

= Tom Friendly =

Tom Friendly , often referred to as Tom or Mr. Friendly , is a fictional character portrayed by M. C. Gainey on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) television series *Lost* . The series follows the lives of around forty survivors from the crash of Oceanic Flight 815 . The survivors find themselves on a mysterious tropical island , and interact with a group known as the Others , who appear to have lived on the island since long before the crash . Tom is an influential member of the Others , and is introduced in 2005 in the season one finale " Exodus : Part 2 " , where he kidnaps one of the survivors . The character makes another fifteen appearances before being killed in the season three finale " Through the Looking Glass " . Tom appears twice in season four in the flashbacks of other characters . Gainey was initially credited as playing " bearded man " and then as " Mr. Friendly " throughout season two before the character was given a first name . In a montage of deceased characters shown at Comic @-@ Con in 2009 , the *Lost* producers present the character 's full name as " Tom Friendly " .

Gainey accepted the role despite knowing nothing about it ; his sole motivation was a chance to work again with *Lost* producer Carlton Cuse . Speculation over Tom 's sexuality arose when he commented to Kate that she was " not [his] type " . Gainey began playing the character as such , and in season four Tom is shown kissing another man on the cheek . *Lost* producer Damon Lindelof commented that this revelation was " not subtle , to say the least " . Tom was received positively by critics , particularly in his first appearance .

= = Arc = =

In a flashback during " The Other Woman " , set around three years before the crash of Oceanic Flight 815 , Tom has a brief conversation with newly recruited Other Juliet Burke (Elizabeth Mitchell) , where he mentions he is a patient of therapist Harper Stanhope (Andrea Roth) . Shown in flashbacks during " Maternity Leave " , when Claire Littleton (Emilie de Ravin) is kidnapped by the Others a few weeks after the plane crash , Tom oversees Ethan Rom 's (William Mapother) progress at the Others ' medical station . He criticizes Ethan for kidnapping Claire before making " the list " . After forty @-@ four days on the Island , the survivors finish building a raft , with Michael Dawson (Harold Perrineau) , his ten @-@ year @-@ old son Walt Lloyd (Malcolm David Kelley) , James " Sawyer " Ford (Josh Holloway) and Jin @-@ Soo Kwon (Daniel Dae Kim) volunteering to sail it . Tom makes his first appearance in " Exodus : Part 2 " , where he arrives in a motorboat , wearing a fake beard and old clothes , with a crew of Others who kidnap Walt and destroy the raft . When Michael goes searching for the Others in the jungle , Tom captures him , and then confronts the other survivors who are looking for Michael . Tom warns them not to come any closer to the Others and then leaves with Michael in tow . A deal is made for Michael to bring Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox) , Kate Austen (Evangeline Lilly) , Sawyer and Hugo " Hurley " Reyes (Jorge Garcia) to the Others in exchange for Walt . In the second season finale " Live Together , Die Alone " , Michael successfully leads Jack , Kate , Sawyer and Hurley to the ambush point ; various Others including Tom sedate them and take them to a pier . There , Tom knocks Jack , Kate and Sawyer unconscious and transports them to a small island nearby .

In season three , Tom supervises an operation on Ben Linus (Michael Emerson) , the leader of the Others , which Jack is performing , and is blackmailed into letting Kate and Sawyer escape . He loses trust in Juliet , believing her to be plotting against Ben , and expresses his views to the Others ' sheriff , before returning to the Island . Shown in a flashback during season four , Tom leaves the Island and tracks down Michael in Manhattan , where Michael is trying to kill himself . He tells Michael that the Island will not let him die and gives him the address of his hotel penthouse . There , Tom convinces Michael to work for Ben , and instructs him to get a job as a janitor on board a freighter that is about to set sail from Fiji . When Michael arrives at the port Tom tells him to wait a day or two before activating an explosive device , to kill all the freighter crew , preventing them from reaching the Island . He returns to the barracks and is seen playing football with Jack . Shortly after this , he and the Others abandon the barracks , making camp in the jungle en route to the temple .

Tom is shocked when Ben agrees to take one of the survivors , John Locke (Terry O 'Quinn) , to see Jacob , Ben 's superior . His faith in Ben 's leadership is shaken , and ignores Ben 's calls to intervene when Locke begins to beat another Other , Mikhail Bakunin (Andrew Divoff) . When Ben returns from Jacob , he orders a raid on the survivors ' beach camp that night ; Tom is part of the party sent . In " Through the Looking Glass " , the season three finale , Jin , Sayid Jarrah (Naveen Andrews) and Bernard Nadler (Sam Anderson) are captured by the party , and Ben radios Tom to shoot them . This prearranged code is the signal for Tom to shoot three bullets into the ground , only pretending to kill the hostages , to mislead the rest of the survivors , who have been met by Ben . Afterwards Tom expresses regret at not finishing the hostages , as they killed seven of the Others . The arrival of Hurley in a van , along with Sawyer and Juliet , sees the rest of the attack party killed . Tom admits defeat and surrenders , but Sawyer shoots him in his heart , claiming his life as payment for taking Walt off the raft . Juliet later buries Tom near the jungle along with his team of deceased Others .

