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Earle Hyman

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Hyman, Earle (b. Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 11 October 1926). US actor. Hyman is a popular performer with stage, film, and television credits. He began his career in the theatre, being affiliated early on with the American Negro Theatre, and his Broadway debut came in the 1956 production of *Mister Johnson*, an adaptation of the novel by Joyce Carey. He was affiliated with productions of contemporary and classic plays that experimented with colour-blind and cross-racial casting, including an all-black production of *The Cherry Orchard* (1972), conceived by JAMES EARL JONES, and a production of *Death of a Salesman* (1977) in which Hyman was cast as Uncle Ben in an otherwise all-white cast. He is also known for his mastery of Shakespeare, having appeared in twenty-five roles spanning nineteen plays. He is perhaps best known for the award-winning television series *The Cosby Show*, on which he played Russell Huxtable, father of Bill Cosby's Heathcliff Huxtable.

JOCELYN L. BUCKNER