



Elijah Wood

**Elijah Jordan Wood** (born January 28, 1981) is an American actor, voice actor, film producer and DJ. He made his film debut with a minor part in *Back to the Future Part II* (1989). Landing a succession of larger roles, he was critically acclaimed as a child actor by age 9, being nominated for several Young Artist Awards. As a child, he starred in the films *Radio Flyer* (1992), *The Good Son* (1993), *North* (1994), and *Flipper* (1996).

He began to take on teenage roles in the films *The Ice Storm* (1997), *Deep Impact* and *The Faculty* (both 1998). He is best known for his high-profile leading role as Frodo Baggins in Peter Jackson's epic film trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* (2001–2003). Since then, he has chosen varied roles in films such as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004), *Sin City*, *Green Street*, *Everything Is Illuminated* (all 2005), and *Bobby* (2006).

**Wood** also provided the voice of Mumble in the award-winning animated musical films *Happy Feet* (2006) and *Happy Feet Two* (2011), as well as the eponymous lead in the Tim Burton-produced action/science fiction film *9* (2009). In 2005, he started his own record label, Simian Records. He did the voice acting for Spyro in the *Legend of Spyro* trilogy. In 2012, he began voicing Beck in the animated series *Tron: Uprising*, Sigma in the tenth season of the *Rooster Teeth* series, *Red vs. Blue*, and Wirt in the Cartoon Network miniseries *Over the Garden Wall* (2014). From 2011 to 2014, Wood played the role of Ryan Newman in FX's cult dark comedy, *Wilfred*.

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## Early life

**Elijah Wood** was born in 1981 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the second of three children.[1] He is the son of Warren and Debra (Krause) Wood, delicatessen operators,[2] and is of English, Polish,[3][4][5][6] German, Austrian, and Danish ancestry.[7] He was raised Roman Catholic.[8][9][10] He has a brother, Zachariah, and a sister, Hannah.

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At age seven, Wood began modeling in his hometown and took piano lessons.[11][12] He appeared in elementary school in *The Sound of Music*, followed by the title character in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. He also served as choir boy during the production of *See How They Run*, produced by the Marion Creative Council.

## Career

### 1988–1998: Early work

**Wood** modeled and did local commercials. For his career, his family moved to Los Angeles in 1988, where he got his first break in the video for Paula Abdul's "Forever Your Girl", directed by David Fincher. This was followed by a pivotal role in the TV film, *Child in the Night*, and a minor role in *Back to the Future Part II*. Playing Aidan Quinn's son in *Avalon* and *Tin Men* garnered professional attention for Wood; *Avalon* received widespread critical acclaim and was nominated for four Academy Awards. A small part in Richard Gere's *Internal Affairs*, was followed by the role of a boy who brings estranged couple Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson back together in *Paradise* (1991). Wood co-starred with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis in *Forever Young* (1992) and Joseph Mazzello in *Radio Flyer*.

In **1993**, **Wood** played the title character in *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, and appeared in *The Good Son*; The following year he starred in *The War*. The latter film was nominated for four awards and won two. Roger Ebert's film review praised Wood highly:

*"Elijah Wood has emerged, I believe, as the most talented actor, in his age group, in Hollywood history".*[13]

Wood's title role in *North* was followed by a Super Bowl commercial for Wavy Lay's potato chips (with Dan Quayle).[14] In **1995**, Wood was in the video for The Cranberries "Ridiculous Thoughts", played the lead role in *Flipper*, and was in Ang Lee's critically acclaimed, *The Ice Storm*. In **1997**, Wood was Jack "The Artful Dodger" Dawkins in Tony Bill's film adaptation of *Oliver Twist*, and had a leading role in *Deep Impact*, and supporting one in *The Faculty*. In 1999, Wood played a suburban white teenager who affects hip-hop lingo in James Toback's *Black and White*, and a junior hitman in *Chain of Fools*.

### 1999–2003: The Lord of the Rings

**Wood** was cast as Frodo Baggins in *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, the first installment of director Peter Jackson's adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's multi-volume novel. This gave Wood top billing as Baggins, alongside a cast that included Ian McKellen, Liv Tyler, Orlando Bloom, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Lee, Sean Bean, Sean Astin, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Viggo Mortensen, and John Rhys-Davies. The *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was filmed in New Zealand, in a process taking more than one year for principal photography alone, with pick-up shots occurring annually for

the next four years. Before the cast left the country, Jackson gave Wood two gifts: one of the One Ring props used on the set and Sting, Frodo's sword. He was also given a pair of prosthetic "hobbit feet" of the type worn during filming.

