

"My theory about actors is we're all walking milk cartons. Expiration dates everywhere."

- Dylan McDermott

Dylan McDermott, son of Richard and Diane Marino McDermott, was born Mark Anthony McDermott on October 26, 1961 in Waterbury, Connecticut where he and his sister were raised by their maternal grandmother after their mother's untimely death.

He graduated from St. Mary School in 1975 and Holy Cross High School in 1979.

During his teen years, Dylan began to spend more time with his father, who lived in New York City. When Dylan was 15, his father married playwright/activist Eve Ensler who later adopted him, encouraged him to pursue acting, and gave him his first role in her play *Believe It, See It, Survival* (1978).

McDermott graduated from Fordham University with a B.A. in Theater/Drama. He also studied under Sanford Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City where he was mentored by award-winning actress and director Joanne Woodward.

He made his Broadway debut in the 1985 production of Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues*, which led to his being cast in director John Irvin's raw Vietnam film *Hamburger Hill*. It was followed by the 1988 comedies *The Blue Iguana* and *Twister* and television's *The Neon Empire*.

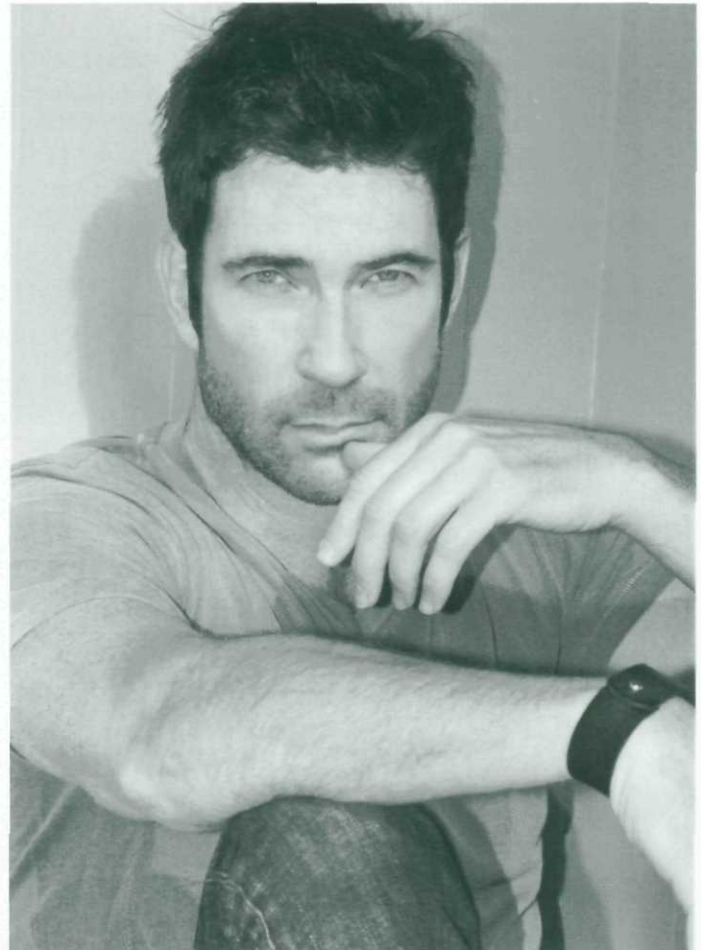
In 1989 he played opposite Julia Roberts in *Steel Magnolias*, the movie that made McDermott a recognizable Hollywood name and heartthrob. Subsequent films included the critically-acclaimed action/drama *In the Line of Fire* starring Clint Eastwood. Other notable films include the 1994 remake of *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Home for the Holidays* (1995), *Wonderland* (2003) and *The Messengers* (2007).

McDermott starred in eight seasons of the popular television series *The Practice* (1997-2004), playing defense lawyer Bobby Donnell, the bright, idealistic head of a small Boston law firm. The role won him a Golden Globe award and two nominations. The show itself won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for best drama series.

McDermott next starred opposite Julianna Margulies in the well-received television mini-series *The Grid* (2004), in which he played an FBI counter-terrorist agent. He also appeared in eleven television episodes of *Big Shots* (2007-2008), starred in twenty episodes of *Dark Blue* (2009-2010) and twelve episodes of *American Horror Story* (2011-2013). He appeared in two episodes of *Ally McBeal* (1998) and one *Will & Grace* (2003). He has been a guest on numerous talk shows and has hosted VH1's *100 Greatest Songs of Rock and Roll* and *Saturday Night Live*.

Stage credits include *Golden Boy* (1987) directed by Joanne Woodward at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Eve Ensler's *The Treatment*, (2006) for which he was nominated for a Drama League Award, and Nicky Silver's *Three Changes* (2008) at Playwrights Horizons.

In 2010 McDermott appeared on the large screen in *Burning Palms*, followed in 2012 by *Nobody Walks*, *The*



*Campaign* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, for which he shared the San Diego Film Critics Society Award for Best Ensemble Performance.

In *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013) he played an ex-Secret Service agent who becomes America's only hope when the president is taken hostage by terrorists. He also starred in *Freezer* and *Mercy* and appeared in *Behaving Badly* and *Autómata*, with Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith.

CBS's 2013 fall season featured McDermott as a rogue FBI agent in Jerry Bruckheimer's new series *Hostages*.

*Empire* magazine ranked McDermott 67th of the "100 Sexiest Stars in Film History" in 1995. People named him one of the "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" in both 1998 and 2000, and elevated him to the 12th "Sexiest Man Alive" in 2011. He was also named one of the top Irish Americans by *Irish America* magazine.

McDermott was married for fourteen years to actress Shiva Afshar with whom he has two daughters.

In 2011 he established a scholarship at Holy Cross High School for students with special interests in the visual or performing arts.