

= Matt Smith (actor) =

Matthew Robert " Matt " Smith (born 28 October 1982) is an English actor . He is best known for his role as the Eleventh Doctor in the BBC science fiction series Doctor Who , for which he received a BAFTA Award nomination in 2011 .

Smith initially aspired to be a professional footballer , but spondylolysis forced him out of the sport . After joining the National Youth Theatre and studying Drama and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia , he became an actor in 2003 , performing in plays like Murder in the Cathedral , Fresh Kills , The History Boys , and On the Shore of the Wide World in London theatres . Extending his repertoire into West End theatre , he has since performed in the stage adaptation of Swimming with Sharks with Christian Slater , followed a year later by a critically acclaimed performance as Henry in That Face .

Before his role in Doctor Who , Smith 's first television role came in 2006 as Jim Taylor in the BBC adaptations of Philip Pullman 's The Ruby in the Smoke and The Shadow in the North , while his first major role in television came as Danny in the 2007 BBC series Party Animals . Smith , who was announced as the eleventh incarnation of the Doctor in January 2009 , is the youngest person to play the character in the British television series . He left the series at the end of the 2013 Christmas Day special , " The Time of the Doctor " . He portrayed both the physical embodiment and a holographic version of Skynet in the Terminator Genisys (2015) and is expected to return if sequels are made .

= = Early life = =

Smith was born and raised in Northampton , the son of David and Lynne Smith . He attended Northampton School for Boys . He had planned to be a professional football player , having played for the youth teams of Northampton Town , Nottingham Forest , and Leicester City . After a serious back injury ruined this career , his drama teacher introduced him to acting by signing him up as the tenth juror in an adaptation of Twelve Angry Men without his consent . Although he took part in the play , he refused to attend a drama festival for which his teacher had also signed him up , as he saw himself as a football player and did not view acting as socially acceptable . His drama teacher persisted , and eventually persuaded him to join the National Youth Theatre in London .

After leaving school , Smith studied drama and creative writing at the University of East Anglia , graduating in 2005 . His first theatre roles as part of the National Youth Theatre were Thomas Becket in Murder in the Cathedral and Bassoon in The Master and Margarita . His role in the latter earned him an agent and his first professional jobs , Fresh Kills and On the Shore of the Wide World . His new professional roles led him to seek an agreement with his university so that he could graduate without attending lectures in his final year .

= = Career = =

= = = Television = = =

Smith 's first television role was as Jim Taylor in the BBC adaptations of the Sally Lockhart quartet books The Ruby in the Smoke and The Shadow in the North . His first major television role came in the television series Party Animals , a BBC television drama series about fictional parliamentary advisors and researchers in Westminster . In Party Animals , Smith portrays Danny Foster , a parliamentary researcher to Jo Porter (Raquel Cassidy) , a Labour politician and junior Home Office minister . At 26 years old , Danny is described as an intelligent but timid " politics geek " who should have moved on from researching at his age . Within the series ' narrative , he attempts to balance his affections for Kirsty MacKenzie (Andrea Riseborough) , his intern , while trying to prevent Porter 's imminent decline .

In an interview in 2007 , Smith discussed his character 's motivations . He summarised Danny as

having a romantic outlook of the political world while being cynical elsewhere . The character was drawn into politics by his father and his own political drive . He defended his character 's age by characterising him as being loyal to Porter , instead of being incompetent . He talked about his character 's emotional and intellectual maturity : emotionally , he lacks confidence around women ? most notably seen with his unrequited love towards Kirsty ? but Smith portrays Danny as a caring and sensitive but " wry , sarcastic , [and] witty " romantic ; and intellectually , Danny is portrayed as attentive and possessing a strong work ethic .

= = = Doctor Who = = =

Smith was revealed as the Eleventh Doctor in the British science @-@ fiction television series Doctor Who in January 2009 to replace David Tennant , who announced his departure in October 2008 . Smith was a relatively unknown actor compared to the actors then speculated about possibly taking on the role , who included Paterson Joseph , David Morrissey , Sean Pertwee , James Nesbitt , Russell Tovey , Catherine Zeta @-@ Jones , Chiwetel Ejiofor , Robert Carlyle , and Billie Piper . Smith was first named as a possible successor less than a day before he was announced as the Eleventh Doctor , on edition of 3 January 2009 of BBC Breakfast , among the names speculated about . His obscurity prompted the news headline " Doctor Who ? " , a riff on the show 's title .

