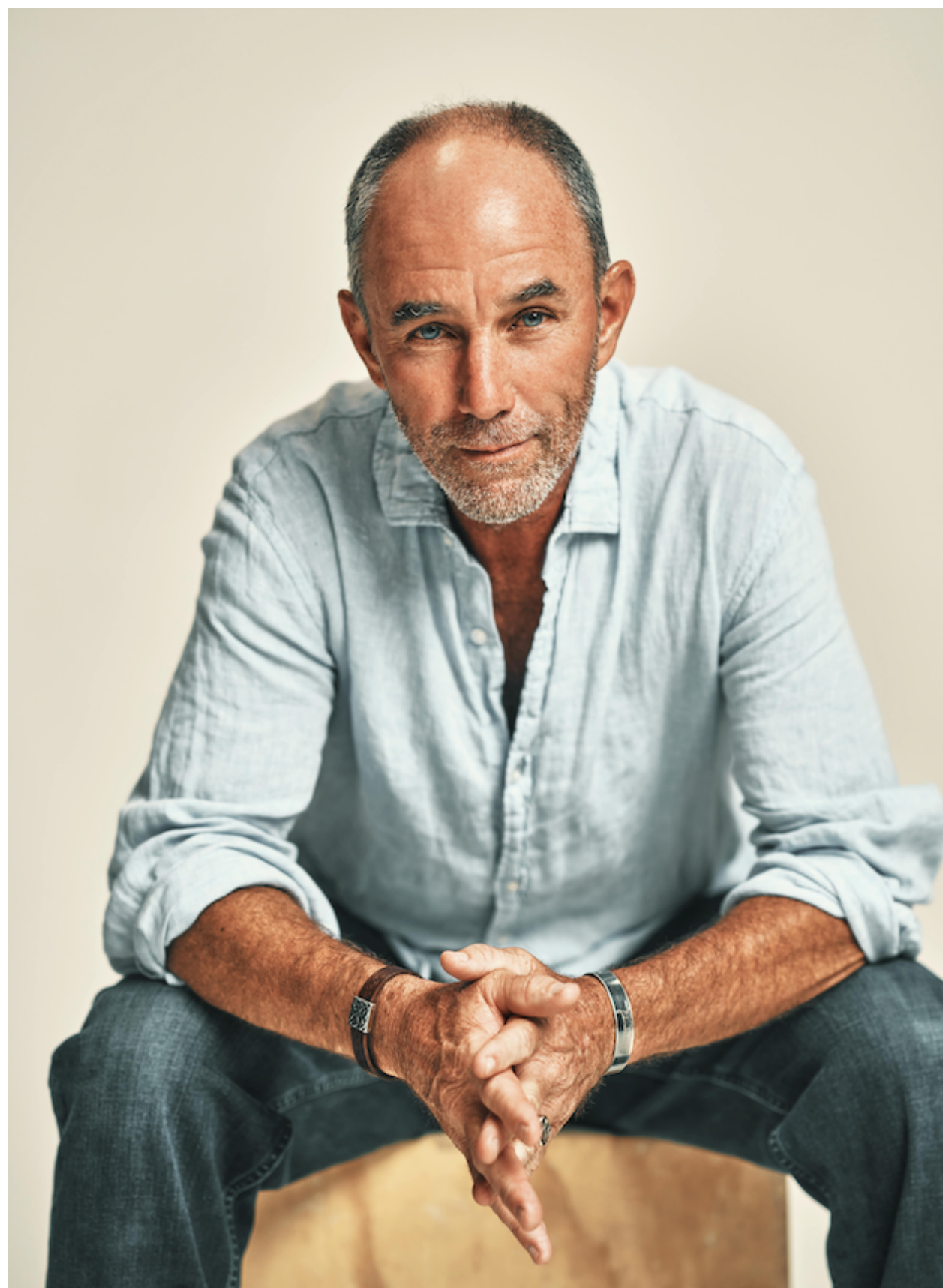


JAMIE McSHANE

PRESS KIT



JAMIE McSHANE

Biography

Jamie McShane currently stars with Mark Ruffalo & Tom Pelphrey in HBO's thrilling limited series *TASK*, from *MARE OF EASTTOWN* creator Brad Ingelsby. In addition, Jamie can be seen as "Sheriff Galpin" in seasons 1 & 2 of Tim Burton's smash hit *WEDNESDAY* on Netflix; and across both seasons of Taylor Sheridan's period drama series *1923* on Paramount+, starring Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren.

In film, Jamie appeared opposite Gary Oldman in David Fincher's Oscar nominated drama *MANK*. That marked his second collaboration with Fincher as they previously worked together on *GONE GIRL*. Other appearances include Oscar Best Picture winner *ARGO* and Dan Gilroy's *NIGHTCRAWLER*.

Jamie is often recognized for his starring role in Netflix's critically acclaimed drama *BLOODLINE*, opposite Ben Mendelsohn and Kyle Chandler. His prolific career has spanned hundreds of episodes of television and over fifty films. Some highlights among them are a Series Regular role in FOX's supernatural thriller *THE PASSAGE* playing "Dr. Tim Fanning" (based on the best-selling book series); a recurring role in season one of David E Kelley's hit Netflix drama *THE LINCOLN LAWYER*, based on Michael Connelly's series of bestselling novels; recurs in *SOUTHLAND* on TNT, *SONS OF ANARCHY* on FX, USA Network's limited series *UNSOLVED* (which chronicled the murders of rap stars Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur), Amazon's hit drama *BOSCH*, and the reboot *CSI: VEGAS* on CBS.



