

Professor Brian Cox

Professor Brian Cox started his career at the age of 16 as keyboard player with local rock band DARE (who recorded two albums and toured the world) before joining chart toppers D'Ream in 1993, who went on to have many top 10 hits, including the New Labour election anthem 'Things Can Only Get Better', before finally going their separate ways in 1997. By that time, Brian was Dr Brian, having gained a first class honours degree in physics from the University of Manchester, and a PhD in High Energy Particle Physics at the DESY laboratory in Hamburg.

In 2005, Brian was granted a Royal Society University Research Fellowship. He is now mainly based in Manchester and at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. He is in charge of an international project to upgrade the giant ATLAS and CMS detectors at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), CERN's new 27km-long machine, with tiny silicon detectors almost half a mile from where the particles in the LHC collide.

Brian has received many awards for his work in publicizing science. In 2002, he was elected an International Fellow of the Explorers Club, an organization chaired by Sir Edmund Hillary and whose members include Neil Armstrong and General Chuck Yeager. In 2006, Brian received the British Association Lord Kelvin award for his work in promoting science to the public. Brian gives talks and lectures around the world and in 2006, he was keynote speaker at the Australian Science Festival. He recently spoke at TED 2008.

Brian was the Scientific Consultant on the Danny Boyle film SUNSHINE. His commentary on the film is now available on the DVD. He also writes on scientific issues, most recent credits include the New Statesman and The Times. His ability to present science in an exciting and interesting way has made him a popular television & radio presenter, broadcaster and writer.