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Cast of "In the Heat of the Night" | Source: Getty ImagesThe TV crime/drama "In the Heat of the Night" was an iconic and critically acclaimed series of the late 80s and early 90s. The show was amazing, with many great performances from the actors. Sadly, the program ended, but fans are still curious to know where the "In the Heat of the Night" cast is now."In the Heat of the Night" remains an amazing series several decades after it ended. It was loosely based on the 1967 film and the 1965 novel of the same title, with some minor plot changes. The series storyline focuses on a small-town police chief, Bill Gillespie, who later becomes county sheriff. As Gillespie tries to solve crimes and catch criminals, he encounters setbacks that force him to navigate tricky small-town politics. Cast of "In the Heat of the Night" on set | Source: Getty ImagesThe TV drama starred many actors, including Emmy Award winner Carroll O'Connor and Emmy and Oscar nominee Howard Rollins. The series, which ended in 1995, left a lasting impression, prompting fans' curiosity about where "In the Heat of the Night" cast members are now. Here is what we know. Carroll O'ConnorCarroll starred as police chief Gillespie who worked alongside the chief of detectives Virgil Gibbs and police lieutenant Bubba Skinner. Carroll was also the show's executive producer, and he asked some of his longtime friends, like Jean Simmons and Bobby Short, to appear as guest stars. The veteran actor, born in 1924 in Manhattan, New York, was raised in Forest Hills, a heavily Jewish community. He discovered his passion for acting while studying English at the University of Montana. Actor, producer and director Carroll O'Connor in1982, at an undisclosed location. | Source: Getty ImagesCarroll is also known for his notable performance in the sitcom "Archie Bunker's Place," the 2000 romance/drama film "Return to Me," and the action film "Kelly's Heroes" in which he co-starred with Clint Eastwood and Telly Savalas. Carroll's adopted son, Hugh O'Connor, was also one of the "In the Heat of the Night" cast. He had a starring role as Lieutenant Lonnie Jamison. In 1995, Carroll's life almost came to a standstill when his only son committed suicide after a long battle with drug addiction. Carroll O'Connor at Tavern On The Green at Tavern On The Green in New York City on November 03, 1994. | Source: Getty ImagesHugh, born in 1962 in Rome, was adopted by Carroll and his wife, Nancy. When Hugh turned 16, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, but he fought it with the help of chemotherapy. It was at the same time that Hugh began using drugs. Hugh's death devastated his father, and as a result, Carroll became a vocal advocate for the Drug Dealer Liability Act. The law, which became effective in 1997, has been adopted by many states, and it allows people to sue drug dealers who cause the death of users. Carroll met his untimely death in 2001 after suffering from a heart attack. Hundreds traveled from far and wide to attend his funeral. Some of the attendees who went to bid farewell included comedian Don Rickles, actor Larry Hagman and "The West Wing" actor Martin Sheen among others. Howard E. Rollins Jr. attends a party at Luchow's, a restaurant in New York City, on November 18, 1981. | Source: Getty ImagesHoward Rollins"In the Heat of the Night" cast member Rollins was known for his role as chief of detectives Virgil. Rollins was a talented actor, and before landing a role in the crime/drama TV series, he starred in movies like the 1984 mystery film "A Soldier's Story." He also co-starred with James Cagney and Jeff Daniels in the 1981 drama film "Ragtime," for which he got an Oscar nomination for his impressive performance. Rollins only played the chief of detectives in the crime series for five seasons before his departure. According to reports, Rollins exited the program following his wish to return to filmmaking. However, other reports indicated that the actor battled drug addiction, which constantly kept him in legal trouble. After exiting the program, Rollins starred in a few movies before meeting his untimely death in 1996. Based on reports, Rollins died of a bacterial infection after suffering from complications of Lymphoma, and the actor had learned he had cancer a few weeks before his demise. Other reports indicated that Rollins, who died at St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, was HIV- positive.Anne Marie Johnson at the Rancho Park in Los Angeles, California on May 17, 2003 | Source: Getty ImagesAnne-Marie JohnsonActress Johnson was one of the "In the Heat of the Night" cast known for playing Althea Tibbs, the counselor and Virgil's wife. She decided to leave the program at the end of season six to take another role on Fox's sketch comedy series, "In Living Color."Since then, Johnson has built a successful acting career, including appearing in the TV drama "How to Get Away with Murder," "Days of Our Lives" and "Grey's Anatomy." Johnson has been married to a fellow actor Martin Grey since 1996. Alan Autry walks through the crowd after attending the funeral of actor Carroll O''Connor on June 26, 2001, at St. Paul The Apostle Church in West Los Angeles, CA. | Source: Getty ImagesAlan Autry Alan was one of the "In the Heat of the Night" cast, known for his role as captain "Bubba" Skinner. After the series ended, Alan Autry and his