

J.W. Leggio as “Joliet Jake Blues”



J.W. Leggio has a musical background going back to piano lessons at age 8. Steeped in classical and sacred music while attending parochial school, he studied classical organ in his early teens, sometimes acting as substitute organist at the venerable **Sacred Heart Cathedral** in Dallas, Texas. All this might have been more than enough, had it not been for the deep affection for big band standards and swing music his father and mother had instilled in him.

After studying and working in stagecraft at **Richland College** in Dallas, TX, J. became a regular member and assistant director for the **Red Wind Community Arts Theater** in Dallas. In 1978 he co-produced the first Dallas stage production of “**THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**” at the Dallas Convention Center. In 1979, he turned in a critically acclaimed performance as “**Longshoe Murphy**” in Miguel Piñero’s play “**SHORT EYES**”, while performing in Shakespeare’s “**MERCHANT OF VENICE**” that same season. Completing a stint as a graphic artist from 1980 to 1982 (plus technical director of the **State Fair Of Texas** attraction “**Haunted Lavin Manor**”), J. decided to combine his two loves - theater and music - and founded **THE BRIEFCASE BLUES BAND** in the summer of 1983.

J. has also appeared in numerous television commercials & corporate films, as well as doing character-voice work for radio. Recently he has worked on “**WALKER, TEXAS RANGER: TRIAL BY FIRE**” (FOX 2005) “**A HOUSE DIVIDED**” (ABC 2006) and acted as a stand-in on Fox Television’s current hit-series “**PRISON BREAK**” (2nd and 3rd seasons, 2006-2007). In 2009, J. portrayed James “JR” Griffin, convicted murderer of Texas photographer Diana Goldston on the Discovery Channel’s series “**Psychic Detectives 3**” (episode 34). Recent accomplishments have been working for the AFI and Dallas Film Festivals, producing and acting as an emcee for special events through **MBE Productions** and scriptwriting for a variety of projects for stage and video.

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