

= Jon Hamm =

Jonathan Daniel " Jon " Hamm ( born March 10 , 1971 ) is an American actor , director , and television producer best known for playing advertising executive Don Draper in the AMC drama series , Mad Men ( 2010 ? 2015 ) .

For much of the mid @-@ 1990s , Hamm lived in Los Angeles , making appearances in television series Providence , The Division , What About Brian , and Related . In 2000 , he made his feature film debut in the space adventure film Space Cowboys . The following year , he had a minor role in the independent comedy , Kissing Jessica Stein ( 2001 ) .

Hamm gained wide recognition when Mad Men began airing in July 2010 . His performance earned him the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Series ? Drama in 2010 and 2014 and the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series in 2015 . He also directed two episodes of the show . In 2010 , Hamm appeared in a remake of the science fiction film The Day The Earth Stood Still . His first leading film role was in the 2010 independent thriller Stolen . He also had supporting roles in The Town ( 2010 ) , Sucker Punch ( 2011 ) , and Bridesmaids ( 2011 ) . Hamm has received 16 Primetime Emmy Award nominations for his performances in Mad Men , 30 Rock ( 2006 ? 2013 ) , and Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt ( 2015 ? present ) .

His other television credits include starring in the Sky Arts series A Young Doctor 's Notebook and guest roles in Parks and Recreation and Wet Hot American Summer : First Day of Camp . He provided his voice to the animated film Shrek Forever After in 2010 , and in 2015 , he starred in the animated film Minions .

= = Early life = =

Hamm was born in St. Louis , Missouri , the son of Deborah and Daniel Hamm . His father ran a family trucking company , and his mother was a secretary . He is of German , English , and Irish descent ; his surname originates with German immigrants . Hamm 's parents divorced when he was two years old , and he lived in Creve Coeur with his mother until her death from colon cancer , when he was 10 . Hamm then moved in with his father .

Hamm 's first acting role was as Winnie the Pooh in first grade . At 16 , he was cast as Judas in Godspell , and enjoyed the experience , though he did not take acting seriously .

Hamm attended the private John Burroughs School in Ladue , where he was a member of the football , baseball , and swim teams . During this time , he dated future actress Sarah Clarke . His father died when he was 20 .

Following graduation in 1989 , Hamm enrolled at the University of Texas , where he was a member of the Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Nu fraternity . There , Hamm was arrested for participating in a violent hazing incident that occurred in November 1990 , involving another student , Mark Sanders . Sanders was beaten with a paddle and a broom , while Hamm was leading him around the fraternity house with the claw of a hammer beneath Sanders ' genitals , and Sanders ' clothes were set on fire . The incident led to the fraternity 's being shut down on campus . Hamm completed the terms of a deferred adjudication , and the charges were dismissed in August 1995 .

Hamm enrolled at the University of Missouri . At Missouri he answered an advertisement from a theater company looking for players in a production of A Midsummer Night 's Dream , auditioned , and was cast in the production . Other roles followed , such as Leon Czolgosz in Assassins .

After graduating in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in English , Hamm returned to his high school to teach eighth @-@ grade acting . One of his students was Ellie Kemper , who later became an actress and would go on to star in the Netflix original series Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt , in which Hamm has a recurring role ; another was Beau Willimon , who became a screenwriter .

= = Career = =

= = = Early work = = =

Hamm has known actor Paul Rudd for many years , and visited him in Hollywood in 1992 . Not wishing to stay in a " normal career " , Hamm moved to Los Angeles permanently in 1995 with an automobile and \$ 150 . He moved into a house with four other aspiring actors and began working as a waiter while attending auditions . He acted in theatre , including as Flavius in a production of Shakespeare 's Timon of Athens with the Sacred Fools Theater Company .

Finding employment as an actor was difficult , despite representation by the William Morris Agency , because unlike other actors his age , he could not be cast in youth @-@ oriented productions like Dawson 's Creek due to his older appearance . In 1998 , having failed to obtain any acting jobs after three years , he was dropped by William Morris . Hamm continued working as a waiter and , briefly , as a set designer for a softcore pornography film . After repeatedly failing to obtain promising roles , he set his 30th birthday as a deadline to succeed in Hollywood , stating :

You either suck that up and find another agent , or you go home and say you gave it a shot , but that 's the end of that . The last thing I wanted to be out here was one of those actors who 's 45 years old , with a tenuous grasp of their own reality , and not really working much . So I gave myself five years . I said , if I can 't get it going by the time I 'm 30 , I 'm in the wrong place . And as soon as I said that , it 's like I started working right away .

