

= Clive Mantle =

Clive Andrew Mantle (born 3 June 1957) is an English actor . He is best known for playing general surgeon Dr Mike Barrett in the BBC hospital drama series Casualty and Holby City in the 1990s , and is also noted for his role as Little John in the cult 1980s fantasy series Robin of Sherwood .

Mantle was educated at Kimbolton School , Cambridgeshire between 1970 and 1975 and at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) between 1978 and 1980 . He appeared in 11 productions of the National Youth Theatre in five seasons between 1974 and 1978 , and began carving a successful career as a stage actor in the 1980s , alongside various television roles . In 1984 he was nominated for an Olivier Award and was joint Best Newcomer in the Plays and Players Awards for his performance as Lennie in Of Mice and Men . In 1984 he was also cast as Little John in the cult 1980s fantasy series Robin of Sherwood , a role which he considers the most enjoyable of his career and which has remained one of his best @-@ known roles . He was to appear as the first Nuclear Man in Superman IV : The Quest for Peace in 1987 , but his scenes were cut from the film ; they were later included with other deleted scenes when the film was released on DVD .

After playing several minor roles in other Hollywood films such as White Hunter Black Heart (1990) and Alien 3 (1992) , Mantle was cast as consultant Dr Mike Barrett in the BBC television hospital drama series Casualty . He became one of its most popular characters , renowned for his convincing and authoritative portrayal and " dishy doc " persona . He left Casualty in 1996 after appearing in 85 episodes between October 1992 and November 1996 , but after struggling with his acting career , he returned to the role in 1999 in Holby City , and appeared in another 32 episodes until 2001 .

On stage , Mantle has appeared in plays such as Coming Clean , A Streetcar Named Desire , and Educating Rita , and has continued his successful stage career since departing from Holby City . In 2003 he appeared in Rattle of a Simple Man ; in 2006 he played the part of The Narrator in The Rocky Horror Show ; and over the Christmas and New Year period of 2007 ? 2008 , he portrayed the villain Abanazer in a pantomime production of Aladdin at the Theatre Royal in Bath . In 2010 he portrayed comedian Tommy Cooper in the stage entertainment show Jus ' Like That ! A Night Out with Tommy Cooper ; it was one of his most challenging roles , due to the various skills the performance required . More recently , Mantle has become known for his roles on television as Lord Greatjon Umber in HBO 's Game of Thrones and as Tony Curry , Ollie 's (Will Mellor 's) father , in the BBC 's White Van Man .

= = Early life = =

Mantle was born in Barnet , then in Hertfordshire , in 1957 . He was the cousin of John Hallam and was a keen supporter of Chelsea Football Club from a young age . Mantle studied at the boarding school Kimbolton School in Kimbolton , Huntingdonshire between 1970 and 1975 , and was a chorister in the Choir of St John 's College , Cambridge for four years . He first worked on a farm in Cambridgeshire during his studies and soon became interested in theatre . He appeared in 11 productions of the National Youth Theatre in five seasons between 1974 and 1978 .

As a student , Mantle lived in a basement flat in Islington . He trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) between 1978 and 1980 , where he initially found his towering height of 6 ' 5 ½ " (1 @.@ 97 m) to be a hindrance to the sort of roles he could convincingly perform in his acting . He said that he was discouraged early on by people who said , " You 'll never work , you 're too tall to be an actor . "

He later said about his height :

Height is a very strange thing . If you 're literally playing the milkman or the butler or something like that , they 'll all think , " Now why is the butler so big ? There must be a reason ? ah , he 's gonna come back later and kill somebody . " Then , you don 't . It worries an audience in a strange way if someone my height is playing a small part . I was an actor who needed drama school . I used to be so excited about being on stage that I would just run down to the front and shout ; they had to knock that out of me . Physically , just being six @-@ foot @-@ five @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half , I 'm not

one of life 's gazelles . But having said that , I was made aware that I can be gazelle @-@ like if I so choose . If I hadn 't been to drama school , I would have just slouched around and bent over double and apologized for my height .

