

= Joseph Byrne ( Holby City ) =

Joseph Charles Mortimer Byrne is a fictional character from the BBC medical drama Holby City , portrayed by Luke Roberts . Joseph first appeared in the 3 January 2006 episode " Mother Love " , series eight , episode twelve of the programme . Roberts had made an unrelated guest appearance in the previous series of the show , playing the relative of a deceased patient , and was asked to return in a more permanent role by the series producers .

Joseph 's role in the show is that of troubled surgeon ? the resultant angst of his brother 's attempted suicide and his own anally retentive personality lead to the revelation the character suffers from Obsessive ? compulsive disorder ( OCD ) . His major storylines included an accidental drugs overdose , and a relationship with fellow surgical registrar Jac Naylor , who cheated on him with his own father . Roberts ' performance resulted in a longlist nomination for the Most Popular Newcomer award at the 2006 National Television Awards .

= = Development = =

= = = Creation and casting = = =

Prior to joining the cast of Holby City as Joseph , Luke Roberts made a guest appearance in the series seven episode " No Pain , No Gain " as Daniel Fryer , the son of a deceased patient . Roberts was approached about returning in a more permanent role by BBC casting director Julie Harkin , who was also responsible for casting fellow newcomers Rakie Ayola as Kyla Tyson and Tom Chambers as Sam Strachan . Although his guest appearance constituted a single scene , Roberts believes it was enough to secure his call @-@ back for the part of Joseph . He recalls that it " got the attention of the producers " , and that actress Amanda Mealing , who portrayed Connie Beauchamp , " put a good word in for [ him ] " . He felt lucky to join alongside Chambers and Rosie Marcel as Jac Naylor , due to the " feeling of solidarity " which developed between them .

As preparation for the role , Roberts observed open heart surgery at University College Hospital , London , and researched OCD . He initially attempted to look up the medical terminology in his scripts , but later abandoned this in favour of accepting help from the series medical advisers . Having become a regular Holby City viewer from the time of his appearance as Daniel , the actor had a contextual basis for storylines upon his return as Joseph , who he deemed a " very complex " character .

= = = Characterisation = = =

Roberts described Joseph as an " awkward and very bookish " character , one who struggled to relate to his patients , in contrast to the " happy @-@ go @-@ lucky Sam " , which resulted in comedy as " Sam is the antithesis of Joe . " He also deemed his character " incredibly honest and morally upright " , " a total oddball with all sorts of hang @-@ ups " , and as being " very stuck in his ways . " During his tenure , these aspects of his characterisation have each been explored . It was revealed in Joseph 's first appearance that both his father and grandfather had been pioneering cardiothoracic Consultants , and that it had always been expected of him to follow the same path . His residual guilt over his brother 's attempted suicide was developed throughout his first few months at Holby City Hospital . Roberts commented on the event that : " It underpins much of his behaviour . He is a man burdened by guilt and loss . I think I can be so bold as to say he transfers many of his feelings about his brother onto patients and staff alike , without ever betraying the source of his pain . " Joseph 's resultant fastidiousness developed into OCD , something he attempted to control and hide by use of relaxant medication .

= = = Relationships = = =

Upon joining Holby City , Roberts was asked who he felt his character 's ideal woman would be . He replied : " Joseph is a man who suppresses and represses his emotions ? especially regarding women . I think he harbours very strong feelings of admiration for Connie but is frankly surprised and secretly thrilled when any woman shows him affection . Although so far this is rare ! "

Joseph embarked on a relationship with fellow Registrar Jac , who hoped to impress Joseph 's father and secure herself a promotion to Consultant . When this was not forthcoming , Jac left Joseph for Lord Byrne . Throughout series eight , Joseph cultivated a friendship with Elliot 's daughter Martha , who had strong romantic feelings for him . Ultimately however , Jac won Joseph 's affections and Martha left the show to return to University . From October 2007 onward , Joseph was romantically linked with Ward Sister Faye Morton ( Patsy Kensit ) . Kensit confirmed that Faye " has a soft spot for ( him ) " .

Faye and Joseph became engaged in series ten , much to Jac 's displeasure . Roberts has relayed Marcel 's insight that , " Jac 's left with very little . She hasn 't got the consultancy post . Joseph 's father is long gone and I think she may be nostalgic for all of that . She 's hankering after Joseph again . She wants him for herself . " He added , on Joseph 's reaction to Jac 's meddling in his relationship with Faye ; " He 's a good guy but Jac brings out the evil in him . He does have a darker side . He will fight injustice with injustice . " In the episode " Locked Away " , Joseph and Jac are locked in theatre together ? after being affected by an unknown poison ? where they both reveal their true feelings for each other . Joseph admits that he still loves Jac , but would not take her back as she has hurt him too many times .

= = Storylines = =

Joseph arrives at Holby City Hospital in episode " Mother Love " , when he and fellow cardiothoracic surgeon Sam Strachan vie for a registrar position . Although Consultant Connie Beauchamp initially intends to hire Sam , she is persuaded by Joseph 's father , Lord Byrne ( Ronald Pickup ) , to create a second position for Joseph . He joins Connie 's firm , but soon switches to work under the ward 's second Consultant , Elliot Hope ( Paul Bradley ) . The two become close , as Joseph becomes involved in Elliot 's troubled family life . In turn , Joseph begins to confide in Elliot , and reveals that his brother Harry is in a coma as a result of a failed suicide attempt . Joseph discloses his guilt about the incident , and explains that he knew his brother was worried about exams , but ignored a telephone call from him on the evening he took an insulin overdose . As a result , he can no longer bear to hear a phone left ringing , and has developed OCD .

