

= Edward Norton =

Edward Harrison Norton (born August 18 , 1969) is an American actor , filmmaker and activist . He has been nominated for three Academy Awards for his work in the films *Primal Fear* (1996) , *American History X* (1998) and *Birdman* (2014) . He also starred in other roles , such as *Everyone Says I Love You* (1996) , *The People vs. Larry Flynt* (1996) , *Fight Club* (1999) , *Red Dragon* (2002) , *25th Hour* (2002) , *Kingdom of Heaven* (2005) , *The Illusionist* (2006) , *Moonrise Kingdom* (2012) and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014) . He has also directed and co-written films , including his directorial debut , *Keeping the Faith* (2000) . He has done uncredited work on the scripts for *The Score* (2001) , *Frida* (2002) and *The Incredible Hulk* (2008) .

Alongside his work in cinema , Norton is an environmental and social activist , and is a member of the board of trustees of Enterprise Community Partners , a non-profit organization for developing affordable housing founded by his grandfather James Rouse . Norton is president of the American branch of the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust . He ran in the 2009 New York City Marathon to raise money for the Trust . He also raises money for charity through Crowdrise , a social networking community for volunteers and a micro-donations fundraising platform . In July 2010 , Norton was designated as the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon . On July 2 , 2014 , Norton was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees to Signature Theatre , a not-for-profit theater Company in New York . Norton has been on Signature's board since 1996 and served as the co-Chair of the Capital Campaign during the building of the Pershing Square Signature Center .

= = Early life = =

Norton was born on August 18 , 1969 in Boston , Massachusetts and raised in Columbia , Maryland . His father , Edward Mower Norton Jr . , served in Vietnam as a Marine lieutenant and was later an environmental lawyer and conservation advocate working in Asia , as well as a former federal prosecutor in the Carter administration . His mother , Lydia Robinson " Robin " (née Rouse) , a teacher of English , died of a brain tumor in 1997 . His maternal grandfather , James Rouse , was the founder of The Rouse Company , who developed the city of Columbia , Maryland (where Norton grew up) , helped develop Baltimore's Inner Harbor , Norfolk's Waterside Festival Marketplace and Boston's Quincy Market , as well as co-founded Enterprise Community Partners with Norton's maternal step-grandmother , Patty Rouse . Norton has two younger siblings , Molly and Jim , with whom he has professionally collaborated .

From 1981 to 1985 , along with his brother , Norton attended Camp Pasquaney on the shores of Newfound Lake in Bristol , New Hampshire , where he won the acting cup in 1984 ; he returned to the camp's council for two years by directing theater , and maintains close connections with the camp . Norton was raised Episcopalian . He graduated in 1987 from Columbia's Wilde Lake High School , where his classmates included New York City Council member Mark Levine and best-selling author Robert Kolker . He attended Yale University , where he was a competitive rower and acted in university productions alongside Ron Livingston and Paul Giamatti , graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History . After graduation , Norton worked in Osaka , Japan , consulting for his grandfather's company , Enterprise Community Partners , and speaks some Japanese . He appeared in an EFL textbook , *Only in America* , used by Nova , a formerly major English language school in Japan . He moved to New York City to star in the Off-Broadway theater , breaking through with his 1993 involvement in Edward Albee's *Fragments* , at the Signature Theatre Company .

= = Career = =

In his film debut *Primal Fear* , Norton played Aaron Stampler , an altar boy charged with the murder of a Roman Catholic Archbishop who is defended by Martin Vail (Richard Gere) . The film is an adaptation of William Diehl's novel . Ken Tucker of *Entertainment Weekly* wrote : " Norton gives a

performance that 's fully the equal of Gere 's ? he 's as slyly self @-@ effacing as Gere is slyly ostentatious . " Alison Macor of The Austin Chronicle , in review of the film , wrote , " Norton 's performance and the well @-@ paced tension preceding the movie 's climactic sequence provide an entertaining if slightly predictable thriller . " Despite the mixed reviews , Norton won a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor . That same year , Norton played lawyer Alan Isaacman in The People vs. Larry Flynt . In 1998 , he played Derek Vinyard , a reformed neo @-@ Nazi , in the film American History X , David Denby of The New Yorker noted that he gives Derek " ambiguous erotic allure ; he 's almost appealing " . The film received positive reviews and grossed over \$ 23 million worldwide at the box office . His performance earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor . Later , Norton starred with Matt Damon in Rounders , that follows two friends who need to quickly earn enough cash playing poker to pay off a huge debt . In David Fincher 's 1999 film Fight Club , Norton played an unreliable narrator who feels trapped with his white @-@ collar position in society . It is based on Chuck Palahniuk 's novel of the same name . To prepare for the role , Norton took lessons in boxing , taekwondo and grappling . Fight Club premiered at the 1999 Venice International Film Festival . During promotion for the film , he said , " I feel that Fight Club really , in a way ... probed into the despair and paralysis that people feel in the face of having inherited this value system out of advertising . " The film failed to meet expectations at the box office , and received polarized reactions from film critics . However , it became a cult classic after its DVD release .

In 2002 , Norton starred in Brett Ratner 's Red Dragon as FBI profiler Will Graham and in Spike Lee 's 25th Hour . While Red Dragon received mixed reviews , it was commercially successful . 25th Hour was about post @-@ 9 / 11 New York City . In 2003 , Norton was forced by Paramount Studios , under threat of lawsuit having signed a three @-@film contract when he signed up for Primal Fear , to appear in The Italian Job (2003) , for which he accordingly refused to promote upon its release . Norton won critical praise for his role as Baldwin IV , the leper king of Jerusalem , in Kingdom of Heaven . Norton portrayed Marvel Comics character Bruce Banner / The Hulk in the Marvel Studios film The Incredible Hulk , released in 2008 . Norton 's failed attempt to rewrite the film along lines of his own choosing resulted in his refusal to promote the film . He was expected to reprise his role in the 2012 film The Avengers , but was replaced by Mark Ruffalo .

