

## “Taking on BIG...”

Orson Welles was a big, large man; but besides his physical size, he made “big” impressions on stage and on film. This is not the first time that I have mentioned this man in my writing; one other time, his classic recording, “The War of the Worlds” (1938) was described in terms of realism and influence on the radio-listening audience.

Beyond the highlighted quote is much more in the theme of personal boldness and assertiveness; and in keeping with the general theme of “Tumble Blocks”, **Orson’s personality was prodigious** – or as big as the stage, screen or other setting (like radio) on which he appeared.

*“Nobody who takes on anything big and tough can afford to be modest.”*  
- Orson Welles

As I peruse some other quotes, another that stands out is: “The laws and the stage; both are a form of exhibitionism.” Could it be possible that the execution of the law (s) is similar to acting or “stage”; that both share the feature of acting out or exhibiting some production or script? Now there’s something to think about; and in keeping with this potential showmanship is another quote of Mr. Welles:

**Popularity should be no scale for the election of politicians.** If it would depend on popularity, Donald Duck and The Muppets would take seats in senate.

So many of us know who these cartoon characters are; and since they are clearly popular, should they be among the candidates who are representatives of congress or other elected office? According to Orson, such offices are not filled on popularity...but maybe on principles and professionalism among other attributes.

For a man who had many accomplishments, Orson may have suffered with depression over his dejection from the Hollywood film making industry. **Even with this setback (if it was), he went to make what seems like endless contributions** to filmmaking in Europe and the United States. What may have set him apart is partly expressed in the featured quote; that is, his determination to go boldly forward in spite of the setbacks and incurred limitations.

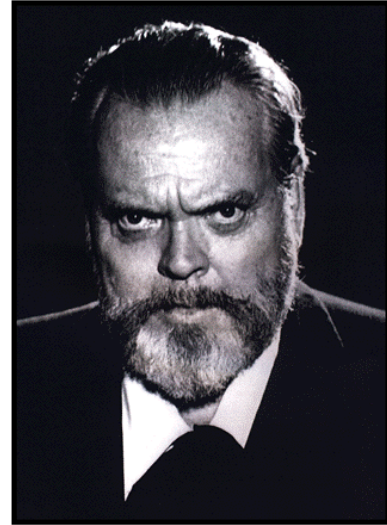
Besides his professional accomplishments, Orson also expressed his political views peppered with moral and spiritual beliefs. From what I could gather, **he was rather upright** in his moral beliefs – to the degree of his sentiments regarding the law and politics as described in the additional quotes.

**To step-back to his childhood is to learn of setbacks early in his life.** His parents divorced when he was only four and subsequently, his father became an alcoholic and his mother died of jaundice when he was nine. In the years that followed, he struggled yet, with the help of a teacher and mentor, gained an

education and possibly a sense of self-worth and confidence that appeared as brashness or boldness.

At the early age of sixteen and on the death of his father, Orson traveled to Ireland and, while on tour, auditioned for a role in theater. Seemingly possessing a gift in this performing art, he excelled to the point that by age twenty he was considered a prodigy – or highly gifted...

**It's amazing that with so many setbacks early in life**, Orson could have overcome and excelled as he did; yet, at the same time, he held to some basic character traits (and lightly presented in this writing) that spurred his accomplishments and accolades and a radio voice, actor, producer and perhaps, complete artist.



Shown in his later life (picture to the upper-right), Orson did not necessarily possess the appearance of some of the more accepted actors (or cast) of television and contemporary media, but he more than made-up for it with raw and developed talent...even gifts!

So much more could be added to this writing, yet to return to the title of “Taking on BIG...”, the subject or man of Orson *fits the bill* when it comes to the Tumble Block character of relentless pursuit and passion – that willful spirit that is unstoppable.