

Born	<div>Richard Ellef Ayoade</div> <div>12 June 1977</div> <div>Hammersmith,<div></div>London, England</div>
Occupations	Actor · comedian · writer · director · television presenter
Years active	1998–present
Spouse	Lydia Fox (m. 2007)
Children	3 ^[1]

"a non-vocational degree seemed such an outlandish indulgence".^[16] Ayoade states that his degree in law is no longer a viable "fallback" for him and that he would need to "go back to square one".^[17]

Career

Early career

While in Footlights, Ayoade acted in and wrote many shows. He and Footlights vice-president John Oliver wrote two pantomimes together: *Sleeping Beauty* and *Grimm Fairy Tales*. Ayoade acted in both Footlights' 1997 and 1998 touring shows: *Emotional Baggage* and *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* (directed by Cal McCrystal).^[18]

Garth Marenghi

Ayoade co-wrote the stage show *Garth Marenghi's Fright Knight* with Matthew Holness, whom he also met at the Footlights, appearing in the show at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2000 where it was nominated for a Perrier Award.^[15] In 2001, he won the Perrier Comedy Award^[19] for co-writing and performing in *Garth Marenghi's Netherhead*, the sequel to *Fright Knight*.

In 2004, Ayoade and Holness took the Marenghi character to Channel 4, creating the spoof horror comedy series *Garth Marenghi's Darkplace*. He directed and also appeared as Dean Learner, Garth's publisher, who plays Thornton Reed, a hospital administrator who bears a trademark shotgun and answers to hospital boss "Won Ton". Ayoade's *Darkplace* character, Dean Learner, was resurrected in 2006 to host a comedy chat show, *Man to Man with Dean Learner*, on Channel 4. The different guests were played each week by Holness.

The Mighty Boosh

In *The Boosh* radio series Richard played the part of Tommy Nookah in the second episode, "Jungle", originally aired on 23 October 2001. Ayoade was part of the original cast of Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding's *The Mighty Boosh*: he was selected to play the role of dangerous villain Dixon Bainbridge. However, by the time the radio series transferred to television he was under contract by Channel 4 and was only able to act in the pilot before leaving *The Boosh*. The part was taken by fellow *Darkplace* actor and eventual *IT Crowd* co-star Matt Berry. He later returned in the second series, to play the part of the belligerent shaman Saboo. Ayoade continued his association with *The Mighty Boosh* in the third series, acting as script editor and also reprising his role of Saboo in the episodes "Eels", "Nanageddon", "The Strange Tale of the Crack Fox" and "Party".

The IT Crowd

Ayoade played the technically brilliant but socially awkward Maurice Moss in Channel 4's *The IT Crowd*. In 2008, he won the award for an outstanding actor in a television comedy series at the Monte-Carlo Television Festival for his performance. In 2009, Ayoade co-starred with Joel McHale in the pilot for an American remake,

reprising his role with the same appearance and personality; no series was commissioned, and the pilot never aired. In May 2014, Ayoade won a [BAFTA](#) for [Best Male Comedy Performance](#) for his performance in the show's 2013 special.^{[20][21]}

Was It Something I Said?

Ayoade was a team captain on the [Channel 4](#) panel show *Was It Something I Said?*, which began airing on 6 October 2013 and co-starred [David Mitchell](#) as host and [Micky Flanagan](#) as fellow team captain.^{[22][23]}

Submarine

In 2010, Ayoade released his debut directorial feature, *Submarine*, a coming-of-age comedy-drama film adapted from the 2008 novel of the same name by [Joe Dunthorne](#). The film stars newcomers [Craig Roberts](#) and [Yasmin Paige](#) with [Sally Hawkins](#), [Noah Taylor](#) and [Paddy Considine](#). The film was produced by [Warp Films](#) and [Film4](#) and musician [Alex Turner](#) of [Arctic Monkeys](#) contributed five original songs to the soundtrack.

