

CELEBRITIES

Lyriq Bent Cuts Up In Horror Thriller 'Saw IV'

Being bad might turn out to be pretty good for actor Lyriq Bent. His character SWAT commander Rigg lived to see another day in the horror flicks *Saw II* and *Saw III*. In the upcoming *Saw IV*, scheduled for release October 26, Bent shows the evil killer Jigsaw why he's still standing!

"Maybe they knew I would be kicking ass," laughed Bent. "It's a magic show. You're always trying to figure out the trick and I guess I'm playing the magician...My character is never around long enough for you to pinpoint him."

Bent says the popular *Saw* thrillers send a deeper message—appreciate life or face death. "[Jigsaw] gives you an option. He gives you a choice to walk away. Everything is a lesson. You have to listen and pay attention to the signs and don't take life for granted."

Mark Harris, CEO of blackhorrorrmovies.com, said, "There are few Black leads in mainstream horror and the more the better. Even if he turns out to be the bad guy, in horror movies, the bad guy is actually more prestigious than being the hero. The fact that he survived the first movies is nice, especially in light of the fact that a Black character has died in each of the three films, including Danny Glover in the first."

A former computer graphic technician, Bent, formerly of Canada, sort of fell into acting after graduating from college.

"I went door to door selling long-distance service," said Bent, who is originally from Kingston, Jamaica. "I had a lot of positive feedback from strangers who wanted to know if I was a model or on TV. A co-worker heard the same response and suggested an acting coach. I told him I wasn't interested."

But reluctantly Bent got some coaching anyway. He's been acting for seven years now and was once named Canada's Top Rising Actor.

"It's like stress relief," said Bent, who has appeared on USA Network's "Kojak" with Ving Rhames.

Bent has been married for seven years and is the father of two sons, ages 13 and 4. He just finished work on the TV mini-series "Guns."

"As lovely as this is, I don't want to be the *Saw* guy," he said. "It's a genre film. I'm an artist who can do an eclectic mix of work."



Rodney Wilson

▲ Lyriq Bent leads the SWAT team once again in *Saw*, but in the upcoming *Saw IV* his performance is "off the chain" with excitement.

—Margena A. Christian