In 2006 , Norton starred in three films : Down in the Valley , as a dangerous drifter affecting to be a cowpoke , The Illusionist , which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and later became a sleeper hit when it went into general release , and The Painted Veil , for each of which he won an award . In 2010 , Norton appeared in two films again : in Leaves of Grass , as estranged identical twins (one a small @-@ time drug dealer and the other a Harvard professor) ; and in Stone , which reunited Norton with his The Score cast @-@ mate Robert De Niro , and in which Norton plays a convict trying to con his parole officer (De Niro) into an early release . In 2008 , Norton starred in New Line Cinema 's Pride and Glory , as an honest detective assigned to investigate the precinct run by his older brother . The film was not well received by critics , not strongly supported by the studio , and despite also starring Colin Farrell and Jon Voight , its worldwide grosses totaled only \$ 31 @.@ 1 million , against a production budget of \$ 30 million . Norton played himself in a cameo role in the experimental comedy show Stella , and made another comedic television appearance on the Emmy award @-@ winning ABC show Modern Family in 2010 , playing a fictional member of real life ' 80s new wave band Spandau Ballet . In The Bourne Legacy , he played the antagonist Eric Byer . Norton has also done uncredited script work on some of the films he appeared in specifically The Score and Frida . In 2000 , Norton made his directorial debut , Keeping the Faith . He had a reputation of being a perfectionist and managed to receive final cut of American History X , clashed with the director while shooting Red Dragon , and (with the director) clashed with the studio during the shooting of The Incredible Hulk (and refused to do promotion for it) . In 2013 , Norton starred in The Lonely Island 's music video , " Spring Break Anthem , " alongside Andy Samberg , Zach Galifianakis , James Franco , Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone . The video premiered on Funny or Die 's Between Two Ferns during a segment between Galifianakis and Franco . In 2014 , Norton played Mike Shiner , a prickly Broadway actor in the black comedy film Birdman and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for the role . On February 20 , 2014 , it was

announced that Norton was directing *Motherless Brooklyn* . In June 2014 , Norton 's Class 5 Films and RatPac Entertainment acquired the film rights to the non @-@ fiction article *American Hippopotamus* , by Jon Mooallem , about the meat shortage in the U.S. in 1910 and the attempts made by Major Frederick Russell Burnham , Captain Fritz Joubert Duquesne and Congressman Robert Broussard to import hippopotamuses into the Louisiana bayous and to convince Americans to eat them . The film will highlight the Burnham - Duquesne rivalry , two famous spies who had previous been under orders to assassinate each other . Norton , William Migliore and Brett Ratner will produce this feature film .

= = Personal life = =

After six years of dating , Norton proposed to Canadian film producer Shauna Robertson in 2011 and they married in 2012 . They have one son , Atlas (born March 18 , 2013) .

Norton is generally known for his reluctance to embrace his celebrity status and says , " If I ever have to stop taking the subway , I 'm gonna have a heart attack . "

Norton has stated in interviews that he is a fan of the Baltimore Orioles , and was involved in many of Cal Ripken Jr . ' s retirement activities in 2001 when he was asked to be a part of Ripken 's biography for Major League Baseball (MLB) . He attended Ripken 's ceremony at the Hall of Fame in July 2007 .

Norton has a private pilot license and discussed his flight training when interviewed on episodes of the *Late Show with David Letterman* and *Inside the Actor 's Studio* . One of his personal aircraft was a Cessna 206 substantially modified by the AOPA .

Norton was a strong supporter of former New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer . Norton is a member of the board of trustees of Enterprise Community Partners , a non @-@ profit developer of affordable housing based in his hometown . He is also well known for his support for environmental causes and renewable energy projects , such as Enterprise 's Green Communities Initiative and BP 's Solar Neighbors program . He also put time and money toward social activist causes , including improving the quality of living in low @-@ income communities .

Norton 's work with the HBO documentary *By the People : The Election of Barack Obama* led to a soundtrack , with proceeds going to Enterprise Community Partners and United Way . Norton also participated in a 2008 *Fast Company* story about Enterprise 's green affordable housing . Norton is the president of the American branch of the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust . To raise money for the trust , Norton fielded a team of thirty runners in the New York City Marathon on November 1 , 2009 . The team included Alanis Morissette and David Blaine . Norton finished the event first among celebrities with a time of 3 hours , 48 minutes . Norton and his team raised over \$ 1 million for the Trust .

In addition to his involvement with the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust , Norton supports African Wildlife Foundation , appearing in a public awareness ad about the dangers of buying elephant ivory as part of the " Say No " campaign . He is also a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador , as well as a spokesperson for the Convention on Biological Diversity . In May 2010 , Norton launched a website called *Crowdrise* , which uses a social networking platform to help raise funds for charity . In May 2012 , Norton played football for an ' England vs. The Rest of the World ' match the charity event *Soccer Aid* , along with James McAvoy and Woody Harrelson . The event eventually raised over £ 4 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 for UNICEF UK .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Actor = = =

= = = Producer = = =

2009 : By the People : The Election of Barack Obama
2012 : Thanks for Sharing

= = Awards and nominations = =