

CRAIG FERGUSON

Biography

Craig Ferguson entered the world of late night comedy following a diverse and eclectic career that encompasses film, television and the stage. Since taking the helm of the *Late, Late Show* on January 3, 2005, the show has set all-time viewer records in three consecutive sweeps.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Ferguson got his start in the entertainment industry as a drummer for some of the worst punk bands in the U.K., a profession he held for several years. Following his musical stint, he began bartending in a local pub in Glasgow where he was introduced to Michael Boyd, the artistic director of The Tron Theatre in Glasgow, who persuaded Ferguson to give acting a go. After several low paying acting gigs, Ferguson discovered he had a knack for comedy and was soon the star of his own BBC television show, *The Ferguson Theory*.

After several stints on the English comedy circuit, Ferguson brought his act to America in 1995 to star with Betty White and Marie Osmond in the short-lived ABC comedy *Maybe This Time*. After the show ended, ABC decided to add the talented Scotsman to *The Drew Carey Show*, playing Drew Carey's boss, Nigel Wick, from 1996-2003.

Ferguson has written the feature films *The Big Tease* and *Saving Grace*. In 2003, he made his directorial debut with *I'll Be There*, which he also wrote and starred in. *I'll Be There* went on to receive the Audience Award for Best Film at the Aspen, Dallas, and Valencia film festivals. Craig was also named "best new director" at the Napa Valley Film Festival. Ferguson's other film credits include, *Niagra Motel*, *Lenny the Wonder Dog*, *Prendimi l'anima*, *Life Without Dick*, *Chain of Fools*, *Born Romantic* and *The Big Tease*.

In April 2006, Ferguson debuted his first novel entitled *Between The Bridge and The River*, which made it onto the best seller list. In the novel, two childhood friends from Scotland and two illegitimate half-brothers from the deep South suffer and enjoy all manner of bizarre adventures which, it turns out, are somehow interconnected-and, even more surprisingly, meaningful. The eclectic cast of characters features Socrates, Carl Jung, and Tony Randall; while love, greed, hope, revenge, organized religion, and Hollywood also make special appearances.

Since coming into his own on the "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson" and winning his first Emmy nomination in 2006, Craig has seem to become the topic of conversation within the media and a growing trend of success in 2008. In February he succeeded in becoming a US Citizen mentioning that this is his home after thirteen years and "my heart is here". Soon after, Craig had landed himself the biggest date of all; A date with President Bush hosting the White House Correspondence Dinner. Critics raved of his witty and comical

deliverance speech to the 3,000 attendees who included political journalists, celebrities, and Washington's power players. Coming up in September 2009 Harper Collins is set to publish a memoir by Craig Ferguson In America On Purpose- a book about why and how late night funnyman, Craig Ferguson became an American. "American on Purpose reads as if Ferguson had snorted Angela's Ashes," says David Hirshey, Senior Vice President and Executive Editor. "It will make you laugh, cry, and sing 'The Star Spangled Banner with a Scottish burr."

Ferguson also serves on the board of the Lollipop Theater Network. The mission of the Lollipop Theater Network is to bring movies that are currently in theatrical release to hospitalized children facing chronic and life threatening illness nationwide.