In 2000 , Hamm obtained the role of romantic firefighter Burt Ridley on NBC 's drama series Providence . His one @-@ episode contract grew to 19 , and led him to quit waiting tables . Hamm made his feature film debut with one line in Clint Eastwood 's space adventure Space Cowboys ( 2000 ) ; more substantial roles followed in the independent comedy Kissing Jessica Stein ( 2001 ) and the war film We Were Soldiers ( 2002 ) , during filming of which he turned 30 . His career was further bolstered when he played the recurring role of police inspector Nate Basso on Lifetime 's television series The Division , from 2002 to 2004 . Other minor roles followed on the television series What About Brian , CSI : Miami , Related , Numb3rs , The Unit , and The Sarah Silverman Program . Hamm 's Mad Men castmate Eric Ladin had said that one of the reasons he looks up to Jon is that while he " made it " later than most actors , Hamm never gave up on acting .

= = = International recognition = = =

Hamm received his breakthrough role in 2007 , when he was cast from more than 80 candidates as the protagonist character Don Draper , in AMC 's drama series Mad Men . In the series , set in a fictional 1960s advertising agency , he plays a suave advertising executive with an obscure past .

Hamm recalled , " I read the script for Mad Men and I loved it . [ ... ] I never thought they 'd cast me ? I mean , I thought they 'd go with one of the five guys who look like me but are movie stars " , and that an actor with a " proven track record " would likely have been chosen if another network had aired the show . He went through numerous auditions and explained each time to the casting directors what he could bring to the character , if given the part . Alan Taylor and Mad Men creator Matthew Weiner initially thought Hamm was too handsome for the role but ultimately decided , " it was perfect to cast sort of the perfect male in this part " ; Weiner also sensed that the actor had not been raised by his parents , similar to Draper 's backstory .

Hamm used memories of his father to portray Draper , a well @-@ dressed , influential figure in business and society hiding great inner turmoil and facing changes in the world beyond his control .

Mad Men debuted on July 19 , 2007 , with almost 1 @.@ 4 million viewers . It quickly developed a loyal audience , with Hamm receiving strong reviews .

Robert Bianco of USA Today was complimentary of Hamm , noting that his interpretation of Draper was a " starmaking performance " . The Boston Globe 's Matthew Gilbert called Hamm a " brilliant lead " .

For his work , Hamm won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor in a Television Series ? Drama in 2008 . Also in 2008 , he was nominated for both the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor and the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series . In 2009 , Hamm was again nominated for the Golden Globe Award and Screen Actors Guild Award in the same category , and received another Primetime Emmy Award

nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series . In 2010 , Hamm received his third Golden Globe Award nomination . Mad Men concluded its seven @-@ season run on May 17 , 2015 . Hamm received his first Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series on September 20 , 2015 after receiving 12 Emmy nominations for acting on and producing the series .

Hamm 's next film role was in the 2008 science fiction film The Day the Earth Stood Still , a remake of the 1951 film of the same name . Although the film received mixed reviews , it was financially successful , earning \$ 230 million worldwide at the box office .

Hamm hosted Saturday Night Live , season 34 , episode 6 , on October 25 , 2008 , and played various roles , including Don Draper in two sketches . He returned to host again on January 30 and October 30 , 2010 .

In 2009 , Hamm guest starred in three episodes of the NBC situation comedy show 30 Rock , as Drew Baird , a doctor who is a neighbor and love interest of Liz Lemon 's ( Tina Fey ) . For these performances , he received three nominations for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series .

Hamm 's film projects post @-@ 2009 include the independent mystery thriller Stolen ( 2009 ) and his first leading role , in which he plays a man trying to demystify the circumstances surrounding his son 's kidnapping . The Hollywood Reporter 's Frank Scheck stated that the feature never came together , and that Hamm was unable to do much with his " underwritten role " .

Hamm had a voice cameo in the animated feature Shrek Forever After ( released in May 2010 ) , as an ogre leader named Brogan . Also that year , he appeared as an FBI agent in The Town ( 2010 ) , with Ben Affleck ; after receiving " about 40 scripts that were all set in the 60s , or had me playing advertising guys " , Hamm was pleased that the film offered a role " the opposite to Don Draper " . The feature received generally favorable reviews and earned \$ 144 million worldwide .

His next acting role was as defense attorney Jake Ehrlich in the independent drama Howl , based on Allen Ginsberg 's eponymous 1956 poem . On December 12 , 2010 , Hamm made a guest appearance as an FBI supervisor on Fox 's animated series The Simpsons .

