

= Alan Dale =

Alan Hugh Dale ( born 6 May 1947 ) is a New Zealand actor . As a child , Dale developed a love of theatre and also became a rugby player . After retiring from the sport he took on a number of professions to support his family , before deciding to become a professional actor at the age of 27 . With work limited in New Zealand , Dale moved to Australia , where he played Dr. John Forrest in The Young Doctors from 1979 to 1982 . He later appeared as Jim Robinson in Neighbours , a part he played from 1985 until 1993 . He left the series when he fell out with the producers over the pay he and the rest of the cast received .

After leaving Neighbours , Dale found that he had become typecast as Robinson in Australia and struggled to find work . His career was revitalised after he relocated to the United States in 2000 . Since then he has had roles in many American series including prominent parts in The O.C. ( as Caleb Nichol ) and Ugly Betty ( as Bradford Meade ) , as well as recurring and guest roles in Lost , 24 , NCIS , ER , The West Wing , The X @-@ Files , Entourage and Once Upon a Time . Dale has also appeared in minor roles in films such as Star Trek Nemesis , Hollywood Homicide , Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo , as well as the London West End production of Spamalot . Dale has been married to former Miss Australia Tracey Pearson since 1990 and has four children .

= = Early life and work = =

Dale was born on 6 May 1947 in Dunedin , Otago , New Zealand . One of four children , Dale enjoyed his childhood , but his family was relatively poor . Although he was a gentle child , Dale was bullied so he learned to defend and stand up for himself .

Growing up in New Zealand without television until the 1960s , Dale developed a love of theatre and amateur dramatics . His first performance was for a school concert , at the age of 13 , doing an impression of comedian Shelley Berman . His parents became founding members of an amateur theatre in Auckland called " The Little Dolphin Theatre " . Dale often operated the stage equipment used to produce weather effects , and whenever he was on stage he loved the applause . Although a skilled rugby player , Dale opted to move into drama instead because " the acting fraternity didn 't like footballers and the footballers didn 't like actors . [ ... ] Acting gave me the same buzz and there was the chance of a longer career . " He gave up rugby at the age of 21 because it was not considered a workable career at the time , and he had to support his family . Acting roles were limited in New Zealand so Dale worked in multiple jobs , including as a male model , a car salesman and a realtor . While working as a milkman he heard the disc jockey at his local radio station resign during a broadcast . Dale went over to the station and told the managers he could do a better job . They gave him a trial and then signed him up for the afternoon show , which led to him landing his first TV role , and at the age of 27 he decided to become a professional actor .

= = Acting career = =

= = = Early roles and Neighbours = = =

Dale 's first professional acting job was playing an Indian in a production of The Royal Hunt of the Sun at the Grafton Theatre in Auckland . His first on @-@ screen role came in the New Zealand television drama Radio Waves , which although not successful , he described as " nine months of solid work and great fun . " In the late 1970s , Dale moved to Australia at the age of 32 , due to the limited acting work in New Zealand . He applied to the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney , but was rejected because he " was a lot older than anybody else on the course . " He was soon cast as Dr. John Forrest in the Australian soap opera The Young Doctors , where he remained for three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half years .

In 1985 , Dale was cast in the continuing role of Jim Robinson in the Australian soap opera

Neighbours , earning him acclaim across the world , including the United Kingdom . He appeared on the show from the first episode and stayed for eight years before his character was killed off in 1993 . He found working on Neighbours " exciting " and it enabled him to provide for his sons , but he noted : " You were a totally replaceable commodity ; [ the production company ] didn 't put any value on any of the people appearing in the show . " He expanded : " I didn 't like it there , they were not nice people . When we decided that we hated each other , the company and me , one of the things the company did was to market everything they could out of us and pay us nothing . " Dale and the company ( Grundy Television ) parted on " bad terms " .

