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323.876.5153

Ruben Santiago-Hudson

Ruben Santiago-Hudson is a Tony Award-winning actor, and a WGA, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated writer. As a Director, Ruben has been awarded The Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Lucille Lortel, Drama League, a Tony Award nomination and three Obie awards. Ruben penned the screenplay for his autobiographical film ***Lackawanna Blues*** for HBO receiving numerous accolades including an NAACP Image Award and National Board Of Reviews honors, along with The Humanitas Prize and a Christopher Award. Ruben most recently penned the screenplay of August Wilson's ***Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*** which starred Viola Davis and Chadwick Bozeman. Produced by Denzel Washington and Directed by George C. Wolfe.

Ruben currently stars in the hit CBS drama ***East New York*** alongside Jimmy Smits and Amanda Warren. His other series regular roles include ***Castle***, ***The Quad***, ***Low Winter Sun***, ***Public Morals*** and ***Michael Hayes***. Ruben has been featured in recurring roles on several critically acclaimed shows including ***Billions*** and ***David Makes Man***.

Ruben made his Broadway acting debut in ***Jelly's Last Jam***, opposite Gregory Hines. He originated the role of Canewell in August Wilson's ***Seven Guitars***, which earned him several awards including Broadway's most prestigious award, the Antoinette Perry Award (Tony Award) for Featured Actor in a Play. Ruben directed August Wilson's ***JITNEY*** which won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a play. Most recently on Broadway Ruben Directed Dominique Morriseau's ***Skeleton Crew*** which received four Tony nominations, garnering a Tony Award for Phylicia Rashad for Featured Actress in A Play. In that same season Ruben directed his autobiographical play ***Lackawanna Blues*** becoming the first person in the history of Broadway to write, direct, and star in a play. Ruben received a Tony nomination for Lead Actor in a Play as well as Outer Critics and Drama Desk Awards. Ruben's other Broadway credits include Lydia Diamond's ***Stickfly*** and August Wilson's ***Gem Of The Ocean***.

The Public Theater/NY Shakespeare Festival, under the leadership of George C. Wolfe, originally commissioned Ruben's autobiographical play ***Lackawanna Blues***. Santiago-Hudson performed the play bringing to life over two dozen characters garnering his first OBIE award. Ruben's extensive work at the Public Theatre includes the Delacorte Theater where he starred as King Leontes in ***A Winter's Tale***, Lucio in ***Measure For Measure***, and the title role in ***Henry VIII***. Later Ruben moved into the Director's chair to helm ***Othello***.

On film Santiago-Hudson starred opposite Denzel Washington and Russell Crow in ***American Gangster***, opposite Halle Berry in ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***, Samuel L. Jackson in ***Shaft***, Al Pacino in ***Devil's Advocate***, and John Travolta in ***Domestic Disturbance***. On television he portrayed famed chemist Dr. Percy Julian in ***Forgotten Genius*** for PBS and starred opposite Gregory Hines in ***The Red Sneakers***. Ruben's other feature films and mini-series include ***Selma***, ***The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks***, ***American Tragedy***, ***Which Way Home***, ***Solomon and Sheba*** -the first time a biblical movie starred actors of color, and opposite Christopher Reeve in ***Rear Window***. Other TV credits include roles on ***The West Wing***, ***Law & Order*** and ***Designated Survivor***.

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Ruben's numerous theater directing credits include world premiere's of Dominique Morriseau's ***Paradise Blue*** and ***Skeleton Crew***. Other select Theater credits include ***Cabin In The Sky*** for ENCORES!, his own ***Your Blues Ain't Sweet Like Mine*** for The Two River Theater Company, Naomi Wallace's ***Things Of Dry Hours*** at the NY Theater Workshop, ***The Happiest Song Plays Last*** at Second Stage Theater, August Wilson's ***Seven Guitars***, Leslie Lee's ***The First Breeze of Summer*** and Athol Fugards ***My Children! My Africa!*** all for The Signature Theater Company, where Santiago-Hudson held the position of Associate Artist.

Ruben currently holds the position of Artistic Advisor at The Manhattan Theater Club and is the First Vice President of the Stage Directors and Choreographers union.

August Wilson's American Century Cycle was recorded at The Green Space NYC in September of 2013. Ruben served as Artistic Director of dramatic readings of all 10 plays for live audiences which aired on WNYC and NPR. He directed ***Ma Rainey's Black Bottom***, ***Jitney*** and ***The Piano Lesson*** and performed in ***Fences*** and ***Seven Guitars*** in that series.

Santiago-Hudson received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from Buffalo State College and from Wayne State University. He also holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University and an honorary Master's from A.C.T. in San Francisco, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Binghamton University. Other Awards and honors include Dramalogue, Clarence Derwent, Glen G. Bartle Award from SUNY Binghamton, The Apple Award, Distinguished Alumni Award from Wayne State University, five Audelco Awards, Black Filmmaker's Award, a Helen Hayes Award, a N.A.M.I.C. Award, and an HBO Comedy Arts Festival Theater Award. Santiago-Hudson received a NAACP Lifetime Achievement Theatre Award at the Los Angeles NAACP Theatre Awards in August 2009.

In 2014 The Ruben Santiago-Hudson Fine Arts Learning Center opened in his hometown of Lackawanna, NY. Ruben is the driving force of this dream project which teaches young people the transformative power of the arts.