



Alan Cumming

Alan Cumming is beyond eclectic. He was an award-winning Hamlet, and he had his own talk show. He shot a video portrait with Robert Wilson, and recorded a duet with Liza Minnelli. He made films back to back with Stanley Kubrick and the Spice Girls. He wrote a Sunday Times best-selling novel, and has an award-winning signature fragrance. He has played Dionysus, the Devil, the Pope and was shot by Herb Ritts for Vanity Fair as Pan. He was a teleporting Superhero, a Lee Jeans model and hosted Saturday Night Live. He is an Independent Spirit award-winning producer and National Board of Review winning director. He has sung at Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the London Palladium and the Sydney Opera House. He was named Icon of Scotland in 2005. He designed wallpaper. He was the voice of Black Beauty. He isn't nearly done yet.

Alan Cumming (www.alancumming.com), trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. After leaving the Academy he quickly found himself celebrated in his homeland for both his television work (including the Scottish soap *Take The High Road*) and his stand-up comedy (the legendary *Victor and Barry*, which he wrote and performed with drama school pal Forbes Masson.) But it was the theatre that gave him his biggest break when he appeared in Manfred Karge's *Conquest of the South Pole* at the Traverse in Edinburgh. The play transferred to the Royal Court in London's West End and Alan was nominated for the Most Promising Newcomer Olivier Award.

He went on to work with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the Royal National Theatre where he won an Olivier award for his performance in Dario Fo's *Accidental Death Of An Anarchist*. For the National Theatre Studio he directed Michel Tremblay's *Bonjour La, Bonjour* and played Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. He was nominated for Olivier Awards for *La Bete* and *Cabaret*, and his sensational Hamlet at the Donmar Warehouse in London won him a TMA Best Actor award and a Shakespeare Globe nomination. The Daily Mail described his performance as 'an actor knocking on the door of greatness'.

He made his feature film debut in Ian Sellar's *Prague* opposite Bruno Ganz and Sandrine Bonnaire, which premiered at Cannes in 1992. His introduction to American audiences came with *Circle of Friends*, followed shortly by *Goldeneye* and *Emma*. His first movie shot in Hollywood was *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*, and since then he has alternated between blockbusters such as *X2: X Men United*, the *Spy Kids* Trilogy, and smaller independent films like *Urbana*, *Titus* (opposite Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange) and *Sweet Land* (which he also produced).

With Jennifer Jason Leigh he wrote, produced, directed and acted in *The Anniversary Party*, which won them a National Board of Review award and two Independent Spirit nominations.

In 1998, *Cabaret* opened on Broadway and Alan was instantly embraced by New York City, and heralded for his stunning performance as the EmCee. He won The Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics' Circle, FANY, Theatre World and New York Public Advocate's awards for his work, but for him the biggest prize was finding his new home.

He has continued to work on Broadway in *The Threepenny Opera* opposite Cyndi Lauper, *Design For Living* and off -Broadway in Jean Genet's *Elle* (which he also adapted) and *The Seagull*, opposite Dianne Wiest. He returned to the British stage in 2006 in Martin Sherman's *Bent*, and most recently appeared in the National Theatre of Scotland's production of Euripides' *The Bacchae*, which opened the Edinburgh International Festival and toured Scotland, transferred to London and then to the Lincoln Center Festival in NYC. Alan won the Herald Arcangel award for his work as Dionysus.

On television he appeared in *Sex and the City*, *Frasier*, *Third Rock From The Sun*, *The L Word*, *Reefer Madness* and most recently in Sci-Fi Channel's record-breaking *Tin Man*. He is also the host of PBS' Masterpiece Mystery. In Britain he wrote and starred in the cult sitcom *The High Life* as well as many other films for the BBC including *Bernard and the Genie* for which he won a British Comedy award.

His second feature film as actor/director, *Ghost Writer*, will be released later in 2008, and he will also be seen in *Boogie Woogie* opposite Charlotte Rampling, Gillian Anderson, Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Sarsgard and Heather Graham.

Alan's activism and passion for various civil rights and sex education causes has earned him many humanitarian awards including two Human Rights Campaign awards, GLAAD's Vito Russo media award and the Trevor Project Hero Award.

He lives in New York City with his husband, Grant Shaffer, and their dogs Honey and Leon.