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DIABETES

"Little Fires Everywhere" Star Gavin Lewis Talks About Living With Type 1 Diabetes



Photo: Courtesy of the Riker Brothers

Gavin Lewis is a series regular opposite Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington in Hulu's upcoming drama series "Little Fires Everywhere," based on Celeste Ng's best-selling novel of the same name. You probably know him best from his lead performance on Netflix's multi-camera comedy "The Prince of Peoria," playing the title role of "Prince Emil."

Outside of acting, Lewis is passionately involved in raising type 1 diabetes education and awareness, and he strives to lead by example and change what it means to live with diabetes. We sat down with him to learn more about living with type 1 Diabetes (T1D) while acting.

What's it like to work on the set of Prince of Peoria?

It was so much fun on set! Everyone involved was incredibly nice, and it made it feel like hanging out with your friends and family every day rather than going to work. We got to do a lot of crazy things on the show like climb a mountain of BBQ sauce, crash through walls and ceilings, and work with a super-talented monkey and other animals. There was always something exciting happening.

What's it like to be the star of a Netflix show?

It really just seems kind of unreal. My everyday life is pretty much the same with school, and chores, and hanging out with friends. But sometimes when I turn on Netflix to watch a show, I'll see my face on there, which is pretty cool.

When were you first diagnosed with T1D and did that affect your acting?

I was diagnosed with T1D when I was six years old and I hadn't started acting yet. When I began acting about four years later, I didn't think too much about it. My parents didn't let diabetes change what I could or couldn't do. I even went to karate camp the day after I was released from the hospital. So I never really thought about it being an issue when I started acting.

How do you manage your diabetes on set?

Everyone on set has always been super supportive. Having my Dexcom continuous glucose monitor is a huge help and lets me keep on top of my blood sugar, so I rarely have to stop what I'm doing. I also have my mom on set and she helps watch my blood glucose numbers from the sidelines on her Dexcom Share app, and she steps in when I need help. Sometimes, when I'm really focusing on work, I miss the signs of low blood sugar, so having my mom there is super helpful. In six months of shooting Prince of Peoria, we only had to stop rehearsal once because of T1D.

What was your favorite on-set moment?

It's not exactly "on-set" but my favorite day of the week when working on the show was Mondays. We would get together as a cast every Monday morning to read the script for the week, but it was way different from most table reads. Instead of just sitting in chairs or sitting around a table, we would do the whole episode on our feet with really hysterical props and sound effects. It was like doing a mini production of the script and getting a chance to try out the new material and jokes in a really entertaining way. We always had so much fun and it got every week off to a great start.

What advice would you have for someone who was recently diagnosed?

My advice to someone newly diagnosed with T1D is to focus on the positives and not let diabetes hold you back from doing what you enjoy. Focus on how diabetes isn't going to change your life in a negative way and that it can actually help you be a healthier person. As long as you put in the work to be prepared, diabetes is something that you can live happily with. Something I wish I would have been able to tell myself when I was first diagnosed is that I wouldn't actually have to have a shot in my stomach every time I ate. Unfortunately, the ER doctor told me this and as a six-year-old I didn't know there would be other options for shots or that I could use a pump for insulin. The idea of shots in my stomach for the rest of my life was a little scary.

You are so young and already doing amazing work, what's next for you?

I have a new project coming up soon that I'm super excited about. I've also had the amazing opportunity recently of being able to follow some television directors on set and learn about the different aspects of directing. I love acting but being behind the camera is definitely something I'm interested in doing someday.

Gavin Lewis on Playing the Title Character in Netflix's "Prince of Peoria"



November 15, 2018

Updated 13d ago

"Prince of Peoria" follows a wealthy, but isolated prince who comes to the United States to meet his best friend. Gavin Lewis stars as Prince Emil and he sits down with Cheddar's Alyssa Julya Smith to talk about the first season, now available on Netflix.



Please click [HERE](#) to see the full interview

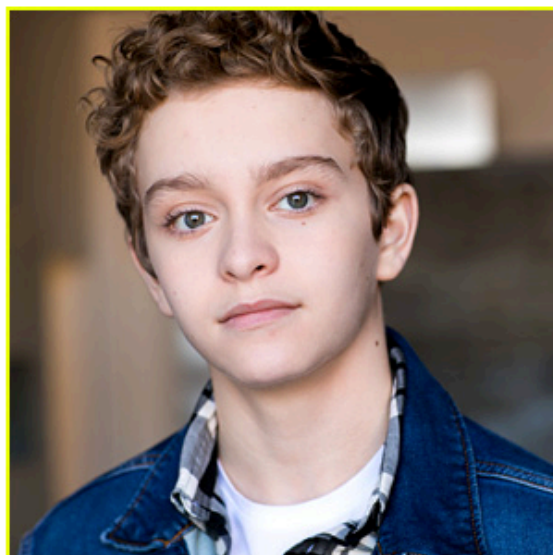
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Get To Know 'Prince of Peoria's Gavin Lewis With 10 Fun Facts (Exclusive)



Have you watched Netflix's new series, *Prince of Peoria*, yet? Well, if you haven't, get on that because it's hilarious!

