



# Michael Clarke Duncan

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**Michael Clarke Duncan** (December 10, 1957 – September 3, 2012) was an American actor, best known for his breakout role as John Coffey in *The Green Mile* (1999), for which he was nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor](#) and various similar honors. He also appeared in motion pictures such as *Armageddon* (1998), *The Whole Nine Yards* (2000), *The Scorpion King* (2002), *Daredevil* (2003) and *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* (2006). His voice can be heard in films such as *Brother Bear* (2003), *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) and *Green Lantern* (2011).

## Early life

Duncan was born in [Chicago, Illinois](#), and grew up in a single-parent household with his sister, Judy, and mother, Jean Duncan (a house cleaner), after his father left.<sup>[1][2]</sup> He always wanted to act, but had to drop out of the Communications program at [Alcorn State University](#) to support his family when his mother became ill. Duncan's large frame—6 feet 5 inches (196 cm)<sup>[3]</sup> and 315 pounds (143 kg)—helped him in his jobs digging ditches for the People's Gas Company and being a [bouncer](#) at several Chicago clubs.<sup>[4]</sup> Duncan also played basketball at [Kankakee Community College](#) and for one season at [Alcorn State](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

In 1979, he participated in the [Disco Demolition Night](#) at [Comiskey Park](#), home of the [Chicago White Sox](#), where he was among the first 100 people to run onto the field and he slid into third base. During the ensuing riot his silver belt buckle was stolen<sup>[6]</sup> while he was stealing a baseball bat from the dugout.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Career

Duncan took other [security jobs](#) while in Los Angeles while trying to get some acting work in commercials. During this time, he worked as a [bodyguard](#) for celebrities like [Will Smith](#), [Martin Lawrence](#), [Jamie Foxx](#),

### Michael Clarke Duncan



Duncan in January 2009

<b>Born</b>	December 10, 1957 <div><span></span></div> <div><a href="#">Chicago, Illinois, U.S.</a></div>
<b>Died</b>	September 3, 2012 (aged 54) <div><span></span></div> <div><a href="#">Los Angeles, California, U.S.</a></div>
<b>Cause of death</b>	Complications of heart attack
<b>Resting place</b>	<a href="#">Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Hollywood Hills)</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	Actor
<b>Years active</b>	1995–2012

LL Cool J, and The Notorious B.I.G., all the while doing bit parts in television and films. When rapper Notorious B.I.G. was killed in 1997, Duncan quit the personal-protection business.<sup>[3]</sup>

<b>Height</b>	6 ft 5 in (1.96 m)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	<u>Omarosa Manigault</u> (2010–2012; his death)

After having begun his career with several bit parts playing bouncers in films such as *Bulworth* and *A Night at the Roxbury*, Duncan first came to prominence when he was cast as Bear in the blockbuster Michael Bay action film *Armageddon* (1998). During the production of the film, Duncan struck up a friendship with castmate Bruce Willis and it was Willis' influence that helped him to get his breakout role as gentle giant John Coffey in the Frank Darabont film *The Green Mile* (1999). Starring alongside Tom Hanks, Duncan's acclaimed performance netted him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor in a Supporting Role and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture.<sup>[8][9]</sup>

Following his iconic dramatic turn as Coffey, Duncan was then cast in a string of films that helped to establish him as a star adept at both action and comedy: *The Whole Nine Yards* (2000), *See Spot Run* (2001), *Planet of the Apes* (2001), *The Scorpion King* (2002) (where he starred alongside his friend, Dwayne Johnson), and *Daredevil* (2003) (reuniting him with *Armageddon* co-star Ben Affleck) as Wilson Fisk, aka The Kingpin from Marvel Comics.

When Duncan was cast as the Kingpin in 2002,<sup>[10]</sup> he faced the dual challenge of portraying a typically white character<sup>[11][12]</sup> and having to gain 40 pounds to fit the character's large physique. In July 2006, Duncan showed interest in returning for the role of the Kingpin, but stated that he would not be willing to regain the weight that he had lost.<sup>[13]</sup> In 2009, he stopped eating meat and later appeared in a PETA ad campaign, touting the health benefits and his increased strength from a vegetarian diet.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

In 2005, Duncan appeared in two prominent action films, *The Island* (his second Michael Bay film) and *Sin City* (again alongside Bruce Willis) where he played Manute, a powerful mobster. Critic Roger Ebert singled out Duncan for praise for his role in *The Island*, writing that "[Duncan] has only three or four scenes, but they're of central importance, and he brings true horror to them."<sup>[16]</sup> Duncan appeared in a supporting role in the 2006 comedy *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* as Lucius Washington and, in 2009, Duncan played Balrog in *Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li* and starred as the titular Cleon "Slammin'" Salmon in Broken Lizard's farce *The Slammin' Salmon*.

