

= Paudge Behan =

Paudge Rodger Behan (/ ˈpɔːdʒ ˈrɔːdʒər ˈbiːn / PAWJ ROJ @-@ ?r @-@ BEE @-@ ?n ; born January 1965) is an Irish actor and writer . The son of IRA Chief of Staff Cathal Goulding and Beatrice ffrench @-@ Salkeld , the widow of playwright Brendan Behan , Paudge Behan worked briefly as a journalist for a Dublin newspaper before turning to acting . After a series of minor film and television roles in the 1990s , he was handpicked by English novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford to appear as the male lead in a 1999 dramatisation of her book *A Secret Affair* (1996) .

Behan has also appeared in the feature films *A Man of No Importance* (1994) , *Conspiracy of Silence* (2003) and *Veronica Guerin* (2003) , and has taken leading roles in two short films , *A Lonely Sky* (2006) and *Wake Up* (2007) . He has also auditioned unsuccessfully for *Neighbours* and popular UK black comedy , *Doctors* .

= = Family and early life = =

Born in January 1965 , Paudge Behan is the son of Cathal Goulding (1923 ? 1998) , Chief of Staff of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Official IRA , and Beatrice Behan (née ffrench @-@ Salkeld) (1925 ? 1993) . As a teenager , Goulding was involved with the IRA youth wing *Fianna Éireann* . After Brendan Behan 's early death at the age of 41 on 20 March 1964 , Goulding had Paudge Behan with Brendan 's widow Beatrice . Paudge and his half @-@ sister Blanaid grew up at 5 Anglesea Road , a red @-@ brick , semi @-@ detached late Victorian house in Ballsbridge , Dublin , which Brendan Behan bought for his wife Beatrice in 1959 for IR £ 1 @, @ 400 . The house came into Paudge Behan 's ownership , and he sold it reluctantly for ? 1 @. @ 65 million in February 2006 .

= = Education and career = =

Before turning to acting , Behan had a brief career in journalism in Ireland : " I interviewed everyone from priests to prostitutes before my Dublin paper folded . " Behan was also involved in theatre work ? he was a costume assistant during the original production of Tom Murphy 's adaptation of Liam O 'Flaherty 's 1925 novel *The Informer* on 13 October 1981 at the Olympia Theatre in Dublin . He participated in various other plays in Dublin , but finding them " all very over the top , very amateurish , full of people turning up drunk or not turning up at all " , he decided to leave Ireland and pursue art studies in Berlin .

However , Behan found he could not concentrate on his art in Germany as he was working too hard in the evenings in nightclubs and bars to earn money . Also , as he was doing " too much drinking as well , so unless I wanted to start a new art style where it would 've been very ' shakey ' [sic] to look at , basically I decided I had to do something else " . He resolved to go to London to study acting . After applying to three drama schools he was accepted by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) . For about three years from 1990 or 1991 , he lived with his friends from RADA , David Harewood and Danny Cerqueira , at 39 Ravenshaw Street in West Hampstead . Harewood recalls that his housemates were " fantastic characters " ? " It was a wonderful , experimental time . We 'd spend long nights discussing art , life and politics ; smoking weed , drinking lots of whisky , listening to music and throwing furniture on the fire . "

On 15 May 1991 at Dublin 's Abbey Theatre , Behan played the lead character Connolly in the original production of Tom Murphy 's play *The Patriot Game* , which charted the events of the Easter Rising of 1916 . He also acted as a thug in the comedy film *London Kills Me* (1991) ; and made an appearance in the TV film *Anglo @-@ Saxon Attitudes* (1992) , based on the 1956 satirical novel by Angus Wilson . Other TV roles included characters in episodes of *Highlander : The Series* (1995) and *The New Adventures of Robin Hood* (1997) . He was subsequently handpicked by English novelist Barbara Taylor Bradford to be the male protagonist of the made @-@ for @-@ television film *A Secret Affair* (1999) , based on her 1996 book . In the film , which gained him a large and enthusiastic female following , he starred as Bill Fitzgerald , a war correspondent who falls in love

with and pursues Vanessa Stewart (Janine Turner) in Venice although she is engaged , and who is subsequently kidnapped in a war zone .

