

= Ben Daniels =

Ben Daniels ( born 10 June 1964 ) is an English actor . Initially a celebrated stage actor , Daniels was nominated for Best Actor at the Evening Standard Awards for Best Supporting Actor in the Laurence Olivier Awards for *Never the Sinner* ( 1991 ) , *900 Oneonta* ( 1994 ) , Best Actor in the M.E.N. Theatre Awards for *Martin Yesterday* ( 1998 ) , and won the Olivier award in 2001 for his performance in the Arthur Miller play *All My Sons* .

In 2008 , Daniels made his Broadway début in a revival of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* , for which he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play . In more recent years , Daniels has appeared on popular television series including *Cutting It* ( 2002 ? 05 ) , *The Virgin Queen* ( 2005 ) , *Law & Order : UK* ( 2009 ? 11 ) , *The Paradise* ( 2013 ) and *House of Cards* ( 2013 ? 14 ) .

= = Early life = =

Daniels was born in Nuneaton , Warwickshire . His father was an engineer at Rolls @-@ Royce and later a grocer , while his mother owned a children 's clothes shop . He has recalled : " I was quite a shy child , but quite disruptive as well . I was very sneaky and underhanded . "

= = Education = =

Daniels was educated at Manor Park School , a state comprehensive school in Nuneaton , near Coventry , in the English Midlands ( since closed ) . According to Daniels , drama lessons at O @-@ levels gave him a voice , and when he attended sixth form studies at Stratford College between 1980 and 1982 , doing A @-@ levels in theatre studies and English literature , he attended Royal Shakespeare Company performances . A fellow student recalled that Daniels , whom he knew as Dave , " was very serious about his work , and struck me as incredibly intelligent ... you got the sense his mind was working ; the cogs were ticking over " . Daniels subsequently trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art ( LAMDA ) for three years .

= = Career = =

One of Daniels ' earliest roles was as Justin Hayward , the lead singer of the Moody Blues , as a teenager in two of the band 's music videos , " *Your Wildest Dreams* " ( 1986 ) and " *I Know You 're Out There Somewhere* " ( 1988 ) . In 1992 , he made an appearance in the infamous plane crash episode " *Cascade* " of the television show *Casualty* , playing the co @-@ pilot of the doomed plane . He has taken on parts in many British television dramas , such as Robin in *The Lost Language of Cranes* ( 1991 ) , the Biblical character Jonathan in the 1997 Emmy @-@ nominated TV film *David* , the philandering Finn Bevan in *Cutting It* ( 2002 ? 2005 ) , and Nicholas Brocklehurst in the BBC television miniseries *The State Within* ( 2006 ) . The latter role was notable for an unexpected same @-@ sex kiss between Daniels ' character and another person . In 2008 he appeared in *Lark Rise to Candleford* , a BBC production based on three semi @-@ autobiographical novels about the English countryside written by Flora Thompson .

Daniel has also played a number of real @-@ life characters , such as German State Secretary Dr. Josef Bühler in *Conspiracy* , a 2001 dramatisation of the Wannsee Conference at which the Final Solution was endorsed . He also played the English author and journalist Ian Fleming , creator of James Bond , in *Ian Fleming : Bondmaker* ( 2005 ) , as well as Sir Francis Walsingham in *The Virgin Queen* ( 2005 ) and English writer Saki in *Who Killed Mrs De Ropp ?* ( 2007 ) . In addition , he has made guest appearances in a number of British TV drama series , including *Soldier Soldier* ( 1992 ) , *A Touch of Frost* ( 1992 ) , *Outside Edge* ( 1994 ) , and *Spooks* ( 2005 ) .

Daniels may be most recognisable to American audiences for appearing in the 1996 gay film *Beautiful Thing* . Daniels portrayed Tony , boyfriend of Sandra , the protagonist Jamie 's mother . In an independent film directed by Lavinia Currier titled *Passion in the Desert* ( 1997 ) , Daniels played

a French soldier named Augustin Robert . The film was nominated for a Golden Seashell award . Other feature films that Daniels has starred in are The Bridge ( 1992 ) , I Want You ( 1998 ) , Madeline ( 1998 ) , and Doom ( 2005 ) . He was offered roles in the 2000 releases The Patriot and Vertical Limit , but turned them down and stated that " the money was good , but it wasn 't for me " . On his Twitter account , Daniels confirms his brief appearance as a Resistance pilot in the upcoming Star Wars film Rogue One : A Star Wars Story .

Daniels has said that he loves acting on stage because " it 's tough and keeps you on your toes as an actor " . He appeared in All 's Well That Ends Well and As You Like It ( 1999 ? 2000 ) , and played Mercutio in a 1994 TV adaptation of Romeo and Juliet . Other theatre credits include Waiting for Godot ( 1994 ) and 900 Oneonta ( 1994 ) , which earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the Evening Standard Awards . He also acted in Martin Yesterday ( 1998 ) , for which he was nominated as Best Actor in the Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards , Naked ( 1998 ) , Tales From Hollywood ( 2001 ) , Three Sisters ( 2003 ) , Iphigenia at Aulis ( 2004 ) , The God of Hell ( 2005 ) , and The Wild Duck ( 2005 ? 2006 ) . In 2006 , Daniels appeared in Thérèse Raquin as Laurent , for which a reviewer labelled his performance " riveting " .

Daniels won the Best Supporting Actor award at the Whatsonstage.com Theatregoers ' Choice Theatre Awards and the 25th Laurence Olivier Awards in 2001 for his performance in the Arthur Miller play All My Sons . He was first nominated for the latter award earlier in his career , in 1991 , for his performance as murderer Richard Loeb in the play Never the Sinner at the Playhouse Theatre . In 2008 , Daniels fulfilled a lifetime ambition when he made his Broadway début , headlining as the Vicomte de Valmont in a revival of Les Liaisons Dangereuses . The show opened on 1 May 2008 . Daniels was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play for his role .

= = Personal life = =

Daniels is openly gay and lives in south London . He remarked : " Out ? I 've never been in . " He lives with actor Ian Gelder . They began seeing each other during a 1993 production of Joe Orton 's Entertaining Mr Sloane . Daniels was already sure of his sexuality in his teens , although he did not discuss the matter with his parents because they did not have a very close emotional relationship . He was " cautious about mentioning it when I left drama school , because AIDS was terrifying everyone and there was a huge homophobic backlash " . He decided to come out at the age of 24 , while appearing in an all @-@ star benefit performance of Martin Sherman 's Bent .

Daniels said in an interview : " Homophobia is still shockingly prevalent in film and TV . I know I 've lost work because of being gay , and it is always an issue . Even on a serious BBC Two drama , there will be some suit in some office going , " Hmmm , isn 't he a poof ? " I don 't consider myself politically gay , but whenever I catch a whiff of that now , I 'm on it like a ton of bricks . " In 2007 , Daniels was ranked number 79 in the annual Pink List of 100 influential gay and lesbian people in Britain published by The Independent on Sunday , down from number 47 in 2006 .

In his spare time , he is an amateur painter and a practitioner of Ashtanga yoga .

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