

= Peter Sarsgaard =

John Peter Sarsgaard (/ ʃəˈzɡɑːrd / ; born March 7 , 1971) is an American actor . He landed his first feature role in the movie Dead Man Walking in 1995 . He then appeared in the 1998 independent films Another Day in Paradise and Desert Blue . That same year , Sarsgaard received a substantial role in The Man in the Iron Mask (1998) , playing Raoul , the ill -fated son of Athos . Sarsgaard later achieved critical recognition when he was cast in Boys Don 't Cry (1999) as John Lotter . He landed his first leading role in the 2001 film The Center of the World . The following year , he played supporting roles in Empire , The Salton Sea , and K-11 : The Widowmaker .

For his portrayal of Charles Lane in Shattered Glass , Sarsgaard won the National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actor and was nominated for the 2004 Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor . Sarsgaard has appeared in an eclectic range of films , including the 2004 comedy -drama Garden State , the biographical film Kinsey (2004) , the drama The Dying Gaul (2005) and big -budget films such as Flightplan (2005) , Jarhead (2005) , Orphan (2009) , An Education (2009) , Knight and Day (2010) , and the superhero film Green Lantern (2011) , Lovelace (2013) , Kelly Reichardt 's Night Moves (2013) , Woody Allen 's Blue Jasmine (2013) and Black Mass (2015) . Sarsgaard also appeared in the U.S. TV series The Killing (2013) as a man on death row perhaps wrongfully convicted for the brutal murder of his wife ? a performance which he says included " some of the best acting I have ever done in my life . " His latest film , Experimenter , in which he stars alongside Winona Ryder , was released in the U.S. on October 16 , 2015 .

Sarsgaard has also appeared in Off -Broadway productions including Kingdom of Earth , Laura Dennis , and Burn This . In September 2008 , he made his Broadway debut as Boris Alexeyevich Trigorin in The Seagull . Sarsgaard appeared in the off -Broadway production of Uncle Vanya in January 2009 . Sarsgaard is married to actress Maggie Gyllenhaal . They have two daughters .

= = Early life = =

Sarsgaard was born at Scott Air Force Base , Illinois , the son of Judy Lea (née Reinhardt) and John Dale Sarsgaard . His father was an Air Force engineer and later worked for Monsanto and IBM . He is American (although his surname originates in Denmark , where two of his paternal great -great -grandparents were born) . Sarsgaard was raised a Roman Catholic and served as an altar boy . His family moved more than 12 times during his childhood , following his father 's job . At the age of 7 , Sarsgaard originally wanted to become a soccer player and took up ballet to help improve his coordination . After suffering several bad concussions while playing soccer , he gave up the sport and became interested in writing and theater .

Sarsgaard attended Fairfield College Preparatory School , a private Jesuit boys ' school in Connecticut , where he became interested in movies . Following his graduation from Fairfield Prep , he attended Bard College in New York for two years before transferring to Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) in 1991 , where he co -founded an improvisational comedy troupe " Mama 's Pot Roast . " While at WUSTL , Sarsgaard began performing in plays in an offshoot of New York 's Actors Studio ; His first role was as the servant Lawrence in Molière 's Tartuffe . In 1993 , he graduated with a degree in history and moved to New York .

= = Career = =

= = = Early work = = =

Sarsgaard branched out with guest roles in television productions filmed in New York City , with Law & Order in 1995 , and New York Undercover (1997) as well as an appearance in the 1997 HBO special Subway Stories . He appeared in his first film role in Dead Man Walking (1995) ,

where he was cast as a murdered teenager , killed by Sean Penn 's character .

His next film roles were in a series of independent features : Another Day in Paradise (1997) , part of an ensemble cast that included James Woods , Melanie Griffith , Vincent Kartheiser , and Natasha Gregson Wagner , and In Desert Blue (1998) , where he had a supporting role in the film . He received his substantial role in the 1998 film The Man in the Iron Mask , where he played Raoul , the ill -fated son of John Malkovich 's dueling Musketeer , Athos . The film uses characters from Alexandre Dumas ' d 'Artagnan Romances , and is very loosely adapted from some plot elements of The Vicomte de Bragelonne . The film received ambivalent reviews , but was a success at the box office , earning \$ 182 million worldwide .

