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## Gary Oldman

Gary Oldman began his career in 1979 working extensively in the London theatre. Between 1985 and 1989 he worked exclusively at London's Royal Court theatre. In 1985 he was awarded Best Newcomer by London's Time Out Magazine for his performance in *The Pope's Wedding*. In the same year he shared the London Critic's Circle Best Actor Award with Sir Anthony Hopkins.

He has since gone on to become one of the most respected and talented film actors working today with credits including Ridley Scott's *Hannibal*, Oliver Stone's *JFK*, Tony Scott's *True Romance*, Luc Besson's *The Professional*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Bram Stoker's Dracula* and the starring role of Beethoven in *Immortal Beloved*. Oldman is also now known to millions of children worldwide as 'Sirius Black', the godfather of 'Harry Potter'.



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In 1997 and 1998 Oldman starred in *The Fifth Element*, *Air Force One*, and *Lost in Space*. These films, and Coppola's *Dracula*, place him in the rarified league of actors who have five movies which opened in the number one position at the box office.

In 1995 Oldman and manager/producing partner Douglas Urbanski formed the production company the SE8 Group which produced Oldman's directorial debut *Nil By Mouth* (which he also wrote). The film was invited to open the 1997 50th Cannes Film Festival in the main competition and Kathy Burke won Best Actress for her role. The film won Oldman the prestigious Channel 4 director's prize in the 1997 Edinburgh Film Festival.

In 1998 *Nil By Mouth* won Oldman two British Academy Awards for Best British Film and Best Screenplay with further nominations for Best Actor and Best Actress.

Oldman's other major film credits include: *Sid and Nancy*, Stephen Frear's *Prick up your Ears*, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*; Nic Roeg and Dennis Potter's *Track 29*, *Criminal Law*, *Chattahoochee*, *Murder in the First*, and *State of Grace*. And in 1999 Oldman executive produced and starred in the SE8 Group/Douglas Urbanski film *The Contender* which received three Academy Award nominations.

Fans of the television series *Friends* will also remember Oldman for his guest appearance as an alcoholic actor, a role which garnered him an Emmy nomination. Other television performances include Mike Leigh's *Meantime* and *The Firm* directed by the late Alan Clark.