

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Laurence Fishburne

PERSON

Fishburne, Laurence, III, 1961-

Alternative Names: Laurence Fishburne;

Life Dates: July 30, 1961-

Place of Birth: Augusta , Georgia, USA

Work: Burbank, California

Occupations: Film Actor

Biographical Note

Actor Laurence Fishburne was born on July 30, 1961 in Augusta, Georgia to Hattie Bell Fishburne and Laurence Fishburne, Sr. He attended Julia Richmond High School and later graduated from Lincoln Square Academy in 1979.

In 1971, at age ten, Fishburne appeared in his first play *In My Many Names* and Days at the New Federal Theater. In 1973, Fishburne made his television debut in the role of Joshua Hall on the ABC soap opera *One Life to Live*. He made his film debut two years later in *Cornbread, Earl and Me*; and, in that same year, he joined the Negro Ensemble Company. In 1976, at the age of fourteen, Fishburne was cast as Tyrone Miller in Frances Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, and was sent to the Philippines for location filming. Fishburne returned to the U.S. in 1979, and moved to Los Angeles, California. In 1983, he was featured in *Rumble Fish* based on the novel by S.E. Hinton, and later appeared in *The Cotton Club* as Bumpy Rhodes in 1984. The following year, he was cast as Swain in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple* and also starred Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey. Fishburne later portrayed Cowboy Curtis on *Pee-wee's Playhouse* and also appeared in films such as *Quicksilver*, *School Daze*, and *Cadence*.

In 1991, Fishburne starred in John Singleton's *Boyz n the Hood* as Furious Styles. Two years later, he starred opposite Angela Bassett, portraying Ike Turner in *What's Love Got to Do with It*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award. In 1994, Fishburne made his theatrical directorial debut and starred in *Riff Raff*. He was then cast in the title role for the film adaptation of *Othello*, and later portrayed Caleb Humphries in *Miss Evers' Boys*. In 1999, Fishburne starred in *The Matrix* as Morpheus, co-starring Keanu Reeves. The following year, he made his screenwriting and directorial debut in *Once in the Life*. He also appeared in several films including: *Mystic River*, *Biker Boyz*, *The Matrix Reloaded*, *The Matrix Revolutions*, *Akeelah* and

the Bee, Mission: Impossible III, Five Fingers, Bobby, and voiced the role of the Silver Surfer in Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer. In 2007, Fishburne portrayed Thurgood Marshall in the Broadway production of Thurgood; and, in 2008, he landed a recurring role as Raymond Langston on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Fishburne was later featured in films such as, Contagion, Predators, Have a Little Faith, Man of Steel, The Colony, and Ride Along. In 2014, he was cast in the role of Pops in the television series Black-ish; and, in 2017, he portrayed the Bowery King in John Wick: Chapter 2, reprising the role in 2019, in John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum.

Among several awards and nominations, Fishburne was nominated for an Academy Award, has won two Emmy Awards and was nominated seven times. He also received a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Featured Role in 1992.

Laurence Fishburne was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 4, 2019.

Related Entries

P.S. 321 William Penn Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S. 88 Peter Rouget School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Woodward School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Julia Richman High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lincoln Square Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

American Broadcasting Company (ABC) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

American International Pictures [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

United Artists [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Orion Pictures [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Warner Bros. Pictures [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Columbia Broadcasting System [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

20th Century Fox Television [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Columbia Pictures [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Touchstone Pictures [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Warner Bros. Pictures [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Actor - Film and Television

Negro Ensemble Company [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1975 to 1975]

Cast