Returning to film , he appeared in Zack Snyder 's action @-@ fantasy movie Sucker Punch ( 2011 ) , as the character High Roller , and the doctor . He also had a supporting role in the comedy Bridesmaids as Kristen Wiig 's " rude and arrogant sex buddy " . Hamm was next seen in the independent feature Friends with Kids ( 2011 ) , which he produced alongside his then @-@ partner Jennifer Westfeldt ; the story centers around a group of friends whose lives are changed as the couples in the group begin to have children .

He has a recurring role in the sitcom The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret , as the servant of sociopathic billionaire Dave Mountford ( Blake Harrison ) . The role is later revealed to , in fact , be a fictionalized version of Hamm complaining that being made into Dave 's servant has required him to be written out of four episodes of Mad Men .

Hamm hosted the 21st ESPYS Awards on July 17 , 2013 and played sports agent J.B. Bernstein in Disney 's sports drama Million Dollar Arm the following year .

Hamm starred alongside Daniel Radcliffe in the Ovation television dark comedy A Young Doctor 's Notebook , playing an older version of Radcliffe 's character , from December 2012 to December 2013 . He had a number of roles in 2015 , in the comedy shows Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt and Wet Hot American Summer : First Day of Camp , as well as the animated comedy Minions , as the voice of Herb Overkill . Minions was a major box office success ; despite mixed reviews , it grossed a total of over \$ 1 billion worldwide .

Hamm filmed the upcoming action comedy Keeping Up with the Joneses in the spring of 2015 , which also stars Zach Galifianakis and Gal Gadot and will be released in October 2016 after being pushed back seven months . His other upcoming film roles include the drama Aardvark , science fiction film Marjorie Prime ( both 2016 ) , and Edgar Wright 's comedy crime film Baby Driver in 2017 .

= = Personal life = =

In 1997 , Hamm began a relationship with actress and screenwriter Jennifer Westfeldt . They jointly

own homes in Los Angeles and the Upper West Side in New York . In an interview discussion about his relationship with Westfeldt , Hamm said : " We may not have a piece of paper that says we 're husband and wife , but after 10 years , Jennifer is more than just a girlfriend . What we have is much deeper and we both know that . To me , people [ should ] get married when they 're ready to have kids , which I 'm not ruling out . " Along with Westfeldt , Hamm has appeared in Gap @-@ related campaign advertisements . In April 2009 , Hamm and Westfeldt formed their own production company , Points West Pictures . Hamm and Westfeldt are advocates of animal rescue and have adopted a mixed breed dog named Cora from the Much Love Animal Shelter in California . In September 2015 , Hamm and Westfeldt announced they were ending their relationship .

Although his role as Don Draper required Hamm to smoke , he gave up smoking when he was 24 . On set he does not smoke actual cigarettes , but rather herbal cigarettes that do not contain tobacco or nicotine .

In March 2015 , Hamm 's representative confirmed that Hamm had recently completed inpatient treatment for alcoholism . Additionally , Hamm reported developing vitiligo throughout the filming of Mad Men .

Hamm identifies as a Democrat .

= = = Sports and related endorsements = = =

Hamm is an avid golfer and tennis player , and a devoted fan of the National Hockey League ( NHL ) team the St. Louis Blues ' ; he 's even appeared in two television spots advertising for the team . He is also a fan of the Major League Baseball ( MLB ) team the St. Louis Cardinals ' , and narrated the official highlight film for the 2011 World Series , which the Cardinals won . He is a cricket fan , too , having been introduced to the sport by Daniel Radcliffe when filming A Young Doctor 's Notebook .

= = = Other product endorsements = = =

In March 2010 , Mercedes @-@ Benz hired Hamm ( replacing actor Richard Thomas ) as their new voice actor for the S400 Hybrid campaign . In 2013 , American Airlines debuted a commercial titled " Change is in the Air " , featuring Hamm 's voice @-@ over . Hamm is an American Airlines frequent flier , and his Mad Men character Don Draper often spoke of aspiring to win such accounts as American Airlines .

= = Reception = =

Internationally viewed as a sex symbol , Hamm was named one of Salon.com 's Sexiest Man Living in 2007 and one of People magazine 's Sexiest Men Alive in 2008 . In November 2008 , Entertainment Weekly named him one of their Entertainers of the Year . He again was named one of the magazine 's Entertainers of the Year in 2010 . Hamm also won GQ 's " International Man " award in September 2010 .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = = Music videos = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =