



Anton Yelchin

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In this name that follows [East Slavic naming customs](#), the [patronymic](#) is Viktorovich and the [family name](#) is Yelchin.

Anton Viktorovich Yelchin (March 11, 1989 – June 19, 2016) was an American actor. Born in the [Soviet Union](#) to a [Russian Jewish](#) family, he immigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of six months. He began his career as a child actor, appearing as the lead of the mystery drama film *[Hearts in Atlantis](#)* (2001) and a series regular on the [Showtime](#) comedy-drama *[Huff](#)* (2004–2006). His fame grew when he guest-starred in a 2004 episode of *[Curb Your Enthusiasm](#)*.

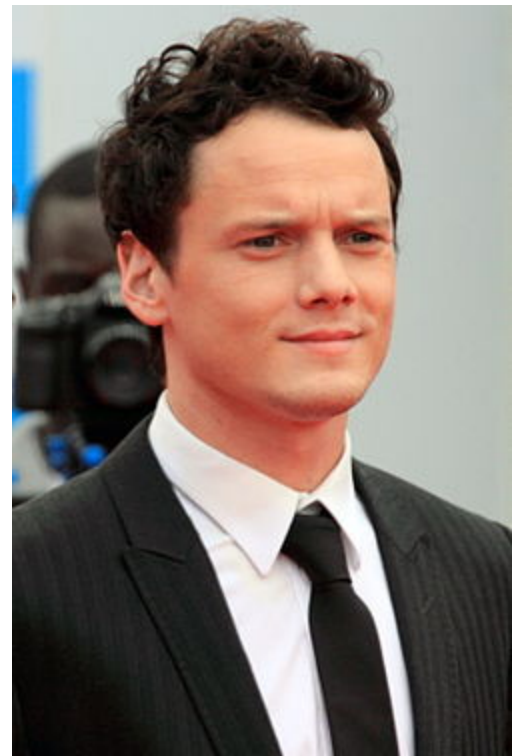
Yelchin landed higher-profile film roles in 2009, portraying [Pavel Chekov](#) in the *[Star Trek](#)* reboot and [Kyle Reese](#) in *[Terminator Salvation](#)*. He reprised his role as Chekov in the sequels *[Star Trek Into Darkness](#)* (2013) and *[Star Trek Beyond](#)* (2016).

Yelchin frequently worked on independent and lower-profile films, headlining the romantic drama *[Like Crazy](#)* (2011), the 2011 remake of *[Fright Night](#)*, the supernatural thriller *[Odd Thomas](#)* (2013), the romance *[5 to 7](#)* (2014), the horror comedy *[Burying the Ex](#)* (2014), the neo-noir *[The Driftless Area](#)* (2015), and the horror thriller *[Green Room](#)* (2015). As a voice actor, he voiced [Clumsy Smurf](#) in the live-action *[Smurfs](#)* films (2011–2013) and the lead role [James Lake Jr.](#) on the [Netflix](#) animated series *[Trollhunters: Tales of Arcadia](#)* (2016–2018). He maintained an active career until his accidental death in mid-2016 when he was fatally injured by his [SUV](#) at the [age of 27](#).

Early life and education [\[edit \]](#)

Anton Yelchin

АНТОН ЕЛЬЧИН



Yelchin in 2011

Born	Anton Viktorovich Yelchin <div>March 11, 1989</div> <div>Leningrad, Soviet Union</div>
Died	June 19, 2016 (aged 27) <div>Los Angeles, California, U.S.</div>
Cause of death	Accidental blunt traumatic asphyxia
Resting place	Hollywood Forever Cemetery , Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Citizenship	United States
Education	Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies
Occupation	Actor

Yelchin was born on March 11, 1989, in [Leningrad, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union](#).^{[1][2]} His parents, Irina Korina and Viktor Yelchin, were [pair figure skaters](#) who were stars of the Leningrad Ice Ballet for 15 years.^{[3][4]} He was Jewish, and his family was subjected to [religious and political oppression in the Soviet Union](#).^{[3][5][6]} Yelchin said that his grandparents "suffered in ways [he] can't even begin to understand under [Stalin](#)".^[6] Nationally, Yelchin's parents were the third-ranked pair team; they thus qualified for the [1972 Winter Olympics](#), but were not permitted to participate by the Soviet authorities.^{[3][4]} Yelchin said the reason was unclear: "I don't exactly know what that was – because they were Jewish or because the [KGB](#) didn't want them to travel."^[7]