= = Career = =

= = = 1980s = = =

In 1980 , Mantle debuted on the screen with a small role as Ewen in Christian Marnham 's short thriller feature The Orchard End Murder . In 1981 , he appeared in the National Tours of The Ideal Gnome Expedition for David Wood 's Whirligig Theatre and Deborah Warner 's play , Woyzeck , which showed at the University Theatre during the Edinburgh Festival . In 1982 , he appeared in an episode of the TV series Minder , before taking on the voice of Private Smith in the animated military comedy series Jane . From 3 November 1982 , Mantle portrayed Jurgen opposite Eamon Boland , C. J. Allen , Philip Donaghy and Ian McCurrach in David Hayman 's award winning stage production of Coming Clean at the Bush Theatre in London .

In 1983 , Mantle was cast most notably in the cult fantasy series Robin of Sherwood as " Little John " , a legendary fellow outlaw of Robin Hood , who was said to be Robin 's chief lieutenant and second @-@ in @-@ command of the Merry Men , in a cast which included Michael Praed as " Robin Hood " , Peter Llewellyn Williams as " Much " , Ray Winstone as " Will Scarlet " , and Judi Trott as " Maid Marian " . Footage for the series was shot in rural Somerset and Wiltshire , with the Saxon Tithe Barn in Bradford @-@ on Avon functioning as the great hall of Nottingham Castle , Great Chalfield Manor in Melksham doubling as Maid Marion 's family home , and numerous battles were shot at Leaford Grange and Nettleton Mill near Castle Combe , locations which Mantle considered to be " wonderfully realised and breathtaking " . The waterfall scene for the quarterstaff battle between Robin and Little John in the first episode

" Robin Hood and the Sorcerer " was shot at Bowood House . Helen Phillips said of his performance as Little John , " excellently played by Clive Mantle , the series ' John at first appears to conform to a , by then , well- established stereotype . " Mantle has said of his role :

It is the job I 've enjoyed doing more than anything else on TV . I have the greatest memories of beautiful , halcyon days @-@ out filming on location and we had such a great , fun crew working on the show . We still get together once a year . Not just the cast but also the directors , producer , props guys , it 's like a family ! I think the key to part of the series ' success was that this great camaraderie came across on screen .

In 1984 he was nominated for an Olivier Award and was joint Best Newcomer in the Plays and Players Awards for his performance as Lennie in Of Mice and Men . Following the success of the play , it was transferred from the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton to the Mermaid Theatre in London . He went on to tour extensively as Lennie in Of Mice and Men , and has appeared in 6 different productions of the play . He also played Little John in the theatrical production of Robin Hood at the Young Vic Theatre ; and Mitch in Tim Albery 's production of A Streetcar Named Desire at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield . Other theatrical credits include The Relapse ; The Red Devil Battery Sign ; King John ; Johnny Johnson ; The Ideal Gnome Expedition ; East ; Blood on the Neck of the Cat and Bedroom Farce . He has also appeared as the guest star at the Wyndham 's Theatre and Theatre Royal Bath , in the award winning production of The Play What I Wrote . In 1984 , Mantle was one of four in the live BBC radio comedy show In One Ear. with Nick Wilton , Helen Lederer and Steve Brown . He transferred to TV with a version of it in 1987 called Hello Mum which was also live . In 1986 , Mantle replaced Alan Rickman as Achilles in Howard Davies 's Royal Shakespeare Company production of Troilus and Cressida at the Barbican Theatre in London . London Theatre Record said that Mantle " gives a curious performance : virtually a mirror @-@ image of Ajax in his nasal , bovine stolidity . " He continued with minor screen roles as a ruffian on a bus in Ronald Neame 's film Foreign Body and as " Big Ben " Davis in Dempsey and Makepeace in 1986 . He was to appear as the first Nuclear Man in Superman IV : The Quest for Peace (1987) , but the role was

left on the cutting room floor . Some of his deleted footage from Superman IV was released on DVD in a Special Edition as part of Superman Ultimate Collector 's Edition in November 2006 . The footage was included as " Additional Scenes " but was not reincorporated into the main feature . In 1987 ? 1998 he appeared in two episodes of Smith & Jones , and in 1989 played a policeman in the TV series The Return of Shelley and had a small role as Johnny Ladder in the Menahem Golan @-@ directed film Mack the Knife , a 19th @-@ century set crime comedy which starred Raúl Juliá , Richard Harris , and Julia Migenes in the leading roles . He also appeared in the radio plays Farewell , My Lovely ; Frozen Assets ; and The Rise and Fall of the Romanov Autocracy .

