



IMTA ALUM AARON PAUL WINS 2ND EMMY FOR “*BREAKING BAD*”

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“I definitely knew that I wanted to do this at a very young age. I couldn’t do anything else other than this and be really, truly fulfilled... I think acting is good for right now.” – Aaron Paul

If anyone was completely surprised on Sunday night that IMTA Alum Aaron Paul (LA96) was awarded the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series, it was Paul himself. “It’s so bizarre that I’m the one standing in front of you all right now,” he said. Winning the award over “*Breaking Bad*” co-star Giancarlo Esposito, Jared Harris from “*Mad Men*,” last year’s winner Peter Dinklage from “*Game of Thrones*” and Brendan Coyle and Jim Carter from “*Downton Abbey*,” Paul exclaimed “I truly didn’t even attempt to prepare a speech – I can’t believe I’m standing on this stage.”



It has been a steady uphill climb for the 33-year-old actor, who attended IMTA as Aaron Paul Sturtevant when he was a 17-year-old high school student. “I feel like I’m a 15-year overnight success,” Paul said in an interview with the *Idaho Statesman*. “It’s so funny how it works, but I’m glad it happened this way because I appreciate it more.” Paul landed the role of Jesse in “*Breaking Bad*” in 2007 after a lot of rejection, he said. “*Breaking Bad*” was the first pilot — of many he had done since 1996 — that got picked up. “Rejection is part of the business. But I think if I had gotten any of those other shows, I might not have been available for ‘*Breaking Bad*,’” he says. “So, you’ve got to think that things happen for a reason.”

Paul recounted his IMTA experience for the *Statesman*, recalling how he felt when he arrived in Los Angeles for the Convention. “Here I am this kid from Boise, Idaho, and I’m sitting there watching and realize that there’s no way my monologue is going to stand out,” he said. “I knew this was my shot, and I had to do something bold, something dangerous.” Paul said he went to his room and wrote his own monologue about a boy who wakes up inside a padded cell in an insane asylum. His character talks to his mother through the hole in the door, pleading for his release. Paul said he knew he nailed it when hotel security showed up at his door. But, as he told the *Statesman*, the risk paid off as he won runner-up and signed with his manager that day.

Paul, who won his first Emmy for “*Breaking Bad*” in 2010, will soon appear on the big screen in the independent film *Smashed*, which opens for a limited run in October. His previous film roles include playing the estranged son of Jeff Bridges in *K-Pax*, as Tom Cruise’s brother-in-law in *Mission: Impossible III* and as the maniacal Francis in the 2009 re-make of *The Last House on the Left*. Before landing his breakout role on “*Breaking Bad*,” Paul had appearances on many hit shows such as “*CSI*,” “*CSI: Miami*,” “*Criminal Minds*,” “*Ghost Whisperer*,” “*Joan of Arcadia*,” “*Veronica Mars*” and “*Bones*.”