

Adam and Thomas Vian – Games Directors

Adam and Thomas grew up in Sandwich, Kent, and now live in London.

From a young age, Adam and elder brother Thomas made games in their bedroom using simple animation software, balancing Thomas's programming skills with Adam's artistic ability. Their first professional step came when partnering with the website Armour Games, who sponsored the pair to make web games in flash. Thomas subsequently created games for CBBC, where Adam later joined him.

In 2013, after winning a Game Jam that offered them an opportunity to work with Sony, Adam and Thomas made *Haunt the House* for the PlayStation Vita. With their foot now in the door, they took a demo they had created to GDC Europe and EGX where they received positive feedback. They sent the demo – which would ultimately become their breakthrough title *Snipperclips* – to Nintendo who immediately offered to publish the game. *Snipperclips* was released worldwide in March 2017 as a launch title for the Nintendo Switch and has since established itself as a leading title for the platform. Adam and Thomas are currently developing a sequel to *Haunt the House* with the support of an EU grant.

Adam said: "After working so hard to get our work out into the world, it's such a wonderful feeling to have it recognised in this way. While we have a few solid short term plans, long term we're still deciding what we want to do, so I'm hoping being named a Breakthrough Brit will open a few interesting doors for us."

Thomas added: "We are incredibly excited about meeting so many inspiring folks from all over the creative spectrum. Our work on international projects has made us feel somewhat squirrelled away these past few years, so diving in at the deep end and talking with so many talented people is a thrilling prospect."

Anna Hollinrake – Games Artist

Anna Hollinrake grew up in Folkestone, Kent, and now lives in Portsmouth.

Anna has always been interested in making things, and followed this passion at De Montfort University in Leicester, where she studied Game Art. During her degree, Anna discovered a talent for producing stylised 3D art, and upon graduating built her professional skills by freelancing for six months, before securing her first full-time job as a graduate artist for Paw Print Games. While there, she spent nine months creating concepts and 3D assets before moving down to the Isle of Wight to join Stainless Games, where she would work on a property that she already loved – *Magic: The Gathering*.

After a little under one year at Stainless Games, Anna moved across the Solent to work at Climax Studios in Portsmouth, where she remains today. She joined Climax at the beginning of a major new Daydream VR project – *Lola And The Giant*. Anna was instrumental in shaping the game's art style and was responsible for concepting and shaping the world's aesthetics and tone.

On being named a 2017 BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, Anna said: "It feels surreal, given how inward facing art can be! However, it's wonderful to be recognised as someone that really puts themselves into their work, and through this I feel there is endless potential to reach others and help people further. As someone who always has ideas for projects and the will to create the content, but not necessarily the financial or design know-how to shape it into what I visualise, the potential for where I can direct my creativity is huge. I can see myself learning huge amounts in areas I once thought unreachable and complex as a result of Breakthrough Brit guidance."

Charlie and Daisy Cooper – Writer-Actors

Charlie and elder sister Daisy Cooper grew up in Cirencester in Gloucestershire where they still live today.

Although Daisy knew from a young age that she wanted to act, Charlie harboured no such ambitions. Both however were inspired by television comedies whilst growing up and developed a synergetic sense of humour. After leaving school, Daisy trained as an actress at RADA, meanwhile Charlie attended university. Cutting his degree short in the second year, Charlie moved to London to share a room with Daisy whilst she completed her training at RADA. It was while in London that they developed an idea that would eventually become *This Country*.

Upon leaving RADA, Daisy struggled to secure the acting roles for which she had trained and the pair subsequently moved back home to Cirencester, working night shifts as cleaners while continuing to develop *This Country*. The material eventually reached Shane Allen at BBC Comedy who commissioned six episodes. The first series of *This Country* was shot on location in Northleach, Gloucestershire, and upon its release it was met with wide critical and audience acclaim. Daisy and Charlie are currently filming a second series.

Charlie and Daisy said: "It is incredibly exciting to be named as BAFTA Breakthrough Brits, we have worked for so long trying to get our work onscreen and to be recognised by BAFTA is an amazing feeling. Our Mum is bouncing off the walls! We are looking forward to being mentored by established industry professionals who can guide us to becoming the best we can be."

