



# Jim Sheridan

*Director/Writer*

**Jim Sheridan** is a master story teller, and an acclaimed film director. Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1949, **Sheridan** moved to America in 1982. He eventually made his first film, *My Left Foot: The Story of Christy Brown* (1989) starring **Daniel Day-Lewis**. The film was a success, with both **Day-Lewis** and co-star **Brenda Fricker** winning Oscars for their performances. **Sheridan** received two Oscar nominations for Best Director (he lost to **Oliver Stone**) and Best Screenplay. It was an amazing debut film for **Sheridan**.

**Sheridan's** next successful film was *In the Name of the Father* (1993), once again starring **Daniel Day-Lewis**. The film was successful critically and commercially, gaining seven Oscar nominations (including three for **Sheridan**).

**Sheridan's** next directorial film was the gritty film *The Boxer* (1997), which was also the third collaboration between **Sheridan** and **Daniel Day-Lewis**. It was nominated for three Golden Globes, including Best Actor (**Day-Lewis**) and Best Director (**Sheridan**).

**Sheridan's** next film was very personal to his own experiences: the dramatic film *In America* (2002), starring **Paddy Considine**, and **Samantha Morton**. The film received many positive reviews, and earned **Sheridan** an Oscar nomination for Best Screenplay.

**Sheridan's** next film no doubt surprised many people: the rap film *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* (2005) starring famous (or infamous) rapper **50 Cent** and **Terence Howard**. Renowned critic **Roger Ebert**, saw that there was a lot of emotion in the film, as well as showing the consequences of the gangster life.

**Sheridan** also finished a film *Brothers* (2009/I) based on a Danish movie by **Susanne Bier**. The film stars well known and talented actors **Jake Gyllenhaal**, **Natalie Portman** and **Tobey Maguire**, and tells the story of a man whose brother is missing in Afghanistan, leaving him to look after his brother's family. **Tobey Maguire** received a Golden Globe nomination, as did a song written for the movie by **U2**.

**Sheridan** directed *Dream House* (2011) starring **Daniel Craig**, **Rachel Weisz**, and **Naomi Watts**, a thriller involving paranormal activities surrounding a family moving into a new home.

**Sheridan** is currently writing the screenplay titled *Old Stoneface* which will be produced by **Jon Doscher** and **Starline Films**. This film outlines the illustrious and controversial career of Jockey **Lester Piggott**.

## Academy Award /Oscar Nominations:

**2004 - Best Writing, Original Screenplay** for *In America* (2002)

Shared With: **Naomi Sheridan**, **Kirsten Sheridan**

**1994 - Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium** for *In the Name of the Father* (1993)

Shared With: **Terry George**

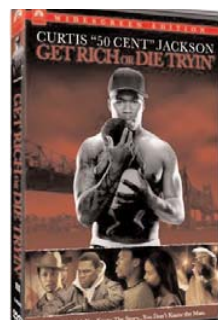
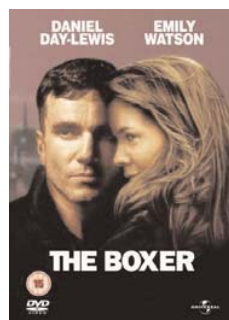
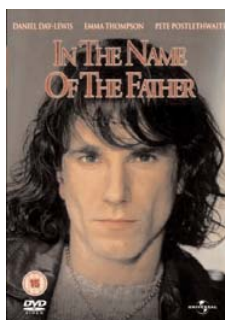
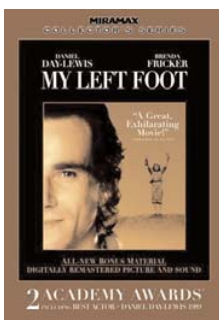
- **Best Director** for *In the Name of the Father* (1993)

- **Best Picture** for *In the Name of the Father* (1993)

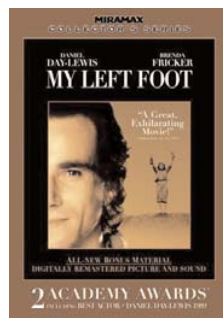
**1990 - Best Director** for *My Left Foot: The Story of Christy Brown* (1989)

- **Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium** for *My Left Foot: The Story of Christy Brown* (1989)

Shared With: **Shane Connaughtons**



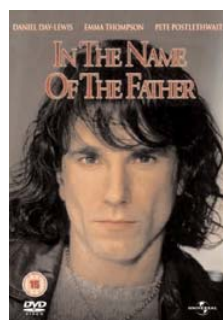
# Jim Sheridan Films



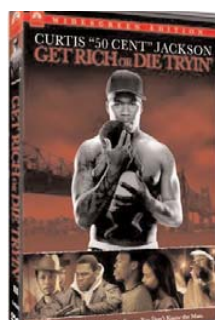
**My Left Foot (1989)**  
**Budget:** \$934,200  
**Domestic Total Gross:** \$14,743,391  
**Release:** 510 theatres  
**Distributor:** Miramax  
**Director/Writer:** Jim Sheridan  
**Actors:** Daniel Day-Lewis, Brenda Fricker  
**Academy Awards:** (4 Nominations, 2 wins)  
 - Sheridan Nominated for Best Director  
 - Sheridan Nominated for Best Writer  
 - Daniel Day-Lewis won for Best Actor  
 - Brenda Fricker won for Best Supporting Actress



