# Veteran actor Ben Whishaw reflects on coming out as an actor



[Picture: This is Going to Hurt, BBC]

Ben Whishaw, a British actor renowned for his theatre performances and iconic roles such as the voice of Paddington Bear and 'Q' in Daniel Craig's James Bond films, has become a figure of inspiration in the acting community. His journey towards self-acceptance and public coming out has been both challenging and liberating, as he shared in multiple interviews over the years.

Whishaw, who has consistently delivered memorable performances, first entered the Hollywood spotlight with his role as 'Q' starting in Skyfall and continued through to No Time to Die. He also lent his voice to the beloved character Paddington Bear in the family films Paddington and Paddington 2. Despite his on-screen prominence, Whishaw maintained a high degree of privacy about his personal life for many years.

During interviews in the early 2000s and 2010s, Whishaw often deflected questions about his sexuality, stressing the importance of keeping a level of anonymity. In an interview with The Telegraph, he remarked, “As an actor, your job is to persuade people that you’re someone else. So if you’re constantly telling people about yourself, I think you’re shooting yourself in the foot.”

Whishaw entered into a civil marriage with Australian composer Mark Bradshaw in 2012, a partnership that lasted until their separation in 2022. It wasn’t until 2014, during the promotion of the independent film Lilting, that Whishaw publicly came out in an interview with The Sunday Times Magazine. In Lilting, Whishaw’s character grapples with revealing his relationship to his late partner's mother, a storyline that paralleled his fears and experiences.

Reflecting on these themes, Whishaw shared, “It takes courage and people have to do it in their own time, which is a negotiation you see happening in the film.” He also spoke about coming out to his parents, describing the experience as surprisingly positive and supportive, contrary to his initial fears. “My experiences were not dramatic, and everyone was surprisingly lovely.”

The actor's openness about his sexuality has been a significant talking point. In more recent interviews, Whishaw has highlighted the personal benefits of being out. “I’m definitely happier,” he revealed. “I remember days when I wasn’t out and that was a more stressful and unhappy position. So I’m grateful that’s over and also grateful that we live in a world where it’s not a shameful thing."

At 43, Whishaw appears to have found personal happiness and professional stability. He is reportedly in a new relationship with actor Kadiff Kirwan, whom he met on the set of This is Going to Hurt. The couple was last spotted enjoying a romantic getaway in Greece, according to reports by The Daily Mail.

Whishaw's journey to self-acceptance and happiness stands as a testimony to his resilience and authenticity, marking another significant chapter in the life of a versatile and talented performer.

Ben Whishaw continues to be a admired figure in film and theatre, balancing his private life and professional commitments with grace and humility. His candidness about personal challenges highlights the courage necessary for such revelations, offering insights into the complexities faced by public figures in similar positions.