



Gary Sinise talks about his new CBS show CSI: New York, his USO trips and helping Iraqi children.

Gary Sinise (TV and film actor)

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Brady's Bits

Gary Sinise and his wife, actress Moira Harris, live in L.A. with their three children, Sophie, McCanna and Ella. Sinise has been busy lately with USO tours to Kuwait, Germany, Italy and twice to Iraq. "They took us out to schools being rebuilt," he told me, "and I saw the good feeling between the soldiers and the kids. I said, 'Hey, I want to support this.' They didn't even have the basic supplies—no paper, no pencils." So Gary gathered up supplies, soccer balls, coloring books and even got his kids to donate the stuffed animals they haven't played with for years. Then he co-founded Operation Iraqi Children (www.operationiraqichildren.org)—a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization—to help out. "We're building bonds," Gary said, adding: "Iraq is in the news every day, and most of it is bad. But there are some positive stories. And how our soldiers are rebuilding schools and helping kids is one of them."

Stage and screen star Gary Sinise—Oscar-nominated for his role as Lieutenant Dan in *Forrest Gump*—may be the only actor who's gone twice to Iraq to entertain the troops. He's certainly the only one who's created a foundation to help Iraqi schoolchildren. Now, back in the States, Lieutenant Dan (which is how some of the GIs still greet him) is having a lively September, with a new movie co-starring Julianne Moore due out next week and the premiere of his first-ever TV series, the much-anticipated CBS spinoff *CSI: New York*, set to air on the 22nd. When we spoke, Sinise was staying in a Manhattan hotel, where I asked him, "What makes *CSI* such a powerful TV franchise?" "The stylishness of the show," Sinise answered, "the writing, the cast and the Sherlock Holmes element. As a kid, I was a Holmes fan. I wanted to know what makes the puzzle work. People are fascinated by the small details." He plays Detective "Mac" Taylor. Is he a cop or a scientist? "He's both," Sinise said. "Mac is a guy who came up through the ranks and has the scientific training. He's been around." Sinise started his career in Chicago, where, at 18, he was a founder of the famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company. He went on to make many films, getting his Oscar nomination in 1995 and winning an Emmy in 1998 for his TV portrayal of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace. Gary's latest film, *The Forgotten*, is a thriller that also stars Anthony Edwards, Alfre Woodard and Dominic West. "It's about a woman [Moore] who loses her child in what appears to be a plane accident," said Sinise. "I play her psychiatrist. Julianne is a huge talent." When we spoke, Sinise had been shooting the first episode of his new series in New York and was heading

back to L.A. to work on the following episodes. The cast and crew will come back from time to time. As for the CBS brass—they're delighted. CEO Les Moonves told The Hollywood Reporter, one of the showbiz bibles: "We're thrilled to get an actor like Gary. He's someone we've been chasing for years."

Personal

Born March 17, 1955, in Blue Island, Ill. Married since 1981; three children.

Films

Include Of Mice and Men, 1992; Forrest Gump, 1994; Apollo 13, 1995; Reindeer Games, 2000; Imposter, 2002; The Human Stain, 2003; The Forgotten, 2004.

Television

Includes True West, 1984; George Wallace, 1997; CSI: New York, 2004.

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