The film premiered at the [35th Toronto International Film Festival](#) in September 2010.^[24] Following a generally positive reception it was picked up by the [Weinstein Company](#) for a North American release.^[25] The film also played at the [54th London Film Festival](#) in October 2010 and was played out of competition at the [27th Sundance Film Festival](#) in January 2011.^{[26][27]} It was also screened along with 400 other films at the [61st Berlin International Film Festival](#) the next month.^[28] It went on general release in the UK on 18 March and was released on 3 June in the US. It won the 2011 [London Awards for Art and Performance](#). Ayoade was also nominated for a BAFTA for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer at the [65th British Academy Film Awards](#).^[29]

Music video work

Ayoade has directed videos for the [Arctic Monkeys](#) ("Fluorescent Adolescent", "Crying Lightning" and "Cornerstone"), [Super Furry Animals](#) ("Run Away", which has Matt Berry in the lead role^[30]), the [Last Shadow Puppets](#) ("Standing Next to Me" and "My Mistakes Were Made For You") and [Vampire Weekend](#) ("Oxford Comma" and "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa"), as well as for [Kasabian](#) ("Vlad the Impaler", which starred Ayoade's frequent collaborator Noel Fielding) and the [Yeah Yeah Yeahs](#) ("Heads Will Roll"). In 2007 he directed a live Arctic Monkeys DVD entitled *At the Apollo*, which was recorded at the [Manchester Apollo](#). It was previewed at [Vue](#) cinemas across the UK during October 2008 and was released on DVD the following month, winning the "Best DVD" title at the [NME Awards](#) that year.

Voice acting

Ayoade voices Todd Lagoona, an anthropomorphic [hammerhead shark](#) who is a recurring character in *Noel Fielding's Luxury Comedy*. Since 2013, he has voiced Templeton in the [CBBC](#) animation *Strange Hill High* and in 2014 he voiced Mr. Pickles, one of [Snatcher's](#) henchmen in the [stop motion](#) animated fantasy film *The Boxtrolls*.

In 2013, [Virgin Media](#) launched an advertising campaign starring the Jamaican sprinter [Usain Bolt](#) which also featured the voice of Ayoade. He again lent his voice to an advertising campaign when he teamed up with fellow *IT Crowd* star [Chris O'Dowd](#) to provide the voice-over for Apple's [iPhone 6](#) advertisement campaign which was

released in the United Kingdom in 2014.^[31]

In 2013 Penguin Audio released several Roald Dahl audiobooks featuring the voices of some of the UK's most prominent stage and screen performers, including Ayoade, Chris O'Dowd, Kate Winslet, Andrew Scott, Stephen Fry, Dan Stevens, Hugh Laurie and Miriam Margolyes. Ayoade reads *The Twits* in the audiobook collection.^[32]

In 2015, a reboot of the cartoon *Danger Mouse* was created, in which Ayoade voices the character of the Snowman. In 2016, Ayoade voiced Onion in the Cartoon Network pilot, *Apple & Onion*.

Ayoade on Ayoade: A Cinematic Odyssey

Ayoade's first book *Ayoade on Ayoade: A Cinematic Odyssey* was published by Faber and Faber on 2 October 2014. It satirises the nature of interviews and books that document and analyse the careers of iconic film directors (e.g. Orson Welles and Martin Scorsese). The book parodies Faber's *Directors on Directors* series, in which critically celebrated filmmakers discuss their work.^[33] *A Cinematic Odyssey* sees Ayoade conduct several interviews with himself in which he discusses his work and enthusiasm for the world of cinema. Ayoade has said that he hopes that the book will act as 'a container for jokes that's themed around film'.^[34]

The Crystal Maze

On 13 January 2017, it was confirmed that Ayoade would present 20 hour-long episodes of *The Crystal Maze*, following the success of a celebrity special for Stand Up to Cancer in October 2016 hosted by Stephen Merchant.^[35] In June 2017 it was announced that comedians Jessica Hynes and Adam Buxton would join Ayoade with cameos within the show.^[36]

