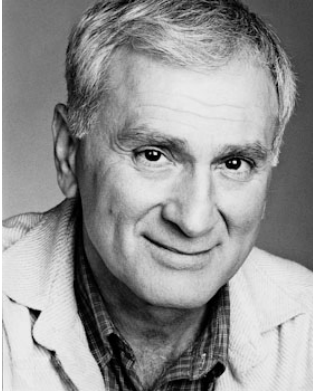


Richard Latessa

Arts/Music



Dick Latessa was born on September 15, 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio. His mother was Antoinette Latessa who was an employee of the Jordan Auto Company and Fisher Body Company of General Motors. His father was Dan Latessa a cobbler and shoe repairman. Dick is the 6th of 7 children.

Dick attended Wm. H. Brett Grade School and finished High School at Collinwood High, graduating in the June class of 1947. He studied dance and singing in Cleveland. After serving in the U .S. Army in 1951 and 1952, he was employed at the Euclid Road Machinery, TRW and the Cleveland Press. In 1957 he began performing at the Karamu Theater in Cleveland. After appearing in six productions in three years, he decided in 1959 to move to New York City to pursue more advanced training in the performing arts.

Dick has become one of Broadway's most successful performers, having appeared in 19 Broadway shows which include both musicals and plays such as Hairspray, Cabaret, Brighton Beach Memoirs and Damn Yankees to name but a few. Dick has won Broadway's most coveted award, the "Tony", for his performance in the smash musical Hairspray. His numerous other awards include the Drama Desk Award, the Outer Critic's Circle Award, the Helen Hayes Award, and the Obie Award as well as a nomination to the Joseph Jefferson Award.

Dick is also a familiar face on television, performing in some of TV's most well loved programs such as Ed, Law and Order, Spencer for Hire, The Sopranos and even Captain Kangaroo.

Dick has also starred in films, such as The Great New Wonderful, The Event, Stigmata, Substance of Fire and Alfie with Jude Law.

Dick is presently working on a film and will be appearing in Las Vegas in 2006 in the musical Hairspray.

Dick is the father of three daughters, Rachel, Gabrielle and Gina and grandfather of Madeline Latessa Ortiz.