To cover up the symptoms of his disorder , Joseph resorts to stealing pharmacy drug Fentanyl and self @-@ administering it before operations . In the episode " Before A Fall " he overdoses on the drug , but is saved by his colleague Jac Naylor . Shortly thereafter , they become a couple , although Joseph is unaware that Jac is only interested in him because of his father 's influence . Jac manipulates Joseph into having his father add her to a surgical team flying out to Dubai to perform pioneering surgery . When things go awry there , she convinces Joseph to lie about their qualifications so that they can perform the operation themselves , which endangers both their careers , and results in their lives being threatened by the patient 's influential father . In the episode " Paranoid Android " Jac begins cheating on Joseph with his own father , for a period of several months , until Lord Byrne calls an end to the deception and confesses their infidelity to his son .

Joseph quickly comes to loathe Jac , not only for cheating on him , but for breaking up his parents ' marriage . Before Lord Byrne is able to secure the promotion Jac wanted from him , he dies from complications arising from a perforated stomach ulcer . When Jac attends his funeral in the episode " Bad Reputation " , a furious Joseph slaps her and leaves her badly bruised . Jac continues to torment Joseph for several weeks , and flaunts the fact she inherited a ring in Lord Byrne 's will that had once been promised to Joseph by his grandmother . His friend and colleague Faye Morton takes it upon herself to steal the ring , and returns it to Joseph to do with as he sees fit , in the hopes that this will allow him to move on .

Early in series ten , Joseph 's brother 's condition deteriorates and he is admitted to Holby City Hospital in need of an operation . Faye supports Joseph , and the two kiss . Joseph 's hopes are

raised when his brother opens his eyes , and he considers expensive neurology treatment in America to try and rouse Harry from his coma . Shortly thereafter , however , Harry 's condition worsens again , and Joseph and his mother allow Harry to die . Following his brother 's death , Joseph returns to work to find Jac on trial for Sam 's old position . This reignites their feud , and Joseph is unable to block Jac from gaining the position . His relationship with Faye develops slowly , however Joseph 's suspicions are raised when she lies to him about her whereabouts on several occasions , leading to the eventual discovery that the police suspect her of the murder of her second husband , Donald . An exhumation reveals that Donald did not die of cancer , as Faye insisted , but of arsenic poisoning . Joseph remains suspicious , but supports Faye as their relationship continues to develop . When Faye has a pregnancy scare , he proposes to her , and insists that he meant it even after the discovery she is not actually pregnant . Joseph is devastated when Faye appears to have stolen £ 5 @, @ 000 from him and left the country , but discovers she is in fact in trouble in South Africa . After flying out with colleague Linden Cullen ( Duncan Pow ) , Faye reveals she has a ten @- @ year @- @ old son , Archie , who lives in a care home because of a genetic disease . Joseph saves Archie 's life in a risky operation , and he and Faye return from South Africa engaged once more , much to Jac 's chagrin .

Despite subsequent setbacks in their relationship , such as Jac briefly deceiving Joseph into believing that she is pregnant with his child , Faye and Joseph marry . On the day of the ceremony , Linden confesses to Faye that he is in love with her , and they kiss . She instantly regrets it , however , and tells him that she loves Joseph . When Archie 's nurse Lauren later accidentally administers him the wrong drug , he dies . Faye and Joseph grow apart in the aftermath and she develops romantic feelings for Linden . She and Joseph separate , but after she begins a relationship with Linden , she discovers that she is pregnant with Joseph 's baby . Increasingly concerned that Faye may be a pathological liar , Linden terminates their relationship . Faye is later attacked by a heroin @- @ addicted patient , and when Linden attempts to defend her , he is hit in the head with a glass bottle and dies . Faye suffers a breakdown in the aftermath , and is admitted to a psychiatric unit . She self @- @ harms , and refuses to leave the unit when she goes into labour , until Jac assures her that Joseph does not intend to take their child away from her . Faye delivers a boy by Caesarean . She initially fails to bond with him , but when Joseph puts their divorce proceedings on hold , she makes an effort and names him Harry , after Joseph 's deceased brother . Despite Joseph 's opposition , she insists on returning to the psychiatric unit . Jac 's support during this time results in a renewal of their relationship , and when Faye secretly makes plans to leave the country with Harry , Jac helps convince her to leave the baby with Joseph . Joseph struggles as a working father , and accepts a job as a GP in Penrith . Jac declines his offer to accompany him , so he departs with Harry , leaving her in tears .

= = Reception = =

Roberts ' portrayal of Joseph earned him several award nominations . In 2006 , he was longlisted for the Most Popular Newcomer award at the National Television Awards ( NTAs ) , and named the nineteenth Best Actor at the BBC Drama Awards . He was nominated in the Best Actor category at the 2007 and 2009 TVQuick and TV Choice Awards , and received a Best Drama Performance nomination at the 2010 NTAs . Bree Treacy 's of RTÉ ten 's rates Byrne her favorite character in the show , enjoying his love hate relationship with Jac and the intensity he brings to the show . According to her all the other storylines pale in comparison . Anne Robinson mocked Roberts portrayal of Byrne on The Weakest Link , asking why his character only ever got a sympathy shag , leading to a record number of complaints

= = In popular culture = =

On 28 February 2008 , BBC Two cooking programme Ready Steady Cook broadcast a Holby City special , featuring Luke Roberts and Sharon D. Clarke ( Lola Griffin ) . As well as competing over their cooking skills , the pair discussed their characters ' upcoming storylines , and crossover with

sister show HolbyBlue .