Task's Jamie McShane on that Brutal Finale

The well-travelled character actor gets on the phone to discuss Perry's fate, biting Mark Ruffalo, and whether we've seen the last of *Task*.

By Frazier Tharpe
October 19, 2025



Courtesy of HBO

This story contains major spoilers for the season finale of *Task*, “A Still, Small Voice.”

Task's Jamie McShane, a peak “Hey, It’s That Guy” actor that you’ve no doubt seen on everything from *Bloodline* to *Sons of Anarchy* to *Wednesday*, got a well-earned moment in the spotlight this season as one of the biker heavies on HBO's acclaimed crime drama. The series, created by Brad Inglesby and starring Mark Ruffalo and Tom Pelphrey as cop and robber respectively, quickly established itself as one of 2025’s best TV shows—a heartfelt meditation on grief and faith that also delivered one of the longest and most intense shootouts we’ve seen on the small screen in a while.

McShane’s Perry, a high-ranking figure in the show’s fictional Dark Hearts bike club, has been a looming threat for both co-protagonists, working to figure out who’s been robbing the club and exact vengeance before the police intervene, mostly because Perry’s protege and Delco chapter leader Jayson is on the hook for making the club look vulnerable. *Task* wrapped up its seven-episode run tonight with an appropriately bloody finale; McShane hopped on the phone with us to talk through Perry’s big moments in the episode and the season, stepping back into the biker world after *Sons of Anarchy*, and biting Mark Ruffalo.

GQ: I loved that Perry's very last character beat is trying to warn and protect Jayson with his last breath, even as Jayson’s killing him.

Jamie McShane: That's all Brad. When we were on set discussing it, Brad was like, "Even in his last moment, he's trying to save Jayson." When he was really tasked by the club to take Jayson out and he couldn't do it, it's like his kid.

I don't know if you're the type of actor to fill in a character's backstory, but I've been wondering all season about the real nature of Perry and Jayson's relationship. Perry puts his whole life and reputation on the line for Jayson. A lot of it's implied, but

I just wondered what their backstory was that made it such a strong bond.

Well, some of it was from me dreaming up the backstory. A lot of it was from Brad and what he said about where this relationship developed and how it developed. And then a lot of it was Sam Keeley and I, who plays Jayson. We just spent a lot of time together when we both arrived down in Philly, we spent so much time together and it really played into our characters. He's a great, great guy, I really love him. And that came out in our relationship both ways for us so I thought that was pretty amazing.

What were some of the things that you, Brad, and Sam came up with that maybe wasn't so explicit in the text of the show?

Well, I met Sam on a Zoom with Brad and everyone, and Brad was like, "Hey, when you get to Philly, if maybe you could hang out, get a coffee once or twice, that'd be great."

Sam and I, we get down there, day one, we hit it off and we are just spending hours together hanging out. We're going to different pubs, we're playing pool. He had this idea to go shoot archery together at this little place in Philly. There was just a lot of hanging out and really discussing each other's lives, our personal lives in real life, and then figuring out what was with the characters. And then by the time we got the set, it was pretty evident how close we had become.

Which then sets up that perfect twist of the knife with that being how Perry goes out.

Yeah, figuratively and literally. It is so brutal because when Perry killed Eryn, he didn't mean to. He just wanted her to go back and face Jayson and fess up to what she's been doing, and [Jayson] would deal with her. And then it's that moment when Perry realizes that, "Oh my God, this is what I've done." And then he's just trying to figure out, how is this going to play out with Jayson? She'll be missing, et cetera.

And then when he finds out, it is just brutal, and how Sam played that was incredible.

There's so much mythology amongst these characters, especially the Dark Hearts. There are a lot of scenes where the conversations carry the weight of the characters' history together. Perry was a big part of that—even just saying, "Crazy Robbie," the way you did that line reading carries so much implication with it.

That's really, honestly, all Brad's writing, and we get to put our spin on it. It's just phenomenal stuff and what a privilege it was for all of us to get to work on it.

This show this is a little bit more layered than having good and bad guys per se, but to the degree that it does, you are one of the bad guys, but there was always a haunted quality I think that you were bringing to it, and a lot of regret, like you said, for example, when Perry kills Eryn.

Yeah, thank you, I appreciate that. It was just an amazing character to get to develop. Brad was on set every day, so we would tweak things and then really all the development with Sam, it was just a dream come true as an actor.

I know these kinds of coincidences happen all the time, but I did think it was funny that you're playing one of the heads of a biker gang here after having such a prominent part on *Sons of Anarchy*.

Except on *Sons*, I wasn't a biker, I was an Irish gun runner. But yeah, there have been some parallels to it, definitely.

I mean you're the guy who stole Jax's baby, so you'll always be prominent in *Sons* history!

[laughs] Yeah, *I'm* the guy that stole the baby!

I also wasn't expecting a full-on fistfight between you and Mark Ruffalo.

Oh, that was great. Ruffalo is wonderful to work with, man. We rehearsed that for a long time, and Mark's actually in real life, a very good wrestler. And then he did that movie *Foxcatcher* where he played the wrestling coach, and they really weighed in for him to do more wrestling stuff, which was better for his character, whereas my character is just a brawler.

And then at one point, as we're rehearsing it out and we get to the point where he's going to choke me out, I said, "Hey, can I bite him?" And our stunt coordinator Justin Reamer, Salli Richardson Whitfield our director, Ingelsby, and Ruffalo were totally for it. And Mark got hurt when we actually filmed that scene. He banged his head pretty good. I think he cut it open and got a concussion, but he still went through and did the whole scene.

That whole sequence is especially gnarly because the upper hand changes so many times across that whole 20-minute run. And there's definitely a version of that fight where Perry could come out on top.

And then the intensity between Robbie and Jayson was incredible. When Robbie's got Jayson pinned down and you see all this anger as he's choking him out and killing him and all of a sudden you just see this slight shift in Tom Pelphrey's eyes and then you realize he's been stabbed...

Did you have any other favorite sequences to film across the season?

One of my favorites was when I found out Jayson was lying to me and I walked into the clubhouse and I wrapped a chain around my fist and I pound him in the face. When we rehearsed that, Salli said, "I want you two closer together than how we were rehearsing it."

And then Sam said to me, "Can I put my forehead against your forehead?" And then that just ignited that scene where we're like two rams butting heads at each other, and I'm scolding him. And Sam put it really well, he said that, "Jayson is a lion and Perry is his lion tamer,"

Just as a fan of the show, what was your take on the ending, the final scene and where we leave things with Mark's character?

I thought that was beautiful. The way [Isaach De Bankolé] played that with Mark giving him advice. And then that hearing...

To the best of your knowledge, was this conceived as an open-and-shut story?

To the best of my knowledge, I think so. You got to ask Brad, get inside that brain. For me, obviously it's one and done.

Now the only thing we hope is that you don't get typecast as the biker bad guy going forward.

Hopefully I'll have a little more variety, yeah.

Esquire

The *Task* Villains Ruled the Season Finale. They're Hungry For More.

Actors Sam Keeley and Jamie McShane break down the thrilling end to the HBO crime drama.

BY JOSH ROSENBERG
OCT 19, 2025



In the final episode of *Task*, Dark Hearts leader Perry (Jamie McShane) contemplates killing his protégé, Jayson (Sam Keeley), who has become a dangerous liability to their criminal organization. Perry already murdered Jayson's wife for

leaking information earlier in the season, but he can't bring himself to finish the job. For Perry, killing Jayson for his fuck-ups also means that he failed him as a father figure. It's a moment reminiscent of Tony Soprano and Christopher Moltisanti's relationship in *The Sopranos*—or so I thought. When I mentioned it to McShane and Keeley in September, they were stunned.

"High praise, dude," McShane says. We're at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, days before the premiere of *Task* and over a month away from the show's finale—which just aired on HBO this Sunday night. "I thought you were gonna say *Starsky and Hutch*," he says with a laugh. That's how the two actors view Perry and Jayson: two loose cannons. Inseparable friends who would do anything for each other, even if they're both vicious killers who run drugs.

The *Dark Hearts* members never receive the same deep backstories as *Task*'s two main leads (played by Mark Ruffalo and Tom Pelphrey), but McShane and Jamie bring such an unmatched intensity to the crime drama that it cemented them as threats down to their very last seconds on screen. In a big finale twist, Jayson kills Perry before biting the bullet himself in one last showdown.

"Brutal, just brutal," McShane says of the finale. "Justified, but just heartbreaking because the two characters loved each other so much."



Peter Kramer/HBO//HBO

"Those characters loved each other so much," McShane says.

Granted, their favorite scene is also the one from episode 4, where Perry punches Jayson in the jaw with a metal chain wrapped around his fist. Male friendships are weird like that. "Such a beautiful scene," Keeley tells me. "I was so lucky to have this man as a scene partner, and I was lucky that we got on like family. We're friends for life. That bond has allowed us to be able to mine the depths of our deepest, darkest kind of feelings. There was some kind of energy between us. And the head-to-head thing was great because it just ended up like animals."

While *Task* is arguably Keeley's most prominent stateside role to date since co-starring in 2015's *Burnt* with Bradley Cooper, the Irish actor also stars in a highly successful Dublin crime drama called *Kin* alongside Charlie Cox (*Daredevil: Born Again*) and Aidan Gillen (*Game of Thrones*). In 2022, the then-32-year-old actor won the IFTA Award—a.k.a. the "Irish Oscar"—for Best Actor in a Lead Role – Drama.

Meanwhile, McShane has been grinding his way through the world of TV for over 25 years. Before his stellar roles in 1923, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, and *Sons on Anarchy*, the 59-year-old actor played police officers, soldiers, and doctors on just about every network show in the early 2000s. Name it—he's been there. So, joining *Task* felt a bit like "being picked for the All-Star team," he says.

"It was a dream come true," Keeley adds. "I was telling Jamie earlier, when I watched it for the first time, I was like, 'Am I in this? Am I *actually* in this?' It's just fantastic."

Below, the *Dark Hearts* actors share more about having a ball together in Philadelphia, how Keeley originally tried out for another role in the show, and what they make of their characters' tragic endings.



Peter Kramer/HBO//HBO

"Jayson could snap Perry in half," Keeley tells Esquire. "But it's a control that Perry has over him. Just manipulative."

ESQUIRE: What did you both make of Philadelphia?

SAM KEELEY: Love the spirit. Philly pride is fantastic. We went to a lot of pubs, all Irish, of course. But American pubs are different—they have their own flavor.

JAMIE MCSHANE: Well, one had your flag.

SK: That's right! This one bar had my family crest. I'm from Tullamore, home of Tullamore Dew. I was walking by this place off South Street and they had the Tullamore flag right outside the door. It was fantastic.

Have you seen that anywhere else before?

SK: No, and I asked the guy, "What's the deal with the crest outside the door?" He was like, "Dude, I have no idea. It was just there when I bought the place." [Laughs].

How much time did you spend together before filming?

JM: We met during a Zoom and hit it off right away. Brad [Ingelsby] was like, “You know, it'd be really good if you guys would maybe go out for coffee, just kind of get to know each other.” And we were hanging out every day, all day together. We were next-door neighbors. So, it was literally knock on the door: “Whatcha doing?”

SK: We did archery. Shot a lot of pool. He's an honorary Irishman in my eyes.



Peter Kramer/HBO//HBO

"I just started crying in the middle of the bar with my Ma," Keeley says about the moment he landed the part. "Just bawling my eyes out."

Did you screen test together?

SK: No, actually. I was going up for Grasso, but it just wasn't right. And Fabian [Frankel] smashes this out of the park. He's phenomenal. But the second the audition ended I was like, "I'm not going to get that part." I got the call and an hour later and they said, "It's not going your way." I was gutted. I'll never forget where I was at that moment. I was actually in my bathroom, and I was just like, "I can't believe that this just slipped through my fingers."

Then, a month later, I was with my Ma in a bar and I got another call from my agents with like three or four of 'em on at the same time. Usually, that's either very good news or very bad news. They were like, "Do you remember *Task*? They've just

offered you Jayson.” I didn't even have to read [for the part], and I just started crying in the middle of the bar with my Ma. Just bawling my eyes out.

What were some of your favorite Philly spots?

SK: Angelo's. A cheesesteak from Angelo's. It's so good, man.

JM: Pearl and Mary's happy hour.

SK: Absolutely unbelievable.

JM: And we got to say hi to Frankie Bones.

SK: Of course! The bouncer from Fergie's Pub. Frankie Bones.

Frankie Bones? Killer name.

JM: Oh yeah, we had a lot of fun.

SK: We had the best time. To call it a job is hilarious.

Somebody had to put Jayson down. He was a wild animal.

What was your favorite scene to film?

JM: The scene in episode 4, when I find out that he's been lying to me. I go in, pop him, and then we lock heads. He spits on the ground. I loved it. This show was great about giving us rehearsal time. When I came in kind of loud, [the director] was like, “I want you quieter and I want you guys closer.” Then, Sam goes, “Jamie, can I put my head against your head?” We locked heads and it changed everything. He took that to another level, and that scene to me is so layered.

SK: They were almost like wolfs—the thing that they do where they just say their piece, but it's physical domination as well. I mean, straight away. Perry knows how to control him. You see that through that physicality. He's able to put him in his place and just make sure that he's still that little boy that he was ten to fifteen years ago when he first met him.

JM: That's a great way to put it. Because Jayson could snap Perry in half. But it's a control that Perry has over him. Just manipulative.

SK: It was really cool, and it reads on screen.



Peter Kramer//HBO

What did you both think of the way your character's stories end?

JM: The fact that it was the same knife that I was going to kill him with... that's brutal.

SK: Somebody had to put Jayson down. He was a wild animal. He lost everything—his father figure, his wife, the money. His own club is out to kill him. And he was feral at that point. Someone had to do it. It's only fitting that it was Fabian's character. I had him at the end of my leash as well, you know what I mean? We had developed their own backstory in regards to that. But Jayson was just going to destroy everything. A character like that can't be contained. At that point, he was just pure destruction.

I often wonder if actors ever wish there was more for their characters.

JM: I'm just grateful. it's been the best job of my career, the best role. And this guy? Amazing, despite himself. [Laughs.]

SK: Yeah. I mean, what I want is the Dark Hearts prequel. That would be the show. Just saying, Brad [Ingelsby], get your finger up. But no, I'm just so proud that we

have done this and that we've had a small part to play in this. We just hope the rest of the world responds to it as much as we did. I have no doubt that they will.

DEADLINE

'Task' Actor Jamie McShane On His Character's Reckless Actions & What To Expect From Finale

By Lynette Rice

October 13, 2025



Jamie McShane in 'Task'

SPOILER ALERT! This story contains details from the penultimate episode of Task on HBO.

Jamie McShane wasn't always recruited to play a bad guy. Early on in his nearly 30-year career, McShane says he would typically snag roles as someone who was aggrieved or had fallen on hard times. But then **Sons of Anarchy** came along in 2008 and McShane was cast as an Irish gun runner named Cameron Hayes who would serve as a key antagonist in seasons 2 and 3.

McShane had found his calling. Depicting someone who everyone wishes were dead has become a particularly lucrative line of work for the New Jersey native, who believes he's found his best baddo yet – a motorcycle club leader named Perry Dorazo in HBO's **Task**.

“This has been the most incredible job of my career,” says McShane, whose previous roles as an antagonist include the merciless Marshal Kent in **1923** and Ben Mendelsohn's partner in crime in **Bloodline**. “Bloodline was a tough one to top, and this actually topped it. The response has been amazing. The writing is so good and the actors are all so good. And I'm fortunate to have been a part of it.”

Here, McShane reflects on his career, his character's bad decision in Sunday's episode and what to expect from the Oct. 19 finale of the Brad Inglesby series.

DEADLINE You're so good at playing bad dudes that I just want to believe in real life, you work quietly as a pastor while running an orphanage and raising bunnies.

JAMIE MCSHANE Yes, I have a bunny farm. And I am a pastor with lots with kids. Absolutely, that's me.

DEADLINE Have you always migrated to these roles?

MCSHANE I don't know when I first started getting the bad guy things. I guess **Sons** was the first big one, but I didn't really see him as a bad guy. I played a lot of cops as well, but sometimes they were dirty cops. I don't know. It's this Irish English Dutch mug I got, I guess. Hang on. One of my bunnies just jumped up on me.

DEADLINE I've always wondered about the use of the phrase 'character actor.' Is that a nice way of saying you don't look like Brad Pitt?

MCSHANE I heard Ruffalo say during an interview recently that he went to bed as a leading man and woke up a character actor. I thought that was hysterical. I take pride in being called a character actor. I mean, I'm very grateful and fortunate that I get to work a good amount and make a living and support my family. I left Jersey after eight, nine years of trying to act in New York and came out here to LA. It took me 12 years to get an agent. And then once that started kicking in, it's just been pretty magical. I've climbed the ladder pretty nicely.

DEADLINE Did you jump into *Task* after *1923*?

MCSHANE No, I did *Task* prior to *1923*. I went out there on Valentine's Day in 2024 to Philly, and then we filmed pretty much from March until early August. During that time I was back and forth to Ireland doing season 2 of *Wednesday*. And then when I wrapped with *Task*, I went to Austin, Texas, and they compressed all six episodes of *1923* into a month of shooting in Texas. After that I went back to Ireland to finish up *Wednesday*. It was wonderful. That was an incredible year for me. I started with *Bosch: Legacy*. It was right after the strike had ended, and I was fortunate enough to do *Bosch: Legacy* and then *Task*, *Wednesday* and *1923*. It was pretty remarkable and wonderful.

DEADLINE How was Perry described to you? I don't know how much time you spent with creator Brad Inglesby ahead of time talking about the role.

MCSHANE A good amount, Brad. There's so much established just in the writing. Brad is such an amazing writer. Basically, Perry was described as one of the leaders in the mother club of the Dark Hearts gang. And he was described as someone who moves very slowly until he has to be quick. I found him moving almost like an alligator or a shark. And yeah, he is a little bit off his rocker. That's what makes him so dangerous.

DEADLINE Is there is any humanity there?

MCSHANE There's tons of humanity.



DEADLINE He drowned a woman!

MCSHANE That was an accident. I gave Eryn [Margarita Levieva] a chance to get out. I even said, 'I will put you and the kids away where he'll never touch you.' And I meant that. And then I find out that she's the rat within our club. I track her car and was like, 'listen, I gave you a good way out. Now we got to handle it differently, which means I'm going to take you and I'm going to put you in front of Jayson [Sam Keeley] and tell him exactly what's up, and you're going to confess to him and Jayson's going to deal with you.' Not my problem. Jayson's going to deal with that both as head of the club and as her husband. So then she runs from me and I just impulsively chase her and then realize she's screaming and I'm in the water with this woman. There are a bunch of kids up in the hill having a little powwow. I just try to shut her up. I don't need to go back to jail or whatever. And finally I get her to shut up. I don't realize I've been holding her underwater. Then it's a look of, *oh my God, I can't believe I did this.* I did like this girl a lot, and I love Jayson, and this is his wife. And then kicks in the criminal side. What do I do with the body?

DEADLINE So where else is the humanity in Perry?

MCSHANE I think in his love for Jayson. He's treated him like a son and he's been good to him in the best way he can. I think Sam Keeley described it very well. He said Jayson is like this ferocious lion, and Perry's the lion tamer. But I think Perry truly loves him. And Perry loves being in the Dark Hearts. I do think Perry can be a loving guy, but he's also had this background.

DEADLINE The shootout in the woods was intense. Perry did try to convince Jayson to walk away.

MCSHANE Basically we go down there just to find Robbie [Tom Pelphrey]. We're going to meet him in the cabin to get the dope. We're going to deal with him however we decide to deal with him. And then all of a sudden as we're going by that bridge, we start hearing these voices and we see Robbie, the FBI guy. I'm like, all right, let's go back to the trucks. We'll regroup, see how this plays out. We shot that it in Wissahickon Park, which is referenced just outside of Philly. The bridge was actually about a four hour drive outside of Philly towards Pittsburgh. The bridge was in a very different location.

DEADLINE How was it shooting in Philly?

MCSHANE Oh, it was fantastic. You get to shoot in actual locations rather than a make believe thing in the middle of Europe when it's supposed to be New Hampshire or whatever.

DEADLINE How was it working with Tommy Pelphrey?

MCSHANE Oh my God, I think he's just mesmerizing on screen. I got to work with him in *Mank*. We only had one scene together. We didn't really have any dialogue, but I got to know him very well. I really love the guy, he's an incredible talent, and this is one of those roles that was just right for the right person at the right time. He just shines.

DEADLINE So what's to become of Perry in the finale?

MCSHANE He's going to hell, depending on what you believe. Perry is just trying to protect Jayson and his club, and at this point, he's accidentally killed Jayson's wife, and he's got to deal with that. Hopefully the body's not going to be found. How does he play this with Jayson?

DEADLINE How do folks react to you out in the wild? I have to think you were really hated after 1923.

MCSHANE It's funny, I don't get recognized right away for that one. I think because of the big hat, my face, and my mustache was a little fuller. I was dirtier. It's usually like, 'wait, what else have you been? That was you.' It's kind of one of those thingies.

DEADLINE Are you recognized for *Wednesday*?

MCSHANE Not as much as I thought I would because I look kind of like me and I act like me in *Wednesday*. I thought I'd get recognized a lot more for that than I have. Sometimes with little kids, it's so fun when they put it together or they're told that I'm the sheriff on *Wednesday*. You watch it pop in their head.

DEADLINE So what is next for you? A Hallmark movie?

MCSHANE I'm launching my own Hallmark card line with lots of bunnies on them.

