, Alan Davies, confessed his Bromley Boys character, Donald Roberts, offered a unique challenge to the one-time Jonathan Creek star.

“The biggest challenge for me, as a football fan in real life, is to play a character that is greatly disillusioned by football; hates being in a football ground and is generally unhappy with it”, the Loughton-born actor explained.

Nevertheless, Davies clearly enjoyed the role of ‘Roberts senior’ - admitting the dialogue had struck a personal nerve: ***“I was delighted to be sent the script for The Bromley Boys. I’d read the book and really liked the feel of real football fans and real devotion, even though the club is small and going nowhere”,*** he added.

“I thought the script was very touching. I expected something funny and at times a bit mad and crazy, but I didn’t expect to be quite so affected by it.”

“It’s a warm-hearted, amusing, nostalgic movie - I think people are going to enjoy it. Not just people who were around in the sixties, but people will see something that is perhaps now a little bit lost.”

Despite his character Donald’s dissenting views, Davies’ own love of the beautiful game always comes across positively: ***“I totally get this feeling of being in love with a football club, being a part of a family.”***

“I suppose I started going to football in the late seventies. That’s not many years after this was set. It was such a different time, there were no mobile phones, computers or internet, you just had to be there. I remember going to stand on the terraces when I was twelve or thirteen. You’d see the same faces standing in the same places, the same groups of men together.”

Davies explained how he advised screen-son, Brenock O’Connor, to familiarise himself with the game ahead of filming: ***“I did tell Brenock how much I love football, and that he’d better get himself down to a football match before he started this film because otherwise, he was never going to get that feeling,”*** he laughs.

“He went to watch his local team, Worthing, who are in the same league that Bromley was in at the time. He said it was great, he got the feeling. He spent as much time watching the crowd as he did the players.”

“The feeling this film gives you of people meeting up at this special place, having this common interest, the camaraderie, warmth, and the constant disappointment - it was very familiar to me. It’s very nice and nostalgic because that’s football as it once was in my experience.”

MARTINE MCCUTCHEON plays Gertie Roberts in The Bromley Boys

Actress, singer and entertainer Martine McCutcheon plays Gertie Roberts, proud Mum to Dave, the hero of this summer’s wonderfully funny, British feel-good movie, The Bromley Boys.

Martine first gained recognition as Tiffany Mitchell in BBC’s EastEnders and went on to receive global recognition for her starring role in the romantic comedy Love Actually, starring alongside Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Emma Thompson and the late Alan Rickman. She went on to play Eliza Doolittle on the West End stage in My Fair Lady, for which she won the Laurence Olivier Award for best actress in a stage musical.

Martine describes her character: ***“The thing I love most about Gertie is that she is really human - kind and loving - she is the one person rooting for her son to make something of himself. She wants him to follow his dreams no matter what. For me, as a new mum myself, I already felt so many of the things that I think Gertie would have felt. It was exciting because it was new to me as a real parent - something I really identified with. I loved playing someone I believed I knew quite well.”***

Martine admitted she fell in love with The Bromley Boys as soon as she had read the script, adding: ***“My first impression of this film was a good one because I lost myself in it, I forgot that I was reading a script. I was Gertie”,*** she laughs. ***“It was a pleasure to read - I became her. I think that is always a really good first impression.”***

The 41-year-old, who is currently on tour with her album ‘Lost and Found’, admitted that she’s something of an accidental football fan: ***“I bumped into Chelsea’s former chairman, Ken Bates, close to where I lived near Stamford Bridge some years ago. He invited me to a game but insisted that if I enjoyed it I had to become a Chelsea fan. My mother is a huge football fan - she’s a Gooner, an Arsenal supporter. Amongst us, I’m the only Chelsea fan, much to my family’s annoyance - they believe I’m a turncoat,”*** she laughs.

Despite her family-divided football allegiances, Martine believes *The Bromley Boys* movie will appeal to a wide audience, football fans or otherwise: ***“It’s not just about football - it’s about a young boy’s journey to become a young man; falling in love, finding his independence, finding his voice. It’s about who he is going to be and who he’s going to believe in. Football just happens to be the background to that.”***

JAMIE FOREMAN plays Charlie McQueen In *The Bromley Boys*

I think it is fairly safe to assume that Jamie Foreman established an instant connection with his *Bromley Boys* character, Charlie McQueen.

Foreman boasts a number of ‘bad boy’ roles in high profile movies such as *Layer Cake*, *The Football Factory* and *Gangster No 1* as well as playing Derek Branning in *EastEnders* - and nominated for Best Newcomer in 2012 along with Best Villain from the ‘All About Soap Awards’ - However, the Bermondsey-born actor confessed to something of a soft spot for his latest role characterizing the Chairman of Bromley Football Club during their calamitous 1969/70 campaign.

“Oh, Charlie - I adore him”, Foreman declared. ***“What is there not to like? He’s a bit of a force of nature - very much the general in charge of his own little world, his little empire”***.

“He has this assortment of odds and sods which revolve around him. He’s like a very big fish in a small pond and I love this simple generalisation of him; but he’s a very caring person, he loves the club, he loves his football team. But he’s a somewhat flawed character. He’s a loving father, but he rules everyone with a rod of iron.”

Foreman was mindful of the graft that had gone into getting *The Bromley Boys* to the big screen, and recalled the moment he knew the role of Charlie was for him: ***“From the first time I read the script - which was a few years ago now, because the guys had worked really hard to get this off the ground - I’m really proud of them for doing so because it’s a very uniquely British film.”***

“Because he is based on a real character, it’s very nice to be able to draw things from people who knew him and knew of him.”

“It’s a loose interpretation of the real man. But he’s got that charisma and the drive to survive at all costs, and keep the club going - That’s his goal in life and he’s determined to do so by hook or by crook.”

“I love him for all those reasons. He’s just a lot of fun to play, and it’s wonderful to be running around barking orders at all the other actors - I really enjoy that bit of it”, he laughs.

“The characters are so well fleshed out, so well rounded because they are based on truth - it allows us to keep the comedy coming through the truthfulness.”

Foreman spoke about the production, mindfully noting that old methods had served both his character and the film particularly well, adding: ***“When you have a character like that who has his own particular idea of how everything should work, then surrounding him with these bumbling characters - in that respect, what is so fantastic about this film is that it harks back to the Ealing comedies of yesteryear.”***

“And the wonderful thing about it as well is that we are bringing real people, mixing real life people with the actors - people who supported the club at that time - the people who remember it with the fondness that they do.”

“They’d shoot off to some little village to film and use the local population as extras; that’s what we have done. It’s great fun and they really keep your feet on the ground as an actor when you are playing these characters - you kind of feel connected all the time.”

“I love Charlie - I really enjoyed playing him. He’s a little bit of Sid James, a little bit of Stanley Holloway, a little bit of all those guys. It’s a great opportunity for me as a contemporary actor to take a look back at the roots of fine British actors and try to nick a little bit off each of them - I’ve enjoyed it immensely.”

The Bromley Boys will be released in Cinemas on June 1st 2018 and on home entertainment from 25th June. Tickets are available for the World Premiere at Wembley Stadium on May 24th. For more information please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-bromley-boys-world-premiere-wembley-stadium-24th-may-2018-tickets-44139424206?aff=eac2>.