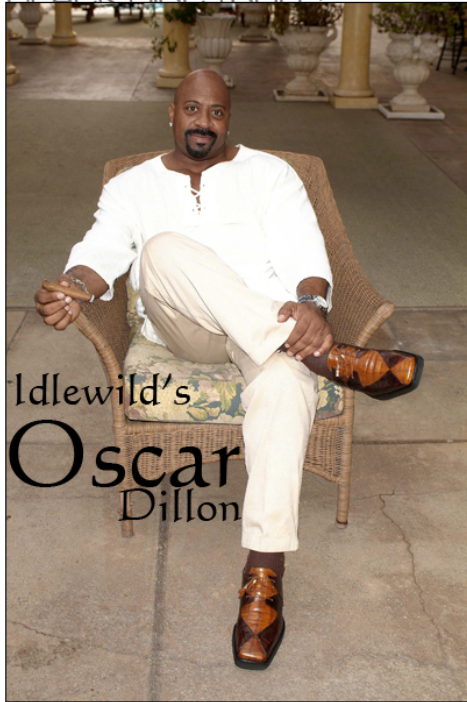


ACTOR



Idlewild's
Oscar
Dillon

Interview by Leslie C. Alessandro
Photography by Leslie C. Alessandro for Level 10 Photography®

BGR: Oscar, I understand that you're from St. Louis, tell us about the early years and what brought you out to Los Angeles?

OD: My humble beginnings started in the south with a Christian mother and father who were extremely poor but rich in love. We lived in a house in a very ghetto neighborhood which had a lot of violence, horrible living conditions and we suffered a lot just so we could eat and put shoes on our feet. That led me to working out and becoming a body builder because I was sick and tired of the element that I was living in and being challenged by the neighborhood crime. So I became a young body builder, competing in the MPC and AAU and achieved a number of titles in body building, as well as power lifting. Eventually when I turned pro, I decided to spread my wings and that's when I moved to LA.

BGR: How old were you when you came out to Los Angeles?

OD: I was twenty-eight when I moved here and I was actually a detective in the St. Louis police department. After I realized that I didn't want to continue doing that, I had something really broader that I wanted to do with myself instead of arresting my brothers and sisters out there in the street. Instead of putting people in body bags, I wanted to make a statement and that is, to give sympathy to black girls and black boys that they could do what I did which is to choose a better life and get out of the element and do something better for themselves. I do a lot of speaking now, in schools and organizations and I impress upon my black brothers especially the young ones in the game with a tough life and that are being raised just by moms and and who choose the streets, that they should choose something that is more constructive for their lives.

< 32 >