VARIETY

‘Task’ Star Jamie McShane Breaks Down That Shocking Episode 5 Scene: ‘Perry Had No Intention of Killing [SPOILER]’

By Leia Mendoza, Oct. 5, 2025



Peter Kramer/HBO

SPOILER ALERT: *This story contains spoilers from “Vagrants,” Episode 5 of “Task,” now streaming on HBO Max.*

Amidst the backdrop of violent robberies of drug houses in Philadelphia, HBO’s “Task” revolves around a group of field agents spearheaded by the FBI who are all on a mission to find a missing child. As Tom Brandis (Mark Ruffalo) inches closer to uncovering who is behind the burglaries, the task force is challenged by Perry Dorazo (Jamie McShane), one of the leaders of the Dark Hearts motorcycle gang, who is also trying to find and kill whoever is responsible for robbing the local trap houses. With the FBI and the Dark Hearts both searching the Delaware County suburbs of Philly, each side finds themselves in a game of cat-and-mouse to find the culprit.

While the Dark Hearts have discovered that the man they’re looking for is Robbie Prendergast (Tom Pelphrey)— an unassuming garbage collector, not only responsible for the deaths of multiple gang members, but for kidnapping Sam (Ben Doherty) — Episode 5 follows Perry as he investigates the Prendergasts’ house for answers. As Perry begins to put together loose ends to uncover Sam’s whereabouts, he questions his own judgment after he murders Eryn (Margarita Levieva) — the wife of Jayson (Sam Keeley), his close confidante and surrogate son — in the lake near the woods, after he discovered Eryn lied to him.

McShane spoke with *Variety* about staging the shocking drowning sequence, on-set injuries while filming Episode 5, and working on Season 2 of “Wednesday.”

Perry visits the Prendergrast house in Episode 5, where he reunites with Maeve (Emilia Jones) after her father’s death. From Maeve’s perspective, she believes that Perry may have had something to do with her father’s murder, even though she doesn’t know that he was not involved in it. How do you imagine that Perry perceives seeing Maeve after all these years?

Even if she suspects Perry, he had nothing to do with Billy’s death. Perry didn’t even know about her father’s murder, and I don’t think he really gave that much thought when he showed up to the family’s house. He’s

just there to see what's going on, and he's shocked that she's such a big kid already. Even though he's talking to her, he's also doing his typical thing of trying to find further information to where Sam could be.

Throughout the season, Perry and the rest of the Dark Hearts look down on the task force as they're trying to find Sam. The FBI has their own way of dealing with crimes in the town, similar to how the Dark Hearts have their own techniques. With these two rival groups, who is better at keeping things clean?

The Dark Hearts have their ways of getting stuff done and finding things out that's going to be quicker and more effective in a way than the FBI. It depends how you define "clean," because for legal purposes in the show, the ones who do that are the task force. But if someone needs something or someone to be taken care of, or to prevent something from coming back around, that would be the Dark Hearts.

After Perry kills Eryn, he lingers around her body in utter shock. Even though Perry is the type of leader who can kill anyone with no remorse, in that moment, it almost feels like he regrets killing Eryn — especially because of how much he views Jason as a member of his family.

Perry had no intention of killing Eryn. He tells her that he gave her a clean way out of her situation, and now they have to handle it differently. When he tells her to go, he's telling her that he's taking her back to confess to Jayson, who will find his own way to deal with her. When she runs away, he's trying to get her until he realizes that those kids are up [on the cliff] partying and playing, and Eryn is just screaming bloody murder. He tries to get her to be quiet while he's looking up at the kids, and he's just not fully realizing what he's doing. When it hits him, he's horrified, but then within that moment, the gangster mentality clicks inside.

What was it like to shoot Eryn's death sequence, especially since the whole scene takes place in the woods and in the lake?

That was a brutal shoot. As soon as I tried to get up from the water, which is on all sorts of loose rocks, I went down hard, and I snapped a tendon in

my finger on the first take, and I couldn't straighten my right ring finger. They called the medic, because they had to see if it was broken or not. After every take, I literally had to pull my finger out and hold it. I went to Texas to film "1923" after working on "Task" where I had to shoot guns the whole time, and my finger was still messed up.

On the last take, when Perry is walking away after floating Eryn's body out, I didn't want to go back to where I'd fallen, so I went to a deeper area. I forgot that they told me not to go that way, and while the cameras were still rolling, I smashed my left shin on a jagged rock. So by the time I got out of there and got to urgent care, I'm walking in with my pants rolled up and my legs bleeding, and the nurses were like "Oh, you're here for your leg," and I told them "No, I'm here for my finger, but you might as well check that out too."

Earlier this year, you returned to your role as Sheriff Galpin on Netflix's "Wednesday." Between that role and your part as Perry, they're two incredibly different performances that you filmed around the same time. What is that experience like as you were jumping between the two?

I was so fortunate to get both these roles. Working on "Wednesday" was interesting, because we filmed in Romania for Season 1. With Season 2, they filmed in Ireland. Even though I'm not in a lot of scenes, it was enough where they had to fly me back and forth between shooting on "Task." Luckily, my beard looked the same on both shows. After I was done working on "1923," I went back to Ireland [to film "Wednesday"].

It was so incredibly fun to be back for Season 2, but I will say that "Task" is the best show I've ever done in my career. It was absolutely fantastic to be a part of those two shows.

Men's Health

Jamie McShane Makes *Task* His Latest Underrated Standout Role

There's a reason he looks so familiar.

By Evan Romano, Sept. 15, 2025



A GOOD HBO show can be a lot of things. First and foremost, of course, it can be a great story—compelling, thrilling, and full of all the great characters and actors that the prestige cable force has long been known for. But it can also serve as a way for a large audience of people to discover some new favorite actors, and for some of those future favorite actors to get significant parts in much-watched projects that happen to change their public perception in a big way.

