

ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

HALL OF FAME

Jess Franks

Rodeo Clown / Barrelman



Jess Franks was born in Texas, moved to Farmington, New Mexico at age of 4. At 11 years old he started loading roping calves at the local rodeo. In his teens, he started picking up broncs, feeding and everything a labor list intail's. At 15 he was asked if would like to fight bulls. All through High School Jess competed in rough stock events and picked up and fought bulls to pay his entry fees.

In 1970 he was drafted in to the Army and shipped to Viet Nam. Returned home and a few months later re-enlisted a went

to Ft. Bagg, NC.

After the Army Jess worked his way back into clowning and bullfighting at the amateur rodeos and in 1980 Jess started his PRCA bullfighting career. His card was signed by Harry Vold, Bob Tallman, Skipper Voss and Wick Peth. In 1983 he changed to barrelman and focused on his comedy acts. Jess was the barrelman and did his comedy act at NIRA Finals; 9 times, Montana Circuit Finals; 5 times, Turquoise Circuit Finals; 5 times, Indian National Finals, Columbia Circuit Finals and worked the barrel for the Wrangler Bullfights. Jess was the NFR alternate barrelman in 1988 and was the NFR barrelman in 1989. Also Jess worked many major PRCA rodeos: With his pink car act, chariot race and Sally the



mule.

Jess produced and promoted Farmington Pro Rodeo for 10 years. Served on PRCA Executive Council on the Board of Directors for Mid-size Rodeo Committees for 6 years. Served on Board of Directors for Rodeo de Santa Fe, for 4 years.

Jess has given time and assistants as an auctioneer for the Cowboy Reunion, their fundraising went to the RHS and PRHF and Justin Crisis Fund. Cowboy Alumni and Wrangler Bull fights of Pro Rodeo-Hall of Fame & Reunion for scholarships to High School Athletes.

Jess worked on various movies and commercials and earned his SAG card as a stunt man and actor.

Jess has built a museum dedicated to Rodeo Bullfighters, Barrelman and Rodeo Clowns to preserve the role they have played in rodeo history.