Years active	2000–2016
Relatives	Eugene Yelchin (uncle)
Website	antonyelchinofficial.com

Yelchin's family left for the United States in September 1989, when he was six months old, and were thereafter granted refugee status from the [Department of State](#).^{[3][4]} His mother worked as a figure skating choreographer and his father as a figure skating coach, having been [Sasha Cohen](#)'s first trainer.^{[8][9]} Yelchin's uncle is the children's author and painter [Eugene Yelchin](#).^[3] In an article published in the [Los Angeles Times](#) in December 1989, Yelchin's mother stated, "A woman came up, saw Anton, and said, 'He's beautiful. He will be actor.'"^[3] Yelchin stated that he "wasn't very good" at figure skating, his parents' profession.^[10]

Yelchin grew up in the [San Fernando Valley](#).^[11] He attended the [Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies](#) in [Tarzana, California](#)^[8] and enrolled at the [University of Southern California](#) in the fall of 2007 to study film.^[12]

Yelchin was born with [cystic fibrosis](#), though the details of his medical condition were only revealed posthumously^[13] in 2017 by a foundation established in his name, the Anton Yelchin Foundation.^{[14][15]} The foundation aims to support children and young adults ages 7-27, who were engaged in the arts but also suffering from debilitating disease or disability.^[16]

Career [\[edit \]](#)

After his film debut in [A Man Is Mostly Water](#), Yelchin's early roles in both film and television include [Delivering Milo](#), [Along Came a Spider](#), [Taken](#), and [House of D](#). Yelchin played Bobby Garfield in [Hearts in Atlantis](#) (2001), for which he received a [Young Artist Award](#) for Best Performance in a Feature Film: Leading Young Actor in 2002.^[17]

On [Showtime](#)'s television series [Huff](#), Yelchin played Byrd Huffstodt, the 14-year-old son of the eponymous character ([Hank Azaria](#)). In 2004, he guest-starred in the Season Four episode of [Curb Your Enthusiasm](#) as Stewart, Cheryl David's cousin and a self-described magician who knows a card trick. In 2006, he guest-starred in the [Law & Order: Criminal Intent](#) episode "Tru Love", as a boy who falls in love with his teacher. He also appeared in the [Criminal Minds](#) episode "[Sex, Birth & Death](#)" as Nathan Harris, a boy who has murderous urges toward prostitutes and approaches Dr. [Spencer Reid](#) to help him before he actually does kill.

In *Alpha Dog*, Yelchin played Zack Mazursky, a character based on real-life murder victim [Nicholas Markowitz](#).^[8] *USA Today*'s review described Yelchin's performance as "heartbreakingly endearing".^[18] After the film's premiere, Markowitz's mother praised his portrayal of her son.^[19]^[*failed verification*] Yelchin subsequently headlined *Fierce People*, which received a limited release on September 7, 2007. In 2008, he played the title role in *Charlie Bartlett*, a film about a wealthy teenager in a public high school.^[20] He also appeared alongside the Russian duo [t.A.T.u.](#) in the film *You and I* (which was filmed in Moscow during the summer of 2007).^[21]



Yelchin at the [2015 Toronto International Film Festival](#)

Yelchin played supporting roles in two blockbuster films released in May 2009:

Star Trek, in which he played teenage navigator [Pavel Chekov](#), and *Terminator Salvation*, in which he played a young [Kyle Reese](#).^[22]^[23]

In 2011, Yelchin played Charley Brewster in [Craig Gillespie](#)'s remake film *Fright Night*,^[24] starred in the romantic drama *Like Crazy*, and voiced [Clumsy Smurf](#) in the film adaptation of *The Smurfs*, as well as its 2013 sequel.^[25]^[26] He replaced [Russell Tovey](#) for the voice role of Albino Pirate in the American version of the animated film *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!* (also known as *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*) (2012).^[27]^[28]

Yelchin again played the role of Chekov in the 2013 film *Star Trek Into Darkness*. He played the lead in the thriller *Odd Thomas* (2013).^[29] Yelchin reprised his role as Chekov in *Star Trek Beyond*, which was released in 2016.

