



ALFRED DUNHILL
BAFTA A LIFE IN PICTURES

An open book is shown against a white background. The left side is a solid black cover. The right side is a white page with the text "VIGGO MORTENSEN" centered in a simple, sans-serif font. The book is slightly open, showing the gutter in the middle.

VIGGO MORTENSEN

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Over the last 25 years, Viggo Mortensen has made a slow, steady climb up the ranks to become one of Hollywood's most reliable and in-demand talents, earning a wealth of critical praise, industry awards and global popularity along the way.

After several years' experience in live theatre, Mortensen made his first film appearance in 1985, playing an Amish farmer in Peter Weir's *Witness*. Several TV roles followed, including *Search for Tomorrow*, *Miami Vice* and *Once in a Blue Moon*, whilst his performance in *Bent* at the Coast Playhouse in Los Angeles won him a Drama League Critics' Award in 1987.

During the 1990s, Mortensen began to truly establish his film profile through supporting roles in a diverse range of films, including Jane Campion's *The Portrait of a Lady*, *Young Guns II*, *Prison*, *Leatherface: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre III*, Sean Penn's *The Indian Runner*, *Carlito's Way*, *Crimson Tide*, *G.I. Jane* and many more.

It was his portrayal of the heroic Aragorn in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (2001-2003), however, that catapulted him onto the global stage. This cinematic epic was the perfect opportunity for Mortensen to showcase the understated grace and intensity that defines his acting style.

Unsurprisingly, a number of fascinating and complex leading roles arose following the trilogy, including Captain Diego Alatriate in *Alatriate*, the most expensive Spanish-language film ever made. Most notably, he has enjoyed two successful and critically acclaimed collaborations with David Cronenberg on *A History of Violence* (2005) and *Eastern Promises* (2007). The latter, in which he portrayed a mysterious Russian gangster in London, earned him his first BAFTA and Oscar nominations.

Despite being one of the most recognisable film stars in the world, Mortensen is exceedingly humble about success and distinctly un-Hollywood, managing to stay focused on other interests outside of acting, such as painting, photography and poetry.

Audiences will see him next in John Hillcoat's highly-anticipated adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Road*, in January 2010.

The Academy is honoured to host his Alfred Dunhill BAFTA A Life in Pictures.

Viggo Mortensen
Selected Filmography

2009 *The Road**
2008 *Good*
2008 *Appaloosa*
2007 *Eastern Promises**
2006 *Alatriate**
2005 *A History of Violence**
2004 *Frida*
2003 *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*
2002 *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
2001 *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring**
2000 *28 Days*
1998 *Psycho*
1998 *A Perfect Murder*
1997 *G.I. Jane*
1996 *Daylight*
1996 *The Portrait of a Lady*
1995 *The Ringier*
1995 *Crimson Tide*
1993 *American Yakuza*
1993 *Carlito's Way**
1991 *The Indian Runner*
1990 *Young Guns II*

*Extracts from these films will be played during this event