Let's look at the cast of *Mare of Easttown*—which comes from Brad Inglesby, the same creator as HBO's ongoing thriller *Task*—for a second. Kate Winslet led that series as the titular detective, but the cast also included acclaimed turns for the likes of Julianne Nicholson, Evan Peters (both of whom won Emmys), and Jean Smart. It featured a great Guy Pearce performance only a couple years before his Academy Award-nominated renaissance part in *The Brutalist*, and it featured an early Cailee Spaeny role a couple years before her star began to really grow in films like *Civil War*, *Alien: Romulus*, and *Priscilla*.

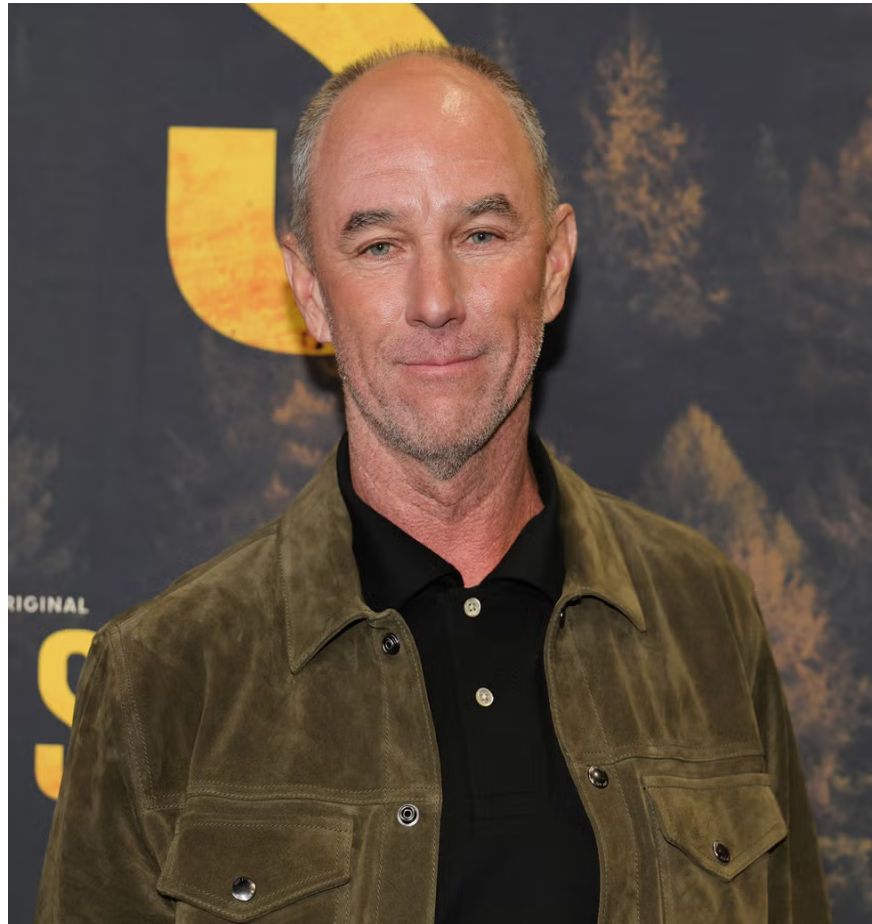
Task has the chance to do just that for a whole new group of performers—and some early performances are already jumping off the screen. Obviously the star of *Task* is Mark Ruffalo, but as the star of some of the biggest movies of all time and a four-time Academy Award nominee (most recently for *Poor Things*) he's already known by just about everyone. His co-lead in *Task* is Tom Pelphrey, who seems destined for his own breakout, and they're both joined by Emilia Jones, who caught lots of attention when she played the lead role in *CODA*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

But sometimes an HBO show can give the opportunity for a longtime character actor to get a part that really lets them shine and earn a spot on the public consciousness. In *Task*, that may just be actor Jamie McShane, who plays Perry—the calm and threatening leader of the Dark Hearts motorcycle gang. In the show's second episode, "Family Statements," we see a couple scenes where Perry realizes the mess that's been born out of his gang's criminal operation, violence, and drug trafficking—and tasks (no pun intended) one of his trusted lieutenants, Jayson (Sam Keeley) with cleaning it up. The two share a particularly charged and emotional scene sitting outside.

Through the first two episodes of *Task*, much of the show has been centered on the two forces that seem destined to eventually come to a head: FBI Agent Tom (Ruffalo) and criminal Robbie (Pelphrey). But what the show continues to reveal as it pulls the curtain further and further back is that those really are two decent guys—both on a different side of the same coin, both with their own troubles, and both are going to have to deal with a *serious* problem when it comes to the Dark Hearts.

But it's McShane's chilling performance as their leader, Perry, that starts to really bring that all together.

Jamie McShane plays Perry, the leader of the Dark Hearts motorcycle gang on HBO's *Task*



While the role of Perry in *Task* might be McShane's highest profile and most compelling to date, he's one of those classic actors who you discover—and then realize he's kind of been around forever, and been in a bit of everything.

He's shown up in numerous notable feature films in the last 25 years, including playing a referee in 2006's sports drama *Gridiron Gang*, alongside lead Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Additional film roles include parts in the Colin Farrell/Edward Norton police drama *Pride and Glory*, David Fincher's *Gone Girl*, and even a part as a SHIELD agent in *Thor* (which was later replayed during a sequence in *The Avengers*). McShane's biggest on-screen role to date was re-teaming with Fincher in *Mank*—which also starred *Task*'s Tom Pelphrey—where he played the test shot director and friend of Gary Oldman's titular character.

