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Matthew Perry



*For the 19th century U.S. Navy Commodore, see [Matthew C. Perry](#).
For other uses, see [Matthew Perry \(disambiguation\)](#).*

Matthew Perry



Perry at the [62nd Primetime Emmy Awards](#) on August 29, 2010

Born	<div>Matthew Langford Perry</div> <div>August 19, 1969 (age 45)</div> <div>Williamstown, Massachusetts, U.S.</div>
Citizenship	Canadian, American (dual)
Alma mater	The Buckley School
Occupation	Actor, director, writer, producer
Years active	1979–present
Known for	<i>Friends</i>
Parents	John Bennett Perry (father)

Matthew Langford Perry (born August 19, 1969) is an actor with dual American and Canadian citizenship. He is well known for his [Emmy-nominated](#) role as [Chandler Bing](#) on the popular, long-running

[NBC](#) television sitcom *[Friends](#)*. He also received acclaim for his portrayal of Ron Clark in the television movie *[The Ron Clark Story](#)*, accompanied by another [Emmy](#) nomination as well as a [Golden Globe](#) nomination.^{[1][2]} Perry also starred in the short-lived series *[Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip](#)* and has appeared in a number of films, including *[Fools Rush In](#)* (1997), *[The Whole Nine Yards](#)* (2000), and *[17 Again](#)* (2009).^[3] In 2010 he expanded his resume to include both [video games](#) and [voiceover](#) work when he voiced Benny in the [role-playing game](#) *[Fallout: New Vegas](#)*.^[4]

Perry was the co-creator, co-writer, executive producer and star of the short-lived ABC sitcom *[Mr. Sunshine](#)*, which ran from February to April 2011.^[5] In August 2012, Perry began starring as Ryan King, a sportscaster, on the [NBC](#) comedy *[Go On](#)*. The series was cancelled on May 10, 2013.^[6] In December 2013, it was announced that Perry would be starring, co-writing, and executive-producing a remake of *[The Odd Couple](#)*. Perry will play Oscar Madison, a known slob.^[7] Perry is also going to make his UK TV comedy debut in the one-off [Sky Arts](#) comedy *[The Dog Thrower](#)* to be shown in May 2014.^[8]



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^ Early life



Perry was born in [Williamstown, Massachusetts](#). His mother, Suzanne Marie (née Langford), is a Canadian journalist and former press secretary to Canadian Prime Minister [Pierre Trudeau](#), and his father, [John Bennett Perry](#), is an American actor and former model.^{[9][10][11]} His parents divorced before his first birthday and his mother subsequently married [Keith Morrison](#), a broadcast journalist.^[10] Perry was raised by his mother in [Ottawa, Ontario](#), and was enrolled at [Rockcliffe Park Public School](#) and [Ashbury College](#).^[10] While growing up, he took a keen interest in tennis and became a top-ranked junior player.^[10]

^ Career



1980s

Matthew Perry moved from Ottawa to Los Angeles to pursue acting. For high school, he attended [The Buckley School](#) in Sherman Oaks. While at Buckley, Perry was featured as George Gibbs in [Our Town](#) and appeared as a junior in a production of [The Miracle Worker](#). Patty Duke attended and praised the young Perry's convincing role as Helen's brother Jimmy. He was also featured in *The Sound of Music* as a junior. In his senior year, director Tim Hillman had planned a production of "The Elephant Man" specifically to feature Perry as John Merrick along with Vanessa Smith, and future [Les Misérables](#) star Lisa Capps. He then got his professional break at age 18. On being cast in [A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon](#) with [River Phoenix](#), Perry withdrew from *Elephant Man* and ended his high school acting career. Perry also pursued improv comedy at the LA Connection in Sherman Oaks while still in high school, quickly becoming a featured performer.^[12]

After some guest appearances in mid 1980s television, it was his intention to enroll at the [University of Southern California](#), but when he was offered the lead role of Chazz Russell in [Second Chance](#) he became noticed on the acting scene. Perry originally starred alongside [Kiel Martin](#) when the series premiered in 1987, but after 13 episodes the

format changed: *Second Chance* became *Boys Will Be Boys*, Perry was elevated to top-billing status, and the plots re-focused on the adventures of Chazz and his teenage friends. Despite the shift, the show ran for only one season. When it concluded, Perry stayed in Los Angeles and made guest appearance on the television program *Growing Pains* in which he portrayed Carol's boyfriend who dies from injuries in the hospital sustained in a drunk driving accident.^[12]

1990s



Perry departing rehearsal for the 1995 Emmy Awards.

