

James C. Burns is an American actor, writer, musician, and storyteller whose career has been defined by reinvention, resilience, and authenticity. Best known worldwide as the iconic voice and performance behind Sgt. Frank Woods in the Call of Duty: Black Ops franchise, Burns has spent decades building a career across film, television, gaming, sports, and music, bringing a deeply human quality to every role and song he creates. Raised between industrial cities and the rural landscapes of the Northeast, Burns first pursued a professional hockey career in the United States and Europe before transitioning into acting and eventually music, experiences that continue to shape the emotional core of his work. His acting career includes appearances in Transformers, Euphoria, Hawaii Five-0, S.W.A.T., the Yakuza franchise, and more than one hundred national commercials, while his music project, “James C. Burns Music,” reflects a cinematic, narrative-driven blend of Americana, rock, folk, and country storytelling. Writing songs since his teens, Burns now draws from a lifetime of experiences — success, failure, travel, performance, and personal evolution — to create work grounded in honesty and authenticity. Whether on screen, on stage, or with a guitar in hand, his storytelling is rooted in lived experience, exploring themes of identity, resilience, memory, redemption, and the enduring search for connection.