



Macall, J. (left) and Mike (right) are the owners of the company. Macall is a former fashion designer. Mike is a former fashion designer.

Private life: Macall, J. (left) and Mike (right) are the owners of the company. Macall is a former fashion designer. Mike is a former fashion designer.

JAMES MacARTHUR
Danny Williams in "Hawaii Five-O"

James MacArthur was born in Los Angeles, but grew up in Nyack, New York and attended the Allen Stevenson School in New York, Solebury School in New Hope, Pennsylvania and Harvard University. As the son of famous parents, James was raised in an environment of creative people, and made his acting debut at the age of 8 in "The Corn Is Green," in summer stock at Olney, Maryland. One might conclude that acting would have been the natural course for MacArthur since his mother was the world-famous actress Helen Hayes and his father was Charles MacArthur, celebrated journalist-playwright. Not necessarily so.

The MacArthur family was fiercely individualistic, and young Jim and his sister, Mary, were not pushed into the theater by over-eager parents. MacArthur made his acting debut at the age of eight in a summer stock production of "The Corn Is Green," although he looked on it more as fun than a job since his adored sister was in the play, too. After that, it became his habit to act in summer productions during vacations. Summer stock appearances became a regular part of his life, including performances at the Cape Playhouse in Dennis, Mass. ("The Corn Is Green"), and at Falmouth, Mass. ("Life With Father"). By the time he was 16 he decided on acting as a career. During school vacations and whenever time permitted he performed on television, his most notable early role being the juvenile lead in "Strike A Blow" on the CBS Television Network under the direction of John Frankenheimer. He repeated this role in the movie version of the TV play, "The Young Stranger," in 1956. Other theatrical productions he participated in include "The Hasty Heart," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Love Letters" and many others.

The one area in which young James was strongly encouraged was education. Neither parent had gone to college: Helen Hayes had been acting since she was a child, and Charles MacArthur had been a Chicago newspaperman before becoming a playwright. Their daughter was graduated from finishing school right into summer stock. They were determined that Jim would be the MacArthur to make it to college. Ultimately he enrolled in Harvard University as a history major. In his sophomore year he realized his mind was more occupied with what he was doing during vacations than with college itself.

When his mother saw that he had made up his mind that acting was what he really wanted, she gave him her blessing. He left college and plunged into a full-time acting career. MacArthur appeared in 1960 on Broadway with Celeste Holm and Jane Fonda in "Invitation to a March." But more and more offers came from Hollywood, so he moved to California. Settling in Southern California, he appeared regularly in movies around the world, including "Kidnapped," "Third Man on the Mountain," "Swiss Family Robinson" and "The Light in the Forest," and appeared as a guest star on many television shows such as "Gunsmoke," "Combat," "The Virginian," "The Untouchables" and "The Alfred Hitchcock Hour".

He received critical acclaim for his role in "The Interns," and later appeared with Van Heflin in "To Be a Man," with Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara in "Spencer's Mountain" (the movie from which "The Waltons" was derived, and with John and Haley Mills in "The Truth About Spring." Other films included "The Battle of the Bulge," "The Love-Ins," "The Bedford Incident" and "Twilight of Honor."

Then the actor found himself in Hawaii for the first time and in his first continuing television role, working with Jack Lord in "Hawaii Five-O," an association which lasted eleven years. Since then, MacArthur has been in countless television series including "Murder She Wrote," "Alcatraz," "The Night The Bridge Fell Down," and many others. However, amongst all this diverse work, the character still most instantly recognized is "Danno" Williams from Five-O.

More recently, MacArthur directed Bob Sandla and some of the other Five-O repertory company in "The Front Page," co-written by his father Charles MacArthur and Ben Hecht. MacArthur gets a portion of the royalties every time the play is produced, thanks to his father's will. The most successful incarnation of the 1928 play starred Cary Grant as editor Walter Burns and Rosalind Russell as crack crime reporter Hildy Johnson. MacArthur is trying to get it done filmwise one more time with an added fillip: the Burns character being played by a female and reporter Hildy Johnson being played by a man.

He appeared with his mother co-hosting "Canterbury Cinema Classics," a weekly syndicated television show featuring old movie classics with commentaries from the two actors. He also appeared on a Disney special commemorating the 40th anniversary of the theme park, sharing insights to his acting stints with that company.

In 1994 he was elected a director of Kendell Communications, a diversified California media company that includes "The Daily Californian," a daily newspaper near San Diego, California and "Senior World Newsmagazine," a monthly senior publication covering the five southernmost counties in California. Kendell also publishes "Antiques and Collectibles" and operates a large commercial printing division.

MacArthur is developing a weekly TV program, "Senior World TV Newsmagazine," to air on broadcast and cable channels. The TV program is expected to expand to a cable channel devoted exclusively to senior programming.

CAPSULE CLOSE-UP:

Born:	Dec. 8 in Los Angeles, California
Education:	Allen Stevenson School, New York's Solebury School, New Hope, Pa.; Harvard University
Height, coloring:	5'9", white hair, blue eyes
Hobbies:	Traveling, golf, water sports, cooking
Home:	California Desert
Private life:	Married: Helen Beth; son: Jamie two older children, Charles and Mary

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