



brotherly love

Contents

Introduction
Cast list and production credits
Characterisations
Episode synopses
Ratings
What the papers say

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



brotherly love

Introduction

After many years of working and living in London, Frank Robertson, a failed architect, returns to Scotland's Invercorrie, the village of his youth, to run the pub he has inherited from his uncle.

Frank's brother, local GP Hector Robertson, and his childhood friend, artist and barmaid Kate Cameron, are both delighted he is coming home for good, although Hector has a stubborn way of showing it.

Indeed within days of living together, following Frank's return, the two brothers are at each other's throats and Kate, the girl they both expected to marry as children and whom they both still listen to and admire, has to intervene.

Brotherly Love was written by Bernard McKenna, who has an extensive list of sitcom credits going back to the *Doctor* series with Python Graham Chapman. A BBC Scotland production, it was produced by Ian Burgoyne with Mike Bolland as executive producer. The director is Ron Bain.

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



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Cast list and production credits

Starring:

Frank Robertson **James Fleet** (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*)
Hector Robertson **Gregor Fisher** (*Rab C. Nesbitt*)
Kate Cameron **Caroline Langrishe** (*Lovejoy, Rogue Trader*)

Written by **Bernard McKenna**
Producer **Ian Burgoyne**
Executive Producer **Mike Bolland**
Director **Ron Bain**

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



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Gregor Fisher is Dr Hector Robertson

After more than a decade in the role, Gregor Fisher has undoubtedly become best known to UK audiences as Rab C. Nesbitt, the self-styled king of giro valley and gutter philosopher, but *Brotherly Love* is not his only surprising venture on the screen.

Over the years he has also appeared on stage in Shakespeare and in a number of films. From an inauspicious start, having left school at 16 and gone into a number of jobs, he then auditioned for a place at drama college in Glasgow. He completed two years of the course before the offer of an Equity card lured him away to Dundee Rep.

There, while playing Bottom in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he met up with the young woman, actress Vicky Burton, who was to become his wife.

Parts followed in such films as *White Mischief*, *The Girl In The Picture*, *Another Time Another Place* and *1984* plus leads in TV shows such as *The Tales of Para Handy*, *The Baldy Man* and *Scotch and Wry*.

Nevertheless, *Brotherly Love* does represent quite a radical change of tack for Gregor.

He said: "We often shoot Rab out and about on the city streets but it was terrific to get out to the country to make *Brotherly Love*. The scenery is breathtaking and it was a completely different kind of filming experience to get up in the morning and look out over the lochside."

"The role, of course, was another very different kettle of fish. Rab will always be part of my life but it is great fun to wear a proper shirt and even a tie. Unlike Rab, Hector lives in a rural community and as a doctor he could be said to be middle class but I think people will also find his character very funny."

"Working with James and Caroline was of course also great. We really gelled."

Playing a clean cut doctor has however not changed his approach to his health. Noted as a bit of a foodie, who has displayed a deft culinary touch on *Ready Steady Cook*, Gregor admits that he has put a bit of investment in his girth over the years.

He confessed: "Given I try to keep doctors at arms length myself, it is ironic that I am a GP and advising others on how to look after themselves."

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



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James Fleet is architect Frank Robertson

In order to play the part of London-based architect Frank Robertson who returns to Scotland to meet up with his GP brother, James Fleet didn't have to look far for inspiration.

Just like the character he plays, James also made the trip north from London to Scotland to film for *Brotherly Love*. And just like Frank, James enjoyed a trip down memory lane as he remembered his own student days in Glasgow before heading south to set up home in London.

For James, 44, – who has developed a reputation for playing upper-class twits – filming *Brotherly Love* felt "just like being home again, 20 years on from student days walking along Byres Road."

During breaks in filming, he revealed, he headed for the rolling hills in the Scottish countryside "climbing the hills and seeing nature."

James, who now lives with actress wife Jane Booker and seven-year-old son Hamish in South West London, confessed that he enjoyed his trip "back home" so much that he even considered returning to Scotland to live – but eventually rejected the idea because so much of his work is now London-based.

Memories of his student days were not his only bolt from the past during filming, since on-screen brother Gregor Fisher was the year above James at Glasgow's Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

"Gregor was a big star – he was Mr Hot – and I always thought he was going to hit the big time – he's very good at whatever he does."

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



brotherly love

Caroline Langrishe is artist Kate Cameron

Caroline Langrishe often appears on our screens as cool, calm and collected, with a touch of ruthless steel to her, so *Brotherly Love* was a welcome chance to play against type.

