

Rebecca Front (English Language and Literature, 1982)



Photo: Wolf Marloh

Rebecca Front is a BAFTA-award winning actress and writer, perhaps best known for her performance as Nicola Murray in *The Thick of It*. She has worked with several charities to raise awareness of mental health and is a Patron of Anxiety UK. She is also an ambassador for Together For Short Lives and the deaf-blind charity Sense. While at Oxford, Rebecca became the first female President of the Oxford Revue. We were delighted to welcome Rebecca as our guest speaker at a special event for the St Hugh's community to launch our celebrations for 100 years of Oxford degrees for women, which you can watch [here](#).

Rebecca Front read English Language and Literature at St Hugh's College, matriculating in 1982. In 2020, Rebecca was elected an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's College by Governing Body in recognition of her incredible contribution to the British entertainment industry and her charity work to raise awareness about mental health.

Rebecca became involved in comedy while studying at the College, indeed her first comedy performances were at St Hugh's itself, in a sketch show co-written with her brother, Jeremy. She toured with the Oxford Theatre Group in 1984, becoming the first female President of the Oxford Revue and taking part in their 'Stop the Weak' tour.

Rebecca is known for her work in numerous comedies, including *The Thick of It* (2009-2012), for which she won the 2010 BAFTA TV award for Best Female Comedy Performance; *The Day Today* (1994); *Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge* (1994); *Big Train* (2002); *Nighty Night* (2004-2005); *Psychobitches* (2012-2014); *The Other One* (2020); and *Avenue 5* (2020). In recent years Rebecca has also become a fixture on comedy panel shows on British television and radio including *The News Quiz* and *Have I Got News for You*.

Rebecca is equally known for her dramatic roles, including Chief Superintendent Jean Innocent in *Lewis* (2006–2014), Mrs Bennet in *Death Comes to Pemberley* (2013), Mrs Landau in *The Eichmann Show* (2015), Vera in *Humans* (2015), Princess Anna Mikhailovna Drubetskaya in *War & Peace* (2016), Alice in *Queers* (2017), and Lady Whitworth in *Poldark* (2018-2019).

She has appeared in feature films such as *The Aeronauts* (2019), *Down A Dark Hall* (2018) and *Transformers: The Last Knight* (2017), and starred in innumerable radio shows including *Incredible Women*, *Shush* (which she co-wrote), and *Jack and Millie*.

Rebecca is also the author of two books, *Impossible Things Before Breakfast* and *Curious – True Stories and Loose Connections*, a collection of autobiographical stories which was shortlisted for the National Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year.