



# Josh Brolin

**Josh James Brolin** (/ˈbroʊlɪn/; born February 12, 1968)<sup>[1]</sup> is an American actor. A son of actor James Brolin, he gained fame in his youth for his role in the adventure film *The Goonies* (1985). After years of decline, Brolin had a resurgence with his starring role in the crime film *No Country for Old Men* (2007). Brolin received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for portraying Dan White in the biopic *Milk* (2008).

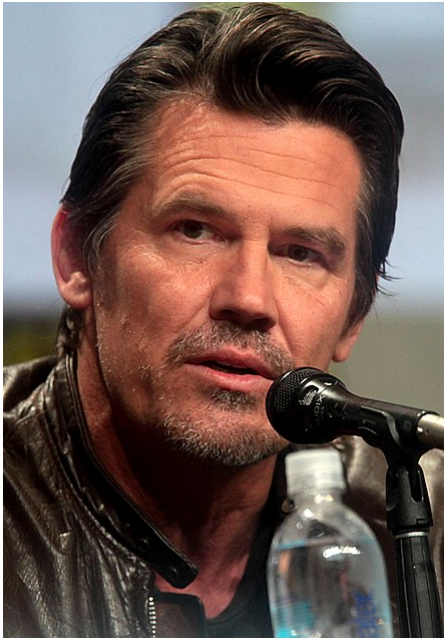
Brolin gained wider recognition for playing Thanos in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), including in the films *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) and *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), as well as Cable in *Deadpool 2* (2018). Brolin has been a collaborator with Canadian filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, having appeared in the action thriller *Sicario* (2015) and in Villeneuve's two-part film adaptation of Frank Herbert's 1965 novel *Dune*, portraying the character Gurney Halleck in *Dune* (2021) and *Dune: Part Two* (2024).

## Early life

Brolin was born on February 12, 1968, in Santa Monica, California, the son of Jane Cameron (née Agee 1939–1995),<sup>[2]</sup> a casting director<sup>[3]</sup> and wildlife activist,<sup>[4]</sup> and actor James Brolin.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Brolin was raised on a ranch<sup>[7]</sup> in the Adelaida area of Paso Robles,<sup>[8]</sup> attending elementary and middle school in Templeton, California,<sup>[9]</sup> and around age 11, he moved to the Santa Barbara area, where he attended Santa Barbara High School.<sup>[10]</sup> with little exposure to his father's acting career.<sup>[11]</sup> His parents divorced in 1984 when he was 16.

Brolin said in a 2014 interview that during his youth, he was a member of a surfing friendship group who called themselves the "Cito Rats". In his description of the group, Brolin said, "It was Santa Barbara. It was the '80s. It was punk rock. You either had the children of rich, neglectful parents or children of poor, so it was a mix. But we basically grew up the same way. I've never seen a group like that before or since." (Tom Wolfe describes a 1965<sup>[12]</sup> Windansea Beach surfing friendship group in his book *The Pump House Gang*). He admitted to stealing cars to pay for his drug use,

Josh Brolin



Brolin in 2014

<b>Born</b>	<div>Josh James Brolin</div> <div>February 12, 1968</div> <div><span><span></span></span> Santa Monica, California, U.S.</div>
<b>Occupation</b>	Actor
<b>Years active</b>	1983–present
<b>Works</b>	<u>Full list</u>
<b>Spouses</b>	<div><div>Alice Adair</div><div><span> (<span><span>m.</span></span><span> </span>1988<span>;</span><span> </span><span><span>div.</span></span><span> </span>1994)</span></div><div><div>Diane Lane</div><div><span> (<span><span>m.</span></span><span> </span>2004<span>;</span><span> </span><span><span>div.</span></span><span> </span>2013)</span></div><div><div>Kathryn Boyd</div><div><span> (<span><span>m.</span></span><span> </span>2016)</span></div></div></div></div>
<b>Children</b>	4, including <u>Eden</u>
<b>Parents</b>	<div><div><u>James Brolin</u> (father)</div><div><u>Jane Cameron Agee</u> (1939—1995) (mother)</div></div>
<b>Family</b>	<u>Barbra Streisand</u>

which included heroin, a drug that he explained he did not like: "I mean, I never got into it and I never died from it, which is a good thing. I've had 19 friends who died. Most of those guys I grew up with, they're all dead now,"<sup>[13]</sup> later: "The group of guys that I grew up with, 37 of them are dead. 12 are in jail. 4 are in jail and also dead. I keep careful count, all 37 dead guys. I'm from a tough environment, ya know?"<sup>[14]</sup>

