

THE DRESSER

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

IAN MCKELLEN (Norman)

Ian McKellen has been honored with over 50 international acting awards during his half-century on stage and screen. He is treasured worldwide as Magneto in the *X-Men* films and Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

He first worked with director Bill Condon as James Whale in *Gods and Monsters* (1998), receiving his first Academy Award® nomination for Best Actor. The same year, top critics' groups elected him Best Actor as the Nazi-in-hiding in Bryan Singer's *Apt Pupil*. For his classic performance in Richard Loncraine's *Richard III*, which he produced and co-wrote, he was named 1996 European Actor of the Year.

His varied list of other renowned films include *The Keep* (1983); *Plenty* (1985); *Scandal* (1988); *Six Degrees of Separation* (1993); *Restoration* (1995); *Bent* (1997); *Cold Comfort Farm* (1995) and *The Da Vinci Code* (2006).

On the small screen, McKellen currently stars in the wickedly successful ITV/PBS sitcom "Vicious." For his extensive television work, McKellen is a five-time Emmy® nominee, most recently for his matchless "King Lear" (2008); and his comic guest spot on "Extras" (2006) where he's remembered for the viral catchphrase: "How do I act so well?" He is most proud of his work as the mentally-handicapped "Walter" (1982 Royal Television Award) in the "And the Band Played On" (1993 Cable Ace Award), about the origins of AIDS and a guest spot in UK's longest-running soap "Coronation Street" (2005).

Born and raised in the north of England, 76-year-old McKellen attended Cambridge University and, since 1961, has worked non-stop in the British theatre. He has been the leading man and produced plays, modern and classic, for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre of Great Britain and in the West End of London. He has won Olivier® Awards for "*Macbeth*" (1976-78); "*The Alchemist*" (1977); "*Bent*" (1979); "*Wild Honey*" (1984) and "*Richard III*" (1990); plus Evening Standard Awards for "*Coriolanus*" (1984) and "*Othello*" (1989) and for Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre (2009).

In 1981, he won every available award, including a Tony® for Best Actor, as Salieri in the Broadway production of Peter Shaffer's "*Amadeus*." He was most recently in New York in "*No Man's Land*" and "*Waiting for Godot*" after breaking all box-office records in London and on UK and world tours. Over a decade, he toured his solo entertainment "*Ian McKellen: Acting Shakespeare*" throughout four continents, where on DVD it is daily viewed in schools and universities. He astonished his fans as Widow Twankey in "*The Christmas Pantomime*" at the Old Vic in London (2004 & 2005).

In 1991, Sir Ian was knighted for his outstanding contribution to theatre. He is co-founder of Stonewall UK, which lobbies for legal and social equality for gay people. In 2008, the Queen personally appointed him Companion of Honour for his services to drama and to equality.

STARZ®

ANTHONY HOPKINS
(Sir)

Anthony Hopkins received an Academy Award[®] for his performance in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) as well as Oscar[®] nominations for his roles in *The Remains of the Day* (1993), *Nixon* (1995) and *Amistad* (1998). He was also honored with the Best Actor Award by the British Academy of Film & Television Arts for *The Remains of the Day* and has received two Emmy[®] Awards for “The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case” (1976) in which he portrayed Bruno Hauptmann, and “The Bunker” (1981) in which he portrayed Adolph Hitler. Ranked as the No.1 film villain by the American Film Institute, Hopkins reprised his Oscar[®]-winning portrayal of Dr. Hannibal Lecter from the critically acclaimed box-office smash, *The Silence of the Lambs*, in a hit prequel *Red Dragon* and a blockbuster sequel *Hannibal*.

In his nearly 50-year career, Hopkins has starred in such films as *Hitchcock*, *The Rite*, *Red 2*, *The Mask of Zorro*, *Meet Joe Black*, *Howards End*, *Fracture*, *Legends of the Fall*, *The Road to Wellville*, *The Edge*, *Shadowlands*, *Bram Stoker’s Dracula*, *84 Charing Cross Road*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Bounty*, and narrated the popular holiday film classic, *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The prolific and popular actor has also starred as the Greek god Odin in the film adaptations of Marvel Comic’s *Thor* and *Thor: The Dark World*.

He was recently seen as Methuselah in Darren Aronofsky’s Biblically inspired feature film, *Noah*.

EMILY WATSON
(Her Ladyship)

Emily Watson is an Academy Award[®] and Golden Globe[®] nominated actress who can most recently be seen in the films *The Theory of Everything*, *Belle*, *Little Boy* and *Everest*, which was released in September 2015.

Her film career credits include *Punch-Drunk Love*, *Gosford Park*, *Testament of Youth*, *The Book Thief*, *War Horse*, *Red Dragon*, *Corpse Bride* and more. She earned Academy Award and Golden Globe Best Actress nominations for her role in *Hilary and Jackie*, and she received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress in *Breaking the Waves*.

