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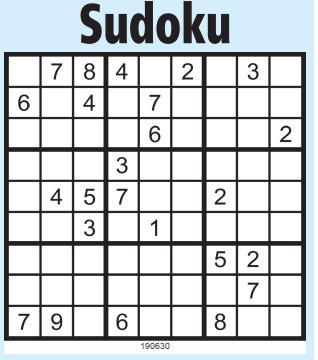


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<u>celeb bio</u> David Harbour

From the Ivy Leagues to the Upside Down

If you haven't seen the Netflix original series "Stranger Things," I bet vou've heard about it probably thanks to the outraged cries of family and friends who are caught up on the series. Once you've experienced the sci-fimeets-horror-meets-coming-ofage story that is the show's first two seasons, you may be surprised to learn that the pill-popping, booze-guzzling, sarcastic leading male, Chief Jim Hopper, is played by an Ivy League graduate who grew up in a wealthy family on the "right side of the tracks." However, the Dartmouth frat-boy son of real estate agents isn't as dissimilar to his on-screen character as it might seem at first glance. As a child, David Harbour felt disillusioned by his seemingly perfect all-American life, unable to reconcile the picket fences of his childhood with the homelessness he saw in the streets and the violence on the news. This awareness of the disenfranchised and a desire to help others drove Harbour towards acting, though his privileged life didn't help much when he was starting out. "In the community I grew up in, people were successful ... and I was doing plays where I wasn't making any money. Everybody felt sorry for me, but I believe in the power of theater" — and the theater is where his career began. After graduating in 1997,



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Solution on page 20

Harbour landed himself a few off-Broadway shows and bit parts in the "Law & Order" franchise until 2005, when he got a part in the Oscar-winner "Brokeback Mountain" (2005). He nabbed a Tony nomination that same year for his role in a revival of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?" His career was picking up, but Harbour's mental health was deteriorating. In his mid 20s, with the help of his parents and a desire to put

self-medicating, Harbour was voluntarily institutionalized and diagnosed with bipolar disorder; it took him some time to get back on track, but he was soon working harder than ever. Harbour began to land bigger roles in films, playing a corrupt CIA chief in "Quantum of Solace" (2008) and an emasculated adulterer in "Revolutionary Road" (2008). He was no stranger to television,

an end to his alcohol abuse and



David Harbour as seen in "Stranger Things"

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either. He landed parts in dramas such as "Pan Am," "Rake" and "The Newsroom" until, in 2014, he was cast as the White House chief of staff in NBC's "State of Affairs." Hearing that another of his series would be canceled after a single season, Harbour was sure he was finished. Before leaving the business for good, he received a script from two young guys calling themselves The Duffer Brothers. In 2015, Harbour was sure the part of Jim Hopper in "Stranger Things" was out of his league, but now he's been nominated for Emmys and Golden Globes. and has won Critics' Choice and Golden Derby Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama. When he looked at the world as a young man, he saw one that needed changing. In 2018, he stood with his castmates, SAG Award in hand, and made a promise to peers and fans alike: "We will repel bullies. We will shelter freaks and outcasts and those who have no home. We will get past the lies. We will hunt monsters!" A troubled actor became someone kids could look up to, much like his character Chief Hopper. You can binge the third season of "Stranger Things" when it premieres Thursday, July 4. on Netflix.

FACTS

- Born April 10, 1975, in White Plains, New York (age 44)

- Graduated from Dartmouth, where he was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity

- Is dating musician and actress Alison Sudol, who plays Queenie in "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" (2016)

- Was engaged to actres Maria Thayer ("Strangers With Candy")

- Had a crush on his "Stranger Things" co-star Winona Ryder in high school

- Is a student of the same acting teacher that Philip Seymour Hoffman ("Capote," 2005) had

QUOTES:

"One of the things about having played a lot of villains is ... I don't have the same experience of someone who maybe has been a leading man since they were 22 and therefore looks at certain things in a character to romanticize themselves. I actually very much embrace the bad stuff."

"Why do we just walk by the homeless? Why do we tolerate violence? From 5 years old, I've had these questions."