After Neighbours , Dale struggled to find work in Australia because he was typecast as Jim Robinson . His only regular sources of income were voice @-@ overs , and publishing magazines about his former show which he " made quite a lot of money out of " . He lost most of his profits investing in a failed children 's magazine . In 1999 , he was cast in the American TV film First Daughter , which was filmed in Australia . After discovering he could perform a convincing American accent , Dale attended the film 's premiere , finally moving with his family to the United States permanently in January 2000 . Dale , his second wife Tracey , and their then two @-@ year @-@ old son Nick moved into an " awful little flat " in Los Angeles and found an agent . Dale recalled telling his wife in Melbourne that " there 's no way this is going to work . But if it does , it proves you can do anything . "

= = = Wider success = = =

At the age of 52 , he began to revive his career and started taking acting classes , something he had not thought about after being cast in Neighbours . He described his age , unknown status and willingness to work for a relatively low fee as being his main assets for getting work in America . His drama teacher , who he has remained with ever since , told him " that you might want to play great roles , but truth is you will get cast as a specific type . Just work out your type . The others in the class said I was a bit Anthony Hopkins and a bit Sean Connery and that went into my head . I thought if I go for roles those guys would go for I 'm more likely to get them . " The first role he was offered was a part in a series called Sign of Life , a show about a rock band , which eventually fell through . Dale only received a couple of auditions during his first year in America , but his break came when he was cast as the South African Al Patterson in four episodes of ER . Since then , Dale has been " busier than ever " . He has appeared in many television series including guest appearances on The West Wing , Torchwood , The Lone Gunmen , Californication , and The Practice . Many of these have been recurring roles , such as the part of Tom Morrow in JAG and its spin @-@ off NCIS , as well as appearing in three episodes , including the series finale , of The X @-@ Files , playing the " Toothpick Man " . He played the recurring role of Vice President of the United States Jim Prescott for seven episodes of the second season of 24 , a part which was originally supposed to be a single scene . Dale had recurring roles in the serial Midnight Man and the Australian series Sea Patrol in 2008 . He also had recurring parts on Undercovers , Entourage as John Ellis , the fictional owner of Warner Bros. , and the British series Moving Wallpaper as a fictional version of himself . He had a recurring role as King George in the series Once Upon a Time , and Emmett in Hot in Cleveland , before joining the main cast of Dominion in 2014 , playing General Edward Riesen .

From 2003 to 2010 , Dale appeared in his longest running American roles . He starred in the Fox TV series , The O.C. playing Caleb Nichol , a wealthy tycoon . The producers saw that the character had further potential , and made his initially recurring role a regular character in the series . After 35 appearances , Caleb was killed off in the second season episode " The O.Sea " in 2005 . Dale was disappointed that Caleb was written out and described it as a mistake by the production staff . In 2006 , Dale was cast in the starring role of Bradford Meade , the owner of Meade Publications in the ABC show Ugly Betty . Although he impressed the producers in his audition , he initially lost the role to a " bigger star " . After said star began " causing trouble " and was fired , Dale was given the part . Bradford was killed off during the show 's second season . Dale appeared in the second season finale of Lost , " Live Together , Die Alone " , as Charles Widmore , a businessman and leader of the

Others . Dale 's publicist was initially worried that Widmore ( who was an integral part of the show 's mystery ) would become a starring role , meaning it would be hard for Dale to appear in both Lost and Ugly Betty at the same time . The part became a recurring role , with Dale appearing numerous times between seasons two ( 2006 ) and six ( 2010 ) . He enjoyed the role but often found it difficult due to his character 's unclear motivation .

In March 2008 , Dale replaced Peter Davison in the lead role of King Arthur in the London West End production of Monty Python 's Spamalot at the Palace Theatre . He accepted the role because he was a fan of Monty Python and considered that " life 's too short " for him to have turned down a West End part . Although he has seen all of the shows and the other films , Dale had never seen Monty Python and the Holy Grail ( from which Spamalot is " lovingly ripped off " ) and had to buy a copy to prepare for the role . It was not his first experience in musical theatre because he appeared in a 1984 Australian production of Applause , but Dale found the comic timing of the part to be the hardest task . " On stage , the battle is to find all of the humorous moments and not skip over them . [ ... ] There 's an art to Python humour and I 'm aiming to try and get every single joke just right . " He was succeeded in the role by Sanjeev Bhaskar on 23 June 2008 .

