Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James Earl Jones

Jones, James Earl

Alternative Names: James Earl Jones;

Life Dates: January 17, 1931-

Place of Birth: Arkabutla, Mississippi, USA

Work: Pawling, NY

Occupations: Actor

Biographical Note

Actor James Earl Jones was born on January 17, 1931 to Robert Earl Jones and Ruth Connolly in Arkabutla, Mississippi. When Jones was five years old, his family moved to Dublin, Michigan. He graduated from Dickson High School in Brethren, Michigan in 1949. In 1953, Jones participated in productions at Manistee Summer Theatre. After serving in the U.S. Army for two years, Jones received his B.A. degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1955.

Jones won his first Tony Award in 1969 for The Great White Hope. He then received his second Tony Award for his portrayal of Troy Maxson in Fences. In 1991, Jones received Emmy Awards for his roles in Gabriel’s Fire and Heat Wave. In recognition of his fifty plus
years in acting, Jones received an Honorary Academy Award in 2011.

Jones has one child, Flynn Earl Jones, with his late wife, actress Cecilia Hart.

James Earl Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 10, 2016.

Related Entries

Dickson High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

American Theatre Wing [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

University of Michigan [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

B.A. degree

Dr. Strangelove [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor

The Gin Game [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor

The Egghead (Broadway) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1957 to ?]

Understudy

Wedding in Japan [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1957 to ?]

Understudy

Sunrise at Campobello (Broadway) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1958 to ?]

Actor

Henry V (Shakespeare in Central Park) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1960 to ?]

Actor

The Pretender [EmployeeOf]
[from 1960 to ?]

Actor

The Blacks [EmployeeOf]
[from 1961 to ?]

Actor

East Side, West Side (CBS) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1963 to ?]

Actor

Othello (Shakespeare in Central Park) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1964 to ?]

Actor

The Great White Hope (play) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1969 to ?]

Actor

The Great White Hope (film) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1970 to ?]

Actor

Of Mice & Men (Broadway) [EmployeeOf]
[from 1974 to ?]

Actor

Star Wars Film Trilogy [EmployeeOf]
[from 1977 to 1983]
**Fences** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1987 to ?]

Actor

**The Field of Dreams** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1989 to ?]

Actor

**Gabriel's Fire** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1989 to 1991]

Actor

**Heat Wave** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1991 to ?]

Actor

**The Lion King** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1994 to ?]

Actor

**On Golden Pond (Broadway)** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2005 to ?]

Actor

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Broadway)** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2008 to ?]

Actor

**The Best Man (Broadway)** [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2012 to ?]

Actor

**American Theatre Wing** [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Student

**American Theatre Wing** [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]
Instructor

Manistee Summer Theater Company [Member Of]
[from 1953 to 1957]