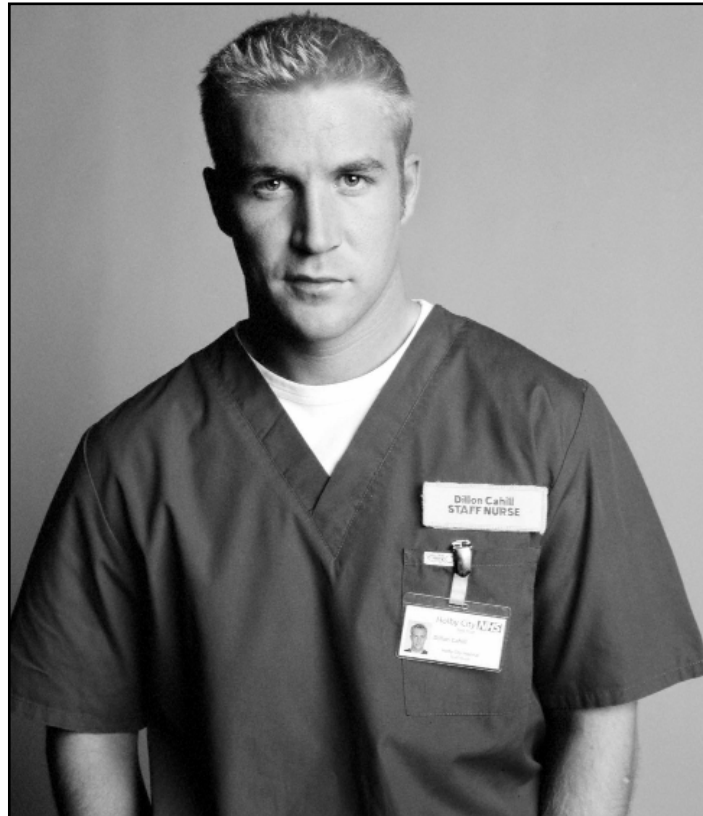


Dan Rymer plays Senior Nurse Dillon Cahill



Dan started dancing when he was nine. “I’d seen Gene Kelly in *Singin’ In The Rain* and was really inspired by it. I asked my mum if I could do what the guy in the movie did. She sent me once a week to her friend who taught tap, and I got quite good at it as well as other types of dance. At 14, I went to the Arts Educational School in Chiswick where I did my GCSEs and dance training. Then I went on to the London Studio Centre and studied for for two years – firstly doing a strict ballet course.

“Realising that I would never make a principal dancer in a ballet company – I had the wrong physique – I made the transition into the musical theatre course at the same school. I was only there three months when I got my first job in *Grease*, so I left early.”

After a national tour with the musical, Dan got a part in Cameron Mackintosh’s *Hamish The Producer*, then went back to *Grease* in the West End, understudying and playing Kenickie. It was during his next job, 18 months in *Chicago*, that he decided to retrain as an actor: “I decided that I had achieved all I had set out to in dancing.” To make the transition from dancer to actor Dan saw a drama coach three times a work throughout his time at the musical.

“When the audition for *Casualty* came up I wasn’t entirely sure if I was ready for it.” But his coach thought otherwise: “I prepared for three days and worked really hard beforehand. It was quite daunting when I first got the job, but now I feel as relaxed doing this job as I did when I was dancing.”

**Age:** 25

**Home town:** Shoreham, near Brighton

**Similarities with Dillon:** “The more I play him, the more similarities I’m seeing. Like him, I’ve always been a sucker for lame ducks and I don’t like having things on my conscience, so will put myself out for other people. Romantically, we’re nothing alike. In the next series he is very weak with the opposite sex and although he’s a very strong character, he’s also very vulnerable. We are both perfectionists.”

**Dillon’s best and worst traits:** “It’s good that he’s caring, but I think that he needs to dedicate more time to himself. I’m not sure that he’s a very happy guy and might even be quite lonely. All his attention is given to others – even his free time is spent as a Samaritan.”

**Dan’s real-life *Casualty*:** “I found a lump on my tongue a few months ago, which I showed to the doctor on set at *Casualty*. He advised to get it removed, which he later did at the hospital. Stupidly I went home and ate pizza for dinner that night. My stitches came out and my mouth filled with blood, so I had to rush back to A&E to get them fixed.”

**On-screen romance:** “Dillon gets involved with man-eating SHO Heather in the new series. Very keen on her, he has no idea that she also has eyes for Simon Kaminski. Finding out that she has been cheating on him evokes an uncharacteristically violent reaction from Dillon. There may be light at the end of the love tunnel though as he looks set to get involved with another colleague in the near future.”

**Favourite food and music:** “I went to Thailand recently and had some amazing Thai food. I love a dish called panang curry which is a coconut chicken curry and I tried to cook it when I got home. Unfortunately my version was nowhere near as good. Music-wise I’ve got Eminem on my car stereo at the moment. I’m not usually into rap at all, but I think Eminem is a very talented poet and although some of his lyrics are horrid, I think it’s very clever music.”

**How do you keep in shape?:** “Lee [Warburton] and I ran a marathon in Norway recently, so most of my training was geared towards that. I need to do a lot of exercise as I have a very healthy appetite so if I’m not working out I can put weight on quickly.”

**How do you relax?:** “I love going to the cinema, having friends round and going out. I also enjoy taking my dog out for runs in the countryside as much as possible.”

## Did you know?

- Dan trained with the same acting coach as Liz Hurley and Tamzin Outhwaite to make the transition from dancer to actor.