Chloë Thomson – Cinematographer

Chloë Thomson grew up in London, where she is still based today.

A cinematography graduate of the National Film and Television School, Chloë has shot a number of award-winning films. Her work has been screened at festivals worldwide, including Cannes and Sundance, with her graduation film *Head Over Heels* receiving an Oscar nomination in 2013.

Chloë's other early credits include shooting second unit for the feature documentary *20,000 Days On Earth*, which premiered at Sundance in 2014. The previous year, Chloë had two short films in Sundance competition – *Jonah*, a Film4 short she shot in Zanzibar, and *Volume*, her fiction graduation film, which won the British Independent Film Award 2012 for Best Short Film. Chloë recently wrapped on *Requiem*, a six-part psychological thriller for BBC One and Netflix. In 2016, Chloë shot *Ellen*, her first feature-length television drama, for Channel4.

Chloë said: "I feel honoured and delighted to be named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. It makes me feel supported, validated, excited and hopeful. The mentoring aspect of being a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit is the part that most excites me. Having the opportunity to be supported, guided and inspired by established filmmakers is going to be invaluable."

Daniel Fountain – Games Designer

Daniel Fountain grew up in Newquay and now lives in London.

Daniel began making games at the age of 14 as a means of entertaining his school friends in Cornwall. He went on to study Interactive Media at Bournemouth University in order to make a career of his hobby. Upon graduating, Daniel joined State of Play Games – a company formed by fellow Bournemouth alumni – as their first programmer. Whilst there he worked on several games, including *Lumino City* for which, on his 25th birthday, he won a BAFTA for Artistic Achievement in 2015.

Daniel also co-designed and programmed State of Play's mobile game, *Inks*. Released in 2016, it won an Apple Design Award and was the number one App Store game in 50 countries. Most recently Daniel designed the concept and lead programming on KAMI 2, which became an Editor's Choice on the App Store and found over 3 million players in its first week. In recent weeks, Daniel has left State of Play to form his own games studio.

Daniel said: "It's a surprise and a privilege to be named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. It feels fantastic for my work to be recognised and it's encouraging to discover that people want me to make more. This month I am launching my own games studio and I'm bursting with new ideas. Receiving this recognition at the start of this new adventure will be a huge boost. I am most excited for the opportunity to meet like-minded people. Community can be a catalyst for new ideas and BAFTA's community will be a great place to create relationships that will benefit everyone."

Francis Lee – Writer-Director

Francis Lee grew up in Halifax and now lives in nearby Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Francis spent the first 20 years of his career as an actor, appearing in television series such as *Peak Practice* and *Heartbeat* and features such as *Topsy Turvy*. Having been an obsessive stills photographer all his life, Francis decided to transfer his energy into becoming a director and telling his own stories. In order to do this, Francis worked seven-day weeks in a scrapyard to save money to direct his own short films in Yorkshire.

With several shorts under his belt, Francis was able to secure representation, bolstered by the strength of his early draft of *God's Own Country*. He was subsequently selected to develop his debut feature as part of BFI/BBC Films/Creative England's low-budget feature filmmaking initiative iFeatures. Although his project was not selected for production, it was subsequently optioned and commissioned by BFI's film fund. Francis worked at the scrapyard for a further year whilst he awaited the arrival of lambing season when he would begin production on *God's Own Country*.

Starring fellow Breakthrough Brit Josh O'Connor, *God's Own Country* debuted at Sundance Film Festival in 2017 where it was the only feature from the United Kingdom to play in the world drama category. It has since played at Berlinale where it received the Harvey Award. Francis' debut feature has continued to receive rapturous critical and commercial acclaim, and has accomplished the rare feat of being an independent movie that has crossed over into mainstream audiences.

Francis said: "I'm thrilled and honoured to be a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. Looking back at the previous recipients, I feel excited to be amongst such enormously talented company."

Henry Hoffman – Creative Director (Games)

Henry Hoffman grew up in Halesworth, Suffolk and now resides in London.

