

# Michael Caine

Sir Michael Caine (born Maurice Joseph Micklewhite) was born in South London on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1933. His father was a porter at Billingsgate fish market, and his mother was a charwoman. He is a retired British actor. He is known for his distinct Cockney accent and has appeared in more than 130 films over eight decades, and he is considered a British cultural icon. He has received many awards including two Academy Awards (Oscars), a BAFTA Award, three Golden Globe Awards, and a Screen Actors Guild Award. His films have earned over \$8 billion worldwide. He is one of only five male actors to be nominated for an Academy Award for acting in five different decades. In the year 2000, he received a BAFTA Fellowship and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for services in the film industry.



## Films

Michael Caine's first film was "A Hill in Korea" (1956), a British war movie. He played a private named "Private Lockyer." Before that, he had done some uncredited work, but this film is officially recognised as his first film. Fittingly, it was a war film, reflecting his own real-life service in Korea just a few years earlier. Caine became famous in the 1960s with roles in the British films "Zulu" (1964), "The Ipcress File" (1965), "The Italian Job" (1969) and "Battle of Britain" (1969). During this time he established himself with a distinctive cockney accent and a distinctive visual style, frequently wearing thick glasses and expensive suits. He solidified his stardom with roles in "Get Carter" (1971), "The Last Valley" (1971), "The Man Who Would Be King" (1975), "The Eagle Has Landed" (1976), and "A Bridge Too Far" (1977).

Caine received two Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor for his roles as Elliot in the film "Hannah and Her Sisters" (1986), and as Dr. Wilbur Larch in "The Cider House Rules" (1999). He received Oscar nominations (for leading actor) for his roles in "Alfie" (1966), "Sleuth" (1972), "Educating Rita" (1983) and "The Quiet American" (2002). Other notable performances were recognized for the films "California Suite" (1978), "Dressed to Kill" (1980), "Mona Lisa" (1986), "Little Voice" (1998), "Quills" (2000), "Children of Men" (2006), "Harry Brown" (2009) and "Youth" (2015).

Caine is also known for his performance as Ebenezer Scrooge in "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992) and for his comedy roles in "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" (1988), "Miss Congeniality" (2000), "Austin Powers in Goldmember" (2002) and "Secondhand Lions" (2003). Caine also portrayed Alfred Pennyworth in Christopher Nolan's "Batman" trilogy (2005-2012). He had roles in five other Nolan films: "The Prestige" (2006), "Inception" (2010), "Interstellar" (2014), "Dunkirk" (2017) and "Tenet" (2020). He announced his retirement from acting in October 2023 and his final film was "The Great Escaper", based on a true story, which was released in the same month.

## Personal life

During the Second World War, he and his younger brother Stanley were evacuated to Norfolk, where he performed in his first school play – an experience that planted the seed for his love of acting. After the war, his family moved to a small council house in South London. He showed early promise at school, winning a scholarship to attend Wilson’s Grammar School. But he decided to leave school at 16, instead of going to university. He worked as a filing clerk and messenger for a film company – his first experience of the film world.

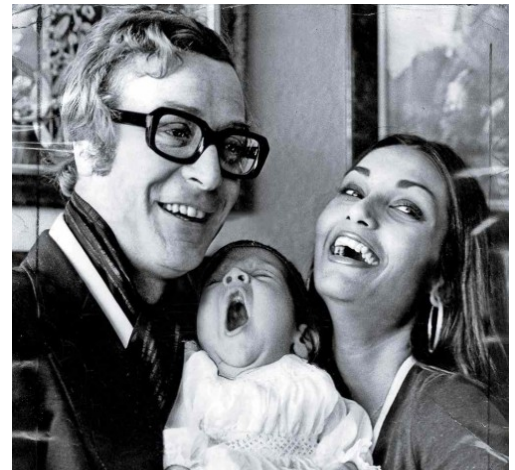


At 19 years old, he was called to do national service in the British Army. He served with the Royal Fusiliers, was stationed in Germany and then sent to fight in the Korean War. According to his memoirs, his near-death experiences there shaped his outlook on life. After returning to civilian life, Caine entered the world of acting. He was a film extra in some films and was given small roles in others. These were difficult years for him and he struggled financially.

He married the actress Patricia Haines in 1954, they had a daughter, Dominique, in 1957, and they divorced in 1958. In 1971, he saw Shakira Baksh, a former “Miss Guyana” and model, in a coffee commercial on TV and he couldn’t stop thinking about her. He pursued her and they eventually married in 1973 and are still together today. Their relationship has often been described as deeply supportive. Caine once said that Shakira “saved” him from heavy drinking. They have a daughter, Natasha.



Caine says that family is everything to him. In interviews he has often emphasized how important his home life is. He says that, at the end of the day, coming home, taking off his shoes and having a cup of tea is what really fulfils him. He has often spoken warmly about his mother, describing her as “tough but full of love”, making sacrifices for her children during very hard times.



After his mother’s death in 1989, he discovered that he had a half-brother, David, who was born before she married Caine’s father. David had severe epilepsy and was permanently institutionalized in a hospital. Michael was deeply moved by how devoted his mother had been, because she had visited David once a week for fifty years. When Michael learned of his brother, he arranged for him to receive better care, and after David died, he buried his ashes next to their mother’s.

<https://news.amomama.com/409607-michael-caines-mom-secretly-carried-food.html>

## Retirement

Caine announced his retirement from acting in October 2023. Nowadays, Caine divides his time between his residences in Chelsea Harbour and Wimbledon, London. Caine owns a flat at the Apogee in Miami Beach, Florida, and keeps a small flat near where he grew up in London.

During his life he has published his memoirs, written a novel, played football with Pelé and danced with Bob Fosse. He also became close friends with John Lennon, saying: "It was a case of bonding because we were both working class and we shared a sense of humour". His closest friends included Sean Connery and Roger Moore. At the 61st Academy Awards, the three of them presented the prize for Best Supporting Actor (which Caine and Connery have also won) to Kevin Kline.



**Aged 91 (2024)**

Reflecting on his life's journey, Michael Caine credits his early struggles, wartime experiences, and his family (especially his mother and his wife) for keeping him "on the ground" and keeping his view of what truly matters in life.

### Videos/Clips:

Name confusion:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/TcAPLwhqVYI">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/TcAPLwhqVYI</a>
Accent:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ZxeAQd7vQPI">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ZxeAQd7vQPI</a>
61st Academy Awards:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/pwQtVmbYfjk">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/pwQtVmbYfjk</a>
Zulu (1964):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1mOny4knTw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1mOny4knTw</a>
The Italian job (1969):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPpgg5rwxpA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPpgg5rwxpA</a>
Battle of Britain (1969):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FpL3e3WeNak">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FpL3e3WeNak</a>
Educating rita (1983):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7MSxaA7zLU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7MSxaA7zLU</a>
The Quiet American (2002):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-hUSR3ENdw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-hUSR3ENdw</a>
The Dark Knight (2008):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIYkhhb2NjfE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIYkhhb2NjfE</a>
Interstellar (2014):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSQ8N0EYmqU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSQ8N0EYmqU</a>
The Great Escaper (2023):	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEvYEPNxHzo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEvYEPNxHzo</a>
Through the years:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/iMUnXmtDfKI">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/iMUnXmtDfKI</a>