

WILL LYMAN

Since the summer of his Equity apprenticeship at the Champlain Shakespeare Festival in his hometown of Burlington, VT in 1967, Will Lyman's career has spanned all aspects of the business: theatre, film, television, commercial, industrial and voice-over. He has performed in 19 productions of 15 of Shakespeare's plays (only 22 to go), most notably the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's 2015 production of *King Lear* in what the Boston Globe called "a towering performance." Also for CSC: Prospero in *The Tempest*, Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, and Claudius in *Hamlet*.

He earned his Equity card in a production of *Who Killed Santa Claus?* starring Arlene Francis. He is a graduate of what, at the time, was called the Boston University School of Fine and Applied Art. Much of his post-graduate theatre training took place in American regional theatre, with memorable turns as Oberon at the Denver Center and Valmont in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the George Street Playhouse. There were also forays off-Broadway (*The Passion of Dracula*, *The Novelist*, *The Dwarfs*) and on Broadway, as understudy for Stacey Keach (*Kentucky Cycle*) and Ken Howard (*Little Black Sheep*.) In 1992, he played Connor Larkin in a Broadway workshop production of *Trinity*, a two-evening adaptation of Leon Uris' sprawling novel of *The Irish Troubles*.

He spent many years working in film and television on both coasts and abroad. His television work includes starring roles in three seasons of The Adventures of William Tell aka Crossbow, filmed entirely on location in France; the NBC musical series Hull High; and ABC's homeland security series Threat Matrix; more recently he played president Teddy Bridges in several episodes of Commander in Chief. His guest star appearances include Ed, Law and Order: Criminal Intent; the original Law and Order, and stretch all the way back to Spencer: For Hire (twice), Murder, She Wrote and the short-lived Mann and Machine.

Television movies include Wilson Rogers, Jr., in Our Fathers, Homeland Security Chief Uteley in Jeremiah Chechik's American Meltdown, the Reverend Parris in the memorable Three Sovereigns for Sarah with Vanessa Redgrave and as Washington's elder half-brother in Buzz Kulick's George Washington. His first television appearance was in 1976: the title role in PBS' Kosciuszko: An American Portrait.

In film, Will was seen in featured roles in What Doesn't Kill You, Little Children (as the Narrator,) Mystic River, The Siege, A Perfect Murder, Welcome to the Dollhouse (Sundance Audience Award 1996), and The Crucible. His voice is also heard as the Award Ceremony Narrator in Iron Man, the documentary narrator in Fierce People, and as the Frontline app for the iPhone in The Other Guys. He has had starring roles in independent ventures such as Hostile Takeover, Floating, Beacon Hill, and Alma Mater. He has worked in countless short experimental films for Boston area filmmakers including Ellie Lee's Dog Days, Dana Glazer's Intermezzo (Student Academy Award) and Andrew Mudge's The Perfect Gooseys.

Will served two terms on the Screen Actors Guild Board of Directors and was given the Howard Keel Award for service to the union shortly after stepping down.

Recent work in the theatre, concentrated in his hometown of Boston, has resulted in Eliot Norton Awards for Outstanding Achievement as an Actor for James Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Otto Hahn in Alan Brody's *Operation Epsilon*, Athol Fugard's *Exits and Entrances* and Joyce van Dykes's *The Oil Thief*, with nominations for his Claudius in *Hamlet* and Trumpleman in *King of the Jews*. He was honored with IRNE Awards for his performances as King Lear, and as Joe Keller in *All My Sons*. He also received one of three nominations for Best Actor at the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival for *The Patriot Act*. He was last seen playing God in Anat Gov's *Oh God* for Israeli Stage. For current work, please refer to Will's [calendar](#).

Before turning his attention to a career in the theatre, Mr. Lyman had been a first-chair bass player with a number of amateur and semi-professional symphonic and chamber orchestras, so it has been his pleasure to perform as an actor with four prominent musical organizations: The National Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Mstislav Rostropovich, narrating a treatment of Sergei Eisenstein's unproduced film *Ivan the Terrible* to Prokofiev's stirring score; The Cleveland Symphony Orchestra in Tom Stoppard's play for two actors and orchestra *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor* with John Neville; as Jason with the Handel and Haydn Society's presentation of *Medea*, with Claire Bloom and as Oberon in the Boston Symphony Orchestra's presentation of Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* under the baton of Andris Nelsons.

No journeyman actor's resume would be complete without a few engagements on daytime television. Will has had recurring roles in *Another World*, *The Guiding Light*, *All My Children*, *Ryan's Hope*, *Loving* and *The Doctors*.

While all of the above activity represents a successful career as an actor, it would not have been possible without the extraordinary success Mr. Lyman has experienced as a narrator. Heard but not seen, Will Lyman's voice is one of the most trusted voices on the American airwaves. After narrating Eric Sevareid's series *Enterprise* and the highly acclaimed, thirteen hour *Viet Nam: A Television History*, he became the series narrator for the public affairs program FRONTLINE, now in its 31st season. Over the course of many years, he voiced innumerable hours of television documentary: The *Survival* series for TLC; *Is it Real?* For Nat Geo; "Quiz Show Scandal" and "Richard Nixon" for *The American Experience*; a couple dozen episodes of *Nova*; *Modern Marvels* for the History Channel, *The Ultimate Guide* for Discovery, all of Bud Greenspan's Olympic films since the Lillehammer Games and many hours of work for NBA Films. He attributes the public's trust in his voice largely to the fact that he has been given many truths to speak. In 2006, Will agreed to become exclusive to FRONTLINE for documentary narration, a move that protects both that trust and FRONTLINE's "signature voice" in the world of long-form television journalism. That role has had such an impact on American culture that *Frontline* fan Matt Groenig wrote Will into an episode of *The Simpsons*, in which he played himself.

His very successful work in advertising is currently limited to a few select clients, most notably, the long-running "Most Interesting Man in the World" series for a certain Mexican beer. His voice is frequently heard on movie trailers dating back to "[Jurassic Park](#)" and beyond.

He and his wife, Anastasia Lyman, are parents of actor and producer Georgia Lyman.