

## Ian Geary Biography (1989-)

### Synopsis:

Georgia born, and Missouri raised, actor Ian Geary has appeared several times on the stage, both in New York City and in the rest of the country. Ian attended college at Drury University where he received a BA in Theatre and in Writing. Having only recently moved to New York City, Ian has already performed in several Off-Off Broadway shows.

### Early Years:

Ian was born on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1989 in Atlanta, Georgia to Paul and Sam Geary. He is the oldest of three siblings and the only boy. Both of his parents were involved with the Georgia Shakespeare Company, and when they moved to Saint Louis, Missouri, when Ian was only two-years-old, they founded the *Kids4Kids* theatre company, a traveling company performing for children in the Greater Saint Louis area.

The story goes, according to his parents, that they were on their way to a set construction when his mother went into labor. It could be said that Ian was almost literally born on stage.

It was not until many years, while living in Saint Louis, that Ian rediscovered his love of theatre. While in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Ian happened to watch Kenneth Branagh's film production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Between that and his discovery of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy at about the same time, Ian had discovered a love of great acting, powerful writing, and a profound love of the English language.

### Education and Training:

Ian attended Drury University in Springfield, Missouri where he pursued a dual major in Theatre and in Writing. He learned acting under the former New York actor Robert Westenberg, who is perhaps best known for his role as Cinderella's Prince and the Wolf in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. Ian attributes much of his ability and technique as an actor to his training with Mr. Westenberg.

His savviness as a professional in the theatre world, as well as an adult in general, he attributes to one of his other professors at Drury, Dr. Mick Sokol, under whom he studied playwriting. Ian hopes to one day show New York his work as a writer, but that is just simply not today.

Ian has also studied film under Professor George Cron at Drury University and Robert Caso, the teacher of *The Actor's Group Orlando*, with whom he had the privilege to study under while he was living in central Florida, near Orlando.

Ian's classical training began with his parents, continued with Robin Weatherall (who is a former member of the Royal Shakespeare Company), and then with Robert Westenberg at Drury University.

## Theatre Career:

While still in high school, Ian began his professional career as an actor playing Eros in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* in 2007 with the Saint Louis Shakespeare Company. Since then he has performed numerous plays in Saint Louis and in Missouri as a whole. Highlights from his career at Drury University include Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Judge Brack in *Hedda Gabler*, Lenny in *Rumors*, and Jack in the premier of *Anatomy of Temptation* where he won the award for Best Actor in a One-Act Play. Highlights from his career in Saint Louis include Ivan in the world premier of *The Cats of Korcula*, Malcolm in *MacBeth*, Joseph Collins in the world premier of *Scutter Murphey's Wake*, and Arcite in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. He has also played Duke Frederick and Duke Senior in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* with Stone Soup Shakespeare Company, a touring company that tours around the Midwest paying special attention to Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Shortly after that, Ian was also involved in a touring company called *Poetry Alive!* where he had the great fortune to see the country, visiting and performing poetry for school children in over 35 states.

Ian is still new to the theatre scene in New York City, yet he has already performed in two Off-Off Broadway productions, one of which was as the Duke of Buckingham in Shakespeare's *Richard III* with the Gallery Players, a production which received very positive reviews from critics. Also with the Gallery Players, Ian has appeared in several of their staged readings of Shakespeare's plays, including Jack Cade in *Henry VI, part 2*, Lord Hastings in *Richard III*, and the Duke of Cornwall in *King Lear*.

## Personal Life:

Ian is based in New York City, NY. He has only been in New York since March of 2016 and has no plans of leaving.