

Michael grew up in the fervent city of Detroit Michigan. His family has an African-American ancestry comprised of free blacks dating back as far as 1724. He attended Catholic Jesuit schools all his life, graduating from University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy and further studying in the BFA program at University of Detroit Mercy.

In Detroit, his family was active in city government and in the arts. At a very young age, Michael packed boxes of food for the underprivileged, at his family's community center, Operation Get Down. Michael has always considered the art of acting a form of social activism. In fact, Michael's first professional acting job was performing in short plays funded by Planned Parenthood. Michael counseled many teens who found the freedom to come forward with their personal and social concerns after performances. At night Michael would hang in the wings of the Detroit Music Hall and watch the productions of playwright Ron Milner, a very good friend of Michael's family. Milner's play "Checkmates" went on to New York and was Denzel Washington's Broadway debut.

After High School Michael enrolled into Henry Ford College. The plans were to only attend for one semester before heading to Howard University, but that semester there were many student demonstrations across the country. Michael wanted to let his voice be heard so he ran for President of the Association of Students of African Decent and won.

Ron Milner was very impressed with Michael's political voice and his potential as an actor. Michael soon joined the cast of "One Monkey Don't No Show", directed by Ron, where he toured across the country for close to 2 years and was able to act alongside some big names in television such as Kim Fields (Facts of Life), Marla Gibbs (227, Jeffersons) and Ted Lange (The Love Boat).

Between tour dates Michael would take advantage of his off time by studying in such cities as Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington D.C., where Michael was able to sit in on classes at Howard University taught by the great Al Freeman Jr.

After the tour Michael went back to school with a scholarship to University of Detroit Mercy. In Detroit he continued to work professionally in industrials, commercials and local theater. One of his jobs was performing every summer at Greenfield Village in Dearborn Michigan portraying George Washington Carver. He also drove down to Toledo, Ohio where he booked his first prime time television appearance on the NBC show Final Appeal making him a Screen Actors Guild member.

Michael knew that New York was where he wanted to be. Michael made the move to New York City and within 6 months landed a role in the Naked Angels production of "Funky Crazy Boogaloo Boy", co-starring Mark Feuerstein (Royal Pains). He also landed recurring roles on One Life to Live as Ramon, and on Guiding Light as Officer Rodriguez.

Michael joined Absolute Theatre Company, where he acted in, directed and produced many plays written by in house playwrights. Supported by Oscar-winner Al Pacino, Absolute was an underground theatre movement that provided a testing ground for material and performance. Al Pacino, one of the company's patrons and benefactors, appreciated that the company was creating

for the "sake of art" rather than the acclaim of the industry. Mr. Pacino helped the company move their festival of plays to Los Angeles. The main playwrights of Absolute were Charles Drew Jr. and Melanie Maria Goodreaux. One of Drew's plays "Sky" was produced as a film called "G", starring Blaire Underwood (LA Law, Ironside).

In Los Angeles, Michael landed a couple of regional commercials, but it was Melanie Maria Goodreaux's play Walter, Bullets and Binoculars that brought Michael back to New York. The play was produced at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in the East Village. Michael was noticed by many theatre companies from that performance. He went on to perform lead roles at the Negro Ensemble Company, Barrow Group, Take Wing and Soar, New Federal, The Billie Holiday Theatre, The Public Theater, Crossroads Theatre Company and Arkansas Repertory.

Michael has strong interest in directing and producing because of his Absolute Theatre days. For many years, under the nickname "DETROIT", Michael worked in the AD department of numerous TV/film projects and as a production coordinator on events for Nike and Tmobile. While working in the AD department on Ugly Betty a director loved Michael's off camera read with Vanessa Williams so much that he strongly encouraged him to audition more. Since, Michael has landed tv roles on Ugly Betty, Boardwalk Empire, and The Following, and in roles in the films Syrup, Eugenia and John, The Tombs, and Soul Mates

Michael continues his study at the Barrow Group and at the Susan Batson Studio, where he developed his one man show, An Adam Experiment. Michael has also spent some time in Ireland studying at The LIR at Trinity College.