



Leather jacket by Armani; sweater by BOSS Black;
Screen t-shirt by Buckler; Jeans by Kenneth Cole

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William BALDWIN

ABC's *Dirty Sexy Money*

WILLIAM BALDWIN, WHO HAS JUST RELOCATED from his beloved New York, is in the middle of returning an item to the store that he's just bought for his new digs in Los Angeles.

"We literally packed a hundred boxes," he says with what sounds like a half-laugh, half-sigh. He and wife Chynna Phillips and their three children—daughters Jamison and Brooke, and son Vance—uprooted for good reason: He's starring in the hotly anticipated ABC series *Dirty Sexy Money*. Baldwin describes the show, about the trials and tribulations of the Darlings, a wealthy, politically connected Manhattan family, as "sort of a train wreck between the substance and scandal of the Kennedys and America's tabloid fascination with Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, etc."

"I protested to an extent about filming a show based in New York, which is so vibrant a city that it's almost a cast member itself, in Los Angeles," says Baldwin, who plays Patrick Darling, a New York attorney general mulling a Senate run despite serious skeletons in his closet. "Ultimately, though, can we be a great show without it? Of course. At the end of the day, if I had a chance to be on a great show set in New York and not get picked up or canceled, as opposed to being in a marginal show that lasted 12 years on the air, obviously I'm in it to work."

Dirty Sexy Money, with a powerhouse cast that includes Donald Sutherland, Jill Clayburgh and Peter Krause, marks a return to the mainstream for the third of four acting Baldwin brothers (Alec, Daniel and Stephen). William's most recent films include indies like the critically lauded *The Squid and the Whale*. Definitely respectable, but a far cry from the early '90s, when, within a few years of leaving college and getting an agent, he'd appeared in studio films with no less than Tom Cruise, Richard Gere, Robert De Niro and Sharon Stone: *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Internal Affairs*, *Flatliners*, *Backdraft*, *Sliver*.

"It almost happened too fast. If I could do it over again, I would do it differently," he admits. "It probably would have been better if I rooted myself in theater before vaulting into roles in major Hollywood films. Not that I didn't want to, but things took off sooner than I was prepared to handle."

Nowadays, it's family first. "If I could have my cake and eat it, I'd keep my family up in Bedford, where we were living, and continue to spoil my kids rotten!" he says with a laugh. "I would much prefer to keep them insulated from the whole Hollywood thing. It's like Chynna, growing up around unpredictable, unstable people," he says, referring to his wife of 12 years, the daughter of John and Michelle Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas, and one-third of the platinum-selling pop group Wilson Phillips. "It's a real testament to her strength. She so easily could have wound up one of those kids who had no motivation, ambition—the Kimberly Stewart of her generation. I'm sure Lionel Richie, when Nicole and Paris were playing together at age nine, didn't foresee what happened to them happening. I don't want that [for] my kids. In my perfect world, Jamison will be at MIT when she's 19."

Tabloid threats aside, Baldwin says he's ready to embrace the City of Angels full time, equating his move both personally and professionally to that of a '49er lured by the discovery at Sutter's Mill. "I told my wife when we were getting ready to move out here, 'Now I know how the prospectors in the 1840s felt when they would go out West panning for gold.' There's so much uncertainty. Of 300 pitches, 50 scripts are ordered, 15 pilots picked up, three shows picked up, and then two get canceled. The odds are like the California lottery. If we're an out-of-the-box smash, or get picked up for a full order of season two, I feel like I'm gonna shout out 'Eureka!' like the prospectors when they struck gold." —Stacie Houglund