

TED LANGE

Director - Author - Actor

Biography

“The duty of the Artist is to find his muse then let her rip.”

TED LANGE certainly exemplifies the Renaissance Man Theatre Award that he received from the NAACP in Los Angeles and the Heroes and Legends HAL Lifetime Achievement Award. A prolific actor of stage and screen, director, author, and educator comprise the talents that have created a revered career and worldwide recognition.

Lange's most recent play, 'Let Freedom Ring' played to sold out houses in Hollywood at the Stella Adler Theatre. He directed the independent feature film 'For Love of Amy,' And his play 'George Washington's Boy' was produced for the National Black Theatre Festival and received rave reviews. An award winning theatrical director, Lange received the Artistic Director Achievement Award, as Director of an Original Play for his comedy '*Lemon Meringue Façade*' and the Dramalogue Award for outstanding directing of '*The Visit*'. Lange also received the Oakland Ensemble Theatre's Paul Robeson Award and the James Cagney Directing Fellow Scholarship Award from the American Film Institute. Other highlights from his stage directing include: an interracial '*Hamlet*' starring Glynn Turman, an avant-garde version of *Richard III*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, a one man show- *Big Daddy's Barbecue* starring Jeff Wayne and 'The Heart of Bidy Mason,' A jazz musical which he co- wrote with noted Jazz musician Gerald Trotman. Honored to be named a mentee of James Burrows, Lange's film directing career includes: *Eve*, *Dharma and Greg*, *Moesha*, *Love Boat: The Next Wave*, *In the House*. His directing expertise also encompasses a pilot he co-created for NBC, *Big Daddy's Barbecue*.

A graduate of London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Lange has written twenty three plays and garnered multiple theatrical awards. *Behind the Mask – An Evening with Paul Laurence Dunbar* is Lange's own one-man show, touring thus far to sold-out houses at Ohio State University, San Jose State and Indiana State University. *Four Queens – No Trump* played to rave reviews in Los Angeles, Cleveland, Omaha, Chicago and won NAACP Best Play – 1997. The Valley Theatre Awards nominated his play, *Lemon Meringue Façade*, in five categories and played off Broadway in New York

at the New Perspectives Theatre. Another respected play, *Soul Survivor*, was staged at the National Black Theatre Festival at the 1996 Olympics and at the Lee Strasberg Institute. *Evil Legacy – The Story of Lucretia Borgia* was nominated by LA Weekly for Best One-Woman Show. Also written, directed, and produced by Lange was *Born a Unicorn*, a rock ‘n roll musical depicting the life of Black Shakespearean actor, Ira Aldridge. Lange made his Broadway acting debut in the musical hit *Hair* and his theatrical acting careers spans over fifty plays including South Coast Repertory’s *Piano Lesson*, *Sunshine Boys*, *Biloxi Blues*, and a national tour of *Driving Miss Daisy*. Lange was bestowed The Best Actor 2001 by the NAACP for his work in *Louie and Ophelia*. His passion for Shakespeare has led to the roles of Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Bottom in *A Midsummer’s Night Dream*, and leads in *MacBeth*, *King Henry VI*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Other credits include *Othello*, in which he directed and starred in the stage version at the Inner City Cultural Center.

As a star of the television classic *The Love Boat*, Lange’s ten seasons as Isaac Washington earned him global recognition. His television acting career also includes *That’s My Mama*, *Mr. T and Tina*, and guest appearances on *Evening Shade*, *Half and Half*, *Family Matters*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. He recently hit the reality TV genre running on *Celebrity Fit Club*.

Lange will be producing and directing his new play, ‘Let Freedom Ring’, this summer in Los Angeles. The play is on how the Liberty Bell was cracked in 1846.

Lange was named an adjunct associate professor at the School of Cinema/Television at USC, where he taught a weekly course in film directing. In addition to this, he also lectures on Shakespeare and acting at high schools and colleges across the nation. When asked about the diversity of his career, Lange states, “The duty of the artist is to find his muse, then let her rip.”