wife, Kimberlee Autry, launched Dirt Road Productions. The production company produced the western/indie film "The Legend of Jake Kincaid," in which Alan co-starred with his wife, Kimbelee, his son Austin and his daughter Laureen. He was also the scriptwriter, producer, and director. Besides forming a production company, Alan ventured into politics and was elected mayor of Fresno, California, in 2000. He served as mayor for two terms, and some of his achievements include maintaining a balanced budget with a surplus without cutting municipal jobs. He was also a passionate supporter of the anti-gay ban.Alan Autry attends NBC TV Affiliates Party on August 7, 1988, at the Registry Hotel in Los Angeles, California. | Source: Getty ImagesAfter serving as mayor, Alan hosted a radio talk show in Fresno which aired for two years, from 2008 to 2010. He later decided to focus on his production company and produced a movie titled "Almost Home," where he plays a homeless veteran. Alan has also appeared in the crime series "Tulsa King," which was released in 2022. David Hart Hart played kind-hearted cop Parker Williams in the TV drama. After the program ended, Hart continued his acting career and appeared in several movies and series. He is married to producer Anne Tabor known for the sci-fi series "Twilight Zone" and the crime/drama series "Damages." Hart and Tabor have been married since 1998. Geoffrey Thorne Thorne played Sgt. Wilson Sweet on "In the Heat of the Night" from 1988 until 1993. After exiting the program, he appeared in several movies, like the 1997 drama film "Road Ends" and the 1998 romance film "City of Angels," in which he co-starred with Meg Ryan and Nicholas Cage. "In the Heat of the Night" cast members | Source: Getty ImagesThorne also worked on other projects, including the 1997 drama series "Crisis Center" and the 1994 film, "Moment of Truth: Cradle of Conspiracy." After becoming a successful actor, Thorne quit his acting career when it was at its peak to focus on becoming a professional writer. Risking his career was worth it, as Thorne became a successful writer.He co-authored "Star Trek: Titan," a series of science fiction novels set within the Star Trek media franchise. He also wrote for the TV hit series "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," the mystery/thriller series "Leverage," and the TV crime/drama "Power Book II: Ghost."Thorne is also the brains behind the global hit animation adventure series "Ben 10." He has also written several episodes of Marvel's "Spider-Man" and "Avengers" series. Besides writing, Thorne has also co-created an audio drama from Pendant Productions titled "Phantom Canyon." He is also the co-founder and writing partner of Genre19, a studio he formed in 2008 after partnering with artist Todd Harris.Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaEpisode aired May 16, 1995TV-141h 36mWhen a former cop marries a wealthy widow, his ex-girlfriend sees an opportunity for blackmail. But their plan to keep her quiet and out of their lives does not exactly go as planned.When a former cop marries a wealthy widow, his ex-girlfriend sees an opportunity for blackmail. But their plan to keep her quiet and out of their lives does not exactly go as planned.When a former cop marries a wealthy widow, his ex-girlfriend sees an opportunity for blackmail. But their plan to keep her quiet and out of their lives does not exactly go as planned.Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages *FAQs at bottom of article*UPDATED 2/21/2024 Before there were any versions, or even visions, of Law and Order,there was In the Heat of the Night. Starring Carroll OConnor as police chief Bill Gillespie, and Howard Rollins as police detective Virgil Tibbs, Plus, who could forget Bubba? Did you know the theme music was composed by the great Quincy Jones? This critically acclaimed show was loosely spun off of the 1967 film and 1965 novel of the same name. Every week we got to go back to our favorite small-town police department, and they tackled crime, but also tough issues like racism and domestic violence. Certainly why this show was on the air for so long from 1988 to 1995 to be exact. Today were checking back into the rough and tough city of Sparta, Mississippi. Not a real city, by the way the production took place in Covington, Georgia, so it did move a little slower than LA. Covington was already famous for as the location for the first five episodes of The Dukes of Hazzard.The Covington Public Library was transformed into the Sparta Police Department and thats where it all happened Now lets get to it.1. Carroll OConnor (William Gillespie)CBS / YouTube ScreenshotYea, what? the to-the-point, no-nonsense answer by the Chief whenever he got a phone call. He was an honorable and decent man during a time when some of his law enforcement pals were not And the legendary Carroll OConnor didnt just play this role, he was an executive producer and a writer for many episodes, But Carroll is perhaps better known as Archie Bunker, the lovable bigot, but the always-interesting star of the classic sitcom All in the Family.RELATED: All in the Family: Carroll OConnor Went from Newspaper Editor and Playwright to Archie BunkerIN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, Carroll OConnor, 1988-94 / Everett CollectionHe helped the show become so successful it even (directly or indirectly) spawned no less than seven