

= Eric McCormack =

Eric James McCormack (born April 18 , 1963) is a Canadian @-@ American actor , musician , and writer . Born in Toronto , he began his acting career performing in high school plays . He left Ryerson University in 1985 to accept a position with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival , where he spent five years performing in numerous play productions .

For much of the late 1990s , he lived in Los Angeles and had minor roles . He made his feature film debut in the 1992 science @-@ fiction adventure film *The Lost World* . McCormack appeared in several television series , including *Top Cops* , *Street Justice* , *Lonesome Dove : The Series* , *Townies* , and *Ally McBeal* . McCormack later gained worldwide recognition for playing Will Truman in the American sitcom *Will & Grace* , which premiered in September 1998 . His performance earned him a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series in 2001 .

Aside from appearing in television , he made his Broadway debut in the 2001 production of *The Music Man* and starred in the 2005 film *The Sisters* . Following the series conclusion of *Will & Grace* in 2006 , McCormack starred as the leading role in the New York production of *Some Girl (s)* . He starred in the television miniseries *The Andromeda Strain* (2008) and returned to television in 2009 in the TNT drama *Trust Me* , which was cancelled after one season . Also in 2009 , McCormack was cast in the science @-@ fiction movie *Alien Trespass* . In addition , he starred as Dr. Daniel Pierce for three seasons of the TNT crime drama *Perception* , and provided the voice of " Lucky " on *The Hub 's Pound Puppies* .

= = Early life = =

McCormack was born in Toronto , Ontario , Canada , the son of Doris (1932 @-@ 2006) , a homemaker , and Keith McCormack , an oil company financial analyst . He is the oldest of three siblings . McCormack has Scottish ancestry . McCormack states while he was growing up , he was shy and did not play sports . McCormack attended Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute High School in Scarborough , Ontario . There , he enrolled in theatre and performed in high school productions of *Godspell* and *Pippin* , and decided to pursue a career in acting . McCormack recalls after performing in *Godspell* , his feelings towards becoming an actor solidified . " ... I remember after the first performance of that ... I knew where to fit in . That was the beginning of my life as an actor . It changed me in that the concept of any other options disappeared . From that moment there was no question . I knew exactly what I was going to do . I 'm lucky that way . " He admits that he never felt cool growing up . " I was a bit of an outsider , but I discovered theatre very early on , which got me through . " He then transferred to Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate Institute in Scarborough , where he went to school with David Furnish . He graduated in 1982 .

McCormack enrolled at Ryerson University School of Theatre in Toronto to further improve his acting . He left Ryerson in 1985 , several months before graduating , to accept a position with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford , Ontario , where he spent five seasons performing . " It was all I wanted , to be a classical actor for the rest of my life , but during the last couple of years I was there , I started to realise that it wasn 't for me . Perhaps I didn 't have to give my Hamlet before I died , that the world might be an OK place without my Hamlet , in fact . " McCormack appeared in the productions *A Midsummer Night 's Dream* , *Henry V* , *Murder in the Cathedral* and *Three Sisters* . McCormack later performed with the Manitoba Theatre Centre in a production of *Burn This* , as well as with Toronto 's Royal Alexandra Theatre in *Biloxi Blues* .

= = Career = =

= = = Early work = = =

McCormack made his Canadian television debut in the 1986 movie *The Boys from Syracuse* . McCormack moved to Los Angeles , California , and made his US television debut in a 1991

episode of the CBS crime series Top Cops . He appeared in the 1992 theatrical film The Lost World , based on Conan Doyle 's novel of the same name and starred in The Lost World sequel , Return to the Lost World , also released in 1992 . By 1993 , he landed a recurring role as a detective in the crime drama Street Justice . Also in 1993 , McCormack appeared in the television movie Double , Double , Toil and Trouble , playing Mary @-@ Kate and Ashley Olsen 's father .

He played the role of Colonel Francis Clay Mosby in 42 episodes of the Western television series Lonesome Dove : The Series (1994) and Lonesome Dove : The Outlaw Years (1995) . McCormack commented that it was a " fantastic role " . In an interview with The Guardian in 2003 , McCormack admitted to auditioning " two or three times " for the part of Ross Geller , which ultimately went to David Schwimmer , for the situation comedy Friends . In 1995 , he appeared in the television film The Man Who Wouldn 't Die . He was cast in the 1997 made @-@ for @-@ television movie Borrowed Hearts , where he portrayed a selfish businessman who learns to love , and in the HBO film Exception to the Rule , in which he played a cheating husband .

Also in 1997 , he had minor roles in the comedy shows Townies , Veronica 's Closet , and Ally McBeal . Originally , McCormack was scheduled to appear as a series regular in the NBC sitcom Jenny , but was fired after the pilot due to the network cutting his character .

