

THE FIGHTING SPIRIT

A movie poster for 'The Fighting Spirit'. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. In the center, a young boy with brown hair and freckles looks upwards with a determined expression. To his left, a large, translucent, blue-tinted face of a man with a mustache and a serious expression is superimposed over the sky. At the bottom, a silhouette of a person stands in the middle of a boxing ring, looking towards the horizon. The ring's ropes are visible in the foreground.

a boy, a ghost and a phantom punch



The ghost of a legendary boxer helps a boy stand up to school yard bullies but then refuses to leave.



STORY

Callum was born with an extra finger on his hand. In his mind that's why his mother gave him up for adoption as a baby; because he's a freak. His adopted parents Mags and Charlie adore him and call him their "Plus One". At school though the class bullies make Callum's life a misery.

STORY

One night Callum is visited by the ghost of Jimmy Wilde, flyweight boxing champion of the world way back in 1916. Jimmy raises his right hand; he has an extra finger too! The specter explains his extra digit gave him improbable knock out power and earned him the nickname „The Ghost With A Hammer In His Hand“. Now actually a ghost, Jimmy offers to teach Callum the rudimentaries of boxing. The ghost doesn't leave Callum alone, appearing at the most inopportune and embarrassing moments and haranguing the boy into training. In spite of his protests, Callum slowly begins to appreciate his extra finger and his confidence grows.



A young man with blonde hair, wearing a white tank top and a brown boxing helmet, lies on his back on a blue mat in a boxing ring. He has a surprised or intense expression on his face. In the background, a person in a red shirt is visible near the ring ropes.

STORY

At school Callum fights the bullies and wins. His friendship with classmate Lucy, another victim of the bullies because of the birthmark on her face, begins to blossom into something more. Then just as life is looking up, Callum's birth mother Dee contacts him and asks to meet. Callum refuses and years of pent up anger comes out. He is unaware that Dee is autistic and never had any say in keeping Callum as a baby. Jimmy asks his apprentice to take part in his old boxing club's tournament, the one competition Jimmy never won when he was alive. This is what Jimmy needs so he can finally rest in peace. Callum agrees and trains like a demon. Dee attends the boxing tournament and realizes one of the participants is her son. She finds Callum moments before his fight and introduces herself. Callum enters the ring utterly distraught and loses his fight by knockout.

A close-up, emotional shot of a woman with dark hair hugging a young child from behind. The woman's face is partially visible, showing her eyes closed and a tearful expression. She is wearing a ring on her finger. The child has short brown hair and is wearing a patterned shirt. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light coming from the left side.

STORY

Some time later Callum visits Dee. He sees a picture of Jimmy on Dee's kitchen wall. Dee explains that Jimmy Wilde was her grandfather. Jimmy has reunited mother and son. This was why the ghost came back. Now he can rest in peace.



The Fighting Spirit is a story about self discovery and forgiveness. It follows in a long line of heart warming ghost stories which remind us that life is for living. It is the unfulfilled longing of Field of Dreams, the courage of Billy Elliot, the mentoring and comedic affection of the Karate Kid, the hilarious, relentless haunting of Truly Madly Deeply and the ghostly fun of Julie and the Phantoms.

CHARACTERS



CALLUM (13)

At heart Callum is a good natured kid but he's never been able to let go of the sense of injustice and anger he feels towards his birth mother for giving him up for adoption. His polydactylism (having an extra finger) is the bane of his life and he goes to extraordinary lengths to hide his deformity from his schoolmates.