Gavin Lewis is one of the stars of the series and opened up to **JJJ** about playing Emil, a 13 year-old prince from a wealthy island kingdom, who gets hit with a bit of culture shock when he moves to the U.S. to live incognito as an exchange student.

"As an actor, I love playing Emil," he told us. "His joy and optimism remind us to look for what's good and positive in the world and in our relationships with others."

Gavin adds, "I can't imagine a better team than the people I worked with on *Prince of Peoria*. Every day, the cast, crew, creators, writers, designers and producers taught me what being part of a television family truly means."

We learned even more about **Gavin** with these **10 Fun Facts**. Check them out below!

- I'm an only child. I don't want siblings because I always get the front seat and I never have to share my bedroom.
- In between takes on *Prince of Peoria*, Theo and I use the mini basketball hoop on the back of the bedroom door to shoot hoops.
- I have type 1 diabetes. I always carry a bag with me so I have my necessary supplies. It's super practical. All dudes need a man satchel.
- I love to play guitar. I wrote a song. It's about doughnuts. I'm considering starting a Go Fund Me page so I can get Michael Bay to direct the music video.
- I like spicy food. It gives your tongue little fire hugs.
- In an episode of *Prince of Peoria*, I had to stuff my face with chicken fingers, but they let me use french fries instead because cold chicken fingers make me gag... more than cold french fries.
- When I was younger, I had to have a different fork for every type of food on my plate.
- I built myself a gaming computer and I'm currently obsessed with COD IIII.
- I think chinchillas are underrated.
- I've always been homeschooled, and yes I'm socialized. I have lots of friends, and the majority of them aren't imaginary.

Prince of Peoria is streaming now on Netflix!

The Salt Lake Tribune

15-year-old Utahn is starring in a Netflix series, and he hopes it helps him spread awareness of Type 1 diabetes



When he was just 6 years old, Utahn Gavin Lewis was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. And he got to meet Nick Jonas.

The diagnosis led directly to the meetup.

After learning of his condition, Lewis entered and won an essay contest for kids with Type 1 diabetes who were making a difference in their communities. In addition to the \$5,000 prize, which he donated to charity, Lewis got to meet Jonas — and got some inspiration from the then-17-year-old actor/singer, who had himself been diagnosed with Type 1 at the age of 13.

“It was great,” Lewis said. “It’s something I’ve always remembered. It’s something I hope I can do for other kids.”

Today he’s in a position to do just that. Now 15, Lewis is the star of the Netflix series “The Prince of Peoria,” and he’s looking for ways to pay it forward.

“That would be really just as cool for me as it would be for them,” he said. “That’s my main goal — to be able to inspire somebody like Nick Jonas did for me.”

Lewis plays the title character in the new series — Prince Maxemil “Emil” Vanderklaut III, from the fictional kingdom of Buronia. An unfailingly happy and enthusiastic 13-year-old, Emil wants nothing more than to be a regular teenager with regular friends in the regular world, so he pretends to be an exchange student in Peoria, Ill. There, he strikes up a friendship with Teddy Jackson (Theodore Barnes), who is less than enthusiastic about the whole thing.

It’s the sort of show you might expect to see on Nickelodeon or the Disney Channel — a sitcom aimed at young viewers.

Emil is “a very happy, excitable, outgoing person,” Lewis said in an interview. “He’s not a stuck-up kid. He’s very down-to-earth and just happy with everything he gets to do.

“I do relate to him. I’m a pretty happy person, so I relate pretty strongly. I’m not quite as extroverted as him, though.”

And the role of Emil “kind of caught my attention with the dialect,” he said — Emil speaks with an English accent, and Lewis worked with a dialect coach to get it down.

And, hey, if it’s not perfect, Prince Emil isn’t English — he’s Buronian.

You might think that Lewis was born to be an actor. His parents, Kyle and Colleen, are actors and teachers whose résumés include stints with Plan-B Theatre Company and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. But their son initially resisted.

“When I was little, I was almost a little overexposed to theater. So for a long time, I didn’t want anything to do with it,” Lewis said. “They were almost more trying to steer me away from theater and acting.”

But he got a role in a film that one of his mother’s students was making, “and I turned around 180 [degrees] and decided that I loved it. I think it was the film and television aspect. But, yeah, I came around, and they’re very supportive of what I do.”

The family lived in Salt Lake City until he was 8 years old, then moved to southern Utah. These days, he travels back and forth from the St. George area to Los Angeles, with his mom along as his teacher and coach.

“My parents do help me quite a bit with the character,” he said. “My dad helps me with comedic timing and some of the choices for the funnier bits when I’m running out of ideas.”

The first eight episodes of “Prince of Peoria” are streaming on Netflix; the Christmas episode will be added on Dec. 14, with the remaining seven Season 1 episodes coming later.

Lewis was just 14 during the filming and was seemingly unfazed at shouldering the responsibility as one of the leads in the series.

“It’s fun having that many lines and that much to play with,” he said. “It is a lot of responsibility, but I’m really thankful for what I get to do. And it’s rare to get quite this much to play with in a role.” This is his first series regular role; his résumé includes voiceover work, TV guest shots and supporting roles in several TV and theatrical films.

