

= Eric Bana =

Eric Banadinovi? ( born 9 August 1968 ) , known professionally as Eric Bana , is an Australian actor and comedian . He began his career in the sketch comedy series Full Frontal before gaining critical recognition in the biographical crime film Chopper ( 2000 ) . After a decade of roles in Australian TV shows and films , Bana gained Hollywood 's attention for his performance in the war film Black Hawk Down ( 2001 ) and by playing the title character in the Ang Lee 's Marvel Comics film Hulk ( 2003 ) . He has since played Hector in the movie Troy ( 2004 ) , the lead in Steven Spielberg 's historical drama and political thriller Munich ( 2005 ) , Henry VIII in The Other Boleyn Girl ( 2008 ) , and the villain Nero in the science @-@ fiction film Star Trek , ( 2009 ) . In 2013 , he played Lt. Cmdr. Erik S. Kristensen in the war film Lone Survivor and in the following year he played police sergeant Ralph Sarchie in the horror film Deliver Us from Evil .

An accomplished dramatic actor and comedian , he received Australia 's highest film and television awards for his performances in Chopper , Full Frontal and Romulus , My Father . Bana has performed across a wide spectrum of leading roles in a variety of low @-@ budget and major studio films , ranging from romantic comedies and drama to science fiction and action thrillers .

= = Early life = =

Bana was born in Melbourne , Victoria . His father , Ivan , was Croatian and worked as a logistics manager for Caterpillar , Inc . , and his mother , Eleanor , was a hairdresser , originally from near Mannheim in Germany . He has one older brother , Anthony . Bana grew up in Melbourne 's Tullamarine , a suburban area on the northern edge of the city , near Melbourne 's international airport , and attended Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School . In a cover story for the Mail on Sunday , he told author Antonella Gambotto @-@ Burke that his family had suffered from racist taunts , and that it had distressed him . " Wog is such a terrible word , " he said . He has stated : " I have always been proud of my origin , which had a big influence on my upbringing . I have always been in the company of people of European origin " .

Showing acting skill early in life , Bana began doing impressions of family members at the age of six or seven , first mimicking his grandfather 's walk , voice and mannerisms . In school , he mimicked his teachers as a means to get out of trouble . As a teen , he watched the Mel Gibson film Mad Max ( 1979 ) , and decided he wanted to become an actor . However , he did not seriously consider a career in the performing arts until 1991 when he was persuaded to try comedy while working as a barman at Melbourne 's Castle Hotel . His stand @-@ up gigs in inner @-@ city pubs did not provide him with enough income to support himself , however , so he continued his work as a barman and waiting tables .

= = Career = =

= = = Beginnings = = =

In 1993 , Bana made his television debut on Steve Vizard 's late night talk show , Tonight Live . His performance gained the attention of producers from the sketch comedy series , Full Frontal , who invited him to join the show as a writer and performer . During his four years on the show , Bana wrote much of his own material , and based some of his characters on members of his family . His impressions of Columbo , Arnold Schwarzenegger , Sylvester Stallone , and Tom Cruise made Bana popular with the show 's audience . This success led him to record the comedy album Out of Bounds in 1994 and to host his own television special , titled Eric , in 1996 . The show , a collection of sketches featuring everyday characters , prompted him to launch a sketch comedy series The Eric Bana Show . The series , written and performed by Bana , featured skits , stand @-@ up and celebrity guests , but failed to attract a substantial audience and was cancelled after only eight episodes due to low ratings . Even so , in 1997 , he received a Logie Award for " Most Popular

Comedy Personality " for his work on the show .

That same year , Bana made his film debut in the Australian film *The Castle* , which tells the story of a Melbourne @-@ based family 's struggles to keep their home by Melbourne 's airport as the airport authority force them to move . He was featured in a supporting role as Con Petropoulos , a kickboxing accountant who is the householder 's son @-@ in @-@ law . *The Castle* was a surprise critical and financial success , earning A \$ 10 @, @ 326 @, @ 428 at the box office in Australia .

= = = 1997 ? 2005 = = =

In 1997 , in spite of his lack of experience in dramatic roles , Bana was approached by director Andrew Dominik to appear in the film *Chopper* ( 2000 ) , a biographical film based on the life of infamous Australian criminal Chopper Read . Dominik had been working on the project for five years , but was unable to find an actor to portray Read . Only after Read himself suggested Bana , having seen him perform a skit on television , did Dominik consider him for the part .

For the role , Bana shaved his head , gained thirty pounds , and spent two days with Read to perfect his mimicry . During filming he arrived on set at four in the morning and spent five hours being covered in Read 's trademark tattoos . In spite of the film 's limited release outside of Australia , Bana 's performance received positive reviews . American film critic Roger Ebert complimented Bana , stating that " in a comedian named Eric Bana the filmmakers have found , I think , a future star ... He has a quality no acting school can teach you and few actors can match . You cannot look away from him " . *Chopper* was a critical and financial success in Australia , and was nominated for Best Film at the Australian Film Institute Awards in 2001 . Bana 's performance won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Actor .