He completed filming several independent films that were released posthumously.^[30] He recorded the voice role of Jim Lake Jr. on [Guillermo del Toro](#)'s animated TV series *Trollhunters: Tales of Arcadia*.^[31]^[32] He was cast as one of the lead actors in a TV adaptation of [Stephen King](#)'s book *Mr. Mercedes*, but died before filming began.^[33]

Personal life [[][edit](#)[]]

Yelchin enjoyed playing guitar, and was a fan of acoustic [blues music](#). He once played for a [punk](#) band called the Hammerheads.^[5]^[34] His music was used in the soundtrack of *Love Antosha*, a documentary released after his death.



Yelchin at the [2008 Toronto International Film Festival](#)

He was interested in photography. In January 2018, an exhibit of his photography titled *Anton Yelchin: Provocative Beauty* was displayed at New York City's De Buck Gallery.^[35] Yelchin's photography was critically acclaimed by various magazines around the world as exhibits continued.^[36]

Yelchin briefly dated his co-star [Kristen Stewart](#) when they were filming *Fierce People*; after his death, she described him as her "first heartbreak".^[37]

Death [[edit](#)]

After Yelchin failed to arrive at a rehearsal on June 18, 2016, he was found dead by friends at around 1:10 a.m. that night.^{[38][39]} He was pinned between his [Jeep Grand Cherokee](#) and a brick pillar gate post outside his house in [Studio City, Los Angeles](#).^{[40][41][42]} As Yelchin apparently got out of his car and went to check his locked gate for mail, the vehicle rolled back down his driveway, which was on a steep incline and trapped him against the pillar and a security fence. He was pronounced dead at the scene;^{[43][33]} the [Los Angeles County Coroner's](#) office identified the cause of death as "blunt [traumatic asphyxia](#)" and stated that there were "no obvious suspicious circumstances involved".^{[44][45][46]}



Yelchin in 2011

Tributes [[edit](#)]

Numerous actors/actresses and other celebrities paid tribute to Yelchin in the aftermath of his death, posting their condolences on social media.

Following Yelchin's death, the producers of *Star Trek* stated that the role of Chekov would not be recast and that the character would be written out of any subsequent *Star Trek* films. *Star Trek Beyond* was dedicated to Yelchin and [Leonard Nimoy](#), who had also died since the previous film.

Smurfs: The Lost Village, *We Don't Belong Here*, *Rememory*, *Porto*, *Newness*, *Thoroughbreds*, and the first two episodes of *Trollhunters* are dedicated to him, with the entirety of *Trollhunters* being dedicated to him upon its conclusion in May 2018. Yelchin was featured in the "In Memoriam" presentation during the [89th Academy Awards](#).^{[47][48][49][50]}

In October 2017, a bronze statue of Yelchin was erected at his grave in the [Hollywood Forever Cemetery](#). Celebrities present at the unveiling ceremony included [Jennifer Lawrence](#), [Zoe Saldana](#), [Simon Pegg](#), [J. J. Abrams](#), [Emile Hirsch](#), [Demi Moore](#), [Jon Voight](#), [Drake Doremus](#), and [Jeremy Saulnier](#).

Yelchin was memorialized in the video game *Star Trek Online*. He received a memorial plaque alongside several other late *Star Trek* actors, including Nimoy, [James Doohan](#), and *Star Trek* creator [Gene Roddenberry](#). A [Starfleet](#) vessel named "The *Yelchin*" is mentioned twice in the *Star Trek*:



Yelchin's temporary gravestone at the [Hollywood Forever Cemetery](#) was later replaced with a bronze statue of his likeness.

