

---

## Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 09:09

---

So, I was just re-watching the first series of Black Adder on DVD, and who should turn up playing a minor peasant character? Oscar-winning, Golden Globe-winning, BAFTA-winning Jim Broadbent, when no-one knew who he was. I'd recognise that nose anywhere.

You know what to do...

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 24-04-2008 09:13

---

Was he the Spanish interpreter?

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 09:16

---

Ah, you're absolutely right. The amusingly-named Don Speekenglish, in the Queen Of Spain's Beard episode.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 09:18

---

The earliest Jim Broadbent role I remember was the quiz show host in Time Bandits. Even by the time he starred in Life Is Sweet (1990), though, I didn't recognise him as a particularly famous actor. Looking through his acting credits on IMDB, I suppose it was his turn in Only Fools And Horses that really made him a household name.

Oh, and Jeremy Irons in Play Away is usually the example that crops up when this subject is raised.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Stumpy Pepys - 24-04-2008 09:21

---

He was the original choice for Derek Trotter.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Andy C - 24-04-2008 09:23

---

I first became aware of him when he was in the National Theatre of Brent.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 24-04-2008 09:27

---

Forest Whitaker in Platoon? Or was he reasonably famous by then?

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Message Board - When Saturday Comes - The Half Decent Football Magazine FireBoard Forum Component version: 1.0.2

Generated: 2 December, 2008, 05:16

---

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 09:33

If we're talking Hollywood films, what's actually surprising is how seldom it happens, and how many big stars just seem to arrive more-or-less fully-formed, without ever playing an irrelevant extra or someone who sells the hero a burger.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 09:37

I used to think of Minnie Driver's appearance in Knowing Me, Knowing You With Alan Partridge in those terms, but in recent years Minnie Driver's star status has gently settled down to the level where a bit-part on a Steve Coogan show is exactly where you'd expect to see her.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by meerkat - 24-04-2008 09:51

I think Forest Whittaker was reasonably on the map. Now Johnny Depp in Platoon, I reckon fits better here. As does Dr Cox from Scrubs in Platoon...

Does Liam Neeson in The Mission count?

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 24-04-2008 09:55

[http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2271/1606858145\\_040d542990\\_m.jpg](http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2271/1606858145_040d542990_m.jpg)

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Purves Grundy - 24-04-2008 09:57

Michael Caine has two lines as an exasperated copper in the superb The Day The Earth Caught Fire from 1961.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 09:59

[http://www.alastairsim.net/images/greenman/green\\_man\\_telephonetrick.jpg](http://www.alastairsim.net/images/greenman/green_man_telephonetrick.jpg)

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 10:00

Purves Grundy wrote:

Michael Caine has two lines as an exasperated copper in the superb The Day The Earth Caught Fire from 1961. Not a lot of people know that.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Eggchaser - 24-04-2008 10:01

---

Patrick Stewart as Sejanus in I, Claudius. He had been in a couple things before then and was an established RSC actor, but seeing him hove into view in a terrible wig was probably the first time he imposed himself on the national consciousness.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 24-04-2008 10:04

---

If we are talking about Hollywood rather than thesps per se then Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce in Neighbours spring to mind. The guy that now plays the Boss in Ugly Betty was, of course, Jim Robinson on "Neighbours" but that's hardly a bit part.

Loads of people have been in soaps as bit part players - Ruth Jones in "Eastenders, Ben Kingsley, Patrick Stewart, Joanna Lumley and Prunella Scales in Coronation Street. Obviously, Ian McKellen went the other way but that isn't the thread. Apparently, Lawrence Olivier wanted to do Corrie as well but kicked the bucket before he was able to.

The Archers still has a load of thesps regularly in there including Tamsin Greig from Green Wing and Black Books and the girl that plays Dawn in the Office is still there (I think). There are loads of less famous thesps on there as well from the theatre.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 24-04-2008 10:05

---

Whose in GO's pic?

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 10:09

---

Bored Of The Dance wrote:

Whose in GO's pic? Just 'cos it's not some recent Hollywood star, you children just don't know haven't got a clue...

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 10:09

---

George Cole and the great Alistair Sim.

Somewhere in Joe Dante's Matinee is Naomi Watts.

Daniel Day-Lewis started off in Shoestring.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 24-04-2008 10:10

---

Sylvester Stallone in Woody Allen's Bananas.

James Gandolfini in Get Shorty

---

William Shatner in The Brothers Karamazov (not really a bit part, but amusing nonetheless).

