

= Pierce Brosnan =

Pierce Brendan Brosnan OBE Hon (born 16 May 1953) is an Irish actor and film producer who after leaving comprehensive school at age 16 , began training in commercial illustration . He then went on to train at the Drama Centre in London for three years . Following a stage acting career he rose to popularity in the television series Remington Steele (1982 ? 87) , which blended the genres of romantic comedy , drama , and detective procedural . After the conclusion of Remington Steele , Brosnan appeared in films such as the Cold War spy film The Fourth Protocol (1987) and the comedy Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) .

In 1994 , Brosnan became the fifth actor to portray secret agent James Bond in the Eon Productions film series , starring in four films from 1995 to 2002 (GoldenEye , Tomorrow Never Dies , The World Is Not Enough and Die Another Day) . He lent his likeness for Bond in the video games James Bond 007 : Nightfire and James Bond 007 : Everything or Nothing , providing his voice too for the latter . During this period , he also took the lead in other films such as the epic disaster adventure film Dante 's Peak (1997) and the remake of the heist film The Thomas Crown Affair (1999) . Since leaving the role of Bond , he has starred in such films as the musical / romantic comedy Mamma Mia ! (2008) , the Roman Polanski @-@ directed political thriller The Ghost Writer (2010) and the action spy thriller The November Man (2014) .

In 1996 , along with Beau St. Clair , Brosnan formed Irish DreamTime , a Los Angeles @-@ based production company . In later years , he has become known for his charitable work and environmental activism . He was married to Australian actress Cassandra Harris from 1980 until her death in 1991 . He married American journalist and author Keely Shaye Smith in 2001 , and became an American citizen in 2004 . He has earned two Golden Globe Award nominations , first for the television miniseries Nancy Astor (1982) and next for the dark comedy film The Matador (2005) .

= = Early life = =

Brosnan was born in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda , County Louth , Ireland , the only child of Thomas Brosnan , a carpenter , and May (née Smith , born circa 1934) . He lived in Navan , County Meath for 12 years and considers it his home town . Brosnan 's father abandoned the family when Pierce was an infant . When he was four years old , his mother moved to London to work as a nurse . From that point on , he was largely brought up by his grandparents , Philip and Kathleen Smith . After their deaths , he lived with an aunt and then an uncle , but was subsequently sent to live in a boarding house run by a woman named Eileen . He was educated at Elliott School , now known as Ark Putney Academy , a coeducational secondary school with academy status in South West London .

According to Brosnan ,

Childhood was fairly solitary . I grew up in a very small town called Navan in County Meath . I never knew my father . He left when I was an infant and I was left in the care of my mother and my grandparents . To be Catholic in the ' 50s , and to be Irish Catholic in the ' 50s , and have a marriage which was not there , a father who was not there , consequently , the mother , the wife suffered greatly . My mother was very courageous . She took the bold steps to go away and be a nurse in England . Basically wanting a better life for her and myself . My mother came home once a year , twice a year .

Brosnan was brought up in a Roman Catholic family and educated in a local school run by the de la Salle Brothers while serving as an altar boy .

Brosnan left Ireland on 12 August 1964 and was reunited with his mother and her new husband , William Carmichael , now living in the Scottish village of Longniddry , East Lothian . Carmichael took Brosnan to see a James Bond film for the first time (Goldfinger) , at the age of 11 . Later moving back to London , Brosnan was educated at Elliott School , a state comprehensive school in Putney , south west London . Brosnan has spoken about the transition from Ireland to England and his education in London ; " When you go to a very large city , a metropolis like London , as an Irish boy of 10 , life suddenly moves pretty fast . From a little school of , say , seven classrooms in Ireland , to

this very large comprehensive school , with over 2 @, @ 000 children . And you 're Irish . And they make you feel it ; the British have a wonderful way of doing that , and I had a certain deep sense of being an outsider . " When he attended school , his nickname was " Irish " .

