

## ERIC BANA

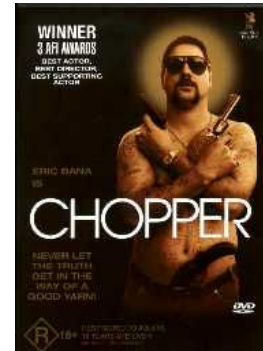
ERIC BANA is one of Australia's best known performers, both as an actor and comedian. He has worked extensively in television, as a stand-up comedian and, in recent times, in Australian and international feature films.

Eric's first major break came in 1993 when he was asked to join one of Australia's top rating comedy programmes, "FULL FRONTAL".

In 1996, he wrote, co-produced and starred in his own comedy special which proved a ratings winner. This led to his weekly comedy show that aired nationally from late 1997. That year, Eric was also voted Australia's "Most Popular Comedy Performer" at The Logies.

Further illustrating his versatility, Eric appeared in the role of Joe Sabatini for the ABC TV drama series, "SOMETHING IN THE AIR".

Eric made his feature film debut in a supporting role in the Australian film, "THE CASTLE" (1997) and went on to further acclaim in the title role of Mark "Chopper" Read in the hugely successful Australian film, "CHOPPER" (released 2000). Based on the life of the infamous standover man, Bana's performance won him the AFI award for "Best Actor in a Feature Film". The film premiered at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival and earned rave notices for its US release. It was "Chopper" that brought Eric Bana to the attention of international filmmakers.



He then co-starred in Ridley Scott's "BLACK HAWK DOWN" as Delta Sgt. First Class "Hoot" Gibson, one of a group of elite US soldiers opposite Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor and Tom Sizemore. The war epic, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer for Sony Pictures (2001), was based on Mark Bowden's best-selling account of the 1993 US mission in Mogadishu, Somalia.

In 2002, Eric featured in the Australian film, "THE NUGGET" (directed by Bill Bennett), together with Stephen Curry, Dave O'Neil, Belinda Emmett and Peter Moon.

Eric then starred in the title role of "THE HULK", directed by Academy Award winning Ang Lee, for Universal Pictures. Based on the Marvel Comics character, the film co-starred Jennifer Connolly (2003).

In 2004, the feature film "TROY" was released through Warner Bros, directed by Wolfgang Petersen. Based on the epic poetry of Homer's "The Iliad", Eric starred alongside Brad Pitt and Orlando Bloom in the role of Hector, Prince of Troy.

Eric was last seen on the big screen (2005) in the leading role of **"MUNICH"**, based on the aftermath of the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. Directed by Steven Spielberg for Universal Pictures, "Munich" received 5 Academy Award nominations, including 'Best Picture'.

In June this year, Eric completed **"ROMULUS, MY FATHER"**, Filmed in Victoria, "Romulus, my Father" has been adapted from Raimond Gaita's best selling memoir and is the directorial debut for Richard Roxburgh.

He will next be seen starring in a poker film by Curtis Hanson titled **"LUCKY YOU"** - set for release later this year and co-starring Drew Barrymore, Robert Duvall and Debra Messing.

In Eric's next film project, **"THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL"**, he will play the role of Henry VIII, alongside Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson. Directed by Justin Chadwick, the screenplay is an adaptation of author Philippa Gregory's novel. Filming is due to commence in England later in the year.

Eric Bana currently resides in Australia with his wife and two children.

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