Dale has also made several film appearances . He appeared as the Romulan Praetor Hiren in Star Trek Nemesis , a part he got after the actor originally cast fell ill , and had small parts in films such as Hollywood Homicide , After the Sunset , and the minor part of General Ross in Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull . Dale said his script for Kingdom of the Crystal Skull was printed on tin foil so it was impossible to replicate , in order to keep the film 's plot a secret . He appeared in four films released in 2011 : A Little Bit of Heaven , Priest , Don 't Be Afraid of the Dark , and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo , having joined late in the film 's production .

= = Popularity and style = =

Despite his mainstream success since his move to America , Dale is still primarily known for his role as Jim Robinson in Neighbours in the United Kingdom and Australia . This was spoofed in a promotional ident for the UK 's Channel 4 in 2007 which sees Dale taking part in a mock interview about the sudden upturn in his career , before being accosted by an Australian fan , who recognises him as Jim Robinson . Discussing this association after Ugly Betty 's 2007 Golden Globe win , Dale noted : " Every article I read I 'm always , ' Ex @-@ soap star Jim Robinson ' . Maybe now people will just get to know me as actor Alan Dale . " In 2007 , Amazon.co.uk reported that they had sold more DVDs of films and television shows featuring Dale than any featuring other ex @-@ Neighbours cast members .

Dale 's characters on most of the American television shows he has appeared on have shared similar character traits , which Dale describes as the " go @-@ to powerful guy " role . Following his appearance as Senator Eaton in The Killing in 2011 , reviewers commented on his tendency to play powerful , wealthy and mysterious characters in many shows . Maureen Ryan of TV Squad wrote that it was " lovely to see Alan Dale playing a typically Alan Dale @-@ ian character . He 's always so great at playing That Sketchy Wealthy Guy With a Hidden Agenda , which he has now played on , I believe , 87 different shows . And he always does it well . " Coincidentally , Dale 's characters in Neighbours , The O.C. and Ugly Betty have all been killed off by a fatal heart attack . Christopher Rosen of The New York Observer wrote in 2008 that " with his square jaw and seemingly no nonsense attitude , Mr. Dale is the go @-@ to actor when casting directors need a conservative @-@ looking authoritarian . When he comes onto the screen , audiences immediately take him seriously , since he radiates rich , smug and serious . He demands your respect . " Rosen says that Dale is " not even ... a particularly good actor " but is " fine enough " and " bring [ s ] a no frills , no gimmicks style to his roles , " and " manages to give a consistent performance in every show he appears on . "

Jayne Nelson , writing in magazine SFX , named Dale the second most " serial " science @-@ fiction guest star after Mark Sheppard . She wrote : " The thing is , soap @-@ opera origins aside , Dale is always good . Which is why he keeps getting so much work .... Dale never lets you down , always ( well , usually ) summoning up a pitch @-@ perfect accent , too . There 's something

comforting about his presence on a show , as though the fact he 's in it has leant it some weight . " In a profile of his work on " cult shows " , Ben Rawson @-@ Jones of Digital Spy called Dale an " institution " .

= = Personal life = =

In 1968 , Dale married his girlfriend , Claire . The couple had two children , Simon and Matthew , both of whom are involved in the entertainment industry , Simon as a radio announcer at Kiss 100 and Matthew as a writer , film maker and actor . The marriage ended in divorce in 1979 . At the time , Dale lived in Auckland but after the divorce he moved to Sydney with his sons . On 8 April 1990 , he married Tracey Pearson , the 1986 Miss Australia , whom he met at the 1986 Australian Grand Prix , when she was 21 and he was 39 . Dale described it as " the most appropriate relationship I 've ever had . " Dale also has two children from this marriage , Daniel and Nick , who " keep him young " .

He and his family now live in Manhattan Beach , Los Angeles , California and also own property in Australia . Dale sold his holiday home in New Zealand in 2011 for \$ 1.25m. Both of Dale 's parents died in 2007 , and he regrets not spending enough time with them . Dale describes his life philosophy as being Winston Churchill 's quote " Never , never , never give up " , and counts Gene Hackman as his " big acting hero " .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Films = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = = Video games = = =

= = = Theatre = = =

Spamalot ( 2008 ) ? King Arthur