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by treibeis - 24-04-2008 10:15

---

Pierce Brosnan making Bob Hoskins shit himself at the end of The Long Good Friday.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 10:16

---

Wyatt Earp wrote:

[http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2271/1606858145\\_040d542990\\_m.jpg](http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2271/1606858145_040d542990_m.jpg)

Is that Martin Kemp?

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 10:17

---

As a boy, George Cole was in Olivier's film version of Henry V (and I knew that without recourse to IMDB - I remember our English teacher recognising him when we watched the film in class).

Brad Pitt has a few early career bit parts under his belt, but his cameo in Thelma And Louise was one of those real 'superstar credentials-establishing' cameos.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Andy C - 24-04-2008 10:19

---

he girl that plays Dawn in the Office is still there (I think).Lucy Davis left The Archers: her character, Hayley Tucker, is now played by Lorraine Coady.

<http://www.thearchers.co.uk/Archers/FileDocs/jpg/1680.jpg>

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 10:20

---

King Mob wrote:

As a boy, George Cole was in Olivier's film version of Henry V (and I knew that without recourse to IMDB - I remember our English teacher recognising him when we watched the film in class).

Brad Pitt has a few early career bit parts under his belt, but his cameo in Thelma And Louise was one of those real 'superstar credentials-establishing' cameos.

You think? I already knew who Brad Pitt was when I saw that film. I thought "Oh look, there's Brad Pitt". I thought they cast him specifically because he was already Hollywood's Mr Sexy.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 24-04-2008 10:25

---

Bored Of The Dance wrote:

If we are talking about Hollywood rather than thesps per se then Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce in Neighbours spring to mind. The guy that now plays the Boss in Ugly Betty was, of course, Jim Robinson on "Neighbours" but that's hardly a bit part.

Guy Pearce's was hardly a bit part. His role as Mike Young, was a fairly central character for two years. Mike and Jane were the best mates, and er, Neighbours of Scott and Charlene.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Mitch - 24-04-2008 10:30

---

Sigourney Weaver is in Annie Hall for a few seconds. Playing Woody's mate's girlfriend, I think.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Hofzinser - 24-04-2008 10:32

---

You think? I already knew who Brad Pitt was when I saw that film. I thought "Oh look, there's Brad Pitt". I thought they cast him specifically because he was already Hollywood's Mr Sexy.

Did you possibly see the film several years after it was released?

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 10:34

---

You think? I already knew who Brad Pitt was when I saw that film. I thought "Oh look, there's Brad Pitt". I thought they cast him specifically because he was already Hollywood's Mr Sexy.

Well, looking at his acting credits on IMDB, none of his pre-Thelma And Louise films seem particularly renowned. I've certainly never seen any of them.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 10:51

---

Hofzinser wrote:

You think? I already knew who Brad Pitt was when I saw that film. I thought "Oh look, there's Brad Pitt". I thought they cast him specifically because he was already Hollywood's Mr Sexy.

Did you possibly see the film several years after it was released?

I didn't think I did... but looking at the chronology, yeah, that's probably what happened. D'oh.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 24-04-2008 10:55

---

Sigourney Weaver is in Annie Hall for a few seconds. Playing Woody's mate's girlfriend, I think.

---

True. It's a shot from about 150 feet away. You can't even see her face. You'd never know she was in it if it weren't for the credits.

I believe Annie Hall may also be Jeff Goldblum's screen debut ("I forgot my mantra...")

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Eggchaser - 24-04-2008 10:56

---

Samuel L Jackson in Coming to America and then a bigger part in Goodfellas, being shot in the head by Joe Pesci.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 10:58

---

So, to add a dramatic new twist to the thread, who have people seen recently in bit parts that they think might go on to be big stars?

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 24-04-2008 11:06

---

Sorry, going back to the original premise, Rob Brydon in Lock Stock as well although possibly bigger than a bit part

I would love to see his stuff on the Home Shopping channel

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by King Mob - 24-04-2008 11:21

---

A sprinkle of fairy dust, and I'll just wave my magic wand...

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 11:34

---

Brydon's just reached the pinnacle of his career by standing in for Humph in I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue on Tuesday in Bournemouth.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Tony C - 24-04-2008 12:09

---

"I believe Annie Hall may also be Jeff Goldblum's screen debut ("I forgot my mantra...")"

I think Goldblum's turn as psychotic thug in 'Death Wish' may have preceeded that.

Brad Pitt, I believe, first showed up as the boyfriend of the Steadmans' babysitter in 'thirtysomething'.

I think he left his shirt on, though.

---

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 12:14

---

Sigourney Weaver is in Annie Hall for a few seconds. Playing Woody's mate's girlfriend, I think.