= = = 1999 ? 2002 : Critical success = = =

In 1999 , Sarsgaard earned critical recognition in Kimberly Peirce 's Boys Don 't Cry , where he was cast as notorious killer John Lotter . The film is based on the real life story of Brandon Teena , who was raped and murdered in 1993 by Lotter and Tom Nissen after they found out that he was a trans man . Boys Don 't Cry received overwhelmingly positive acclaim from critics , and his performance was critically well received . According to The Boston Globe , " Peter Sarsgaard ... makes the killer 's terrible trajectory not only believable , but grounded in the most mundane clodhopper behavior . He isn 't a drooling monster , he 's a guy you wouldn 't look twice at a bar or a convenience store . " A contributor from the Seattle Post -Intelligencer wrote " It 's a marvelous performance supported ably by ... Sarsgaard as the unpredictable , sociopathic Lotter . " The film was screened at a special presentation at the 2000 Venice Film Festival . In regards to his character , as how Sarsgaard made him " likeable , sympathetic even " was because he wanted the audience " to understand why they would hang out with me . If my character wasn 't necessarily likable , I wanted him to be charismatic enough that you weren 't going to have a dull time if you were with him . " In another interview , Sarsgaard said he felt " empowered " by playing Lotter .

His first leading role was in the 2001 feature The Center of the World , where he plays Richard Longman , a lonely young entrepreneur who skips out on his company 's big initial public offering and pays a stripper (Molly Parker) \$ 10 000 to fly to Las Vegas with him . The film received average reviews , however , A.O. Scott of the New York Times , reported that the performances by both Sarsgaard and Parker " provide a rough grain of authenticity , capturing the blunted affect and aimless neediness of people in their 20s struggling to navigate a world of material abundance and impoverished emotional possibility . " Scott concluded in his recap that Sarsgaard made his character " seem like a genuinely nice guy , too innocent to grasp the sleaziness of his bargain with Florence . "

In 2002 , Sarsgaard starred in three films , K 19 : The Widowmaker , Empire and The Salton Sea . In K 19 : The Widowmaker , he portrayed a young Russian navy lieutenant . The film 's budget cost was \$ 100 million to make , but upon release , it grossed \$ 35 million in the United States and \$ 30 million internationally , qualifying it as a box office failure . His next role was in Empire , a crime thriller , where he was cast in a supporting role . Sarsgaard played a meth addict in D. J. Caruso 's The Salton Sea .

= = = 2003 ? present : Worldwide recognition = = =

2003 marked a significant turning point in Sarsgaard 's career , when he starred in the feature film Shattered Glass . He depicted journalist Charles Lane , the lead editor of The New Republic . Shattered Glass is based on the real events of journalist Stephen Glass ' career at The New Republic during the mid -1990s and his fall when his widespread journalistic fraud is exposed . During promotion of the film , Sarsgaard noted of his portrayal of Lane : " I just wanted to get his perspective on the actual events . [...] I think that I tried to have some respect for myself and that way you 're respecting the real person you 're playing . I 've done it a number of times . And it 's always a little bit confusing . The best thing to do is just to ignore the fact , I think , that you 're playing somebody who is a real life character . " According to the San Diego Union -Tribune , "

Peter Sarsgaard is appealingly level , a stolid straight @-@ shooter as Lane " . A reviewer from the Chicago Tribune noted that Sarsgaard plays Lane with " great subtlety and grace " . The newspaper concluded with , " The character doesn 't seethe with personal resentment ; when he does a slow burn , he conveys a much deeper sense of a man 's value system being violated past the breaking point . " Sarsgaard 's performance in the film earned him his first Golden Globe Award nomination and an Independent Spirit Award nomination .

