

# Jonathan Jackson (actor)



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Jonathan Stevens Jackson (born May 11, 1982) is an American actor, musician and author. His first well known character was Lucky Spencer on the ABC Daytime soap opera *General Hospital*, a role which has won him five Emmy Awards. In 2002, he played Jesse Tuck in the film *Tuck Everlasting*. In 2004 he started the band Enation (currently: Jonathan Jackson + Enation) with his brother, actor Richard Lee Jackson and friend Daniel Sweatt. He currently portrays Avery Barkley in the CMT drama Nashville.

## Early life

Jackson was born in Orlando, Florida, the son of Jeanine (née Sharp), an amateur ventriloguist and businesswoman,  $\frac{[2][3]}{}$  and Dr. Rick "Ricky Lee" Jackson, a family physician, [4] country musician and Congressional candidate in the state of Washington. [5][6] Jackson was raised in Battle Ground, Washington with his brother Richard Lee Jackson, now an actor and musician, and his sister Candice Jackson, now a lawyer, author, and official in the Trump administration. [5] Jonathan attended Meadow Glade Elementary school.[2]

In 1991, Jackson's family took a trip to Universal Studios Hollywood, where both Richard and Jonathan decided to pursue acting. [2] The brothers took acting lessons in nearby Portland, Oregon, [4] before moving part-time to Burbank, California with their mother in 1993. [2] After doing various commercials, within six months<sup>[4]</sup> Jackson won a role on the ABC Daytime soap opera, General Hospital. Jackson continued his studies while working, graduating high school at age sixteen.<sup>[7]</sup>

### Career

#### Jonathan Jackson



Jackson at the PaleyFest 2013 panel on the TV show Nashville

Born	Jonathan Stevens Jackson <sup>[1]</sup> May 11, 1982 Orlando, Florida, U.S.
Occupation(s)	Actor, musician, author
Years active	1993–present
Spouse	Lisa Vultaggio (m. 2002)
Children	3
Relatives	Richard Lee Jackson (brother)
Website	www.jonathanjackson .com (http://www.jonath anjackson.com)

### Acting

Jackson's first notable role was <u>Lucky Spencer</u> on *General Hospital*, a role he first played from 1993 to 1999. Jackson won numerous awards for his work as Lucky. He was nominated for the <u>Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series six times</u>, winning first in 1995, and again in 1998 and 1999, making him the record holder for both nominations and wins for the Younger Actor category. He also won <u>Soap Opera Digest Awards</u> in 1995, and 1999. He was nominated for <u>Young Artist Awards</u> in 1996, 129 1997, and 1999. He was nominated in 2000. Jackson also became a popular "teen heartthrob" among fans, 18] featured on <u>fan magazines</u> such as <u>Tiger Beat</u> and garnering many <u>fan clubs</u> and internet <u>fansites</u>. In 1999, he was named one of *People* magazine's 50 most beautiful people.

While working at *General Hospital*, Jackson starred in his first feature film <u>Camp Nowhere</u>, as Morris "Mud" Himmel in 1994. [22] Also during this time he starred in <u>made-for-television</u> films <u>Prisoner of Zenda</u>, <u>Inc.</u> [23] and <u>The Legend of the Ruby Silver</u>, and made a guest appearance during <u>Season 5</u> of the ABC <u>sitcom Boy Meets</u> <u>World</u>. In 1999, Jackson filmed <u>The Deep End of the Ocean</u> shortly before leaving <u>General Hospital</u>, starring opposite <u>Michelle Pfeiffer</u>. [7] <u>Deep End director Ulu Grosbard</u> spoke of Jackson as "an enormously gifted actor. He brought a weight and a presence and chemistry with Michelle from the beginning. He's only 15 years old and he is a very serious actor who has both concentration and humor." [25] Pfeiffer added, "When Jonathan and I read together, it was like he was my own son. And we just went at each other in only this way that a mother and son could do. His reading was exhilarating." [25] Jackson was nominated for YoungStar Awards in 1997 for *Prisoner of Zenda*, *Inc.* and 1999 for *The Deep End of the Ocean*. [26]

In December 1999, <u>Newsweek</u> magazine reported Jackson was likely to be taking on the role of <u>Anakin Skywalker</u> in <u>Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones</u>. However, he was soon dropped from the running, and publications speculated the prior publicity had hurt his chances due to creator <u>George Lucas'</u> preference for privacy. [27] Jackson continued his film career in 2000 with the independent film <u>True Rights[28]</u> and the ABC television movie <u>Trapped in a Purple Haze</u>. [23] Jackson also wrote and directed a short film with his brother Richard entitled <u>Crystal Clear</u>, which won Best Dramatic Short Film and the Coen Brothers Award for Duo-Filmmaking at the <u>Brooklyn Film Festival</u>. [29] In 2002, Jackson played one of his most well-known film roles as Jesse Tuck in <u>Tuck Everlasting</u>, which he filmed simultaneously to <u>Insomnia</u>. In 2004, Jackson filmed <u>Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights</u>, and <u>Riding the Bullet</u>. From 2008 through 2009, he had a recurring role as Kyle Reese in the hit Fox TV show <u>Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles</u>, playing the father of <u>John Connor</u> before the show was cancelled.

