

FOR LOVE OF LIBERTY

THE STORY OF AMERICA'S BLACK PATRIOTS

LOUIS GOSSETT, JR.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Born in Brooklyn, New York Louis Gossett, Jr. has a flair for projecting quiet authority and has scored well personally in a string of diverse and challenging roles.

The aspiring actor caught a break at his first Broadway audition for "Take A Giant Step" (1953), where, beating out 400 other candidates, the then 16-year-old landed the lead. After attending NYU on a basketball scholarship, Lou was drafted by the New York Knicks but instead continued to nurture his burgeoning acting career.

His acting career soon flourished and his work in the stage and film versions of the groundbreaking drama about African-American family life in Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun" (1961) proved a watershed. This led to numerous appearances on network series in the 1960s and 70s culminating in 1977, when he picked up an Emmy for his eloquent portrayal of Fiddler in the landmark ABC miniseries "Roots".

Meanwhile, his big screen reputation grew with critically acclaimed work in such comedies as "The Landlord" (1970) "The Skin Game" (1971) with James Garner, "Travels with My Aunt" (1972) and the film adaptation of the Tony Award-winning drama "The River Niger" (1975). A riveting performance as a drug-dealing cut-throat stalking Nick Nolte and Jacqueline Bisset in "The Deep" (1977) catapulted him to wider popularity, but the tough by-the-book drill sergeant in "An Officer and a Gentleman" (1982) won him a Best Supporting Oscar that consolidated his place in the Hollywood hierarchy.

Following his Oscar, he made numerous big screen and television appearances, being singled out for his work as Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in "Sadat" (1983), the sci-fi adventure "Enemy Mine" (1985) where his lizard-like makeup won kudos, and in the action adventure series "Iron

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Eagle" (1985, 1986, 1992, 1995) which introduced him to a whole new generation of moviegoers.

Still going strong, Lou's trendsetting bald head and imposing six-foot-four physique served him well in "Diggstown" (1991) where he played a down-and-out boxer, a heroic headmaster in "Toy Soldiers" (1991). Lou's well thought out and nuanced performances also managed to give credibility to socially themed projects such as "To Dance with Olivia" (1997), and the critically acclaimed "Jasper, Texas" (2003)

Currently, he'll be featured in the forthcoming release of Tyler Perry's film entitled "Daddy's Little Girl" as well as the independent feature "All In" co-starring Michael Madsen and Dominique Swain.

The recipient of every known acting accolade, including multiple Golden Globes, Emmy's, and People's Choice Awards, Lou's performance has connected him with his fans on a global scale. Organizations such as the NAACP, CARE, and the United States Armed Forces have used his likeness to add validity and integrity to their causes.

Currently, Lou is developing the Eracism Foundation. A non-profit entity aimed toward educating the youth and reconnecting the generations with the aim of eradicating racism off our planet.