

DRAGONFLY PRESS & PRODUCTION NOTES

DRAGONFLY

Written & Directed by PAUL ANDREW WILLIAMS
Starring Academy Award Nominees ANDREA RISEBOROUGH & BRENDA BLETHYN
with BAFTA winner JASON WATKINS
Produced by MARIE-ELENA DYCHE & DOMINIC TIGHE



2025 // UK // English // 98 Minutes

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LOG LINE

Two women find solace in each other and form an unusual friendship only for it to be undone by prejudice and judgment leading to a devastating conclusion.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Dragonfly is the story of two neighbours who strike up an unlikely friendship, not always to the approval of others around them. Seeing the lack of care that her elderly neighbour ELSIE (Blethyn) is receiving from so called professionals, COLLEEN (Riseborough) takes it upon herself to care for her, finally finding a meaning and purpose in life. When her motivations are brought into question a tragic sequence of events leads to a shocking and devastating end. Dragonfly is a heartbreaking, tense and atmospheric feature that will unsettle and make you challenge your preconceptions. It's a narrative that unflinchingly shines a light on the universal issue of social care and caring for the elderly and marginalised.

DIRECTOR'S INTENT

I wanted to tell a story about the marginalised and forgotten people in society. About those who have been disregarded by the state or by those close to them - their families. I wanted to tell a story asking questions about who is responsible for these people and asking and shining a light on the thorny but universal issue of social care. I wanted to create an atmospheric and uncertain world and constantly ask the audience to challenge their preconceptions of others. Life can be hard and difficult. I hope this film goes some way to capturing that.

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LONG SYNOPSIS

LYNMOORE AVENUE. Another carer leaves after her shift at ELSIE's house. ELSIE is 84. Vulnerable and needs careful attention. We learn she has been on her own for years after her husband died. Her son JOHN lives elsewhere and hasn't been to see her for a long time. The odd phone call and that's it. Pays for the carers, so at least that's something.

Another day and another carer, in out, in out. Meanwhile next-door neighbour COLLEEN, 30 something, she wants you to believe, has picked up on the constant revolving door of carers. One day she asks how ELSIE is doing. "Fine" says the carer. This carer does not want to get too close as sitting next to COLLEEN is her trusty companion and dangerous looking BULLY-TYPE dog, SABER.

Later COLLEEN is off to the shops. She stops in the road. About turns and walks back to her and ELSIE'S. Knocks on the door. "I'm going to the shop, d'ya want anything?" COLLEEN asks ELSIE. Surprised and touched ELSIE asks for some milk. COLLEEN obliges. "Pay me later" she says as she heads off towards the shops.

And so the relationship beings. Small things at first, then the helping with the washing, cooking food, then eating with her, keeping her company, sitting with her. All with SABER the dog by her side, watching all the time, much to the unease of ELSIE.

Another day, another nameless carer comes out. "That wasn't an hour. You're supposed to do an hour." COLLEEN says to her. The carer tells her to mind her own business and deems to step a little closer to COLLEEN, but SABER reacts and bares her teeth. She hurries off scared. COLLEEN goes to check on ELSIE.

An unusual friendship blossoming. A purpose for COLLEEN, company (and practical help) for ELSIE. It works. Unusual, but who cares?

COLLEEN enjoys her newfound responsibility but is always strapped for cash. She sees where ELSIE keeps her spare change. It would be so easy for her to pocket a quid... should she do it? We learn that she is obsessed with make-up tutorial videos. Perhaps a calling never followed through, a scratch gone unscratched - after all who did she have in her life to nurture and encourage her? No one. She tries to do a self-make over. It's a disaster. She looks ridiculous and she knows it. She is disgusted at herself. A huge surge of self-loathing comes over her. She can't bear to look at herself. She wants to be sick. She wants to die. She won't try that again.

She finds solace in ELSIE. This is real. This is grounding. They have become so familiar now "let me take care of you, "COLLEEN says. "Never mind about those carers, I'll bath you, I won't look." ELSIE agrees. And SABER the dog watches on slyly.

JOHN turns up one day. He's heard about COLLEEN. Meets her and is instantly suspicious. He is concerned. He doesn't trust COLLEEN and questions her motivations. 'What do you do for money?' 'I'm on benefit, not that it's any business of yours' she relies. ELSIE tells him its fine, she is just being kind. He is not sure. And he is very concerned about that dog being around his mother. "You know it's illegal?"