In 2001 , director Ridley Scott cast Bana as an American soldier in the film *Black Hawk Down* ( 2001 ) . Scott , with a recommendation from Russell Crowe and impressed by Bana 's performance in *Chopper* , did not require him to audition . In the film , he played Sergeant First Class Norm ' Hoot ' Hooten , an elite Delta Force soldier , who fights his way out of a battle in Mogadishu , Somalia after a mission to capture two top lieutenants of a renegade warlord goes awry . Bana shed the weight he had gained for *Chopper* and began an exercise regimen months before filming began . He also trained with Delta Force operators at Fort Bragg , learning to fire weapons and clear rooms .

Bana 's next project was the low @-@ budget Australian film *The Nugget* ( 2002 ) . A comedy , the film portrays the effect of instant wealth on three working class men and was released with moderate success in Australia . Bana read the script after filming *Chopper* in 2000 and was drawn to it because it reminded him of his childhood and because he found its characters amusing and likeable . While filming *The Nugget* , Bana was offered the lead role of Bruce Banner in the film adaptation of the popular Marvel Comic book series *The Incredible Hulk* . Only after learning of director Ang Lee 's involvement in the project did he consider the role . Bana admired Lee for his work on the film *The Ice Storm* and agreed to work on the film before the final script was complete . He said he was drawn to the film because " the character of Bruce Banner had dramatic potential " and was " a fairly non @-@ traditional superhero " . *Hulk* ( 2003 ) received mixed reviews and a moderate success at the box office , but Bana 's performance was praised : Jack Matthews of the *New York Daily News* felt that Bana played the role of Bruce Banner " with great conviction " . Bana earned an Academy of Science Fiction , Fantasy & Horror Films nomination for " Cinescape Genre Face of the Future " for the film .

In 2004 , Bana co @-@ starred with Brad Pitt in the big @-@ budget film *Troy* . In the film , he played Prince Hector , leader of the Trojan forces battling against the Greek warrior Achilles . Director Wolfgang Petersen offered him a role in the film after meeting with Brad Pitt , a fan of *Chopper* . The film was an international success , grossing US \$ 364 million , with US \$ 133 million in the US .

= = = 2005 ? present = = =

After the critical disappointment of *Hulk* and *Troy* , critics questioned Bana 's bankability in big @-@

budget films . He responded in Empire Magazine : " It 's not like it [ Hulk ] was a flop . When you 're on a long shoot it is a long personal investment . If I wasn 't happy with the end result I 'd be bloody upset , but in every case so far I 've been happy . Troy could take \$ 50 and I wouldn 't regret it . "

The following year , Bana co -@-@ starred with Daniel Craig and Geoffrey Rush in Steven Spielberg 's controversial film Munich . Bana played Avner , a Mossad agent , who is ordered to track down and kill the Black September terrorists thought to be responsible for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics . The film was a critical success , and was nominated for five Academy Awards in 2006 . The Los Angeles Times wrote that Bana as Avner " projects a combination of sensitivity and ruthlessness and ... knows how to present a face for which worry is a new experience . "

In 2006 , Bana was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences . Lucky You , a romantic comedy on which Bana worked before filming Munich , was released in early 2007 . In the film , he played Huck Cheever , a professional poker player who must overcome his personal problems to win a high @-@ stakes tournament in Las Vegas . His next film was the Australian drama Romulus , My Father ( 2007 ) . The film , based on Raimond Gaita 's memoir of the same name , portrays a couple and their struggle in the face of adversity to raise their son . The film was a critical success , and Bana 's performance earned him a second Australian Film Institute Award for Best Actor . In 2007 , he also returned to his Australian TV roots by appearing in hit comedy Kath & Kim as himself .

Bana 's next project was the historical drama The Other Boleyn Girl ( 2008 ) . In the film he played Henry VIII of England opposite Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman . Bana was surprised to be offered the role and admitted that he " probably would have just passed it on without even opening it " if it had been presented to him under a different title . The following year , he co @-@ starred with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto in the science fiction film Star Trek . In the film , Bana played Nero , a Romulan mining ship captain who attempts to exact revenge on Spock , whom he blames for the destruction of his homeworld and its inhabitants . The film was a critical success and grossed over US \$ 380 million worldwide .

In August 2009 , he appeared as Henry DeTamble in the film adaptation of The Time Traveler 's Wife . Bana also co @-@ starred with Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen in Judd Apatow 's third directorial feature , about stand @-@ up comics , titled Funny People , marking Bana 's first appearance in an American mainstream comedy .

