



Clifton James

Biography

Ed McIvor in “RAISING FLAGG”

Talk about fate! Just prior to filming “Raising Flagg,” director Neal Miller was meeting with Associate Producer Hardy James at his Oregon City home, when his father, veteran character actor Clifton James, walked through the door.

Miller knew immediately that he had found his “Ed McIvor” – the character who unwittingly tips the scales in Flagg’s favor during the courtroom battle over water rights between his old friends.

After graduating from the University of Oregon and the famed Actors Studio in New York, James broke into acting with the daytime drama, “The Secret Storm,” in 1954. His Broadway debut came in 1956 in William Saroyan’s “The Cave Dwellers.”

While appearing in such popular TV series as “The Phil Silvers Show” and “Gunsmoke,” he received acclaim for his portrayal of Willie Stark in Robert Penn Warren’s “All the King’s Men” in 1959.

In the 1970s, Clifton James became the foremost film impersonator of Southern redneck sheriffs – but he had to go to England to do it, appearing as J. W. Pepper in the James Bond films, “Live and Let Die” and “The Man With the Golden Gun.” James has since co-starred in over thirty films, including “Silver Streak,” “The Bad News Bears in Breaking Training,” “Superman II,” and John Sayles’ “Eight Men Out.”

The prominent stage actor has appeared in dozens of Broadway and off-Broadway productions – including Tad Mosel’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “All the Way Home,” directed by Arthur Penn; Archibald MacLeish’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “J.B.,” which also

won the Tony Award for Best Play and Direction (Elia Kazan); “A Sense of Humor” with Jack Lemmon at Circle in the Square; and “American Buffalo” with Al Pacino.