You'll find Sharon Stone in Stardust Memories somewhere.

Kate Winslet in Casualty.

...and you'll find a budding thesp somewhere in here...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GF6ouF0AXg>

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 24-04-2008 12:15

---

You're having a laugh with the Kemp thing, right? I mean, it's Clint, man.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 12:18

---

The phrase is 'tongue in cheek', Wyatt.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 12:22

---

What about this? Or does that more properly belong in the "Famous thesps parted bits before they were famous" thread?

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Eggchaser - 24-04-2008 12:27

---

I was watching Dr Who (new incarnation series one) and it's notable that both Eve Myles (Gwen) and Naoko Mori (Tosh) as a chamber maid and coroner respectively. Although the latter was also seen as Saffie's friend in Absolutely Fabulous.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 24-04-2008 13:00

---

Wyatt Earp wrote:

You're having a laugh with the Kemp thing, right? I mean, it's Clint, man.

No, I honestly couldn't work out why you'd posted a picture of Martin Kemp.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

---

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 24-04-2008 13:38

---

My wife always collapses in a giggle whenever Colin Farrell is on screen or mentioned because she still associates him with 'Ballykissangel'.

I just get him confused with Colin Firth.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 24-04-2008 13:40

---

Antonio Gramsci wrote:

James Gandolfini in Get Shorty

'True Romance' pre-dated that, didn't it?

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 24-04-2008 13:43

---

According to imdb, yes. But I've never seen it.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 24-04-2008 13:43

---

King Mob wrote:

A sprinkle of fairy dust, and I'll just wave my magic wand...

And that is, of course, 'Andy the nurse' from Eastenders with him as their careers cross going in opposite directions.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 13:50

---

Jake Gyllenhall as Billy Crystal's son in "City Slickers". Halle Berry as a crackhead in "Jungle Fever".

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Coffy - 24-04-2008 13:58

---

A friend and I were just talking about how Mary Stuart Masterson was one of Katharine Ross's kids in the original (and better) The Stepford Wives. She seems to have faded from view lately, unfortunately.

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 24-04-2008 14:16

---

---

Dennis Hopper in Rebel Without a Cause

Jack Nicholson in (the original) Little Shop of Horrors

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Mitch - 24-04-2008 14:46

---

Was Johnny Depp famous by the time he was briefly in Platoon?

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam**

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 14:51

---

Talking of Prunella Scales:

<http://lean.bfi.org.uk/materials/fullsize/bfi-00m-lwr.jpg>

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam**

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 24-04-2008 14:54

---

Tom Selleck was a corpse in Michael Crichton's Coma

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam**

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 14:57

---

Was Johnny Depp famous by the time he was briefly in Platoon? He had a fairly substantial part in the original "Nightmare on Elm Street" before Platoon, but he was far from famous. His leading role in the TV show "21 Jump Street" was the first thing to make him famous in the US, but that was after Platoon, I think.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Harry Carpenter - 24-04-2008 15:09

---

Mitch wrote:

Was Johnny Depp famous by the time he was briefly in Platoon?

The role he was born to play.

Edit: this was mean to be a response to ;

Tom Selleck was a corpse in Michael Crichton's Coma

---

but I quite like the original post now.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 24-04-2008 15:22

---

George Cole looks remarkably like Rob Brydon in GO's pic.

Keira Knightley was, of course, Natalie Portman's double in The Phantom Menace, 3 years before "Bend It Like Beckham"

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by gerontophile - 24-04-2008 15:48

---

Catherine Zeta-Jones-Douglas-Danielovitch was in The Darling Buds of May.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Gangster Octopus - 24-04-2008 15:56

---

I'm not sure that I've ever seen her in anything else.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by gerontophile - 24-04-2008 16:02

---

She probably doesnt fit here anyway, as she had quite a big part in that.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by treibeis - 24-04-2008 16:43

---

Sergeant Bob Cryer as Tim Roth's social worker in Made In Britain.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 19:09

---

Tom Selleck was a corpse in Michael Crichton's Coma

If it is to be believed then Christopher Reeve was one of the suspended bodies in the Jefferson Institute sequence in that film (ghoulish to think of it now, in a way).

