

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF A DOG'S WAY HOME AND DOLPHIN TALE

LUKE TREADAWAY WITH BOB AS BOB

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM

BOB

BASED ON THE
INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER



A TRUE TAIL OF CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

IN CINEMAS & AVAILABLE TO RENT

NOVEMBER 6TH

ABOUT THE FILM

Based on the international best-selling books, this 'purrfect' Christmas sequel to the international hit film *A Christmas Gift From Bob* follows James and his feline best friend, Bob, on their new journey together.

From the day James Bowen (Luke Treadaway) rescued a street cat abandoned in the hallway of his sheltered accommodation, they began a friendship which has transformed both their lives and touched millions around the world.

In *A Christmas Gift From Bob*, James looks back at the last Christmas he and Bob spent scraping a living on the streets. Bob helped him through one of his toughest times - providing strength, friendship and inspiration, and ultimately teaching him about the true meaning of Christmas spirit.



BOB: FROM THE STREETS TO OUR BOOKSHELVES

How did one ginger cat go from living on the streets to inspiring several bestselling books – and finally becoming a hero on the big screen? The simple answer is that Bob was no ordinary cat.

In 2007, James Bowen was recovering from heroin addiction and earning a living by busking in Covent Garden. When he came home to find a stray cat outside his door, he gave him a home – never expecting that in return, Bob would give him the strength to build a new life. James began taking Bob with him when he went out to busk and sell *The Big Issue*, and the pair became local celebrities.

A publisher became interested in their story, and *A Street Cat Named Bob* was born. Since its release the book has sold over 1 million copies in the UK alone, has been translated into 30 languages, and spent over 76 weeks at the top of *The Sunday Times*' bestseller list. James and Bob's story captivated readers all over the world and sparked several sequels.

The 2016 feature film *A Street Cat Named Bob* brought the feline hero to an even wider audience, and now the screen story continues in *A Christmas Gift From Bob*.

'Bob saved my life. It's as simple as that,' says the real James Bowen, looking back on his friend's extraordinary life. 'With him at my side, I found a direction and purpose that I'd been missing. The success we achieved together through our books and films was miraculous. He's met thousands of people, touched millions of lives. There's never been a cat like him.'



QUIZ

- At the start of the film, which well-known children's author does James speak to at the Christmas party?
 - Jacqueline Wilson
 - David Walliams
 - Cressida Cowell
- 'We all have to believe in something,' says James's friend Moody (Phaldut Sharma) - 'Christmas, Krishna, _____.'
 - Chocolate
 - Cricket
 - Buddha
- What does Bea (Kristina Tonteri-Young) hang on her Christmas tree every year?
 - Things she's thankful for from the past year
 - Things she hopes will happen next year
 - The words of Christmas carols
- A politician hands James some cash. What currency does it turn out to be?
 - Algerian dinar
 - Ethiopian birr
 - Albanian lek
- What gift does Irene (Joanne Zorian) give to Bob?
 - A whole trout
 - A santa coat and hat
 - A superhero costume
- Bea tells James that Arabella (Anna Wilson-Jones), the celebrity chef, is related to someone famous. Who is it?
 - The Queen
 - Beyonce
 - Helen Mirren



Answers: 1a; 2b; 3a; 4c; 5b; 6a

FILM TALK

This is your chance to chat together about your reactions to *A Christmas Gift From Bob* as a movie experience before digging deeper into the themes.

- What did you like most about the film? Which parts did you find emotional, funny or exciting?
- Who was your favourite human character, and why? What did you think of the performances in the film?
- What did you think of Bob's performance... as Bob? What did you enjoy most about watching him onscreen?
- Did watching *A Christmas Gift From Bob* make you want to read more about Bob's adventures?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: **STRONGER TOGETHER**

1. Why is Bob's friendship so important to James – and what makes them 'stronger together'? Have you ever experienced a significant friendship with an animal? How did it change your life?
2. What journey does James go on through the film, and how has his outlook on life changed by the end? What part do his human friends play in this change? What are the different ways they help support him?
3. James says that he believes in Karma – the idea that the good things you do are rewarded. How do we see this play out in the film? What sort of 'reward' do you think we all experience when we help others?
4. Why do you think isolation and loneliness affect so many people in our society? When we're feeling isolated, where can we go for help and connection?
5. How can stories – like Bob and James's story – help to fight loneliness? Which films and books have been 'friends' to you, and why?

Books to the rescue

Your local library is doing amazing work to help people like James get back on their feet – and to combat loneliness for everyone in the community.