In the midst of his many continuing guest roles on TV, Perry was cast as a regular on the 1990 CBS sitcom *Sydney*, playing the younger brother of Valerie Bertinelli's title character. In 1991, he made a guest appearance on *Beverly Hills, 90210* as Roger Azarian. Perry landed his next TV starring role on the ABC sitcom *Home Free*, which aired only 11 episodes in the spring 1993. By then, Perry was making his mark, and was instantly cast in a new dramatic pilot titled *LAX 2194*. The project was slow to take off, so as a backup option, he attempted to secure an audition for the pilot *Six of One*, later to be known as *Friends*, by Marta Kauffman and David Crane, both of whom he had worked with on *Dream On*. However, due to previous commitments to the pilot *LAX 2194*, he was not initially considered for an audition. When he did eventually get a reading, he landed the part he is best known for, the role of Chandler Bing.^[12]

The program was hugely successful and Perry, along with his co-stars, gained wide renown among television viewers. The program also earned him *Emmy*^[13] nominations in 2002 for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series along with Matt LeBlanc, but he lost to Ray Romano. As well as his successful career on *Friends*, Perry has appeared in films

such as *Fools Rush In* (alongside father [John Bennett Perry](#) and [Salma Hayek](#)), *Almost Heroes*, *Three to Tango*, *The Whole Nine Yards* (alongside [Bruce Willis](#)) and its sequel *The Whole Ten Yards*, and *Serving Sara*.^[12]

2000s



Perry at the 2007 [Tribeca Film Festival](#).

While known primarily for his comic roles, Perry has carved out a career in drama as well, particularly in his portrayal of Associate [White House Counsel](#) Joe Quincy in [Aaron Sorkin's](#) *The West Wing*. His three appearances in that series (twice in the fourth season and once in the fifth) earned him two [Emmy](#) nominations for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series in 2003 and 2004. Perry is referred to in the show prior to his guest appearance - Donna Moss seeks him out (off screen) in the episode "20 Hours in LA." He also appeared as attorney Todd Merrick in two episodes near the end of *Ally McBeal*'s five season run, including a 2-hour special intended to revive the legal comedy-drama.^[12]

After *Friends* wrapped up, Perry made his directorial debut in an episode of the 4th season of the American comedy-drama *Scrubs*, in which he also guest starred as "Murray Marks", an operator of a small airport's traffic control team. Murray is asked to donate a kidney to his father Gregory (played by Perry's real father).^[12]

He starred in the [TNT](#) movie, *The Ron Clark Story* which premiered August 13, 2006. Perry played small town teacher [Ron Clark](#) who

relocates to the toughest class in the country. Perry received a [Golden Globe](#) nomination as well as an [Emmy](#) nomination for his performance.

In 2006-2007, Perry appeared in [Aaron Sorkin](#)'s drama *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*. Perry played Matt Albie alongside [Bradley Whitford](#)'s Danny Tripp, a writer-director duo brought in to help save a failing [sketch show](#). Perry's character was considered to be substantially based on Sorkin's own personal experiences, particularly in television.^[14]

In 2006 he began filming *Numb*, a film based on a man suffering from [depersonalization disorder](#). The film's tentative release date was pushed back several times, but was finally released to DVD on May 13, 2008. He also appeared in [David Mamet](#)'s *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* in London.^[15] In 2009 he starred in the film *17 Again* playing the older Mike O'Donnell.

In 2008, Perry starred in the offbeat film *Birds of America* as Morrie Tanager, an uptight man who has to deal with his siblings.