Her television credits include “Marilyn,” “A Song for Jenny,” “The Politician’s Husband,” “Appropriate Adult,” “The Mill on the Floss” and “A Summer Day’s Dream.”

In theater, she has performed in productions such as “Twelfth Night,” “Uncle Vanya,” “The Three Sisters,” “The Children’s The Lady from the Sea,” “Taming of the Shrew,” “The Changeling” and more.

SARAH LANCASHIRE
(Madge)

Sarah Lancashire has been seen most recently in her acclaimed television roles, starring as Catherine Cawood in “Happy Valley,” and as Caroline in three series of “Last Tango in Halifax,” for which she won the BAFTA[®] Television Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2014. In television, her credits include the lead role in “Rose and Maloney,” as well as roles in “The Paradise,” “Upstairs Downstairs,” “Doctor Who,” “Five Daughters,” “All the Small Things,” “Wuthering Heights,” “Oliver Twist” and more. She has also served as a television director on the series “The Afternoon Play.” Her film credits include roles in *And When Did You Last See Your Father* and *Dad’s Army*, set to be released in 2016.

On stage, she has performed in “*Betty Blue Eyes*,” “*Guys and Dolls*,” “*Little Shop of Horrors*,” “*Educating Rita*,” “*Blood Brothers*,” “*Pacific Overtures*” and “*The Beauty Game*.”

She trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and received an honorary Master of Arts at Salford University (2002).

EDWARD FOX (Thornton)

Edward Fox, famed for his consummate performance as Edward VIII in Thames Television’s “Edward and Mrs. Simpson,” has had a long and distinguished career on screen and stage. He won a BAFTA® for Best Supporting Actor in Joseph Losey’s *The Go-Between* and was The Jackal in *The Day of the Jackal* directed by Fred Zinnemann. Other films include: *A Bridge Too Far* (for which he was also awarded a BAFTA), *The Duellists*, *Ghandi* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

His many theatre credits include “*Knuckle*” (David Hare’s first play to appear in the West End), “*The Family Reunion*” at the Vaudeville, “*A Letter of Resignation*” in which his performance as Harold Macmillan drew widespread acclaim, the idiosyncratic Earl in the 1999 revival of William Douglas Home’s “*The Chiltern Hundreds*,” “*The Old Masters*” (written by Simon Gray and directed by Harold Pinter), “*Legal Fictions*” at the Savoy and “*Trolope In Barseshire*” at the Riverside Studios. Most recently, he has been portraying the older Winston Churchill in the award-winning “The Audience” at The Gielgud Theatre.

Other television work includes “Daniel Deronda” and “Hard Times.”

Fox was awarded an OBE in 2003.

VANESSA KIRBY (Irene)

Vanessa Kirby is an exciting young actress whose work in theatre, television and film has won critical acclaim and numerous awards. Kirby was named as one of Screen International ‘Stars of Tomorrow’ in 2011. She made her TV debut in the BBC’s “The Hour,” and Christmas 2012 saw her star as ‘Estella’ in the BBC’s “Great Expectations.” Following that she played the lead role in Ridley Scott’s “Labyrinth” alongside John Hurt and Tom Felton, and can be seen in Tom Wilkinson’s *Bone In The Throat*.

In 2013, Kirby had a number of film projects, including *About Time* alongside Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy. She also filmed with Shia LaBeouf and Evan Rachel Wood in *The Necessary Death of Charlie Countryman* and starred in *The Rise*, which was nominated for best film at the London Film Festival. Additional film credits include *Queen and Country* and *Everest* alongside Jake Gyllenhaal and Josh Brolin.

Kirby has a wealth of other projects due for release including *Kill Command* for Vertigo and *Genius* opposite Colin Firth and Jude Law.

Kirby has just started production on “The Frankenstein Chronicles” for ITV Encore opposite Sean Bean and Anna Maxwell Martin.

TOM BROOKE (Oxenby)

STARZ[®]

Tom Brooke has had extensive work in television, film and theatre.

Brooke's television work includes: "Sherlock," "Game of Thrones," "The Hollow Crown: Henry V," "Mrs. Biggs," "Restless" and "Ripper Street."

Brooke's theatre work includes: "King Lear" (National Theatre), "The Ritual Slaughter of Gorge Mastromas" (Royal Court), "I am the Wind" (Young Vic), "Jerusalem" (Royal Court & West End), "The Long and the Short and the Tall" (Lyceum, Sheffield) for which he was awarded the TMA Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Brooke's film work includes: *The Veteran*, *The Boat That Rocked*, *The Libertine* and *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*.

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