Did you know:

- Libraries often provide shelter for the homeless, helping people access Citizens Advice, apply for Universal Credit, fill in job applications and more.
- Libraries can offer Books on Prescription to help with your health and wellbeing, or recommend books to boost your mood.
- Beyond reading, libraries provide social and recreational activities and volunteering opportunities to keep people active and connected.

Studies show that people who read for pleasure have higher self-esteem and can cope better with difficult situations. You can read more about the power of libraries in [The Big Issue](#).

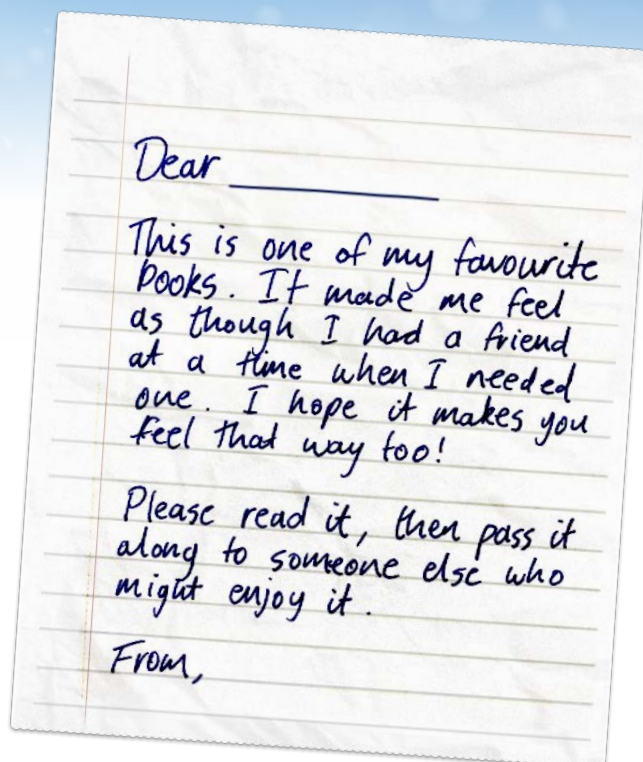
6. What part can we all play in helping people who might be lonely or vulnerable in our communities? How can we be a good friend to the people around us, whether we know them or not?

ACTIVITY: BOOKS AGAINST LONELINESS

In this activity, you'll use the super-power of reading to connect with someone who might need it.

- Think of a book that's helped you to feel less lonely. It could even be *A Street Cat Named Bob* or *A Gift From Bob*.
- Think of someone who you'd like to be a good friend to right now. This could be someone who's already a close friend, or someone you don't know well yet.
- Using the note below or writing your own, pass on a copy of the book. You could lend them your copy if you have one, or reserve a copy at your local library.

If you hand over your book in-person, make sure you stay safe by sanitising your hands and sticking to social distancing.



BLUE CROSS GIVES A HELPING PAW TO LOTS OF CATS LIKE BOB



Bob, the street cat, and his human companion James are something of household names for their many adoring fans. From the moment they met, Blue Cross was there for them. In normal times, we have a weekly mobile clinic in London which helps pets whose owners can't afford private fees and James had sought our help in the past to microchip Bob and give him general check-ups.

Looking after your cat

There are millions of cats, just like Bob, up and down the country who all rely on the kindness of their owners to keep them safe and happy. As much as we sometimes think of them as being quite independent, there is lots cats rely on humans for. For advice on all things kitty-related, visit our website. This will help you learn everything from introducing a cat to your dog to debunking myths about our four-legged friends.

Education, education, education

The best thing you can do for your cat is to be educated and learn all about their needs. Blue Cross offers a range of educational leaflets and tools for people of all ages to understand what is required when caring for cats like Bob.

How to say goodbye

Everyone at Blue Cross was devastated when Bob sadly passed away, aged at least 14. We knew him and James very well and are grateful to them both for their generous support over many years. We also know how hard it is to be separated from a pet, which is why we offer a Pet Bereavement Support Service (PBSS) for everyone. It can be especially hard for children, which is why we also offer advice just for young families.

For more information about Blue Cross or to donate, visit bluecross.org.uk.



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CILIP, the library and information association, is the leading voice for the information, knowledge management and library profession. Our goal is to put information and library skills and professional values at the heart of a democratic, equal and prosperous society. In 2020 CILIP has been celebrating the power of books and reading, the role of libraries in the UK's book culture and the contribution libraries make to building a #NationofReaders. CILIP is a registered charity, no. 313014.



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A TWICKENHAM STUDIOS PRODUCTION A PARKHOUSE PICTURES PRODUCTION A STUDIO PICTURES PRODUCTION
A CHARLES MARTIN SMITH FILM "A GIFT FROM BOB" LUKE TREADAWAY KRISTINA TONTERI-YOUNG AND FEATURING BOB AS HIMSELF
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