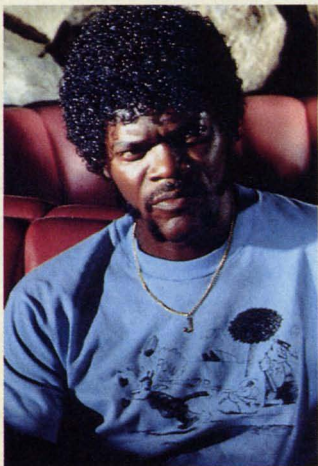


Talent

Pulp's Bible Lesson

In *Pulp Fiction*, hit man Jules (Samuel L. Jackson) first scares the hell out of his victims by quoting a particularly righteous passage from the Bible. Then he slaughters them. Jackson, who's now filming *Die Hard New York*, was recalling the lines with relish the other day from an Upper West Side set. "I think it pumps him up to do the things he does," Jackson said about his "wrath of God" speech from Ezekiel. "It's used the way *Die Walküre* was in *Apocalypse Now*." Director Quentin Tarantino has Jules repeating the passage again and again, turning it from a terrifying sermon into an uncomfortably comic signal that some poor dupe is about to be offed. Ironically, the speech loses its impact on the audience just as it begins to have an effect on Jules. "Towards the end, Jules really does give it some thought," says the 45-year-old actor. "He's had the power of life and death all his life. And all



of a sudden it's taken away. It really does cause him to think." Jackson, best known for his Cannes and New York Film Critics Circle winning performance in *Jungle Fever*, must have God on his side when it comes to film projects. Along with the next *Die Hard*, he's just finished a child-custody drama called *Losing Isaiah* with his wife, actress La Tanya Richardson. And life as the Scripture-quoting Jules may not be over, either. "Quentin's saying he might even do a Jules-walks-the-Earth movie," says Jackson.

MICHAEL GILTZ