

## One on One With The Star of 42: Chad Boseman

Written by Kam Williams

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Hailing from Anderson, South Carolina, [Chadwick Boseman](#) is an accomplished actor, scriptwriter and playwright who, until now, was probably best known for portraying the character Nate on the critically-acclaimed dramatic TV series

*Lincoln Heights*

. Prior to entering show business,

[Chad Boseman](#)

earned degrees at Howard University and the British American Dramatic Academy at Oxford.

Here, he talks about playing [Jackie Robinson](#) opposite Harrison Ford and Nicole Beharie in *42*, a biopic about the late Hall of Famer's historic breaking of Major League Baseball's color barrier back in 1947.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Chad [Boseman], thanks for the interview.

**Chad Boseman:** Nice to talk to you, Kam [Williams].

**KW:** Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier [of [www.megadiversities.com](http://www.megadiversities.com)] says: I appreciate the opportunity to ask you a question, especially because everything changed for

[Jackie Robinson](#)

in my hometown of Montreal. What did it mean to you to portray

[Jackie Robinson](#)

and how did you prepare for the role?

**CB:** It's just a great honor to play him. In order to portray him, I basically paid attention to three different aspects of the role. First, the physical aspect of baseball, and his five-day-a-week workout regimen starting with Spring Training in the middle of January all the way to May. Secondly, I studied Hall of Fame footage of Jackie so that I could emulate his batting stance, how he took leads, how he ran bases, the arm slide he used in certain situations, and his fielding style.

Thirdly, there was the question of how to attack the role. I didn't want to just do an imitation. I wanted to interpret it while remaining faithful to the script and [director] Brian Helgeland's vision. The research also included reading, and talking to Jackie's widow, Rachel [Robinson], and his daughter, Sharon [Robinson], in order to deliver the most authentic interpretation of him possible.

**KW: Documentary filmmaker Kevin Williams asks: Was the role at all intimidating to you? Did you feel any pressure to get Jackie [Robinson] right, given his importance in history?**

**CB:** Yes, because Jackie [Robinson] is a hero to people from so many walks of life whose reverence for him is often based on different interpretations of who he was. I also felt a certain amount of responsibility to give an accurate account of his life and the person that he was for the benefit of the youth who don't know him. But I still felt a great responsibility to Rachel Robinson and his family. She has carried on his legacy for decades, and she's carried the torch for this film. So, my main goal was to do right by her.

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Kam Williams as a child with Jackie Robinson

[Chad \[Boseman\]](#)



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