	(stepmother)
Awards	Full list

## Career

### Early work and breakthrough (1980s)

Brolin started his career in TV films and guest roles on TV shows before landing a more notable role as Brandon Walsh in the Richard Donner-directed film *The Goonies* (1985).<sup>[15]</sup> He was considered for the role of Tom Hanson in the series *21 Jump Street*; Brolin and Johnny Depp were the finalists for the role, and the two became close and remained friends. The role ultimately went to Depp.<sup>[16][17]</sup> Brolin guest-starred in an episode of the show in its first season.<sup>[18]</sup>

### Career decline (1990–2006)

Brolin played a small role in the 1994 movie *Roadflower*. He has implied that he turned away from film acting for years after the premiere of his second film, *Thrashin'*, where Brolin witnessed what he called "horrendous" acting on his part.<sup>[19]</sup> For several years, Brolin appeared in stage roles in Rochester, New York, often alongside mentor and friend Anthony Zerbe. One of Brolin's more prominent roles early in his career was that of "Wild Bill" Hickok in the ABC western TV series *The Young Riders*, which lasted three seasons (1989–92).<sup>[15]</sup> Two other TV series Brolin was involved in include the Aaron Spelling production *Winnetka Road* (1994) and *Mister Sterling* (2003), both of which were cancelled after a few episodes.

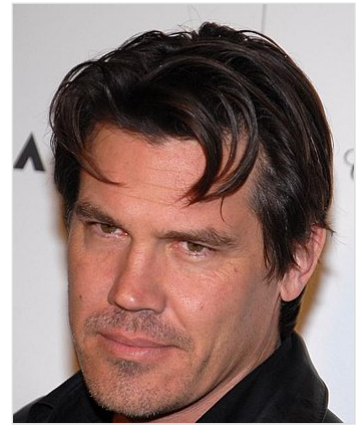
### Career resurgence and stardom (2006–present)

By 2006, Brolin was trading stocks full time when he booked the lead role in the Coen brothers' Academy Award-winning film *No Country for Old Men* (2007).<sup>[20]</sup> The film became a critical and commercial success. Brolin would go on to book a part in the similarly successful Ridley Scott film *American Gangster* (2007).

In 2008, Brolin starred in another Oliver Stone film, *W.*, a biopic about key events in the life of President George W. Bush.<sup>[15][21]</sup> Stone pursued an initially hesitant Brolin for the role. He said of his decision to cast Brolin in the leading role:<sup>[22]</sup>

It always seemed to me that he was the right person. Although classically handsome, I think he would consider himself a character actor first and foremost, and it was in this context that I thought of him as W. Josh certainly has star appeal and could be a leading man, but I don't think he necessarily wants to be that. I think he really enjoys disappearing into a character.

Brolin received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Gus Van Sant's biopic *Milk* as city supervisor Dan White, who assassinated San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone.<sup>[23]</sup> He made news by wearing a White Knot to the Academy Awards ceremony to demonstrate solidarity with the same-sex marriage movement.<sup>[24]</sup> Brolin told an interviewer that co-star Sean Penn, who portrayed Milk, decided to dispel any nerves the actors had about playing gay men by "grabbing the bull by the horns". At the first cast dinner, which included castmates James Franco, Emile Hirsch and Diego Luna, "[Penn] walked right up and grabbed me and planted a huge one right on my lips", Brolin said.<sup>[22]</sup> Brolin has received critical acclaim for his performance and, in addition to his Oscar nomination, received NYFCC and NBR Awards for Best Supporting Actor and a nomination for a SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role.



Brolin in 2007

Also in 2008, Brolin hosted *Saturday Night Live*, the same night as musical guest, Adele. He went on to host again in April 2012 and March 2024.<sup>[25]</sup>

In 2009, Brolin executive produced and performed in *The People Speak*, a documentary feature film that uses dramatic and musical performances of the letters, diaries, and speeches of everyday Americans, based on historian Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States.<sup>[26]</sup> The next year, Brolin wrote and directed the short film *X* as his directorial debut. The film is about an inmate who escapes prison to reunite with his daughter and searches for her murdered mother. It was the opening film at the first annual Union City International Film Festival in Union City, New Jersey in December 2010.<sup>[27][28][29]</sup>