spin-offs: Maude (1972 to 1978), Good Times (1974 to 1979), The Jeffersons (1975 to 1984), Archie Bunkers Place (1979 to 1983), Checking In (1984), Gloria (1982 to 1983) and 704 Hauser (1994). But some would say he was just as great onIn Heat of the Night. And, his time on television didnt stop after Chief Bill. He also was on Party of Five in the 90s. His last role was in the 2000 Bonnie Hunt-directed romantic comedy Return to Me before he sadly died the following year from a heart attack. He was 76 years old.2. Howard Rollins (Virgil Tibbs)YouTube Screenshot / Everett CollectionChief of Detectives Virgil Tibbs the city council of Sparta thought it would serve them well if they had a bit more diversity in the force, but some on the force, like Bubba, had a hard time reporting to a Black superior, one of the more interesting early plot developments. Rollins really was superb as Tibbs, which was a daunting role considering the legendary Sidney Poitier originated the part.IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, Howard Rollins, Carroll OConnor, 1988-94 / Everett CollectionWe first met Rollins in 1981 when he made his movie debut in the film adaptation of Ragtime, where he was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Oscar. Then, in 1984, Rollins starred in the critically acclaimed film A Soldiers Story, which directly led to his role as Virgil Tibbs. During the shows run, Rollins struggled with addiction to drugs and alcohol, finding himself arrested four times for possession, and spening one month in jail for driving under the influence. Due to his ongoing personal and legal issues, he was dismissed from the series at the end of Season 6, but after attending rehab and attaining sobriety, he did return for guest appearances. In 1996, Rollins died at just 46 years old from complications of HIV. He had been diagnosed just six weeks prior. In 2006, a wax model of Rollins was unveiled at the Senator Theatre in his hometown of Baltimore.3. Anne-Marie Johnson (Althea Tibbs)Everett Collection / YouTube ScreenshotAlthea Tibbs is Virgils wife and is also a teacher and counselor.Anne-Marie graduated from UCLA with a degree in theater and began acting in 1973, but didnt really start gaining notice until 1984 with her role as Lynn Williams on Hill Street Blues. Most people remember her as Nadine on every episode of the spinoff, Whats Happening Now!!. This led straight into her part as Althea Tibbs, after which we saw her again in Season 5 of the sketch comedy show In Living Color in 1993.IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, Ane-Marie Johnson, 1988-1995, MGM/courtesy Everett CollectionIn 1997 she was in 18 episodes of the wildly popular CBS show JAG, and shes never slowed down. More recently, in 2019, she was a series regular on the short-lived NBC show, The InBetween and has had recurring parts on the 2020 series Cherish the Day and How to Get Away with Murder. In 2022 she appeared in episodes of So Help Me Todd and Ravens Home. Today shes 63 years old and has been married to actor Martin Grey since 1996.4. David Hart (Parker Williams)YouTube ScreenshotsOfficer Parker Williams is a good ole boy, a sensitive guy who cares very deeply for the people of Sparta.David Hart started acting in the early 80s. His real first recurring gig was In The Heat of the Night cast, and he never again matched that level of success. The last time we saw him was in the 2011 Western, Forgiven, written and directed by Alan Autry, aka Bubba.NBC/CBSHe has appeared in numerous commercials for well-known brands like iHop, Maxwell House Coffee, and Coors Light. Today, he is 70 years old today and resides in Arlington, TX with his wife who is a senior minister there. Davids daughter from a previous marriage, Mamrie Hart, is an actress and comedian whose YouTube channel has over 1.1 million subscribers. 5. Hugh OConnor (Lonnie Jamison)Everett Collection / NBC/CBSLt. Lonnie Jamison was as sharp and straightforward as they come and by the end of the show, his character had grown from a supporting patrolman to a starring Lt. and acting-chief of detectives. Hugh was born in Rome, Italy, and adopted by Carroll OConnor and his wife, Nancy. At the age of 16, Hugh was diagnosed with Hodgkins disease but conquered it with the help of chemotherapy. It was around this time that Hugh became addicted to drugs.IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, Hugh OConnor, Carroll OConnor, 1988-94 / Everett CollectionSix months before Hughs death, his wife told Carroll that a man named Harry Thomas Perzigian had been furnishing Hugh with drugs so after hiring a private detective to investigate, they had enough evidence to arrest and convict Perzigian. Sadly, he was only arrested after Hugh had committed suicide. On March 28, 1995, the third anniversary of his marriage, Hugh called his dad to tell him he was going to end his life, saying he could not beat his drug addiction. Carroll called the police, who arrived at Hughs home just as he shot himself. Hugh died at 32 years old. Carroll would spend the rest of his life advocating for drug abuse awareness and even successfully lobbied to get California to pass the Drug Dealer Liability Act in 1997.6. Geoffrey Thorne (Wilson Sweet)Everett Collection / YouTube ScreenshotOfficer Wilson Sweet was the cocky fresh meat right out of the police academy and one of the first Black men to join the police force. Geoffrey Thorne