



William Fichtner

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William Edward Fichtner Jr. (born November 27, 1956)^[1] is an American actor. He has appeared in a number of notable films and TV series. He is known for his roles as Sheriff Tom Underlay in the television series *Invasion*, Alexander Mahone on *Prison Break*, and numerous film roles, including: *Quiz Show*, *Heat*, blind astronomer Kent in *Contact*, *Armageddon*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Crash*, *Blades of Glory*, *Black Hawk Down*, *Nine Lives*, *The Longest Yard*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, *The Dark Knight*, *Date Night*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Phantom*, *Elysium*, *Independence Day: Resurgence*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

Early life

Fichtner was born on Mitchel Air Force Base^[2] on Long Island, and was raised in Cheektowaga, New York, a suburb of Buffalo. He is the son of Patricia A. (née Steitz) and William E. Fichtner.^{[3][4]} He has German ancestry.^[5]

Fichtner graduated from Maryvale High School (Cheektowaga) in 1974. After graduating from Farmingdale State College in 1976 with an associate degree in criminal justice, he attended SUNY Brockport and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice in 1978. Fichtner then studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Fichtner credits his Farmingdale State College admissions counselor, Don Harvey, with his decision to study acting. Harvey, who became a lifelong friend, took Fichtner to his first Broadway show. On May 18, 2008, Fichtner was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Farmingdale State College.^[6]

Career

Fichtner began his acting career as Josh Snyder in *As the World Turns* in 1987. Fichtner's film credits include *Contact*, *Heat*, *Armageddon* (whose portrayal of a prickly astronaut working alongside Bruce Willis adds enjoyable needle to the dialogue), *Go*, *Equilibrium*, *Black Hawk Down*, *The Perfect Storm*, *The Longest Yard*, *Crash*, *Ultraviolet* and *The Dark*

William Fichtner



Fichtner at the April 2011 USA Film Festival

Born	William Edward Fichtner Jr. <div>November 27, 1956</div> <div><u>Mitchel Air Force Base, Long Island, New York, U.S.</u></div>
Other names	Bill Fichtner
Alma mater	<u>Farmingdale State College</u> , A.A. 1976 <div><u>SUNY Brockport</u>, B.A. 1978</div>
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1987–present
Spouse(s)	<div>Betsy Aidem (?–1996)</div> <div>Kymberly Kalil (1998–present)</div>
Children	2

Knight. Mainly a character actor, one of Fichtner's few leading roles is in *Passion of Mind*, also starring Demi Moore and Stellan Skarsgård. For his role in *Crash*, he won a Screen Actors Guild Outstanding Performance Award and a "Best Acting Ensemble" Award from Broadcast Film Critics Choice.

Credited as Bill Fichtner, he voiced the character Ken Rosenberg in the video games *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* and *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*. Between 2005 and 2006, Fichtner also starred in the science-fiction TV series *Invasion* as Sheriff Tom Underlay. After *Invasion* was canceled, Fichtner played FBI Agent Alexander Mahone in the second through fourth seasons (2006–2009) of *Prison Break*.^[7] In 2009, he co-presented the Vezina Trophy (for goal tending) at the National Hockey League awards show.^{[8][9]} He also appears in *The West Wing* episode, "The Supremes" as Christopher Mulready, a conservative judge who is under consideration to be nominated to the Supreme Court. Fichtner also had a role as the Gotham National Bank manager in the feature film *The Dark Knight*, and as Jurgen in *Equilibrium*.



Fichtner in 2003

In June 2009, Fichtner signed on to guest star on *Entourage* playing TV producer Phil Yagoda, who is trying to remake his hit 1990s teen series.^[10] He also voiced Master Sergeant Sandman in the 2011 video game *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3*.^[11]

Fichtner played Eric Sacks in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (2014).^{[12][13]}

Personal life

Fichtner is a fan of the National Football League (NFL)'s Buffalo Bills, appearing in a commercial for the team before the 2014 season.^[14] More recently, Fichtner narrated the ESPN 30 for 30 documentary titled *Four Falls of Buffalo*, chronicling the Buffalo Bills' four consecutive Super Bowl appearances from 1990–93.^[15]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1994	<i><u>Quiz Show</u></i>	Stage Manager	
1995	<i><u>Virtuosity</u></i>	Wallace	
	<i><u>Reckless</u></i>	Rachel's Father	
	<i><u>Strange Days</u></i>	Dwayne Engelman	
	<i><u>Heat</u></i>	Roger Van Zant	
	<i><u>Underneath</u></i>	Tommy Dundee	
1996	<i><u>Albino Alligator</u></i>	Law	
1997	<i><u>Contact</u></i>	Kent	
	<i><u>Switchback</u></i>	Chief Jack McGinnis	
1998	<i><u>Armageddon</u></i>	Colonel William Sharp	
1999	<i><u>Go</u></i>	Burke	
	<i><u>The Settlement</u></i>	Jerry	
2000	<i><u>The Perfect Storm</u></i>	David "Sully" Sullivan	
	<i><u>Drowning Mona</u></i>	Phil Dearly	
	<i><u>Passion of Mind</u></i>	Aaron	
	<i><u>Endsville</u></i> ^[16]	Prince Victor	
2001	<i><u>Pearl Harbor</u></i>	Danny's Father	
	<i><u>Black Hawk Down</u></i>	SFC Jeff Sanderson	Nominated—Phoenix Film Critics Society Award for Best Cast
	<i><u>What's the Worst That Could Happen?</u></i>	Detective Alex Tardio	
2002	<i><u>Julie Walking Home</u></i>	Henry	
	<i><u>Equilibrium</u></i>	Jürgen	
2004	<i><u>Crash</u></i>	Flanagan	Hollywood Film Festival Ensemble of the Year Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture Nominated—Gotham Award for Best Ensemble Cast
2005	<i><u>Nine Lives</u></i>	Andrew	Nominated—Gotham Award for Best Ensemble Cast
	<i><u>The Chumscrubber</u></i>	Dr. Bill Stifle	