On September 29, 2009, it was announced that Jackson would return to *General Hospital* on October 27 to reprise the role of Lucky Spencer. [30] In 2011, Jackson won his fourth Daytime Emmy and first Outstanding Supporting Actor Award. [31] On November 7, 2011, it was announced that Jackson had decided to leave *General Hospital* and his final airdate was on December 23, 2011. His character is not planned to be recast or killed off, leaving the door open for Jackson to return with the show in the future. [33] In 2012, Jackson won his fifth Daytime Emmy and second consecutive win for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. [31][34]

In 2012, he got the role of singer-songwriter <u>Avery Barkley</u> in the <u>ABC</u> drama <u>Nashville</u>. [35] Along with the rest of the cast, Jonathan sings and performs guitar himself on the series. [5]

#### Music

As a child, Jackson took guitar lessons and taught himself to play the piano. [4] Growing up he had an evolving band with various family members. In 2000, the band included his brother, uncle and father and was named "Scarlet Road". [23] By 2002, Jonathan and his brother Richard had named their group "Jono and the Rock". [36]

The ensemble morphed into Enation, where Jackson is the frontman, playing guitar, vocals and writing most the songs. [4] Other band members include Jonathan's brother Richard (drums), and their friends Daniel Sweatt (bass), Luke Galeotti (guitar) and Michael Galeotti (keyboard). [2] The band has released several albums and their song "Feel This" became a Top 10 hit on the iTunes national Rock Charts after it was featured on the CW television drama series One Tree Hill. [2] Enation's songs have also been featured on Riding the Bullet, [4] and General Hospital. [37]



Jackson performing with Enation in 2013

As well as performing as singer, guitarist & piano man Jackson also wrote the song "The Morning of the Rain" featured on episode 7 and 19 of the first season of Nashville.

#### **Books**

In the spring of 2012, Jackson released a book of poetry under the <u>pen name</u> J. S. Jackson, [38] titled *Book of Solace and Madness*. [5] In June 2012, he discussed his yet-to-be-released book entitled *Acting in the Spirit*, which would discuss the connection between his <u>Orthodox faith</u> and his acting career. [39] In November 2014, Jackson released *The Mystery of Art: Becoming an Artist in the Image of God*. [40]

### **Personal life**

### **Family**

At age 20, Jackson married former <u>General Hospital</u> actress <u>Lisa Vultaggio</u> on June 21, 2002. Jackson told the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "Some people thought we were a little young to get married. But we didn't see the need to wait. When it's right, it's right." The couple moved to Jackson's hometown of Battle Ground, Washington to raise their family. They have three children. [41]

### Religion

The son of Seventh-day Adventist parents, [39] Jackson was raised as a non-denominational Christian, [43] and has always been vocal about his faith. [44] As part of his belief system, as a teen Jackson chose not to drink or do drugs. [23] Jackson was also a proponent of abstinence from premarital sex. [36][42] Jackson also often thanked God during his award acceptance speeches. [42] While Jackson was working on *General Hospital*, he and his family held a home church in Burbank which various cast members attended,

"I've never presented Jesus in a car salesman sort of way. I don't believe in that for me. I don't want to turn anyone away because they're feeling pressured. The most positive influence I've had is people seeing the kind of life I'm living and the way I treat people. If people ask where that comes from, I'll say it comes from Jesus. And I'm definitely not ashamed of that."

including Jackson's future wife Lisa Vultaggio. [39] Jackson explained how his beliefs affected his choice of acting roles in an interview with *Entertainment* 

—Jackson on his faith, in 1998. [42]

<u>Weekly</u> in 1999, "I won't get involved with a movie that's a direct slap in the face of God. [...] I'm an actor, so I have to play people who believe differently than me. I would be willing to play a character that was completely unbelieving and anti-God, just as long as that wasn't the message of the whole movie." In 2002, Jackson participated in the <u>DKNY</u>-sponsored "What's Your Anti-Drug?" campaign, posing for the 2003 calendar featured in *Cosmogirl* magazine, stating his anti-drug was faith. [46]

In 2012, Jackson and his family were baptized into the Orthodox Church. [47] Jackson cited a trip to Romania and Rome that first brought his attention to learning about the history of Christianity. [39][43][48] In his acceptance speech for his 2012 Daytime Emmy Award, he thanked the Holy Trinity as well as the monks on Orthodox monastic enclave Mount Athos. Jackson later explained in an interview, "These people (are) dedicating their lives to prayer, and not just praying for themselves, but truly praying for all of us. And then the thought kind of

crossed my mind: with all the destruction, chaos and insanity that goes on in this world, if their prayers weren't happening, what would this world be like? I felt personally like I just wanted to thank them because I really believe that their prayers mean a lot." [43]