And his Type 1 diabetes didn’t slow him down at all on “Prince of Peoria.”

“On set, it isn’t a huge concern,” Lewis said. “In the total six-ish months or so, we only had to stop filming one time because of blood-sugar issues. My mom helps me a lot on set, and it’s never really become an issue when filming.”

And that’s the message he wants other people — particularly young people — with Type 1 to understand.

“I’m very excited to be able to help kids with diabetes and possibly be a role model and help them live more confidently with diabetes,” he said.

People are already reaching out to him on social media.

“It’s kind of cool to tell people that it doesn’t hold me back in any way,” Lewis said. “A lot of these people have Type 1 themselves, and it’s cool to be able to help them and answer any questions that they have.”

And, while he’s not old enough to drive yet, Lewis said he’s in acting for the long haul — along with, maybe, architecture.

“Acting is definitely my main goal for when I’m older,” he said. “This is definitely what I hope I’m doing. I’m also very, very interested in directing. I’m reading books on that and seeing if I can shadow some of the directors on ‘Prince of Peoria.’

“I love what I’m doing.”

Beyond Type 1



'PRINCE OF PEORIA' STAR GAVIN LEWIS TALKS T1D

12/12/18

Gavin Lewis is the star of the Netflix coming of age family comedy *Prince of Peoria*. He portrays the title role of 'Prince Emil' a 13-year old prince from a wealthy island kingdom who travels to America to live incognito as an exchange student in order to experience life as an ordinary teen. Gavin lives with Type 1 diabetes and recently spoke with Beyond Type 1 about his new show and his life as an actor with T1D.

How did you first hear about *Prince of Peoria*? What was the audition process like?

I was at home in Utah, where I had just spent Christmas break with my family, when my manager called about the audition for *Prince of Peoria*. I was asked to meet with one of my very favorite casting directors, Suzanne Goddard-Smythe. But I almost had to turn it down. My mom was in the hospital and my dad was going to have to take off work to drive us out to Los Angeles. Thankfully, my mom was okay and my dad made it work.... So we hit the road as soon as we could. I am super grateful my parents are so supportive because, as you know, it was definitely worth the trip!

The audition process was great. Suzanne always makes auditioning a very positive experience. I really enjoyed preparing for the audition, because I'd had the opportunity to read the script for the pilot episode and I loved it. I'd been doing a lot of dramatic work and Prince Emil was such a fun, positive character. After I read for Suzanne, my manager told me I had been pinned for the role. Then, I had to audition for the producers and complete a screen test. The whole process took about a month. Auditions can be stressful, but this one was a lot of fun because everyone involved in the auditions was incredibly nice and supportive, and I had a blast playing around with the material.

How has having T1D affected your acting process on *Prince of Peoria*?

T1D doesn't affect my acting too much at all. Everyone on set is so supportive, and I never have to feel stressed out about taking care of my blood sugar. Having my Dexcom is a huge help in keeping my numbers safe throughout the day. And my awesome mom watches my numbers from the sidelines and steps in when needed. Sometimes, when I'm really focusing on work I miss the signs of a low, so having my mom there is very helpful. In six months of shooting, we only had to stop rehearsal once because of T1D.

Tell us about a funny moment or story that happened on-set while filming *Prince of Peoria*

We got to do so many crazy things for the show. We filmed some of the episodes out of order, and the very first week on set we filmed episode 3. In that episode, I have to rip off a pair of exercise pants to reveal a tiny pair of bike shorts underneath. So, here I was meeting a whole bunch of people for the very first time and I have to rip off my pants in front of everyone, multiple times. It's definitely one way to get comfortable with strangers really quick.

Have you met or received any messages from fans with Type 1?

I have! They have all been very encouraging. It means a lot to hear from other T1's how they're inspired to see someone working hard and not letting T1D get in the way. I'm glad I made the choice to share my journey. I've also had people tell me they've noticed my finger pricks when they show my hand up close on *Prince of Peoria*, as well as my Dexcom on the back of my arm in a few scenes. It's cool to show that these things can just be part of everyday life.

How do you currently manage your diabetes?

I have the t:slim X2 pump with Dexcom G6. I have done both injections and pumping, but pumping is working best for me now. And I love Dexcom. It's a total game changer. I didn't have it for my first couple of projects, but now it is so much easier to stay on top of my numbers when I'm on set and filming.

What advice would you give to someone newly diagnosed with T1D?

My advice to someone newly diagnosed with T1D is to focus on the positives and not let diabetes hold you back from doing what you enjoy. Focus on how diabetes isn't going to change your life in a negative way, and that it can actually help you be a healthier person. Also, keep in mind that there is practically nothing that diabetes will stop you from doing; from sports, to hanging out with friends, to going on vacations. As long as you put in the work to be prepared, diabetes is something that you can live happily with.

Who are some of your acting icons?

There are a lot of different actors I watch and try to learn from. I really admire actors who were theatrically trained and took the time to study and learn all aspects of their craft. Benedict Cumberbatch is one of my favorites. He can portray such a wide range of characters and brings so much truth and depth to his work.