= = = Will & Grace = = =

McCormack received his break @-@ through role in 1998 when he was cast as gay lawyer Will Truman on the NBC sitcom Will & Grace . McCormack said that when the part came along , he was convinced he was right for the role . " At the end of the audition , Max Mutchnick , co @-@ creator and executive producer of the show] said ' That was perfect . Just to let you know , you never have to be more gay than that . ' " He explained that when he first read the script , " what hit me immediately was that this was me . I mean , sexual orientation aside , Will was so much like me . He 's a great host , he 's relatively funny and he has great friends and he 's a good friend to them ... the gay issue just wasn 't really a big thing . " The show debuted on September 21 , 1998 and was watched by almost 8 @.@ 6 million American viewers . Will & Grace quickly developed a loyal audience , with the show and McCormack receiving strong reviews . John Carman of the San Francisco Chronicle commented that McCormack and costar Debra Messing (who played Will 's best friend Grace Adler) worked " nicely " together . Kay McFadden of The Seattle Times also praised McCormack , Messing , and the supporting cast as " very funny " . For this performance , he earned four Emmy Award nominations (2000 , 2001 , 2003 , 2005) , one of which resulted in a win (2001) , for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series . In addition , he received five Golden Globe Award nominations .

Also in 1998 , McCormack appeared in Stephen Herek 's comedy film Holy Man . The film was critically and financially unsuccessful . The following year he starred in the comedy movie Free Enterprise (1999) , a movie about two filmmakers (McCormack and Rafer Weigel) obsessed with actor William Shatner and Star Trek . Film critic Kevin Thomas of the Los Angeles Times wrote that McCormack and Weigel " both make a strong impression " . In 2000 , McCormack appeared in the ABC television movie The Audrey Hepburn Story , portraying actor Mel Ferrer .

During the 2001 Broadway season , McCormack briefly portrayed Professor Harold Hill (replacing Craig Bierko) in the Susan Stroman revival of The Music Man at the Neil Simon Theatre . In August 2002 , as part of the Hollywood Bowl 's summer concert series , he reprised the role of Harold Hill for a one @-@ night only appearance in which he and other actors recreated the songs from the production . McCormack hosted the fourth episode of the 28th season of the sketch comedy show Saturday Night Live on November 2 , 2002 . In 2004 , he had a recurring role as Ray Summers on Showtime 's comedy drama Dead Like Me . The following year , McCormack starred in the film The Sisters , based on Anton Chekhov 's play Three Sisters . The film premiered at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival .

Will & Grace 's eighth and final season ended with the series finale on May 18 , 2006 . The finale garnered 18 million American viewers , making it the most @-@ watched entertainment telecast in six years .

= = = After Will & Grace = = =

Following the end of Will & Grace , McCormack starred on the New York stage opposite Fran Drescher , Judy Reyes , Brooke Smith , and Maura Tierney , in Neil LaBute 's Off Broadway play Some Girl (s) at the Lucille Lortel Theatre . He plays a writer who is ready to settle down and marry , but decides to visit four ex @-@ girlfriends first . For his performance , McCormack received critical reviews . New York Times contributor Ben Brantley , in review of the production , wrote : " Playing a thoughtless , woman @-@ despising heterosexual , Mr. McCormack isn 't much different from when he was playing a thoughtful , woman @-@ worshiping homosexual . As in Will & Grace , he italicizes every other line for maximum comic spin and punctuates his dialogue by earnestly furrowing his features " . Brantley went on to say that McCormack 's interpretation of the character is " certainly a more slickly sustained performance " than the one delivered by David Schwimmer in 2005 . Melissa Rose Bernardo of Entertainment Weekly commented that McCormack and Maura Tierney " have incredible chemistry " .

In the same year , McCormack produced the Lifetime comedy Lovespring International , a show that revolves around six employees at Lovespring International , a dating agency located in California as an " elite Beverly Hills " company . The series debuted to ambivalent reviews , with Matthew Gilbert of The Boston Globe commenting that Lovespring International is " a lively little cable exercise in over @-@ the @-@ top characters , bad taste , satire , and political incorrectness . " The show was cancelled that same year .

In 2008 , McCormack co @-@ starred in the A & E television miniseries The Andromeda Strain , a remake of the 1971 movie based on the novel by Michael Crichton . In the miniseries , he played Jack Nash , a television reporter who battles an addiction to cocaine . The Andromeda Strain received mixed reviews , and McCormack 's performance was criticized . Joanna Weiss of the Boston Globe wrote , " The presence of Eric McCormack , as an intrepid TV reporter , is especially extraneous (no disrespect to intrepid reporters) . " Robert Bianco of USA Today commented , " The central cast is completed by ... poor Eric McCormack as a crusading , coke @-@ addicted journalist who spends the second half of the movie playing Rambo in the desert . Let 's just say McCormack does the best he can with what he 's given , and leave it at that . " On September 5 , 2008 , McCormack made a guest appearance in the seventh season and 100th episode of the television series Monk , where he played an unctuous host of a television crime docudrama .