**In America (2003)**  
**World Wide Total Gross:** \$25,382,911  
**Release:** 403 theatres  
**Distributor:** Fox Searchlight Pictures  
**Director:** Jim Sheridan  
**Writers:** Jim Sheridan, Naomi Sheridan, Kirsten Sheridan  
**Actors:** Paddy Considine, Samantha Morton, Dijimon Hounsou  
**Academy Awards:** (3 Nominations)  
 - Jim, Naomi, and Kirsten Sheridan Nominated for Best Writing, Original Screenplay  
 - Hounsou Nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role  
 - Morton Nominated for best Actress in a Leading Role



**In the Name of the Father (1993)**  
**Budget:** \$13,000,000  
**World Wide Total Gross:** \$65,796,862  
**Release:** 688 theatres  
**Distributor:** Universal Pictures  
**Director:** Jim Sheridan  
**Writers:** Jim Sheridan, Terry George  
**Actors:** Daniel Day-Lewis, Emma Thompson, Tom Wilkinson, Pete Postlethwaite  
**Academy Awards:** (7 Nominations)  
 - Nominated for Best Picture  
 - Sheridan Nominated for Best Director  
 - Sheridan & George Nominated for Best Writing  
 - Daniel Day-Lewis nominated for Best Actor  
 - Thompson Nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role  
 - Postlethwaite Nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role  
 - Gerry Hambling Nominated for Best Film Editing



**Get Rich or Die Tryin' (2005)**  
**Budget:** \$40,000,000  
**World Wide Total Gross:** \$46,442,528  
**Release:** 1,666 theatres  
**Distributor:** Paramount Pictures  
**Director:** Jim Sheridan  
**Writer:** Terence Winter  
**Actors:** Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, Terrence Howard  
**Awards:** (4 Wins and 2 Nominations)



**Brothers (2009/1)**  
**Budget:** \$26,000,000  
**World Wide Total Gross:** \$42,961,783  
**Release:** 2,088 theatres  
**Distributor:** Lionsgate  
**Director:** Jim Sheridan  
**Writer:** David Benioff  
**Actors:** Tobey Maguire, Natalie Portman, Jake Gyllenhaal  
**Golden Globe Awards:** (2 Nominations)  
 - Maguire Nominated for best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture  
 - U2, Bono Nominated for Best Original Song



**Dreamhouse (2011)**  
**Budget:** \$55,000,000  
**Release Date:** September 30, 2011  
**Distributor:** Universal Pictures  
**Director:** Jim Sheridan  
**Writer:** David Loucka  
**Actors:** Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts, Rachel Weisz

*Average Production Budget - \$ 19,983,550*

*Average Total Theatrical Gross - \$ 35,310,342\**

*Some of the gross totals for Sheridan's earlier films should be adjusted by at least 3% per year higher due to inflation which will reflect higher Average Total Gross Numbers. Total does not include DVD Sales, TV, and Cable/On Demand Sales.*



*The Illustrious Career of Lester Piggott*

# **Old Stoneface**

**A Jim Sheridan Film**



## The Illustrious Career of Lester Piggott

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# Old Stoneface

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### A Jim Sheridan Film

#### SYNOPSIS

*Old Stoneface* depicts the illustrious and controversial career of **Lester Piggott**, the greatest flat Jockey in England's history and perhaps the best jockey of all time.

Lester Piggott was virtually deaf from birth and later developed a speech impediment. This handicap created an imbalance in Lester which affected his early childhood. He was isolated from partaking in boyhood activities like riding a bicycle or playing ball. But when he jumped on a horse for the first time he found a deep connection with the animal and discovered his identity and balance in his life. Like a thoroughbred race horse is bred for excellence, Lester unmistakably became an extension of this magnificent beast.

With his family being prominent jockeys and trainers dating back to the 18th century, he was groomed for a winning path as a jockey, achieving his first win at the age of 12. By the age of 18 in 1954, he rode in front of the Queen of England at the Epsom Derby, and won on a horse named "Never Say Die". He went on to win eight more.

Lester was taught early, by his father Keith, never to allow another jockey up his inside to gain advantage and Piggott never did. He was known for punching any horse or jockey that would get in his way. This attitude sometimes resulted in tragedy as in the 2,000 Guineas trial at Salisbury in 1985 when Lester forced another horse into the rail. The horse hit the rail and came down badly and had to be put down.

Lester Piggott was a ruthless man that was borderline psychotic and was known for his controlling ways. He was an arch-manipulator who wanted everything and would do almost anything to get it.

