

Adam Pascal



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Adam Pascal (born October 25, 1970) is an American actor, singer, and musician, known for his performance as Roger Davis in the original 1996 cast of Jonathan Larson's musical *Rent* on Broadway, the 2005 movie version of the musical, and the Broadway tour of *Rent* in 2009. He is also known for originating the role of Radames in Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, for playing the Emcee from the 1998 revival of *Cabaret*, and for playing Huey Calhoun in the Broadway company of *Memphis*. Most recently, he played William Shakespeare in the Tony Award-winning musical *Something Rotten!* [1]

Early life

Pascal was born in <u>The Bronx, New York</u>, and grew up in <u>Woodbury, Nassau County, New York</u>, with his mother, Wendy (née Frishman), and stepfather, Mel Seamon. [2][3] He was raised <u>Jewish</u>. [4] He graduated from <u>Syosset High School</u>. [5] He then graduated from <u>New York Institute of Technology</u>. [6] Before his interest in music, he was a personal trainer. Although he began as a rock musician playing in a number of bands (such as Mute) formed with his schoolmates, Pascal became drawn to the musical theater.

Adam Pascal



Pascal in concert in New Haven, Connecticut

on January 19, 2008

Born October 25, 1970

Bronx, New York, U.S.

Occupation(s) Actor, singer, musician

Years active 1993-present

Spouse Cybele Chivian (1998–

present)

Children 2

Website http://www.adampascal.net/

Career

Stage work

A friend of his from high school (Idina Menzel's boyfriend at the time) mentioned <u>Rent</u> to him. On a whim, he auditioned and was cast as the HIV-positive rock guitarist Roger Davis. His powerful <u>tenor</u> voice and his performance in *Rent* earned him a Tony nomination, a Theater World award, and an Obie Award. He left the

show on November 2, 1997, but went on to reprise Roger when Rent opened in London.

The role helped Pascal gain fame on Broadway, and he was cast in the <u>Elton John</u> and <u>Tim Rice</u> musical <u>Aida</u> as the Egyptian general Radames with the original and final casts^[7] (former *Rent* castmate <u>Idina Menzel</u> would costar as Amneris in 2001), and Kander and Ebb's <u>Cabaret</u>, appearing in the show as the Emcee (closing cast). He also participated in several charity performances, including <u>Chess</u> in 2003 (playing the American, Freddie Trumper), Hair in 2004 (singing "I Got Life"), and the 24 Hour Plays in 2005. He returned to Aida in 2004 to close the run of the show as Radames.

Along with original Broadway *Rent* cast member <u>Anthony Rapp</u> (Mark Cohen), Pascal returned to Broadway to star as Roger in *Rent* from July 30 to October 7, 2007. In January 2009, he and Rapp reprised their originating (and film) roles as Roger and Mark in another *Rent* tour titled: *Rent: The Broadway Tour*, which played in many cities in the North America, as well as stops in Japan and South Korea. At the tour's <u>Detroit</u>, <u>Michigan</u> stop in February, Pascal suffered two herniated discs in his neck and was on medical leave for a week. His role was filled in by Cary Shields, who had replaced Pascal during *Rent*'s first run on Broadway. Pascal made a full recovery and finished up the tour in early 2010. This tour closed on February 7, 2010.

Pascal reprised the role of Frederick Trumper, aka "Freddie, The American" in the London concert version of <u>Chess</u> at the <u>Royal Albert Hall</u> on May 12–13, 2008. His *Rent* and *Aida* co-star Idina Menzel played the role of Florence. This performance was recorded; it has been televised, first on American and British television on June 17, 2009, and repeatedly in America on PBS stations as part of that network's "Great Performances" series; and has been released on DVD. [17]

Pascal joined the Broadway cast of <u>Memphis</u> on October 25, 2011 as Huey Calhoun. He replaced original cast member <u>Chad Kimball</u> in the role. He remained in the *Memphis* cast until the show's closure on August 5, 2012. [18]