Henry began making games at the age of nine, using software from a free CD-ROM called Click and Play. Through his teenage years Henry honed his skills as a developer by imitating popular commercial games. Henry later attended the University of Wales where he studied Computer Games Design. In his first year of university, Henry participated in the games design competition Dare to be Digital. Over 12-weeks, Henry and his fellow participants created *Mush*, which won both the competition and was awarded by BAFTA Cymru in 2011. The success of *Mush* led to Henry and his collaborators receiving a publishing deal from Microsoft.

Upon leaving university, Henry joined forces with Daniel Da Rocha to form their own studio, Mudvark (now called Fiddlesticks) in 2012. Together they create a mobile puzzle game

called *Mortar Melon*, which went on to receive one million downloads. Henry's breakthrough came in 2016 with *Hue*, which was published by Curve Digital in summer 2016 for PC, PlayStation, and Xbox.

Henry said: "To be named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit is an incredible honour and a huge validation of all the work I put into *Hue*. This vote of confidence puts me in fantastic stead for attracting talent and funding for the next project. What's more, getting to brush shoulders with some of the very best upcoming talent in the creative industries is incredibly exciting. I'm really looking forward to discussing the different approaches, life lessons and perspectives of such an inspiring collection of people."

Hope Dickson Leach – Writer-Director

Hope was born in Hong Kong and now lives in Edinburgh.

After several years working for industry organisations including the Edinburgh International Film and Television Festival and BAFTA Scotland, Hope moved to Los Angeles where she made three short films that played at festivals worldwide. She subsequently won a place on Columbia University's world-renowned Filmmaking MFA, where her award-winning graduation film, *The Dawn Chorus*, was selected for Sundance, Edinburgh, London and many other festivals.

Since her return to the UK, she has made further acclaimed short works for Channel 4, Film London, the UK Film Council and the National Theatre of Scotland. Her debut feature *The Levelling*, produced by Wellington Films as part the iFeatures scheme (funded by BBC Films, the BFI and Creative England), had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2016. At the London Film Festival the same year Hope was awarded the inaugural IWC Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI. She is currently developing several features and is a co-founder of Raising Films - a campaign to make the film industry more parent-friendly.

Hope said: "It's totally wonderful to be recognised and named as a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. It feels like the beginning of something brilliant as well as the perfect ending to my wonderful last year which started with being awarded the IWC Filmmaker Bursary in Association with the BFI last autumn. I'm excited to see what the year will bring! Meetings with my heroes, connection with my peers, international recognition - all of these things are what it takes to move forward and with BAFTA at the helm, I have great expectations. I know I'm not going to be disappointed."

Jessie Buckley – Actress

Jessie Buckley grew up in Killarney, County Kerry, before moving to London, where she currently lives.

The daughter of a harpist, Jessie worked as a jazz singer for several years and placed second in BBC One's talent show series *I'd Do Anything* before receiving her acting training at RADA. After graduating in 2013, Jessie worked extensively on stage, with roles including Miranda in Shakespeare Globe's *The Tempest*, Perdita in Kenneth Branagh's production of *The Winter's Tale*, and a supporting role opposite Jude Law in Noël Coward Theatre's *Henry V*.

Jessie's television breakthrough came in 2016 when she was cast as Marya Bolkonskaya in BBC's One's BAFTA-winning adaptation of *War & Peace*. A recurring role opposite Tom Hardy in *Taboo* shortly followed. Most recently Jessie starred in BBC drama *The Last Post*. For the big screen, Jessie played the lead role in Michael Pearce's *Beast* which premiered at the 2017 BFI London Film Festival. She will soon be seen in the musical drama *Country Music*, which is slated for release later this year.

Jessie said: "I feel incredibly honoured to have been acknowledged by such a respected institution as BAFTA and be asked to be part of that hub where new innovative creatives and those who have inspired me are able to join together and share is a complete privilege. I have no idea what the future will unfold but I'm excited of what may come from being part of a group of people who are challenging and questions what is yet to be explored in storytelling. Meeting the other Breakthroughs and people within the industry getting a chance to speak to them about what stories inspire them to do what we do."

