

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1988.00.00.c](#)

DATE: Circa 1988

LOCATION: "Off the coast of Sydney", New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Ryan Kwanten

DESCRIPTION: He was a 12-year-old male.

NARRATIVE: "I fell off the top of the board trying to do a fancy move and put my hand down into what I thought was the top of a sand bank and it went straight into the mouth of a shark," he said. "I yanked it out, and blood spurted out. I could see the lifeguard rushing down from his tower."

INJURY: Minor injury to hand

SPECIES: "They did an analysis at the hospital that said it was a wobbegong shark, which is, like, a shark with no teeth. I didn't get bitten, I got gummed (but) there are scars to prove it."



Ryan Kwanten at age 34.
An actor, he has a starring role on
HBO's hit vampire drama: *True
Blood*

Ryan Kwanten's Shark Attack Anecdote

True Blood star Ryan Kwanten chose not to follow his father into surfing after one scary encounter with a shark put him off riding the waves.

The Aussie actor, whose father [Eddie Kwanten] was a champion paddle boarder, still surfs but his passion for the sport took a hit at the age of 12, when he found himself staring into the mouth of a shark off the coast of Sydney.

He explains, "I fell off the top of a wave and put my hand down, expecting to get the sand bank and it went straight into the mouth of a shark... (but) it was a wobbegong shark; it's got more gums than teeth...I didn't get bitten, I got gummed (but) there are scars to prove it."

SOURCE: Star Pulse, July 8, 2010,
http://www.starpulse.com/news/index.php/2010/07/08/ryan_kwantens_shark_attack_anecdote_

Crikey! Ryan Kwanten Survived a Shark Attack Down Under

Ryan Kwanten might play a lovably inept womanizer on *True Blood*, but in real life he's more than capable. In fact, he's basically superman. In an interview with *New York Magazine*, Ryan chats about his life, and how trouble always seems to find him.

"I was 12 years old (*Kwanten was born November 28, 1976*). I was surfing. I fell off the top of the board trying to do a fancy move and put my hand down into what I thought was the top of a sand bank. I yanked it out, and blood spurted out. I could see the lifeguard rushing down from his tower. They did an analysis at the hospital that said it was a wobbegong shark, which is, like, a shark with no teeth. It just has gums. So I theoretically didn't get bitten by a shark — [laughs] I got gummed by a shark."

Ryan's life story gets even more epic — just a few months ago, he did his part to save a man's life. He says, "I was heading home on a quiet Saturday, and there was a young guy lying in the middle of a busy intersection in Hollywood, just bleeding. So I jumped out of the car and [another man] came over, and together we lifted him off the road and checked his vitals. Then a couple minutes later, the ambulance took him away. Never saw him again." Sigh, our hero!

When it comes to *True Blood*, Ryan remains tight-lipped, but he does hint at some sibling bonding moments between Jason and Sookie: "Jason is really in a world of his own for certainly the first half of this season. Anna and I only have maybe two to four scenes together at most each season. Inevitably, we come together at some point — 'Well, I almost died another time!' It's always about an emotional high point. There's a couple of really sweet scenes that I have this year with Anna. It's some of my favorite stuff to do." Three more days and we'll know exactly what he's talking about

SOURCE: Mehera Bonne, *Wetpaint.com*, June 23, 2011,
<http://www.wetpaint.com/true-blood/articles/crikey-ryan-kwanten-survived-a-shark-attack-down-under>



Photo Credit: David Livingston/Stringer

'True Blood' star talks shark attack and surfing on 'The Getaway'

Ryan Kwanten, who plays hunk Jason Stackhouse on "True Blood," is no stranger to blood and bites. After all, he's been bitten by bloodsuckers too many times to count on HBO's hit vampire drama.

But he's also a shark-attack survivor, a fact he brings up in his episode of Esquire Network's new show, "The Getaway," which follows various celebrities as they explore different cities. Kwanten's episode focuses on Los Angeles.

In a clip that the network is sharing exclusively with TODAY, the Australian actor explains that because of his run-in with a shark as a child, he has great respect for lifeguards. But the experience hasn't made him shy away from surfing. In fact, Kwanten revealed in the video that he competes in Surf Life Saving, a competitive sport derived from some of the training lifeguards go through. "I started competing in Surf Life Saving at the ripe old age of 5 back in Australia, which happens to be where the sport was invented in 1907," Kwanten said before hitting the waters of Hermosa Beach to train with local lifeguards.

The "True Blood" star's episode of "The Getaway" — a series produced by Anthony Bourdain — will also follow the actor to different neighborhoods for some of his favorite eats and watering holes, as well as outdoorsy areas for exercise.

"The Getaway" airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on Esquire Network.

SOURCE: Anna Chan, Today Entertainment, October 30, 2013, <http://www.today.com/entertainment/true-blood-star-talks-shark-attack-surfing-getaway-8C11496676>



Esquire Network

One way "True Blood" star Ryan Kwanten stays in shape is by participating in Surf Life Saving competitions.

Kwanten had full frontal moments on set

Ryan Kwanten has revealed he wasn't always able to retain his modesty while filming nude scenes in the raunchy vampire drama, *True Blood*. The Aussie actor said the sock used to keep him covered while he was filming nude scenes or sex scenes had a habit of falling off. The actor made the revelation during an interview on Kiis 1065's Kyle & Jackie O show on Thursday. "There really is a skin coloured sock tied in a neat little bow," he said he told the breakfast duo. "It doesn't always stay so neat, doesn't stay on, but that's the intention," he revealed.

The actor, who was first known for his role as Vinnie Patterson in *Home & Away*, won the role of Jason Stackhouse in *True Blood*, the popular HBO series which ran for seven seasons. But Kwanten revealed it wasn't all plain-sailing for him when he first moved to Hollywood. He says he was there for four years before he landed the part in *True Blood*. "I definitely went through a small struggle period," he said. "But it's one of those professions where the harder you work, the luckier

you get." He also remained modest about the success of the show, saying they were "lucky" the show hit the vampire phase at a time when it was flourishing.

The actor also cleared up a rumour that he had been bitten by a shark. The surfer said the event had happened, but it wasn't as dramatic as it sounded because it was a bite from a Wobbegong shark which isn't particularly harmful. "I fell off my board at one point hoping to get the sandbreak but instead it (his hand) went straight into a Wobbegong's mouth," he said. "It was painful but it certainly wasn't a shark attack as you imagine it."

The star is in Australia as an ambassador for the McDonald's charity McHappy Day.

SOURCE: The West Australian, October 16, 2014

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/25272580/kwanten-had-full-frontal-moments-on-set/>