

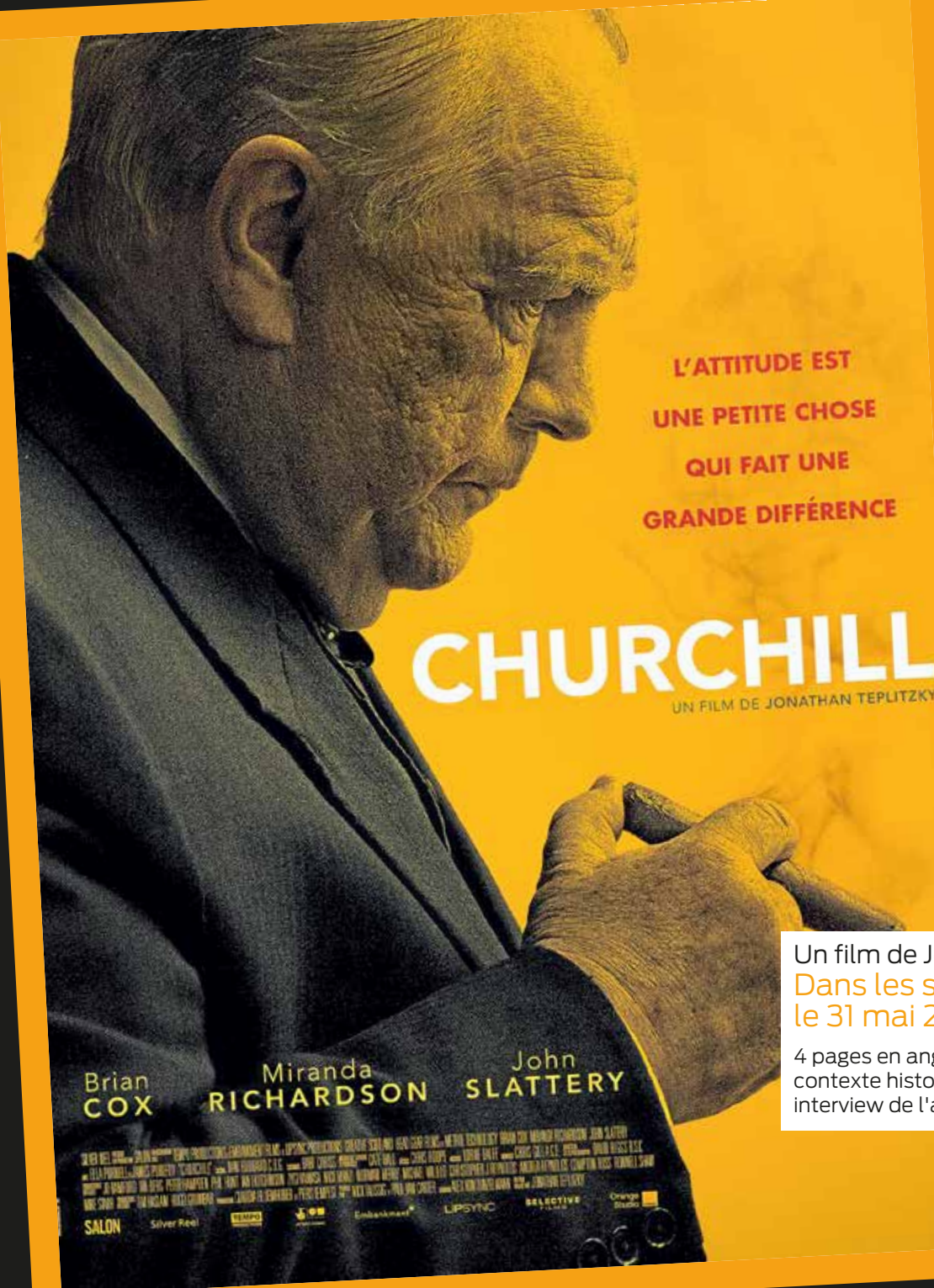
# VOSCOPE

Le supplément cinéma de **VOCABLE**



Label européen des langues

Label européen des langues,  
prix d'excellence pour  
l'innovation dans l'enseignement  
et l'apprentissage des langues  
décerné par l'agence Erasmus +  
France / Education Formation



Un film de Jonathan Teplitzky  
Dans les salles  
le 31 mai 2017

4 pages en anglais pour découvrir le  
contexte historique du film et une  
interview de l'acteur principal Brian Cox.



