

# Damon DiMarco

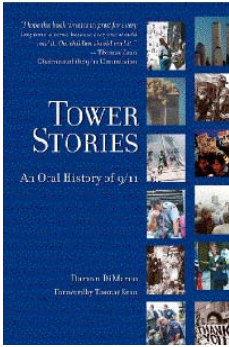
## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Damon earned his MFA in acting at Rutgers University (the Mason Gross School of the Arts) under William Esper, the famed protégé of legendary acting teacher, Sanford Meisner. Damon's acting resume includes regional theatre, television, industrial shows, live hosting, and independent films. He has played recurring roles on *One Life to Live* and *As the World Turns*, and taught acting at Drew University (his undergraduate alma mater), the New York Film Academy, and in private sessions. Please see page 8 of this profile for a more complete **Acting** resume.

In 1999, Damon was asked to participate in the pilot program for the New River Dramatists play development center in Healing Springs, North Carolina. At New River, actors and directors in residence work intensely to aid playwrights as they bring new pieces to the stage. Over the next few years, Damon collaborated with a diverse group of brilliant playwrights including James McLure, Cassandra Medley, Meir Ribalow, Keith Bunin, Jack Heifner, Arthur Giron, Ann Nelson, Arlene Hutton, Denis Johnson, and Pulitzer Prize winner M. Scott Momaday.

Inspired by this work, Damon began to write. His first piece was a 10-minute play called *Tegwar*, a card game between Jesus Christ and Judas Iscariot. *Tegwar* was later turned into a short film which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival to favorable reviews.

But Damon's writing career took deeper root after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. In the year and a half following the attacks on the World Trade Center, he interviewed a broad cross-section of subjects including people who survived the Towers, NYC policemen and firemen, volunteers, eyewitnesses, the bereaved, and experts on politics and religion. The result was *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11* (with a foreword by Thomas Kean, Chairman of the 9/11 Commission).

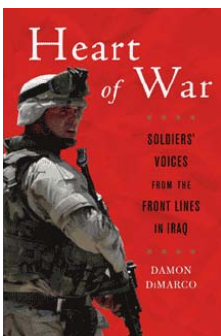


*Publisher's Weekly* called *Tower Stories*: ". . . monumental . . . DiMarco's contribution to the memory of that horrific day is enormous; the testimonies collected here form an amazing, one-of-a-kind account."

Critics have likened the spirit and execution of *Tower Stories* to the work of Studs Terkel and the Roosevelt Administration's WPA Slave Narratives. Bill Baroni of the New Jersey State Senate noted that Damon's oral history provides the perfect counterpoint to the 9/11 Commission Report, lending human and emotional context to the Commission Report's stark facts.

William F. Buckley on *Tower Stories*: "This volume defends the understanding, as also the horror, of that day. We are indebted to Mr. DiMarco for the effort and for the editorial acuity."

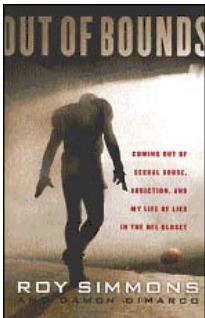
Damon's next oral history project, *Heart of War: Soldiers' Voices from the Front Lines of Iraq*, was published by Kensington/Citadel in 2007. *Heart of War* features frank interviews with 18 U.S. Veterans of the War in Iraq representing the four major branches of the U.S. armed services and a cross-section of officers, enlisted men, male and female personnel, combat soldiers, engineers, medics, and tank commanders - among many other specialties.



From the *American Library Association*: "Those [soldiers] interviewed include a high proportion of highly intelligent people, whose essential work, which often involved dealing directly with Iraqi culture, is seldom publicized . . . DiMarco's respect for his interviewees . . . further distinguish this addition to Iraq war literature."