The Police turn up. They have come to take SABER away. COLLEEN flips. She can't lose the dog it's her salvation, her friend. Why? What has the dog done? The situation escalates. She gets aggressive and so does SABER. COLLEEN bites another policewoman. She is tasered. The police arrest COLLEEN and take her away. Separately they take SABER away too.

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COLLEEN has not been seen for a while and ELSIE is concerned. She knows she is at home but is worried about her well-being. She goes to investigate. She calls her. She uses the walkie-talkies COLLEEN has previously bought her as a gift. Nothing.

Then she spots her. Asks if she is ok? SABER has been destroyed; COLLEEN tells her. And she has no idea why. She is distraught and she is not taking it well.

Then one morning she is outside ELSIE'S window and ELSIE is on the phone. She overhears a conversation between ELSIE and JOHN. She hears that it was JOHN who informed the police about SABER. He is the reason the dog was taken away. COLLEEN is distraught, furious.

Elise discovers her garden has been trashed. COLLEEN starts to act erratically. Letting herself into ELSIE house late at night. ELSIE is concerned and a little frightened.

One day JOHN is due to be arriving at his mum's. But he hasn't shown up. ELSIE is growing concerned. She is speaking to his wife who told her he left home hours ago. He should be there. Why has he not arrived?

Then ELSIE hears a noise from the kitchen. She goes to explore. "John?" she asks... no reply. She spots COLLEEN standing in the kitchen blankly staring into space. ELSIE asks if she is OK, COLLEEN murmurs a response. Then ELSIE notices COLLEEN has blood on her hands. She asks her why she has blood on her hands. Then JOHN'S WIFE calls. She says they have found JOHN'S car.... COLLEEN starts to talk of something to do with JOHN and his car, ELSIE isn't quite sure what she means. "He didn't even want to apologise" she says. His wife says something awful has happened to JOHN. "What have you done?" ELSIE asks.

Just then a pool of blood seeps out from under the kitchen table. COLLEEN has slit her wrists. ELSIE moves to help her but slips in the blood and SNAP! She breaks her knee, brittle as her bones are. ELSIE cries out in pain.

They both lie on the blood flooded floor staring at each other as COLLEEN slips into unconsciousness, unable to help ELSIE, her friend. And ELSIE unable to save COLLEEN from the inevitable final journey.

Blackout. A nursing home. The camera crawls slowly towards an armchair at the end of the room and discover ELSIE staring into the void.

God's waiting room. It's over.

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CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL ANDREW WILLIAMS

Writer / Director

Paul Andrew Williams is a BAFTA-winning film and television director, writer, and producer.

Paul's recent work in television includes SUSPECT: THE SHOOTING OF JEAN CHARLES DE MENEZES, produced by ITV studios for Disney+. He has also been lead director and executive producer on A CONFESSION for ITV starring Martin Freeman, THE WALK IN for ITV starring Stephen Graham, and ARCHIE for ITV starring Jason Isaacs. Other credits include writing THE FEAR INDEX for Sky, leading series 3 of BROADCHURCH for ITV, and directing on WHITE DRAGON for ITV and Amazon.

Paul's work in film includes the BAFTA-nominated LONDON TO BRIGHTON and BIFA-nominated SONG FOR MARION. He has also directed two drama singles for the BBC: BAFTA-winning MURDERED BY MY BOYFRIEND and MURDERED FOR BEING DIFFERENT.

DOMINIC TIGHE

Producer

Dominic was long listed for Breakthrough Producer at the BIFA Awards for his debut film BULL, also with Paul Andrew Williams.

He formed Giant Productions to create ambitious and bold films. Dragonfly is Giant's third project. BULL, the first feature, played theatrically in the UK and Ireland and won Best International Feature at Paris International Fantastic Film Festival. It premiered at FANTASIA and BFI LFF and sat at the number 1 spot for three weeks on Netflix after its release there. Prior to BULL Dominic produced an ambitious film, MDUDU BOY, about a street kid who loves football set in Kenya working with the local community in Kilifi. That played at TIFF and other major festivals.

He also works as an actor. Various work included THE BOYS IN THE BOAT for Amazon MGM directed by George Clooney, THE NEW LOOK for Apple TV, and INSOMNIA and THE CASTAWAYS for Paramount + and SUSPECT: THE SHOOTING OF JEAN CHARLES DE MENEZES for Disney +.