= = = 1990s = = =

In 1990 , Mantle had a small role as an electric meter reader in the One Foot in the Grave episode " The Return of the Speckled Band " , and played Harry , a man who " gave Clint Eastwood a pounding " in White Hunter Black Heart . In 1991 , Mantle played an irate husband whose wife is chatted up by Richie (Rik Mayall) in the first episode of Bottom , " Smells " , and also had a role as a police inspector in an episode of Drop the Dead Donkey . In 1991 ? 92 he played Dave in Sandi Toksvig 's The Pocket Dream at the Nottingham Playhouse and Albery Theatre in London . In 1992 he played a minor character as a bald monk in the film Alien 3 , in which he had to shave his head for the role . In applying for the film , Mantle sent off photographs of himself from a RADA play he had once starred in , sporting a similar shaven look . In an interview at the time , he spoke of his role in Alien 3 :

I 'm playing a heinous criminal . In fact , there are about 12 or 15 of us , the last remaining prisoners on a prison asteroid , which is hurtling through space . It was a hard labour prison , which is about the best place to send all your hardened , nastiest pieces of work . We 're not nice people .

Also in 1992 , he starred in the CITV series WYSIWYG .

Mantle is best known for his long stint as general surgeon Dr Mike Barrett in 85 episodes of the TV series Casualty from October 1992 to November 1996 , and 32 episodes of Holby City between 1999 and 2001 . He previously appeared in Casualty as the brother of a patient in 1988 . Mantle received much acclaim for his role and was one of the show 's most popular characters . He was praised for being entirely convincing as a hospital consultant and very dominant and authoritative in his role , " shouting orders in incomprehensible hospital @-@ speak . " Daily Mirror described him as a " heart @-@ throb consultant " and said that the role brought him " an army of female fans " . A 2001 poll by the Scottish Sunday Mail voted him 7th on a list of Top " 10 heart @-@ throb docs on the box " in a list which included the likes of George Clooney and Goran Vi?nji? . Mantle has said that during his role as the doctor he received a lot of fan mail , some of which were medically related and asking for his advice , believing him to be a real doctor , but professed that he couldn 't even stand the sight of real blood . He has said , " It 's funny because people always treat me like a doctor . Not a day goes by without someone coming up to me and asking me for advice . " In 1996 , he turned down an offer of £ 250 @,@ 000 to continue playing the character , and last appeared in Casualty in November 1996 . He said of his departure :

I 've had a great time , but I 'm frightened that , if I stick around too long , I 'll end up unable to do anything else . It 's not about money , it 's about doing other things and not wanting Mike to pale into insignificance .

In 1995 , Mantle was honoured with a surprise This Is Your Life edition , presented by Michael Aspel ; the title theme drew upon the " Robin of Sherwood " , after his role as Little John . During the life tribute , Mantle met his heroes from Worcestershire County Cricket Club , and the Chelsea FA Cup winners from 1970 .

In 1994 he played a prophet in Jo Brand Through the Cakehole , and in 1995 he performed on stage as Frank in Educating Rita , a No.1 National Tour . In 1996 he visited Ghana on an eight @-@ day tour for the charity Save The Children . Mantle was a friend of Jill Dando , and played the prosecuting barrister in a TV dramatisation of the trial of Barry George in a Tonight With Trevor McDonald special , Nothing But The Truth .