= = Characteristics = =

When Tom is introduced in the first season finale , he wears a fake beard and old clothes . He continues to appear under this guise throughout the second season , only revealing his beard to be fake in the finale . M. C. Gainey , the actor who portrays Tom , was only informed that his character 's beard was fake near the end of season two . The producers describe Tom as " friendly " , earning him the nickname " Mr. Friendly " . One critic has described him as " sarcastic " and " bright " . Tom 's dislike of blood causes him to struggle while supervising Ben 's operation , which Emerson believes makes him " cuddly " . Gainey does not think he is very similar to Tom , commenting , " He seems to be very loyal and I 'm a very loyal person so I have that in common , but other than that , I don 't really know what he 's about . He seems much more socially awkward than I am . " After Tom was revealed to be gay during season four , M. C. Gainey stated that " anytime you 've got a group of people , somebody 's got to be marching to a different drummer - that would be Tom Friendly . "

= = Development = =

M. C. Gainey first met Lost producer Carlton Cuse while working on The Adventures of Brisco County , Jr . The opportunity to work with Cuse again was motivation enough to take the part of Tom , even without a script or description of the character . Gainey watches every episode of the series , but admits to not knowing what is happening much of the time . In his first appearance , in the season one finale " Exodus : Part 2 " , Gainey was credited as " bearded man " , and was lovingly called " Gay Tom " in season 4 @.@ then in his season two appearances as " Mr. Friendly " . In the Official Lost Podcast , Damon Lindelof confirmed Mr. Friendly is not his real name , but is how the producers refer to him internally , because " he 's so friendly " ; however , his surname was later suggested to actually be Friendly during Comic @-@ Con 2009 . He is nicknamed " Zeke " by Sawyer in " The Hunting Party " , which led to some critics using this name for him . In the season two finale " Live Together , Die Alone " , his name is revealed to be Tom . On his character 's death , Gainey noted that " just because they kill you on this show , don 't mean they don 't need you anymore ' cause everybody 's got a past . "

In the third season premiere " A Tale of Two Cities " , Tom tells Kate that she is not his type . This comment resulted in online discussion in regard to Tom 's sexual orientation , and Lindelof and Cuse hinted that a Lost character would later be outed . Gainey joked , " if [Kate 's] not your type , you 're gay " , and began playing the character as such . He tried to subtly flirt with Jack , claiming that this attraction " got [him] through the first half of the season . " In the fourth season episode " Meet Kevin Johnson " , Tom is seen kissing his New York lover Arturo (Francesco Simone) . After the broadcast of " Meet Kevin Johnson " , Lindelof and Cuse confirmed that the line from the third season premiere is an allusion to Tom 's sexuality , but felt that it needed to be explicitly confirmed in the show , although Lindelof noted that the confirmation scene in " Meet Kevin Johnson " " was not subtle , to say the least " . Lost writer Edward Kitsis stated that " It was great to see [Tom] and

realize that ... he is a true gentleman . "

= = Reception = =

Chris Carabott from IGN " loved " Tom 's first appearance because " It 's a great scene and our first introduction to The Others besides Ethan 's infiltration of the camp . " Gainey found the fan reaction to his first appearance " really tough " , because " everywhere [he] went people would just give [him] dirty looks and they were like ' What are you going to do with that boy ? ' " , but he noted this gradually improved after his appearances in season two . Erin Martell from AOL 's TV Squad listed Tom in her five " most entertaining guest roles " from the first three seasons , commenting " I am counting his first episode as my favorite . For my money , there was nothing more disturbing than when Gainey showed up out of the blue and uttered the words , ' We 're gonna have to take the boy . ' I could not get that scene out of my head for days after ' Exodus ' aired . Ben has made Tom seem relatively less menacing over time , but I have a feeling that the terrifying , bearded sea captain is still in there somewhere . " In her review of the season four episode " The Other Woman " , Nikki Stafford of Wizard called the return of her " favorite Other " (Tom) a " highlight " . Following his posthumous flashback appearance in " Meet Kevin Johnson " , Martell said " Now I feel even worse about his death . He wasn 't just one of Ben 's scary , Walt @-@ napping minions . He had a heart . " Tim Goodman from the San Francisco Chronicle thought the revelation that Tom is gay was a " unique and funny twist " . Jay Glatfelter of The Huffington Post noted this revelation " seemed a little oddly placed , kind of like ' Let 's make one of our characters gay just for the heck of it ' but still it 's cool that the show has a perfectly normal (well for an ' Other ') not over @-@ the @-@ top gay character . "