William Shatner

William Shatner has cultivated a career spanning over 50 years as an actor, director, producer, screenwriter, recording artist, author, and horseman. He is one of pop culture’s most recognizable figures and has established himself as a major Hollywood philanthropist.

A native of Montreal, Shatner began working professionally at the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) before reaching his teens. Drawn to the theater, he joined the Stratford Shakespeare Festival under Sir Tyrone Guthrie before starring in such Broadway productions as The World of Suzie Wong and A Shot in the Dark.

He has appeared in several hundred television programs including Playhouse 90, Studio One, The Twilight Zone, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Mission: Impossible, 77 Sunset Strip and Dr. Kildare. His appearances on 3rd Rock from the Sun earned him his first Emmy nomination. Shatner played the title role in the hit series T.J. Hooker before hosting one of television’s first reality programs, Rescue 911.

He made his film debut in 1957’s The Brothers Karamazov and starred in other pictures such as The Intruder, Airplane II: The Sequel, Miss Congeniality and its sequel, The Wild, and Over the Hedge.

In 1966, Shatner originated the role of “Captain James T. Kirk” in the television series Star Trek, which eventually spawned a feature film franchise in which he reprised the character in seven of its popular motion pictures (one of which he also directed).

In September 2004, Shatner won an Emmy for his recurring turn as the eccentric “Denny Crane” on The Practice before bringing the role to the hit program Boston Legal, garnering him a Golden Globe and a second Emmy.

His love of music inspired him to record Has Been, an album including guest performers Ben Folds (who also produced the record), Brad Paisley, Joe Jackson, Aimee Mann and Henry Rollins. The album features Shatner’s trademark vocalization while showing off his passion for poetry and lyricism.

One of the first celebrities in Hollywood to recognize the importance of the Internet, Shatner has served as Priceline.com’s spokesman for nearly ten years.

He has authored over two dozen best-selling books including TekWar, Man O’ War, Star Trek Avenger and Ashes of Eden. He wrote two memoirs about his Star Trek career as well as Get A Life!, a hilarious but endearing take on the cult of Star Trek conventions.

A successful breeder of American Quarter horses as well as Saddlebreds, he has won several world championships in various riding competitions.

This love for horses inspired him to start the Hollywood Charity Horse Show, an event and foundation that benefits children who are physically, mentally, or socially handicapped. He has
also worked with the American Tinnitus Association, raising awareness of this debilitating illness.

He and his wife founded the William & Elizabeth Shatner/Jewish National Fund Therapeutic Riding Consortium Endowment for Israel, a special venture designed to benefit Bedouin, Palestinian, Jordanian, Druze, and Israeli children. In addition to healing, this will be an effort to bring war-torn children together and start the first steps towards a lasting peace.

Shatner continues to act, write, produce and direct while managing to continue his charitable work and further his passion in the equestrian sports. He and his family live in Los Angeles.