

Mick Foley

Michael Francis "Mick" Foley Sr. (born June 7, 1965) is an American retired professional wrestler, writer, color commentator, actor and voice actor. He is currently signed to WWE, where he is the current on-screen general manager of Raw. Foley is widely regarded as one of the greatest wrestlers in the company's history. He has worked for many wrestling promotions, including World Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE), World Championship Wrestling (WCW), Extreme Championship Wrestling (ECW), Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (TNA), National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) as well as numerous promotions in Japan. Foley has wrestled under his real name and various personas, including Dude Love, Cactus Jack, and Mankind, also known as the *Three Faces of Foley*. Foley is a four-time world champion (three WWF Championships and one TNA World Heavyweight Championship), an 11-time world tag team champion (eight WWF Tag Team Championships, two ECW World Tag Team Championships, and one WCW World Tag Team Championship), a one-time TNA Legends Champion, and the inaugural WWF Hardcore Champion.

Mick Foley formally trained at Dominic DeNucci's wrestling school in Freedom, Pennsylvania, driving several hours weekly from his college campus in Cortland, New York, and debuted in 1986. In addition to appearing on DeNucci's cards, Foley and several other students also took part in some squash matches as jobbers for WWF TV tapings of Prime Time Wrestling and Superstars of Wrestling, where Foley wrestled under the name, Jack Foley and Nick Foley. In one of these matches (the very first episode of Superstars), Foley and Les Thornton (another jobber) faced the British Bulldogs, during which the Dynamite Kid clotheslined Foley with such force that he was unable to eat solid food for several weeks. During these squash matches, Foley also faced other top level talent at the time, such as Hercules Hernandez. His run would not last long, as he had not signed a contract with the promotion at the time. During this run, he was also billed from different hometowns and at different weights.

After several years of wrestling in the independent circuit, Foley began receiving offers from various regional promotions, including the Universal Wrestling Federation (UWF). He joined the Memphis-based Continental Wrestling Association (CWA) as Cactus Jack, where he teamed with Gary Young as part of the Stud Stable. Cactus and Young briefly held the CWA tag titles in late 1988. On November 20, Foley left CWA for Texas-based World Class Championship Wrestling.

In World Class Championship Wrestling (WCCW), Cactus Jack, billed as Cactus Jack Manson, was a major part of Skandor Akbar's stable. Foley also won several titles, including the company's light heavyweight and tag team titles before leaving the company, losing his last match to Eric Embry in nine seconds. He then briefly competed in Alabama's Continental Wrestling Federation before completing a brief stint with World Championship Wrestling. For much of his time there, he would team with jobbers. When the jobber would lose the match for them, Cactus Jack would attack his partner, throw them out of the ring, and deliver his infamous ring apron flying elbow drop onto the concrete floor. His biggest match at the time was against Mil Máscaras at Clash of the Champions X: Texas Shootout. It was during this period that Foley was involved in a car accident that resulted in the loss of his two front teeth, adding to the distinctive look for which he is famous. Following the short stint with WCCW, Foley then signed with Herb Abrams's Universal Wrestling Federation. In UWF, Foley teamed with Bob Orton to feud with Don Muraco, Sunny Beach, and Brian Blair. He soon left UWF for Tri-State Wrestling (a forerunner to Extreme Championship Wrestling), whose high-impact and violent wrestling style fit Foley well. On one night, known as Tri-State's Summer Sizzler 1991, Cactus Jack and Eddie Gilbert had three matches in one night: Cactus won a Falls Count Anywhere match, lost a Stretcher match, and then fought to a double disqualification in a Steel Cage match. These matches caught the attention of World Championship Wrestling promoters, in large part due to widespread photo circulation and after a brief stint working in the Global Wrestling Federation, he joined WCW.

From those early days of learning the ropes, traveling the roads through the US in NWA, AWA, WCW, ECW; through the days of Japan's hardcore matches, Mick became the man we all know and love

One of the cornerstones of WWE's meteoric rise in the late 90's, Mick Foley earned the nickname 'The Hardcore Legend' for his ability to absorb seemingly inhuman punishment in some of the most dramatic matches in sports-entertainment history. Already a respected veteran for his 11 physically punishing years wrestling under the name Cactus Jack, Foley's career soared to new heights in WWE as 'Mankind', a character Foley claimed was inspired by a combination of reading 'Mary Shelly's Frankenstein' and listening to the music of Tori Amos.

As Cactus Jack, Foley won the 1995 'King of the Deathmatch' tournament in Yokohama, Japan, and continued wrestling, despite the amputation of his right ear, in a match against Vader in Munich, Germany in 1994. As Mankind, Foley was a 3-time WWE Champion, but is best known for his epic and brutal battle with The Undertaker in 1998's 'Hell in a Cell' match, during which he was knocked unconscious after falls both off of and through the 16-foot Cell structure. Despite the injury, Foley finished the match – with one of his front teeth lodged in his nose.

With retirement looming as a result of that physically demanding style, Foley penned his own memoir, 'Have a Nice Day' without the aid of a ghost-writer – writing 200,000 words in longhand in 50 days (the complete long hand transcript in on loan and display at the PWHF for fans to see today). The book highlighted Foley's paradoxical blend of wit and wisdom, wildness, and warmth, and shocked the literary world by hitting number one on The New York Times best-seller list in October, 1999. The book remained on the Times list for twenty-six weeks. A follow-up, 2001's 'Foley is Good' hit number one on The New York Times list as well. Foley has published a total of ten books; four memoirs, four children's books and two novels.

After speaking at some of the United States most respected colleges and universities – including MIT, Syracuse University, Notre Dame and The University of Miami, Foley decided to take his verbal skills to the stand-up comedy stage in 2009. 2012 saw Foley earn rave reviews for his comedy sets at 'Just for Laughs' in Montreal, and the 'Edinburgh (UK) Fringe Fest' – the two largest comedy festivals in the world. Innovative Artists currently represent him.

Foley's acting credentials include '30 Rock', 'Warren the Ape', 'Now and Again', 'G vs E' and 'Boy Meets World' and he was featured in the critically acclaimed documentary 'Beyond the Mat' He has done voice work on 'Squidbillies' 'Celebrity Death Match' and 'Avatar: the Last Airbender' and was featured in a 2012 episode of 'Celebrity Wife Swap'. His list of guest appearances includes 'The Daily Show with Jon Stewart', 'The Late Show with Jay Leno', 'Late Night with Conan O'Brien', 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire', 'Good Morning America', 'Family Feud' 'Redeye', 'Larry King Live' and several appearances on 'Today'. He was featured in a 2010 story on 'ABC's World News Tonight' for his work as an online volunteer with RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Foley was also recognized for his work with RAINN at 2010's 'Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear' – where he was awarded a Medal of Reasonableness' from Jon Stewart.

Foley has since retired from in ring duty but on the July 18 episode of *Raw*, Foley was appointed by Stephanie McMahon as the General Manager of Raw. As a face manager, he has since unveiled new titles exclusive to the brand, and made fair decisions to favor the fan favorites, while occasionally disagreeing with Stephanie McMahon.

Foley has been happily married for years and has four children.

~ wikipedia

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