

## Interview With The OSCAR Winning Actor Jamie Foxx

Written by Kam Williams

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exas native Jamie Foxx was born Eric Marlon Bishop on December 13, 1967 and raised by his grandparents from the age of seven months following the failure of his parents' marriage. Although he was a star athlete at Terrell High (where he received top grades) on both the school's football and basketball teams, he majored in classical music and composition at the U.S. International University in California.

The versatile actor / comedian / singer / musician / writer / producer / director got his start in *showbiz*

in 1989 when he went on stage on a dare on open *mic*

night and tried his hand at standup. After spending time on the comedy circuit, he joined Keenan Ivory Wayans, Jim Carrey, Damon Wayans and Tommy Davidson in the landmark Fox sketch comedy series "In Living Color," creating some of the show's funniest and most memorable moments.

In 1996, he launched his own series, "The Jamie Foxx Show," which was one of the top-rated programs on the WB Network during its five-year run. Jamie not only starred on the series but also was the co-creator and executive producer.

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In addition, he directed several episodes. Foxx made his big screen in *Toys* in 1992, followed by appearances in *Boozy Call* and *The Players Club*. He received critical acclaim for his riveting work and in *Any Given Sunday* and as Bundini Brown in

*Ali*

, breakout roles which inexorably led to 2004, the Year of the Foxx, when he delivered a trio of powerful performances in

*Ray*

,

*Collateral*

and

*Redemption*

.

He won an Academy Award for his portrayal of the legendary Ray Charles as well as the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild (SAG), BAFTA and NAACP Image Awards. Jamie Foxx simultaneously garnered Oscar, Golden Globe, SAG Award, BAFTA Award, and Image Award nominations in the category of Best Supporting Actor for his work in *Collateral*. He landed a Golden Globe and a SAG Award nominations. Jamie Foxx is the

**second**

male in movie history to receive

**two**

acting Oscar nominations in the same year for two different movies,

*Collateral*

and

*Ray*

(the only other male actor to achieve this was Al Pacino). In addition, Foxx became the

**fourth**

artist to have received an Academy Award for an acting role and to have achieved a number-one record album in the U.S. history. On December 8, 2006, Foxx won

**four**

Grammy nominations, which included Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for *Love Changes* featuring Mary J. Blige, Best R&B Album for *Unpredictable*, Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for *Georgia* by Ludacris & Field Mob featuring Jamie Foxx, and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for *Unpredictable* featuring Ludacris.

He also won an Image Award for his portrayal of condemned gang member-turned-Nobel Peace Prize nominee Stan "Tookie" Williams in *Redemption*. That amazing feat marked the first time that a single actor has received **three** Golden Globe nominations and four SAG Award nominations in the same year. Foxx has since appeared in

*Dreamgirls*

,

*Miami Vice*

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,  
*Jarhead*  
and  
*The Kingdom*  
, and will next star in the drama  
*Law Abiding Citizen*

directed by F. Gary Gray. In September 2007, Foxx was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He said, upon receiving the honor, "[it was] one of the most amazing days of my life." Besides his outstanding work in front of the camera, Jamie Foxx has also achieved a thriving career in music. His eagerly-anticipated J Records debut, "Unpredictable," was nominated for eight Billboard Music Awards,

**three**

Grammy Awards,

**one**

Soul Train Music Award and two American Music Awards, for which he won Favorite Male Artist. And his second album, "Intuition," was just released last December to rave reviews.

Here, he talks about his new movie, *The Soloist*, a true story in which he plays Nathaniel Ayers, a Juilliard-trained child prodigy, who ended up homeless after developing schizophrenia. In the film, Ayers is befriended by Steve Lopez (Robert Downey, Jr.), an L.A. Times reporter who hears him playing the violin in the park. *Interview conducted by the columnist Kam Williams in April of 2009. [Since this interview, the last movie of Jamie Foxx was Due Date and he's currently working on the new movie Kane & Lynch which will be released in 2011]*

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Q: Jamie, you were in 'The Soloist' and I never heard of it, but this time with your own music, it's a different story. How do you feel about that?

Q: What's the most interesting thing you've ever done that you wish someone would ask you about? Are you happy?

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