

# WAR OF THE WORLDS™

RICHARD CHAVES as Lt. Col. Paul Ironhorse

Biography

Richard Chaves plays the flinty Lt. Col. Paul Ironhorse, a Cherokee Indian, West Point graduate and weapons expert facing an unearthly enemy in WAR OF THE WORLDS, the science-fiction adventure series distributed by Paramount Domestic Television.

In an interesting coincidence, the first Indian role Chaves played was a character named Irondog in "The Gambler III." "I played a Lakota Sioux," Chaves recalls, "and it really got me back in touch with my Indian roots -- my mother is part Cherokee." When he landed the part of Ironhorse on WAR OF THE WORLDS, the coincidence struck Chaves as a gift of providence. "Playing this character," says Chaves, "I have the opportunity to portray an American Indian in a very respected, high-ranking position with the military. I'm very excited about that, that as an Indian I can project such a positive image for our community."

A Vietnam veteran, Richard Chaves turned his wartime experiences into the most important catalyst for his career as an actor when he co-authored and appeared in the critically acclaimed play "Tracers."

The play, about the horrors -- and the humor -- of young men at war, earned the 1980 Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Best Ensemble. Its acclaim propelled the play and Chaves to Off-Broadway at the Public Theatre in New York, where Chaves earned the prestigious Theatre World Award for Outstanding New Talent. Chaves has also performed in productions of "Tracers" at the Royal Court in London and the Coronet Theatre in Los Angeles.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, to a Marine Corps officer and his wife, Chaves moved frequently with his family, until his father

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was stationed at El Toro Marine Base in Southern California. In high school Chaves was active in the drama department, captain of his football team and had been voted "most talented." On the recommendation of his acting teacher, he auditioned for and was accepted in the Occidental College Summer Repertory program at the Remson Bird Theatre outside Los Angeles, which marked his first heavy involvement in the theatre.

In 1970, Chaves decided to join the Army. "Having grown up in a military family," he says, "I kind of knew what I was getting into, but at the same time I was praying I would not be sent to Vietnam." Chaves served 11 1/2 months in Vietnam, stationed at Freedom Hill with the 196th Infantry Brigade. When he left the Army in 1973, he returned to Los Angeles and began to develop his professional career as an actor.

After "Tracers," Chaves's Vietnam-based roles continued on the stage with his appearance in "Vietnam Trilogy," which earned him the Hollywood Drama Critics Award for Best Performance. More recently, Chaves was featured prominently in the HBO special "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam," to which he contributed voice-over readings and his original 8mm film footage shot while he was stationed in Vietnam. His last and most recent role as a veteran was in the telefilm "To Heal a Nation," starring Eric Roberts.

In addition to his stage work, Chaves also starred in the films "Predator" with Arnold Schwarzenegger and "Cease Fire" with Don Johnson. His television credits include the miniseries "Ari: The Life of Aristotle Onassis," "The Gambler III" with Kenny Rogers and guest-starring roles on "Miami Vice," "Ohara," "Hill St. Blues" and "St. Elsewhere," among others.

Chaves maintains a home in Venice, Calif., while working in Toronto on WAR OF THE WORLDS. An avid golfer -- "I act and I play golf," he says, laughing -- he also enjoys other sports, including skiing and billiards.

WAR OF THE WORLDS is produced by Triumph Entertainment Corporation of Canada in association with Ten-Four Productions and is distributed by Paramount Domestic Television.

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PRESS CONTACTS:

Amy Bertram  
Director, Publicity  
PARAMOUNT DOMESTIC  
TELEVISION  
(213) 468-5995

Maggie Begley  
MAHONEY/WASSERMAN  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(213) 550-3922