# The Commitments cast celebrate 34 years of music, acting, and enduring legacy



It is remarkable to reflect on the enduring legacy of *The Commitments*, the film that first burst onto screens 34 years ago, creating a cultural moment that continues to resonate. Released on 4 October 1991, this Roddy Doyle-penned film transformed its cast into household names across Ireland, with many going on to achieve international success. Since then, it has also inspired a highly successful stage musical adaptation, cementing its place in the annals of Irish cultural history.

The original cast members have traversed diverse career paths following their breakout roles. Robert Arkins, who portrayed Jimmy Rabbitte, had no prior acting experience before landing the role. Initially cast as Deco Cuffe, he was reassigned when Andrew Strong was discovered. Arkins has since dedicated himself primarily to music, producing compositions for various commercials, television projects, and short films. Notably, he returned briefly to acting with the feature *The Comeback* in 2018. Alongside Kenneth McCluskey, another cast member, Arkins recently participated in special reunion events; for instance, in August 2025, they appeared together at The Lark in Balbriggan, Dublin, where fans enjoyed a Q&A session, a screening of the film, and a performance by Arkins' tribute band. Similar celebrations of *The Commitments* legacy have taken place elsewhere, such as in Birmingham in September 2024 and slated for Manchester in October 2025, underscoring the film’s lasting appeal.

Andrew Strong, who portrayed Deco Cuffe, chose to pursue a pure music career after the film’s release. His impressive trajectory includes touring with major global artists such as The Rolling Stones, Elton John, and Prince. In 2024, Strong returned to Australia to perform *The Commitments* soundtrack live in major cities, a testament to the enduring popularity of both his voice and the film’s music.

Angeline Ball, who played Imelda Quirke, transitioned successfully into an acting career, building a robust portfolio with roles in films like *The General,* *Bloom,* and *Albert Nobbs*. Her television appearances include UK series such as *Doc Martin* and *Shameless.* More recently, she featured in RTÉ dramas *Acceptable Risk* and its spin-off *Hidden Assets*, and starred in the Netflix dark comedy *Deadly Cuts*. Ball has also lent her voice to audiobooks, narrating popular Irish contemporary fiction, reflecting her diverse artistic talents.

Bronagh Gallagher’s career flourished significantly after playing Bernie McLoughlin. She secured roles in iconic films including Quentin Tarantino’s *Pulp Fiction* and a part in the *Star Wars* franchise. Her extensive work spans Hollywood blockbusters, Irish cinema, and television, including *Belgravia,* *Brassic,* and an episode of *Derry Girls.* Besides acting, Gallagher is a formidable soul music singer in her own right, known for writing and performing original music, and her recent performances at Dublin’s Button Factory have been warmly received.

Maria Doyle Kennedy, portraying Natalie Murphy, has become a prominent figure in television and film on both sides of the Atlantic. Her work encompasses acclaimed series like *The Tudors,* *Dexter,* *Downton Abbey,* and *Outlander*, with roles in popular recent productions such as RTÉ’s *Kin* and Amazon’s *Wheel of Time*. Kennedy is also a singer and frequently collaborates with her husband, Kieran Kennedy, on various musical projects, including children’s programming and soundtracks for her acting work.

Glen Hansard, who appeared as Outspan Foster, has perhaps carved the most notable musical legacy among the original cast. Following the disbandment of his band The Frames, Hansard achieved international acclaim, winning an Oscar for “Falling Slowly,” a song from the film *Once*—a project he starred in which also became a successful stage musical. His latest album, *All That Was East Is West Of Me Now*, was released in October 2023, highlighting his continued creative vitality.