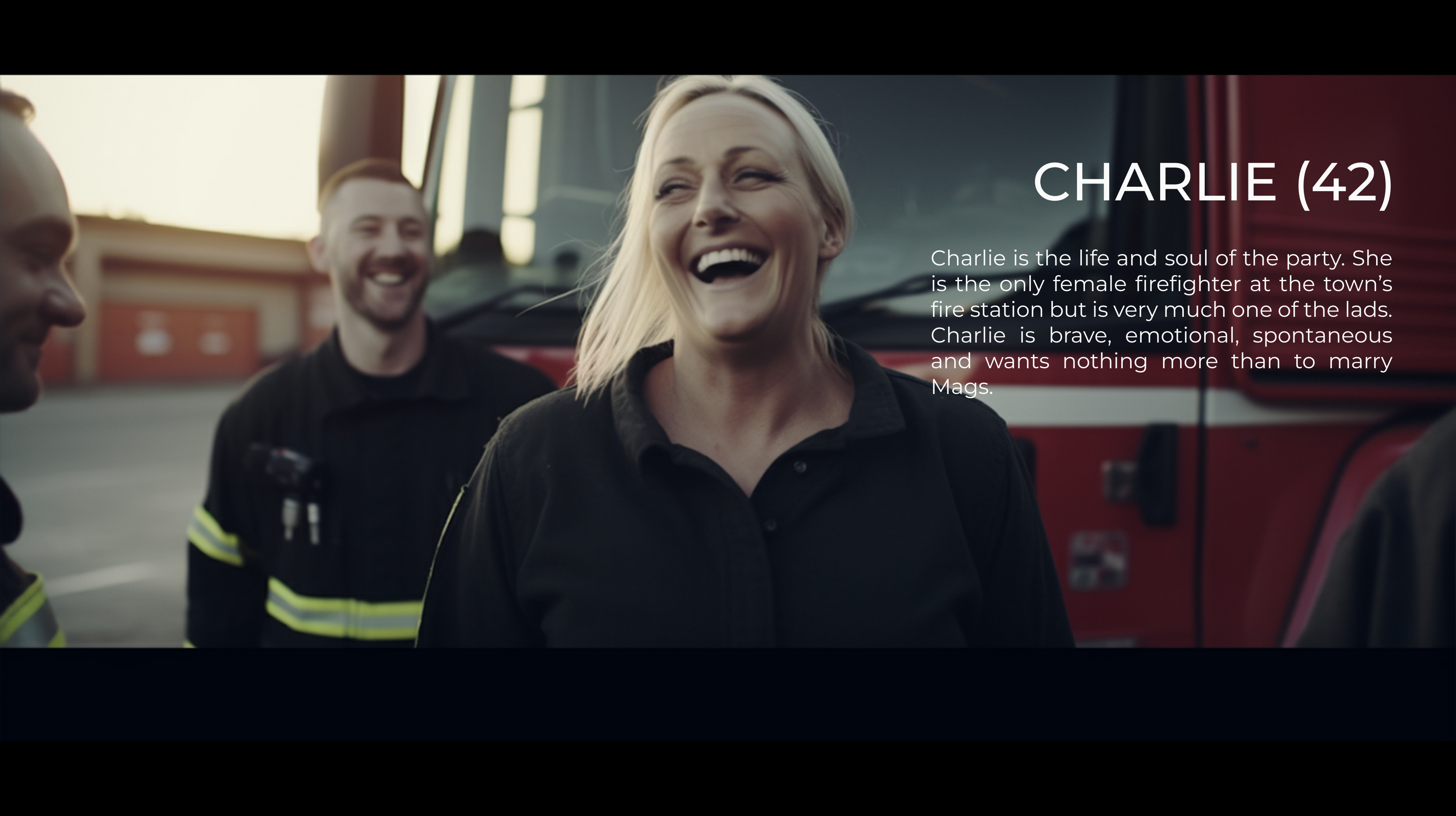
JIMMY

Jimmy Wilde (a real historical figure) is a ghost. He is out of place, out of time and pretty much out to enjoy himself at any given opportunity. The dead don't get out much and Jimmy intends to enjoy his time in the land of the living to the fullest. He is (or was) a mischievous Welshman with a relentless wit who conquered the world as a fighter. He may have looked frail and sickly but Jimmy Wilde was blessed with ungodly power in his hand with an extra pinkie. It earned him the ring moniker The Ghost With A Hammer In His Hand.

A woman in a blue nurse's uniform and cap is smiling and looking towards the right. In the background, a patient is lying in a hospital bed, partially visible. The room has a clinical feel with a wall-mounted electrical outlet and a bedside table.

MAGS (41)

Mags is a strong, smart, capable woman. She doesn't believe in marriage, she meditates and is a pacifist. She is passionate about her work as a nurse specializing in brain injuries. When Mags finds out that her much loved adopted son has been boxing behind her back, she will be forced to reassess her own values.



CHARLIE (42)

Charlie is the life and soul of the party. She is the only female firefighter at the town's fire station but is very much one of the lads. Charlie is brave, emotional, spontaneous and wants nothing more than to marry Mags.

LUCY (13)

Lucy has a birthmark that covers half her face but she wears it like a badge of honor. She talks back to the bullies and stands up for herself, and others. She is a tennis prodigy and the product of pushy parents. Lucy takes Callum under her wing and their friendship blossoms.



A woman with curly red hair and blue eyes is smiling and looking off to the side. She is wearing a dark, patterned cardigan over a light blue collared shirt. The background is a blurred restaurant or cafe setting with other people and warm lighting.

DEE (31)

Dee has autism and learning difficulties but is determined, loyal and kind to a fault. As a teenager she fell pregnant and her domineering father forced her to give her child up for adoption. She wants nothing more than to see the boy again.

THE FIGHTING SPIRIT

THE TONE AND STYLE

The Fighting Spirit follows in the rich tradition of beautifully crafted Brit flicks. It is a character driven piece that takes us into the lives of everyday people struggling to find themselves. Themes such as bullying, birth defects, same sex marriage, violence and the supernatural are all addressed but with sensitivity to the audience. The story is gritty and real but the comedy is uplifting, the drama touching and of course, our ghosts bring a healthy dose of fantasy and escapism.

FRANCHISE POTENTIAL

The Series: The setups of the first act of *The Fighting Spirit* can easily transition into the pilot episode of a series' first season. Season One would broadly follow the narrative of the feature film. However the series format allows us to follow the back stories and current lives of our supporting characters in greater comedic detail. More ghosts visit Callum over the series and help him through the many pitfalls of adolescence. The possibilities for several seasons are exciting and the opportunities for comedy and drama are endless.

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