In 1997 , Mantle was cast opposite Sarah Lancashire as Jack Deakin in the comedy series Bloomin

' Marvellous , written by playwright John Godber , described as " a comedy about a couple who decide to start a family . " The series was panned by most critics , and Mantle sarcastically remarked that " I 've seen murderers and rapists get a better press than we did . " However , several critics , such as Brian Viner of The Mail on Sunday , said that Bloomin ' Marvellous had " charm , top @-@ notch acting and a reasonable sprinkling of laughs , none of which are certainties in television comedy ? especially the laughs . "

In 1998 , he appeared in Stephen Daldry 's production of The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists at the Liverpool Playhouse and the Theatre Royal Stratford East theatres . In 1998 @-@ 9 he portrayed Simon Horton , younger brother of David Horton in the British sitcom The Vicar of Dibley for two episodes ; Stevyn Colgan said that his imposing height was " used to great comic effect " in this role when he became the love interest of 5 ' 0 " (1 @.@ 52 m) tall Reverend Geraldine Granger (Dawn French) . From March 1999 , Mantle played Victor in Jan Sargent 's production of The Price at the Bristol Old Vic . Ian Shuttleworth of the Financial Times describes Mantle 's Victor as a character who " sacrificed a promising academic career in science to become a cop on the beat simply in order to keep his shattered father " and said that " Clive Mantle expresses his obstinacy through gritted teeth and cold , civil smiles rather than letting it loose " , also remarking that both he and his wife Esther (played by Susan Wooldridge) seemed several years too young for their roles . In May 1999 , Mantle , a cricket fan , agreed to participate in a celebrity international cricket tournament with the likes of Caprice Bourret , Rory Bremner , Ainsley Harriott , Lawrence Dallaglio , Lesley Garrett , Barry Norman , and Robbie Earle , and played Sri Lanka on 14 May 1999 .

= = = 2000s = = =

After experiencing mixed fortunes in his acting career after leaving Casualty , Mantle agreed to return to the role as Dr Mike Barrett in Holby City in 1999 . His abilities as a dramatic actor were praised by Christopher Matthew of the Daily Mail who said in 2000 , " Even the great Mike Barratt (Clive Mantle) , a dynamo in his Casualty days , manages to make eating a yoghurt seem like high drama . " Claire Stoker of Liverpool Echo said that " Clive will always be the best consultant Holby had ever had . " Mantle finally left his role in Holby City after 32 episodes in 2001 . That year , Mantle participated in a charity trek of the Annapurna circuit in the Himalayas and to Everest Base Camp , reaching 18 @,@ 420 ft in aid of Hope and Homes for Children . In 2002 , Mantle appeared in an episode of Heartbeat .

In 2003 , Mantle played Maynard in Ben Bolt 's TV movie , Second Nature , which starred Alec Baldwin in the leading role , and appeared in the first episode of the series Fortysomething . He portrayed Percy , described as a " big , bashful Northern mill @-@ worker who lives with his mum " , in Patrick Sanford 's stage production of Rattle of a Simple Man at the Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold , Flintshire . Gail Cooper of the Western Mail praised his performance and said :

Mantle , better known as dishy and confident consultant Mike Barrett in Casualty , is cast completely against type as Percy , the 42 @-@ year @-@ old virgin who admits to being only 35 . His body language is superb : awkward , self @-@ effacing , obsessively tidy ? Coronation Street fans should think Roy Cropper if they want to imagine the sort of man Percy is .

In 2003 , Mantle began filming The Bingo Club , one of five specially commissioned one @-@ hour plays which were screened in January 2004 on BBC1 . Co @-@ starring Paula Wilcox and John McArdle , The Bingo Tales relates the story of three women facing romantic hardship and growing old . During production , Mantle fell on his face while shooting a fencing scene and was rushed to Selly Oak Hospital with a ruptured ligament in his leg .