After leaving school at 16 , he decided to be a painter and began training in commercial illustration at Saint Martin 's School of Art . While attending a rehearsal for a workshop at the Oval House , a fire eater was teaching people how to eat fire and he decided to join . A circus agent saw him busking and hired him for three years . He later trained for three years as an actor at the Drama Centre London . Brosnan has described the feeling of becoming an actor and the impact it had on his life : " When I found acting , or when acting found me , it was a liberation . It was a stepping stone into another life , away from a life that I had , and acting was something I was good at , something which was appreciated . That was a great satisfaction in my life . "

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

After graduating from the Drama Centre in 1975 , Brosnan began working as an acting assistant stage manager at the York Theatre Royal , making his acting debut in Wait Until Dark . Within six months , he was selected by playwright Tennessee Williams to play the role of McCabe in the British première of The Red Devil Battery Sign . His performance caused a stir in London and Brosnan still has the telegram sent by Williams , stating only " Thank God for you , my dear boy " . In 1977 he was picked by Franco Zeffirelli to appear in the play Filumena by Eduardo De Filippo opposite Joan Plowright and Frank Finlay .

He continued his career making brief appearances in films such as The Long Good Friday (1980) and The Mirror Crack 'd (1980) , as well as early television performances in The Professionals , Murphy 's Stroke , and Play for Today . He became a television star in the United States with his leading role in the popular miniseries Manions of America . He followed this with his 1982 Masterpiece Theatre documentary that chronicled the life of Lady Nancy Astor , the first woman to sit in British Parliament . His portrayal of Robert Gould Shaw II garnered him a 1985 Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor .

In 1982 , Brosnan moved to Southern California and rose to popularity in the United States playing the title role in the NBC romantic detective series Remington Steele . The Washington Post noted that same year that Brosnan " could make it as a young James Bond . " After Remington Steele ended in 1987 , Brosnan went on to appear in several films , including The Fourth Protocol (1987) , a Cold War thriller in which he starred alongside Michael Caine , The Deceivers and James Clavell 's Noble House both in (1988) , and The Lawnmower Man (1992) . In 1992 , he shot a pilot for NBC called Running Wilde , playing a reporter for Auto World magazine . Jennifer Love Hewitt played his daughter . The pilot never aired , however . In 1993 he played a supporting role in the comedy film Mrs. Doubtfire . He also appeared in several television films , including Victim of Love (1991) , Death Train (1993) and Night Watch (1995) , a spy thriller set in Hong Kong .

= = = James Bond (1994 ? 2005) = = =

Brosnan first met James Bond films producer Albert R. Broccoli on the sets of For Your Eyes Only because his first wife , Cassandra Harris , starred as Countess Lisl von Schlaf , mistress to Milos Columbo . Broccoli said , " if he can act ... he 's my guy " to inherit the role of Bond from Roger Moore . It was reported by both Entertainment Tonight and the National Enquirer , that Brosnan was going to inherit another role of Moore 's , that of Simon Templar in The Saint . Brosnan denied the rumours in July 1993 but added , " it 's still languishing there on someone 's desk in Hollywood . "

In 1987 , NBC cancelled Remington Steele and Brosnan was offered the role as James Bond , but the publicity revived Remington Steele . His contract with the Remington Steele producers required him to resume his role and he regretfully declined the Bond role . The producers instead hired

Timothy Dalton for *The Living Daylights* (1987) , and *Licence to Kill* (1989) . Legal squabbles between the Bond producers and the studio over distribution rights resulted in the cancellation of a proposed third Dalton film in 1991 and put the Bond series on a hiatus for several years . After the legal issues had been resolved , Dalton decided not to return for a third film . On 7 June 1994 , Brosnan was announced as the fifth actor to play Bond .

Brosnan was signed for a three @-@ film Bond deal with the option of a fourth . The first , 1995 's *GoldenEye* , grossed US \$ 350 million worldwide , the fourth highest worldwide gross of any film in 1995 , making it the most successful Bond film since *Moonraker* , adjusted for inflation . It holds an 80 % Rotten tomato rating , while Metacritic holds it at 65 % . In the *Chicago Sun @-@ Times* , Roger Ebert gave the film 3 stars out of 4 , saying that Brosnan 's Bond was " somehow more sensitive , more vulnerable , more psychologically complete " than the previous ones , also commenting on Bond 's " loss of innocence " since previous films . James Berardinelli described Brosnan as " a decided improvement over his immediate predecessor " with a " flair for wit to go along with his natural charm " , but added that " fully one @-@ quarter of *Goldeneye* is momentum @-@ killing padding . "

In 1996 , Brosnan formed a film production company entitled " *Irish DreamTime* " along with producing partner and longtime friend Beau St. Clair . Brosnan and St. Clair released *Irish DreamTime* 's first production , *The Nephew* , in 1998 . One year later , the company 's second studio project , *The Thomas Crown Affair* , was released and met both critical and box office success .