Famous for his deep, resonant voice, Duncan also did speaking-only roles for films such as *Brother Bear* (2003) and its sequel, *Brother Bear 2* (2006), *Kung Fu Panda* (2008) and *Green Lantern* (2011) playing the voice of Kilowog from DC Comics alongside Ryan Reynolds.

His other voice acting roles include TV series such as *Loonatics Unleashed* and *Operation: Z.E.R.O.*, Quiznos commercials, and a number of video games such as *Demon Stone*, *SOCOM II: U.S. Navy SEALs*, *The Suffering: Ties That Bind*, *Saints Row*, *Soldier of Fortune*, and *God of War II*, where he provided the voice of the Titan Atlas. He additionally reprised his role as the Kingpin in *Spider-Man: The New Animated Series*.

In addition to his film roles, Duncan also guest starred in numerous television shows. Among these, he appeared in an episode of *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody* and a first-season episode of *CSI: NY*.<sup>[17]</sup> In 2008, he appeared as "Mr. Colt" in the second-season premiere of *Chuck*, "Chuck Versus the First Date"<sup>[18]</sup> and as a guest star on two episodes of *Two and a Half Men*. Most notably, in April 2011, Duncan guest starred on an episode of TV

series *Bones* as Leo Knox which, in 2012, led to Duncan receiving his first starring role as the same character in the spinoff series *The Finder*. The *Bones* Season 8 episode "The Partners in the Divorce", which aired three weeks after his death, was dedicated to him.

During the week of May 14, 2012, Duncan appeared as a guest on the late night talk show *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* when the show was taping for a week in Scotland. Duncan was one of the show's most frequent guests, appearing a total of 18 times, and, the day after Duncan's death in September, Ferguson began his show with a tribute to him. In January 2013 during *The Late Late Show*'s winter break, reruns of the Scotland episodes were broadcast with a tribute to Duncan at the beginning of each of the five episodes, featuring Duncan on a pink background and the text "In memory of our friend Michael Clarke Duncan."

## Personal life

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At the time of his death, Duncan was engaged to reality television personality Omarosa Manigault.<sup>[19]</sup>

In 2013, Manigault appeared in the cast of *The All-Star Celebrity Apprentice* and played in Duncan's honor for his favorite charity and one he had benefited from himself, the Sue Duncan Children's Center. In episode 2 of the season, Manigault won \$40,000 for the charity.<sup>[20]</sup>

## Death

On July 13, 2012, Duncan was taken to Cedars Sinai Medical Center after suffering a heart attack.<sup>[21]</sup> Media reports suggested that his girlfriend, Omarosa Manigault, had tried to save his life by performing CPR.<sup>[22]</sup> Duncan's publicist, Joy Fehily, issued a statement on August 6 that read he was moved from the intensive-care unit



Crypt of Michael Clarke Duncan at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills.

but remained hospitalized following his heart attack.<sup>[23]</sup> On September 3, Duncan died in Los Angeles. Celebrations of Duncan's life were scheduled for a later date.<sup>[24]</sup>

## Filmography

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### Films

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	<i>Friday</i>	Craps Player	Uncredited
1997	<i>Back in Business</i>	Huge Guard	—
1998	<i>Caught Up</i>	BB	—
1998	<i>The Players Club</i>	Bodyguard	Credited as Big Mike Duncan
1998	<i>Bulworth</i>	Bouncer	Credited as Michael "Big Mike" Duncan
1998	<i>Armageddon</i>	Bear	—
1998	<i>A Night at the Roxbury</i>	Roxbury Bouncer	Credited as Michael "Big Mike" Duncan
1999	<i>The Underground Comedy Movie</i>	Gay Virgin	—
1999	<i>Breakfast of Champions</i>	Eli	Credited as Michael Duncan
1999	<i>The Green Mile</i>	John Coffey	Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for Best Supporting Actor Saturn Award for Best Supporting Actor Black Reel Award for Best Supporting Actor Nominated—Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor Nominated—Chicago Film Critics Association Award for Best Supporting Actor Nominated—Chicago Film Critics Association Award for Most Promising Actor Nominated—Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor – Motion Picture Nominated—NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture Nominated—MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Performance Nominated—Online Film Critics Society Award for Best Supporting Actor Nominated—Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role Nominated—Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture
2000	<i>The Whole Nine Yards</i>	Franklin 'Frankie Figs' Figueroa	—
2001	<i>See Spot Run</i>	Murdoch	—
2001	<i>Cats &amp; Dogs</i>	Sam	Voice only
2001	<i>Planet of the Apes</i>	Attar	—
2002	<i>The Scorpion King</i>	Balthazar	—

