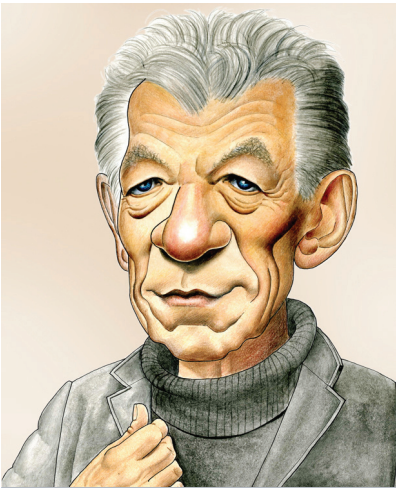


Sir Ian McKellen turns 70



■ **1939:** Born May 25, in Burnley, UK

■ **1958-61:** Pursues love of acting at Cambridge University

■ **1960s-70s:** One of England's leading stage actors, excelling in Shakespearian roles

■ **1980:** Wins Tony Award on Broadway, as **Salieri** in **Amadeus**

■ **1988:** Publicly declares his homosexuality and becomes active campaigner for gay rights

■ **1998:** Oscar-nominated for role as director **James Whale** in **Gods and Monsters**

■ **2000s:** Wins generation of new fans with film roles as **Magneto** in **X-Men** series and **Gandalf** in **The Lord of the Rings** trilogy

■ **2009:** Wins rave reviews as **Estragon** in **Waiting for Godot** in London's West End