Brosnan returned in 1997 's *Tomorrow Never Dies* and 1999 's *The World Is Not Enough* , which were also successful . In 2002 , Brosnan appeared for his fourth time as Bond in *Die Another Day* , receiving mixed reviews but was a success at the box office . Brosnan himself subsequently criticised many aspects of his fourth Bond movie . During the promotion , he mentioned that he would like to continue his role as James Bond : " I 'd like to do another , sure . Connery did six . Six would be a number , then never come back . " Brosnan asked Eon Productions , when accepting the role , to be allowed to work on other projects between Bond films . The request was granted , and for every Bond film , Brosnan appeared in at least two other mainstream films , including several he produced , playing a wide range of roles , ranging from a scientist in Tim Burton 's *Mars Attacks !* , to the title role in *Grey Owl* which documents the life of Englishman Archibald Stansfeld Belaney , one of Canada 's first conservationists .

Shortly after the release of *Die Another Day* , the media began questioning whether or not Brosnan would reprise the role for a fifth time . At that time , Brosnan was approaching his 50th birthday . Brosnan kept in mind that both fans and critics were very unhappy with Roger Moore playing the role until he (Moore) was 58 , but he was receiving popular support from both critics and the franchise fanbase for a fifth instalment . For this reason , he remained enthusiastic about reprising his role . In October 2004 , Brosnan said he considered himself dismissed from the role . Although Brosnan had been rumoured frequently as still in the running to play 007 , he had denied it several times , and in February 2005 he posted on his website that he was finished with the role . Daniel Craig took over the role on 14 October 2005 . In an interview with *The Globe and Mail* , Brosnan was asked what he thought of Daniel Craig as the new James Bond . He replied , " I 'm looking forward to it like we 're all looking forward to it . Daniel Craig is a great actor and he 's going to do a fantastic job " . He reaffirmed this support in an interview to the *International Herald Tribune* , stating that " [Craig 's] on his way to becoming a memorable Bond . "

During his tenure on the James Bond films , Brosnan also took part in James Bond video games . In 2002 , Brosnan 's likeness was used as the face of Bond in the James Bond video game *Nightfire* (voiced by Maxwell Caulfield) . In 2004 , Brosnan starred in the Bond game *Everything or Nothing* , contracting for his likeness to be used as well as doing the voice @-@ work for the character . He also starred along with Jamie Lee Curtis and Geoffrey Rush in *The Tailor of Panama* in 2001 , and lent his voice to *The Simpsons* episode " *Treehouse of Horror XII* " , as a machine with Pierce Brosnan 's voice .

== Post @-@ James Bond ==

Since 2004 , Brosnan has talked of backing a film about Caitlin Macnamara , wife of poet Dylan Thomas , the title role to be played by Miranda Richardson . Brosnan 's first post @-@ Bond role was that of Daniel Rafferty in 2004 's *Laws of Attraction* . Garreth Murphy , of entertainment.ie , described Brosnan 's performance as " surprisingly effective , gently riffing off his James Bond persona and supplementing it with a raffish energy " . In the same year , Brosnan starred in *After the Sunset* alongside Salma Hayek and Woody Harrelson . The film elicited generally negative reviews and a 17 % rating on Rotten Tomatoes . Brosnan 's next film was 2005 's *The Matador* . He starred as Julian Noble , a jaded , neurotic assassin who meets a travelling salesman (Greg Kinnear) in a Mexican bar . The film garnered generally positive reviews . Roger Ebert for the *Chicago Sun @-@ Times* called Brosnan 's performance the best of his career . Brosnan was nominated for a Golden Globe award for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy , but lost to Joaquin Phoenix for *Walk the Line* . In December 2005 , Brosnan was reported to be starring in *The November Man* , an adaptation of Bill Granger 's novel , *There Are No Spies*. but the project was cancelled in 2007 . In 2006 , Brosnan narrated *The Official Film of the 2006 FIFA World Cup* , directed by Michael Apted .

