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Jones, James Earl (b. Arkabutla, Mississippi, 17 January 1931). US actor of stage, film, and television. Jones began his study of performance when he was young, turning to elocution to overcome a severe stutter. He studied theatre at the University of Michigan and moved to New York to pursue an acting career after serving briefly in the military. His efforts to overcome his early speech impediment gave him a deep appreciation for language and articulation, and from the beginning of his career Jones was heralded for his deep and commanding voice. His most notable stage productions include Errol John's *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* (1962), Roscoe Lee Browne's *A Hand is on the Gate* (1966), and an all-black production of *The Cherry Orchard*, which he conceived and in which he played the merchant Lopakhin. He has won two Tony Awards, first for his portrayal of a heavyweight fighter in *The Great White Hope* (1968), and second as the original Walter Lee in August Wilson's *Fences* (1987). He has also appeared in numerous classical roles. Jones made his film debut in *Dr Strangelove* (1964), and among his many film roles is the voice of Darth Vader in the *Star Wars* series. He has also appeared on television in the mini-series *Roots*, the drama *Gabriel's Fire*, and in several other shows. He was honoured with the National Medal of Arts (1992) and a Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award (2009).

JOCELYN L. BUCKNER

J. E. Jones, *Voices and Silences, with a New Epilogue* (New York, 2002)