

DESERT ISLAND PICS

Brian Cox

Hannibal Lecter, the Dalai Lama... and *Minder* – just a few of the characters in the life of Brian



An early picture of me, in Dundee, aged three



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1 Real Scots, wha hae! 2005

New York has an event called *Dress To Kilt* where you get to show off your Scottishness and go down the catwalk in a kilt. This is me with my son Alan. There was also a fruitier shot of us, proving we were true Scots! I flew to Scotland the next day and when I arrived at the airport, there I was on the front page of two national papers with my bum showing.

2 That Scarlett lady, 2005

At the premiere of *Match Point*, with the delightful Scarlett Johansson. I was her tour guide in London when we were filming: she always wore glasses, jeans and trainers and looked like a little Danish tourist, so no one recognised her. She is very bright, witty and great company. I think Woody Allen fell in love with her. Actually, I think we all did.

3 Right on, party-goers, 2006

I'm with my lovely wife Nicole at a concert for human rights in London, along with Sinéad Cusack, Vaclav Havel, Bianca Jagger and Trudie Styler. Nicole and I have been married for 13 years now; she was definitely the most stunning woman at that party – but I suppose I would say that.

4 Hannibal rising, 1986

As Hannibal Lecter in Michael Mann's *Manhunter*. A great part, which really established me on an international level. Anthony Hopkins did *Silence Of The Lambs* five years later and got an Oscar. I know Tony well and we laugh about it because his billing went skyward after that movie and he started earning a bloody fortune.

5 Julie, madly, deeply, 1990

At the Pinter Theatre (then the Comedy Theatre) with Julie Walters in *Frankie And Johnny*, which became a big film with Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer. I loved working with Julie. People expect her to be very outgoing, but she is actually surprisingly private. When we were doing this play, her daughter Maisie had been very ill with child leukaemia and she was desperately worried.

6 Decked by Dennis, 1982

I played a crook in my only episode of *Minder*, which ended with an almighty fight with Dennis Waterman on a bus that lasted an entire 15 minutes. The scene went on for so long it became funny.

7 Dalai's chuckle vision, 2012

I introduced the Dalai Lama at the University of Dundee, where I am from. He is wise, calm and fascinating but you are not prepared for how funny he is. He has a very comic view of the world. *Brian Cox stars in the Donmar Warehouse production of 'The Weir' at Wyndham's Theatre from January 16. theweirlondon.co.uk*

INTERVIEW BY ROB MCGIBBON. PHOTOS: GETTY/REX/PACIFIC COAST NEWS/AP/DEADLINE NEWS

Event is published by Associated Newspapers Ltd, 2 Derry Street, Kensington, London W8 5TS and printed by The Polestar Group. Event forms a supplement to The Mail on Sunday. Colour transparencies or any other materials submitted are sent at the owner's risk; neither The Mail on Sunday nor its agents accept any liability for loss or damage. © Associated Newspapers Limited, 2013.