

was a terrible cry and the unicorn was on the forest floor.

Merlin put his hand on the unicorn's head. 'I'm so sorry,' he said.

The unicorn looked at him with sad eyes. Merlin watched as the unicorn moved for the last time.

Arthur laughed. 'Fantastic – a unicorn! You don't see them very often!'



'Why did you do this? It isn't right,' said Merlin sadly.

'Don't be a girl, Merlin!' Arthur took the long horn from the dead unicorn's head. Behind him, Merlin saw someone in the trees. It was an old man in white clothes. His face was both angry and sad.

'What are you looking at?' Arthur said. He turned, but there was no one there.

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Arthur and Merlin took the unicorn's horn to Uther Pendragon. The King was pleased with his son. He looked

at the unicorn's horn and smiled.

'This is good, Arthur!' he said. He gave it to his old friend and doctor, Gaius. 'What do you think, Gaius?'

Gaius wasn't happy. 'My Lord*, unicorns are magical animals. There is an old story. Bad things can happen when a unicorn dies.'



But Uther didn't believe him. 'You're wrong, Gaius! This horn is going to be lucky for Camelot!' He and Arthur left the room.

Merlin turned to Gaius. 'The unicorn was so beautiful,' he told the old man.

Gaius smiled at him. 'You were lucky, Merlin. Not many people see a unicorn.'

'But it died in front of me,' Merlin said sadly.

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Merlin looked out of the window of Arthur's room. He was very quiet.

Arthur looked over at him. 'What's the problem, Merlin? Are you still thinking about that unicorn?'

'It was wrong, Arthur. I know it!'

* People used *My Lord* when they spoke to the King or his son.

MERLIN THE TV SHOW

Merlin arrived on TV in the UK in 2008. Now people all around the world watch it and it's a big hit. It's fun, funny and the story has lots of surprises!



A new story

The film makers wanted to make a new, exciting TV show about the famous King Arthur stories. In the stories, Merlin is an old wizard and Arthur is a strong king. In *Merlin*, we see Arthur and Merlin when they are both young men. Two new young actors, Colin Morgan (23) and Bradley James (25), play Merlin and Arthur.

The actors

Bradley James plays Arthur. Bradley loves sport. 'I'd love to be a footballer but I'm an actor at the moment,' he jokes. 'I loved working on Merlin. I enjoyed the sword work the best.

Colin (Merlin) was very quiet at first and I didn't understand his jokes! But soon we were good friends. He's very funny and we played a lot of jokes on Angel (Gwen)!'



Colin Morgan plays Merlin. Colin is from Ireland and he always wanted to be an actor. 'I was very interested in magic when I was young too,' he says. 'I'm so happy to be Merlin in the show.'

Sometimes Colin had to do difficult things. 'For one of the shows, I had to run into a very cold lake in the rain!' he says. 'Another time I had animal 'dung' – or chocolate! – all over my face!'

Magical animals

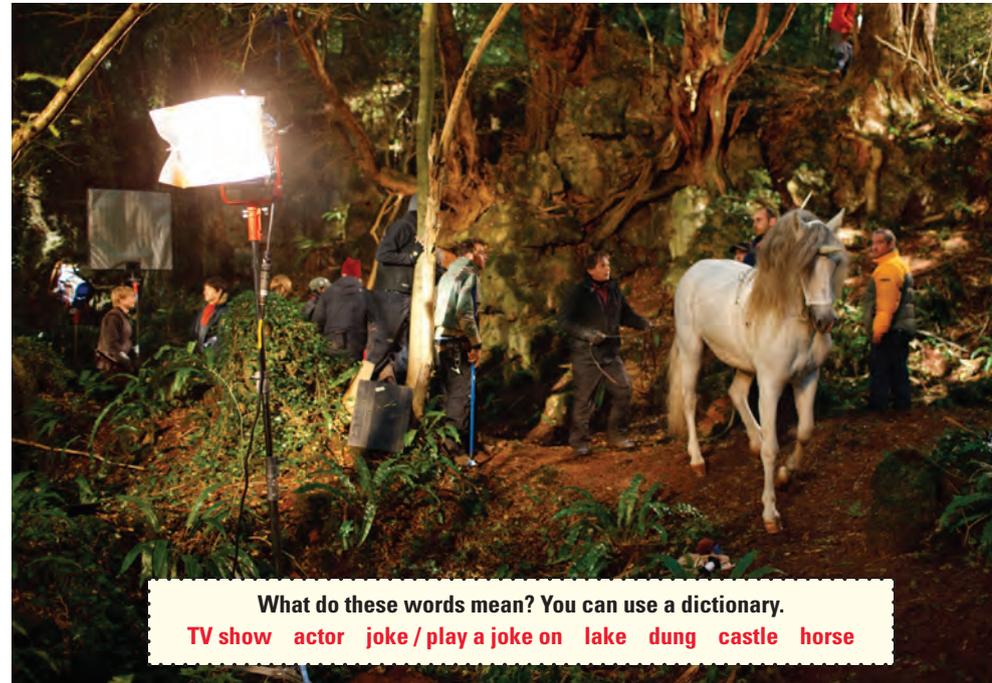
There are a lot of magical animals in *Merlin*. One is the Great Dragon. It lives under Camelot Castle.

Of course, the true star in *Arthur and the Unicorn* is a white horse called Unity – not a unicorn! Unity had to wear a white horn to be the unicorn in the story.

Would you like to watch *Merlin*? Why / Why not?

The right castle

Camelot Castle is very important in Merlin. Most of the filming happens there. The film makers looked at castles in England, Scotland, Wales and Eastern Europe but they weren't right. Then they found the Château de Pierrefonds, near Paris in France. Everyone loved it.



What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.
TV show actor joke / play a joke on lake dung castle horse