

Anthony Hopkins Biography



Anthony Hopkins is an Oscar-winning actor known for roles in many films, including 'The Lion in Winter,' 'Silence of the Lambs' and 'The Remains of the Day.'

Who Is Anthony Hopkins?

Anthony Hopkins pursued a stage career before working in film in the late 1960s. Known for a variety of projects ranging from *The Dawning* to *The Remains of the Day* to *Amistad*, Hopkins has been nominated for several Oscars, winning for *The Silence of the Lambs*. His more fantastical work includes *Titus*, *The Mask of Zorro* and *Thor*, as well as *Westworld*.

Early Life and Acting Career

Philip Anthony Hopkins was born on December 31, 1937, in Margam, Port Talbot, Wales. Hopkins is the son of Muriel Yeats — a distant relative of the Irish poet William Butler Yeats — and Richard Hopkins. His early years in Wales and schooling at Cowbridge Grammar School were relatively unremarkable, but when the soon-to-be actor met Richard Burton, the course of his life would dramatically change. Encouraged and inspired by Burton, Hopkins enrolled at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama when he was only 15 years old.

After graduation in 1957, Hopkins spent two years in the British Army before moving to London to begin training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. After training and working for several years, he became a kind of protégé of the legendary actor Sir Laurence Olivier. In 1965 Olivier invited Hopkins to join the Royal National Theatre and become his understudy. The famed actor wrote in his memoir, "A new young actor in the company of exceptional promise named Anthony Hopkins was understudying me and walked away with the part of Edgar like a cat with a mouse between its teeth." When Olivier came down with appendicitis during a production called *Dance of Death*, the young Hopkins stepped in, making waves with his performance.

Billed as Olivier's heir to the British acting throne, Hopkins had the momentum to make the leap from stage to film, which was his primary ambition. He started on the small screen in 1967 with a BBC production of *A Flea in Her Ear*. Soon after he was cast in *The Lion in Winter* (1968) as Richard I, sharing the screen with established stars Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn.

Throughout the 1970s, Hopkins continued to work in film and on stage, garnering critical attention for this double duty. He starred in a Broadway production of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* (1974) even as he devoted more and more attention to developing his talents for television and film. His method of preparation for roles has always been a source of fascination for critics and young actors alike. Hopkins prefers to memorize his lines in extremis, sometimes repeating them more than 200 times.

The finished product typically reveals a naturalness that skillfully hides the massive amount of rehearsal the actor has done. Because of this style, Hopkins prefers fewer, more spontaneous takes, and has occasionally butted heads with directors who he perceives as deviating from the script too much or demanding too many takes. He has noted in the past that once he says a line and is done with a take, he forgets that line forever.

Movies

Hopkins' career began heating up in the 1970s and '80s. He won an Emmy for his role as Bruno Richard Hauptmann in *The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case* (1976). Throughout the 1980s, Hopkins continued to impress the critics with his work in film and TV, winning multiple Emmy Awards and a BAFTA Award.

'The Silence of the Lambs' as Hannibal Lecter



In 1989, Hopkins returned to the stage for a production of the musical drama *M. Butterfly*. But it was in 1991 that Hopkins, now well into his fifties, finally found himself shot to superstardom. His unforgettable, 17-minute performance as the infamous psychopath Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs* frightened and wowed fans and critics alike. At the time he took the role, Hopkins had been considering giving up on movies and retiring to London for a career on the stage. The fortuitous role resulted in not only an Oscar but a distinguished place in the popular consciousness as perhaps the most memorable on-screen villain of all time.

'The Remains of the Day'

Hopkins has since played the role again in the film's sequels. On the heels of his first real Hollywood blockbuster, Hopkins wisely chose to follow up with his film *The Remains of the Day* (1993), for which he was nominated for another Academy Award. He would be nominated again for *Nixon* (1995) and *Amistad* (1997).

In 1993 Hopkins was knighted by the British Empire. In April 2000, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States and, in 2006, he was awarded the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement.



'Hitchcock'

The acclaimed actor continued to work in major motion pictures, appearing in such films as *Proof* (2005), *Beowulf* (2007) and *Thor* (2011). Cast as famed horror movie director Alfred Hitchcock in the 2012 biopic *Hitchcock*, Hopkins earned raves for his starring role in the film, alongside Helen Mirren as Hitchcock's wife, Alma Reville. The movie explores the making of the director's horror classic *Psycho*.

'Westworld,' 'The Two Popes,' 'The Father'

Hopkins played the biblical character Methuselah in *Noah* (2014) and also appeared in *Transformers: The Last Knight* (2017) as Sir Edmund Burton. On the small screen, he's also found interesting characters to play, specifically on HBO's sci-fi thriller *Westworld*, as AI mastermind Robert Ford. Following its premiere in 2016, the show became one of the most-watched dramas among the network's original programming and has won multiple Emmys.



Back on the big screen, Hopkins in 2019 starred as Pope Benedict XVI, alongside Jonathan Pryce as the future Pope Francis, in *The Two Popes*. He then delivered another powerful performance as a man battling dementia in *The Father* (2020), opposite fellow Oscar winner Olivia Colman, for which he was nominated for several awards.

Personal Life

In 2003, Hopkins married his third wife, antique dealer Stella Arroyave, who hails from Colombia. He was previously married to Jennifer Lynton, from 1973 to 2002, and before that had been married to Petronella Barker, from 1967 to 1972. He and Barker had one daughter, Abigail Hopkins, who was born in 1968.



Alcoholism

The actor has long battled alcoholism, once saying, "I led a pretty self-destructive life for a few decades. It was only after I put my demons behind me that I was able to fully enjoy acting." In 1975, Hopkins began attending Alcoholics Anonymous and working to put those demons behind him.

Mark these sentences as T (True) or F (False).

- Anthony Hopkins worked on TV before starting a career in film.
- He has had several Academy Awards nominations but hasn't won any so far.
- Richard Burton urged him to study drama.
- He began training as an actor in his teens.
- He graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama at the age of twenty.
- He replaced Sir Laurence Olivier when the latter came down with appendicitis.
- He had his film debut in a BBC production.
- He worked simultaneously in films and on stage.
- He had a gift for remembering his lines and did not need much rehearsal.
- He did not mind making as many shots as were necessary.
- He has won several Emmy Awards and a BAFTA Award.
- His performance as Hannibal Lecter will make anyone's hair stand on end.
- He got four Academy Awards nominations in the 1990s.
- He was knighted by the British Empire at the turn of the century.
- He has won a Golden Globe for life achievement.
- He starred with Helen Hunt in *Hitchcock*.
- He played the role of the future Pope Francis in *The Two Popes*.
- He had a daughter with his second wife.
- He is a recovering drug addict.