In **2002**, **Wood** lent his voice to the direct-to-video release of *The Adventures of Tom Thumb and Thumbelina*. The second part of Peter Jackson's trilogy was also released, titled *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.

In **2003**, **Wood** starred in the direct-to-video movie *All I Want* (also titled *Try Seventeen*). *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* was unveiled that December, sweeping the 76th Academy Awards in early 2004.

## 2004–present

Wood's first post-trilogy role was in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, as a lab technician; he next played the serial killer Kevin in Robert Rodriguez's adaptation of Frank Miller's comic-book series, *Sin City*. On May 12, **2005**, Wood hosted a program called *MTV Presents: The Next Generation Xbox Revealed*, when the new Xbox 360 games console was launched.[15]

In **2005**, Wood starred in *Everything Is Illuminated*, in which he plays a young Jewish-American man on a quest to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II. It was based on the novel of the same name by Jonathan Safran Foer. In *Green Street*, he played an American college student who falls in with a violent English football firm. Both had limited release, but were critically acclaimed.

Wood shot a small part in *Paris, je t'aime*, which consists of 18 five-minute sections, each directed by a different director. Wood's section, called "Quartier de la Madeleine", was directed by Vincenzo Natali. The film opened on May 18 at the **2006** Cannes Film Festival and was shown at 2006 Toronto International Film Festival. First Look Pictures acquired the North American rights, and the film opened in the US in early **2007**. [16]

In **2006**, he was part of the ensemble cast of Emilio Estevez's *Bobby*, in which his character marries Lindsay Lohan's character to change his draft classification.[17] The film premiered at the Venice Film Festival and was released theatrically on November 17, **2006**.

In *Happy Feet*, Wood provided the voice of Mumble, a penguin who can tap dance, but not sing.[18] *Happy Feet* was released on November 17, 2006, and has grossed over \$380 million worldwide. The movie also received a Golden Globe Award nomination and won an Academy Award and a BAFTA for Best Animated Feature. *Day Zero*, a drama about the draft in the United States, had its debut at the **2007** Tribeca Film Festival. Wood portrays draftee Aaron Feller.[19]

In **2006**, **Wood** hosted the special *Saving a Species: The Great Penguin Rescue* for Discovery Kids Channel;[20] he was nominated for a Daytime Emmy in the category of acting in a children/youth/family special.[21] On January 4, **2007**, Wood joined Screen Actors Guild President Alan Rosenberg to announce the nominees for the 13th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.[22]

In *The Oxford Murders*, a film adaptation of the novel of the same name by Guillermo Martínez, Wood plays a graduate student who investigates a series of bizarre, mathematically based murders in Oxford.[23] It was released in Spain on January 18, **2008**. Wood also voiced the lead in the animated feature film version of the short film 9.[24] A project in which Wood was set to star, a biographical film about singer Iggy Pop, putatively named *The Passenger*, [25] has not come to fruition after years in development.[26]

Wood's first starring TV role is on the FX series, *Wilfred*, in which he plays Ryan. The pilot was shot in the summer of **2010**. [27] In January **2011**, it was confirmed that Wood would reprise the role of Frodo Baggins in a *The Hobbit* trilogy. [28] The first of these, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, was released on December 14, **2012**.

In **2012**, Wood appeared in the psychedelic and dreamlike Flying Lotus music video "Tiny Tortures," where he appears as a recent amputee coming to grips with his new situation.

At PAX East in April **2012**, it was confirmed that Wood would give the voice to Agent Maine's AI, Sigma, in Season 10 of the machinima series *Red vs. Blue*. Wood also starred in the Beastie Boys' music video for "Make Some Noise", along with Seth Rogen and Danny McBride.

In **2013** Wood starred in *Grand Piano* (Director: Eugenio Mira, Writer: Damien Chazelle).

## Other work

Wood DJ'ing at the box.com launch party in New York in **2012**

In **2005**, Wood started his own record label called Simian Records. On September 19, **2006**, Wood announced that Simian had signed The Apples in Stereo as their first band, with their new album *New Magnetic Wonder* released in February **2007**.<sup>[29]</sup> In addition he also directed the music video for "Energy".<sup>[30]</sup> The other band signed to Simian thus far is Heloise and the Savoir Faire.

