

# Jamie Foxx: The Django Unchained Interview

Academy Award-winning actor, talented Grammy Award-winning musical artist and comedian Jamie Foxx is one of Hollywood's rare, elite multi-faceted performers. He was last seen in *Horrible Bosses* and also recently lent his vocal talents to the popular animated adventure *RIO*, as a canary named 'Nico.'



## CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

of the Broadway musical, *Dreamgirls*. That came on the heels of his Best Actor Academy Award-winning performance as the legendary Ray Charles in *Ray*.

His big-screen break came back in 1999 when Oliver Stone cast him as star quar-

Meanwhile, Jamie recently executive produced a hilarious sketch comedy series called "In the Flow with Affion Crockett" as well as "Thunder Soul," a documentary chronicling the achievements of Houston's Kashmere High School Stage Band.

In addition to his outstanding work in film, Foxx has enjoyed a thriving career in music. In December 2010, he released his fourth album, "Best Night of My Life," featuring Drake, Justin Timberlake, Rick Ross, T.I., and other artists. In January 2010, Foxx and T-Pain's record breaking #1 song "Blame It" off of his previous album, "Intuition," won "Best R&B performance by a duo/group with vocals" at the 52nd Annual Grammy

Awards.

In 2010, Foxx delivered a hilarious cameo appearance in "Due Date," and appeared in the hit romantic comedy "Valentine's Day." The year before, he starred opposite Gerard Butler in Overture Films' dramatic thriller *Law Abiding Citizen*.

Jamie demonstrated his affinity and respect for fictional portrayals with *The Soloist* in which he played Nathaniel Anthony Ayer, a real-life musical prodigy who developed schizophrenia and dropped out of Juilliard, becoming a homeless musician who wanders the streets of Los Angeles. Prior to that, he played the leader of a counter-terrorist team in *The Kingdom*.

In December 2006, Foxx was seen in the critically acclaimed screen adaptation

of the Broadway musical, *Dreamgirls*. That came on the heels of his Best Actor Academy Award-winning performance as the legendary Ray Charles in *Ray*. His big-screen break came back in 1999 when Oliver Stone cast him as star quar-

terback Willie Beamen in *Any Given Sunday*. The versatile thespian's additional film credits include *Ali*, *Miami Vice*, *Jarhead*, *Stealth*, *Bait*, *Booby Call*, *The Truth about Cats and Dogs*, *The Great White Hype*, and an Oscar-nominated supporting role in *Collateral*. Jamie first rose to fame as a comedian, from which he initiated a potent career trajectory of ambitious projects. 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," on the WB Network.

Here, he talks about playing the title role of slave-turned-bounty hunter Django opposite Christoph Waltz, Samuel L. Jackson, Kerry Washington and Leonardo DiCaprio in Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*.

Kam Williams: Hi Jamie, thanks so much for the time. I'm honored to have another opportunity to interview you.

Jamie Foxx: [Playfully clears his throat, before answering in a very refined tone] Why thank you. [Chuckles. Then, speaks in his normal voice] What's happening with it, Kam?

KW: I suppose I should start by asking if you'd like to comment on the recent shootings in Connecticut?

JF: I got two daughters, man, and all I want people to do is to mourn the loss of these precious kids and their teachers and to pray that their families heal.

KW: What interested you in *Django Unchained*?



JF: Quentin Tarantino... Leonardo DiCaprio... Samuel L. Jackson... Christoph Waltz... Kerry Washington... Oh, man! It was like an all-star team. What's funny is that I didn't know anything about *Django*, and I was hearing all this buzz and then I saw online how the biggest actor in the world, Will Smith, was going to work with Quentin Tarantino. And I was like, "Damn! There's another project I didn't know

nothing about." But luckily, I somehow got a chance to meet Quentin and read the script which I thought was brilliant. Next thing you know, I was in a room talking with him about trying to make it happen.

KW: Did you have any reservations?

JF: I didn't have a knee-jerk reaction like some people did to the language and

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