He possessed an arrogance that he could control everything and anything... money, women, owners, trainers and jockeys. He had to have all the money in the world, he had to have his wife, his mistress and as many other women as he could.

Lester Piggott was known for taking silverware from airplanes and cheating people for money. He got a kick out of this and most of his colleagues excused his compulsive behavior by saying, "he can't help it...he is just like an animal or a child."

As arrogant a man as he was, the truth is, Lester lived for racing. He didn't have time for anything else in his life. He changed the course of the sport and was the first jockey to exploit his talent in financial terms, opening the way for a wave of millionaire jockeys.

To the racing world, Piggott, undisputedly, dominated horseracing and became the Housewife's favorite, the expert's choice, and the envy of all of his fellow jockeys.

He was beloved by his followers and his Queen. In 1975 he was awarded the prestigious OBE (Order of the British Empire) and by 1988 he was devastated when he was stripped of this award after he was convicted of tax evasion in 1987.

Despite his blemished career, Lester will always be remembered for what he did for horse racing and his uncanny and intuitive relationship he had with the horse. This is what makes Lester Piggott a champion beast and the most notable horse racing icon in history.

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# Old Stoneface

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## CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS



# **LESTER PIGGOTT**

Lester Piggott was deaf from birth due to a perforated eardrum and developed a speech impediment at an early age. However, despite his handicap, his father, Keith Piggott, groomed him for excellence from an early age and led him down the path to success.

Lester Piggott became the most infamous jockeys in England's history and perhaps the greatest jockeys of all time. He was a ruthless man who was known for his controlling ways and was an arch-manipulator who wanted everything and would do anything to get it. This sometimes resulted in tragedy on the racetrack and in his personal life too.

He was beloved by his followers and his Queen. In 1975 he was awarded the prestigious OBE (Order of the British Empire) and by 1988 he was devastated when he was stripped of this award after he was convicted of tax evasion in 1987.

Lester lived for racing, and changed the course of the sport, opening the way for a wave of millionaire jockeys.

# **KEITH PIGGOTT**

Keith Piggott is Lester Piggott's father and is the single most influential figure in Lester's life. Keith is a tough, hard man and was a champion jockey in his own right until his son took over the reins.

Keith raised Lester to be the best and started him on a winning path at the age of 12 when Lester won at Haydock Park on a horse called "The Chase". Many believe this victory was achieved when Keith fixed the race.

Keith always taught Lester never to let anyone get in his way, and never allow another jockey up his inside or gain an advantage. These lessons in racing were never forgotten by Lester.



# **VINCENT O'BRIEN**

Vincent O'Brien is the Irish racehorse trainer who was voted the greatest influence in horse racing history. He trained 6 horses to win the Epsom Derby and was twice British champion trainer. A friend and partner to Piggott, O'Brien hired Piggott as a stable jockey early in his career. Together they shared 9 classic winners. Lester and Vincent O'Brien gradually parted ways as Piggott was ill suited to be tied down to one trainer and began his freelance career.



# **IRIS RICKABY PIGGOTT**

Irish Rickaby Piggott, Lester's mother, kept a close eye on her son from an early age. When Lester was diagnosed with a perforated ear drum, her concern heightened. Lester was not only physically impaired, but was socially handicapped as well. She attempted to ensure that Lester lived a normal childhood but her husband Keith was determined to groom Lester to be a champion jockey. With Lester's success as a champion jockey, Iris teaches Lester to be frugal with his money and not to ever be anyone's servant...lessons that influence the man he becomes in his adult life.

# **SUSAN ARMSTRONG PIGGOTT**

Susan Armstrong is the daughter of prominent horse trainer, Sam Armstrong, and married Lester Piggott in 1961.

She quickly became privy to Lester's games and infidelities early in their relationship, yet remained loyal to her husband, even when his former assistant, Anna Ludlow, became pregnant with Lester's son Jamie.

# **MARGARET HILDA THATCHER**

Margaret Hilda Thatcher, also known as the Iron Lady, was the longest-serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Thatcher declares war against Lester Piggott as she launches an elaborate investigation, Operation Centaur, with the Inland Revenue to bring Lester Piggott down for Tax Evasion. Thatcher is determined to make an example out of Lester despite his popularity with the citizens of the United Kingdom.

After a long and thorough investigation into Lester Piggott and the Racing Industry, she receives the evidence needed to take Lester down and calls for his arrest. Soon after, Thatcher loses the election and steps down from office as Prime Minister.

# **ROBERT EDMUND SANGSTER**

Robert Edmund Sangster, a British business man and Thoroughbred Racehorse owner and teamed up with O'Brien, Piggott and Magnier, to become the greatest and most ruthless team any sport has ever seen. Sangster's intention was to combine American Stallion speed with European stamina to produce their own Stallions. As a result, they would produce offspring which would pay top dollar. Sangster owned Royal Academy, which Lester Piggott rode to victory in the 1990 Breeders Cup.