MARIE-ELENA DYCHE

Producer

Marie-Elena Dyché is an award-winning film producer who completed her Masters in Film Producing from the National Film and Television School. She has worked on many feature film productions, including the critically acclaimed 'Blue Jean' which won the People's Choice award at the Venice Film Festival 2022. It went on to be nominated for multiple BIFAs, won a Scottish BAFTA for Best Newcomer and was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Debut. Her other work includes 'Bull'; 'A House in Jerusalem'; Cannes 2023 'Un Certain Regard' winner and 3x BIFA winning 'How to Have Sex'; 'Sebastian', which had its world premiere at Sundance 2024. Her upcoming movie, 'Harvest' premiered in official competition at the Venice Film Festival 2024. 'Dragonfly' will have its world premiere at Tribeca 2025 and currently 'Mission' starring George MacKay and Rosy McEwen is in post-production and has been selected for the Cannes Great8 showcase 2025.

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ANDREA RISEBOROUGH

Colleen

Academy Award nominated actor Andrea Riseborough will next be seen in Paul Andrew Williams' film DRAGONFLY and Jan Komasa's film GOOD BOY opposite Stephen Graham. Last year, Andrea starred in Ellen Kuras' film LEE opposite Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard and Noémie Merlant and FUNNY BIRDS, a comedy-drama film starring alongside Catherine Deneuve and Morgan Saylor. Riseborough was also recently seen starring as the title character in Michael Morris' film TO LESLIE, for which she earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Lead Actress and an Independent Spirit nomination for Best Lead Performance. Following this she starred opposite Domhnall Gleeson in ALICE & JACK, a limited series written by Victor Levin and HBO's limited series, THE PALACE, from Succession duo Will Tracy and Frank Rich. Andrea is currently filming GOODBYE JUNE for Netflix and Working Title opposite Kate Winslet, Helen Mirren and Toni Collette.

Past credits include: Netflix's MATILDA; David O'Russell's AMSTERDAM; Amanda Kramer's PLEASE BABY PLEASE; Pratibha Parmar's documentary MY NAME IS ANDREA; Amazon's THE ELECTRICAL LIFE OF LOUIS WAIN; BBC Films' HERE BEFORE; Zeina Durra's LUXOR in which her performance earned her a 2021 British Independent Film Award nomination in the category of Best Actress; Brandon Cronenberg's POSSESSOR; Stefano Sollima's ZEROZEROZERO; Christina Choe's NANCY, which premiered in competition at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the prestigious Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award; Armando Iannucci's THE DEATH OF STALIN; Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris' BATTLE OF THE SEXES; Alejandro González Iñárritu's BIRDMAN or (THE UNEXPECTED VIRTUE OF IGNORANCE), which won four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture; Nicolas Pesce's reboot of THE GRUDGE; Andrew Heckler's BURDEN, which won the Audience Award at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival; Lone Scherfig's THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS, which opened the 2019 Berlin Film Festival; Tom Ford's NOCTURNAL ANIMALS; Mark Romanek's NEVER LET ME GO; Nigel Cole's MADE IN DAGENHAM; Rowan Joffe's BRIGHTON ROCK; Madonna's W.E., as Wallis Simpson; Amit Gupta's RESISTANCE; Henry Alex Rubin's DISCONNECT; Joseph Kosinski's OBLIVION opposite Tom Cruise; Paramount's WACO; Eran Creevy's WELCOME TO THE PUNCH; Netflix's BLOODLINE; Corinna McFarlane's THE SILENT STORM; the Duffer Brothers' Hidden and James Marsh's SHADOW DANCER, opposite Clive Owen, for which Riseborough won the British Independent Film Award (BIFA), the Evening Standard British Film Award, and the London Critics' Circle Film Award for Best Actress; THE LONG WALK TO FINCHLEY for which she received a BAFTA nomination for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher.

BRENDA BLETHYN

Elsie

Brenda Blethyn is one of the UK's most loved and respected actors. After having studied at the Guildford School of Acting she joined the National Theatre Company in 1975

Numerous theatre, television and film roles followed showcasing her considerable talent most notably in Mike Leigh's 'Secrets & Lies' which earned Brenda many accolades including a Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival, a Bafta and also an Oscar nomination. Other award winning roles include Little Voice (another Academy Award nomination), Pride & Prejudice, Anne Frank the whole story and Clubland.