Smith was one of the earliest actors to audition for the role , performing on the first day . The production team , consisting of the incoming producer , Steven Moffat , and BBC Wales Head of Drama and executive producer , Piers Wenger , immediately singled him out based on his performance . Smith additionally auditioned for the role of John Watson in the Moffat @-@ created Sherlock , undergoing auditions at the same time ; he was unsuccessful , as Moffat believed his eccentric acting style was closer to Holmes , whose role had already been given to Benedict Cumberbatch . At 26 years old , Smith was three years younger than Peter Davison was at the time of his casting as the Doctor in 1981 , and younger than any other actor suggested for the role . After three weeks of auditions , Moffat and Wenger agreed that it had " always been Matt " and approached him to accept the role . The BBC were cautious about casting him because they felt that a 26 @-@ year @-@ old could not play the Doctor adequately ; Wenger shared the same sentiment but thought Smith had proven his acting quality in Party Animals , which Wenger thought highlighted Smith 's " mercurial qualities " . Some fans of the show believed that Smith was inexperienced and too young for the role , while others supported him by citing his demonstrated acting ability . For his performance in his first series he was nominated in the Outstanding Drama Performance Category of the National Television Awards . Smith is the first Doctor to be nominated for a BAFTA for Best Actor .

Smith has said of his character : " The Doctor is excited and fascinated by the tiniest of things . By everything . By every single thing . That 's what 's wonderful about him as a character . It 's why children like him , I think . Because he doesn 't dismiss anything . He 's not cynical . He 's open to every single facet of the universe . " In June 2010 , Smith appeared on stage with Orbital , and performed with them a version of the Doctor Who theme , at the Glastonbury Festival . Smith hosted the Doctor Who Prom at the Royal Albert Hall on 24 ? 25 July 2010 . On the morning of 26 May 2012 , Smith carried the Olympic torch in Cardiff , an activity which was noted by Doctor Who fans for its resemblance to a 2006 episode of the show in which the Doctor carried the torch . On 1 June 2013 , the BBC announced that Smith would be leaving Doctor Who at the end of the 2013 Christmas special .

= = = Film = = =

Smith appeared in a deleted scene of the 2007 film In Bruges , playing a younger version of Ralph Fiennes ' character . He starred in the 2009 short film Together and the 2010 film Womb . In February 2013 , it was reported that Smith had signed up to appear in Ryan Gosling 's directorial debut Lost River . Smith 's directorial debut , the short film Cargese , was aired on Sky Arts in May 2013 . Smith had a supporting role , as the embodiment of Skynet , in Terminator Genisys (2015) ;

he is set to have more screen time in the sixth and seventh films in the series . On 20 November 2014 , it was announced that Smith will star in the action @-@ thriller film Patient Zero ..

== = Theatre == =

During Smith 's tenure in On the Shore of the Wide World , the play transferred to the Royal National Theatre in London . After finishing the play , he took on the role of Lockwood , a pupil in the Alan Bennett play The History Boys . After The History Boys , he would act in the teen play Burn / Chatroom / Citizenship and Swimming with Sharks ; the latter being his West End début , with Christian Slater . In 2007 , Smith appeared as Henry in the critically acclaimed Polly Stenham play That Face at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs in Chelsea . The play transferred to the Duke of York 's Theatre in the West End in 2008 and became Smith 's second role there . That Face focuses primarily upon alcohol and drug addiction in an upper @-@ middle @-@ class family after the paternal figure in the family leaves . As Henry , Smith portrayed an aspiring artist who left school to take care of his mother . To prepare for the role , the cast interviewed alcoholics and their families . Smith discussed his character 's relationship with his mother in an interview with the Evening Standard .

The thing I find tricky to get my head round is why doesn 't he just leave ? An awful lot of it is codependency . [...] With Henry there 's a real belief ? or denial maybe ? that he can change his mother . When she is finally pulled away from him to go to rehab , his identity collapses . His sacrifice has been for nothing .

The entire cast of the play was nominated for the 2008 Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre , and Smith won the Evening Standard 's award for " best newcomer " for his role . Upon its transfer to the West End , Smith 's performance as Henry was highlighted as one of the positive aspects of the play by critics for the Evening Standard , Daily Express , The Guardian , and The Times .

On 7 October 2013 , it was announced Smith would portray Patrick Bateman in the musical adaption of American Psycho at London 's Almeida Theatre . The show began its run in December 2013 .

== = Public image == =

In 2015 , Smith was named one of GQ 's 50 Best @-@ Dressed British Men .

== = Personal life == =

Smith is an atheist , and an avid supporter of Blackburn Rovers . He has cited his favourite band , Radiohead , as an inspiration . His sister , Laura Jayne , was one of the dancers featured in the music video for the 2004 Eric Prydz song " Call on Me " .

Smith dated model Daisy Lowe for 18 months . They broke up in November 2011 . In 2015 , it was confirmed that he is dating actress Lily James .

== = Filmography == =

== = Film == =

== = Television == =

== = Video games == =

= = Stage = =

= = Awards and nominations = =