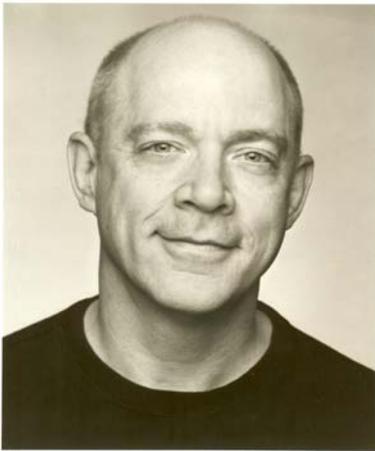




J.K. Simmons

*J.K. Simmons played J. Jonah Jameson in the blockbuster **SPIDERMAN** movies and Mac MacGuff in the hit indie film **JUNO**. On television he appeared for several seasons on **LAW AND ORDER** and **OZ**. He currently stars as Assistant Chief Will Pope on **THE CLOSER** and keeps America laughing with the popular Farmer's Insurance commercials.*



Troops,
I never served in the military. Closest I ever came was appearing in *A Few Good Men* on Broadway in 1990. I played a couple of different grunts in the show and understudied the Lt. Col. Nathan Jessep character. I'm pretty sure they only hired me because I was a kickass shortstop in the Broadway Show Softball League.

Anyway, I did get a chance to play Lt. Col. Jessep a few times, and I gotta say it was one of my greatest acting jobs ever, because the character was pretty

much the ultimate hard-ass Marine and in real life I'm a total pussy.

I have no concept of what you guys are going through over there. No matter how many stories I hear or how many vets I talk to, it just makes me realize more completely that I don't really get it and I definitely don't have what it takes to be doing what you're doing. I think most people I know don't have what it takes.

I am glad you do have what it takes. I appreciate your sacrifice, your training, your courage, your dedication, your patience, your balls.

Hang in there. Take care of each other and come home safe.

Thank you,
J K Simmons

PS: For you hard-core movie geeks out there - yes, Jessep was a full bird colonel in the movie, but in the play he was the youngest lieutenant colonel in the Corps, much younger and far better-looking than Jack Nicholson.