Damon has also written books collaboratively. He produced *Out of Bounds: Coming Out of Sexual Abuse, Addiction, and My Life of Lies in the NFL Closet* (Carroll & Graf, 2005) with Roy Simmons, a former

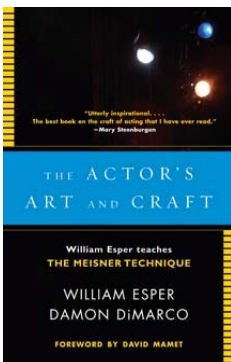
stand-out offensive lineman for the New York Giants. Simmons became the second NFL player ever to reveal that he was gay, and the first to publicly declare that he was HIV-positive. *Out of Bounds* details Simmons' rape at the age of ten ... how he was plucked from his poor Southern background to join the NFL ... his first tastes of pro football fame with its sudden, enormous wealth and fast-paced, no holds barred nightlife ... as well as scenes of heavy drug abuse and countless sexual encounters with both women and men.



Kirkus Reviews calls *Out of Bounds* the: ". . . **Blisteringly honest portrait of a man fencing with his self-destructive instincts.**"

Library Journal says the book is: "... **particularly harrowing in relating the descent into the grimy life of drug addiction. Readers . . . will get their money's worth.**"

Damon's books on acting have fast become seminal reads for actors across the globe. *The Actor's Art & Craft* evolved from Damon's long-standing relationship with his friend and mentor, William Esper. This book, published by Random House/Anchor Books in 2008, features a foreword by Pulitzer Prize winner, David Mamet. *The Actor's Art & Craft* elaborates on the famous acting techniques pioneered by legendary acting teacher Sanford Meisner. Several actors of note have openly praised the book:



Academy Award Winner Olympia Dukakis called it: "**A veritable magnum opus on acting from a Master Teacher.**"

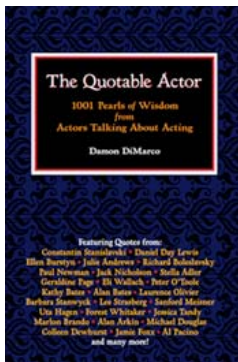
Academy Award Winner Mary Steenburgen: ". . . **It's the best book on the craft of acting that I have ever read.**"

Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Theatre World Award Winner Calista Flockhart: ". . . **Every serious actor who dreams of becoming a first rate artist must read this book!**"

Backstage Magazine says: ". . . **a fantastic, long-overdue exploration of actor training. Co-authored by Esper protégé**

Damon DiMarco . . . [this] book serves as an amazing tool and resource without being dogmatic or hampering. As Esper puts it, 'Ultimately technique does not constrain an artist's instincts, it frees them.'

Another book on acting, *The Quotable Actor: 1001 Pearls of Wisdom from Actors Talking About Acting* was recently announced by Santa Monica Press for release in the summer of 2009. *The Quotable Actor* collects memorable and instructive quotes from great actors past and present on such diverse subjects as imagination, technique, the actor's lifestyle, working with directors, the differences between acting for stage and film, and so on.



Damon has appeared as a guest on national television and radio programs, including **CNN**, **The National Geographic Channel**, and **Premiere Radio Networks**.

He has also written for the stage and screen. Please see page 6 of this profile for a more detailed **Plays and Screenplays** resume.

Apart from those detailed here, other projects are in various stages of development.

### **Education**

- Double-major Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Theatre Arts from Drew University;
- Master of Fine Arts at the Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts.

## **Unions and Affiliations**

- Actors Equity Association
- Screen Actors Guild
- American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
- The Authors Guild
- Inaugural member of the New River Dramatists at Healing Springs, NC

## **Personal**

Damon lives in New York City with his wife, Jessica, a public relations specialist who also writes for the food and beverage industry. They have two cats that pretend they don't like one another, and one coquettish, rescued pit bull.

## PLAYS AND SCREENPLAYS

### 10- Minute Plays

**TEGWAR** (The Exciting Game Without Any Rules). Jesus Christ teaches Judas Iscariot a very unusual card game. In the process, both men learn about fate, faith, and forgiveness. *TEGWAR* has been featured in the Riant Theatre's Strawberry One-Act Festival and Ensemble Studio Theatre's Octoberfest. **CAST: 2 men.**

**Domino.** Two couples play dominoes at an outdoor café in New York City. The game uncovers the truth about their twisted interrelationships. **CAST: 2 men, 2 women.**

**Rent.** One roommate smokes pot, watches talk shows all day long, and ignores life while the other desperately tries to make the rent. Confrontation ensues. In the process, the first roommate's demons come to light. **CAST: 2 men.**

