

FAMOUS CHARACTERS

ORLANDO BLOOM

Orlando Jonathan Blanchard Bloom is an English actor. He was born in **Canterbury, Kent** on **13 January 1977**. During his childhood, Bloom was told that his father was his mother's husband, Jewish South African-born anti-**Apartheid** novelist **Harry Saul Bloom**, but when he was thirteen (nine years after Harry's death), Bloom's mother revealed to him that his biological father was actually Colin Stone, his mother's partner and family friend. Stone, the principal of the Concorde International language school, was made Orlando Bloom's legal guardian after Harry Bloom's death.

As a child, he managed to get through **The King's School Canterbury** and **St Edmund's School** in **Canterbury** despite his **dyslexia**. He was encouraged by his mother to take art and drama classes. In 1993, he moved to London to follow a two year A Level course in Drama, Photography and Sculpture at **Fine Arts College**, Hampstead. He then joined the National Isa Youth Theatre, spending two seasons there and earning a scholarship to train at the **British American Drama Academy**. Bloom began acting professionally with television roles in episodes of *Casualty* and *Midsomer Murders* and subsequently made his film debut in *Wilde* (1997), before entering the **Guildhall School of Music and Drama** in London, where he studied acting.



Two days after graduating from Guildhall in 1999, he was cast in his first major role, playing **Legolas** in **The Lord of the Rings** (2001–2003). While shooting a scene, he broke a rib after falling off a horse, but eventually recovered and continued shooting. The success of *The Lord of the Rings* film trilogy and transformed Bloom from an unknown actor into one of the world's best-

known celebrities. In 2002, he was chosen as one of the *Teen People* "25 Hottest Stars Under 25" and was named *People's* hottest Hollywood bachelor in the magazine's 2004 list. Bloom has also won other awards, including **European Film Awards**, **Hollywood Festival Award**, **Empire Awards** and **Teen Choice Awards**, and has been nominated for many others.

Bloom has said that he tries "not to exclude [himself] from real life as much as possible". He has been married to **Miranda Kerr**, an Australian model. She gave birth to a **son**, Flynn Christopher Blanchard Copeland Bloom, on 6 January 2011 in **Los Angeles**. He is a **Manchester United fan** and likes sports.



Bloom has sustained several injuries so far: he broke his left arm and cracked his skull three times, broke his nose while playing **rugby union**, broke his right leg skiing in **Switzerland**, broke his left leg in a motorbike crash, broke his right wrist while snowboarding. He also broke his back when he slipped trying to reach a roof terrace of a friend's house and fell three floors. But his optimistic attitude towards life keeps him fit and healthy.

Bloom is a practising **Buddhist**. Bloom has also been a part of **Global Green**, an **environmental** company, since the early 2000s. As part of his environmental involvement, he has renovated his London home to use **solar panels**, incorporate recycled materials, and utilise energy efficient light bulbs. On 12 October 2009, Bloom was named a **UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador**. On 13 July 2010, Bloom was presented with an **Honorary Degree** from the **University of Kent at Canterbury Cathedral**.