

= Captain John Hart (Torchwood) =

Captain John Hart , played by James Marsters , is a fictional character from the BBC science fiction television programme Torchwood . He is introduced in the episode " Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang " ? the first episode of Torchwood 's second series . Whilst the character has not featured subsequently to the second series finale , he went on to appear in a Torchwood Magazine comic strip and Marsters has stated his interest in reprising the role on more than one occasion .

In his first appearance , John Hart is as a rogue Time Agent and former partner of the series ' lead male character Jack Harkness (John Barrowman) both professionally and sexually . Whilst the original function of the Time Agency ? stated to have ceased operation by the time Hart appears ? is left unspecified , John 's own backstory is briefly given , as well as having had a relationship with Jack he has been in rehab for an addiction to alcohol , drugs , sex and murder . John leaves earth disgraced after his initial self @-@ interested plot is foiled by Harkness ' Torchwood team , though returns in the series finale " Exit Wounds " where he is eventually given a chance to redeem himself .

The role of John Hart in Torchwood was written with the casting of Marsters in mind after he contacted the shows ' producers expressing his interest in appearing in the programme 's parent show , Doctor Who . The character is used to illuminate some of Jack 's own characteristics as a doppelgänger who provides both an exaggerated version of , and a parallel to , aspects of Jack 's persona . Both Marsters and the general media also compared aspects of Hart 's character to Marsters 's role as Spike in Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel . Whilst a few reviewers criticised the character in relation to his impact of the show 's tone , a larger number welcomed the character and the energy Marsters brought to the role .

= = Appearances = =

= = = Television = = =

Captain John Hart appears through the Cardiff space @-@ time Rift using a vortex manipulator and asks Jack Harkness for help in locating three radioactive cluster bombs , apparently scattered across Cardiff . Jack Harkness tells his team that John cannot be trusted but agrees to help him . True to Jack 's word , Captain John is lying and seizes the containers , trying to kill Gwen Cooper (Eve Myles) using a paralyzing lip gloss , shooting Owen Harper (Burn Gorman) and pushing Jack off the top of a building , thinking he 's dead . However the containers , which are supposed to contain the location of an valuable diamond hidden by the lover he murdered , instead contain an explosive which latches on the DNA signature of her killer . As insurance against Torchwood leaving him to die , John handcuffs himself to Gwen and swallows the key . After superficially altering his DNA using that of the Torchwood staff , Jack and Owen are able to save John 's life before banishing him . Spurned by his former lover , John leaves by means of his Vortex Manipulator .

In " Fragments " , Captain John returned in holographic form , stating that he is going to destroy Jack 's life , revealing a holographic image of his lost brother Gray . Continuing in " Exit Wounds " , Captain John is revealed to have rescued Jack 's brother Gray from a group of sadistic captors , only to learn too late that Gray had been driven insane through being tortured over the years . Molecularly bonding a bomb to John 's wrist to force him to obey his orders , Gray had John set off multiple bombs throughout Cardiff before taking Jack back in time to 27AD , where Jack is buried alive at the site that would become Cardiff in the future . However , John betrays Gray by leaving a tracking device on Jack in the shape of a ring , thus allowing Jack to be recovered by the Torchwood Institute and frozen in the morgue , escaping at the right moment to stop his brother . Having frozen Gray in cryopreservation , unwilling to witness any more death that day , Jack offers to help pinpoint another Rift event to allow John to leave , but John instead states his desire to travel Earth , commenting that he 'd like to learn what Jack finds so fascinating about the planet .

An image of John Hart is briefly seen in the 2014 Doctor Who episode " Time Heist " , as part of a

montage of the galaxy 's most notorious criminals .

= = = Literature = = =

The character has a prominent role in the Torchwood magazine comic strip " Shrouded " set between Torchwood 's third television series , subtitled Children of Earth , and fourth series Miracle Day and written by Gareth David @-@ Lloyd who portrayed Ianto Jones in the first three series of Torchwood . John Hart is seen to have observed Ianto 's funeral from a distance before later settling in Mexico , earning a living by buying and selling alien artefacts washed up from a rift similar to the one in Cardiff . A past version of Ianto is then contacted by a malevolent time @-@ travelling seductress seeking to use the knowledge of his death to alter time for her own gain . As Jack has left Earth and Gwen has a newborn child , John is required to team up with Gwen 's husband Rhys Williams in order to restore the original timeline .