The Grip Of Film

In 2017 Ayoade published a new book about him having to present a book due to the film fanatic author Gordy LaSure having never been heard of. The book in its canon is a A-Z of films and what makes them good with footnotes by Ayoade

Other work

In 2005, he played the role of Ned Smanks in Chris Morris' and Charlie Brooker's *Nathan Barley*.^[37] Ayoade directed, co-wrote and co-starred (with fellow *Darkplace* and *IT Crowd* cast member Matt Berry) in *AD/BC: A Rock Opera* and has appeared on T4. He helped write *The Mighty Book of Boosh*, along with Noel Fielding, Julian Barratt, Rich Fulcher, Dave Brown and Michael Fielding. He is also featured in Paul King's film, *Bunny and the Bull*,^[38] where he plays the role of an extremely boring museum tour guide.^[39]

In November 2007, Ayoade appeared on Channel 4's *The Big Fat Anniversary Quiz*, which marked the channel's 25th anniversary. In January 2011, he appeared on *The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2010*, then appeared again in December 2012 on *The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2012*, and once again on *The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2013* in December 2013.^[40] In March 2011, Ayoade directed the episode "Critical Film Studies" in season 2 of *Community*.^[41] Ayoade directed comedian Tommy Tiernan's world stand-up tour, *Crooked Man*, which was released in November 2011.^[42]

Ayoade starred in the American comedy film *The Watch* (2012),^[43] alongside *Submarine* producer Ben Stiller. He co-wrote and directed the comedy film *The Double*,^[44] starring Jesse Eisenberg and Mia Wasikowska.^{[45][46]} He also plays various characters in the show *Noel Fielding's Luxury Comedy*.^[47]

Ayoade replaced Stephen Fry as presenter in the second series of Channel 4's *Gadget Man*, in September 2013 and also hosted a third series in August/September 2014.^{[48][49]} He is also the host of the spin-off series *Travel Man: 48 Hours In...* also on Channel 4.^[50]

In August 2016, Ayoade appeared on the second episode of Channel 4's *Big Fat Quiz of Everything Series* alongside Noel Fielding, as he had on the 2013 edition.^[51] Ayoade and Fielding were winners with 25 points.

On 13 October 2017, Ayoade appeared on BBC1 hosting an episode of *Have I Got News For You*.

In November 2017, Ayoade will appear in *Paddington 2* in an unknown role.^[52]

Personal life

Ayoade married actress Lydia Fox in 2007. They have three children.^[1]

Ayoade is a dog enthusiast and has two brown Dachshunds named Marv and O'Grady, who appeared in *The Double*.

Filmography

Films

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2003	<i><u>Hello Friend</u></i>	Computer Man	Short Film
2004	<i><u>The Life and Death of Peter Sellers</u></i>	Wedding Photographer	
2005	<i><u>Festival</u></i>	Dwight Swan	
2008	<i><u>At the Apollo</u></i>		Concert film; director
2009	<i><u>Bunny and the Bull</u></i>	Museum Curator	
2010	<i><u>Submarine</u></i>		Director and writer British Independent Film Award for Best Screenplay Palm Springs International Film Festival Directors to Watch Award Giffoni Film Festival Award for Best Film Nominated—BAFTA Award for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer Nominated—London Film Critics' Circle Award for Breakthrough British Filmmaker Nominated—Evening Standard British Film Award for Most Promising Newcomer Nominated—Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for Best Film Screenplay
2012	<i><u>The Watch</u></i>	Jamarcus	
2013	<i><u>The Double</u></i>		Director and writer Nominated—London Film Festival Award for Best Film Nominated—Black Reel Award for Best Foreign Film Nominated—Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival Grand Prize Nominated—Tokyo International Film Festival Grand Prix
2014	<i><u>The Boxtrolls</u></i>	Mr Pickles	Voice
2017	<i><u>Paddington 2</u></i> ^[53]	TBA	
2018	<i><u>Early Man</u></i> ^[54]	Treebor	Voice
2018	<i><u>The Souvenir: Part I</u></i>	TBA	Filming