Discovery episode "Unification III" (S03E07) and again in the season four finale "Coming Home" (S04E13).^{[51][52]} In a 2023 episode of *Star Trek: Picard*, Walter Koenig voices Pavel Chekov's son, named Anton in Yelchin's honor.^[53]

In January 2019, Viktor and Irina Yelchin premiered a documentary about their son—*Love, Antosha*—at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.^[54]

Lawsuit and recalls [edit]

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), the manufacturer of the Grand Cherokee, was aware of 2014 and 2015 models having a high rate of rollaway incidents due to a **gearshift** design that could make it difficult for the driver to determine whether the vehicle was in park or still in gear. FCA had already **recalled** all 2014–15 Grand Cherokees for this concern in April 2016, but the software patch to repair the vehicles did not reach dealers until the week of Yelchin's death. Following his death, FCA accelerated the recall campaign and took steps to get the affected Jeeps repaired more quickly than originally planned.^[55]



A **Jeep Grand Cherokee** like the one Yelchin owned

In August 2016, Yelchin's parents announced through their attorney that they were planning to file a **wrongful death** lawsuit against Fiat Chrysler.^[56] The dealership from which Yelchin purchased the vehicle stated that he was responsible for his own death because he had allegedly "misused" and "modified" the vehicle and asked to be removed from the lawsuit.^[57] In March 2018, it was announced that Yelchin's family and Fiat Chrysler had confidentially **settled out of court**.^[58]

Filmography [edit]

Film [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Director	Notes
2000	<i>A Man Is Mostly Water</i>	Augie	Fred Parnes	
2001	<i>Delivering Milo</i>	Milo	Nick Castle	
	<i>15 Minutes</i>	Boy in Burning Building	John Herzfeld	
	<i>Along Came a Spider</i>	Dimitri Starodubov	Lee Tamahori	
	<i>Hearts in Atlantis</i>	Bobby Garfield	Scott Hicks	
2002	<i>A Time for Dancing</i>	Jackson	Peter Gilbert	

	<i>Rooftop Kisses</i>	Charlie	Andrew Bernstein	
2004	<i>House of D</i>	Tommy Warshaw	David Duchovny	
2005	<i>Fierce People</i>	Finn Earl	Griffin Dunne	
2006	<i>Alpha Dog</i>	Zack Mazursky	Nick Cassavetes	
2007	<i>Charlie Bartlett</i>	Charlie Bartlett	Jon Poll	
2008	<i>New York, I Love You</i>	Boy in the Park	Brett Ratner	Segment: "Brett Ratner"
	<i>Middle of Nowhere</i>	Dorian Spitz	John Stockwell	
2009	<i>Star Trek</i>	Pavel Chekov	J. J. Abrams	
	<i>Terminator Salvation</i>	Kyle Reese	McG	Also plays physical embodiment of Skynet (uncredited) in a Kyle Reese disguise
2010	<i>Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac</i>	Ace Zuckerman	Hans Canosa	
2011	<i>Like Crazy</i>	Jacob Helm	Drake Doremus	
	<i>You and I</i>	Edvard Nikitin	Roland Joffé	
	<i>The Beaver</i>	Porter Black	Jodie Foster	
	<i>From Up on Poppy Hill</i>	Shun Kazama	Gorō Miyazaki	Voice (English dub)
	<i>The Smurfs</i>	Clumsy Smurf	Raja Gosnell	Voice
	<i>The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol</i>	Clumsy Smurf	Troy Quane	Short film; voice
	<i>Fright Night</i>	Charley Brewster	Craig Gillespie	
2012	<i>The Pirates! Band of Misfits</i>	Albino pirate	Peter Lord	Voice (American dub)
2013	<i>Odd Thomas</i>	Odd Thomas	Stephen Sommers	
	<i>Star Trek Into Darkness</i>	Pavel Chekov	J. J. Abrams	
	<i>Only Lovers Left Alive</i>	Ian	Jim Jarmusch	