2003	<i><u>Daredevil</u></i>	<u>Wilson Fisk/The Kingpin</u>	—
2003	<i><u>George of the Jungle 2</u></i>	Mean Lion	Voice only Direct-to-video
2003	<i><u>Brother Bear</u></i>	Tug	Voice only
2003	<i><u>Kim Possible: A Sitch in Time</u></i>	Future Wade	Voice only
2004	<i><u>D.E.B.S.</u></i>	Mr. Phipps	—
2004	<i><u>George and the Dragon</u></i>	Tarik	—
2004	<i><u>Pursued</u></i>	Franklin	—
2005	<i><u>Racing Stripes</u></i>	Clydesdale	Voice only
2005	<i><u>Sin City</u></i>	Manute	—
2005	<i><u>The Golden Blaze</u></i>	Thomas Tatum/Quake	Voice only
2005	<i><u>Dinotopia: Quest for the Ruby Sunstone</u></i>	Stinktooth	Voice only
2005	<i><u>The Island</u></i>	Starkweather Two Delta/Jamal Starkweather	—
2005	<i><u>Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story</u></i>	The Stork	Voice only Direct-to-video
2005	<i><u>The Land Before Time XI: Invasion of the Tinysauruses</u></i>	Big Daddy	Voice only
2006	<i><u>Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby</u></i>	Lucius Washington	—
2006	<i><u>Brother Bear 2</u></i>	Tug	Voice only
2006	<i><u>School for Scoundrels</u></i>	Leshar	—
2006	<i><u>One Way</u></i>	The General	—
2006	<i><u>Air Buddies</u></i>	Wolf	Voice only
2007	<i><u>The Last Mimzy</u></i>	Nathanial Broadman	—
2007	<i><u>Slipstream</u></i>	Mort/Phil Henderson/Patrolman	—
2008	<i><u>Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins</u></i>	Otis	—
2008	<i><u>Delgo</u></i>	Elder Marley	Voice only
2008	<i><u>Kung Fu Panda</u></i>	Commander Vachir	Voice only
2008	<i><u>American Crude</u></i>	Spinks	—
2009	<i><u>The Slammin' Salmon</u></i>	Cleon Salmon	—
2009	<i><u>Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li</u></i>	<u>Balrog/M. Bison (Japan)</u>	—
2010	<i><u>Redemption Road</u></i>	Augy	—
2010	<i><u>Cats &amp; Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore</u></i>	Sam	Voice only
2011	<i><u>Cross</u></i>	Erlik	Direct-to-video

2011	<i><u>A Crush on You</u></i>	Big Jim Nelson	—
2011	<i><u>Legend of Kung Fu Rabbit</u></i>	Slash	Voice only
2011	<i><u>Green Lantern</u></i>	Kilowog	Voice only
2012	<i><u>From the Rough</u></i>	Roger	Posthumous release in the United States on 2014
2012	<i><u>In the Hive</u></i>	Mr. Hollis	—
2013	<i><u>A Resurrection</u></i>	Addison	Posthumous release seven months after Duncan's death
2015	<i><u>The Challenger</u></i>	Duane	Posthumous release, Duncan's last performance in a film

## Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	<i><u>Renegade</u></i>	Shake	Episode: "Living Legend"
1995	<i><u>The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air</u></i>	Tiny	Episode: "Bourgie Sings the Blues"
1995	<i><u>Married... with Children</u></i>	Bouncer	Episode: "Flight of the Bumblebee"
1996	<i><u>Skwids</u></i>	Body Builder	—
1996	<i><u>Weird Science</u></i>	Cardinal Carnage	Episode: "Men in Tights"
1997	<i><u>The Jamie Foxx Show</u></i>	Inmate	Episode: "Little Red Corvette"
1997	<i><u>Sparks</u></i>	Frank	Episode: "Self Defense"
1997	<i><u>The Wayans Bros.</u></i>	Big Mike	Episode: "I Do..."
1997	<i><u>Living Single</u></i>	Security Guard	Episode: "High Anxiety"
1997	<i><u>Built to Last</u></i>	—	Episode: "A Family Affair"
1998	<i><u>Arliss</u></i>	Lucian Balboa	Episode: "Fans First"
1999	<i><u>Sister, Sister</u></i>	Big Earl	Episode: "Before There Was Hip Hop..."
2001	<i><u>They Call Me Sirr</u></i>	Coach Griffin	Television film
2002	<i><u>King of the Hill</u></i>	Coach Webb	Episode: "The Son Also Roses"
2003, 2005	<i><u>The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius</u></i>	Commander Baker	Voice only Episode: "My Big Fat Spy Wedding" and "Operation: Rescue Jet Fusion"
2003	<i><u>Spider-Man: The New Animated Series</u></i>	<u>The Kingpin / Wilson Fisk</u>	Voice only Episode: "Royal Scam" and "Keeping Secrets"
2003	<i><u>The Proud Family</u></i>	Mongo	Voice only Episode: "Smackmania 6: Mongo vs. Mama's Boy"
2004	<i><u>Static Shock</u></i>	Rashid 'The Rocket' Randall	Voice only Episode: "Linked"
2004	<i><u>The Fairly OddParents</u></i>	Rockwell	Voice only Episode: "Crash Nebula"