In January 2009 , McCormack returned to television in the TNT drama Trust Me , co @-@ starring Tom Cavanagh . The series , set around a fictional advertising firm , starred McCormack as Mason McGuire , the firm 's newly promoted creative director , and deals with his best friend 's (Cavanagh) unpredictable behavior . In an interview with USA Weekend , McCormack revealed he was not afraid of being typecast . McCormack 's decision to do the show was due to " great writing " . The show debuted on January 26 , 2009 , and was watched by almost 3 @. 4 million viewers . Trust Me debuted to very positive reviews , with Tim Goodman of the San Francisco Chronicle writing , " ... the series is surprisingly solid . " Mary McNamara of the Los Angeles Times wrote that McCormack and Cavanagh " manage to keep their characters sharply defined but low @-@ key . They are opposites but not in an ash @-@ smudged , Windex @-@ wielding Felix and Oscar way . " The series , however , was cancelled after one season , due to poor ratings .

McCormack starred in the science @-@ fiction film Alien Trespass (2009) , in which he played Doctor Ted Lewis , who gets possessed by an alien marshal , Urp , after he crash @-@ lands on Earth . When asked about his interpretation on the character , McCormack commented that his first instinct was to make Ted Lewis more alien , sounding like Spock . The film was critically and financially unsuccessful .

In May 2009 , he portrayed " El Gallo " in Reprise Theatre Company 's revival of the 1960s musical The Fantasticks at UCLA 's Freud Playhouse . McCormack had a supporting role in Richard Loncraine 's comedy My One and Only , which was released in August 2009 .

On September 30 , 2009 , he guest @-@ starred on the police procedural drama Law & Order : Special Victims Unit in the second episode of its 11th season playing an owner of a dating website .

In addition , McCormack had a recurring role in season five of the comedy series The New Adventures of Old Christine , in which he played a therapist and love interest for Julia Louis @-@ Dreyfus 's character , Christine .

McCormack portrayed con artist Clark Rockefeller in the Lifetime television movie Who Is Clark Rockefeller ? , which premiered on March 13 , 2010 . To prepare for the role , he read everything on the case , including coverage of the case and Rockefeller 's jailhouse interview . Who Is Clark Rockefeller ? received mixed reaction , but McCormack 's performance was favored by critics , with Variety 's Brian Lowry concluding , " ... the real kitsch factor resides in Eric McCormack 's performance as the suave charmer , which adds an element of high camp to the proceedings . "

In June 2010 , McCormack received the NBC Universal Canada Award of Distinction at the Banff TV Festival . In October 2010 , McCormack received a star on Canada 's Walk of Fame .

In October 2010 , it was reported that McCormack would star in a new TNT television drama , Perception , playing a crime @-@ solving neuroscientist named Dr. Daniel Pierce , who works with the federal government to solve cases using his knowledge and imaginative view of the world . Perception premiered on July 9 , 2012 . McCormack also serves as producer for the show . He also provides the voice of " Lucky " on The Hub 's Pound Puppies series , which premiered October 10 , 2010

In February 2015 , he guest @-@ starred on an episode of NBC 's The Mysteries of Laura which stars Debra Messing , his former co @-@ star on Will & Grace .

= = Other projects = =

McCormack has set up his own production company called Big Cattle Productions to develop ideas for television . The projects produced by the company include Lovespring International and Imperfect Union . In 2003 , it was confirmed that he would write , direct , and star in the romantic comedy What You Wish For .

McCormack recorded a song , " The Greatest Discovery " , which was written by Elton John and Bernie Taupin in 1970 , for the 2006 album Unexpected Dreams ? Songs From the Stars . He also wrote and sang a song called " Living with Grace " for the 2004 soundtrack to Will & Grace with piano music provided by Barry Manilow .

= = Personal life = =

McCormack has been married to Janet Leigh Holden , whom he met on the set of Lonesome Dove , since August 1997 . They have a son , Finnigan Holden McCormack , born on July 1 , 2002 , in Los Angeles . McCormack maintains residences in Los Angeles and Vancouver . He became a US citizen in 1999 and holds dual Canadian and US citizenship .

McCormack is involved in many Los Angeles and Canadian @-@ based charitable organizations including Project Angel Food . The Wellness Community West Los Angeles Tribute to the Human Spirit Awards dinner presented an award to McCormack for his breast cancer awareness advocacy . He shared with the audience how his comedy helped his mother , Doris McCormack , endure her breast cancer treatments . Doris was honored at the Lifetime 's Breast Cancer Heroes Luncheon in 2004 . He serves as an honorary board member of the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) and was given the MMRF Spirit of Hope Award in October 2006 .

McCormack sang both the American and Canadian national anthems at the 2004 NHL All @-@ Star game in Minnesota . McCormack is a supporter of same @-@ sex marriage and attended a march in Fresno , California , on May 30 , 2009 , after the Supreme Court of California upheld a ban on same @-@ sex marriage approved by voters in November by ballot Proposition 8 .

McCormack identifies as a Democrat .

= = Filmography = =

== Film ==

== Television ==

== Awards and nominations ==