got his start in 1987, securing his knack for playing officers with a one-off on Hill Street Blues. In the Heat of the Night was certainly his most notable role, but he worked solidly until 2000, his last gig being two episodes on the show Bull.David Hart and Geoffrey Thorne / CBS/NBCHe decided at that time to retire from in front of the camera and pick up a pen. Or computer more likely. As a screenwriter, Thorne was a writer for season 9 of Law & Order: Criminal Intent. In 2014, NBC tapped Thorne to revive Knight Rider in comic book form and if you havent watched our Cast Rewind Episode for Knight Rider, what are you waiting for?!? Then, in 2017, Marvel chose Thorne to be head writer and showrunner of the animated series, Avengers: Black Panthers Quest. Today hes 54 and is the Co-Executive Producer of Power: Book II Ghost, the first spinoff of the popular STARZ show, Power, and also wrote an episode for the new Magnum, P.I. show in 2021.7. Alan Autry (Bubba Skinner)Everett Collection / YouTube ScreenshotCapt. Bubba Skinner, while a bit intimidating, is a good man. He was sort of the protege of OConnors character which made the insertion of Tibbs a little hard for him to swallow. He was a tough guy with a heart of gold. Its tough to forget how he often called racists and bigots knotheads. Alan Autry got his start a bit late in the game, mostly due to the fact that he was playing a different game. In 1975, under the name Carlos Brown, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers, and the following season started three games for the Pack as Quarterback.IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, Alan Autry, 1988 1994. (c)MGM Television/ Courtesy: Everett CollectionBut after he was cut from the team by legendary Football player and then Coach Bart Starr, Autry packed up his things and moved to Hazzard County well technically Hollywood, but his first semi-regular appearance was The Dukes of Hazzard in 1981. Then it was time for Bubba. The season 7 episode Every Mans Family was meant to be a pilot for a proposed spinoff for Bubba Skinner, but it didnt materialize. Afterward, he immediately grabbed a recurring role on Grace Under Fire as Rick Bradshaw. In 1999. he got another series regular gig in Sons of Thunder, the spin-off of the Chuck Norris cult classic Walker Texas Ranger. Find out more about Chuck and company in our Texas Ranger Throwback!We last saw him in the 2017 MMA action flick, Victory by Submission. Autry is also a born-again Christian, devoting much of his time to charitable causes. In 2000 he entered the world of politics and served two four-year terms as mayor of Fresno until 2009. Today hes 71 and is also the CEO of the Autry Entertainment Group.This show was fantastic, and the characters were well-fleshed out with quite possibly the greatest police chief in television history. So tell us, who was your favorite character from the show? Did you enjoy the 1967 film version better? What about the novel; any fans of that John Ball book? Tell us in the comments below, and lets remember an excellent show together.Next up: Barney Miller Cast Then And Now 2024 Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Where was In the Heat of the Night filmed?Season 1 was filmed in and around Hammond, Louisiana. Seasons 2-8 were filmed in and around Covington, GeorgiaWhat years was In the Heat of the Night in production?1987-1994What years did first run episodes of In the Heat of the Night air?1988-1995Why was Carroll O'Connor absent from the last several episodes of season 2? Mr. O'Connor underwent sextuple bypass surgery after a routine physical revealed clogged arteries. It was nine days after a successful surgery when doctors removed his gallbladder. Doctors at the time said the inflamed gallbladder had nothing to do with O'Connor's heart surgery. One-month after surgery, Mr. O'Connor returned to the set and assumed the additional role of co-executive producer.Any relation to the Facebook group "In the Heat of the Night Fan Club!!"?Are you telling us that some poor dope with no imagination started an ITHOTN group on Facebook by double emphasizing [!!] our page name as a means to fast track a following? This is both sad and somehow comforting. When it comes to online fan discussion of In the Heat of the Night, Backstreets of Sparta is where it's at!Who is the person that sang In the Heat of the Night's theme song? Bill Champlin. Read our interview with him here.What happened to Sgt. Willson Sweet?Actor Geoffrey Thorne felt that his character (Willson Sweet) wasn't utilized enough on the show. When Thorne's contract was up at the end of Season 6, he left to pursue other projects. There are 146 episodes of In the Heat of the Night, so why does WGN America keep showing the same handful of episodes over and over? How can I contact them?For programming concerns, you can contact WGN America via e-mail WGNAmerica@tribunemedia.com or by phone 773-528-2311. Be sure to also thank them for continuing to carry the best Southern crime/melodrama ever!I bought all 8 seasons on DVD, and there are several episodes missing. Why?When TGG Direct licensed the series, there were episodes that had home video clearance issues such as music rights, etc. that prevent the distributor from releasing the complete series. It is not in the authority of TGG Direct to authorize clearance but felt it unfair to the fans of the show to not release the seasons due