Year	Title	Role	Notes
	<i><u>The Moguls</u></i>	Otis	
	<i><u>The Longest Yard</u></i>	Captain Knauer	
	<i><u>Mr. & Mrs. Smith</u></i>	Dr. Wexler (voice)	Uncredited
2006	<i><u>Ultraviolet</u></i>	Garth	
2007	<i><u>Blades of Glory</u></i>	Darren MacElroy	
	<i><u>First Snow</u></i>	Ed	
2008	<i><u>The Dark Knight</u></i>	Bank Manager	
2010	<i><u>Forehead Tittaes</u></i> ^[17]	Boss	Short skit
	<i><u>Date Night</u></i>	D.A. Frank Crenshaw	
2011	<i><u>The Big Bang</u></i>	Detective Poley	
	<i><u>Drive Angry</u></i>	The Accountant	<u>Fangoria Chainsaw Award for Best Supporting Actor</u>
2012	<i><u>Wrong</u></i>	Master Chang	
2013	<i><u>Phantom</u></i>	Alex Kozlov	
	<i><u>The Lone Ranger</u></i>	Butch Cavendish	
	<i><u>Elysium</u></i>	John Carlyle	
2014	<i><u>The Homesman</u></i>	Vester Belknap	
	<i><u>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles</u></i>	<u>Eric Sacks</u>	
2016	<i><u>Independence Day: Resurgence</u></i>	General Joshua T. Adams	
	<i><u>American Wrestler: The Wizard</u></i>	Coach Plyler	
2017	<i><u>Hot Summer Nights</u></i>	Shep	
	<i><u>Krystal</u></i>	Dr. Farley	
2018	<i><u>12 Strong</u></i>	Colonel John Mulholland	
	<i><u>The Gettysburg Address</u></i>	<u>John G. Nicolay</u> (voice)	Documentary
	<i><u>The Neighbor</u></i>	Mike	
	<i><u>Traffik</u></i>	Mr. Waynewright	
	<i><u>Armed</u></i>	Richard	
	<i><u>Finding Steve McQueen</u></i>	Enzo Rotella	Post-production
	<i><u>Cold Brook</u></i>	Ted Markham	Post-production Also director and co-writer ^[18]

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1987–1994	<i>As the World Turns</i>	Josh Snyder	11 episodes
1989	<i>A Man Called Hawk</i>	Boros	2 episodes
	<i>Baywatch</i>	Howard Ganza	Episode: "Rookie School"
1994–1995	<i>Grace Under Fire</i>	Ryan	8 episodes
1995	<i>High Lonesome: A Father for Charlie</i> ^[19]	Sheriff	Television film
2002	<i>MDs</i>	Bruce Kellerman	10 episodes
2004	<i>The West Wing</i>	Christopher Mulready	Episode: "The Supremes"
2005	<i>Empire Falls</i>	Jimmy Minty	2 episodes
	<i>American Dad!</i>	Harland (voice)	Episode: "Homeland Insecurity"
2005–2006	<i>Invasion</i>	Sheriff Tom Underlay	22 episodes Nominated— <u>Saturn Award for Best Actor on Television</u>
2006–2009	<i>Prison Break</i>	Alexander Mahone	59 episodes
2009–2011	<i>Entourage</i>	Phil Yagoda	8 episodes
2010	<i>Night and Day</i>	Dan Hollister	Pilot
2012	<i>Seal Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden</i> ^[20]	Mr. Guidry	Television film
2013–2014	<i>Crossing Lines</i>	Carl Hickman	22 episodes
2015–2016	<i>Empire</i>	Jameson Henthrop	4 episodes
2016–present	<i>Mom</i>	Adam	30 episodes
2016	<i>Shooter</i>	Rathford O'Brien	Episode: "Killing Zone"
2017	<i>Porsche: Decades of Disruption</i>	Narrator (voice)	Television documentary
2017–present	<i>Top Gear America</i>	Himself (host)	8 episodes

Video games

Year	Title	Voice role	Notes
2002	<i>Grand Theft Auto: Vice City</i>	<u>Ken Rosenberg</u>	Credited as Bill Fichtner
2004	<i>Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas</i>		
2008	<i>Turok</i>	Logan	
2011	<i>Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3</i>	Master Sergeant Sandman	
2012	<i>Infex</i>	The Administrator	
2013	<i>Disney Infinity</i>	Butch Cavendish	

Year	Title	Voice role	Notes
2014	<i>Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles</i>	The Shredder	3DS version

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External links

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- [William Fichtner \(http://contact-themovie.warnerbros.com/cmp/cast.html#name7\)](http://contact-themovie.warnerbros.com/cmp/cast.html#name7) at the official *Contact* movie website
- "Random Roles: William Fichtner" (https://web.archive.org/web/20081228211030/http://www.avclub.com/content/feature/random_roles_william_fichtner) at *The A.V. Club* (via the *Internet Archive* *Wayback Machine*)

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