[Showtime](#) passed on a pilot called *The End of Steve*, a [dark comedy](#) starring, written and produced by Perry and [Peter Tolan](#).^[16]

2010s



Perry speaking about [drug courts](#) at think-tank [Policy Exchange](#) in December 2013



Play media

Perry in a video talking about the
National Drug Control Policy program

Perry's new comedy pilot, *Mr. Sunshine*, based on Perry's original idea, was bought by ABC.^{[17][18]} Perry was set to portray a middle-aged man with an identity crisis.^[19] ABC canceled the series after nine episodes.^{[20][21]}

On March 1, 2012, it was reported that Perry had signed on to star on the NBC comedy pilot *Go On*, written and produced by former *Friends* writer/producer Scott Silveri.^[22] The project was picked up to series in May 2012. Perry portrays Ryan King, a charming yet irreverent sportscaster who tries to move on after the death of his wife through the help of mandatory therapy sessions. The pilot aired on August 8, 2012, as a "sneak preview" post the 2012 Summer Olympics.^[23] The series premiered on September 11, 2012.^[24] On October 2, 2012, NBC ordered a full season of 22 episodes.^[25] The series was cancelled by NBC in May 2013, shortly after the conclusion of its first season.

In 2012, Perry guest-starred on the critically acclaimed CBS drama *The Good Wife*, as attorney Mike Kresteva. In 2013, he reprised his role in the fourth season.^[26]

In December 2013, it was announced that Matthew Perry is starring, co-writing, and executive-producing a remake of *The Odd Couple*. The multi-camera comedy will start airing sometime in 2014 at CBS. Perry will play Oscar Madison, a known slob; the role of his clean freak roomie Felix Unger was given to Thomas Lennon, who had previously worked with him on *17 Again* (as Ned Gold, Mike O'Donnell's (Matthew Perry) friend) and on *Friends* (as Joey's (Matt LeBlanc) identical hand twin).^{[7][27]} Perry's *Go On* co-star Sarah Baker will also join him in the show. Baker will play Oscar's assistant Sam, who spends most of her work day on the phone apologizing to assorted high-and-mighty people who have been offended by Oscar's latest rant.^[28]

In 2014, Perry will also make his British TV debut in the one-off comedy program *The Dog Thrower*, which is set to air on May 1 as part of Sky Arts' Playhouse Presents strand. Perry will play "a charismatic man"

who enchants onlookers by throwing his dog in the air. The strand will include eight standalone comedy and drama programmes. *The Dog Thrower* will also star [Tim Key](#), and is written by author and journalist [Jon Ronson](#), who also makes his directorial debut.^[29]

^ Personal life



Perry dated actress [Lizzy Caplan](#) from 2006^{[30][31]} to 2012.^[32]

Perry holds dual American-Canadian citizenship.^[33]

Perry completed a 28-day program in 1997 for a [Vicodin](#) addiction. Matthew Perry's weight fluctuated drastically over the next few years and once dropped down to 145 pounds (66 kg). He lost 20 pounds in 2000 due to [pancreatitis](#).^[34] Perry again entered rehab in February 2001 to treat an addiction to [opioids](#) (specifically [vicodin](#) and [methadone](#)), [amphetamines](#) and alcohol.^{[35][36][37]} Perry was in Dallas, Texas, filming *Serving Sara* with [Elizabeth Hurley](#) when he had such severe stomach pains that he called a local doctor, who advised rehab. Perry flew to Los Angeles and checked into [Marina del Rey's Daniel Freeman Hospital](#). Perry's publicist Lisa Kasteler confirmed his rehab stay.^[35]

^ Filmography



Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1988	<i>A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon</i>	Fred Roberts	
	<i>Dance 'til Dawn</i>	Roger	Television film
1989	<i>She's Out of Control</i>	Timothy	
1990	<i>Call Me Anna</i>	Desi Arnaz, Jr.	Television film
1993	<i>Deadly Relations</i>	George Westerfield	Television film
1994	<i>Getting In</i>	Randall Burns	

	<i>Parallel Lives</i>	Willie Morrison	Television film
1997	<i>Fools Rush In</i>	Alex Whitman	
1998	<i>Almost Heroes</i>	Leslie Edwards	
1999	<i>Three to Tango</i>	Oscar Novak	
2000	<i>The Whole Nine Yards</i>	Nicholas "Oz" Oseransky	
	<i>Disney's The Kid</i>	Mr. Vivian	Uncredited
2002	<i>Serving Sara</i>	Joe Tyler	
2004	<i>The Whole Ten Yards</i>	Nicholas "Oz" Oseransky	
2005	<i>Hoosiers II: Senior Year</i>	Coach Norman Dale Jr.	Short film
2006	<i>The Ron Clark Story</i>	Ron Clark	Television film
2007	<i>Numb</i>	Hudson	Also executive producer
2008	<i>Birds of America</i>	Morrie Tanager	
2009	<i>17 Again</i>	Adult Mike O'Donnell	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1979	<i>240-Robert</i>	Arthur	Episode: "Bank Job"
1983	<i>Not Necessarily the News</i>	Bob	Episode: "Audrie in Love"
1985	<i>Charles in Charge</i>	Ed Stanley	Episode: "The Wrong Guy"
1986	<i>Silver Spoons</i>	Davey	Episode: "Rick Moves Out"
1987–1988	<i>Second Chance</i>	Chazz Russell	Main cast; 21 episodes