Josh O'Connor – Actor

Josh O'Connor grew up in Cheltenham and now lives in London.

After completing his training as an actor at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in 2011, Josh moved to London where he worked in a pub in Dalston to support his fledgling career. His early credits for television include appearances in *Doctor Who* and *The Wipers Times*, before securing returning roles in both *Peaky Blinders* and *Ripper Street* in 2014. Work for the big-screen followed, appearing in *The Riot Club*, *Cinderella*, and *Florence Foster Jenkins* in consecutive years.

Josh's breakthrough came when he was cast in his first lead feature role in 2017's *God's Own Country*. The film's director and fellow Breakthrough Brit, Francis Lee, recalls being bowled over by Josh's audition tape, saying Josh has "a rare gift – the ability to totally transform himself into the character he's playing."

Josh said: "It's an honour to be included in the BAFTA Breakthrough Brits. To be listed alongside a group of talent such as this is inspiring and I hope it will spur me on with future work." Of the experiences being a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit will provide, Josh said: "I am excited about having the opportunity to be mentored by somebody with experience in the profession, and to receive their guidance to make the right decisions and curate my career in the coming years."

Kit Fraser – Cinematographer

Kit Fraser was born in Sydney, Australia, but grew up in Bedfordshire. Today, he splits his time between Madrid and Croydon.

Kit studied filmmaking at Westminster Film School, part of the University of Westminster, during which time he honed his skills as a cinematographer, extensively using 16mm and 35mm film. Kit began his professional career as a camera assistant, having the opportunity to work with some of the world's most revered cinematographers, such as Andrew Dunn, Henry Braham, and Oscar-winning Slavomir Idziak.

Shortly after graduating in 2005 he began working as a cinematographer and within a few years he had shot several television dramas, second unit on feature films and many music videos and commercials. Kit has now been lighting for 12 years, working predominantly in advertising, shooting numerous spots for Gucci, Christian Dior and Lancôme, to name a few. During this time he has continued to shoot many award-winning films, including *Under the Shadow*, which premiered at Sundance in 2016. The film went on to receive a BAFTA nomination for Outstanding Debut in 2017.

In addition to his work on-set, Kit has also spent many years working as a visiting lecturer to BA Film students at Westminster Film School as well as teaching specialist classes at companies such as Google and YouTube.

Upon being included in this year's BAFTA Breakthrough Brits, Kit said: "I am very honoured to be considered amongst this incredible group. I'm excited about the many doors this could open and the wealth of experienced professionals that I will encounter along the way." He

added: "The opportunity to have a mentor for a year is amazing, and I plan to make the most of every moment."

Lydia Hampson – Producer

Lydia Hampson was born in Shropshire and now lives in Tottenham, London.

Lydia began her career producing live comedy at international producer and promoter, Just for Laughs. There she worked with talent including Eddie Izzard, Simon Amstell, and Cardinal Burns and ran the company's stable of new shows at the Edinburgh Fringe each year. After a stint at talent agency PBJ Management, Lydia returned to production, taking up the role of Senior Producer at The Invisible Dot, where she produced Tim Key's critically acclaimed *Single White Slut*.

In 2014 Lydia made the move to television, producing *The Art Of Foley*, a comedy for Channel 4 starring Mark Heap. More recently, Lydia produced the BAFTA-winning series *Fleabag*, starring Phoebe Waller Bridge, Hugh Dennis and Olivia Colman, which has garnered huge critical acclaim both in the UK and the US, receiving six BAFTA nominations in 2017, including Best Scripted Comedy. She is currently working on a second series of *Fleabag*, and the recently announced *Cheat*, a four-part drama for ITV by screenwriting newcomer, Gaby Hull.

Lydia said: "I am totally thrilled to be named as a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. Looking back across the Breakthrough alumni, I feel so lucky to be amongst such incredible company. I think the opportunities the Breakthrough Brit scheme provide are going to prove invaluable as I make the next steps in my career, whether that be meeting peers, or mentors, understanding more about how others work, and making connections in different parts of the industry."

Mahalia Belo – Director

Mahalia Belo grew up in Kensington, and today resides in Walthamstow, London.