## SYNOPSIS

June 1944. A massive allied Forces army is secretly assembled on the south coast of Britain, poised to re-take Nazi-occupied Europe. One man stands in their way: Winston Churchill. Behind the iconic figure and rousing speeches, rediscover an impulsive, sometimes bullying personality – fearful, obsessive and hurting – who has faced political ridicule and military failure and therefore who is terrified he'll be remembered as an architect of carnage...

**to be poised to** être sur le point de / **to stand, stood, stood in sb's way** barrer le chemin de qqn / **iconic** emblématique / **rousing** vibrant / **bullying** agressif, brutal / **fearful** inquiet / **(to be) hurting** souffrir / **failure** échec.

## THE DIRECTOR



**Jonathan Teplitzky** is an Australian writer and film director, who has directed the movies *Better Than Sex* (2000), *Gettin' Square* (2003), *Burning Man* (2011) and *The Railway Man* (2013).

Teplitzky won a BAFTA award in 1993 for his work on the BBC documentary *A Vampire's Life* about writer Anne Rice. Teplitzky also directed episodes seven and eight of the second series of *Broadchurch*.

*The Railway Man* en VF, *Les Voies du destin* / **BAFTA = British Academy of Film and Television Arts**, équivalent britannique des Oscars américains / **series** ici, saison.

## GALLIPOLI: A MILITARY DISASTER

A quarter-century before leading Britain in World War II, Winston Churchill led a WWI military debacle and was haunted by it ever since. The Battle of Gallipoli took place between 25 April 1915 and 9 January 1916. The campaign was one of the greatest Ottoman victories during the war and threw the British government into crisis. As part of their agreement to share power, Conservatives and Liberals demoted Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, to an obscure cabinet post in May 1915.

**the Battle of Gallipoli** la bataille des Dardanelles / **to demote** rétrograder / **Admiralty** amirauté (organe politique et administratif gérant la Royal Navy, intégré depuis 1964 au ministère de la Défense) / **cabinet** (au) gouvernement.

## WINSTON CHURCHILL

**Winston Churchill (1874-1965)** was the **Prime Minister** of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. Throughout the 1930's, Winston Churchill spoke out concerning German rearmament, Britain's lack of comparable military strength, and Adolf Hitler. In 1940, he gave special permission to De Gaulle to broadcast the Appeal of 18 June. During WW II, Churchill inspired the UK to keep fighting despite bad circumstances and helped to forge an alliance of Allied Powers with the Soviet Union and the U.S.

He was also an officer in the British Army, a non-academic historian, and a **writer**. He won the **Nobel Prize** in Literature in 1953 for his overall, lifetime body of work. In 1963, he was the first of only eight people to be made an honorary citizen of the United States.

**to speak, spoke, spoken out** ici, dénoncer / **to broadcast, cast, cast** diffuser, retransmettre / **to infuriate** exaspérer / **to inspire** ici, encourager / lifetime de toute une vie / **body of work** (ensemble d'une) œuvre / **honorary citizen** citoyen d'honneur.

## CHURCHILL CHRONOLOGY

- 1874** **Born**, 30 November, eldest son of Rt. Hon. Lord Randolph Churchill, 3rd son of 7th Duke of Marlborough, and Jennie Jerome.
- 1893-94** **Cavalry cadet** at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy
- 1904** Moved from Conservative Party to Liberal Party, 31 May
- 1907** Became **Privy Councillor**, 1 May
- 1908** **Married**, 12 September, to Clementine Ogilvy.
- 1924** Returned to **Conservative Party** from Liberal Party
- 1931** Lecture tour in the United States
- 1940-45** Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister of Defence
- 1946** **"Iron Curtain"** Speech, Fulton, Missouri, 5 March
- 1953** Awarded **Nobel Prize for Literature**
- 1965** **Died**, 24 January

**Rt. Hon. = The Right Honourable** (préfixe honorifique) / **Privy Councillor** membre du Conseil privé (organe chargé de conseiller le monarque du R.-U.) / **lecture tour** tournée de conférences / **Iron Curtain speech** célèbre discours sur le rideau de fer, évoquant l'URSS et la création du bloc de l'Est / **to award** décerner.





Men of the 16th Infantry Regiment, U.S. 1st Infantry Division on Omaha Beach on the morning of 6 June 1944. (Chief Photographer's Mate (CPHoM) Robert F. Sargent)

## OPERATION OVERLORD

Operation Overlord was the code name for the Battle of Normandy, **the Allied operation** that launched the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe during World War II. The operation was launched on **6 June 1944** with the Normandy landings (Operation

Neptune, commonly known as D-Day). A 1,200-plane airborne assault preceded an amphibious assault involving more than 5,000 vessels. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on 6 June, and more than two million Allied troops were in France by the end of August.

