

MODERN LUXURY

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THE
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The Most
Serene
Sanctuaries
on the
Market
Across the
Country



Untitled Supper
Club Goes
Roaring '20s &
Daniel Kyri
Heats Up
Chicago Fire

Poetic
Justice

Hailee Steinfeld
Revolutionizes the
Period Piece

FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

Theater veteran Daniel Kyri steps into the national spotlight with a groundbreaking role on *Chicago Fire*.

BY J.P. ANDERSON

With memorable turns in shows like Steppenwolf's *Ms. Blakk for President* (a world premiere from star playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney) and the Goodman Theatre's *Objects in the Mirror*, Daniel Kyri made an immediate impact when he first set foot on the Chicago stage. Now he's drawing attention on NBC hit series *Chicago Fire* as openly gay firefighter Darren Ritter—one of the few Black queer characters on TV. As the 28-year-old Jackson Park Highlands native transitions to a series regular in the ratings smash's ninth season, we caught up with the rising star to talk inspiration, making it in Chicago and the importance of representation.



As a native Chicagoan, how does it feel to be back home acting on one of the hottest shows on TV? It's so dope. I never would have imagined this would be my trajectory, but I'm happy it's a part of my story now. I'm so proud of my city and family and my artist homies—they taught me how to hustle. It's a dream to be able to share with them the fruits of our combined labor.

What does it mean to you to represent the Black queer community? I'm honored. I believe to my core that adequate representation can be lifesaving. As kids, if we don't see ourselves represented in the stories we consume, it can feel as though we do not or should not exist. Shifting that paradigm is a process I'm happy to be part of. My character, Darren Ritter, is an openly gay Black first responder who kicks ass and saves lives. Hopefully, some little queer child or Black child or queer Black child will see me and know that we are everywhere, can be anywhere and that we belong.

You're a veteran stage actor and are slated to appear in *Choir Boy* at Steppenwolf in 2021.

What do you enjoy most about the stage?

I enjoy the immediacy of live performance. And I miss rehearsing! There is such liberty in theater, such freedom to explore and fail and try all over again.

What actor or director in the industry has inspired you most? Will Smith as an actor has been one of my favorites for as long as I've been watching TV and film. A rapper who seized his opportunity and used it to elevate his craft—his career has left the door wide open for so many like me following in his footsteps.

What is your dream role? I am obsessed with James Baldwin. I just finished a reread of *The Fire Next Time* and am moving on to a couple of texts about his life. I am so inspired by his poise, his spirit, his intellect, and how he marshaled each for the liberation and advancement of our people. So anything Uncle Jimmy—I'd be all over it.