2004	<i><u>George Lopez</u></i>	Dr. Holland	Episode: "George to the Third Power"
2005–2007	<i><u>Loonatics Unleashed</u></i>	Massive	4 episodes
2005	<i><u>Teen Titans</u></i>	Hayden/Krall	Voice only Episode: "Cyborg the Barbarian"
2005	<i><u>CSI: NY</u></i>	Quinn Sullivan	Episode: "The Closer"
2006–2007, 2012	<i><u>Family Guy</u></i>	Black Co-Worker/Boy on Mushrooms/Fozzie Bear	4 episodes
2006	<i><u>Minoriteam</u></i>	Balactus	Episode: "Balactus: Part 1" and "Balactus: Part 2"
2008–2009	<i><u>Two and a Half Men</u></i>	Jerome	Episode: "The Two Finger Rule" and "The Mooch at the Boo"
2008	<i><u>The Suite Life of Zack &amp; Cody</u></i>	Coach Little	Episode: "Benchwarmers"
2008	<i><u>Chuck</u></i>	Colt	Episode: "Chuck Versus the First Date"
2011	<i><u>Bones</u></i>	Leo Knox	Episode: "The Finder"
2012	<i><u>The Finder</u></i>	Leo Knox	13 episodes
2012	<i><u>The High Fructose Adventures of Annoying Orange</u></i>	Marshmallow King	Voice only Episode: "Marshmalia"
2012	<i><u>Ultimate Spider-Man</u></i>	<u>Groot</u>	Voice only

## Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1995	<i><u>Panic in the Park</u></i>	Security Guard	—
2000	<i><u>Star Trek: Klingon Academy</u></i>	Opening Movie Klingons	—
2000	<i><u>Soldier of Fortune</u></i>	Hawk	—
2003	<i><u>SOCOM II: U.S. Navy SEALs</u></i>	SEAL Operative WARDOG	Credited as Michael Clark Duncan
2004	<i><u>Forgotten Realms: Demon Stone</u></i>	Slaad Lord Ygorl	—
2005	<i><u>The Suffering: Ties That Bind</u></i>	Blackmore	—
2006	<i><u>Saints Row</u></i>	Benjamin King	—
2007	<i><u>God of War II</u></i>	<u>Atlas</u>	—

2013	<i><u>Saints Row IV</u></i>	—	Credited as Benjamin King in the game's credits in memoriam to him, Duncan was set to reprise his role as King in <i>IV</i> , with some voice work already done for the game before his death. During the game's credits, the song "Just a Friend" by Biz Markie is played as all the cast members sing along, the song fades out with Duncan's track. He was replaced by <u>Terry Crews</u> .
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## Music videos

Year	Artist	Title	Role	Notes
1994	<u>Quo</u>	"Huh What" featuring <u>Redman</u> (rapper)		
1995	<u>R. Kelly</u> featuring <u>The Isley Brothers</u>	" <u>Down Low (Nobody Has to Know)</u> "	Security Guard	Cameo appearance

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## External links

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- [Michael Clarke Duncan \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0003817/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0003817/) at IMDb
  - Centerstage article on Michael Clarke Duncan (<http://centerstage.net/theatre/whoswho/MichaelClarkeDuncan.html>)
  - 2011 radio interview (<http://khitschicago.radio.com/2011/04/21/youve-seen-him-in-the-green-mile-now-hear-michael-clarke-duncan-speak-with-eddie-jobo/>) with Michael Clarke Duncan
  - [Michael Clarke Duncan \(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96465305/\)](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96465305/) at Find a Grave
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