In 2007 , Brosnan appeared in the film *Seraphim Falls* alongside fellow Irishman Liam Neeson . The film was released for limited screenings on 26 January 2007 to average reviews . Kevin Crust of the *Los Angeles Times* noted that Brosnan and Neeson made " fine adversaries ; " Michael Rechtshaffen of *The Hollywood Reporter* thought that they were " hard @-@ pressed to inject some much @-@ needed vitality into their sparse lines . " During the same year , Brosnan spoke of making a western with fellow Irishmen Gabriel Byrne and Colm Meaney . In that same year Brosnan starred as Tom Ryan in *Butterfly on a Wheel* . The film was released in the United States under the name of *Shattered* , and in Europe as *Desperate Hours* .

In 2008 , Brosnan joined Meryl Streep in the film adaption of the ABBA musical *Mamma Mia !* . He played Sam Carmichael , one of three men rumoured to be the father of lead Amanda Seyfried , while Streep played her mother . Judy Craymer , producer to the film , said " Pierce brings a certain smooch factor , and we think he 'll have great chemistry with Meryl in a romantic comedy . " Brosnan 's preparation in singing for the role included walking up and down the coast and singing karaoke to his own voice for about six weeks , followed by rehearsals in New York in which he noted he " sounded dreadful . " Brosnan 's singing in the film was generally disparaged by critics , with his singing compared in separate reviews to the sound of a water buffalo , a donkey , and a wounded raccoon . In September 2008 , Brosnan provided the narration for the *Thomas & Friends* special *The Great Discovery* . He was originally set to narrate for both US and UK from Season 12 and onward , but withdraw from it for unknown reasons .

In 2009 , Brosnan starred in *The Big Biazarro* , (alternative title *The Ace*) , an adaptation of the Leonard Wise novel , directed by Vondie Curtis @-@ Hall . Brosnan portrayed a card player who mentors a headstrong protégé . Also in 2009 , Brosnan finished the well @-@ received *The Ghost Writer* , playing a disgraced British Prime Minister , directed and produced by Roman Polanski . The film won a Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival . He starred as Charles Hawkins in the film *Remember Me* and as Chiron in *Percy Jackson & the Olympians : The Lightning Thief* , both released in 2010 .

In 2012 , Brosnan played the role of Philip in the Danish romantic comedy *Love Is All You Need* .

His latest announced project is a role in the Danny DeVito @-@ helmed feature *Charlotte Doyle* , an adaptation of the novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* , in which he will appear alongside Morgan Freeman . His production company Irish DreamTime is developing *The Topkapi Affair* , a follow @-@ up to *The Thomas Crown Affair* for MGM . In February 2013 Brosnan was awarded honorary patronage of the Dublin University Players society at Trinity College , Dublin . Brosnan is also said to be playing a " heroic government agent " in an action thriller called *The Coup* (later renamed to *No Escape*) alongside Owen Wilson . Brosnan will also be headlining *Last Man Out* , which is an adaptation of Stuart Neville 's crime novel titled *The Twelve* (released as *Ghosts of Belfast* in the US) , scripted by Craig Ferguson and Ted Mulkerin , with Terry Loan will be helming the project .

In 2013 , Brosnan appeared in television commercials as a tongue in cheek version of himself to

promote the launch of Sky Broadband in Ireland . After its cancellation in 2007 , Brosnan 's production company , " Irish DreamTime " resurrected The November Man film project in 2012 with an announcement made on his part that he was jumping back to the spy arena . Filming took place in Serbia a year later , with Brosnan in action as a retired CIA operative called Devereaux , alongside co @-@ star Olga Kurylenko in a supporting role . The film received negative reception with a 34 % on Rotten Tomatoes and a 38 / 100 on Metacritic . In 2015 , he appeared alongside Milla Jovovich in suspense thriller movie written by Phil Shelby , called Survivor , which began filming in January 2014 , with Charles and Irwin Winkler producing , and James McTeigue directing . Brosnan later starred in a revenge thriller called I.T. , which is still yet to be released .

