

Jamie Dornan Interview

Why We're Totally Obsessed With JAMIE

With *Fifty Shades* romping into cinemas, it seemed like the right time for a guide to all things Mr Dornan. You're so very welcome

I learned all sorts of tricks that will support me through life,' Jamie Dornan quipped when asked about his starring role in the film adaptation of EL James' bestselling book, *Fifty Shades Of Grey*. These 'tricks' include mastering a whip, which happily suggests the 18-rated flick doesn't pull any punches (only some light smacks) when recreating the raunchy scenes that made the book infamous.

Released on Valentine's weekend (13 Feb), the film will catapult its stars into the Hollywood stratosphere. But while Dakota Johnson was immediately cast

as naïve literary student Anastasia Steele, Jamie was only given the role of billionaire handcuff enthusiast Christian Grey after *Sons Of Anarchy*'s Charlie Hunnam dropped out. Now *Fifty Shades* is

predicted to smash box-office records upon its release – so how did a 32-year-old model-turned-actor nab the role of a lifetime?

Born in Holywood, Northern Ireland (not to be confused with Hollywood, California), Jamie sought fame and fortune in London – and ended up working 'in a pub in Knightsbridge for six months, crying every night'. Thankfully the crying stopped when he became one of the most successful male models in the world, earning up to £10,000 a day. Fame beckoned and minor film and TV roles led to his casting as alarmingly sexy serial killer Paul Spector in BBC2's *The Fall*. The creepy chemistry between him and Gillian Anderson's police chief pulled in the BBC's highest ratings for a drama launch in eight years, and the fact he nailed dark, brooding and dangerous no doubt helped secure him the role of Christian.

So, whip yourself into shape for the inevitable Christian Grey-focused water cooler chats with our favourite facts about Jamie.



Jamie when he was a schoolboy



► Calvins Really Suit Him

At the height of his modelling career, Jamie was appearing in body-baring pictures for brands including Dior and Armani. His most notorious campaign was with Eva Mendes for Calvin Klein, in which they appeared draped over each other, oiled up and in their pants. Google for more. It's worth it.



Modelling with Eva Mendes

Calvin Klein underwear

◀ We'd Like To Be Friends With His Friends

Down-to-earth Jamie has a posse of famous Brit actor mates, including Robert Pattinson, Eddie Redmayne and Andrew Garfield. Jamie, Eddie and Andrew actually lived together in LA: 'We ended up renting a place and helping each other on auditions.'



With ex-housemates Andrew Garfield and Eddie Redmayne

► He Can Hold A Tune

Jamie once fronted a folk band called Sons Of Jim. They experienced moderate success, even supporting KT Tunstall in concert, but split in 2008.



Singing with his band Sons Of Jim

▼ He Visited A Sex Dungeon 'For Research'

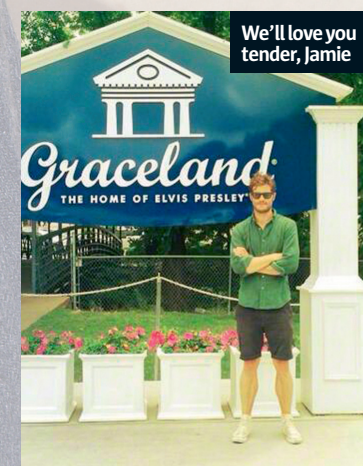
To prepare for *Fifty Shades*, Jamie went to some dark places (literally and figuratively): 'This guy came along with his submissive and I sat in the corner with a beer and watched.'



Starring in *Fifty Shades Of Grey*

▲ He Loves Elvis

Jamie's a huge Elvis Presley fan and visited Graceland last May, posting a snap on Twitter with the headline: 'DREAM COME TRUE.'



We'll love you tender, Jamie

Kirsten Dunst Was His First Leading Lady

Jamie's big break came in 2006, playing Count Axel Fersen in *Marie Antoinette* with Kirsten Dunst. The role involved much bodice ripping – good practice for Christian Grey.

▼ Keira Is His Most Famous Ex

Jamie dated Keira Knightley from 2003 to 2005 after meeting her on a shoot for Asprey. He's spoken about how press intrusion into Keira's life shocked him. 'I don't think I'm ever going to be as famous as her,' he said. Famous last words.



With ex-girlfriend Keira Knightley in 2005