Brenda's television credits are extensive but today she is most familiar to TV audiences as ITV's eponymous detective 'Vera', and for which she was recently awarded the prestigious Special Contribution to Television award. She is also fondly remembered for her role as "Mim" in 'Outside Edge' alongside Timothy Spall.

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Brenda is an Ambassador for several charities including The Princes Trust, Shooting Stars Children's Hospices, and has run three London Marathons for Children with Leukaemia. She also supports SENDyno (a new small company making kids wear and who donate a percentage of income to raise awareness of Special Educational Needs) She was awarded an OBE in 2003 in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for her services to drama.

JASON WATKINS

John

Jason played the title role in *The Lost Honour of Christopher Jefferies*, for which he won the Best Actor BAFTA. He played Harold Wilson in *The Crown*. He is DS Dodds in *McDonald and Dodds*.

Jason can currently be seen in *The Seagull* at the Barbican. He was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in *A Servant to Two Masters* for the RSC/Young Vic/West End. Recent theatre includes. The play, *Frozen* (The Haymarket). The Twits (Royal Court) *Strange Interlude*, *Landscape with Weapon*, *Our Class* and *Inadmissible Evidence*, (National Theatre) *A Laughing Matter* (NT and Out of Joint).

Other Selected Theatre; *The Plantagenets*, *The Plain Dealer* (RSC) Carol Churchill's *Blue Kettle* and *Hearts Desire*, (*Out of Joint*) *The Late Henry Moss* by the late Sam Shepard, *Midsummer's Night's Dream* (Almeida Theatre) *a Farewell to the Theatre* (Hampstead Theatre). *The Dumb Waiter*, (Oxford Playhouse). *Boy Gets Girl*, *Rafts and Dreams*, *King Lear* (Royal Court). *Arden of Faversham* (Old Red Lion).

Recent Television Includes: *Anansi Boys*, *Des*, *Archie*, *Coma*, *The Catch*, *The Trick*, *The Crown* (SAG Award Best Ensemble) *Line of Duty*, *Taboo*, *Inside No 9*, *A Very English Scandal*, *Friday Night Dinner*, *Trollied*, Simon Harwood in *WIA*. Pennyworth in *Batman Caped Crusader* the Animated Series, for Warner Bros. Other TV work includes; *Being Human*, Emmy Award Winning *Housewife 49*, *Sex Traffic*, *Little Dorrit*, *Funland*, *Are You Being Served*. The Documentary; *Jason and Clara In Memory of Maudie*.

Film credits include *Dragonfly*, *Wicked Little Letters*, *Hampstead*, *The Children Act*, directed by Richard Eyre; *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*, *Wild Child*, Jason is Gordon Shakespeare in the *Nativity* film series. *Bridget Jones - The Edge of Reason*. And *High Hopes* directed by Mike Leigh. The Short Film; *The One Note Man*, (Greece International Film Festival Best Actor. Richard Harris Best Actor Award).

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Eilene Davidson Productions, Desmar, Screen Yorkshire, Bruno Wang Productions, Alliance
Media Partners in association with OnSight and Shoebox Films present a
Giant Productions & Meraki Films Production

ANDREA RISEBOROUGH

BRENDA BLETHYN

With
JASON WATKINS

Written & Directed by
PAUL ANDREW WILLIAMS

Produced by
MARIE-ELENA DYCHE & DOMINIC TIGHE

Executive Producers
EILENE DAVIDSON, NAOMI DESPRES, MICHELE MARSHALL, CAROLINE COOPER CHARLES,
CYRILE GONZALEZ, BRUNO WANG, JONATHAN ZIMMERN, PAUL WEBSTER, ANTHONY BUCKNER,
BOB PORTAL, INDERPAL SINGH, PAUL ANDREW WILLIAMS

Director of Photography
VANESSA WHYTE BSC

Editor
NINA ANNAN

Music by
RAFFERTIE

Casting Directors
SARAH CROWE & XANTHE SPENCER DAVIDSON

Production Designer
KAY BROWN

Costume Designer
HELEN BOLTER

Hair & Make Up Designer
ELIZABETH EVA HEDLEY