There's also Kevin Costner's hands in The Big Chill, due to his footage of being an entire corpse in a coffin being excised from the film. In fact, he's more famous for not being in the film, now.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

---

Posted by Tony C - 24-04-2008 20:26

---

Similarly there is a British character actress called Ann Beach who filmed a fairly substantial role as Hugh Grant's mother in 'Notting Hill' only to have her performance completely wiped.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Coffy - 24-04-2008 20:33

---

Everyone probably knows about Hilary Swank's having been a regular on 90210 not long before her first Oscar, but another two-time nominee also had a bit part in a first-season episode--it was Djimon Hounsou.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by ian.64 - 24-04-2008 20:35

---

Tony C: I'll trump that with the minor role of a waiter in the Ben Affleck thriller, The Sum Of All Fears. Sadly, Matt Damon's walk-on part was excised.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by meerkat - 25-04-2008 08:39

---

ian.64 wrote:

There's also Kevin Costner's hands in The Big Chill, due to his footage of being an entire corpse in a coffin being excised from the film. In fact, he's more famous for not being in the film, now.

And it was a better film for that particular bit of editing. (love that film! Best line ever: "That's the problem with these modern appliances. You've got to watch them all the time.")

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 25-04-2008 10:51

---

Coffy, that is one brilliant piece of trivia. Your knowledge of late 80s - early 90s cheese is staggering. I salute you.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by gerontophile - 25-04-2008 11:07

---

Giovanni Ribisi played a mate of Kevin in The Wonder Years, before playing Phoebe's brother in Friends and then going on to many movies.

I suspect that he has been in other stuff before even The Wonder Years.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by And I am the Life - 25-04-2008 12:10

---

---

the doctor who tries to hospitalise Harry hill in the final couple of scenes in goodfellas is none other than senator clay davis.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Mitch - 25-04-2008 12:23

---

It also seems that practically every other actor from The Wire has been in either one of the Law & Order or CSI spin-offs at least once...

(And Omar's in that Trapped In The Closet madness isn't he?)

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by meerkat - 25-04-2008 12:46

---

Ribisi was in Blossom (yeah, how embarrassing is it that I remember that..?)before the wonder years.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by And I am the Life - 25-04-2008 12:49

---

yeah, and omar is the guy that jackie jr goes to hide out with just before he gets shot in season 3 of the sopranos.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Tony C - 25-04-2008 19:22

---

I'm fairly sure that 'The Wonder Years' came before 'Blossom'.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by gerontophile - 25-04-2008 19:33

---

He was in Blossom 2 years before The Wonder Years according to imdb. (I really liked Blossom, which should probably go on the/a 'Guilty Pleasures' thread)

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by King Mob - 25-04-2008 22:00

---

Harry Hill is in Goodfellas?!

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam**

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 25-04-2008 22:41

---

Eggchaser wrote:

I was watching Dr Who (new incarnation series one) and it's notable that both Eve Myles (Gwen) and Naoko Mori (Tosh)

---

as a chamber maid and coroner respectively. Although the latter was also seen as Saffie's friend in Absolutely Fabulous.

Eve Myles got the part of Gwen because of her performance in Doctor Who, whereas Naoko Mori actually plays the same character in Doctor Who.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 25-04-2008 22:46

---

Forrest Whitaker and Nicholas Cage both had small roles in Fast Times At Ridgemont High, which was released in 1982.

Adam Sandler played one of Theo's friends in The Cosby Show.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 25-04-2008 22:59

---

"Cannoli: Corleone. Mmm? Mmm? That's how I remember 'em. It helps if you have a system."

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by ian.64 - 26-04-2008 08:33

---

You bastard, Earp. I was just trundling along, thinking of a Hill/Goodfellas joke when you popped up.

Good one, though.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Pan Tau - 26-04-2008 10:30

---

I suppose Marilyn Monroe's cameo in All About Eve has been mentioned.

On the other side of the the scale, Luke Perry from Beverly Hills 12345 had a supporting role in a US day-time soap called Loving. He was the brother of a woman who tried to escape the evil clutches of a trailer-trash redneck called Eben Japes.

For all the artistic shortcomings of Loving, the soapie came up with one of the greatest lines in daytime television ever, involving the redneck's proposal that the child Luke Perry's sister would bear him be called "Eben Japes Junior". You had to be there, I suppose, but at one point I considered taking the handle Eben Japes Jr.

Oh, and I watched Loving at the time because in my circle of friends it was a bit of "ironic" cultural slumming it, or something.

=====

---

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Pan Tau - 28-04-2008 19:28

---

Shit, I killed this thread.

Anyway, Brad Pitt apparently had a walk-on part in Less Than Zero, which was a zillion times worse than the utterly horrible book it was based on. Earned \$36 for that gig, Pitt did.

---

I watched Footloose earlier, and there was Sarah Jessica Parker playing second fiddle to megastar Lori something.