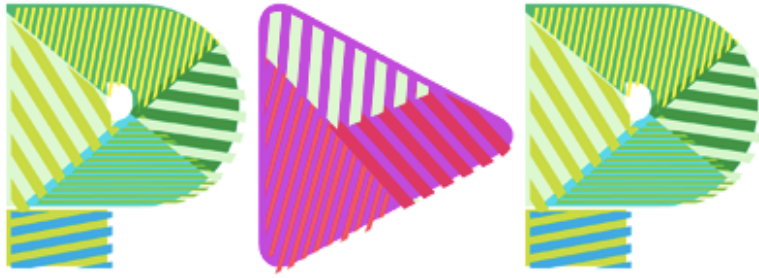
What's next for you?

Recently, I've been able to work on two new upcoming shows. I spent some time in New Mexico guest starring on the reboot of *Roswell, New Mexico* for the CW. I'm also going to be appearing on the new Netflix Family show *No Good Nick*. Right now, I'm loving the positive response *Prince of Peoria* is getting and I'm excited for the Christmas episode coming out this month, as well as 8 new episodes next year.

As far as the future, acting is definitely my main goal for when I'm older. I hope I will be lucky enough to stay working in front of or behind the camera.



Photo by Joanna DeGeneres



BY KEVIN • NOVEMBER 27, 2018 • IN INTERVIEWS, TELEVISION

Exclusive Interview: Pop-Culturalist Chats with Prince of Peoria's Gavin Lewis



Gavin Lewis is a breakout star of 2018. He's on Netflix's newest coming-of-age family comedy, *Prince of Peoria*, starring as the lead, Prince Emil, a young man from a wealthy kingdom who travels to America to live life incognito as a normal teenager. The series will make you laugh and warm your heart, and it'll return with new episodes in 2019. Pop-Culturalist was lucky enough to chat with Gavin about the project, the show's upcoming Christmas episode, and what it's like making his debut as a leading man.

P-C: Tell us about *Prince of Peoria*, your character, and what drew you to this project.

Gavin: *Prince of Peoria* is a new kids and family show on Netflix about a thirteen-year-old prince named Emil who comes to America to make a best friend. The show revolves around the relationship between Prince Emil and his new American roommate, Teddy. I play Emil, a kid that has lived a sheltered life as a royal who can't wait to experience the world as a normal teenager. He is friendly, outgoing, and always looks for the positive. When I was first asked to audition for the role, I had the opportunity to read the pilot script. It was funny and well-written, and I liked that it focused on what's positive in a world.

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P-C: What are the major similarities and differences you share with Emil?

Gavin: I think what Emil and I have in common is a positive outlook and a desire to have close friends. However, I probably wouldn't be as positive about using a drain snake in real life as Emil is. [laughs]

P-C: Your background is in theatre. How did that prepare you for your first television series as a leading man?

Gavin: This show was a great transition from theatre because, unlike most TV shows, we have the opportunity to film in front of a live audience each week. Theatre prepared me for the live audience since you have to be ready for anything that gets thrown your way and not stop if mistakes are made. I also love the energy you get from a theatre audience, and it's a real treat to be able have that when acting on a TV show.



Photo Credit: Netflix

P-C: You recently shared that we'll be getting more episodes of *Prince of Peoria* in 2019 and a Christmas episode. What can fans expect?

Gavin: In the Christmas episode, fans will learn about some fun Burundian traditions. As for the future, fans can expect more of Emil's failed attempts at becoming an ordinary teenager. We also have some exciting guest stars joining us!

P-C: Besides *Prince of Peoria*, you're also starring as 'Young Max' in *Roswell, New Mexico*. Tell us about that project.

Gavin: I had a great time working on the new reboot. Playing "Young Michael", I got to hang out with Michael Vlamis, who plays the adult version of the character. He was so cool and helpful and is such a terrific actor.

Pop-Culturalist Speed Round

P-C: Guilty pleasure TV show?

Gavin: *Rick and Morty*

P-C: Guilty pleasure movie?

Gavin: *Deadpool*

P-C: Favorite book?

Gavin: Right now, it's *Six of Crows*, but I read a lot so my favorite often changes.

P-C: Favorite play or musical?

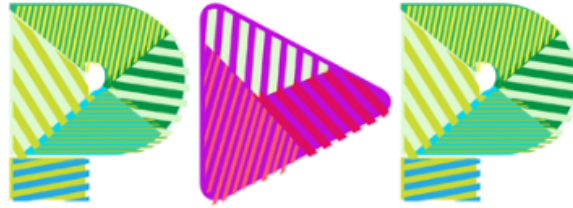
Gavin: The Diane Paulus production of *Pippin*.

P-C: A band or artist that fans would be surprised to learn is on your playlist?

Gavin: Dr. Dre

P-C: Last show you binge-watched?

