

HILL HARPER

As an accomplished film, television and stage actor, **Hill Harper** captivates audiences with his charismatic and authentic style, which he dedicates to each dramatic character he portrays. A *Magna Cum Laude* graduate and *valedictorian* from Brown University and recipient of graduate degrees in both law and public administration from Harvard, **Harper** continues to excel by receiving praise and countless awards for his acting in independent film, international film, and television projects. Recently selected as one of *People* magazine's "Sexiest Men Alive" (2004), **Harper** emits the classic "guy next door" image, but also exudes a seriousness that commands roles embodying depth and intelligence rarely offered to young black actors. **Harper** has the opportunity to defeat all the stereotypes of black males by starring in the hit CBS drama series, *CSI: NY*, where he portrays Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Sheldon Hawkes, a reclusive and conflicted coroner who walked away from a promising surgical career after the traumatic loss of two patients.

Harper recently signed a publishing deal with Gotham books to write his own book *Letters to a Young Brother*. The book, inspired Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, will provide inspirational lessons and guidance for today's youth.

This summer, **Harper** worked tirelessly on several independent films including *The Breed*, Executive Produced by Wes Craven and also starring Michele Rodriguez and Taryn Manning.

In 2001 the NAACP Image Awards nominated **Harper** as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the CBS series, *City of Angels* and as Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series for *CSI: NY* in 2005. Prior to *CSI: NY*, Harper co-starred as an ambitious undercover FBI operative on the CBS series, *The Handler*, alongside Emmy Award winner Joe Pantoliano. The role earned him a 2004 Golden Satellite Award nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series.

In February 2005, **Harper** starred in the HBO movie *Lackawanna Blues*, which was based on the critically acclaimed stage play by Ruben Santiago Hudson. Other recent film roles include the lead in the independent film, *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*, which was accepted into the Toronto International, Palm Springs, and Pan African film festivals. This intriguing film won "Best Canadian First Feature Film" in the 2003 Toronto International Film Festival and both "Best Feature" and "Audience Favorite" in the 2004 Pan African Film Festival. He has also completed work on the independent film *America Brown*, which was accepted into the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival.

Harper received critical acclaim for his performance in the independent film, *The Visit*, directed by Jordan Walker-Pearlman, which tells the story of two brothers who are forced to come together when the HIV positive younger brother (played by **Harper**) is sentenced to death row for a crime he seemingly didn't commit. His performance which *Daily Variety* called "riveting," earned him a Best Actor nomination by the Independent

Spirit Awards. He re-teams with Walker-Pearlman in the upcoming independent feature, *Constellation*, which chronicles the lives and loves of a family in the Deep South.

Harper's other screen credits include: *Loving Jezebel*, *The Nephew* (with Pierce Brosnan), *The Skulls* (with Joshua Jackson), *In Too Deep* (with Omar Epps, LL Cool J and Nia Long), *Beloved* (with Oprah Winfrey), *Hav' Plenty*, *He Got Game* (with Denzel Washington), and *Get on the Bus* (with Ossie Davis). He also appears in *Zooman* (with Louis Gossett Jr., Charles S. Dutton and CCH Pounder), *Full Court Press* (with Ellen Burstyn and Taye Diggs) and *One Red Rose*, which he also co-wrote, for Showtime.

As a television actor, **Harper** has had numerous guest starring roles. He recently appeared on recurring episodes of Showtime's *Soul Food* and guest starred on HBO's *The Sopranos*. He also starred in the CBS mini-series *Mama Flora's Family* and the UPN comedy/drama *Live Shot*. Other guest appearances include: *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, *Murder One*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and *Married... With Children*.

Harper's stage credits include appearances in off-Broadway productions of *Your Handsome Captain*, *Freeman*, and David Mamet's *American Buffalo*. He completed a starring run of Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters* at New York's Joseph Papp Public Theater. **Harper** is a full time member of Boston Black Folk's Theater Company, one of the nation's oldest and most respected African American traveling theater groups.

Harpers Bazaar wrote, "You might expect **Hill Harper** to be the next actor vying for presidency... but he has other things on his agenda." When **Harper** isn't studying for his next big screen role or preparing for the next taping of *CSI: NY*, he is keeping an eye on his investments. **Harper** is co-owner of the hip New Orleans boutique hotel International House, as well as an investor in the hot new Los Angeles restaurant, The Lodge. International House is the brain child of one of **Harper's** friends, who themed the hotel's décor after New Orleans' deeply-rooted African and Caribbean culture. **Harper** felt his involvement with International House would help him to stay in touch with his heritage. In The Lodge, **Harper** hopes that it will become an escape from the impersonal city life for people to go enjoy life and unwind.

Harper is also a volunteer for the Big Brother organization in Los Angeles and speaks to youth in public schools about the values of a good education. "Education has always been really important to me and my family," he says. "And I'm a big proponent of trying to get young urban kids to go to school and educate themselves, because the world offers a wealth of opportunities, and you can do great things." It was **Harper's** deep rooted passion regarding the plight of today's urban youth that drove him to write *Letters to a Young Brother*, the first in a series of books intended to provide the frequently regarded "lost generation" with words of encouragement and guidance.

Not only does **Harper** mesmerize his audience with his sheer, raw talent and chiseled good looks, he is also a shining example of a modern day Renaissance man and humanitarian. He is a well rounded actor with mass appeal. An apparent talent who continues to refine his skill and will sustain a promising career by remaining humble, versatile and endearing, **Hill Harper** will undoubtedly become globally known as one of the finest actors of his generation, comparable to his predecessor Denzel Washington, paving the way for future black actors.

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