**Mike Colter**

Mike Colter is a recognizable actor who has had memorable roles in some of television’s most critically acclaimed series and some of Hollywood’s most successful blockbuster films. His ambition to become an actor originated at a very young age after watching 1984’s Academy Award Nominated film, *A Soldier’s Story.* While in high school, Mike took his passion to the stage and began taking on challenging roles.  His decision to pursue acting as professional career was solidified when Mike performed a speech as Malcom X in a two-man play called “The Meeting.” This performance made him realize the emotional impact art can have on an audience and he wanted to continue to bring life to complex characters.

While knowing that professional acting opportunities in South Carolina were scarce, Mike sought out to learn as much as he could about the craft. He enrolled at Benedict College, and studied theater and drama under the esteemed professor Scott Blanks. Mike soon transferred to the University of South Carolina where he attained a B.A. degree in theater, and went on to obtain an M.F.A. at the prestigious Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts under renowned acting teachers William Esper and Maggie Flanigan.

Upon graduating, Mike made the move to Los Angeles, where parts did not come easy. Hard work and perseverance paid off as he booked a co-star role on “Spin City” alongside Charlie Sheen.  Soon afterward he was cast in Clint Eastwood’s 2005 Best Picture Academy Award Winning film *Million Dollar Baby,*opposite Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, and Hillary Swank. Since then, Mike has continued on to work in big blockbuster films like *Salt* alongside Angelina Jolie, and *Men In Black III* where he plays Colonel James Edward II, father to Will Smith's Agent J. This role turned out to be a big revelation in the film, as it tied together the characters and the story lines for all three films. He recently wrapped filming the lead role of 'Charlie Walker' in *America is Still the Place.*Written and directed by Patrick Gilles (*Olive),*the film is based on the book, of the same name, by Charlie Walker. The film describes the true events that occurred in Walker's life when he is hired by Tower Oil to clean up the oil left on Stinson Beach after a tanker collision near Golden Gate Bridge and the racial animosity this caused during the 1970's.

In addition to his film work, Mike has had a hot streak in television as a recurring guest star in CBS's critically acclaimed drama, "The Good Wife;" where he plays the powerful Lemond Bishop. His return to the series caused quite a stir in the lives of Alicia Florrick and Will Gardner.  In addition, he had character arc in the EMMY and Golden Globe Nominated mini-series "American Horror Story: Coven;" where he played an executive of a powerful company and head witch hunter alongside Jessica Lange and Angela Basset.  Mike is also known for his recurring role on "The Following" alongside Kevin Bacon and his series regular turn in the short lived "Ringer" with Sarah Michelle Gellar.

On the stage, Mike starred in Adam Bock's play "Drunken City” that had a world premiered at the Playwrights Horizon. He has also received exceptional reviews for his turn as CJ Memphis, a guitar-playing blues singer in the 2005 revival of the Pulitzer Prize winning "A Soldier's Play" the original stage adaptation of Mike’s career inspiration *A Soldier’s Story.* The play was a big off-Broadway success and really brought Mike’s acting career full circle.

Mike currently resides in Los Angeles.