In January 2016 Pierce Brosnan was seen filming The Foreigner in London , co @-@ starring with Jackie Chan , taking on a role of a former IRA man turned government official Liam Hennessy . The film is directed by Martin Campbell , who previously worked with Brosnan on his debut James Bond film , GoldenEye . It was noted that Brosnan bore a strong resemblance to Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams . An announcement was made that Brosnan and Campbell will team up once again in a film adaptation of an Ernest Hemingway novel , Across the River and into the Trees , in which Brosnan will play the role of the protagonist , Colonel Cantwell .

Brosnan replaced actor Sam Neill in the role of Eli McCullough in a television miniseries adaptation of Philipp Meyer 's novel The Son , with Kevin Murphy serving as both executive producer and showrunner of a ten @-@ episode miniseries , which begins production in June 2016 , aiming for a 2017 release .

= = Personal life = =

Brosnan married twice , was widowed once and has five children and three grandchildren as of 2015 .

Brosnan met Australian actress Cassandra Harris through her stepson David Harris , one of Richard Harris ' nephews , in 1977 , shortly after he left drama school . On meeting her , he has described his feelings , saying , " What a beautiful looking woman . I never for an instant thought she was someone I 'd spend 17 years of my life with . I didn 't think of wooing her , or attempting to woo her ; I just wanted to enjoy her beauty and who she was . " They began dating , and eventually bought a house in Wimbledon . They married on 27 December 1980 and had one son together , Sean , who was born on 13 September 1983 . They lived with her children , Charlotte (1971 @-@ 2013) and Christopher , and after their father Dermot Harris died in 1986 , he adopted them and they took the surname Brosnan .

Brosnan supplemented his income by working in West End productions and in a television film about Irish horse racing . After Harris appeared in the James Bond film For Your Eyes Only in 1981 , they secured a bank loan and moved to southern California where Brosnan secured a role in the TV series Remington Steele , easing their financial worries .

An episode of Remington Steele that was filmed in Ireland generated significant publicity . One outcome was that Brosnan met his father , who had left when Brosnan was an infant , in a brief get @-@ together at his hotel . Brosnan said he expected to see a very tall man , but described his father as " a man of medium stature , pushed @-@ back silver hair , flinty eyes and a twizzled jaw . He had a very strong Kerry accent . " Brosnan was regretful that they met under such public circumstances . He said he would have preferred more private arrangements that would have given him the opportunity to speak privately with his father .

While filming The Deceivers in Rajasthan , India , in 1987 , Brosnan 's wife Harris became seriously ill . She was later diagnosed with ovarian cancer and died on 28 December 1991 at age 43 . Brosnan struggled to cope with her cancer and death . " When your partner gets cancer , then life changes . Your timetable and reference for your normal routines and the way you view life , all this changes . Because you 're dealing with death . You 're dealing with the possibility of death and dying . And it was that way through the chemotherapy , through the first @-@ look operation , the second look , the third look , the fourth look , the fifth look . Cassie was very positive about life . I mean , she had the most amazing energy and outlook on life . It was and is a terrible loss , and I see it reflected

, from time to time , in my children . " Harris had always wanted Brosnan to play the role of James Bond , and in 1995 , four years after her death , Brosnan was given the role in GoldenEye .

In 1994 , Brosnan met American journalist Keely Shaye Smith in Mexico . They were married in 2001 at Ballintubber Abbey in County Mayo , Ireland . They have two sons together , Dylan Thomas Brosnan (born 13 January 1997) and Paris Beckett Brosnan (born 27 February 2001) .

In July 2003 , the Queen made Brosnan an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his " outstanding contribution to the British film industry " . As an Irish citizen , he is ineligible to receive the full OBE honour , which is awarded only to a citizen of the Commonwealth realms , but he is still allowed the letters " OBE " after his name . In 2002 , Brosnan was also awarded an honorary degree from the Dublin Institute of Technology and , a year later , the University College Cork .

