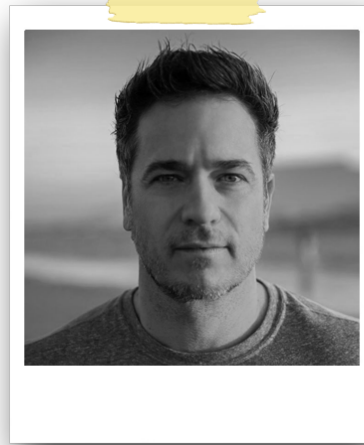


## FRANK RAUTENBACH

TV/ THEATER / FILM



### BIOGRAPHY

Frank Rautenbach was born in East London, a small seaside city on the East Coast of South Africa, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1972. His father was a medical doctor who occasionally dabbled in some amateur dramatics. His mother, a dance teacher and clothing designer also enjoyed creative pursuits, but it never crossed their minds that the arts could turn into a career for their third son.

It all started at the age of 15 when he was cast in a local production of the musical *Hello Dolly*. A few years later he made his professional debut as an extra in the movie, *Backbeat*, shot in London about the early life of the famous British band the *Beatles*.

After these modest beginnings Frank went on to star in the critically acclaimed movie the *Bang Bang Club* and the box office hit, *Faith Like Potatoes*. Other starring roles include the movies, *Hansie: a journey of grace*, *The Film-Maker's son* and the festival darling, *Mr. Johnson*.

Frank is known for performances that are disarmingly charming and his innate ability to connect with audience hearts on an honest and deeply emotional level. This ability also helped him land many roles as the lead actor in many TV/movie commercials. Starting out his agents were surprised when only after his second audition he landed the lead in a world-wide *Mentos* commercial. A month later he landed the lead in a world-wide *Snickers* commercial, and his agent couldn't help but ask "What did you do in the audition?!" Frank's reply, "I don't know but it is

the kind of behavior that used to get me into trouble at school. ”Many more commercials followed, and Frank was able to pay his way through university. He got married on February 24, 1996, the same year he started to study towards a Bcom. degree with Economics and Industrial Psychology as majors. He graduated with an A aggregate four years later.

It was during his exams in his final year that he was offered the role of, *Tiaan Terreblanche*, the popular and lovable rogue in the hit TV show, *7de Laan*. This role put Frank on the industry map and in the public eye. He however, always had his sights set on Hollywood and after 5 successful years on *7de Laan*, Frank and Leigh packed their bags for the USA.

They quickly learnt that Los Angeles is not a place you live in by accident. It is a tough, competitive city especially in the cut-throat entertainment industry of Hollywood. After finding early success in the critically acclaimed movie, *Bang Bang Club*, Frank became the envy of many an actor friend when he was signed to the biggest agents in the world, William Morris Endeavor. Suddenly he had access to auditions for the most sought-after roles in the world, like the role of Superman in *Superman, Man of Steel*.

But this is Hollywood. After driving literally tens of thousands of miles and not landing a single job Frank found himself in the wilderness especially after he discovered that his agents had dropped him as a client. Devasted, he had to find a job. The only door that opened was to become a cab driver, a job he did for three years. He then worked as a janitor at a church for the next two years doing everything from cleaning toilets, all twenty-two of them, to repairing plumbing and drywalls and a variety of maintenance work.

He finally made a return to acting by doing a refresher course in the Meisner Technique at the prestigious acting school, Baron-Browne in Santa Monica, CA. As an actor Frank felt like he found his voice again.

Then in 2018 on a quick three-week trip to his native South Africa, he auditioned for the role of Leonard Patterson, for the HBOmax smash hit show, *Warrior*. He got the part and after a ten-year drought was back in the game on an American show no less in his native South Africa! *Warrior* recently confirmed that HBOmax has ordered a third season. Being in the show necessitated a move back to South Africa for Frank and Leigh. They are both American and South African dual citizens.

Since his return to South Africa, Frank published his memoir, *The Vagabond – \_Is your life worth living?* The book became a best-seller and is currently in development as a feature film in collaboration with M-Net South Africa. The screenplay, written by Frank Rautenbach, Leigh Rautenbach, Ivan Botha and Donnalee Roberts, is currently in its second draft.

Frank has also made his return to the small screen as a guest star in *Suid-Ooster*, *Getroud Met Rugby* and *7de Laan*. He recently starred as the character Jason, in the wildly popular ten-episode M-Net drama, *Lioness*. *Lioness* recently got signed for international distribution by Fugitive.

Frank has worn many hats in his life. He first started out as a professional rugby player with the club, Arpajon in the town Aurillac in the Central Province of France. This is also where he learnt to speak conversational French. He studied theology at the International Bible Institute of London, graduating with a diploma in Christian studies. Frank has done public speaking for many years in the form of sermons and motivational speeches. He has a keen interest in theology and counts N.T. Wright as one of his favorites. He also has a Masters Diploma in Executive Coaching, from the Center for Advanced Coaching, New York, 2008. Frank has a deep passion to see people flourish in their chosen field in life.

He is an avid golfer and has played off a scratch handicap. He currently has a two handicap with a best score of 67, -5 under par. He grew up surfing on the pristine beaches of the east coast of South Africa and competed in the South African school's league. He is a proud old boy of his prestigious high school, Selborne College.

But after three decades in the entertainment business, if Frank was asked: "What is your favorite thing to do in terms of work?" Without a doubt the answer would still be: "To tell stories by way of playing memorable characters who touch and moves audience's hearts either through comedy, drama, action and everything in between." \_

Frank and Leigh recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Their stock answer when asked about what makes a successful marriage is, "Don't die and don't leave!" - Jeff Foxworthy