Following the success of Shattered Glass , Sarsgaard starred in several roles . In 2004 , he starred in the comedy @-@ drama Garden State , where he played Mark , the sarcastic best friend to Zach Braff 's character . In the same year , Sarsgaard portrayed Clyde Martin , in the biographical film Kinsey , a movie about the life of Alfred Kinsey , played by Liam Neeson . Kinsey was Sarsgaard 's first film role which featured full frontal nudity . Paul Clinton of CNN reported that Sarsgaard 's Clyde Martin " stands out " and " confirms that he 's without doubt one of the best character actors of his generation . " When asked about his kissing scenes with Neeson in Kinsey , Sarsgaard said :

It wasn't as hard as , say , running around with all my gear on in Jarhead . I'd rather go for an awkward moment than physical exertion any day . The only thing that I think [male actors] get freaked out about when they have to do something like kiss a guy in a movie ? when to their knowledge they're straight ? is that they're afraid they're going to be turned on . And if you're not afraid that you're going to be turned on ? meaning that you know what you like ? then really it's not that hard .

In 2005 , Sarsgaard starred in the drama The Dying Gaul , where he plays Robert Sandrich , a struggling screenwriter who has written a serious love story about a man and his terminally ill partner . The film received favourable reviews . In an interview , Sarsgaard said , he felt like he was playing a character based on Craig Lucas , the director , whom he describes as " elitist in a fun way " . Because his character , a screenwriter , is also " elitist , " when he sells his soul by compromising his artistic vision , " ... the conflict seems bigger . Anyone can sell their soul . Even people with integrity . There 's always that temptation to guard against . Which is why it 's best to keep as much as possible hidden . "

Also in 2005 , he had a supporting role in the suspense film The Skeleton Key . His next film role was in Robert Schwentke 's thriller Flightplan (2005) . In the film , Sarsgaard played an air marshal , who is ordered to keep guard of Jodie Foster 's character . Flightplan was screened at a special presentation at the 30th annual Toronto International Film Festival in 2005 . Despite the mixed reviews , the film was a financial success , earning \$ 223 million worldwide , making it his highest @-@ grossing film to the end of 2008 . Sarsgaard 's next feature was Jarhead (2005) , opposite Jake Gyllenhaal . The movie is based on U.S. Marine Anthony Swofford 's 2003 Gulf War memoir of the same name .

Sarsgaard hosted Saturday Night Live (SNL) on January 21 , 2006 . In his introductory monologue , he tried to point out that he was a nice guy despite his sometimes macabre roles . Video clips were then played of Sarsgaard scaring the SNL cast . One sketch featured the Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) global scare , which was still fresh in many minds , and one of the skits included a promotion for the Peter Sarsgaard " SARS @-@ Guard " , a reference to the mania of facemasks worn in public by those fearing infection .

In 2007 , he starred in supporting roles in Year of the Dog and Rendition . Year of the Dog is a dark comedy about a lonely middle @-@ aged woman , played by Molly Shannon , who finds that animals are the only beings she can truly rely on . Sarsgaard plays Newt , an androgynous dog trainer , and love interest for Shannon 's character . He starred alongside Meryl Streep , Alan Arkin , Reese Witherspoon , and Jake Gyllenhaal in Rendition , a Gavin Hood @-@ directed political thriller about the US policy of extraordinary rendition . Viewed as a sex symbol , Sarsgaard was named one of Salon.com 's Sexiest Man Living in 2007 . 2008 saw Sarsgaard star in the drama Elegy , based on a Phillip Roth novel , The Dying Animal . The film received favorable good reception amongst critics .

In 2009 , Sarsgaard starred alongside Jon Foster and Sienna Miller in the drama The Mysteries of Pittsburgh . It is an adaptation of Michael Chabon 's novel of the same name . In the movie , Sarsgaard plays Cleveland , the rebellious bisexual boyfriend of Miller 's character . The Mysteries

of Pittsburgh premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival . His next film appearance was in the thriller Orphan , where he and Vera Farmiga play a married couple who lose a baby and adopt a nine @-@ year @-@ old girl , who is not as innocent as she claims to be . Furthermore , in the same year , Sarsgaard starred as David in Lone Scherfig 's coming of age film An Education . The role required Sarsgaard to speak in a British accent . An Education drew favorable reviews from critics . According to Variety , " Sarsgaard ... marvelously expresses the savoir faire that has such an impact on Jenny [Carey Mulligan] . " Sarsgaard played a federal agent in the action comedy film Knight and Day , released in June 2010 , in which he appeared alongside Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz . In February 2010 , it was announced that Sarsgaard had been cast as villain Hector Hammond in the superhero film Green Lantern . The film was released in 2011 .

