

## ALAN KING Biography

Alan King is a Renaissance Man. Comedian, actor, producer, author, TV personality, philanthropist, fashion entrepreneur, pro tennis tournament organizer, chairman of the board and political activist. A Renaissance Man.

King has found a way to cram 36 hours into 24; how else could he accomplish all that he does? As a stand-up comic for more than five decades, some of his performances have been preserved in a current video.

He's a favorite among Britain's Royal Family, having given several Royal Command Performances.

King is as versatile an actor as he is a brilliant comic mind. He has often been cast against type, playing serious parts and sometimes a villain, with 25 major motion picture credits, including "Casino" and "Night and the City," both starring Robert DeNiro.

He most recently completed "Rush Hour 2" with Jackie Chan and "Sunshine State" directed by John Sayles.

King's acting career took off in 1955 with "Hit The Deck" and has continued to earn feature roles, in a myriad of acclaimed and commercially successful big screen films such as "Bonfire of the Vanities," "Enemies, A Love Story," "Author! Author!," "I, The Jury," "Just Tell Me What You Want" and "The Helen Morgan Story."

On the production side of celluloid, King is an owner and member of the Executive Board of the Kaufman-Astoria Studios, where interiors are shot for many made-in-New York City films, and has produced "Memories of Me" co-starring with Billy Crystal.

King, the author, has five best-selling books to his credit, among them his autobiography, "Name-Dropping -- The Life & Lies of Alan King," as well as "Anyone Who Owns His Own Home Deserves it," "Help, I'm A Prisoner In A Chinese Bakery" and "Is Salami & Eggs Better Than Sex?" He is now completing "The Jewish Wit" for Crown Publishing.

Conquering TV, he's had his own long-running show, "Alan King: Inside The Comedy Mind" on HBO's Comedy Central, in which he interviewed comedians, actors etc., exploring their attitudes toward, and definition of, what makes comedy.

Before King made it a reality, it was an untapped concept in the talk show arena. King has appeared more than 1,000 times on virtually every variety show in the annals of TV. He hosts PBS' Great Performance Series "The College of Comedy."

For the Broadway stage, he had been star and producer of "The Impossible Years," producer of the first Barbra Streisand tour, "The Lion In Winter," "The Investigation," Tyrone Guthrie's "Dinner at Eight" and "Something Different."

His involvement in comedy reaches far beyond the stage and screen. He has just been elected Abbot of the New York Friars Club, a position that was held by Frank Sinatra for 20 years.

A player and purveyor of tennis, he co-chairs the Newsweek Champions Cup, held annually in Indian Wells, Calif.

His outstanding service to the sport has earned him a place in the Eastern Tennis Association's Hall of Fame, as well as recognition in print as New York's #1 Tennis Fan.

Each year, King is the Master of Ceremonies of the US Open Arthur Ashe Tennis Challenge.

His philanthropic contributions extend to Jerusalem, where he founded the Alan King Diagnostic Medical Center, a 13-story hospital complex. He also established a nonsectarian scholarship fund for American students at the Hebrew University and an Albert Einstein Scholarship Fund.

He conducted fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Nassau Center for the Emotionally Disturbed Children and established a Dramatic Arts chair at Brandeis University.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Northshore Medical Center in New York and pioneered the Toyota Comedy Festival for the last eight years and its Laugh Well program, bringing stand-up to tri-state area hospitals.

King closely follows politics and civil rights issues, always the champion of the maligned and oppressed, campaigned for John and Robert Kennedy and marched with Martin Luther King.

But, most important to him is his marriage to his wife Jeanette, his three children and six grandchildren.

Having achieved tremendous success in every endeavor he undertakes, King truly is a Renaissance Man.