

Bruce Willis: Retiring From Acting

By: Kirsten Mueller



Bruce Willis is 67 years old and “best known for playing John McClane in the iconic *Die Hard* franchise” (The Hollywood Reporter). Before this, he was mostly known for his comedic tv-series *Moonlighting* (1985-89), for which landed a 1987 Emmy award. Later on, he landed a guest role in the tv-series *Friends* and won another Emmy award for his role in 2000. Willis has also starred in the Blockbusters “*The Fifth Element* (1997), *Armageddon* (1998), and *The Sixth Sense* (1999). Willis’ other classics include *The Last Boy Scout* (1991), *Death Becomes Her* (1992) *Pulp Fiction* (1994), and *12 Monkeys* (1995). In recent years, Willis largely starred in lower-budget films, though he did appear in *Glass* (2019), the high-profile sequel to *Unbreakable* (2000).” Throughout all of his roles, most people know him best from the movies that many people debate

is a Christmas movie, *Die Hard*.

Released this week, (March 30) the family of Bruce Willis came out and said that Bruce will be retiring from acting due to his recent diagnosis of Aphasia. Aphasia is “a language disorder caused by damage in a specific area of the brain that controls language expression and comprehension. Aphasia leaves a person unable to communicate effectively with others” (John Hopkins Medicine). There are two different types of Aphasia: Broca’s Aphasia and Wernicke’s Aphasia. Broca’s Aphasia is when there is damage to the front of the language side of the brain, and Wernicke’s Aphasia is when there is damage to the side of the language portion of the brain. His family posted on Instagram Wednesday, “Our beloved Bruce has been experiencing some health issues and has recently been diagnosed with aphasia, which is impacting his cognitive abilities” (Rumer Willis). Aphasia can be caused by a stroke, head injury, brain tumor, infection, dementia, etc. The condition can come on suddenly, particularly in the wake of a stroke, and “occurs mostly in patients over the age of 65, but can develop at any age” (The New York Times).

To try and prevent developing Aphasia it is recommended to, “Eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and watch out for stroke risk factors like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes. Smoking can also elevate your risk for stroke and aphasia.” (The New York Times). Although this does not guarantee that this will completely prevent the development of Aphasia. A few treatments for Aphasia can include Speech and Occupational therapy. There are also impairment-based therapies, which involve “evaluating and targeting specific reading, speaking, and writing skills through activities like fill-in-the-blank exercises and training patients to remember synonyms and antonyms” (The New York Times). Even supports groups are available for people to gather and see that there are others suffering from this condition as well and to show that they are not alone through this. Sending compassion and support to Bruce Willis and his family as they deal with this hard time.