= = = Stage career = = =

In 1995 , Sarsgaard made his theatrical debut in the Off @-@ Broadway production of Horton Foote 's Laura Dennis , which was directed by James Houghton . Ben Brantley of The New York Times wrote : " Mr. Sarsgaard ... emerges as an actor to watch with a performance of breathtaking emotional conviction . " The following year he starred in Kingdom of Earth opposite Cynthia Nixon and directed by John Cameron Mitchell . His performance in the play received favorable reviews amongst critics . In October 2002 , Sarsgaard returned to theater in a New York production of Lanford Wilson 's Burn This , where he replaced Edward Norton .

In 2008 , Sarsgaard made his Broadway debut at the Royal Court Theatre of Anton Chekhov 's adaptation The Seagull alongside Kristin Scott Thomas , Mackenzie Crook and Carey Mulligan . In the production , he plays , Boris Alexeyevich Trigorin , a tortured writer who drives a rival to suicide and a young lover to ruin . For the role , Sarsgaard had been required to speak in a British accent , in which he wanted it to be " less liked by an American audience " .

Sarsgaard played Mikhail Lvovich Astrov , a country doctor and philosopher , in the Classic Stage Company 's 2009 off @-@ Broadway production of Anton Chekhov 's Uncle Vanya in New York City . The cast also included Maggie Gyllenhaal , Mamie Gummer , Denis O 'Hare , and George Morfogen . The production , directed by Austin Pendleton , began previews on January 17 and ended its limited run on March 1 . Joe Dziemianowicz of the New York Daily News gave the production one out of four stars , but complimented his performance , writing that Sarsgaard does a " credible job as the doctor " . In the Bloomberg review of Uncle Vanya , John Simon , wrote : " Sarsgaard can 't find the right tempi or emphases : shuttling between colorless rattle and silence @-@ studded rallentandos , he fails at both infectious enthusiasm and self- effacing charm . "

In May 2010 , it was reported that Sarsgaard will star in Chekhov 's play Three Sisters . The production is scheduled to begin in 2011 , and Sarsgaard will reunited with Uncle Vanya director Austin Pendleton .

= = Personal life = =

In an interview with the New York Times , Sarsgaard stated that he followed Catholicism , saying : " I like the death @-@ cult aspect of Catholicism . Every religion is interested in death , but Catholicism takes it to a particularly high level . [...] Seriously , in Catholicism , you 're supposed to love your enemy . That really impressed me as a kid , and it has helped me as an actor . [...] The way that I view the characters I play is part of my religious upbringing . To abandon curiosity in all personalities , good or bad , is to give up hope in humanity . "

Among his most notable romantic relationships , Sarsgaard dated burlesque dancer Dita Von Teese and model and actress Shalom Harlow . Early in his film career , he dated photographer Malerie Marder , a close friend from his days attending Bard College , who had featured Sarsgaard in some of her early work . Sarsgaard has been in a relationship with actress Maggie Gyllenhaal , the sister of his close friend Jake Gyllenhaal , since 2002 . In April 2006 , they announced their engagement , and on May 2 , 2009 , they married in a small ceremony in Brindisi , Italy . They have two daughters , Ramona Sarsgaard , born October 3 , 2006 , and Gloria Ray Sarsgaard , born April 19 , 2012 . The

family lives in Brooklyn , New York .

Sarsgaard is vegan , although he says he cooks meat for his children .

In June 2013 , Sarsgaard and numerous other celebrities appeared in a video showing support for Chelsea Manning .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = = Theatre = = =

= = Awards and nominations = =