

# The Voice Actors Behind GTA San Andreas: A Deep Dive into the Iconic Cast

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, released in 2004, is widely regarded as one of the most influential video games of all time. Part of its massive success can be attributed to its memorable voice acting performances, which brought the world of San Andreas to life in ways that were groundbreaking for its time. The game's voice cast was a mixture of seasoned professionals, emerging talent, and famous personalities, all contributing to its compelling storytelling. [Free Now](#), you can dive into the game's world, where these iconic voice actors helped create an unforgettable experience. In this article, we will explore the voice actors behind some of the most beloved characters in the game, and how their performances helped shape its legacy.

## The Stars of San Andreas: An Overview

GTA: San Andreas features an ensemble of diverse characters, each with their own personalities, motivations, and backstories. From the protagonist, CJ, to the various gang members, police officers, and other key figures, each actor brought their character to life in a way that was both unique and authentic. Here's a look at some of the most notable voices behind these iconic figures.

### 1. Carl "CJ" Johnson: Young Maylay

**Young Maylay**, a relatively unknown actor at the time, voiced the protagonist, **Carl "CJ" Johnson**. Carl is the main character of the story, who returns to his hometown of Los Santos after the death of his mother. His performance helped shape CJ as a relatable and multi-dimensional character, navigating family drama, gang violence, and his own personal growth throughout the game. Young Maylay's portrayal of CJ's personality—ranging from hard-hitting and street-smart to vulnerable and thoughtful—was essential in making him one of the most memorable video game protagonists.

### 2. Officer Tenpenny: Samuel L. Jackson

No list of GTA: San Andreas voice actors would be complete without mentioning **Samuel L. Jackson**, who voiced the corrupt officer **Frank Tenpenny**. Tenpenny is one of the game's main antagonists, a morally corrupt and manipulative police officer who plays a key role in CJ's troubled life. Jackson's unmistakable voice, combined with his powerful delivery, made Tenpenny a memorable villain, contributing to the game's dark, gritty tone. His portrayal brought a sense of gravity to the narrative, elevating the stakes and pushing the story into more intense territory.

### 3. Ryder: The Game's Street-Smart Voice

**MC Eiht**, a well-known rapper and actor, voiced **Ryder**, one of CJ's childhood friends who is a member of the Grove Street Families. Ryder's character is cynical, hot-headed, and loyal to the gang, but also deeply flawed. MC Eiht's deep, gritty voice perfectly matched Ryder's tough persona, helping to make him one of the game's more memorable supporting

characters. His performance stood out for its raw energy, fitting well within the hip-hop culture that defines much of the game's atmosphere.

#### 4. Big Smoke: Clifton Powell

**Clifton Powell** brought the character **Big Smoke** to life, one of the most iconic and tragic figures in the game. Big Smoke is a member of the Grove Street Families who, over time, becomes disillusioned with the gang and makes choices that lead to his ultimate betrayal. Powell's performance as Big Smoke is marked by his charming yet increasingly duplicitous personality, which makes the character both fascinating and heartbreaking. His delivery of some of the game's most famous lines, like the infamous "I'll have two number nines," has solidified Big Smoke's place in gaming history.

#### 5. Catalina: Claudia Black

**Claudia Black**, an Australian actress known for her roles in *Farscape* and *Uncharted*, voiced the fiery and manipulative character **Catalina**. Catalina is one of CJ's love interests in the game, though their relationship is far from conventional. Her character is ruthless, passionate, and ambitious, which Black captured perfectly with her intense and often unpredictable performance. Black's performance as Catalina added a layer of complexity to the game's narrative, making her one of the more memorable female characters in the series.

#### 6. Woozie: James Yaegashi

**James Yaegashi** voiced the character of **Woozie**, a blind businessman and the leader of the San Fierro Triads. Woozie is a calm, calculating, and strategic figure in the story, offering advice and mentorship to CJ. Yaegashi's portrayal of Woozie is measured and composed, and his nuanced performance made Woozie an unforgettable character in the game's wide array of personalities. The character's unexpected wisdom and leadership in the face of adversity were perfectly captured in Yaegashi's voice work.

#### 7. The Supporting Cast: Bringing the World to Life

In addition to the major characters, **GTA: San Andreas** also featured a range of supporting voices that helped populate the game's massive open world. The game's diverse setting, which spans urban environments, deserts, mountains, and beaches, is reflected in the wide array of characters voiced by different actors. From gang members to everyday citizens, the voice actors provided authenticity and a sense of immersion that was ahead of its time.

Some of the notable supporting cast members include:

- **Frank Vincent**, who voiced **Salvatore Leone**, a character tied to the infamous Mafia families in the game.
- **Dennis Hopper**, who voiced **Steve Scott**, a film director working in the adult film industry.
- **Toni**, voiced by **Jenna Jameson**, a nod to the adult film industry that played a pivotal part in the storyline of **GTA: San Andreas**.

These voice actors, along with many others, added to the richness and variety of the game's narrative, making every interaction feel unique.

The voice acting in **GTA: San Andreas** was a pivotal part of what made the game stand out and set the standard for future titles in the Grand Theft Auto series. Each actor, whether they were a newcomer or a seasoned professional, brought their character to life in a way that resonated with players and left a lasting impression. From the deep, emotional performances of the main characters to the quirky, memorable voices of the supporting cast, the voice acting in San Andreas remains one of the most important aspects of the game's legacy.

Through their performances, the voice actors behind GTA: San Andreas helped create a world that was as alive, dynamic, and compelling as the story itself—making the game not just an action-packed adventure, but a deeply immersive experience.