Beginning April 8, 2013, Pascal starred as Billy Flynn in the long-running Broadway revival of *Chicago*. His last performance as Billy was June 16, 2013. [19]

On November 17th 2016, Pascal joined the Broadway company of <u>Something Rotten!</u> as William Shakespeare in the show's closing cast. [20] He also played the same role for the entirety of the show's 1st National Tour alongside Rob McClure, Josh Grisetti, and Leah Hofmann who were also in the closing cast of the show. [21]

Music

Pascal felt that he was looked upon solely as a Broadway singer, and thus returned to his rock and roll roots with a solo recording contract on Sh-K-Boom Records, which was founded by his *Aida* costar, Sherie Rene Scott and her husband Kurt Deutsch. He has released two solo rock albums, *Model Prisoner* (2000), Civilian (2004), as well as a collaborative rock album *Blinding Light* (2008) with pianist, Larry Edoff. He also contributed a cover of Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" to the CD *Broadway Cares: Home for the Holidays* (2001), the end credits song, "Winter Light", from the movie *Noel* (2004), and the song "Perfect Place" on the album *Listen* which showcases songs written by adolescents who stutter (2009). In School of Rock, he played Theo, lead singer of the band No Vacancy, and sang on two songs on the soundtrack.

On July 4, 2006, Pascal took part in the Macy's Fourth of July Celebration. He sang during the traditional fireworks display. He also took part in both the fifth and tenth anniversary celebrations of *Rent* on Broadway in 2000 and 2005, respectively.

Pascal formed the band "Me and Larry (Edoff)" in 2006. The two musicians began composing and performing original material and reworked Broadway songs in small venues throughout the US. Pascal won the 2007–2008 Golden Icon Award for Best Small Venue Concert. The band's first CD, *Blinding Light*, was released in May 2008 on Pascal's own label. The CD is available at concerts and through Amazon^[29] and the band's website^[30] (where a direct digital download is available).

As of 2009 and later, Pascal is developing a theatrical stage version of the classic 1988 concept album, *Operation: Mindcrime* by the progressive metal band, *Queensrÿche*. The band is one of Pascal's musical influences, and has fully endorsed his efforts. [31]

Film work

Pascal made his film debut in <u>SLC Punk!</u> (1999), and also appeared in <u>School of Rock</u> (2003) and <u>Temptation</u> (2004). The audio for <u>Temptation</u>, a musical, was recorded live on set during filming.

In late 2005, he, along with five others of the principal cast, reprised their roles in the film version of <u>Rent</u>, directed by <u>Chris Columbus</u>. Pop idol <u>Justin Timberlake</u> was considered for the role of Roger, but Columbus decided to stick with the original cast members. The film released on November 23, 2005.

In the independent movie *Falling Star* (formerly titled *Goyband*), Pascal stars as a former boy-band icon who is booked to play a show at a <u>Kosher</u> hotel, but ends up shocking the guests with his sexy show. Fans were invited to participate in the movie as extras for the concert scenes. His co-stars are <u>Amy Davidson</u>, <u>Cris Judd</u>, <u>Tovah Feldshuh</u>, <u>Dean Edwards</u>, <u>Tibor Feldman</u> and <u>Natasha Lyonne</u>. *Goyband* originally premiered at the Jerusalem Films Festival in December 2008. Its North America premiere was July 2009, on Long Island. The movie was bought by distributor, MarVista Entertainment, which retitled it *Falling Star*. [33]

Pascal has also completed filming for another independent movie, *American Primitive*, about a gay couple who try to hide their relationship from family and neighbors in 1973, a few years following the Stonewall Riots. [34]

Pascal will reprise his role from *SLC Punk!* in the 2015 sequel *Punk's Dead*.

In 2015, Pascal starred in *Alleluia! The Devil's Carnival* as The Agent, one of God's top generals in Heaven.