On 23 September 2004 , Brosnan became a citizen of the United States , but retained his Irish citizenship . Brosnan said that " my Irishness is in everything I do . It 's the spirit of who I am , as a man , an actor , a father . It 's where I come from . " Brosnan was asked by a fan if it annoyed him when people get his nationality confused . He said : " It amuses me in some respects that they should confuse me with an Englishman when I 'm dyed @-@ in @-@ the @-@ wool , born and bred Irishman ... I don 't necessarily fly under any flag . But no , it doesn 't bother me . "

Brosnan has expressed contempt for his education by the Christian Brothers . However , in 2013 he commented , " It always helps to have a bit of prayer in your back pocket . At the end of the day , you have to have something and for me that is God , Jesus , my Catholic upbringing , my faith ... God has been good to me . My faith has been good to me in the moments of deepest suffering , doubt and fear . It is a constant , the language of prayer ... I might not have got my sums right from the Christian Brothers or might not have got the greatest learning of literature from them but I certainly got a strapping amount of faith . " Brosnan attends Mass , but adheres to other spiritual beliefs . In 2008 he said " I also love the teachings of Buddhist philosophy . It 's my own private faith . I don 't preach it , but it 's a faith that is a comfort to me when the night is long . "

Brosnan and wife Keely Shaye Smith were involved in a riparian water rights legal case (1999 ? 2010) . The dispute centred on a parcel of land in Wainiha , Hawaii .

Brosnan 's daughter Charlotte died on 28 June 2013 of ovarian cancer , the same illness that claimed her mother 's life .

= = = Environmental and charitable work = = =

Pierce Brosnan has been an Ambassador for UNICEF Ireland since 2001 and recorded a special announcement to mark the launch of UNICEF 's " Unite for Children , Unite against AIDS " Campaign with Liam Neeson . Brosnan supported John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election and is a vocal supporter of same @-@ sex marriage .

Brosnan first became aware of nuclear disarmament at the age of nine when worldwide condemnation of the 1962 U.S. nuclear tests in Nevada headlined international news . During the 1990s , he participated in news conferences in Washington , D.C. to help Greenpeace draw attention to the issue . Brosnan boycotted the French GoldenEye premiere to support Greenpeace 's protest against the French nuclear testing program . From 1997 to 2000 , Brosnan and wife Smith worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to stop a proposed salt factory from being built at Laguna San Ignacio . The couple with Halle Berry , Cindy Crawford and Daryl Hannah successfully fought the Cabrillo Port Liquefied Natural Gas facility that was proposed off the coast of Malibu ; the State Lands Commission eventually denied the lease to build the terminal . In May 2007 , Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the facility . Brosnan is also listed as a member of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society 's Board of Advisors . Brosnan was named ' Best @-@ dressed Environmentalist ' by the Sustainable Style Foundation in 2004 .

Brosnan also raises money for charitable causes through sales of his paintings . He trained early on as an artist , but later shifted to theatre ; during his first wife 's terminal illness , he withdrew from acting to be with her and took up painting again for therapeutic reasons , producing colourful

landscapes and family portraits . He has continued painting since then , using spare time on set and at home . Profits from sales of giclée prints of his works are given to a trust to benefit " environmental , children 's and women 's health charities . " Since Harris ' death , Brosnan has been an advocate for cancer awareness and , in 2006 , he served as spokesperson for Lee National Denim Day , a breast cancer fundraiser which raises millions of dollars and raises more money in a single day than any other breast cancer fundraiser .

In May 2007 , Brosnan and Smith donated \$ 100 @ , @ 000 to help replace a playground on the Hawaiian island of Kauai , where they own a house . On 7 July 2007 , Brosnan presented a film at Live Earth in London . He also recorded a television advertisement for the cause . Brosnan lives with his family in Malibu , California and on the island of Kauai .

In April 2016 , a fire ripped through his \$ 18 @ . @ 5 million Malibu mansion causing \$ 1 million in damages to the garage and a nearby guest bedroom .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

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