In **2006**, Wood was also in Season 2 Episode 6 of *American Dad*. He was the voice of Ethan, a college student and Haley's crush, who listens to Professor Baxter's (Roger) advice about following your heart and doing something new. Ethan takes this the wrong way and stabs his father 38 times (not shown) and becomes very crazy. Roger admits to being a fake, and he and Hayley leave, saying that the police are coming. This suggests that Ethan gets arrested, and is out of the show. Wood does not appear again.

**Wood** has also provided voiceovers for video games, providing the voice for Spyro the Dragon in the *Legend of Spyro* game trilogy,<sup>[31]</sup> as well as reprising Mumble in the game version of *Happy Feet*.<sup>[32]</sup> He also contributed his talents to fellow *Lord of the Rings* star Viggo Mortensen's album *Pandemonium from America*, singing and playing various instruments on the album.<sup>[33]</sup>

On April 11, **2008**, Wood was the guest host of Channel 4's *Friday Night Project*. On April 25, **2009**, Wood was honored with the Midnight Award by the San Francisco International Film Festival as an American actor who "has made outstanding contributions to independent and Hollywood cinema, and who brings striking intelligence, exemplary talent and extraordinary depth of character to his roles".<sup>[34]</sup> Wood also starred in an episode of *Yo Gabba Gabba!*, entitled "Eat," where he danced and "went crazy" alongside the rest of the *Yo Gabba Gabba!* cast. Wood can be seen in a short film on [stepthroughtheportal.com](http://stepthroughtheportal.com). The site is an interactive website created by Simian Records artists The Apples in Stereo, promoting their upcoming album, *Travelers in Space and Time*.

In addition to producing and acting, Wood has become a well-known DJ. With his friend Zach Cowie, he performs as "Wooden Wisdom a.k.a. DJ Frodo."<sup>[35]</sup> The duo has spun at events such as the Bushmills Live 2012 festival at the Old Bushmills Distillery and at the pre-E Emmy party at The London West Hollywood hotel.<sup>[36][37]</sup>

**Wood** has signed up to co-produce and also star in the film *Black Wings Has My Angel*, based on the noir novel of the same name, with Anthony Moody and Rob Malkani of Indalo Productions. Wood, alongside Tom Hiddleston and Anna Paquin, started shooting in late **2012**.<sup>[38]</sup>

In **2010**, Wood, together with Daniel Noah and Josh C. Waller, founded The Woodshed, a production company that promotes horror films. In **2013**, the company was re-branded as SpectreVision.<sup>[39]</sup>

Wood also stars in the TV show *Wilfred* and voiced Shay, one of two main characters in the adventure game *Broken Age*.

in **2014** Wood provided the voice of Wirt in *Over the Garden Wall*, a miniseries on Cartoon Network.

## Personal life

### Wood in February 2006

**Elijah Wood** is an older brother of actress Hannah Wood and younger brother of Zachariah Nathaniel Wood,<sup>[40]</sup> who is a video game producer at Sony.<sup>[41][42]</sup>

In an interview about *Everything Is Illuminated*, director Liev Schreiber commented that Wood has a "generosity of spirit" and a "sincere goodness as a human being."<sup>[43]</sup> He supported campaigns for charity as Keep a Child Alive or ALDO/YouthAIDS. Wood is a music lover, owning a collection of roughly 4,000 vinyl records and CDs. He is quoted as citing his favorite band as The Smashing Pumpkins.<sup>[44]</sup>

**Wood** has a tattoo of the word "nine" written in the Sindarin language, which uses the Tengwar script, and in the English

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language (rather than Quenya as is widely believed); it is located below his waist on the right side. It refers to his character as one of the Fellowship of the Ring. It is a coincidence that he later starred in 9. The other actors of "The Fellowship" got the same tattoo, with the exception of John Rhys-Davies. Rhys-Davies's stunt double from the film got the tattoo instead.[45]

In May **2006**, Autograph Collector Magazine published its list of 10 Best & 10 Worst Hollywood Autograph Signers, Wood was ranked #7 of Best Signers.[46]

In **2008**, during an appearance on Jack Osbourne's show Adrenaline Junkie, he became the first person to cross Victoria Falls on ropes.[47]

On April 23, **2010**, in a charitable gesture, **Wood** visited the town of Curepto, Chile, one of the hardest hit by the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Chile on February 27, **2010**. He made personal visits to many of the victims and was accompanied by the first lady of Chile, Cecilia Morel.[48][49]

**Wood** is an outspoken supporter of **2016** Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on Twitter.[50]