to missing episodes. Since clearance issues prevent many episodes from being released on DVD, why are many of them available via streaming services? Many people are confused as to why digital downloads are available for episodes that are not released on DVD. The reason is that of the same nature as to why these episodes are available and shown on TV. Digital download is viewed the same as television and rights or clearance issues pertain to only in the format of home video.Is Alan Autry related to the late cowboy Gene Autry?Alan is not related to the late singing cowboy.Why did Anne-Marie Johnson (Althea Tibbs) leave In the Heat of the Night?While a number of factors influenced Anne-Marie's decision to leave the series, it can be said that sudden changes in the show's storyline, along with a desire for other challenges, played a role (no pun intended!) in "Althea" leaving Sparta Miss., for good. Anne-Marie moved on that year to join the ensemble cast of the raucous Fox comedy series In Living Color. Please read Anne-Marie Johnson's exclusive interview with us as she lightly addresses her departure from Heat and much, much more. After watching the season 2 finale episode "Missing," I noticed that the season 3 opener did not pick up where the season 2 cliffhanger left off. Did I miss something?The season 3 episode "Anniversary" was originally intended to be the season 3 premiere episode and sequel to the season 2 finale episode "Missing." However, Carroll O'Connor made the executive decision to make season 3 episode "Rape" the third season's premiere. Mr. O'Connor believed "Rape" was the most substantive episode to kick-off the season. "Anniversary" later aired as the sixth episode of season 3.What happened to the character of Magnolia Cafe proprietor and Chief Gillespie's lady friend Joanne St. John?The official reason why Lois Nettleton (Joanne St. John) left Sparta Miss., behind was that the producers felt the story possibilities for her character had been exhausted. Unofficially, Lois Nettleton felt that she wasn't being used enough or in sufficient depth. She then went on to portray a Broadway role in Atlanta before moving on to various musicals abroad, including film and television.There is a stretch of episodes without Bubba. Did Alan Autry leave the show? Alan Autry never left the show. While it had been reported that he left Heat to pursue other interests, it was at the end of season 5 when Alan decided to focus on making a film based on a story he had secured the rights to. This would explain why he appeared in about half of season 6's episodes. Whatever happened with Sparta Revisited: In the Heat of the Night 30th-Anniversary Reunion event?Please read the official statement issued by one of the event organizers for a complete and uncensored account of the facts. 2012-2025 In the Heat of the Night Fan Club. All Rights Reserved. TVIn the Heat of the Night the television series, adapted from the acclaimed film starring Sidney Poitier, ran for many years on television. However, one of its main stars battled a drug and alcohol addiction that eventually led him to no longer be on the show. In the Heat of the Night the television series, adapted from the acclaimed film starring Sidney Poitier, ran for many years on television. However, one of its main stars battled a drug and alcohol addiction that eventually led him to no longer be on the show. Howard E. Rollins Jr. as Chief of Detectives/Attorney Virgil Tibbs, Anne-Marie Johnson as Althea Tibbs, Carroll OConner as Chief/Sherriff William Bill O. Gillespie on In the Heat of the Night | NBCU Photo Bank Rollins had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, and it eventually led to his dismissal from the show in 1994. Years before he was finally written out, they were several reports that he could be departing the show after he was hospitalized. A National Enquirer report said that he had been fired in 1989, but the shows brass, including co-star and executive producer Carroll OConnor, denied it. The rumor was that OConnor fired Rollins. According. to reports, OConnor was deeply upset by the rumors. The whole thing is a lie, said Jim Mahoney, speaking for OConnor in a 1989 interview with the New York Daily News. Carroll wants him Rollins back. And were all concerned about his well-being. Carroll is outraged about the story. Ive never seen him this upset. Theres absolutely no truth to it, and were talking to our lawyers about a possible libel suit. Rollins was reportedly in the hospital for chest pains and was released a few days after being admitted. Carroll has not fired Howard, said David Gerber, chairman of MGM/UA Television Group, told the New York Daily News at the time. He had a talk with him last week and told him that its all up to him about whether to return to the show or not. He told Howard that if he feels up to it, he can come back anytime, under doctors supervision. During his time on the show overall, he was arrested four times for drug and alcohol offenses. He also spent one month in jail for reckless driving and a DUI. Because of all of this, he was written out of the show in the sixth season. Despite this, he returned to the show to make several guest appearances in the seventh season. Though Rollins had his issues in real-life, the person who worked the closest with him on-screen only sung his praises. In an interview less than 10 years ago with In the Heat of the Night Fan