The ongoing celebration of *The Commitments* shows no sign of fading, with multiple reunion events featuring cast members across Ireland, the UK, and beyond. These include special screenings, Q&A sessions, and live performances of the film’s cherished soundtrack. Such events offer fans and newcomers alike the opportunity to revisit the spirit of the film while recognising the remarkable artistic journeys its cast have undertaken over more than three decades.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments), [[4]](https://www.grapevinebirmingham.com/the-commitments-a-celebration-and-reunion-in-birmingham-press-release/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments), [[2]](https://dublingazette.com/whats-on/entertainment/thecommitments-soul-music-55533/), [[3]](https://www.derrynow.com/news/national-news/1677798/original-stars-of-cult-classic-the-commitments-to-reunite-this-august.html), [[4]](https://www.grapevinebirmingham.com/the-commitments-a-celebration-and-reunion-in-birmingham-press-release/), [[6]](https://www.manchesterworld.uk/culture/celebrity/stars-of-alan-parkers-1991-irish-film-the-commitments-will-be-heading-to-manchester-for-special-screening-5316767)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments), [[5]](https://metropolistouring.com/andrew-strong-2024/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://evoke.ie/2025/10/13/entertainment/cast-of-the-commitments> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://dublingazette.com/whats-on/entertainment/thecommitments-soul-music-55533/> - On August 30, 2025, Robert Arkins, who portrayed Jimmy Rabbitte in 'The Commitments,' and Kenneth McCluskey, who played Derek 'The Meatman' Scully, reunited for a special event at The Lark in Balbriggan, Dublin. The evening featured a Q&A session, a screening of the film, and a musical performance by Arkins' tribute band. ([dublingazette.com](https://dublingazette.com/whats-on/entertainment/thecommitments-soul-music-55533/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.derrynow.com/news/national-news/1677798/original-stars-of-cult-classic-the-commitments-to-reunite-this-august.html> - In December 2024, it was announced that Robert Arkins and Kenneth McCluskey would reunite for a special 'Commitments evening' on August 30, 2025, at The Lark in Balbriggan, Dublin. The event included a Q&A, film screening, and a musical performance by Arkins' tribute band. ([derrynow.com](https://www.derrynow.com/news/national-news/1677798/original-stars-of-cult-classic-the-commitments-to-reunite-this-august.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.grapevinebirmingham.com/the-commitments-a-celebration-and-reunion-in-birmingham-press-release/> - In January 2024, it was announced that Robert Arkins and Dave Finnegan would reunite for a special 'Commitments evening' on September 28, 2024, at The Crossing in Digbeth, Birmingham. The event featured a Q&A, film screening, and a musical performance by Finnegan's tribute band. ([grapevinebirmingham.com](https://www.grapevinebirmingham.com/the-commitments-a-celebration-and-reunion-in-birmingham-press-release/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://metropolistouring.com/andrew-strong-2024/> - In 2024, Andrew Strong, who played Deco Cuffe in 'The Commitments,' returned to Australia to perform the film's iconic soundtrack in full. The tour included performances in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, and Melbourne. ([metropolistouring.com](https://metropolistouring.com/andrew-strong-2024/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.manchesterworld.uk/culture/celebrity/stars-of-alan-parkers-1991-irish-film-the-commitments-will-be-heading-to-manchester-for-special-screening-5316767> - In September 2025, Robert Arkins and Dave Finnegan, stars of 'The Commitments,' were scheduled to appear at Manchester Recording Studios on October 24, 2025, for a special film screening, Q&A, and musical performance by Arkins' nine-piece tribute band. ([manchesterworld.uk](https://www.manchesterworld.uk/culture/celebrity/stars-of-alan-parkers-1991-irish-film-the-commitments-will-be-heading-to-manchester-for-special-screening-5316767?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.movieforums.com/movies/11663-the-commitments/cast-and-crew.html> - 'The Commitments' (1991) featured a cast including Robert Arkins as Jimmy Rabbitte, Angeline Ball as Imelda Quirke, Maria Doyle Kennedy as Natalie Murphy, Bronagh Gallagher as Bernie McGloughlin, and Glen Hansard as Outspan Foster. ([movieforums.com](https://www.movieforums.com/movies/11663-the-commitments/cast-and-crew.html?utm_source=openai))