Kate Cameron grew up in a rather gilded environment as the daughter of an upper class family in a rural Scottish village and has gone on to become an artist. But now that she has returned to her roots, she also works as a barmaid without any qualms.

Having grown up with Frank and Hector, she is also equally unaffected by the rekindling of their rival affections for her and certainly has no intention of capitalising on her position.

Caroline loved filming *Brotherly Love* – and made the most of her time in the Scottish countryside, despite the attention of both midges and a shark.

"We did work hard, but were surrounded by such lovely countryside, it felt like a holiday – particularly on location. We weren't really bothered by the midges too much and they really only affected one day of filming – although the sight of a basking shark in a nearby loch was not quite as relaxing!" she confessed.

The trip north also brought back memories for Caroline, who spent most of her childhood holidays in the west of Scotland.

"It wasn't until we were filming that all the memories of my childhood holidays in the west coast of Scotland with my family came flooding back. And I realised for the first time I was playing an artist, just like my mother Penelope Langrishe who has always specialised in the kind of scenic landscapes we see in *Brotherly Love*."

"I found a swimming pool in Dunoon near to where we were filming and I couldn't believe I was being paid to do this," said Caroline, who subsequently took her daughters Leonie (17) and Rosalind (15) to Mull for a family break.

Filming with James and Gregor, she said, was tremendous fun, although both are quite different characters.

"They are tremendously nice people, yet quite different. James is a very shy person – but Gregor isn't! Gregor is very generous and was always giving us treats as well as being sensitive to other people's moods."

Playing Kate sees Caroline take a step aside from her usual role of the posh, well-heeled woman who has a cold, dark side to her. Kate the artist is kind and genuine and has no hidden agenda – the exact opposite of her recent appearance in *Taggart* where her character murdered five people.

And audiences will of course remember many of her more calculating roles in programmes such as *Lovejoy*, *Peak Practice*, *Heartbeat* and *Cleopatra*.

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes



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Episodic synopses

Episode 1

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

When Frank Robertson inherits his late uncle's pub, he packs his bags and moves from London to his home-town of Invercorrie where his bachelor brother, Hector, is the town's doctor. When the brothers find themselves as unwilling housemates it doesn't take long for them to remember why they went their separate ways in the first place.

Episode 2

Sex n' Drugs & Rock n' Roll

Dr. Hector Robertson enters into competition with his neighbouring rival Dr. Dalrymple (David Robb), for the attention of Julia (Sarah Parish), a beautiful new drugs-rep. Frank, meanwhile, is excited about renting out his pub to a professional women's group and soon finds himself as the centre of attention – but not in the way he would like.

Episode 3

Sense & Sensitivity

Although brothers, Hector and Frank Robertson agree on very little, both acknowledge that what they need right now is love. When sisters Linda and Lucy turn up at Hector's surgery, it seems that their dreams have come true.

Episode 4

Time, Gentlemen, Please

Frank is forced to close Robertson's Bar when he finds out he doesn't have a valid licence. Hector decides to use his influence in Invercorrie to help Frank out, but soon begins to regret his interference.

Episode 5

Art & Soul

Frank is determined to do something special to re-launch Robertson's Bar and asks Kate to exhibit her paintings at the opening party. Unfortunately, her artistic talents go unappreciated in Invercorrie and Hector and Frank try to make amends. But helping Kate may cost them more than they bargained for.

Episode 6

I'll Take The High Life

Hector is delighted when Lord Ranloch (Graham Cowden) invites him to his annual ceilidh, the most prestigious event in the town's social calendar. However, tickets for the event are less than exclusive, and guests include not only his brother Frank, but most of Invercorrie. Hector, though, is glad of some support when he finds himself spending the evening being pursued by the Laird's eccentric unmarried daughter.

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Ratings

Episode	UK tx date	Time	Viewers	Audience Share
1	06/10/00	20.30	5.3 million	22.3%
2	13/10/00	20.30	4.9 million	20.8%
3	22/10/00	18.15	3.9 million	19.2%
4	29/10/00	18.15	4.7 million	20.2%
5	29/10/00	18.16	4.7 million	20.2%
6	05/11/00	18.25	4.7 million	21.5%

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What the papers say

'Gregor Fisher and James Fleet star in the Scottish island set sitcom as the eponymous brothers, here dealing with flirtatious drugs company reps and some soon-to-be-shocked nuns. The two leads are fun (Fisher almost as good as he is as Rab C Nesbitt) and the gentle script just lets them get on with it.'

Time Out

Entertainment

6 x 30 minutes