Club, Johnson called her former co-star a dynamic talent. Wed never met each other before our first scene, she explained. Ill never forget that day. It was hot and humid and we were shooting in Hammond LA. It was an exterior shot of Virgil and Althea walking up the steps of his childhood church, attending Virgils mothers funeral. I walked up to Howard, introduced myself, we hugged, he teased me (I dont remember what the tease was) and that was that. According to Johnson, their chemistry came organically. We were married, she said. Our chemistry was just that; simple, organic chemistry. We really loved working together. He was such a dynamic talent. Really incredible. We spent more time laughing and kidding each other all those years than anything else. We had such heavy scenes to do every week, we had to lighten the atmosphere not only for ourselves, but for our crew. Reruns of In the Heat of the Night currently air on multiple networks in syndication. The late 80s show, In the Heat of the Night, left a lasting impression thanks to its fantastic cast. Heres everything you need to know about the In the Heat of the Night cast. With a stellar cast, a theme song composed by the great Quincy Jones, and a bestselling novel and film of the same name, In the Heat of the Night was set up for success. The TV crime/drama was a hugely iconic late 80s and 90s series. In the Heat of the Night is said to have preceded the creation of major crime series such as Law and Order and NCIS. In the Heat of the Night Cast. (Source: Instagram) It was released on March 6, 1988, and ended on May 16, 1995. The series loosely revolved around the 1965 novel and 1967 film and was directed by Norman Jewison. Every week for seven years, we returned to our favorite small-town police department, where they tackled crime but also challenging and vital issues like racism and domestic violence. The show was highly applauded for speaking on controversial topics that most people avoided then. The hit show won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Drama Series for two years, in 1992 and 1993. The film also bagged five Oscars and seven nominations. For 142 episodes, dozens of actors visited this small Southern town show. Some actors played their roles for years, while others were special guests for just an episode or two. Heres a quick update on some of your favorite characters. Carroll starred in the lead role of William O. Bill Gillespie, a tough but honorable small city police chief. He was a revered character and was loved by many fans. He became an executive producer on the show and story editor and crafted the show to be more in line with the lives of the people of Sparta and the social issues they grappled with in the wake of the Civil Rights movement. Carroll OConnor, Who Played Chief William O. Bill Gillespie. (Source: Facebook) After the show ended in 1995, Carroll appeared in a few series and films and became a vocal anti-drug advocate after his son Hughs death. The actor died of a heart attack in 2001 at 76. Thorne played Sgt. Wilson Sweet on In the Heat of the Night from 1988 until 1993. After exiting the program, he appeared in movies like Road Ends and City of Angels. Thorne has had a very successful career being the brain behind some of Hollywoods biggest hits. He co-authored Star Trek: Titan and wrote for the TV hit series Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Leverage, and Power Book II: Ghost. Thorne is also the brains behind the global hit animation adventure series Ben 10. He has also written several episodes of Marvels Spider-Man and Avengers series, working with Chris Hemsworth and Mark Ruffalo. Besides writing, Thorne has also co-created an audio drama from Pendant Productions titled Phantom Canyon. In 2008, he co-founded Genre19 after partnering with artist Todd Harris. Rollins played the role of Detective/Chief of Detectives/Captain Virgil Tibbs in the show. Unlike the movie, where he was just a visitor passing through, in the series, Virgil is rewritten as a Sparta native who later moves north and becomes a police detective in Philadelphia, PA. He played his role for five seasons before departing to continue filmmaking full-time. Howard Rollins, Who Played Captain Virgil Tibbs. (Source: Facebook) After exiting the show, Rollins starred in a few movies before meeting his untimely death in 1996 at 46. Based on reports, Rollins died of a bacterial infection after suffering from complications of Lymphoma, and the actor had learned he had cancer a few weeks before his demise. Other reports indicated that Rollins, who died at St. Lukes Hospital in Manhattan, was HIV- positive. Autry played Captain Bubba Skinner, an intimidating and physically powerful but good cop. After the series ended, Alan Autry and his wife, Kimberlee Autry, launched a film production company called Dirt Road Productions. He also ventured into politics and was elected mayor of Fresno, California, in 2000, where he served for two terms. He is also a passionate supporter of the anti-gay ban. From 2008 to 2010, the actor hosted a radio show in Fresno but eventually decided to focus on his production company. His most recent acting appearance was in 2022 in the crime series Tulsa King. Johnson was known for playing Althea Tibbs, the counselor and Virgils wife. She played her role for six seasons and left the program at the end of season six to take another part on Foxs sketch