

Chris Dingli Biography (999 words)

Chris Dingli trained at Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. He has spent the last decade and a half working as an actor on stage and on screen in London and Europe.

His stage and film work has seen him work with some of the world's most recognisable names including Michael Bay, Rachel Weisz, Alejandro Amenábar, John Krasinski, Malcolm McDowell and Linda Gray.

He has performed under the patronage of the Queen of Spain, helped adapt one of Philip Pullman's novels for the stage, and performed in many different countries.

He has worked with multiple Academy Award winners, Carnegie medal winners, and on world renowned platforms such as the BBC, SKY and Netflix.

His screen credits include *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, *Doctors* (BBC), *Blood on the Crown*, *Agora*, *Paul Apostle of Christ*, *Sinbad* (SKY) and *The Good Ship Murder* (Channel 5). He starred in and was head writer of the TV series *Comedy Knights TV Shorts*.

Chris rose to prominence in his native Malta starring in the extremely popular TV soap *Becky*, as well as for his performances playing the title role in *Amadeus* and the Emcee in *Cabaret*, both at the National Theatre, Malta.

In 2010 he co-created *Dingle Bells Malcolm Smells*, a semi-improvised comedy show that spawned a series of successful sequels over the years.

He is currently a producer, performer and head writer of the hugely successful *Comedy Knights*, a satirical sketch show that is performed to packed houses every Christmas season. He starred in a spin-off TV show called *Comedy Knights TV Shorts* which aired in 2015 and which Chris coproduced and served as co-showrunner. This TV series spawned several viral videos and has found a new lease of life as a lip-synch challenge on TikTok.

In July 2020, he wrote, directed and performed in *The New Normal*, a socially-distanced comedy show for the APS Summer Festival. It played two sold-out performances to over 200 socially-distanced people a night.

His series of student-friendly adaptations of Shakespeare plays under his *Shakeshorts* banner are very popular amongst young audiences, and won the 2023 Premju Ghall-Arti (National Arts Award) for Best Work for Young Audiences. His adaptation of *Peer Gynt* played at the National Theatre, Malta, with the Malta National Youth Orchestra in 2018.

Chris has toured his original one-man comedy *Bad Dad* to various cities in Europe and North America, to both critical and audience acclaim, receiving 5 star reviews in London and elsewhere.

As a stand-up comedian, Chris has performed in Malta, Edinburgh and Los Angeles. Highlights include 2017's *One Night Comedy Special* and his 2018 stand-up residency at Hard Rock Cafe in Valletta. He continues to perform stand up comedy in Malta and the UK.

His corporate work as Master of Ceremonies and event host include clients such as KPMG, HSBC, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, APS Bank, Betsson, SiGMA, PwC and the Valletta Film Festival. His autobiographical TED-style talk, *Punchlines and Principles* has received tremendous feedback from corporate clients.

In 2014 he wrote and directed the contemporary circus show *The Hogwallops*, which has toured all over the world gaining excellent reviews everywhere. It remains a popular touring show, with hundreds of performances to date. In 2019 he wrote and co-directed *Hotel Paradiso* for the same company, which is also currently touring.

In the summer of 2016, Chris played Lonny in the original Maltese cast of *Rock of Ages* to universally rave reviews. The production went on to become Malta's longest-running musical, a title that it retains to date.

In September 2017 he was awarded Best Actor at the Malta International Theatre Festival for his performance in the self-penned one-man dramatic show, *Battleship*.

In 2018 his short film, *The Seat*, premiered at the We Like 'em Short festival in Oregon, USA.

In 2019 he wrote and co-directed *Harbour Odyssey* for the Malta International Arts Festival, which was performed again in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Together with Steve Hili, he co-produced *How to Be a Londoner in an Hour* which he performed in London.

He is in high demand as a voice actor and has voiced commercials and information videos for international clients such as the EU Parliament, HSBC, Bank of Valletta, VISA Contactless, The Malta Chamber, Debenhams, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Emirates, and The Malta Financial Services Authority, amongst others. He has also narrated the audiobooks of the thrilling historical fiction novels *Mad King Robin* and *The Cream of Chivalry*.

In 2020, he moved his performances online. *The Comedy Knights House Party* was live-streamed to thousands of people over the Christmas period. *The Comedy Knights' New Normal* was similarly enjoyed live online. In 2021 his Shakeshorts adaptation of *Macbeth* was adapted for online streaming for students in schools across the Maltese islands. A year later, his Shakeshorts adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was performed in London.

His recent film work has seen him shift into more dramatic territory with leading roles in the indie dramas *In Corpore* (2020), *Uwija* (2021) and the award-winning *The End* (2020) as well as roles in the international films *Not Without Hope* (Upcoming), *The Silent Hour* (Upcoming) and *Sniper G.R.I.T* (2023).

Chris is a proficient musician on the violin and viola. He studied at the Johann Strauss School of Music, Valletta, under the tutorship of Mro. Joachim Atanassov and later under Mr Antoine Frendo.

He has worked extensively as a professional actor-musician, with companies such as GB Theatre Company and Birmingham Rep. He has performed on the viola with various orchestras, including the National Orchestra (now the Malta Philharmonic) in London, Edinburgh, Italy and Malta.

In 2008 he placed first runner-up in the London Busking Competition (on the viola), which sought to find the most popular busker on the London Underground. As a result, he was invited to play live on Capital FM in London and at London City Hall. He also plays the guitar and has played it in numerous theatrical productions.

He lives in London with his wife and two children.

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