



## Biography

With his slightly wavy, salt-and-pepper brown hair, his medium height and his ordinary-guy brand of handsomeness, Kercheval carved a solid niche for himself on US TV as various professional types, sometimes sympathetic, sometimes devious, usually ambitious. An incisive player, Kercheval has typically played his roles with an intriguing combination of smooth dispatch and flamboyant bravado; the demands of the small screen taught him the former, while his background in stage musical comedy helped him hone the latter. Ken currently is guest starring in NBC's "CROSSING JORDAN" in the episode "Someone to Watch Over Me" as Joseph Peyton.

He is most widely known for his fine work as **Cliff Barnes**, the aspiring rival to J.R. Ewing (*Larry Hagman*) and the scheming, perennial loser brother of virtuous Pamela Barnes Ewing (*Victoria Principal*) on the hit primetime soap, "**Dallas**" (CBS, 1978-91). Along with Hagman the only principal to stay with the series for its entire run, Kercheval artfully proved that, in the materialist 1980s, an underdog like Cliff, though somehow rather funny and often sympathetic, could be just as sleazy as the top dog.



Before becoming such a delicious foil to primetime TV's favorite villain, Kercheval had enjoyed a successful stage career and had made modest inroads in TV and features. From the late 50s through the 70s, he made over 20 appearances on and off-Broadway. One of Kercheval's earliest New York engagements was in a 1959 revival of Sidney Kingsley's powerful "Dead End". He later acted in the likes of "A Man's a Man", "The Apple Tree", "Cabaret" and "Father's Day". One particular triumph came with his

highly appropriate casting as Nick, the seemingly average, clean-cut new college professor, whose encounter with a vitriolic older faculty couple brings out the dark side of his own marriage, in Edward Albee's blistering landmark, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?". TV work, meanwhile, began in the early 60s with a guest spot on "The Defenders" but only really began to pick up in the 70s with roles like the D.A. in the acclaimed TV-movie "Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys".



Kercheval had made his feature debut in the memorable psychodrama "Pretty Poison", but despite parts in interesting films such as "Rabbit, Run" and "Network", never won more than a very occasional supporting role.

Some of his post-"Dallas" work gave him bigger roles, but the straight-to-video "California Casanova" and "Beretta's Island" were strictly routine fodder.

TV work, though, has given the veteran performer plenty of work in guest stints, hosting duties for CBS coverage of major parades, and a number of TV-movies. His intelligent professional demeanor won him roles as doctors in "Walking Through the Fire", "An Act of Love: The Patricia Neal Story") and "Woman on the Ledge"; his sly Cliff Barnes persona made him a natural for "The Demon Murder Case" and several Perry Mason mysteries, including "The Case of the Grimacing Governor"; and his robust showmanship made him a good Buffalo Bill in "Calamity Jane". He also recreated his most famous role for "Dallas: J.R. Returns". The 2004 CBS season again reigned with "Dallas" and took home the time slot (*highest rated special 2004 for CBS*).

Ken, is recently divorced and resides in Southern California.





11935 Kling St. #10, Valley Village, CA 91607  
 818.505.1332 • Fax: 818.505.1411 • Cell: 818.652.7401  
 www.stephanyhurkos.com  
 email: steffy@stephanyhurkos.com

[www.stephanyhurkos.com/ken.htm](http://www.stephanyhurkos.com/ken.htm)

**Ken Kercheval**



**MOTION PICTURES (partial):**

Blind Obsession  
 Rusty: A Dog's Tale  
 Beretta's Island  
 California Casanova  
 Corporate Affairs  
 F.I.S.T.  
 The Lincoln Conspiracy  
 Network  
 Rabbit, Run

**TELEVISION (partial):**

**MOW's (partial):**

DALLAS – The City  
 Dallas: the Special  
 Dallas: J.R. Returns  
 Woman on the Ledge  
 I Still Dream of Jeannie  
 Keeping Secrets  
 Calamity Jane  
 The Demon Murder Case  
 Patricia Neal Story  
 Walking Through the Fire

TLC - BBC  
 to air in November CBS

**ROLE**

Himself  
 Himself; Cliff Barnes  
 Clifford 'Cliff' Barnes  
 Doctor Martin  
 Simpson  
 Frank Mahoney  
 Buffalo Bill Cody  
 Richard Clarion  
 Dr. Canton  
 Dr. Freeman

**SERIES:**

“Dallas”  
 “How to Survive a Marriage”  
 “The Secret Storm”  
 “Search for Tomorrow”

Cliff Barnes (entire run) (original cast)  
 Larry Kirby #2 (1974)  
 Archie Borman (1968)  
 Dr. Nick Hunter #2 (1967-1967, 1972-1973)

**GUEST (partial):**

Crossing Jordan (NBC)  
 ER  
 Perry Mason:  
 L.A. Law

Guest Star  
  
 (2 shows)  
 (2 shows)

Joseph Peyton  
 Mr. Zwicky  
 various  
 various

**SPECIALS & DVD (partial):**

DALLAS  
 DALLAS  
 Special – Himself  
 Currently out

CBS – (Nov-Dec 2004)  
 Warner Brothers DVD

**THEATRE:**

OUR TOWN (2004)  
 Narrator

University of Oklahoma