In 2004 , Mantle appeared in an episode of The Afternoon Play , and in 2005 appeared in John Putch 's two @-@ part TV movie The Poseidon Adventure , opposite Adam Baldwin , Steve Guttenberg and Rutger Hauer . The film was dismissed by one critic as " criminally unimaginative " . He also appeared in an episode of Doctors . In 2006 , he guest @-@ starred in the Doctor Who audio drama The Settling by Big Finish Productions , and had a role in Simon Shore 's TV movie about a boy with autism , After Thomas , He toured as " The Narrator " in The Rocky Horror Show , and also played Brauner opposite Robin Hood 's Michael Praed in Haymarket Productions 's

National Tour of Brian Stewart 's Killing Castro . The play was performed at the Festival Theatre in Malvern in June 2006 , and was described by the Birmingham Mail as an " acclaimed comedy " which " chronicles the more bizarre of America 's attempts to kill the Cuban leader Fidel Castro ? including filling his shoes with poison and inventing an exploding cigar . " Over the Christmas and New Year period of 2007 and 2008 , Mantle portrayed the villain Abanazer in a pantomime production of Aladdin at the Theatre Royal in Bath , described as an attempt by a theatre spokesman for Mantle to " throw off his gentle giant persona and transform himself into a classic panto baddie for the audience to boo and hiss wildly . " He performed in 64 shows over the duration of five and a half weeks . In 2008 , he appeared in an episode of The Invisibles , opposite Anthony Head , Warren Clarke and Jenny Agutter . In 2009 , Mantle had minor roles in Lucy Akhurst 's Morris dancing comedy Morris : A Life with Bells On and in the Thaddeus O 'Sullivan historical biopic of Sir Winston Churchill , Into the Storm , co -@- starring Iain Glen , Brendan Gleeson , and James D 'Arcy .

= = = 2010s = = =

In 2010 , Mantle portrayed Tommy Cooper in the successful stage entertainment show Jus ' Like That ! A Night Out With Tommy Cooper , which appeared at the Edinburgh Festival . To train for the role , Mantle mastered many of Cooper 's magic tricks , studying under Geoffrey Durham for several months . Mantle was thrilled to take on the role as Cooper is his ultimate comic hero , saying " It 's such a big privilege playing Tommy ? I genuinely love the man . He is one of the funniest comedians this country has ever produced . So this whole tour for me is just an immense thrill . " Mantle considered the role highly challenging , given that he had to combine several aspects of skill , from the magic tricks to the joke @-@ telling , the physical comedy , and emulating the distinctive voice . Some people initially questioned the suitability of Mantle for the character , given that he was well known for playing a solemn doctor in Casualty , but he and the play were warmly received by critics . South Wales Echo called it a " compelling , funny and moving play " and said " Clive , best known for his role as Dr Mike Barratt in Casualty , has had to get used to wearing a fez and conjuring up some magic for his title role of Jus ' Like That ! A Night Out With Tommy Cooper . "

In 2011 he took a supporting role in the TV series White Van Man as Tony Curry , father of the central character , Ollie " Rogan " Josh Curry , played by Will Mellor . He also has an ongoing role in HBO 's Game of Thrones as Lord Greatjon Umber , a close ally of Robb Stark , and has provided the voice to the audio editions of Andy McNab 's Nick Stone thrillers . In 2012 , Mantle appeared in the Sherlock episode " The Hounds of Baskerville " as Dr Frankland .

In 2013 , Mantle performed in the black comedy The Ladykillers , playing the part of Major Courtney . He was forced to withdraw from the touring production in March 2013 after he was attacked at the Travelodge hotel in Newcastle . On the night of Saturday 23 March , he became involved in a brawl after asking a group of fellow guests to keep the noise down , during which part of his right ear was bitten off . He had to have emergency surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary hospital to have it sewn back on . A 32 @-@ year @-@ old man from Hamilton , South Lanarkshire was charged over the incident and appeared before a magistrate in April 2013 , and another man was released on bail in connection to the incident ; a third man has been released without charge . In June 2014 the two accused were found not guilty of all charges .

In 2014 Mantle supplied the voice of Gator in the eighteenth season of the British children 's television series Thomas & Friends as well as its sixth CGI animated film Tale of the Brave . He voiced Gator in both British and American dubbed versions .

= = Filmography = =