**landing** débarquement / **airborne** aéroporté / **vessel** bateau / **troop** ici, soldat / **English Channel** Manche.

### Which Allied nations took part in the fighting?

The majority of troops who landed on the D-Day beaches were from the United Kingdom, Canada and the US. However, troops from many other countries participated in D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, in all the different armed services: Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Poland.

**armed services** forces armées.

## PORTRAITS



James Purefoy

### George VI

**George VI (1895-1952)** became king following the abdication of his elder brother, Edward VIII, in 1936. During the war, he visited Allied armies on several battlefronts and toured the home front extensively. The Royal family's refusal to leave Britain during the conflict and their active involvement in the

war effort won them many admirers.

**battlefront** front / **to tour** visiter / **extensively** ici, de long en large / **involvement** engagement.



John Slattery

### Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)**, an American, was the supreme commander of the Allied forces during World War II. He planned the Invasion of Normandy, which helped to push the Germans out of France. This was one of the deciding victories of the war. In 1952, he decided to run and won the

US presidential election. Eisenhower's two presidential terms were a time of economic prosperity and relative peace.

**deciding** déterminant / **to run, ran, run** ici, se présenter (aux élections présidentielles) / **term** mandat.



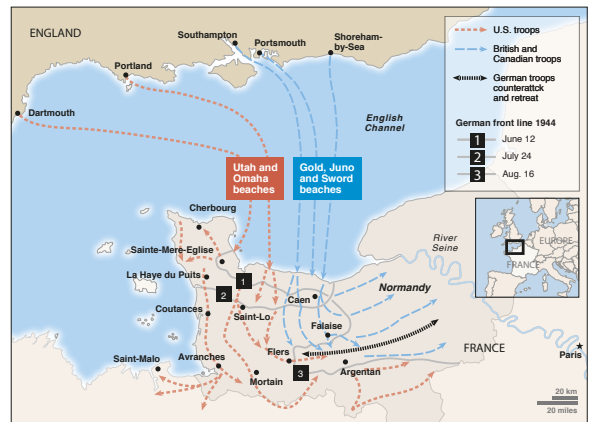
Julian Wadham

### Bernard Montgomery

**Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery (1887-1976)**, nicknamed "Monty" and the "Spartan General", commanded the British Eighth Army during the Allied invasion of Sicily and the Allied invasion of Italy. He was in command of all Allied ground forces during Operation Overlord from the initial landings

until after the Battle of Normandy. After the war he became Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine in Germany and then Chief of the Imperial General Staff. He then served as Deputy Supreme Commander of NATO in Europe until his retirement in 1958.

**to nickname** surnommer / **ground forces** forces terrestres / **staff** état-major / **deputy** vice-, adjoint / **NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization**, OTAN / **retirement** (départ à la) retraite.



Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History, D-Day Museum and Overlord Embroidery, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, PBS, How Stuff Works. Graphic: Chicago Tribune. © 2012 MCT

## OPERATION OVERLORD TIMELINE

### June 1944

- **5:** Operation Overlord commences when more than 1,000 British bombers drop 5,000 tons of bombs on German gun batteries on the Normandy coast in preparation for D-Day. And the first Allied troops land in Normandy; paratroopers are scattered from Caen southward.
- **6:** D-Day begins with the landing of 155,000 Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy. The Allied soldiers quickly break through the Atlantic Wall and push inland in the largest amphibious military operation in history.
- **7:** Bayeux is liberated by British troops.
- **26:** Cherbourg is liberated by American troops.

### July 1944

- **3:** The Allies find themselves in the "battle of the hedgerows", as they are stymied by the agricultural hedges in Western France which intelligence had not properly evaluated.
- **9:** After heavy resistance Caen is liberated by the British troops.
- **18:** St. Lo is taken, and the Allied breakout from hedgerow country in Normandy begins.

### August 1944

- **4:** Rennes is liberated by American forces.
- **15:** Operation Dragoon begins, marked by amphibious Allied landings in southern France.
- **19:** The French Resistance begins an uprising in Paris, partly inspired by the Allied approach to the Seine River.
- **25:** Paris is liberated. The German military disobeys Hitler's orders to burn the city. Meanwhile the southern Allied forces move up from the Riviera, take Grenoble and Avignon.
- **28:** The Germans surrender at Toulon and Marseilles, in southern France. Patton's tanks cross the Marne.
- **30:** The Allies enter Rouen.
- **31:** American forces turn over the government of France to Free French troops.