Gavin: *The Good Place*



BY KEVIN • DECEMBER 17, 2018 • IN FILM, TELEVISION

5 Fun Facts with Prince of Peoria's Gavin Lewis



Gavin Lewis is crushing it as the lead character, Prince Emil, in the coming-of-age family comedy, *Prince of Peoria*, exclusively on Netflix. The series follows a young man as he travels to America to live a normal life as a regular teenager. When we **last caught up** with Gavin, he shared some juicy details about the show's highly-anticipated **Christmas episode**, which is out today, and to celebrate, Gavin stopped by to share five fun facts about himself!

1. Gavin got his start in acting at a young age.

"One of my first acting experiences was pretending to be sick at pre-school so the teachers would call my mom to come to get me."

2. Gavin's favorite food is...

"Bacon is my favorite food. It's meat candy."

3. Gavin was almost an Olympian!

"For a while, I was training to be on the junior Olympic team for archery, but I couldn't keep it up with my acting schedule. I still think it's a lot of fun!"

4. Gavin prefers intimate gatherings.

"I'd rather hang out with a couple of good friends instead of a large group of people."

5. He's an inventor

"When I was two-years-old, I invented the word 'lasterday.' It means every day before today. I think it should be considered for the Oxford Word of the Year 2019."

PEOPLE ALSO READ

Exclusive Interview: Pop-Culturalist Chats with The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina's Gavin Leatherwood

5 Fun Facts with Holmes & Watson's Scarlet Grace

Exclusive Interview: Pop-Culturalist Chats with American Ninja Warrior's Joe Moravsky

Make sure to follow Gavin on **Twitter** and **Instagram**, and binge-watch season one of *Prince of Peoria* on Netflix today.

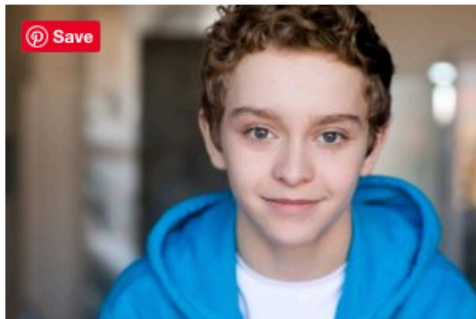


Chit Chatting With Actor Gavin Lewis

DECEMBER 4, 2018 BY MARY

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Written by: Jill Sheets



Picture credit: Joanna DeGeneres

The first time that I saw actor Gavin Lewis was in his new show "The Prince of Peoria." I was home sick and to keep my mind busy I started to binge watch the whole season. This incredible actor surprised me. He was funny, and he could act. His timing was perfect. I was also impressed that he could pull off doing accents and never once broke it. Continue to read on and learn more about him, his new show and five things people may not know about him.

R: Tell us about yourself and how you got your start acting.

G: I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and have lived in Utah most of my life. My parents work in theatre so I've spent a lot of time around actors, on and off stage. When I was about 9-years-old my mom had a student making a feature film in Park City, Utah. My parents let me audition and I booked a small role. While I was on set I asked the actor playing the lead, who was from LA, how I might get representation. He helped me get a meeting with a manager. And that's how I got started in film and television.

R: How did your family react when they found out that you wanted to be an actor?

G: Well, with both my parents working in theatre, they actually kind of pushed me to pursue something else when I was little. But as I got older, I really wanted to study acting. They were very supportive though, because they really just want me to do what makes me happy.

R: You are in an amazing comedy on Netflix. Tell us about your show, "The Prince of Peoria" and about your character, Prince Emil.

G: Prince of Peoria is about a young prince who is granted a wish by his father for his 13th birthday. His wish is to come to America and make a best friend. He travels to Peoria, Illinois and poses as an exchange student, where he dreams of becoming best friends with his new American roommate, Teddy. Emil is a kid that has lived a sheltered royal life and can't wait to experience the world as a normal teenager. He's outgoing, loves to have fun and always looks for the positive.

R: How did you prepare for your role as Prince Emil and how did you come up with the accent?

G: Before my first audition I spent some time working through a few different dialects and figuring out how someone from Buronia would speak and act. I actually auditioned with a few different accents before everyone settled on the one I use now. I also took some time studying the royal family of England. Emil is definitely crazier than your typical royalty, but I thought he would still have learned how a Prince is expected to act around his subjects when fulfilling his royal duties. So, it was helpful to study the royal family and some of their gestures and mannerisms.



R: What is it like working with the other cast members? Do you have a favorite memory so far?

G: Working with the cast on Prince of Peoria is great. Everyone I work with is so talented, and even more important, super nice. I consider them all to be family now. It's hard to pick just one

favorite memory, but I love all of our table reads. When shooting, we'd get together as a cast every Monday morning to read the script for the week, but it's way different from most table reads. We do the whole episode on our feet with props and sound effects. It's a lot of fun!

R: I read that you are in the TV show [Roswell, New Mexico](#). Is that true, if so are you allowed to talk about it?

G: Yes, I get to play "Young Michael" in this new series. I had a blast working in New Mexico. The cast is great and I made some cool new friends on the show.

R: Do you have any other up and coming projects that you would like to talk about?

G: Right now, I'm loving the positive reactions from people watching Prince of Peoria and I'm excited to see what's to come. We have our Christmas episode premiering on December 17.

