

Days of our Lives' Two-time Emmy Award winner Chandler Massey: his win, his role, his future

Written by Mark Edward Wilows
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With his 23rd birthday approaching soon, Chandler Massey (Will) of Days of our Lives is a three time Emmy Award nominee and a two time winner. He also has tackled a very controversial role that he portrays so eloquently. As a gay character, he has dealt with tough issues including coming out and sorting through his inner feelings. The scenes are so well written and his performance has been nothing but exuberant. He is the first actor to ever win an Emmy for playing a gay character, taking the role to new heights.

"I am honored. I cannot even tell you how much. I was so nervous I didn't even hear my name at the Emmy's. I cannot believe two wins. I don't know if I was more nervous now or then? As for playing Will, it has opened my eyes, especially about being equal. I'm all for equality," Massey said. "I feel lucky and blessed. When I was told of the role, I loved the opportunity, and it was so well presented. Also this was really bringing the character of Will to the forefront. I really wanted to reach out with this role."



One of Massey's greatest moments was this past June. He was an invited guest to Columbus, Ohio., where he participated in his first "Pride Parade." He said he was floored and called this, "A celebration of life and freedom." He also participated in many local events, including throwing out the first pitch at a Columbus Clippers game.

Massey is from Atlanta, Georgia., and has loved the entertainment business most of his life. While attending Norcross High School, he participated in many stage productions playing the lead, and is also a singer and dancer, saying "the more I acted, the more I wanted." He also plays the piano and has a keyboard in his dressing room, and said that he is known to tickle the ivories on the piano on set.

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He guest starred in several shows like One Tree Hill and Army Wives to name a few. And he starred in the movie 16-Love and recently completed Angels in Stardust with hopes of being released soon.

Massey graduated high school in 2009. He told his father that he wants to be an actor, and to his amazement, he was very supportive. "My dad really was. You know, like most kids that tell their parents they want to be an actor, usually the reaction is go to school and study," Massey said. "I was very grateful. My dad was like go for it and he offered me all his love and support."

Massey's intentions are to go to UCLA, which he enrolled to study Mandarin Chinese and International business, but upon arriving in Los Angeles he made the rounds of getting an agent and hit the audition scene. He tried out on Days of our Lives for Will and of course, the rest is history. His education plans are on hold, but his ultimate goal is to earn a degree.



Soapdom needs to know...In December 2013 your contract at Days is up and the rumor mill is a buzz you are leaving. Can you comment? "(Laughing) I know. It began at the Emmy's, where I commented that I want to go back to school, which I do, and everyone just assumed I'm leaving," Massey explains. "This is what I meant! My contract is up in December. Right now, I will tell you that no decision has been made. I will weigh all my options and hopefully work it all out. I will tell you, I love the show. I love the story and Will. No matter what decision I make, Will is always going to be a part of my life. But at this moment, nothing is official."

Massey also added that he would really like the storyline to go in the direction of Sonny (Freddie Smith) and Will getting married. "I think this needs to be shown. I want them to get married. Even if another actor were to play Will, this is what I'd want to see for the characters."

Massey noted that his mom, dad, and family in Georgia are proud of his work and accomplishments, as are Papa and Mimi, his grandparents. "I love them. You know they are from a whole other generation that was not so accepting of differences, or given the opportunity and they really took to this with much understanding. I'm so proud of them."

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Besides his talents, it might be his humble personality and his Southern charm that has won the hearts of fans throughout the country. In Hollywood, the versatility of his accomplishments is being recognized. And one can only predict that the road ahead will be paved in gold.

If Massey decides to leave Days, his plans are to remain in the business. He said one of his goals is to get back to his roots which is the stage. "I love the stage and the audience. I have to tell you, I was in New York and saw the Lion King, and I was like this is it for me. I'd love to do Broadway," he said. "I also want to continue with films. I want any role, and I want to play a lot of roles. That is what being an actor is all about."

Soapdom asked, with all your success and all the adoring fans, do you have a message for them? "Yes!" he bellowed. "I Thank You. I never felt such support. Before it was only from my family. I love you guys!"

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