



# Alec Baldwin

Alexander Baldwin is hard to miss nowadays; he's one of mainstays in the hit comedy series *30 Rock*.

Starring in memorable movies like *Beetlejuice*, *Hunt for Red October*, *It's Complicated*, and *The Cooler*, the New York-born actor has played everything from heart throb to military man. *The Cooler* got him an Oscar nomination and helped land him roles in *The Aviator* and *The Departed*, both directed by Martin Scorsese.

Ironically, and unlike most movie stars, Baldwin never had that strong desire to be an actor. "Well you have to want it more than anything else. And I didn't want it more than anything else," he said.

But others continue to see through Baldwin's talents. Actress and writer Tina Fey chose Baldwin while casting *30 Rock*; a decision that transformed the show. "The first season, especially, he made us all look better, and while we were learning from him, he was carrying us," Fey said of Baldwin.

Along with multiple appearances hosting NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, voice-only contributions to animated shows, and even voice-over work in television ads, the versatile celebrity of Irish and French descent has no trouble impersonating any character.

Off the set, however, Baldwin is an active political fan. In fact, he originally wanted to be a lawyer, and ran for president at George Washington University but lost by two votes. Liberal politics seems to run in his blood; not only does he have an impressive grasp of issues, but he also spends a huge amount of his time and money supporting causes he believes in.

The opinionated Baldwin is definitely outspoken, which makes him a constant target for tabloids. He has been both criticised and acclaimed for his outspoken support of the Democratic Party, and in an interview with CNN last year, revealed his interest in running for public office. "The desire is there, that's one component. The other component is opportunity," he said.

Baldwin also made it clear on more than one occasion that he thinks that there needs to be a change in the politicians running the American government. "I do believe that people want to believe that someone who deeply cares about the middle class, for whatever reason... would like to seek public office," Baldwin was heard saying on Eliot Spitzer's CNN segment.

He once even stated that he is more qualified than California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, saying: "His only credentials are that he ran a fitness programme under some bygone president."

At 52, he says he still hasn't given up his childhood dream of being a politician. "There's no age limit on running for office, to a degree. Something I might do, one day," Baldwin says. With an estimated net worth of \$65 million, he already has the war chest to fund an election campaign. ■