

MERLIN THE TV SHOW

Merlin arrived on TV in the UK in 2008. Now people all around the world watch it and it's a big hit. It's fun, funny and the story has lots of surprises!



A new story

The film makers wanted to make a new, exciting TV show about the famous King Arthur stories. In the stories, Merlin is an old wizard and Arthur is a strong king. In *Merlin*, we see Arthur and Merlin when they are both young men. Two new young actors, Colin Morgan (23) and Bradley James (25), play Merlin and Arthur.

The actors

Bradley James plays Arthur. Bradley loves sport. 'I'd love to be a footballer but I'm an actor at the moment,' he jokes. 'I loved working on Merlin. I enjoyed the sword work the best.

Colin (Merlin) was very quiet at first and I didn't understand his jokes! But soon we were good friends. He's very funny and we played a lot of jokes on Angel (Gwen)!'



Colin Morgan plays Merlin. Colin is from Ireland and he always wanted to be an actor. 'I was very interested in magic when I was young too,' he says. 'I'm so happy to be Merlin in the show.'

Sometimes Colin had to do difficult things. 'For one of the shows, I had to run into a very cold lake in the rain!' he says. 'Another time I had animal 'dung' – or chocolate! – all over my face!'

Magical animals

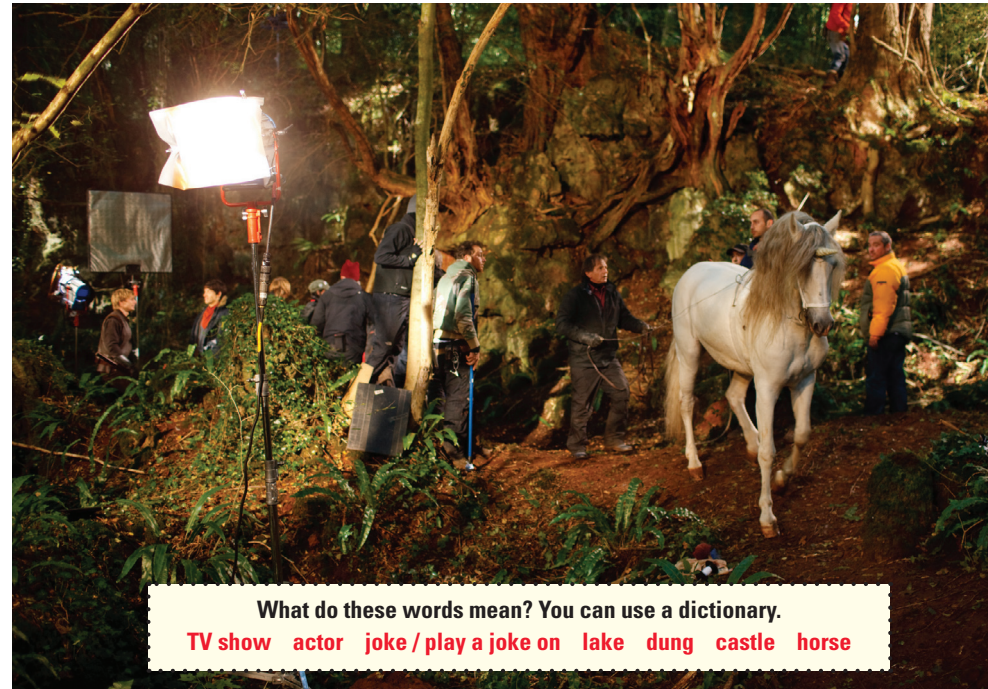
There are a lot of magical animals in *Merlin*. One is the Great Dragon. It lives under Camelot Castle.

Of course, the true star in *Arthur and the Unicorn* is a white horse called Unity – not a unicorn! Unity had to wear a white horn to be the unicorn in the story.

Would you like to watch *Merlin*? Why / Why not?

The right castle

Camelot Castle is very important in Merlin. Most of the filming happens there. The film makers looked at castles in England, Scotland, Wales and Eastern Europe but they weren't right. Then they found the Château de Pierrefonds, near Paris in France. Everyone loved it.



What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

TV show actor joke / play a joke on lake dung castle horse