R: What are your future goals?

G: I hope I can keep acting. I'm interested in working in a dramatic series. And I'd love to try directing someday.

R: Tell our readers about Beyond Type 1 organization and did you get involved with them?

G: Beyond Type 1 is a non-profit organization that works to spread the word about type one diabetes using social media and technology. They want to change what it means to be type one by empowering the community through connection and education. Monies they raise are used to help people living with the disease and to fund research for a cure. I wanted to get involved with Beyond Type 1 because they aren't only working toward a cure, but to help people with type one live their best lives. As one of their ambassadors, I'm helping to educate people about diabetes and share what it is like living with type one.

R: It is not easy dealing with diabetes. What advice would you give someone in general about it?

G: It's important to stay positive and know that having type one doesn't have to limit what you can do. It gets easier with time and until they find a cure it's something we have to live with. So, I prefer to be happy with what I have rather than focus on what I don't.

R: Other than this one, what is the strangest question you have ever been asked?

G: I was once asked, "Do you sleep with or without socks?" People actually sleep with socks on?

R: What are five things people may not know about you?

G: I like to play guitar and ukulele. I also play a mean kazoo.

I have a miniature poodle named Sy.

I was in a Progressive Insurance commercial with Flo.

I've always been homeschooled. But I am socialized!

I built my own gaming computer.

R: Are you on any social networking sites? If so, which ones and what are their addresses? Do you have an official website and /or YouTube page?

G: I'm on Instagram at gavinklewis and Twitter at gavinklewis1.

R: Is there anything else you would like to add or say to your fans?

G: I really appreciate all the support and love I'm getting. It's so cool to see Emil getting such a positive response from fans, and I'm excited to share more episodes of Prince of Peoria soon!



YEM talks to Gavin Lewis of Netflix's "Prince of Peoria"

Ryane DeFalco

[Blog](#) [Featured](#) [Interview](#) [TV Shows](#) November 26, 2018 8:00am 234



Actor Gavin Lewis is Netflix's newest star- and newest prince! His show, "Prince of Peoria", premiered on Netflix this month. Gavin plays Emil, a prince who goes undercover to live life as a normal kid. And when real life meets royalty, things don't go according to plan. Gavin spoke with us about his new comedy series and what it's like to play a character from royalty!

Young Entertainment Mag: Your new show "Prince of Peoria" premiered this month on Netflix! Tell us about the show.

Gavin Lewis: In "Prince of Peoria," my character Prince Emil wants to leave his country of Buronia and go to America to make a best friend. His father, the king, grants him this wish for his 13th birthday gift. He heads to Peoria, Illinois incognito as a foreign exchange student. Emil is thrilled to be staying in America with thirteen-year-old Teddy, and can't wait to make him his new best friend. It turns out, however, that they are complete opposites in every way. But, through some pretty crazy adventures they come to learn how the things that make them different also make them great friends.

YEM: Your character is a prince! Was it cool to play a royal character? How did you prepare for the role of Prince Emil?

Gavin: It was a lot of fun to play a royal character. Emil has a ton of cool outfits, and who doesn't love wearing a crown? I also liked that he hails from an imaginary country. I got to spend some time working through a few different dialects and figuring out how someone from Buronia would speak and act. I actually spent a little time studying the royal family of England. Emil is definitely a bit more wacky than most royalty, but I felt he would still have learned how a Prince is expected to act around his subjects. So, it was helpful to study the royal family and some of their gestures and mannerisms.



Joanna DeGeneres

YEM: Are there any similarities between you and your character? Do you have anything in common with Emil?

Gavin: I think my character and I have a lot of similarities. We are both optimistic and look for the good in people. Neither of us takes anything too seriously and we both live in the moment. Emil is probably a bit more extroverted than I am though, he does some things even I might be a little uncomfortable doing in public.

YEM: Your character travels to America incognito. If you could travel anywhere incognito, where would you like to go?

Gavin: I think it would be awesome to go incognito and be able to explore Area 51. I'd like to know what's really going on there. Maybe see a few aliens and check out a spaceship.

YEM: Emil says he wants to make friends like other kids his age, and strikes up an unlikely friendship with Teddy. How did you create that best friend chemistry with your co-star, Theodore Barnes?

Gavin: Theo and I actually became friends in real life right away. Unlike our characters, we have a lot in common and have a great time hanging out on and off set. We had so much fun acting together and using our character's differences to create a great on-screen friendship as well.



Netflix

YEM: Finally, if you could guest star in any other Netflix show, what would it be and why?

Gavin: I would pick Daredevil. I am a big fan of the super hero genre and it would be very cool to be part of an action show. I love fight choreography and stunts. And the acting on Daredevil is great! Vincent D'Onofrio is so talented and such an amazing villain. I would love to work with him.

Entertainment, The Latest, TV / November 21, 2018

Exclusive: Gavin Lewis Talks Starring In Netflix's 'The Prince Of Peoria'

by OJ Williams



Gavin Lewis stars in the Netflix coming of age family comedy “[The Prince of Peoria](#).”

