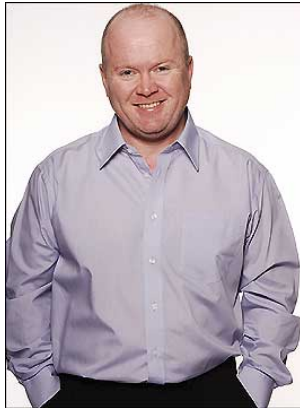




### Steve McFadden



Steve McFadden was born in the Maida Vale area of London on 20 March 1959, the only child of Robert and Barbara Reid. His parents separated soon afterwards and his mother later married a man called John McFadden, who adopted Steve and gave him his new surname.

He gained 'O' and 'A' Level passes in Sociology and Politics before enrolling at North London Polytechnic University on an Economics course. Just seven weeks after starting, he withdrew himself from university and decided that he wanted to become an actor. So he joined the acting group RADA in 1984, and in his first year there won a prize for creating his own drama piece called "*Best Fight*" - which included many characters who were based on his own friends.

After graduating from the RADA he made his acting debut in the television film *The Firm* which aired in 1988. That same year he had an unaccredited role in the film *Buster* as a gang member. This was followed by guest appearances in the television series "*The Bill*", "*Minder*" and "*Bergerac*".

Steve became famous for playing 'hard man' Phil Mitchell in the BBC soap opera "*EastEnders*". He joined "*EastEnders*" in the beginning of 1990, at the same time as Ross Kemp, who played Phil's younger brother Grant Mitchell. During that time, his character has been involved in numerous ratings-pulling storylines such as Sharongate, the River Thames car crash and the most notable 'Who Shot Phil?' storyline where his character was shot and wounded by a mystery attacker. The identity of the attacker was revealed weeks later as Phil's girlfriend Lisa, who was ironically played by Lucy Benjamin - Steve's real-life girlfriend at the time.

Since playing the role of Phil Mitchell, Steve has also made a brief appearance in the film "*Kevin & Perry Go Large*" and starred in an episode of the BBC1 anthology series "*Murder in Mind*". Steve left "*EastEnders*" in 2003 for a one-year break doing pantomimes. He briefly returned to "*EastEnders*" in March 2005 and then six months later he returned again on a permanent basis. He is still with "*EastEnders*" and is now the second longest serving male character after Ian Beale.