Television

Pascal had a guest role as Dennis Hofferman, a murder victim, on an episode of *Cold Case*, with <u>Tracie Thoms</u>, his co-star from the film version of *Rent*, and <u>Laura Bell Bundy</u>, another Broadway star who originated the role of Elle Woods in <u>Legally Blonde</u>. The episode, called "Willkommen", originally aired on April 2, 2006, and revolved around an amateur production of *Cabaret*. [35]

Pascal provided the narration and sang a song in the double-length episode "Tale of the Mighty Knights" for the show *The Backyardigans*. The song is called "I'm Not an Egg Anymore", and is the final song of the episode. [36]

Personal life

On December 19, 1998, Pascal married Cybele Chivian. Cybele is the daughter of Eric S. Chivian, M.D., Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, and the granddaughter of writer Joseph Jay Deiss. The couple has two sons. [38]

Discography

- Mute ca. 1994
- Model Prisoner 2000
- Civilian 2004
- Blinding Light (with Larry Edoff) 2008

Stage credits

Year(s)	Production	Role	Location	Category	
1996– 97	Rent	Roger Davis	Nederlander Theatre	Broadway	
1998			Shaftesbury Theatre	West End	
2000– 03	<u>Aida</u>	Radames	Palace Theatre	e Theatre Broadway	
2003	Fully Committed	_	Lyceum Theatre	Off-Broadway (co- producer)	
2003	Chess	Freddie Trumper	New Amsterdam Theatre	Concert	
2003– 04	Cabaret	The Emcee (Closing Cast)	Studio 54	Broadway	
2004	Aida	Radames (Closing Cast)	Palace Theatre	Broadway	
	<u>Hair</u>	_	New Amsterdam Theatre	Concert (sung "I Got Life")	
2005	The 24 Hour Plays	_	American Airlines Theatre	Benefit	
2007	Rent	Roger Davis (Replacement)	Nederlander Theatre	Broadway	
	Alive in the World	_	Zipper Theatre	Benefit	
2008	Chess	Freddie Trumper	Royal Albert Hall	Concert	
	Drift	_	B.B. King Blues Club	Concert	
2009– 10	Rent	Roger Davis	_	US National Tour	
2011	The Real Love: A New Musical	Rolf	Pasadena Civic Auditorium	Concert	
2011– 12	Memphis	Huey Calhoun	luey Calhoun Shubert Theatre Broadwa		
2013	Chicago	Billy Flynn (Replacement)	Ambassador Theatre	Broadway	
2016	Disaster!	Chad	Nederlander Theatre	Broadway	
2016– 17	Something Rotten!	William Shakespeare	St. James Theatre	Broadway	
2017				US National Tour	
2019	Pretty Woman: The Musical	Edward Lewis	Nederlander Theatre	Broadway	

Filmography

Year	Film/television	Role	Other notes
1999	SLC Punk!	Eddie	
2003	School of Rock	Theo	
2004	Temptation	Nicholi	
2005	Rent	Roger Davis	appeared with most of the original stage cast members
2006	Cold Case	Dennis Hofferman	TV series, appeared alongside <i>Rent</i> co-star Tracie Thoms
2008	American Primitive	Theo	Independent film
2008	Single Drop of You	Himself	Music Video
2008	Falling Star (formerly titled Goyband)	Bobby Starr	Independent Film
2009	Wild About Harry or <u>American</u> <u>Primitive</u>	Theo	
2016	Punk's Dead	Eddie	Sequel to 1999's <u>SLC Punk!</u> .
2016	Alleluia! The Devil's Carnival	The Agent	Sequel to 2012's <i>The Devil's Carnival</i>
2019	Rent: Live	Himself	[39]

Awards and nominations

Year	Award Category		Work	Result
1996	ony Award Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical		Rent	Nominated
	Drama Desk Award Outstanding Actor in a Musical			Nominated
	Theatre World Award Theatre World Award			Won
2006	Dread and Film Critica Appariation	Best Song (Seasons of Love)		Nominated
	Broadcast Film Critics Association	Best Acting Ensemble	Rent	Nominated
	Online Film & Television Association	Best Music, Adapted Song (Light my Candle)		Nominated
	Award	Best Music, Adapted Song (Seasons of Love)		Nominated

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