Mahalia's first experience in film and television came during her school summer holidays when she would work as an art department runner at Pinewood Studios. During this period, Mahalia joined the National Youth Theatre and later studied Fine Art Film at Central Saint Martins. After making several zero-budget short films, Mahalia studied for her Directing MA at the world-renowned National Film and Television School. Her graduation short, *Volume*, premiered at Sundance Film Festival and won the British Independent Film Award for Best Short Film.

In 2016, Mahalia directed *Ellen*, a feature-length single drama for television written by fellow Breakthrough Brit Sarah Quintrell starring Jessica Barden, Yasmin Monet Prince, Joe Dempsie and Jaime Winstone. In 2017, Mahalia won the BAFTA for Breakthrough Talent at the British Academy Television Craft Awards for her work on *Ellen*, which also won a BAFTA Cymru Award for Feature/Television Film. Mahalia is currently directing all six episodes of upcoming psychological drama *Requiem* for BBC One.

Mahalia said: "To have an institution like BAFTA reflect a little of its gold light on what I do is incredibly encouraging at this stage in my career. As I make steps into the next phase of my film and television journey, the support being offered will not only give confidence to me realising my dreams, but will guide me. Having access to BAFTA's screenings and events is a source of inspiration that certainly gets me excited. Getting to hear how other storytellers navigate their craft will be enriching, and I am excited about sitting down and chatting with my fellow Breakthrough Brits."

Molly Windsor – Actress

Molly Windsor grew up in Breaston, Derby, where she still lives today.

Molly began acting in after-school clubs before joining the Nottingham Actor's Studio (recently rebranded to The Talent First Organisation) at age 10. In 2010, aged 11, Molly was discovered by Samantha Morton, who was casting for her BAFTA-winning television feature *The Unloved*. Cast as the lead, Molly received rapturous reviews for her performance, which was praised for its maturity and stillness. A supporting role in feature film *Oranges And Sunshine* followed later that year.

In 2015 Molly was signed by The Artists Partnership, which led to her subsequent lead casting as Holly Winshaw in BBC One's landmark mini-series *Three Girls*. The series, which is based on the true story of victims of grooming and sexual abuse in Rochdale, was directed by Philippa Lowthorpe and made with the support of the real people and victims involved in the case. Molly recently finished filming as the lead in a Whitby-set feature film.

Molly said: "It feels strange in a wonderful kind of way to be named a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit. It will give me a great sense of support for whatever the future brings. I know it is going to be a huge source of inspiration for me, and I'm excited to learn from the brilliant practitioners involved in the Breakthrough Brits journey."

Olivia Wood – Games Writer and Editor

Olivia Wood grew up in London where she still resides today.

Olivia is a writer and narrative editor at Failbetter Games, as well as a freelance writer, editor and consultant. She originally studied law and trained as a barrister, but decided not to take the leap into practice. Following this momentous decision, Olivia spent several years freelancing in the publishing industry, where she specialised in line editing science and fantasy fiction. During this time she had the opportunity to edit the work of some of her favourite authors, which cemented the belief that the editorial process is vital for creating compelling narratives in all mediums. An avid gamer, Olivia decided to join the industry, seeing it as a place of exciting narrative innovation, where her skills as a talented writer and editor could be invaluable.

Olivia's recent projects include *Where The Water Tastes Like Wine*, by Dimbulb Games. At Failbetter Games, she has written for and edited *Sunless Sea*, *Sunless Sea: Zubmariner*, *Fallen London* and their forthcoming game, *Sunless Skies*.

On being named a 2017 BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, Olivia said: "I am thrilled. I am proud that I've been recognised for an important skill that is generally 'invisible'. It has reassured me that my future career plans are viable and gives me a strong basis on which to build them. I am excited to get a mentor who can help me develop my skills and identify the opportunities which will advance my learning. I am also excited about becoming more visible as a narrative editor within the games industry. I hope it'll both encourage companies to hire editors and bring others into the industry in a similar capacity."