	<i>The Smurfs: The Legend of Smurfy Hollow</i>	Clumsy Smurf	Stephan Franck	Short film; voice
	<i>The Smurfs 2</i>	Clumsy Smurf	Raja Gosnell	Voice
	<i>After the Disco Part One: Angel and the Fool</i>	Oliver	Jacob Gentry	Short film ^[59]
	<i>After the Disco Part Two: Holding On for Life</i>			Short film ^[59]
2014	<i>The Apprentice</i>	Wayne	Steve Baker and Damon Escott	Short film; deleted Movie 43 segment
	<i>Rudderless</i>	Quentin	William H. Macy	
	<i>5 to 7</i>	Brian Bloom	Victor Levin	
	<i>Cymbeline</i>	Cloten	Michael Almereyda	
	<i>Burying the Ex</i>	Max	Joe Dante	
	<i>Dying of the Light</i>	Milton Schultz	Paul Schrader	
2015	<i>Experimenter</i>	Rensaleer	Michael Almereyda	
	<i>Broken Horses</i>	Jacob Heckum	Vidhu Vinod Chopra	
	<i>The Driftless Area</i>	Pierre	Zachary Sluser	
	<i>Green Room</i>	Pat	Jeremy Saulnier	
	<i>Court of Conscience</i>	Father James	James Haven	Short film ^{[60][61]}
	<i>Unity</i>	Narrator	Shaun Monson	Documentary ^[62]
2016	<i>Star Trek Beyond</i>	Pavel Chekov	Justin Lin	Posthumous release; Dedicated to his memory
	<i>Porto</i>	Jake Kleeman	Gabe Klinger	
2017	<i>Thoroughbreds</i>	Tim	Cory Finley	
	<i>Rememory</i>	Todd	Mark Palansky	
	<i>We Don't Belong Here</i>	Maxwell Green	Peer Pedersen	
2019	<i>Love, Antosha</i>	Himself	Garret Price	Archive footage; documentary about Yelchin's life

Television [edit]

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2000	<i>ER</i>	Robbie Edelstein	Episode: "Be Still My Heart"
	<i>Geppetto</i>	Fighting Kid at School	Television film
2002	<i>Judging Amy</i>	Davis Bishop	Episode: "The Justice League of America"
	<i>Taken</i>	Jacob Clarke – Child	2 episodes
	<i>The Practice</i>	Justin Langer	2 episodes
2003	<i>Without a Trace</i>	Johnny Atkins	Episode: "The Bus"
2004	<i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i>	Stewart	Episode: "The Blind Date"
	<i>NYPD Blue</i>	Evan Grabber	Episode: "Take My Wife, Please"
	<i>Jack</i>	Jack	Television film
2004–2006	<i>Huff</i>	Byrd Huffstodt	Main role
2006	<i>Law & Order: Criminal Intent</i>	Keith Tyler	Episode: "Tru Love"
	<i>Criminal Minds</i>	Nathan Harris	Episode: "Sex, Birth, Death"
2011	<i>The Life & Times of Tim</i>	Trent	Voice role; episode: "The Caddy's Shack/The Sausage Salesman"
2015–2016	<i>SuperMansion</i>	Dudley	Voice role; 2 episodes
2016–2018	<i>Trollhunters: Tales of Arcadia</i>	Jim Lake Jr	Voice role; 41 episodes; posthumous release dedicated to him

Video games [edit]

Year	Title	Voice role
2013	<i>Star Trek</i>	Pavel Chekov
	<i>The Smurfs 2</i>	Clumsy Smurf

Music videos [edit]

Year	Title	Artist(s)	Role	Ref.
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2013	"Holding On for Life"	Broken Bells	Oliver	^[63]
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Accolades ^[edit]

Year	Award	Category	Title of work	Result	Ref.
2002	Phoenix Film Critics Award	Best Youth Performance	<i>Hearts in Atlantis</i>	Nominated	
	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a Feature Film – Leading Young Actor		Won	^[17]
2003	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a TV Movie, Mini-Series or Special – Supporting Young Actor	<i>Taken</i>	Nominated	^[64]
2005	Young Artist Award	Best Performance in a TV Movie, Miniseries or Special – Leading Young Actor	<i>Jack</i>	Nominated	^[65]
2009	Boston Society of Film Critics Awards	Best Ensemble Cast	<i>Star Trek</i>	Won	^[66]
	Washington DC Area Film Critics Association Awards	Best Ensemble		Nominated	^[67]
2010	Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards	Best Acting Ensemble		Nominated	^[68]

See also ^[edit]

- Davey Moore** – American boxer who died in very similar circumstances
- 27 Club**

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