

## **BIOGRAPHY OF MEL JOHNSON JR.**

MEL JOHNSON JR. Actor/Director/Producer-Though easily recognizable from his TOTAL RECALL co-starring role opposite ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Mel is equally comfortable these days discussing the production of his one man show "Frederick Douglass In The Shadow Of Slavery" which had it's extremely successful world premiere in California at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, as he is discussing his work with such companies as Goldman Sachs, American Express and Credit Suisse as a corporate councilor.

While living in Los Angeles, Mel was the Executive Producer of Shadow Entertainment's Urban Horror label "Big City Pictures", he produced four feature films "Ragdoll", "The Horrible Dr. Bones", "Killjoy" and "The Vault" – All of which can be found on video. Mel was also the Artistic Director of The Imagination Workshop, a group of actor's, writers, and directors that work within the psychiatric community and with kids at risk. He's extremely proud of the fact that during his tenure as Artistic Director, The Imagination workshop won the first Ovation Award given to a company for "Outstanding Community Outreach."

Mel has countless credits from a resume that reflects his work on stage, screen and television. As a theater director his work is best embodied by the award winning "Give'em Hell Harry" starring JASON ALEXANDER, "Oscar To Oscar", "The Me Nobody Knows", "The Ballad of Lizard Gulch" and the critically acclaimed "The Last White Man in the World". Most recently he directed the World Premiere of Tom Dugan's one man show "Robert E Lee, Shades of Gray" at Richmond Virginia's Carpenter Center.

When his acting career is mentioned, Mel finds it difficult to point to his most significant work, but can quickly identify the roles that gave him the most pleasure. In addition to his film work, the list includes Broadway stints in "On The Twentieth Century", "Eubie!" with Maurice and Gregory Hines, "The Rink" with Liza Minnelli, and Chita Rivera. Bob Fosse's "Big Deal" Mufasa in "The Lion King", starring in the new Earth, Wind and Fire musical, "Hot Feet!, featured in the musical revival of "Jekyll and Hyde" and most recently he was featured in the musical revival of "Kiss Me Kate". Mel would be remiss if he didn't mention his long standing relationship with The New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theatre, where among many he starred in the revival of the musical "Two Gentleman Of Verona" for The Festivals, Shakespeare In The Park Off -Broadway Mel was featured in Stephen Sondheim's "Road Show" and most recently he was featured in the new musical "Paradise Lost". On television he just completed his duties as a regular on the upcoming season of the AMC series "The Terror". He was a regular on David Lynch's "On The Air" and guest starred on numerous other T.V. shows from "Jessica Jones" and "The Blacklist", to "Star Trek Deep Space Nine" and "Fresh Prince of Bel Air". Mel has always found it extremely rewarding sharing with other what he has learned from education, at the High School of Performing Arts and Hofstra University and his vast life experience. He has taught classes in both New York and Los Angeles, coached individually and spoken with numerous schools, colleges and community organizations around the country. MEL JOHNSON JR. is as excited about his future as he is proud of his past accomplishments.