Sarah Quintrell – Writer

Sarah Quintrell grew up in Croydon and now lives in Bromley, London

Sarah is a writer with extensive experience as an actor for the stage and screen. She got her break in the industry as a teenager when she was street cast for a film in Croydon. She subsequently saved for three years to put herself through drama school. Her work for the stage has included playing Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion* at York's Theatre Royal, and she was the original Bobbie in the Olivier Award-winning *The Railway Children*. For the small screen, Sarah has appeared in programmes such as *Call The Midwife*, *Rillington Place*, *Doctor Who*, and *Lewis*.

After years of honing her understanding of character and story, Sarah wrote her first feature. Although unproduced, it led to encouraging conversations with industry mentors such as Paul Abbott, and Sarah subsequently wrote a play that secured her place on Channel 4's Coming Up scheme. Whilst on the scheme, Sarah developed what would become her first broadcast writing credit – *Ellen*. Directed by fellow Breakthrough Brit Mahalia Belo, *Ellen* went on to win a Broadcast Award for Best Single Drama and a BAFTA Cymru for Best Feature/Television Film in 2017. Sarah has since written five episodes of Channel 4's groundbreaking crime drama, *The Trial*.

She said: "I am thrilled to be named as a Breakthrough Brit and to have the support of BAFTA this year. I'm excited about having the opportunity to meet and ask questions of brilliant people in our industry. For my career going forward, I am looking forward to learning and finding people to collaborate in telling stories with. It's also a chance to get my work in front of people who might not otherwise have seen it."

Segun Akinola – Composer

Segun Akinola was born in Luton and now lives in Battersea, London.

Segun began playing the piano at age five and started to teach himself how to play the drums shortly after. As the only UK-born member of his Nigerian family, Segun grew up around an eclectic musical soundscape, which is reflected in his ability to move seamlessly between genres in his work. By the age of 12, Segun had decided to pursue a career in music, which led to him studying composition at the prestigious Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

His work includes scoring BBC Two's four-part series *Black And British: A Forgotten History*, written and presented by Historian David Olusoga, and Shola Amoo's debut feature film *A Moving Image*, which had its world premiere at the 2016 LA Film Festival and had its European premiere at the 60th BFI London Film Festival in 2016. His score for *Dear Mr Shakespeare* received an Honourable Mention for the 2017 BSO Jerry Goldsmith Award for 'Best Original Score for a Short Film'. Most recently he completed the score for the major three-part series *The Human Body: Secrets Of Your Life Revealed* for BBC Two and PBS.

On being selected as a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, Segun said: "It feels amazing and surreal. I've kept up with who the Breakthrough Brits are for the last few years and so to be included this year is unbelievable. Being a Breakthrough Brit will give me the opportunity to connect with more filmmakers and games designers, as well as receive invaluable mentoring, all of which will open doors for me to achieve the dreams and plans I have for the future. I can't wait to meet more like-minded creatives who are passionate about their work and what they do."

Susan Wokoma – Actress

Susan Wokoma grew up in Elephant and Castle, and now lives in Dulwich, London.

Susan began acting at the suggestion of her teachers, who recognised her ability and recommended that she apply for the National Youth Theatre (NYT). She joined the NYT at the age of 13, and by 16 had secured representation. Her first television job soon followed in 2006, appearing in BAFTA-winning docu-drama *That Summer Day* about the London bombings of 7/7. Susan went on to train at the world-renowned drama school RADA, and since graduating has made memorable appearances on both the stage and television.

Susan's theatre work includes appearing in productions for the Royal Court, the Bush Theatre, and the National Theatre. Her feature film debut came in 2013's *Half Of A Yellow Sun*, and in 2015 she began playing Cynthia in E4's BAFTA-winning *Chewing Gum*. More recently, Susan was the co-lead in E4/Netflix co-production *Crazyhead*. She is currently developing her own comedy series as a writer/performer.

Susan said: "It feels incredible to be recognised by BAFTA, whose stamp of approval is like no other. It has given me the confidence to take more risks and I am so excited by the opportunity to ask questions and advice from my peers and elders in the industry. I've been performing since I was 17, and throughout that time I've learnt how invaluable it is to absorb knowledge from those working around you."