



**A FORMER SOAP OPERA STAR'S KEYS TO
BREAKING INTO THE ENTERTAINMENT
BUSINESS**

BY

FORRY SMITH

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Forry Smith is a former professional athlete who was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 1976 as a wide receiver. After a short stint with the Bills and the Seattle Seahawks, Forry returned to his hometown in Waterloo, Iowa, and began his second career as a high school English teacher and varsity football coach.

After seven rewarding years in the teaching profession, he decided to make a career change.

Lured to Hollywood with a passion for acting, Forry spent the next twenty years in pursuit of the often elusive dream. During that time, he booked dozens of guest-starring roles on nighttime television, countless commercials, a handful of major motion pictures, and a two-year contract on a popular soap opera.

Encouraged by his best friend Randall Wallace (the Academy Award nominated screenwriter of the amazing film “Braveheart”), Forry decided to add screenwriting to his already-impressive resume.

He fulfilled one of his dreams a short time later, writing and co-starring in his own movie “Paparazzi”... a film he was asked to write by Mel Gibson. Forry and Mel worked

together on the film “We Were Soldiers” and experienced several run-ins with the paparazzi that inspired the film.

Forry is often asked by people in the industry to speak with young actors and writers hoping to break into the business. His advice is widely accepted by Hollywood insiders as invaluable.

These are his keys to making it in Hollywood.

The rest is up to you.

INTRODUCTION

You're no doubt aware of the countless websites available to you on the subject of coming to Hollywood to pursue an acting career. What makes my book any different?

Mine is a personal journey through the lens of someone who's not only been there, but done that. It's littered with anecdotes that will not only educate you, but entertain you, as well. Whereas the websites give it to you in black and white, mine comes at you in living color.

Before we go any further, it's important to establish that I know what I'm talking about. I've guest-starred on dozens of television shows, had a two-year contract on a popular soap opera, and wrote a film for a huge movie star that was produced by a major studio. All with no professional training prior to coming to Hollywood.

Now, before you rack your brain trying to figure out who I am or who I played on television, I'll get right to the point.

In the early 90's, the daytime drama "Santa Barbara" was the critical darling of the soap opera world. Created in 1984, "S. B." won four daytime Emmys in the eight short years it was on the air. Loved by the media but largely ignored by daytime viewers, "S.B." was canceled in January, 1993... replaced by a mindless game show in a cost-cutting decision by NBC.

Like many of its soap opera counterparts, “S.B.” revolved around the relationship of two of its biggest stars. While “All My Children” featured the engaging love story of Greg and Jenny, and “General Hospital” banked on the twisted love affair of Luke and Laura, “S.B.” was no different... pairing together star-crossed lovers Cruz Castillo and Eden Capwell.

That’s where I come in.

In an attempt to broaden its audience, “S.B.” introduced a blue collar family that included Cruz’s best friend from high school... a character by the name of Reese Walker. Reese was returning to town after a twenty year absence. I played Reese Walker.

It was a terrific opportunity for me... **an opportunity that almost didn’t happen because of my ignorance about doing daytime television.**

If only I’d been better educated.

Throughout this book, I will give you the best advice available on how to break into Hollywood.

Advice that comes from a guy who arrived in Hollywood in a 1974 Ford Pinto and went on to write a film for one of the biggest movie stars in the world.

Now that I’ve introduced myself...