

DON JOHNSON (Dante)

Most people know Don Johnson as the man who breathed life into the character of Sonny Crockett during the amazing five year run of MIAMI VICE. Few television series had the impact of "VICE" upon the cultural tastes of the American people. Don Johnson presented a look, a style, and an attitude that made him one of the most imitated men to come along since James Dean.

It started years before in his last year of high school in Wichita, Kansas. Needing one more class to graduate, he chose drama and landed the lead role in WEST SIDE STORY. Shortly thereafter, Don was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Kansas where he studied for two years before joining The American Conservatory Theater. A string of feature films followed, among them RETURN TO MACON COUNTY LINE, ZACHARIAH, THE HARRAD EXPERIMENT and A BOY AND HIS DOG.

Don's television credits include THE REBELS, BEULAH LAND and FROM HERE TO ETERNITY. Television films such as ELVIS AND ME, FIRST YOU CRY and CENTERFOLD preceded MIAMI VICE, which began in 1983.

Even as he worked consistently, turning out the equivalent of one movie per week with "VICE", Don Johnson still found time for other projects as well. These include two feature films, SWEET HEARTS DANCE and DEAD BANG, a long-form video and a record album called HEARTBEAT, which sold over a million copies, as well as the second LP release, LET IT ROLL. Don is proud of the September 1990 motion picture release of THE HOT SPOT, directed by Dennis Hopper. In the summer '91 release of HARLEY DAVIDSON AND THE MARLBORO MAN, Don Co-starred opposite Mickey Rourke as one of the last of a dying breed, playing The Marlboro Man. He also starred with Melanie Griffith in Disney's PARADISE, a delightfully charming and emotional movie based on the French film LE GRAND CHEMIN. In 1992, Don and Melanie teamed up to do BORN YESTERDAY, also for Disney. During the same year, Don starred in the thriller, GUILTY AS SIN with Rebecca De Mornay. In 1996, he co- starred with Kevin Costner and his NASH BRIDGES sidekick Cheech Marin, in the box office hit TIN CUP. His latest feature film GOODBYE LOVER was released in April of 1999.

While doing MIAMI VICE, Don developed an astute acumen for filmmaking, having directed six episodes over the course of the series. He has future projects that involve his talents both in front of and behind the camera. He is also Executive Producing film projects for television as well as theatrical releases.

The Don Johnson Company produced the highly acclaimed movie for TV, and Academy Award ~ actress Helen Hunt's first movie, IN THE COMPANY OF DARKNESS: which aired on CBS television in January of 1993. In 1995, for the third year in a row, The Don Johnson Company produced the prestigious Washington D.C. based Horatio Alger Awards special for CBS, and also produced a successful ABC dramatic TV series called THE MARSHAL.

In March of 2001, Don Johnson finished Executive Producing and starring in the CBS series NASH BRIDGES, which ran for 6 successful years at the top of the ratings. Don has starred in 233 episodes of network television, and both MIAMI VICE and NASH BRIDGES are currently being syndicated worldwide in 143 countries.

In 2006 Don starred in the Italian picture BASTARDI, which was directed by acclaimed Italian director Andres Alce Meldonado. Most recently, Don appeared as “Nathan Detroit” in a UK production of GUYS AND DOLLS.

Don loves the "process" of filmmaking, and he plans to continue venturing into many creative aspects of the entertainment industry.