1988	<i>Just the Ten of Us</i>	Ed	Episode: "The Dinner Test"
	<i>Highway to Heaven</i>	David Hastings	2 episodes
1989	<i>Growing Pains</i>	Sandy	3 episodes
	<i>Empty Nest</i>	Bill aged 18	Episode: "A Life in the Day"
1990	<i>Sydney</i>	Billy Kells	Main cast; 13 episodes
	<i>Who's the Boss?</i>	Benjamin Dawson	Episode: "Roomies"
1991	<i>Beverly Hills, 90210</i>	Roger Azarian	Episode: "April Is the Cruellest Month"
1992	<i>Sibs</i>	N/A	Episode: "What Makes Lily Run?"
	<i>Dream On</i>	Alex Farmer	Episode: "To the Moon, Alex!"
1993	<i>Home Free</i>	Matt Bailey	Main cast; 13 episodes
1994–2004	<i>Friends</i>	Chandler Bing	Main cast; 236 episodes
1995	<i>The John Larroquette Show</i>	Steven	Episode: "Rachel Redux"
	<i>Caroline in the City</i>	Chandler Bing	Episode: "Caroline and the Folks"
1997	<i>Saturday Night Live</i>	Himself	Host; episode: "Matthew Perry/ <i>Oasis</i> "
2001	<i>The Simpsons</i>	Ultrahouse 3000's Matthew Perry voice	Episode: " <i>Treehouse of Horror XII</i> "

2002	<i>Ally McBeal</i>	Attorney Todd Merrick	2 episodes
2003	<i>The West Wing</i>	Joe Quincy	3 episodes
2004	<i>Scrubs</i>	Murray Marks	Episode: "My Unicorn"; also director
2006–2007	<i>Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip</i>	Matt Albie	Main cast; 22 episodes
2011	<i>Mr. Sunshine</i>	Ben Donovan	Main cast and co-creator; 13 episodes
	<i>Childrens Hospital</i>	Himself	Episode: "The Black Doctor"
2012–2013	<i>The Good Wife</i>	Mike Kresteva	4 episodes (1 uncredited)
	<i>Go On</i>	Ryan King	Main cast; 22 episodes
2013	<i>Hollywood Game Night</i>	Himself	Episode: "The One with the Friends"
2014	<i>Cougar Town</i>	Sam	Episode: "Like a Diamond"
	<i>The Dog Thrower</i>	The charismatic man	One-off episode
2015	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	Oscar Madison	Main cast

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2010	<i>Fallout: New Vegas</i>	Benny	Voice

^ Awards and nominations



Year	Award	Category	Title of	Result

			work	
1995	Screen Actors Guild Awards	Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series - with rest of main cast	<i>Friends</i>	Won
1996	American Comedy Awards	Funniest Supporting Male Performer in a TV Series - with David Schwimmer		Nominated
2000	TV Guide Awards	Editor's Choice - with whole cast along with Jane Sibbett and John Christopher Allen		Won
2002	Emmy Awards	Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series		Nominated
	Kids' Choice Awards	Favorite Television Actor		Nominated
2003	Emmy Awards	Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series	<i>The West Wing</i>	Nominated
2004				Nominated
	Teen Choice Awards	Choice TV Actor - Comedy	<i>Friends</i>	Won
2006	Satellite Awards	Best Actor in a Series, Drama	<i>Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip</i>	Nominated
	TV Land Awards	Most Wonderful Wedding - with Courteney Cox	<i>Friends</i>	Nominated
2007	Emmy Awards	Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Movie	<i>The Ron Clark Story</i>	Nominated
	Golden Globes	Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television		Nominated

Screen Actors Guild Awards	Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Movie or Miniseries	Nominated
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^ External links



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