Task is just the latest of what has been an extremely prolific TV career for McShane, however. Fans of Netflix's *Wednesday* will likely recognize him as the show's Sheriff Donovan Galpin (father of main character Tyler), but he's also appeared in key roles in shows like *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *1923*, *Bloodline*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Southland*, and *CSI: Vegas*.

He also showed up in either one-off or shorter recurring parts in shows like *Deadwood*, *24*, *The X-Files*, *The West Wing*, *CSI: Miami*, *Monk*, and way more. In short, the man was, and continues to be, a working actor. He works hard, and seems to always deliver—the parts have just gotten bigger.

We're excited to see what McShane does in the rest of *Task*—and where his interesting career goes from here.

COLLIDER



By Jen Vestuto
Published Sep 15, 2025

Jamie McShane may not be a household name, but he's one of those actors **whose presence is instantly recognizable**. His face has become familiar across film and television, from prestige dramas to crime thrillers, and his performances carry a commanding mix of intensity and vulnerability. In recent years, he's proven his versatility with his newly acclaimed turn in HBO's *Task* and his brief but impactful appearance in the final season of *Bosch: Legacy*, where he returned as his character from the flagship series. But long before those roles, McShane made his mark in one of the most unforgiving corners of television: FX's *Sons of Anarchy*. The biker drama, created by **Kurt Sutter**, was notorious for its brutality and moral ambiguity. In a world

filled with betrayals, shifting alliances, **and shocking deaths, McShane managed to deliver one of the show's most chilling performances.** As Cameron Hayes, a member of the Irish Republican Army, he embodied a character who was simultaneously ruthless and heartbreakingly human.

Jamie McShane Walked the Line of Ally and Villain in 'Sons of Anarchy'



Image via FX

Cameron Hayes was first introduced as an ally to the **Sons of Anarchy Motorcycle Club** in Season 1, working closely with leader Clay Morrow (**Ron Perlman**) and his stepson Jax Teller (**Charlie Hunnam**), on gun-running operations and serving as a key link to the IRA. At first, he seemed like just another hardened criminal in the show's roster, but **McShane gave Hayes a distinctive weight that highlighted the series' central themes of family and legacy.** His bond with his son, Edmond (**Callard Harris**), grounded Cameron's criminal ties in a story of loyalty and vulnerability.

Season 2 pushed that bond to a breaking point. Pressured by the ATF, Edmond agreed to cooperate in exposing members of the IRA, including his own father. When he was killed in a scuffle with an agent, the blame was pinned on Gemma Teller (**Katey Sagal**). Hearing over a police radio that his son was dead and that Gemma was supposedly

responsible, Cameron was shattered. **McShane played the moment with devastating rawness, transforming from hardened criminal to inconsolable father** in an instant. It was the emotional turning point that set Cameron on a path of violent retribution.

That path reached its peak in the season's climax. Consumed by grief and rage, Cameron held Tara Knowles (**Maggie Siff**) at gunpoint, killed one of the Sons, and abducted Jax's infant son, Abel, as an act of revenge. The cliffhanger, which ended with Cameron fleeing to Belfast with the baby, was one of **the series' most harrowing moments**. McShane's performance made the betrayal unforgettable, not as the act of a one-note villain, but of a father destroyed by loss. In a show already filled with **brutal betrayals and shocking twists, Cameron Hayes stood out as one of *Sons of Anarchy's* most haunting antagonists**, with McShane's layered portrayal turning him into a key figure in the show's early family-driven tragedy.

Jamie McShane's 'Sons of Anarchy' Role Set the Tone For His Career



Revisiting McShane's work on *Sons of Anarchy* reveals qualities that have defined his career ever since. When a show needs an actor who can believably play a villain yet expose the vulnerability beneath the surface, they turn to Jamie McShane. **He excels at**

portraying characters who feel frighteningly real and grounded, oftentimes playing villains, but there's much more to them than **the harm they inflict** or the crimes they commit.

McShane is proving it once again in **HBO's *Task***, where he plays Perry, a senior member of the Dark Hearts biker gang. The character is menacing and explosively violent, but, in McShane's hands, he's never one-dimensional. Instead, he imbues Perry with empathy, allowing viewers to understand his motivations even as his actions grow darker. **It's a performance that mirrors the best of Cameron Hayes**, grounded in menace, but layered with humanity that makes the character resonate.

McShane brought the same depth to the final season of *Bosch: Legacy*, **reprising his role** as corrupt cop Frank Sheehan. Originally arrested by Harry Bosch (**Titus Welliver**) in the flagship series, Sheehan returned seeking vengeance against Honey Chandler (**Mimi Rogers**). Though his return was brief, **McShane's presence carried a weight that not only had an impact on the scenes he was in, but created a ripple effect** that set the tone for the rest of the show's last season.

What makes McShane so compelling is his refusal to lean on clichés. Whether he's a grieving father, a corrupt official, or a cold-blooded villain, **he always finds the human edge** inside the horror. That unpredictability is what made Cameron Hayes unforgettable, and it's **what continues to make McShane's performances resonate across genres**. He's the kind of actor who may not seek the lead spotlight but consistently leaves a lasting impact, carving out a reputation as one of the best at portraying complex, layered characters.

Looking back, it's clear his *Sons of Anarchy* arc set the tone **for everything that followed**. McShane has built a career not on marquee stardom but on a steady stream of performances that leave a lasting impact. In every performance, McShane has proven himself as **one of television's most quietly brilliant performers**. His name may not always dominate the headlines, but his work never goes unnoticed, because when Jamie McShane is on-screen, you know you're about to watch something memorable.

All seasons of *Sons of Anarchy* are available to stream on Hulu, while *Task* premieres new episodes every Sunday on HBO.