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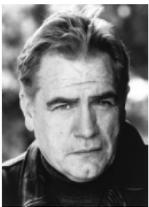
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John Aubrey
Brief LivesRead by **Brian Cox**

William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Raleigh, Thomas Hobbes – three of the greatest Englishmen who ever lived. They, and many others, are here remembered by another great Englishman, John Aubrey, whose *Brief Lives* are some of the wittiest and most moving miniature portraits ever written. Aubrey – a scholar, antiquarian and close observer of both the foibles and the courage of his contemporaries – lived through the upheavals of the English Civil War in the 17th century. His little biographies are amusing, ribald, moving; a testament to the brevity of human existence and one of the most precious relics of a distant age.

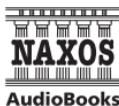


Brian Cox is one of Britain's leading actors. His two Olivier awards represent highlights in decades of leading roles with the RSC and Royal National Theatre (including *King Lear*, *Richard III* and *Titus Andronicus*) though he also played Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick* on Broadway. His TV and film work is equally varied, including *Rob Roy*, *Braveheart*, *Manhunter* and *Hidden Agenda*. He is now increasingly active as a director (*Richard III* and *The Master Builder*).

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