Lewis portrays the title role of “Prince Emil,” a 13-year old prince from a wealthy island kingdom who travels to America to live incognito as an exchange student in order to experience life as an ordinary teen. The series is now streaming.

The Knockturnal: How did you get involved with the show?

Gavin Lewis: I received a call to come in and audition last January. The audition was with one of my favorite casting directors, Suzanne Goddard-Smythe. I went to the first audition and had a great time with the material. A couple of days later they told me I was pinned for the role of Emil. I then had to go audition for the producers and complete a screen test. The whole audition process took about a month. Auditions can be stressful, but I had a lot of fun throughout the process. I had a blast playing around with the character right from the beginning and everyone involved was really nice.

The Knockturnal: What resonated the most with you about your character?

Gavin Lewis: I love Emil’s positive attitude. I think, with everything that is going on in the world, it is easy for young people to get overly stressed and anxious. I enjoyed seeing a young character like Emil who, as a young person, is looking for the good in the world and always trying to make the best of things.

The Knockturnal: What was a highlight episode/scene for you and why?

Gavin Lewis: I really liked working on all the episodes, but it was particularly fun shooting episode four, “A Night at the Hip-Hopera.” There is a musical number at the end of the episode that everyone in the cast had a great time filming. Our choreographers Cris Judd and Bryan Anthony were so great and the original rap song by Conor Hanney was super creative and funny. We also got to wear cool historical costumes. It was one of my favorite scenes of the season.

The Knockturnal: How was working with the cast?

Gavin Lewis: Working with the cast on *Prince of Peoria* has been great. Everyone is so talented and more importantly nice. I consider them all to be family now.



Photo Credit: Netflix

The Knockturnal: What do you hope audiences take away from *Prince of Peoria*?

Gavin Lewis: I hope audiences come away from watching *Prince of Peoria* just feeling good. I think it’s a show that you can watch to have a laugh and be happy. I think it’s important that kids and families have a show they can watch that’s not necessarily about all the toughest aspects of life but focuses on family, friends and good times.

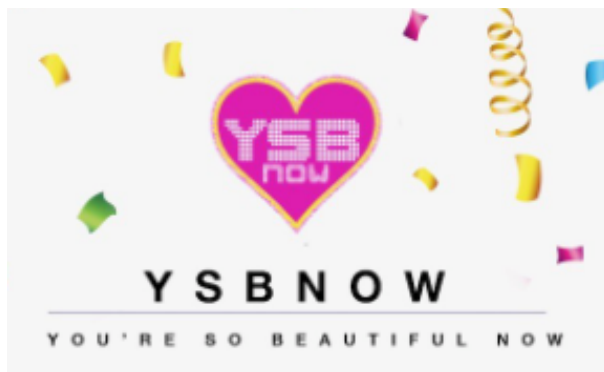
The Knockturnal: Your parents are in theater, is that what motivated you to get into acting?

Gavin Lewis: Actually, having both my parents in theatre kind of had the opposite effect for a while. For a long time I wanted nothing to do with acting and refused to be on stage; I think I was maybe a little overexposed. I hung out backstage, A LOT. As I got older, I became interested in television and film acting, probably just to do something a little different from what my parents do. I convinced my mom to let me audition for a film one of her acting students was directing. I got the part and loved it, so I really started pursuing film and television after that. Since then, I’ve had the opportunity to work in the theatre again and I enjoy it a lot. So, maybe it is just in the genes.

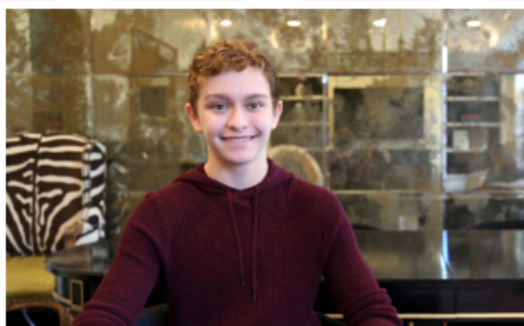
The Knockturnal: You work with the Beyond Type 1 organization. Tell us a little bit about your work with them.

Gavin Lewis: Beyond Type One is an inspiring organization that works to spread the word about type one diabetes using social media and technology. They want to change what it means to be type one by empowering the community through connection and education. As a non-profit, they use the money they raise to help people living with type one diabetes and to fund research for a cure. I am fortunate to be an ambassador for them, helping to educate and tell people what’s it like living with type one.

Leading Photo Credit: Joanna DeGeneres



EXCLUSIVE VID: "Prince Of Peoria" Star Gavin Lewis Reveals 5 Things Fans Didn't Know About Him



You can watch "Prince Of Peoria" on Netflix right now!