# **Filmography**

#### Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1994	Camp Nowhere	Morris "Mud" Himmel	Feature film debut
1996	Prisoner of Zenda, Inc.	Rudy Gatewick/Oliver Gillis	Showtime television movie
	The Legend of the Ruby Silver	Matt Rainie	ABC television movie
1999	The Deep End of the Ocean	Vincent Cappadora	
	True Rights	Charlie Vick	Independent film
2000	Crystal Clear	Eddie	Short film also written and directed by Jackson
	Trapped in a Purple Haze	Max Hanson	ABC television movie
2001	Skeletons in the Closet	Seth Reed	
2001	On the Edge	Toby	
2002	Insomnia	Randy Stetz	
2002	Tuck Everlasting	Jesse Tuck	
2004	Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights	James Phelps	
2004	Riding the Bullet	Alan Parker	
2005	Venom	Eric	
2006	A Little Thing Called Murder	Kenny Kimes	TV movie
2010	Kalamity	Stanley Keller	

### **Television**

Year	Title	Role	Notes	
1993	General Hospital	Lucky Spencer	1993–99, 2009–11, 2015	
1998	Boy Meets World	Ricky Ferris	Episode: Starry Night Episode: Honesty Night	
2001	Night Visions	Devin	Episode: If a Tree Falls	
2003	The Twilight Zone	Martin	Sunrise	
2008	One Tree Hill	Himself	Cameo with Enation	
2008–09	Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles	Kyle Reese	Episode: Dungeons & Dragons Episode: Goodbye To All That	

Year	Title	Role Notes	
			Episode: The Good Wound Episode: Born to Run
2012–present <sup>[49]</sup>	Nashville	Avery Barkley	Main cast; 106 episodes
2017	NashChat	Himself	Guest host; week 4

## Soundtrack appearances

The Music of Nashville: Season 1, Volume 1 (2012)

Contributed 1 track: "Twist Of Barbwire"

The Music of Nashville: Season 1, Volume 2 (2013)

Contributed 2 tracks: "Let There Be Lonely" and "Keep Asking Why"

*The Music of Nashville: Season 2, Volume 1 (2013)* 

Contributed 2 tracks: "You Learn How To Live Alone" and "Be My Girl" with Sam Palladio

*The Music of Nashville: Season 2, Volume 2 (2014)* 

 Contributed 3 tracks: "Hennessee" with <u>Sam Palladio</u> and <u>Chaley Rose</u>, "Everything I'll Ever Need" with Hayden Panettiere and "I Ain't Leavin' Without Your Love" with Sam Palladio and Chaley Rose

Christmas with Nashville (2014)

 Contributed 2 tracks: "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" and Celebrate Me Home with the Nashville cast

*The Music of Nashville: Season 3, Volume 1 (2014)* 

Contributed 1 track: "The Most Beautiful Girl In The World" with Sam Palladio and Chaley Rose

*The Music of Nashville: Season 3, Volume 2 (2015)* 

Contributed 6 tracks: "Borrow My Heart" with <u>Sam Palladio</u> and <u>Clare Bowen</u>, "This Is What I Need To Say", "Hold You In My Arms" with <u>Hayden Panettiere</u>, "My Song" with Sam Palladio and Clare Bowen, "Novocaine" with <u>Laura Benanti</u> and "One By One" with Hayden Panettiere

*The Music of Nashville: Season 4, Volume 1 (2015)* 

■ Contributed 2 tracks: "History of My Heart" and "Sleep Tonight (A Lullaby)" with Chris Carmack

# Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Work	Result
1995	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series	General Hospital	Won
	Soap Opera Digest Award	Outstanding Child Actor		Won
	YoungStar Award	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Daytime TV Program		Won
45	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series		Nominated
1996	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a Daytime Drama – Young Actor	General Hospital	Nominated
	Variable Otto Annual	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Made For TV Movie	Prisoner of Zenda, Inc.	Nominated
	YoungStar Award	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Daytime TV Program		Won
1997	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series	General Hospital	Nominated
	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a Daytime Drama – Young Actor		Nominated
1998	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series	General Hospital	Won
	YoungStar Award	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Daytime TV Program		Won
	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series	General Hospital	Won
	Soap Opera Digest Award	Outstanding Younger Lead Actor		Won
1999	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a Daytime Serial		Nominated
	YoungStar Awards	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Daytime TV Program		Won
		Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Drama Film	The Deep End of the Ocean	Nominated
2000	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Younger Actor in a Drama Series	- General Hospital	Nominated
	YoungStar Award	Best Performance by a Young Actor in a Daytime TV Program		Nominated
	Young Hollywood Award	Breakthrough Performance – Male	The Deep End of the Ocean	Won
	Brooklyn Film Festival	Festival Award: Best Narrative Short – Drama (with Richard Lee Jackson)	Crystal Clear	Won
		Festival Award: Coen Brothers Award For Duo Filmmakers (with Richard Lee Jackson)		Won

Year	Award	Category	Work	Result
2005	Saturn Award	Best Performance by a Younger Actor	Riding the Bullet	Nominated
2010				Nominated
2011	Daytime Emmy Award	Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series	General Hospital	Won
2012				Won
2016	Critics' Choice Television Awards	Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series	Nashville	Nominated

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#### **External links**

- Official website (http://jonathanjackson.com/)
- Jonathan Jackson (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005044/) at IMDb

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