

# Donnaleigh Bailey - Actor

BAILEY WAS BORN IN BIRMINGHAM ON 17 JANUARY 1983 AND LIVED IN BALSALL HEATH. DONNALEIGH WAS A REGULAR AT THE CENTRAL JUNIOR TELEVISION WORKSHOP IN THE DAYS WHEN IT WAS STILL OPERATING IN BIRMINGHAM. OTHER NAMES TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM ITS CLASSES INCLUDE FELICITY JONES, SARAH SMART, ALISON HAMMOND AND JACQUELINE PIRIE.



“YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE 11 TO JOIN BUT I LIED ABOUT MY AGE AND JOINED AT NINE,” REMEMBERS DONNALEIGH, A PROUD BORN-AND-BRED BRUMMIE.

“GROWING UP IN BALSALL HEATH, OPTIONS WERE LIMITED, BUT THE WORKSHOP REALLY HELPED ME. I WAS THERE FOR 10 YEARS BEFORE GOING ON TO TRAIN AT THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS, THE ‘FAME’ SCHOOL STARTED BY SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY.

FROM 2002 - 2010 BAILEY APPEARED AS MICHELLE CORRIGAN A NURSE IN THE BBC'S SOAP OPERA DOCTORS ABOUT A LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE IN BIRMINGHAM .

IN 2010, DONNALEIGH ANNOUNCED HER DECISION TO LEAVE DOCTORS. OF THIS DECISION SHE SAID, "IT WAS SO SAD, AND FILMING THE LAST EPISODE WAS AWFUL. I SOBBED FROM THE FIRST SCENE OF THE DAY TO THE VERY END! AND MY CAST MATES WERE IN TEARS TOO.”

IN 2011 DONNALEIGH SET UP THE DRAMA PLACE IN KING'S HEATH, WHERE SHE LIVES, OFFERING CLASSES THREE TIMES A WEEK FOR SEVEN TO 17-YEAR-OLDS.

“I USED TO SEE ALL THE GUEST ACTORS COMING UP FROM LONDON, PLAYING BRUMMIES WITH SOME REALLY DODGY ACCENTS,” REMEMBERS THE FORMER PUPIL OF BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL OF HER TIME PLAYING NURSE MICHELLE CORRIGAN IN DOCTORS. “I THOUGHT THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE SOME TALENTED YOUNGSTERS HERE WHO COULD DO IT BETTER. I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT ACTING AND HAVE SO MUCH TO GIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE. I'M NOT A FAN OF THE GLEE-STYLE SCHOOLS, I PREFER PROPER STAGE ACTING, IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT BUT WITH A GOOD WORK ETHIC.