In 2009 , Bana released a self @-@ produced and directed documentary @-@ style film called Love the Beast . It details his personal relationship with his first car and follows his progression as a car lover . Along the way he seeks guidance and wisdom from the inner sanctum of his three lifelong friends , as well as celebrities Jay Leno , Jeremy Clarkson , and Dr. Phil . In 2011 , Bana appeared as Erik Heller in the action thriller film Hanna , starring alongside Saoirse Ronan and Cate Blanchett . The film became another success for Bana as it opened at No. 2 at the United States box office . Having read Marcus Luttrell 's autobiographical account as a United States Navy SEAL , Lone Survivor , he was willing to appear in the 2013 film adaptation regardless of which role he was offered . In the film , he portrayed Lieutenant Commander Erik S. Kristensen . The following year he starred as Ralph Sarchie , a police sergeant who investigated paranormal cases , in the supernatural horror film Deliver Us from Evil . The film was released on 2 July 2014 and grossed US \$ 87 @. @ 9 million worldwide . In April 2016 , he starred as Frank Bonneville , a struggling radio journalist , in Ricky Gervais ' Special Correspondents on Netflix .

= = Personal life = =

In 1995 , while working on the television series Full Frontal , Bana began dating Rebecca Gleeson , a publicist with the Seven Network and daughter of then Chief Justice of New South Wales , and later Chief Justice of Australia , Murray Gleeson . They married in 1997 , after Bana proposed to her on a trip to the United States , which he won from Cleo Magazine after being named their " Bachelor of the Year " in 1996 . Bana and Gleeson have two children , a son , Klaus ( born August 1999 ) , and a daughter , Sophia ( born April 2002 ) . They live in Melbourne . On official identity documents

he still has his birth surname , Banadinovi? .

== Interests and hobbies ==

Bana is a motor racing enthusiast , and participates in various motor racing competitions in Australia . At the age of fourteen , Bana wanted to leave school to focus full @-@ time on becoming a motor mechanic , but his father convinced him to complete school , advising him to avoid making his hobby a job . Bana purchased his first car , a 1974 XB Ford Falcon coupé , at the age of fifteen for A \$ 1100 and driving it , made his motor sport racing debut in 1996 's Targa Tasmania , a week @-@ long race around the island state of Tasmania . ( Bana has had this car for more than a quarter century . In 2009 he released a documentary named Love The Beast . The film details the central role that racing and fixing this same car has played in his life and the lives of his friends . ) In 2004 , Bana purchased a Porsche 944 to compete in Australia 's Porsche Challenge . Competing throughout 2004 , he often finished in the top ten and in November , finished fourth at the Sandown event , a personal best . On 21 April 2007 Bana crashed his 1974 XB Falcon Coupe in the Targa Tasmania rally . Neither he nor his co @-@ driver were injured . Bana appeared on the British motoring show Top Gear on 15 November 2009 as a guest for its " Star in a Reasonably Priced Car " segment .

Bana is a prominent fan of Australian rules football . His love of the sport began at a young age when his godfather took him to games to see the St Kilda Football Club , his favourite team in the Australian Football League . Bana can often be seen at AFL games when he is back in Australia . Bana 's love for St Kilda FC resulted in the club being featured in the film Funny People and in Bana 's promotion of the film in 2009 , notably on NBC 's Late Night with Jimmy Fallon . In 2010 , Bana was named the " Saints Number One Ticket Holder " .

== Charitable work ==

Bana is an ambassador for Father Chris Riley 's charity for homeless young people , Youth off the Streets , and has appeared with Father Chris in advertisements to support the organisation 's annual appeal . Bana is also an advocate for the Mental Illness Fellowship , which works to increase the awareness of mental illness in Australia . In 2004 , he appeared in several high profile advertisements for the fellowship . Bana is also active in campaigns with the Australian Childhood Foundation and the Bone Marrow Donor Institute . Since 1995 , he has participated in the Motorcycle Riders Association Toy Run in Melbourne , which raises money and toys for needy children at Christmas .

In 2005 , Bana narrated the documentary Terrors of Tasmania about the endangered Tasmanian devil . The film followed the life of a female Tasmanian Devil called Manganinnie and discussed the incurable facial cancer which threatens the survival of the species . He has also worked with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals , donating money to animal shelters in Berlin while filming Troy in 2004 .

In 2007 , Bana introduced the episode Some Meaning in This Life of the ABC @-@ TV documentary series Australian Story . The episode paid tribute to Australian actress Belinda Emmett ( who co @-@ starred with Bana in the film The Nugget ) and her long struggle with cancer to which she had succumbed the previous year .

== Filmography ==

== Film ==

== Television ==

== Video games ==

== Accolades ==