▼ **timeline** chronologie, déroulement / **bomber** bombardier / **paratrooper** (soldat) parachutiste / **to scatter** disperser / **to break, broke, broken through** percer, franchir / **to push inland** progresser à l'intérieur des terres / **hedgerow** haie (hedgerow country) bocage / **to stymie** bloquer, entraver / **intelligence** renseignements / **breakout** ici, percée / **uprising** soulèvement / **Riviera** Côte d'Azur / **to surrender** se rendre / **to turn over** ici, confier.

VOCABLE RONAN LANCELOT

## “HE WAS BOLD”

"Il était audacieux"

Brian Cox tient le haut de l'affiche de manière remarquable dans *Churchill*. Cet acteur britannique habitué des grands rôles historiques parvient à transmettre la complexité d'un personnage aux multiples facettes dont la lutte contre le fascisme puis les actions décisives pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale resteront certainement ses plus hauts faits. Comment Brian Cox s'est-il préparé pour ce tour de force ? Nous lui avons posé la question !



INTERVIEW WITH  
**BRIAN COX**  
Actor

**1. Vocabulaire:** How important was that film for you?

**Brian Cox:** Churchill has always needed examining, because we have an idea of him that is not necessarily accurate. Because he is such an iconic figure, we tend to go for the hagiography rather than what the man was in terms of his physical and mental being. Clearly, he was a man of destiny, he had been quite a successful politician when he was younger, but he had also had a great deal of failure, particularly with Gallipoli, which I think marked him considerably and made him a man of a different consciousness. This comes to fruition at the time of D-Day, which was the biggest gamble ever.

**2. Vocabulaire:** How so?

**Brian:** Everybody knew it was a gamble because it was based on the principle that the first wave would be wiped out. It succeeded, and ironically the loss of life was considerably much more on the American side at Utah Beach than it was on the British side. But you must remember Churchill had his own plan, which was 40 years later put through the computers at Sandhurst. It turned out his plan would have ended the war apparently six months earlier! So, he wasn't wrong, and he was also under a huge amount of strain...

**1. accurate** exact, juste / **iconic** emblématique, célèbre / **man of destiny** homme au grand destin / **Gallipoli** bataille des Dardanelles (avril 1915-janv. 1916) / **to come, came, come to fruition** porter ses fruits, se concrétiser / **gamble** pari.

**2. wave** vague (ici, de soldats) / **to wipe out** anéantir / **to put, put, put sth through the computers** simuler qqch par ordinateur / **Sandhurst** prestigieuse académie militaire britannique, dans le Berkshire (équivalent de Saint-Cyr) / **to turn out** s'avérer / **under strain** sous pression.

**3. Vocabulaire:** How difficult to play such a famous character?

**Brian:** When I read the script of *Churchill*, I thought it had such an air of authenticity about it, in terms of Churchill's dilemma, and also of a man. He was just coming up to be 70, and I was already 70 myself when I played the role, so I understood where he was at that time in his life. The thing about Churchill was that his rhetorical person was very different from his private person. There was a childlike quality about him.

**4. Vocabulaire:** Can you tell us about the V sign he remains famous for?

**Brian:** It's V for victory but there's another meaning to it, the V sign also means "up yours!" It's a kind of cheekiness on Churchill's part about the V sign. You might remember he was a journalist; he was a man of letters and he loved words, which is why he was such a great orator, because his speeches were phenomenal. I enjoyed playing Churchill, because I liked his personality, but I also liked the fact that he was bold, he was resolute,

**3. script** scénario / **to have an air of authenticity** avoir un caractère d'authenticité.

**4. up yours!** (vulg.) allez vous faire... / **cheekiness** insolence, culot / **bold** audacieux /



and if he believed something, he had passion. Even though I don't agree with his politics, you have to hand it to him his great strength was to be passionate and he was certainly passionate in his antifascism. That you could not deny.

**5. Vocabulaire:** What's your favourite Churchill quote?

**Brian:** During the war, when it was suggested that the government should make a cut in the arts, Churchill turned to them and he said "Make a cut in the arts? So what were we fighting for?" It's a very un-Churchill-like phrase, but that shows the quite extraordinary aesthetic side of the man. ●

**to hand it to sb...** reconnaître à qqn... / **to deny** nier.

**5. quote** citation / **cut** coupe (budgétaire) / **phrase** formule.

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