

Chris Colquhoun plays Dr Simon Kaminski



Chris grew up in Dore in Sheffield, moving to Hull when he was 15. Prior to his family's move to Hull, Chris admits to being a model scholar, shining particularly in maths and science. After the move he became disaffected with school life: "I very quickly got bored." It was at this point that Chris unearthed his passion for drama and the arts. Looking for something to amuse him, it was suggested that he joined an amateur theatre company with whom his dad was involved. After taking his A-Levels Chris decided to apply for drama school when "I realised that you could actually do this [acting] as a career." Not securing a place initially, Chris took a lot of jobs in Hull to make ends meet while he waited to re-apply the following year. He admits to making a terrible security guard for Top Man: "One day six suits went missing during lunchtime; they must have walked straight past me." Meanwhile, Chris spent all his spare time doing theatre, which paid off as he secured a place at RADA the next year. Ironically it was the only place he was offered and he only went for it as his best friend had an

audition there. Thinking that he "might as well give it a go", he found out he had got a place on the same friend's birthday, who unfortunately had not been successful.

Chris spent three years at RADA, which he describes as a difficult environment, where he originally felt, "massively out of my depth, as acting went from something you did because you loved it, to really hard work." Getting accustomed to the way of life at the famous drama school, Chris flourished and found work soon after leaving. His first acting job was for the Hackney Empire, followed by a stint at the RSC on productions including *The Merchant Of Venice*, *King Lear* and *Moby Dick*, during which time he split his time between Stratford and London. TV work soon beckoned in *Band Of Gold* and *North Square* and he also featured in a Nike campaign for Sky Sports, directed by Sam Kadman, one half of the Dom Joly partnership. Playing a transvestite in an earlier series of *Casualty* was his first brush with the famous medical drama, which is a far cry from sultry registrar Simon.

Age: 32

Home town: London, but was brought up in Sheffield and Hull.

Similarities with Simon: “We’re both 6ft 2 and mixed race but I’m a lot better looking. Seriously though, we both have a naff sense of humour and are likeable. Although I’m much more sensitive than him.”

Simon’s best and worst traits: “His energy and enthusiasm are undoubtedly his best features. His worst are his rash decision making and ‘bull in a china shop’ attitude.”

Chris’ real-life *Casualty*: “I’m very clumsy and have had lots of small injuries. I actually ended up in the Emergency Department when I was 19, after trying to ‘bust a move’ in a club. I fell and snapped the tendon in my knee.”

On-screen romance: “He’s a ladies man and would happily sleep with Nikki, Colette, Lara, Comfort or anything with a pulse – he’d be there! It’s inevitable that he will have romance – it’s more a case of first come, first served.”

Favourite food and music: “I love comfort food like mashed potato and roast parsnips. Thai is also a favourite or anything with chilli. I’ve got eclectic taste in music and current favourites are Ben Harper, Sigur Ros [Icelandic band], Bjork and The Strokes.”

How do you keep in shape? “What shape? I’m going to try and get fit but am reasonably fit anyway. I don’t have a car so I walk a lot and won’t get a bus into town.”

How do you relax? “Three things – drinking alcohol, taking photographs and listening to music. Photography is a real passion of mine and I get very immersed in it which is a good distraction after 10 hours on the set.”

Did you know?

- Chris starred in 12 Nike adverts for Sky Sports. “They were fantastic, totally off the wall. Me with an afro, playing a sports fanatic ringing people at 4am trying to get them to play sport. The best was racing a milk float up the street shouting ‘come on!’”
- Chris’s first ever television appearance was as a chorister on *Songs Of Praise*, aged 10.