comedy series, In Living Color. Anne-Marie Johnson, Who Played Althea Tibbs. (Source: Facebook) Since then, Johnson has built a very successful acting career, including appearing in mainstream TV dramas How to Get Away with Murder, Days of Our Lives, Thats So Raven and Greys Anatomy. Hart played kind-hearted cop Parker Williams in the TV drama who genuinely loved the people of Sparta. He was the only cast member who never missed an episode during the entire series run. After the program ended, Hart continued his acting career and appeared in several movies and series. He is married to producer Anne Tabor, known for the sci-fi series Twilight Zone and the crime/drama series Damages. Hart and Tabor have been married since 1998. Hugh played Lonnie Jamison in the series. His character started as a patrolman but ended the show as a lieutenant and acting Chief of Detectives in Sparta. Carroll OConnor and his wife, Nancy, adopted him as a baby. From 16, he struggled with drug addiction and went through three different drug rehabilitation programs. Sadly, his addiction struggles continued, and in 1995, Hugh died by suicide. In the Heat of the Night, along with its fantastic cast, will be etched in Hollywood fans hearts and fondly remembered as a one-of-a-kind series for decades to come. By Mustafa GatollariPublished Dec. 20 2023, 12:56 p.m. ETSource: NBCIn 1967, Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger starred in the acclaimed In the Heat of the Night, a movie about a Black Philadelphia detective mistakenly accused of murder in a racially divisive Mississippi town. A police chief asks Poitier's character to help investigate the case.At its core, the film is about "racial unity" and the focus is on celebrating the content of a person's character instead of social/cultural biases.Article continues below advertisementThe movie was adapted decades later into a popular and long-running TV series. And if you were a fan of the show or are catching it on streaming today you may be wondering: What's the cast up to now?Source: Getty ImagesO'Connor is probably most widely known for his role as Archie Bunker in the wildly successful and beloved American sitcom All in the Family, which ran from 1971 to 1979 for over 206 episodes.Before passing away in 2001, his final role was in the 2000 David Duchovny/Minnie Driver romantic comedy Return to Me, but he also had recurring roles in Mad About You and Party of Five.Article continues below advertisementSource: Getty ImagesHoward Rollins starred alongside O'Connor in a role that reimagines Poitier's character as a native of Sparta (the Mississippi town where the series and film take place) who travels north to Philadelphia where he establishes his career as a detective before returning home. The success of the series can be largely attributed to the dynamic of O'Connor and Rollins, who initially butt heads but soon establish a friendship in their shared work.Article continues below advertisementRollins' tenure with the series was unfortunately marred by personal legal problems. He was dropped from the show in 1993, with writers explaining his absence by having Tibbs become an attorney upon graduating from law school (he'd later return as a guest star in the series's 7th season). The actor passed away in 1996, and after his turn as Tibbs in In the Heat of the Night came to an end, he had a role in New York Undercover. His final role was in the 1996 film Harambee!Article continues below advertisementSource: Getty ImagesAutry's character in the series goes through quite the arc. He is first distrustful of Tibbs and is initially portrayed as a strong but not-too-intelligent redneck who is constantly dating new women around town. He ultimately befriends Tibbs, takes a strong dislike to racist "knotheads" in Sparta, and climbs his way up the ranks to become captain of the Sparta Police Department.Article continues below advertisementAutry was most recently in a 2023 episode of 9-1-1 Lone Star as well as the Sylvester Stallone-led series Tulsa King. He had a recurring role in the 2017 show Hart of Dixie and had a leading role in 23 episodes of the Chuck Lorre series Grace Under Fire directly following his time on In the Heat of the Night.Article continues below advertisementSource: Getty ImagesJohnson has worked steadily in several popular TV shows following her turn as the teacher/counselor who is married to Tibbs in the series. The actress's character was written out of the show along with Rollins's, but following the show, Johnson landed another popular network program: In Living Color, in which she was featured for 23 episodes between 1993 and 1994.Article continues below advertisementThe rest of her IMDB page is a long list of notable series. Johnson has roles on Living Single, Babylon 5, Murder She Wrote, Melrose Place, ER, Ally McBeal, Dharma & Greg, Bones, Boston Legal, and The Secret Life of the American Teenager, along with a recurring, 18-episode role in JAG and five episodes in House of Payne. Most recently she was featured on NCIS and How to Get Away With Murder.Article continues below advertisementSource: CBSHart's character eventually becomes Sergeant of Sparta and is the show's comic relief as well as a wholesome example of someone who genuinely cared about the people of the town.Article continues below advertisementWhile he is primarily known for his turn as Williams, horror film fans will know him for