



Tim as Daniel Robinson in *Neighbours*.

Son Of Kylie

» Trans-pacific actor **Tim Phillipps** tells Matt Myers about his dirty diva, his man-champ, and what it's like playing the offspring of TV icons!

DNA: On *Neighbours* [Aussie soap] you play Daniel Robinson, son of iconic characters Scott [Jason Donovan] and Charlene [Kylie Minogue]. How did you prepare for that role?
Tim Phillipps: I didn't let being Kylie and Jason's son get in the way too much. It's nice knowing they are such an iconic couple, but as far as preparation goes, I focused on what I wanted to bring to Daniel, and the producers said feel free to go with it.

Have you ever met your screen parents? No, the closest I've got is with *The One Show* in the UK, who asked me to record a message for Kylie who was a guest. They played it for her so I've seen her seeing me! I think they sprung that on her, and she was freaking out a bit.

Your favourite Kylie song? *Spinning Around!*
Where is Daniel Robinson heading in 2016?

Daniel's made a lot of mistakes and he's been aimless. But the biggest thing learned from his relationship with Paul [Stefan Dennis] is to be serious about life. Daniel's holding on to his good nature and positive side, but he's figured out that if he wants to live out of home and be responsible, then he needs a career.

You also had a role in the critically acclaimed film *Animal Kingdom*. Oh that was awesome! David Michod was such a calm and considerate director. It all kind of just evolved and turned into something massive. *Animal Kingdom* is certainly a handy thing to have on my CV!

You've done television in the US, too. How does it compare to working in Australia? It's on a much bigger scale over there, which I don't necessarily like. It's very separate where everyone, for example, has their own trailer. I found that by the time you get on set, you're not as familiar with the cast, whereas here we're all in the greenroom where there's a lot of bonding.

Who's your best gay mate? Probably my brother! His community and friends up in Sydney are just awesome. He had his 30th birthday a couple of weeks back, and we were all partying up there.

Growing up, did you witness homophobia or discrimination against gays? Yeah, at school the term 'gay' got thrown around a lot, and in a bad way. I think that always made it hard for



Tim's famous "parents" Scott and Charlene (Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue). Check out that mullet, readers!

"My brother was playing *Save A Horse, Ride A Cowboy!* I remember thinking, Josh! Josh! Just come out!"

kids to come out. I'd notice it particularly when people would say it to my brother. Even friends would say it as a joke, but I would cringe. Many don't even mean it to be offensive, but it still becomes very awkward.

Have you ever been mistaken as gay? I guess sometimes, when I've been out with my brother some guys will have a try [laughs]. I'm not sure if that's really more of an assumption because I'm at a gay club!

If you were gay, who would do it for you? Chris Pratt! He has confidence for days and his comedy is perfection. What a champion.

Who is Tim Phillipps's diva? I'm a bit of a fan of Christina Aguilera. I had the *Stripped* album, I think because the video for *Dirrty* was just so hot! I went to her concert and it wasn't as good as I expected because she was pregnant and it just didn't quite have the pizzazz. But it was still cool and fun.

What's the campest song on your playlist? As kids, we used to all share a computer, which meant shared music. It may be one of the first tell-tale signs that my brother was gay, but he had this song *Save A Horse, Ride A Cowboy!* I remember him playing it and thinking, "Josh! Josh! Just come out!" [laughs].

You're in great shape. What do you do to keep fit? Thank you! I go to the gym and I play mixed netball, which is so much fun. Recently I also joined a Pilates studio with my girlfriend. With the gym it's just weights, but Pilates is more about resistance and high reps. It's very different training and I'm really enjoying it.

This is our Underwear issue. Are you a jocks, fitted boxers or a commando kind of guy?

Fitted boxers. No particular reason other than they are comfortable, and on the beach it's boardies for me. My brother's in the speedos club, but I'm not there yet. They don't leave much to the imagination and I feel more comfortable leaving it to the imagination!

Who has been the biggest influence on your career? Two names come to mind: my agent Aran Michael and my first drama teacher, Ann Peters. Ann's always helped with my acting and Aran helped me sculpt my career.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to break into the entertainment industry? The beautiful thing with actors is that we don't have a shelf-life. Actors might get a break at 20, 40 or 60 years of age! So if you want to act, just do it. Go to classes, read scenes with other actors, get involved with films. If you keep at it, it'll keep evolving into something bigger and better.

What has been the weirdest moment or situation for you on the *Neighbours* set?

Just the other day I was lying on a gurney in an ambulance. I don't want to give too much away, but that was certainly surreal. I also think working with Ian Smith [who plays Harold Bishop] is kind of surreal, too, because he's such a specific character with his little mannerisms that are so unique to him. It's all ingrained in his performance. I used to watch the show as a little kid and then here I am doing this scene with him, playing his grandson. It's bizarre!

Maybe one day Kylie will return to the show and that would really be bizarre! That would be totally surreal! Fingers crossed!

MORE: *Neighbours* screens weekdays on Network Ten. Follow Matthew on Twitter @MattMyers1964