



## Filmmakers and Veterans 'Join Forces' to tell the stories which speak of our times. And ask the whole country to get behind their mission.

Launched by the Joining Forces Campaign, the Great British Challenge is a series of social pursuits, games, quizzes, contests and events designed to get our country together at a time of fraction and uncertainty and help us tell the stories that hold a mirror up to the times in which we now live.

Love of Words, the first film from the Joining Forces Campaign, featuring veterans both in front of and behind the camera, has gone on to appear in Art Exhibitions around the country and is now a part of the Invictus Games.



“

*I have the greatest possible admiration and respect for our servicemen and women, whatever help we lucky ones can give is the least we can do, but do it we should*

”

Charles Dance  
in Love of Words

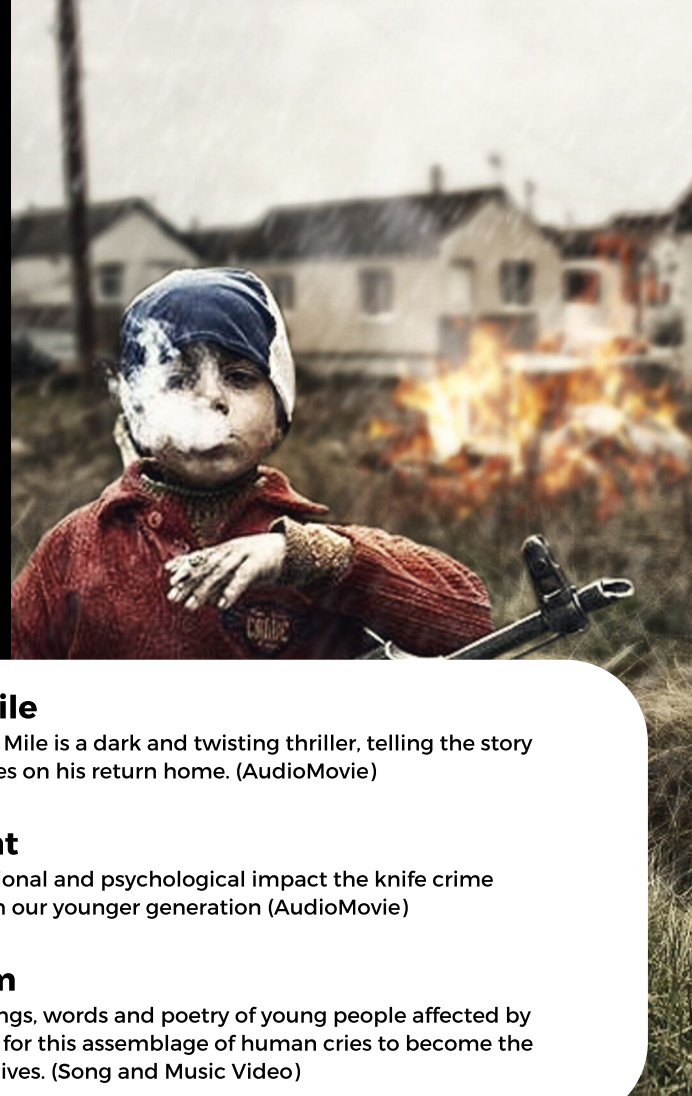
## The Joining Forces Campaign

is an initiative created by Katharine Collins, founder of the British Filmmakers Alliance, and former Royal Engineer Matthew Weston, who carries the inauspicious title of being the most seriously injured veteran to have survived any recent British conflict, having lost both legs and an arm in Afghanistan. Through their own as well as their shared passions, Matthew and Katharine initiated the Joining Forces Campaign in a bid to bring our armed forces veterans together with filmmakers for the benefit of all involved.



The Joining Forces Campaign's next three projects, Youth Anthem, Age of Descent and Thin, Brittle, Mile aim to get stories that matter to a wider audience and support both individuals and charities already working tirelessly for our youth and our veterans.

Funds raised through The Great British Challenge will finance these projects. Proceeds from projects will support charities already dedicated to the issues our stories raise and further projects for the Joining Forces Campaign - giving more veterans the chance to experience the solidarity and teammanship as once known in service through the art and process of filmmaking. Projects will also provide opportunities for veterans who have begun their own businesses to advertise and promote themselves and for youths at risk who have surpassed their circumstances and achieved excellence in various areas to be celebrated and inspire others in their peer groups.



### **Thin, Brittle, Mile**

Largely drawn from Matthew Weston's own experiences, Thin, Brittle, Mile is a dark and twisting thriller, telling the story of a young soldier who goes through his greatest battles on his return home. (AudioMovie)

### **Age of Descent**

A poignant and powerful multi-strand drama exploring the emotional and psychological impact the knife crime epidemic and other issues of hostility and discord have on our younger generation (AudioMovie)

### **Youth Anthem**

In conjunction with Age of Descent, Youth Anthem will take the feelings, words and poetry of young people affected by the knife crime epidemic and amalgamate them into a song. We aim for this assemblage of human cries to become the defining soundtrack of young peoples' current lives. (Song and Music Video)

Anyone, anywhere, can get involved in the Great British Challenge. Whether you already have a group or an organisation and want to run your own event, or you're a group or an individual wishing to be involved in ours, all doors are open. Simply download and send us the 'I'm Interested' form. Or drop an email to [challenge@britishfilmmakersalliance.com](mailto:challenge@britishfilmmakersalliance.com) to tell us more about you and how you'd like to play a part in our mission.

Katharine Collins, Founder of the British Filmmakers Alliance, co-founder of the Joining Forces Campaign said: For filmmakers, in such desperate times, where funding is elusive and opportunities are rare, we are in danger of falling into a state of apathy, of giving up on our vocations, of blaming each other and the establishment and slipping into divides.

Love of Words was the most joyous shoot I, and the filmmakers and actors involved, had ever experienced. This was 100 percent down to the presence of the veterans we were working alongside. It's impossible to be defeatist and negative when you're in the company of a group of people for whom defeat simply isn't an option, who work together as one with an irrepressible spirit, determination and humour. We were in the company of warriors in every sense of the word.

If the Great British Challenge is the success we hope it will be, then future projects will not only allow more veterans the chance to become involved in filmmaking, and more filmmakers and actors the chance to do what they love, but will also bring to public conscious the deeper layers of two of the most affecting and harrowing issues at our society's heart; the knife crime epidemic and the plight of our veterans struggling with PTSD and, for many, the traumatic transition back to civilian life post service.

**Will you help tell the stories which speak of our times simply by having the time of your life?**

**The Great British Challenge - #BeAPartOfSomething**

Katharine Collins & Matthew Weston

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