his role in the 1985 Werewolf classic, Silver Bullet. Hart would also go on to act in more projects with his In the Heat of the Night co-star Alan Autry, like The Legend of Jake Kincaid in 2002 and 2011's Forgiven. Like Johnson, he also had a role in Party of Five.Article continues below advertisementSource: CBSThe adopted son of Caroll O'Connor, Hugh began his role in the series as a recurring character but was later made a mainstay of the show until it ended in 1995. Before that, he played James Flynn in the TV movie Brass these were the only two roles he'd ever play in a professional capacity.Article continues below advertisementHugh purportedly struggled with drug abuse throughout his life and passed away on March 28, 1995, three years after marrying Angela O'Connor, who worked as a wardrobe assistant on In the Heat of the Night. He left behind a son, Sean Carroll O'Connor. He was 32 years old, and his passing was ruled a suicide.Article continues below advertisementSource: Getty ImagesArticle continues below advertisementLatest Entertainment News and Updates Production Company: Fred Silverman Productions JADDA Productions Juanita Bartlett Production MGM Television Initial Release Date: Mar 6, 1988 Number of seasons: 8 Seasons Rating: TV-14 Genres: ,the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.107,747 active editors 7,024,072 articles in EnglishClaudette making landfall in TexasHurricane Claudette was the third tropical storm and first hurricane of the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season. A fairly long-lived July Atlantic hurricane, Claudette began as a tropical wave in the eastern Caribbean. It moved westward past the Yucatn Peninsula before moving northwestward through the Gulf of Mexico. Claudette remained a tropical storm until just before making landfall in Port O'Connor, Texas, on July15, when it quickly strengthened to a strong Category1 hurricane. Forecasting its path and intensity was uncertain, resulting in widespread and often unnecessary preparations. Claudette caused one death and moderate damage in Texas, mostly from strong winds, as well as extensive beach erosion. Because of the damage, President George W. Bush declared portions of South Texas as a Federal Disaster Area. Claudette also caused significant rainfall and minor damage in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, as well as minor damage on Saint Lucia. (Thisarticle is part of a featured topic: 2003 Atlantic hurricane season.)Recently featured: Trinity (nuclear test)ManitobaWilliam HannaArchiveBy emailMore featured articlesAboutMackenzie Hall, previously the Essex County Courthouse... that the former Essex County Courthouse (pictured) was designed by an American and built by Canada's future prime minister?... that Patriarch Arnulf's "niece" Emma probably really was just his niece?... that some medical professionals run clinics dedicated to illegal abortions in Ivory Coast?... that NFL player Adolph Bieberstein was later an attorney who argued before the United States Supreme Court?... that four uninhabited islands triggered a dispute between the Indonesian provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra?... that Sangay Tenzin started his international swimming career at the World Championships?... that no major hurricane has hit Mexico earlier in the year than Hurricane Erick since records began?... that the identity of "Barbara O'Brien", the author of Operators and Things, a 1958 autobiographical account of schizophrenia, has not been publicly revealed?... that Saiyuud Diwong's cookbook Cooking with Poo won an Oddest Title of the Year award?ArchiveStart a new articleNominate an articleAbdul Hakim HaqqaniThe International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Taliban leaders Hibatullah Akhundzada and Abdul Hakim Haqqani (pictured) over their alleged persecution of women in Afghanistan.Flooding in Central Texas, United States, leaves at least 130 people dead.Astronomers announce the discovery of 3I/ATLAS, an interstellar object passing through the Solar System.The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile releases the first light images from its new 8.4-metre (28ft) telescope.Ongoing: Gaza warRussian invasion of UkrainetimelineSudanese civil wartimelineRecent deaths: Fauja SinghBradley John MurdochFrank BarrieIhor PokladGlen MichaelIan BlairNominate an articleJuly 17: Constitution Day in South Korea (1948); World Emoji DayA vehicle on the Manchester Metrolink1453 The Battle of Castillon, the last engagement of the Hundred Years' War, ended with the English losing all holdings in France except the Pale of Calais.1918 RMSCarpathia, which had rescued survivors of the 1912 Titanic sinking, was sunk by a German U-boat with the loss of five crew.1948 In Olympia, Greece, the Summer Olympics torch relay, nicknamed the "relay of peace", began.1992 The Manchester Metrolink (pictured), the first modern street-running light-rail system in the United Kingdom, was officially opened.1996 TWA Flight 800 exploded in mid-air and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near East Moriches, New York.Queen Camilla (b.1947)Billie Holiday (d.1959)Wonwoo (b.1996)Edward Heath (d.2005)More anniversaries: July 16July 17July 18ArchiveBy emailList of days of the yearAboutThe clouded Apollo (Parnassius mnemosyne) is a species in the swallowtail butterfly family, Papilionidae, which is found in the Palearctic