= = Development = =

= = = Casting and concept = = =

Head writer Chris Chibnall had originally conceived the idea of a " rogue Time Agent " character during the production of Torchwood series 1 , but the idea never made it to TV screens . After watching episodes of executive producer Russell T Davies ' revival of Torchwood 's parent series Doctor Who , Marsters and his agent got in touch with Davies about appearing in the series . Davies vetoed the idea , but suggested that Marsters be part of Torchwood 's second series instead . After Marsters expressed interest in Torchwood , Chibnall and Davies felt that he would be perfect for the role of the Time Agent character . Chibnall immediately produced the script for " Kiss Kiss , Bang Bang " , which introduced the character . He sent it off to Marsters " and essentially got agreement straight away " . Marsters accepted the role on the basis of a " really good script " and " a really fun character " stating that as an actor he is attracted to " playing people who are evil , don 't care , and have no guilt . " In an interview published to the BBC online news website in July 2007 , Marsters indicated that he was " really " excited about his character , who he revealed would be " naughty " and " a bit of a psychopath . "

= = = Characterisation = = =

The character shares many similarities with Marsters 's Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel character , Spike , with Marsters commenting " In a lot of ways , this role is very much like Spike was in my first three episodes of Buffy . " The Torchwood writers conceived John as a classical nemesis for Captain Jack , with Chibnall commenting , " In seeing John you see the way Jack could have gone , and probably did , for a little while . " James Marsters further discussed ways in which John is a doppelgänger or foil to Captain Jack : both are pansexual time travellers , with their key difference being that John never reformed . The character exaggerates many of Jack 's qualities , for example displaying zoophilic attraction to non @-@ humanoids such as poodles , in addition to men and women . John and Jack 's intentional similarities extend to their penchant for period war clothing :

He 's got a jacket from fighting in the Napoleonic Wars ; he 's got a snakeskin sword from Korea that I think he had to kill someone for ; his boots are from Italy circa 1640 and he 's got gun holsters from the American West . "

Teasing John 's role in " Exit Wounds " Marsters stated that he 's someone " who 's in way over his head and doesn 't even know it yet " and that " things do change " in regards to his character . Chibnall , Marsters and producer Richard Stokes discuss the role of " Exit Wounds " in developing John 's character and placing him on a redemptive path . Marsters felt the character to be on a " journey " whilst Chibnall deliberately played upon the question of " can you trust him , or can 't you ?

" Stokes commented that the character isn't the " selfish and anarchic " character seen in " Kiss Kiss Bang Bang " and that his " affection and love for Captain Jack are enough to make him try and do the noble thing " . Stephen James Walker , a writer of reference works on Doctor Who and its spin @-@ offs , notes that because of the reluctance of Hart 's collaboration with Gray and his remorse for his actions the episode leaves the audience " a little more favourably disposed " towards the character . In April 2008 Marsters indicated that he expected to return to Torchwood in the near future . He later expressed a desire to be part of Torchwood 's fourth series after it was revealed the show would be largely produced in Los Angeles .

= = Reception = =

Reviewing the episode " Kiss Kiss Bang Bang " for The Daily Telegraph James Walton was sceptical about the fact that " some of the fawning [over Captain Jack] even came from the main baddie " and what he felt to be the indication that the character was " thrown into the mix on the principle that one glamorous space @-@ travelling bisexual isn't enough . " Whilst The Daily Mirror 's Jane Simon expected that the physical contact between Marsters and Barrowman would result in " somebody 's sci @-@ fi fantasy " being realised she saw it dashing her " hopes series two might serve less sex , less rubbish aliens and more credible drama " . However , Dan Martin of The Guardian described the character as the " best thing about the opener " and stated that " he stole every scene he was in " . He felt the production team " shamelessly and brilliantly transplanted " the character of Spike into the series . Richard Edwards of SFX magazine also gave particular praise to Marsters portrayal and like Martin , stated that he " steals the show " . Ben Rawson @-@ Jones of Digital Spy felt Hart 's arrival to be " self @-@ consciously iconic " in providing " swagger , innuendo and a wonderful Star Wars reference " . He felt that overall the characterisation verged " dangerously close to parody at times " but this didn't detract from Marsters being " a joy to watch , in a similar vein to his role in Buffy . " Charlie Jane Anders commented in regards to the episode that " " Spike " is pretty great in his Adam Ant jacket , with his paralyzing lip gloss and his zany sexual innuendo " . IGN felt John to be a " lot of fun " and a " good character to add to the mix " who showed the team " just how much of a mess they are " .

In regards to " Exit Wounds " Anders felt that the " campy " John " felt like he didn't quite belong in such a serious episode " . Conversely , Mark Wright of The Stage opined that the character was " rather better second time round " . SFX 's Edwards felt the character to be " not as fun " as in episode one but observed that his " heroic side makes for a more rounded character " and anticipated a return in future . IGN 's Travis Fickett felt Hart to be " a far more interesting adversary " than Jack 's brother Gray and once he had been unmasked as a " red herring " the episode " has some life taken out of it " . Subsequent to his last appearance , the character has continued to be mentioned in relation to Torchwood . In June 2010 ? following the announcement of a fourth series to be produced as an American co @-@ production ? Dan Martin felt that James Masters would be the " obvious first box to tick " in regards to new cast members for the programme . In March 2012 , John Hart made SFX magazine 's reader voted list of the 100 sexiest male characters in the history of film and television science fiction and fantasy . He ranked # 82 .