
THE WILD BLUE YONDER



Biography Brad Dourif

The character actor Brad Dourif was born in 1950 in Huntington, West Virginia, where his father owned and operated a dye factory. His father died when Dourif was 3 years old, after which his mother married Bill Campbell, a champion golfer, who helped raise Brad, his brother, and his four sisters. From 1963 to 1965, Dourif attended Aiken Preparatory School in Aiken, SC, where he pursued his interests in art and acting. Although he briefly considered becoming a professional artist, he finally settled on acting as a profession, inspired by his mother's participation as an actress in community theatre.

Starting in school productions, he progressed to community theatre, joining up with the Huntington Community Players, while attending Marshall University of Huntington. At age 19, he quit his hometown college and headed to New York City, where he worked with the Circle Repertory Company. During the early 1970s, Dourif appeared in a number of plays, off-Broadway and at Woodstock, New York, including Milos Forman who cast him in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975). Although this film is frequently cited as his film debut, in fact, Dourif made his first big-screen appearance with a bit part in *W.W. and the Dixie Dancekings* (1975). Nevertheless, his portrayal of the vulnerable Billy Bibbit in Forman's film was undoubtedly his big break, earning him a Golden Globe Award for Best Acting Debut, a British Academy Film Award for Best Supporting Actor, and an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Sceptical of his instant stardom, Dourif returned to New York, where he continued in theatre and taught acting and directing classes at Columbia University until 1988 when he moved to Hollywood. Despite his attempts to avoid typecasting, his intensity destined him to play demented, deranged, or disturbed characters, starting in *Eyes of Laura Mars* (1978), John Huston's *Wise Blood* (1979) (arguably his best performance to date), and Milos Forman's *Ragtime* (1981). Dourif then teamed up with director David Lynch for *Dune* (1984) and *Blue Velvet* (1986). His high-strung style also served him well in a number of horror films, notably as the voice of the evil doll Chucky in *Child's Play* (1988) and its sequels.

Dourif broke from the horror genre with roles in *Fatal Beauty* (1987), *Mississippi Burning* (1988), *Hidden Agenda* (1990), and *London Kills Me* (1991). Recent film work includes the role of Grima Wormtongue in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Since his television debut in the PBS film *The Mound Builders* (1976) (TV), Dourif has made sporadic appearances in a number of television series, such as "The X Files" (1993), "Babylon 5" (1994), "Star Trek: Voyager" (1995) and "Ponderosa" (2001) (in the recurring role of Frenchy).

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