Oh, and one real bit-part character looked like Matthew McConaughey, who had a minor role in the wonderful Dazed And Confused. In which Ben Affleck had an even smaller role as a bully.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Inca - 28-04-2008 20:12

---

Most of the ones that I can think of have been mentioned already. SocScrim mentioned Nicolas Cage in Fast Times, but did not say that he's listed as Nicolas Coppola in the credits.

A few days back, I mentioned Mischa Barton of The O.C. as the girl in the tent in Sixth Sense.

George Clooney was a jerk boss in a few episodes of Roseanne.

People in Woody Allen movies have been mentioned a few times--seems like he's really good at this. Interestingly, mostly for guys from the Sopranos. If you look up a lot of the major characters from the Sopranos--most of the guys from Tony's crew--you'll notice that they've had bit parts as mobsters or tough guys in Woody Allen movies (Tony Sirico, Paulie Walnuts, has been in five of Woody's movies!).

Another Sopranos one--Michael Imperioli, Christopher, was Spider in Goodfellas...the guy that Joe Pesci shoots in the foot.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Phoebe Disco - 29-04-2008 00:37

---

<http://i24.photobucket.com/albums/c36/PhoebeDisco/catwoman.jpg>

On the left, Julie Newmar as Catwoman disguised as an old lady. On the right, her driver - James Brolin.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by And I am the Life - 29-04-2008 14:52

---

Paulie walnuts was also in goodfella's in the late fifties section. Phil leotardo is the guy that gets kicked/stabbed to death, jennifer melfi is harry hill's wife, and larry barese is man whose restaurant Paulie busts out.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Inca - 29-04-2008 15:00

---

And I am the Life wrote:  
jennifer melfi is harry hill's wife

Not really a secret there. Big Pussy is also a guy pushing a coatrack. And Karen Hill/Lorraine Bracco's mom in Goodfellas is also Carmella's mom on the Sopranos.

=====

## Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 29-04-2008 15:22

---

John Ratzenberger, aka Cliff Clavin, was in Empire Strikes Back.

---

<http://www.starwars.com/episode-v/bts/article/f20011217/img/rats2.jpg>

I think I've mentioned this before, but Trini from the original 3-2-1 Contact and Ricardo from 3-2-1 Contact's Bloodhound Gang segments were both in The Warriors.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by And I am the Life - 29-04-2008 15:24

---

oops, I forgot those two. I was trying to remember who it was that was pushing the coatrack. Who is it that plays karen's dad.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 30-04-2008 13:43

---

Oh, that Cliff one is brilliant. I never knew that

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Sir Fartle - 30-04-2008 14:40

---

Jeff Goldblum as a vile thug in Death Wish.

Apologies if its already been mentioned.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 30-04-2008 20:27

---

Though it came after "Empire", Ratzenberger also has a bizarre little cameo in Gandhi, believe it or not.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Bored Of The Dance - 01-05-2008 09:14

---

As I am cutting and pasting large parts of Wikipedia today, this Roger Corman entry is timely and relevant

A number of noted film directors have worked with Corman, including Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Peter Bogdanovich, Jonathan Demme, Donald G. Jackson, Gale Anne Hurd, Carl Colpaert, Joe Dante, James Cameron, John Sayles, Monte Hellman, Paul Barter, George Armitage, Jonathan Kaplan, and Jack Hill. Many have said that Corman's influence taught them some of the ins and outs of filmmaking. In the extras for the DVD of The Terminator, director James Cameron refers to his work for Corman as, "I trained at the Roger Corman Film School." The British director Nicolas Roeg served as the cinematographer on The Masque of the Red Death.

Actors who obtained their career breaks working for Corman include Jack Nicholson, Peter Fonda, Bruce Dern, Michael McDonald, Dennis Hopper, Talia Shire, and Robert De Niro.

=====

### Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous

Posted by Crusoe - 01-05-2008 11:08

---

---

Ratzenberger was also in A Bridge Too Far.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Broken Clock - 09-05-2008 20:46

---

Harrison Ford "interviews/interrogates" Martin Sheen at the start of Apocalypse Now.

Sylvester Stallone plays a gangster in one of Robert Mitchums two Raymond Chandler films from the mid 70s.....or was it the Elliott Gould one?

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 12-05-2008 18:18

---

Every time I skim this thread, I think it's telling me that Pope Benedict was in A Bridge Too Far.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were famous**

Posted by EIM - 12-05-2008 22:38

---

Johnny Depp was in Platoon.

=====

**Re:Famous thesps in bit-parts before they were fam**

Posted by Sir Fartle - 13-05-2008 01:31

---

Keira Knightley was in Star Wars Episode I.

=====