



## **BIOGRAPHY**

**Brandon Jay McLaren**

"Xavier"

Canadian American actor Brandon Jay McLaren has developed a reputation for portraying a diverse range of characters on the big and small screen. He will next be seen as 'Travis' in the highly anticipated Netflix drama series *FIREFLY LANE*, alongside Katherine Heigl and Sarah Chalke, and in the series regular role of 'Xavier Watkins' in the comedy series *TURNER & HOOSH*, Disney+'s reboot of the classic 1989 buddy-cop comedy. McLaren is also set to play the lead role of 'Daniel English' in Bounce TV's upcoming comedy movie *WILL YOU MARRY ME?*, which is set to debut on the channel in December 2020.

Currently, McLaren can be seen in the second season of *THE TWILIGHT ZONE* reboot on CBS All Access, opposite Joel McHale, which premiered in June 2020. This past year, McLaren wrapped up a three-season run playing 'Oliver Yates' on the popular CBS drama *RANSOM*. He also recently starred as 'Dr. Simon' on the third season of the Emmy-nominated Lifetime series *UNREAL*, opposite Shiri Appleby and Constance Zimmer, for which he was nominated for a UBCP/ACTRA Award.

From 2013 through 2015, McLaren starred as undercover agent 'Dale Jakes' on the USA drama series *GRACELAND*, for which he won a Best Actor Golden Maple Award in 2015. Other notable television credits include recurring roles on *CHICAGO FIRE* (NBC), *SLASHER* (Chiller Network), *GIRLFRIENDS' GUIDE TO DIVORCE* (Bravo), *FALLING SKIES* (TNT), *HARPER'S ISLAND* (CBS) and *THE KILLING* (AMC), for which he was nominated for a 2012 Leo Award for Best Supporting Performance by a Male in a Dramatic Series.

McLaren's work in film includes the independent feature *PLUSH*, directed by Catherine Hardwicke and starring Emily Browning, and the cult horror comedy *TUCKER & DALE VS. EVIL*, which became a Sundance Film Festival favorite and won the 2012 SXSW Audience Award. Other film credits include the comedies *SHE'S THE MAN* and *DEAD BEFORE DAWN 3D*. In 2015, McLaren executive produced and starred in the independent film *ALMOST ANYTHING*, which premiered at Cinequest.



Born and raised in Vancouver, Brandon is of Trinidadian and Grenadian descent. He attended high school at Johnston Heights Secondary, where he took theater courses and his love for acting began. A star soccer player in his youth, he received a full athletic scholarship to attend the State University of New York at Albany. After graduating with a degree in Human Biology, McLaren returned to Vancouver to pursue acting full time. You can follow him on Instagram at @brandonjaymclaren and on Twitter at @brandojay.