

Martin Lawrence is a German-born American stand up comedian, actor, producer and director.

Lawrence came to fame during the 1990s, establishing a Hollywood career as a leading actor. He is best known for his hit TV show *Martin* which paved the way for black television and created some of the most iconic and beloved characters of all time. He is also known for films including *House Party*, *Boomerang*, *Bad Boys 1 & 2* as well as the most recent *Bad Boys for Life*, the highest grossing film of 2020. Other films include *Wild Hogs*, *Nothing to Lose*, *Blue Streak*, *Life*, *Big Momma's House 1, 2 and 3*, and *A Thin Line Between Love and Hate*.

Beginning his career in comedy, Lawrence started by doing comedy shows in the Washington, D.C., area and supported himself through odd jobs. Eventually he ended up moving to New York City and found his way to the legendary Improv Theatre. Shortly after appearing at The Improv, Lawrence won a performance spot on *Star Search*. He did well on the show and made it to the final round, but did not win.

His loss on the show was actually a win as executives at Columbia Pictures TV saw Martin's performance and offered him the role of Maurice Warfield in *What's Happening Now!!*; this was officially his first acting job. Upon cancellation of that show, Lawrence found bit parts in various films and television series. His breakthrough role was as Cee in *Do the Right Thing*. Other roles quickly followed in films such as the *House Party* series, *Talkin' Dirty After Dark*, and the Eddie Murphy vehicle *Boomerang*. During this period he was selected to host the groundbreaking series *Def Comedy Jam* on HBO. *Def Comedy Jam* was raw and real; a fan favorite, and a game changer for Lawrence.

During his stint with *Def Comedy Jam*, Lawrence was approached to do his own series and the MARTIN show was born. The show, which aired on FOX, ran from 1992 to 1997 and was an enormous success. *Martin* was the flagship of Fox's Thursday-night line-up, which drew millions of viewers away from NBC's "Must See TV" line-up. *Martin's* ratings continued to skyrocket.

Martin ended its run in 1997, Lawrence found work in comedy films, going on to be one of the most sought after comedic actors of his time. Many of his films were blockbusters at the box office, including *Nothing to Lose*, *Life*, *Blue Streak*, *Big Momma's House*, *Black Knight* and *National Security*.

In 2006, Lawrence appeared on *Inside the Actors Studio*, during which Lawrence briefly brought back to life some of the characters he had portrayed on *Martin*. He also appeared in *Open Season* as Boog, one of the main characters of the film. The movie also starred Ashton Kutcher, Debra Messing, and Gary Sinise. Lawrence starred in Disney's *College Road Trip* co-starring with Raven-Symoné.

In 2020, Lawrence reprised his role as Detective Marcus Burnett in the third installment of the *Bad Boys* franchise, *Bad Boys for Life*, again alongside Will Smith. The film was considered a financial success, grossing \$112 million in its first four days of release.

As one of the most successful touring comics of all time, millions around the world have seen Martin's concert films. "You So Crazy" "Runteldat," "Doin' Time In Hollywood" are all some of the most watched comedy films in television history. When not making movies or shooting TV shows, you can find Martin out on the road as part of his travelling comedy tour "The Lit AF Tour" which will be in a city near you in 2021.