

Chris Dingli Biography (1006 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 in a large number of plays, musicals and other productions 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, worked with Oscar-winner Emma Thompson as executive producer, helped adapt one of Philip Pullman's novels for the stage, and co-starred alongside supermodel Kat Torres on screen.

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

His screen credits include *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*, *Doctors* (BBC), *Blood on the Crown*, *Agora*, *Paul Apostle of Christ* and *Sinbad* (SKY). 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 tile role in *Amadeus* and the Emcee in *Cabaret*, both at the Teatru Manoel, 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 co-produced 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 *Shakeshorts presents A Midsummer Night's Dream* was nominated for a National Arts Award. His adaptation of *Peer Gynt* played at the Teatru Manoel 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. His *One Night Comedy Special* sold out in 48 hours. He continues to headline stand up comedy events including a stand-up residency at Hard Rock Cafe in Valletta in 2018.

He has been Master of Ceremonies for numerous events such as the Valletta Film Festival, the HSBC Annual Summer Concert, and the Malta World Music Festival. His autobiographical 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. Together with Steve Hili, he co-produced *How to Be a Londoner in an Hour* which was performed in several venues in London.

As a voice actor, he is in high demand for voice over work. He has voiced commercials for many financial and corporate clients such as HSBC, Bank of Valletta, VISA Contactless, The Malta Chamber, Debenhams, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Emirates, and The Malta Financial Services Authority, amongst others. He regularly works with XFM 100.2 in Malta where he has also hosted his own daily shows including afternoon drive-time and lunch hour slots.

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.

His recent film work has seen him shift into more dramatic territory with leading roles in the indie dramas *In Corpore* (2020), *U Iwjja* (2021) and the award-winning *The End* (2020).

As a musician, Chris is very proficient on the violin and viola. He studied at the Johan Strauss School of Music in Valetta under the tutorship of Mro. Joachim Atanassov and later under Mr Antoine Frendo. A large amount of his time in the UK between 2006 and 2015 was spent touring 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 as a regular busker (playing the viola) on the London Underground, he placed first runner-up in the London Busking Competition, which sought to find the most popular busker on the Tube. As a result, he was invited to play live on Capital FM in London and at London City Hall for the London Mayor. He also plays the guitar and has played it in numerous theatrical productions.

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