Dinklage grew up in New Jersey, where his [neighbor](http://www.tvguide.com/News/Peter-Dinklage-Playboy-1064198.aspx) was Bruce Springsteen's manager. "Bruce used to come over to his house and hang out and play guitar," Dinklage says.

His first [film](http://guycodeblog.mtv.com/2011/09/19/peter-dinklage-emmy/) performance was in *Living in Oblivion* in 1995, in which he played a dwarf. The film also starred another current HBO standout, Steve Buscemi, who is a good friend of Peter.

Dinklage [appears](http://guycodeblog.mtv.com/2011/09/19/peter-dinklage-emmy/) in two versions of the same film,*Death at a Funeral*. He plays Peter in the 2007 British comedy and Frank in the 2010 U.S. remake.

He and his director wife, Erica Schmidt, have collaborated several times, including an upcoming production of *The Imaginary Invalid* at Bard College.

Dinklage was [first choice](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0227759/bio#trivia) for author George R.R. Martin and the *Game of Thrones* producers for the role of Tyrion Lannister.

He is the only *Game of Thrones* cast member who is[American](http://virtuallinguist.typepad.com/the_virtual_linguist/2012/03/british-accents-in-game-of-thrones.html).

Lena Headey, who plays Cersei Lannister, was good friends with Peter before *Game of Thrones*. In fact, Peter [suggested](http://www.buzzfeed.com/keenan/15-things-you-didnt-know-about-game-of-thrones) her for the role when talking to producers.

Although he's as badass as Tyrion Lannister, he does not enjoy the sword play acting he must do. He [says](http://www.hollywood.com/news/celebrities/55009029/peter-dinklage-playboy-interview-game-of-thrones-dwilf?page=all), "The fight scenes are all a big lie. The whole time, you're trying not to get hit in the eye with a sword, and you wish you had on a welding helmet."

During his Golden Globes acceptance [speech](http://www.playboy.com/playground/view/20q-peter-dinklage-game-of-thrones), Peter spontaneously mentioned Martin Henderson, who was partially paralyzed during a dwarf-tossing attack in Britain.

Charles Dance, who plays Tywin Lannister on *Game of Thrones*, [says](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/game-of-thrones/9961779/Game-of-Thrones-Charles-Dance-interview-I-treat-Peter-Dinklage-appallingly.html) that he is constantly apologizing to Peter on set because he "treats him appallingly" when in character.

Peter Dinklage was James, the "wake-up guy" with the sexy [voice](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLhfJVJtBl0&feature=player_embedded) on *Seinfeld*.

On his first day of college, [Peter](http://imgur.com/8tbW6) came [dressed](http://www.nj.com/entertainment/movies/index.ssf/2012/07/peter_dinklage_no_rest_for_game_of_thrones_star.html) in tights and a woman's velvet cape.

Peter used to let his height bother him but has since gotten [over it](http://www.today.com/id/3130881): "When I was younger, definitely, I let it get to me. As an adolescent, I was bitter and angry and I definitely put up these walls. But the older you get, you realize you just have to have a sense of humor. You just know that it's not your problem. It's theirs."

Peter suffers from [achondroplasia](http://tumblrofthrones.tumblr.com/post/6211727526/peter-dinklage-article-from-rolling-stone-click" \t "_blank), which impaired his arms and legs and had bowed his legs so badly he could barely walk, requiring doctors to break, reset and brace them with a bar.

Although he once [said](http://www.npr.org/2012/05/21/153198363/peter-dinklage-on-thrones-and-on-his-own-terms) that he wanted to reach a point in his career where he could be the lead and "get the girl," Dinklage is rethinking that. He says, "Maybe I'll have to take that back. I like playing the guy on the sidelines. They have more fun."http://media.complex.com/common/images/spacer.gif

After college, he and his friend Ian Bell [moved](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/01/magazine/peter-dinklage-was-smart-to-say-no.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0) to Williamsburg with visions of building a theater company modeled on the famous Steppenwolf in Chicago.

Dinklage [supports](http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/fash-track/game-thrones-peter-dinklage-new-role-331023) Farm Sanctuary and has served as the spokesperson for the organization's Walk for Farm Animals.

Peter supports Cruelty Free International, which is a global organization committed to ending cosmetic tests on animals.http://media.complex.com/common/images/spacer.gif

His [favorite bar](http://www.vanityfair.com/online/oscars/2011/01/peter-dinklages-porn-name-is-not-surprisingly-peter-dinklage) in L.A. is The Lava Lounge, which has since been shut down.

Before he gave his commencement [speech](http://www.playboy.com/playground/view/20q-peter-dinklage-game-of-thrones) at his alma mater Bennington College, a student handed him a mace five minutes before he was supposed to go out so he walked out with it in his hands.

Even as a starving actor, Peter [refused](http://www.nj.com/entertainment/movies/index.ssf/2012/07/peter_dinklage_no_rest_for_game_of_thrones_star.html) to take parts as elves, leprechauns or anything that made him feel "dirty." As a result, "I said no a lot," he confesses. "A lot."

http://media.complex.com/common/images/spacer.gif

Peter's family had a [habit](http://www.vanityfair.com/online/oscars/2011/01/peter-dinklages-porn-name-is-not-surprisingly-peter-dinklage) of collecting creatures that didn't always want to be pets and the first pet he can remember was a Lab named Zoe.

He and his brother did [puppet shows](http://www.hollywood.com/news/celebrities/55009029/peter-dinklage-playboy-interview-game-of-thrones-dwilf?page=all) for their neighborhood in New Jersey. He says, "We basically did little puppet musicals with the loudest songs we could find. We did a puppet version of *Quadrophenia*, The Who album."

Peter has been developing a script for years, [based](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/01/magazine/peter-dinklage-was-smart-to-say-no.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0" \t "_blank)on the life of the *Fantasy Island* star Hervé Villechaize, with his friend Sacha Gervasi, director of*Anvil!*.

He has a [scar](http://www.tvguide.com/News/Peter-Dinklage-Playboy-1064198.aspx) that runs from his neck to his eyebrow due to an onstage accident when he was performing at CBGB in New York with his old band Whizzy.