

Man of the moment...

MATTHEW MORRISON

Best known for playing Will Schuester in musical drama Glee, the 40-year-old actor is making his judging debut on BBC's The Greatest Dancer

Matthew lives between New York and LA with his wife Renee Puente and their one-year-old son Revel.

My earliest memories... I was never really exposed to dance in my life until much later. My upbringing was very much outdoors. I just remember camping and going on ski trips with my family.

My rise to fame... My career was really a fluke. One year, my parents sent me to Arizona to visit family over the summer and they threw my cousin and me into a children's theatre. It was kind of a way to get us out of their hair, but it turned into the moment that I found my purpose and my passion.

My best career moment... *The Light in the Piazza* [2005] really solidified me as a legitimate actor.

I spoke the first act in Italian, the second in broken English, and I also had to learn how to sing opera. It was the hardest thing I've ever done, but it was a great year of growth for the actor I want to be.



My significant others... My son is only one but he's been to a few of my concerts, so he's seen Papa singing and dancing on stage. I can't see him when I'm up there, but my wife says he

just lights up. I think all children love dance. We just turn on the music, and watch him move from side to side.

My downtime... When I'm not acting, I'm working on a couple of projects. As an actor for hire, your career is in the hands of others, so that inspired me to start my company Sherpapa Supply Co, which is a site for modern dads. The life of the entrepreneur is so relevant right now, and people are going out and chasing their dreams. It's incredible.

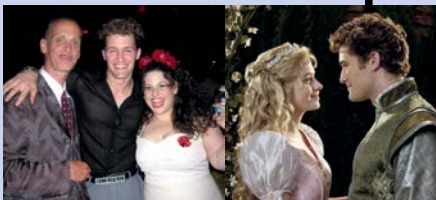
My debut on *The Greatest Dancer*...

I'm so excited! We'll get to see different types of dancing that we don't really see on television, and hearing the contestants' stories and how dance has changed their life really tugged at my heartstrings. Plus, I'm sitting between these two huge forces of female energy [Cheryl and Oti Mabuse], so it's a lot to take in, but I love it.

The Greatest Dancer is on Saturdays on BBC One

COMPILED BY GRACE HENRY PHOTOGRAPHS ALAMY, BBC/SYCO/THAMES/TOM DYMOND, LFI/AVALON, MATT DOYLE/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES

Matthew in pictures



2002

Matthew plays Link Larkin in *Hairspray* on Broadway, following his 1998 theatre debut.

2005

He stars as Sir Harry in Disney musical *Once Upon a Mattress*.

2009

He joins *Glee* and makes his directorial debut a year later in the third series.

2019

He judges *The Greatest Dancer* alongside Oti Mabuse and Cheryl.



Loves & Hates

♥ **Indian food**

I just love the sauces and the spices that go into each meal.

♥ **Italy** I have great conversations over there.

And the history and landscapes there are beautiful!

✗ **Cats**

I'm allergic to them. My eyes swell up and I get so stuffy. I can't take it.



✗ **Negativity**

I hate when people complain. I think you can put a positive spin on most things.