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2004	<i><u>Garth Marenghi's Darkplace</u></i>	Dean Learner / Thornton Reed	6 episodes; also co-creator, writer and director
2004	<i><u>AD/BC: A Rock Opera</u></i>	Joseph	Television special; also writer and director
2004–2007	<i><u>The Mighty Boosh</u></i>	Saboo	5 episodes; also script editor and wrote episode: "The Chokes"

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2005	<i><u>Nathan Barley</u></i>	Ned Smanks	6 episodes
2006	<i><u>Man to Man with Dean Learner</u></i>	<u>Dean Learner</u>	6 episodes; also co-creator, writer, director and executive producer
2006	<i><u>Time Trumpet</u></i>	Himself	6 episodes
2006	<i><u>Snuff Box</u></i>	Music Show Host	2 episodes
2006–2010 2013	<i><u>The IT Crowd</u></i>	<u>Maurice Moss</u>	25 episodes <u>British Academy Television Award for Best Male Comedy Performance</u> (2014)
2007– present	<i><u>The Big Fat Quiz of the Year</u></i>	Himself	9 episodes
2011	<i><u>Community</u></i>		Directed episode: " <u>Critical Film Studies</u> "
2011	<i><u>Crooked Man</u></i>		Stand-up special; director
2012	<i><u>Full English</u></i>	Edgar (voice)	6 episodes
2012–2014	<i><u>Noel Fielding's Luxury Comedy</u></i>	Various Characters	6 episodes
2013	<i><u>Was It Something I Said?</u></i>	Himself	8 episodes
2013–2014	<i><u>Strange Hill High</u></i>	Templeton (voice)	26 episodes
2013–2015	<i><u>Gadget Man</u></i>	Himself (host)	19 episodes
2015	<i><u>The Vicar of Dibley</u></i>	Bernard	Episode: "The Bishop of Dibley"
2015–2016	<i><u>Danger Mouse</u></i>	The Snowman (voice)	4 episodes
2015– present	<i><u>Travel Man</u></i>	Himself (host)	26 Episodes
2016	<i><u>Apple & Onion</u></i> ^[55]	Onion (voice)	Pilot
2017	<i><u>Neo Yokio</u></i>	Various characters (voice)	3 episodes
2017– present	<i><u>The Crystal Maze</u></i>	Himself (host)	20 episodes ^[56]
2019	<i><u>Moominvalley</u></i>	The Ghost (voice)	

Music videos directed

Year	Artist	Track
2007	<u>Arctic Monkeys</u>	" <u>Fluorescent Adolescent</u> "
2007	<u>Super Furry Animals</u>	" <u>Run Away</u> "
2008	<u>Vampire Weekend</u>	" <u>Oxford Comma</u> "
2008	<u>The Last Shadow Puppets</u>	" <u>Standing Next to Me</u> "
2008	<u>The Last Shadow Puppets</u>	" <u>My Mistakes Were Made for You</u> "
2008	<u>Vampire Weekend</u>	" <u>Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa</u> "

Year	Artist	Track
2009	<u>Kasabian</u>	" <u>Vlad the Impaler</u> "
2009	Arctic Monkeys	" <u>Crying Lightning</u> "
2009	Arctic Monkeys	" <u>Cornerstone</u> "
2009	<u>Yeah Yeah Yeahs</u>	"Heads Will Roll"
2016	<u>Radiohead</u>	"Tinker Tailor Soldier Sailor Rich Man Poor Man Beggar Man Thief" ^[57]

Bibliography

Year	Title
2015	<i>Ayoade on Ayoade: A Cinematic Odyssey</i>
2017	<i>The Grip of Film</i>

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