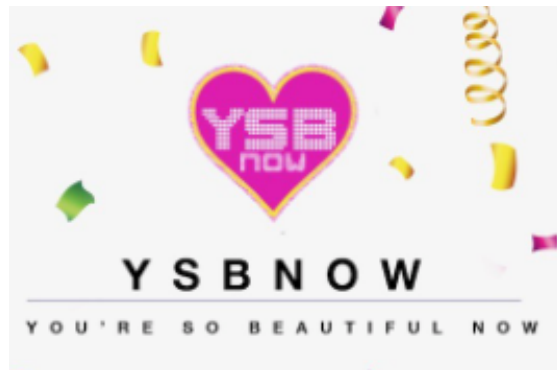
Have you binge watched Netflix's new series "Prince of Peoria" yet? If not, we're sorry to say that you're totally missing out! The show stars Gavin Lewis, who plays a prince that's forced to go to real school and keep it a secret! It's kind of like Hannah Montana but with royalty!

When we had Gavin stop by the YSBnow studio, he told us 5 things you definitely didn't already know about him! Watch it here:



Check out our first video with Gavin too:





EXCLUSIVE VID: 3 Reasons To Watch Netflix's "Prince of Peoria" Tomorrow

X



Straight from the star himself, Gavin Lewis!

Netflix's new comedy "Prince of Peoria" drops tomorrow, November 16th, and we invited the star Gavin Lewis over to tell us all about it!

The show is hilarious and heartwarming, but don't take it from us! Check out three reasons Gavin gave to watch the show with your friends and fam!

Watch the exclusive vid:



EnterTeenment News

Gavin Lewis

Young actor, Gavin Lewis, got his start by making guest appearances on shows like "NCIS: Los Angeles" and voicing characters in movies like "Hey Arnold: The Jungle Movie." He is currently starring in the Netflix original series "Prince of Peoria," as Prince Emil, a wealthy prince who travels to America, pretending to be a foreign exchange student so to experience a "normal" life.

Up next for the rising star is the CW reboot of the "Roswell" series, called "Roswell, New Mexico." Gavin will play "Young Michael." Take a break from binge watching season 1 on Netflix to read all about Gavin's Christmas memories!



What are you most thankful for?

The incredible opportunities I've been given, my friends and family who support me in all I do and lastly, the thing that keeps me alive, insulin.

How did you celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

By having a relaxing day with family and food, lots of food...so much food. I have some regrets.

What is the best holiday gift that you ever gave someone?

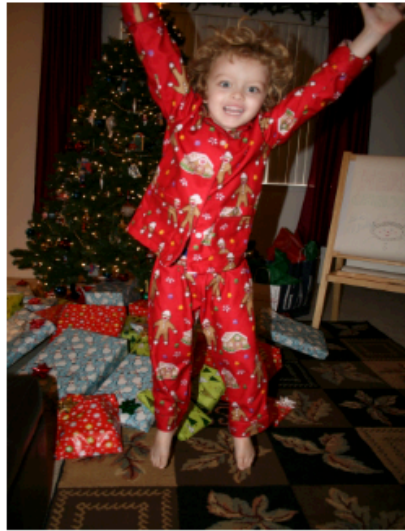
When I was 8, I won the jackpot at a holiday bingo game. I used the money to buy my mom a necklace and earrings. It was the first time I had enough of my own money to buy a Christmas gift without help.

What is the best Holiday gift that you have received?

I've received so many great gifts from family and friends. It's hard to say one was the best, but I did get very excited when I got my PS4.

Describe your favorite Holiday memory.

Setting up the electric train set around the Christmas tree with my granddad. I loved sitting on the floor with him after it was all put together and having him help me drive it around the tree.



What are your favorite holiday songs?

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by the Jackson 5 and "Carol of the Bells" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

How will you spend the Holidays this year?

Hanging out at home with my family and spending some time at the beach.



Do you have any New Year's resolutions?

I don't really make New Year's resolutions. I think every day is another chance to start again and to do better.

Do you have a Holiday message for your fans?

I hope everyone will get out and do something nice for somebody. Not just for your friends and family but somebody you don't know. Volunteer somewhere, do something helpful in your community, say something nice to someone who needs it and look for ways to be kind. The smallest action makes a difference.

What is your favorite Charity to work with during the Holiday season?

My favorite charity to work with is Beyond Type 1, but not just during the holiday season. I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when I was six-years-old. Beyond Type 1 is a non-profit organization that focuses on raising awareness about type 1 diabetes and helping those who have type 1 live strong. I've been an ambassador for Beyond Type 1 for three years because I think it's important to educate the public about living with type 1 and the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. I hope I can help other kids with type 1 see it isn't something that has to hold you back.

Find out more about Gavin and keep up with all of his acting gigs by following him on Twitter at: twitter.com/GavinKLewis1

Learn more about Beyond Type 1 here: BeyondType1.org



FRI, 09 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 2:18 PM

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Watch The First Look Trailer For Netflix's 'Prince of Peoria' (Exclusive)



JJJ is so excited to premiere the [first look](#) of [Netflix's](#) upcoming new series, [Prince of Peoria](#)!

The new series centers on Emil ([Gavin Lewis](#)), a 13-year-old prince from a wealthy island kingdom, travels to the U.S. to live incognito as an exchange student.

There, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Teddy ([Theodore Barnes](#)), a fastidious overachiever who is Emil's total opposite.

Prince of Peoria will debut NEXT Friday, November 16th!

Check out the trailer and the first pics

from the show below!