In the early 2010s, Brolin would appear in a variety of big-budget studios film. He portrayed the titular character in *Jonah Hex* (2010), based on the DC Comics' character with the same name.<sup>[30]</sup> Brolin would later admit that he hated the experience making the film stating that at one point they had to "[reshoot] 66 pages in 12 days", implying that the filming schedule was hectic.<sup>[31]</sup> Brolin would go on to blame the film's failure on studio interference in the film's post-production and on director Hayward, who he called "inexperienced" and a "bad choice (of director)."<sup>[20]</sup> Brolin also appeared in the Coen Brother film *True Grit* (2010) and in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* (2010). In 2012, Brolin played the younger version of Tommy Lee Jones's character Kevin Brown / Agent K in *Men in Black 3*, which reunited both Brolin and Jones after their initial collaboration in *No Country for Old Men* and *In the Valley of Elah*, both in 2007.<sup>[32]</sup> Brolin later starred in the 2013 film *Gangster Squad*, portraying a fictional World War II veteran named John O'Mara.<sup>[33]</sup> Later that year, Brolin also portrayed Joe Doucett in *Oldboy*, a remake of the 2003 South Korean film of the same name.

In 2014, it was announced that Brolin would play Thanos within the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He portrays the character through motion capture performance, as well as voice acting. Brolin cameoed as the character in *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014) and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015), and then reprised Thanos in a starring role in *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) and 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*, which were filmed back-to-back.<sup>[34]</sup> In 2021, Brolin voiced an alternate Thanos in *What If...?* His performance in the role was critically acclaimed. Writing for *Variety*, critic Owen Gleiberman called Brolin's motion capture performance in *Infinity War* "supremely effective" and said, "Brolin infuses





Brolin promoting the film *Avengers Age of Ultron* at the 2014 San Diego Comic Con International

Thanos with his slit-eyed manipulative glower, so that the evil in this movie never feels less than personal."<sup>[35]</sup> Writing for The Hollywood Reporter, critic Todd McCarthy similarly said, "Brolin's calm, considered reading of the character bestows this conquering beast with an unexpectedly resonant emotional dimension, making him much more than a thick stick figure of a supervillain."<sup>[36]</sup>

In April 2017, Brolin signed a four-film contract with 20th Century Fox studios to portray the Marvel Comics character Nathan Summers / Cable in the *X-Men* film series. *Deadpool 2* (2018) was his first installment within that contract. He was set to reprise his

role in Fox's planned *X-Force* movie until the acquisition of 20th Century Fox by Disney.



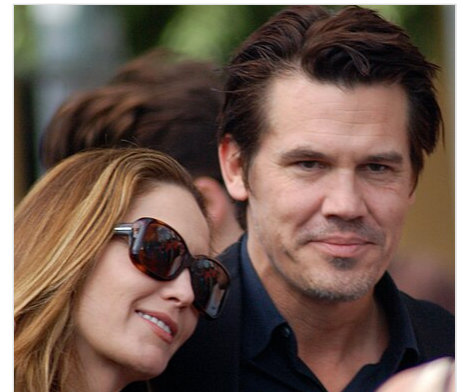
Zazie Beetz, Ryan Reynolds and Brolin during an interview in 2018

## Personal life

### Marriages and family

Brolin was married to actress Alice Adair from 1988 until 1994;<sup>[37]</sup> they have two children, Trevor and Eden, both actors.<sup>[38]</sup> He was engaged to actress Minnie Driver for six months.<sup>[37]</sup> Brolin married actress Diane Lane on August 15, 2004.<sup>[39]</sup> They divorced in 2013.<sup>[40]</sup>

In March 2013, Brolin began dating his former assistant and model Kathryn Boyd.<sup>[41]</sup> They became engaged in March 2015.<sup>[42]</sup> The couple married on September 24, 2016,<sup>[43]</sup> and announced on May 29, 2018, that they were expecting their first child.<sup>[44]</sup> Brolin announced through Instagram on November 4, 2018, that Boyd had given birth to a daughter.<sup>[45]</sup> Their second daughter was born on December 25, 2020.<sup>[46]</sup>



Brolin with then-wife Diane Lane in 2009

### Arrests

On December 20, 2004, Brolin's wife at the time, Diane Lane, called the police after an altercation with him, and Brolin was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of domestic battery. Lane declined to press charges and the couple's spokesman characterized the incident as a misunderstanding.<sup>[47]</sup>

On July 12, 2008, Brolin was arrested after an altercation at the Stray Cat Bar in Shreveport, Louisiana, along with actor Jeffrey Wright and five other men who were crew members of W. Brolin was released after posting a cash bond of \$334.<sup>[48][49]</sup> Brolin said to a reporter, "It was nice to be in