### One Act Plays

**The Passing of Dutch & the End of Smarty Jones.** June 5, 2004. After winning the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, thoroughbred racehorse Smarty Jones - latest in a long line of Triple Crown hopefuls - suffers defeat at the Belmont Stakes. At almost precisely the same moment on the other side of the country, former President Ronald Reagan - a man who loved horses - dies. Like Smarty, Reagan represented something about America - for better or for worse. When a mysterious stranger shows up in an empty bar just outside of Belmont Park, bloodied and ready for conversation, the bartender learns a bit more about life in America than he ever really wanted to. **CAST: 2 men.**

### Full Length Plays

**My Mariners** (co-written with Jeffrey Harper), recounts an episode in the history of the Sailors' Snug Harbor, founded in 1833 as the United States first charitable secular institution - a home and asylum for wayward and aged sailors, once located on Staten Island. The production debuted at the Sailors' Snug Harbor in 2005 and included a condensed-script tour of Tri-State area schools. Commissioned by the Sundog Theatre. **CAST: Ensemble, 7 men.**

***Shock & Awe: Soldiers' Voices from Iraq***, adapted from interviews with U.S. veterans of the War in Iraq featured in Damon's book, *Heart of War: Soldiers' Voices from the Front Lines of Iraq*. Soldiers affiliated with a U.S. special intelligence squad take a highly personal journey through their service in the War in Iraq. \*\*Competed as a finalist in both the Princess Grace Drama Awards in Playwriting and is currently (as of mid-June, 2008), a finalist in the New York City-based Reverie Productions Next Generation Playwriting Contest. **CAST: Ensemble of 9 - 8 men, 1 woman.**

***Shrinks***. A distinctly urban comedy about finding love, eating ice cream, haunting coffee houses, therapy, and how clean laundry makes all the rest go round. **CAST: 2 men, 2 women.**

### **Screenplays**

***Allegiance*** (co-written with Dominic Fumusa; optioned by Mary Stuart Masterson, with John Leguizamo and Mary Stuart Masterson attached to play the leads) The lives of American servicemen in Iraq play out in curious counterpoint to the lives of their loved ones back home in the States. Loosely based on Damon's stageplay *Shock & Awe: Soldiers' Voices from Iraq*.

***The Big Break*** (co-written with Adam Feingold), a smart-ass heist parody about two brothers from Queens who convince a group of dreamer-actors to shoot a TV pilot that's actually a bank robbery. Receiving coverage from Davyd Dixon Entertainment.

### **Television Pilots**

Projects exist which fall under NDA agreements and cannot be discussed at this time.

ACTING RESUME

DAMON DIMARCO

AEA/AFTRA/SAG

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 175 lbs

Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Brown

THEATER

Picasso at the Lapin Agile	Einstein	The Holmdel Theatre Festival
Romeo and Juliet	Paris and Romeo	Bristol Riverside Theatre
Laughter on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Ira Stone	The Gateway Playhouse
The Country Girl	Larry	The Trilogy Theater
The Edgar Allen Show	Hank	The Pantheon Theater
The Eight: Reindeer Monologues	Donner	The Duplex Theater
Of Love and Betrayal	Loot	The Kraine Theater

FILM/TELEVISION

Law & Order	FEATURED	NBC
One Life to Live	RECURRING	ABC
Law & Order: SVU	FEATURED	NBC
As the World Turns	RECURRING	CBS
Another World	FEATURED	NBC
Guiding Light	U/5	CBS
Gimme Gimme Gum Gang	Staff Seargent Gandert	ProDigital Prod.s
School's Out!	Principal Live Host	Metro Learning Channel

INDUSTRIAL RESUME AND COMMERCIAL CONFLICTS AVAILABLE

TRAINING

MFA, Rutgers Professional Actors' Training Program (Bill Esper)  
BA, Drew University, Double Major in English Lit. & Theater Arts

SPECIAL SKILLS

T'ai Chi, Da Liu, boxing, stunts. Certified Actor Combatant (Jake Turner, B.H. Barry, Rick Sordelet) Yoga, animals.  
*Je me débrouille en français*

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