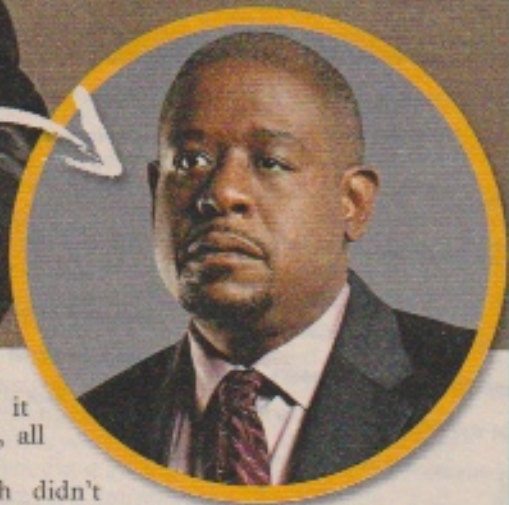


STARS PUNCH IT OUT ON 'THE SHIELD'



Michael Chiklis and Forest Whitaker took their rôles as adversaries a bit too literally



FOREST WHITAKER and Michael Chiklis apparently forgot what it means when the director yells the word "Cut!" The actors became so engrossed in their rôles on the set of "The Shield" they continued a scripted brawl – even after the cameras stopped rolling!

Sources from the Los Angeles set of the FX series said the fight got so out of hand that the feuding actors had to be pulled apart.

"Both Michael and Forest have enormous egos – so enormous that there's no room on the set for both of them," an FX insider told *The ENQUIRER*.

"They're both incredibly talented actors – and both method actors as well, so they stay in character between scenes."

Even though the fake punches and shoves had been rehearsed for more than an hour, the

insider says when it came time to film, all hell broke loose.

"Michael's punch didn't land exactly where planned, and Forest yelled at him: 'Hey, man, what the hell was that? What are you trying to do?'"

Remaining in character, the men started throwing real

stopped rolling, Forest seemed intent on taking down Michael," said the insider. "It was as if Forest didn't exist, he was totally into his Kavanaugh character, who had it out for Mackey.

"Forest charged at Michael, hit him in the face, and they shoved each other down, landing on the ground kicking and punching."

Three crew members and a production assistant had to step in to end the melee – and filming was halted for a half-hour while both actors retreated to their trailers to cool off.

Calmer heads prevailed after the brief interruption, says the insider, and the duo was able to reshoot the scene in one take without reigniting the battle.

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

Cameras stop but brawl rages on

punches at each other that were meant to hurt, turning the TV scene into a blow-out fight.

Forest, 45, plays Jon Kavanaugh on the show, the sly and unconventional lieutenant who's leading an investigation into 43-year-old Michael's character, Detective Vic Mackey, and his strike team.

"Even when the cameras