

## Biography Benja Bruijning

The Dutch box office hit FAMILY WAY (2012), in which Benja stars opposed to Carice van Houten (GAME OF THRONES), immediately catapulted him to fame. *"She's ably supported by relative newcomer Bruijning, who shares with her an ability to get audiences on their side no matter what."* – VARIETY

Both in 2011 and 2013 Benja played one of the lead characters in that year's opening film of the Netherlands Film Festival. First in THE GANGS OF OSS, opposite Mattias Schoenaerts (BULLSHEAD), which portrays the historic events in the Dutch town Oss in the 1930's, when crooks and criminals ruled the streets. Two years later in THE PRICE OF SUGAR, another historical drama, this time about the colonial history of The Netherlands in Suriname.

Benja started acting when he was still a kid. He played lead roles in several award winning films such as THE CAVE and DENSE ON THE SEA. He graduated from the Amsterdam Drama Academy in 2008.

On stage he played the Tom Cruise role in the theatre adaptation of RAIN MAN and starred in classic plays such as MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and LULU. Benja wrote his first play in 2010, NOT MEANT THAT WAY, which opened to raving reviews.

In 2014 Benja starred in two Dutch box office hits; the romantic comedies STREET OF HEARTS and PAK VAN MIJN HART and after that he could be seen on the small screen in the drama series BLACK TULIP, which has been picked up for a second season. In the Dutch remake of the popular Showtime series NURSE JACKIE, renamed CHARLIE, Benja portrayed Dr. Fitch 'Coop' Cooper, a handsome, but somewhat smug doctor. He can also be seen as a handsome young doctor in DOCTOR'S DIARY, a series inspired by GREY'S ANATOMY. Benja played one of the lead roles in the critically acclaimed show FIGHTERSHEART, a Dutch series about K1 fighters, in which Benja plays a drug addicted lawyer, which has been picked up for a second season.

Earlier 2016 DE HELLEVEEG was released, based on a famous Dutch book, starring Benja in the lead role. And he also played the lead in the television film THE RETURN OF THE HONEY BUZZARD which is also based on a Dutch book. Currently the second season of BLACK TULIP can be seen on Videoland.nl. Next up is the second season of FIGHTERSHEART.