Other films in which Behan appeared include A Man of No Importance (1994) , Conspiracy of Silence (2003) and Veronica Guerin (2003) . In the latter film , he played Brian Meehan , who was convicted of murdering Irish crime journalist Veronica Guerin in 1996 . In 2006 , he appeared in Nick Ryan 's short film A Lonely Sky as Jack Reilly , a test pilot who risks his life to break the sound barrier in 1947 , but who is forced to question his reasons and abilities by a strange yet familiar man . The ten @-@ minute film won Best Film (Production and Post @-@ Production) at the Digital Media Awards in Dublin in February 2007 . Behan appeared in the short film Wake Up (2007) , in which he played the lead character Nathan . The film is the first 20 minutes of a proposed feature film . Most recently , Behan has appeared in the fifth season of the Irish crime drama series Love / Hate (2010) . He played the role of Terence May , an Irish drugs supplier based in Spain .

Concerning acting , Behan has been quoted as saying " this is a good business when it 's working , but when it 's not , it 's awful " .

= = 2008 police investigation = =

On 12 July 2008 , Behan was questioned by the Carabinieri (Italian military police) in connection with the murder of a 72 @-@ year @-@ old woman , Silvana Abate Francescatti , at her home on Monte Amiata , Arcidosso , in Grosseto , Tuscany , Italy . The woman was found on 11 July with 13 stab wounds , including a fatal throat wound , but was believed to have died the previous day . Behan , who had been resident in Arcidosso for part of the year since 2006 , was arrested after seeking treatment twice at a hospital near Arcidosso for a cut on his thigh . In an interview with The Irish Times , he claimed he had first gone to the hospital on 10 July after cutting himself in the thigh while unpacking furniture and other objects delivered from the USA . However , hospital staff had mistakenly decided he had been acting suspiciously due to his poor spoken Italian , and the fact that he had expressed annoyance at how the hospital was managed and its bad signage .

Upon returning to the hospital on 12 July for a tetanus injection , Behan was arrested by five policemen and taken to their Arcidosso barracks for questioning . He did not know what was happening at first as the police had no interpreter in the barracks . He was only provided with a lawyer and interpreter 15 hours later when a magistrate from Grosseto came . Behan exercised his right not to answer questions . He was released , but was formally informed that he was under suspicion . As of 15 July 2008 he was the only suspect in the case . The police subsequently seized his car and a knife from his home , and secured a room in the house in which traces of blood were allegedly found . In addition , shoe prints found were said to have matched his footwear . Custody of his car and home (except for the cellar) were returned to him on 14 July by the judge overseeing the investigation .

Speaking on Italian television , Behan denied knowing the victim and maintained his innocence , saying " I 've got nothing to hide . " He accused the police of subjecting him to " psychological torture " during his detention and threatened to sue them .

In November 2008 , Behan was cleared of the crime and allowed full use of his home after a chef named Aldo Staiani was identified as the murderer from DNA retrieved from under Mrs. Abate 's fingernails . Behan said , " I don 't hold any animosity . It 's done now , there is no point in bearing any grudges . I am just glad somebody has finally been caught for this brutal killing . "

= = Selected work = =

= = = Film = = =

Some information in this table was obtained from Paudge Behan : Filmography , Internet Movie Database (IMDb) , retrieved 11 November 2007 .

== Television ==

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== Theatre ==

== Personal life ==

In addition to his half @-@ sister Blanaid , Paudge Behan has one older half @-@ brother , Cathal Og (the son of Cathal Goulding and Patty Germaine who married in 1950) , and a younger half @-@ brother Aodhgan and half @-@ sister Banbán .