



Photo by: Antonio Jorge Nunes

Take Five NYC: Riding High in April, Shot Down in May

Some Take Five actors discover things slow down in late spring.

June 12, 2008

By Andrew Salomon

Some Take Five actors discover things slow down in late spring, especially in **May**.

Franklin Ojeda Smith



Franklin Ojeda Smith has been continually busy for the past six months, but things began to slow in May. He was doing voiceover work for Lemur Kingdom on Animal Planet, but it will not be renewed.

Was it hard to hear about Lemur Kingdom?

No, that's fine. I had some great experiences, met some really good people, and as a voiceover actor I felt I really improved. I gave it everything I had. I was real committed to it and committed to a high level of performance. I was thankful that I had a chance to do it. I got some wonderful stuff for my reel.

Something may come from it.

You were going gangbusters at the beginning of the year. Do you appreciate the down-time?

Oh, I sure do. You take it for granted when you're always running like that, running from audition to audition. You tell yourself, "There's always another one, there's always another." Is there? I get a chance to reflect some. I also did have an audition. They're running this commercial by Morgan Freeman about the Olympics and Visa. I did a read for that. I heard Morgan do it, and I felt so good about my read. Of course Morgan's fantastic, but I didn't feel diminished at all.

Did that surprise you, that you didn't feel diminished?

Yes. And I think that's probably part of that intense involvement with *Lemur Kingdom*.

One day Morgan Freeman will be offered two really good roles and he can't take both, and the other will go to you.

[Laughs] You know, someone else told me that, Jerome Bates [Seven Guitars]. He was so gracious when he said that. He said, "You know, you could be understudying for Morgan right now." That was gracious of him