EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Jay Will Keeps the Tulsa King Train Rolling—and He's Already in New York for Season Five

The Juilliard-trained actor who plays Tyson Mitchell opens up about the show's evolution, the Hail Mary that got him into school, and the music that keeps him up until 4 a.m.

Interview by Paul Salfen · AMFM Magazine



Jay Will as Tyson Mitchell alongside Sylvester Stallone's Dwight Manfredi. Photo courtesy Paramount+.

Jay Will is in New York, the real one, not a backdrop, and he is already talking about season five of Tulsa King while the rest of us are still gearing up for season four. The Paramount+ series premieres its fourth season on October 16, and the show has already been renewed for a fifth that relocates production to the city where Dwight "The General" Manfredi came from. Will, who plays Tyson Mitchell, Dwight's driver-turned-protégé, spilled the beans a little early and does not seem especially sorry about it.

A VARIANT THAT STACKS

Salfen asked what viewers should know going into the new season without spoiling it. Will described each season as a variant of the last—more mutated, more evolved. Season one was about getting together and building relationships. Season two was figuring out how the crew works together. Season three circled back to relationships with more war. Season four, he said, encompasses all of it. "It's just going to be a lot of bang bang, a lot of pow pow," he told Salfen. "A lot of unexpected."

> *It's almost like each season is like a variant. It's like a more mutated, evolved level of the last season. And it just continues just to go up and it stacks on itself.*
> — Jay Will

The through-line is the blessing of keeping the train rolling. Will called the job the perfect one in a world where people want a little forgetting of their troubles. Storytelling is the alley for that. He is careful not to get braggadocio about it, but he admits there are moments on set—the hurry-up-and-wait, the five minutes of actual filming—where the surreal nature of it hits. He grew up watching Sylvester Stallone. Now he has conversations with him. “It’s really surreal,” Will said. “I just had conversations with him yesterday. It’s so personal, so silly. It’s so blessed to be even in this chair to go back and forth with him and get his expertise.”

THE GREATEST FOR HIM

Those conversations are not purely professional. Will asked Stallone, essentially, how he stays cool. Stallone has the books, the shows, the bestseller lists, the entire résumé. What does he do for himself? Stallone laughed. He never really gave an answer. Will takes that as its own kind of answer. “These moments like that remind me that I’m related to that,” he said. “I go through this, he goes through it as well. That’s what it is. And we just can talk about this. How tough this is, showing up and selling a product and keeping yourself as the anchor.” Stallone remains the O.G. forever, whatever happens.



Jay Will in character as Tyson Mitchell. Photo courtesy Paramount+.

THE HAIL MARY

Salfen’s co-host Drew Pearson, the Cowboys Hall of Famer who caught the original Hail Mary, wanted Will’s version of the moment in life or career where he just had to go for it. Will went back to high school. He attended an art school but wanted Juilliard. He was distracted—girlfriend, boarding school, the usual teenage chaos—and missed the application window. A month or so later he decided he still needed in. He made the call. Six months later there were new auditions. He left the South and followed the dream. “Hail Mary. Touchdown,” he said.

> *I decided that I was just like, I wanted to go to Juilliard. Missed the application. ... I said, look, I need to get this. I need to get in to school. I messed up. Solidify a little spot for me. Let's make this happen.*
>
> **— Jay Will**

That mindset still governs the work. On set, when it is go time, he does not have a mantra so much as a standard: know the lines, do not be the reason everyone else is slowing down, be prepared. The preparation used to feel heavier. Now he can show up and tell the truth. “The more you do it, the less it takes to get there,” he said. “Just gotta have faith.”

TEN DIMENSIONAL

The acting is one thing. The music is the child, the heart. Will was in the studio the night before the interview, 4 a.m., making beats, chasing a specific sound for the next run. A lot of people see the dedication to acting and miss the rest of the spectrum. “No, like I’m everything,” he said. “It’s like I’m ten dimensional. I’m on all of it.” He has a song called “Championship Ring” aimed at anthems, stadiums, the NFL, the ESPN vibe. Another single is due in the next five weeks. “We just rolling and rolling and rolling until we can’t stop no more.”

> *The acting is one thing. And I love it because it’s other ideas bringing me, bringing it to manifestation. Me. It’s like it’s at the studio last night. It’s like 4:00 in the morning making beats... I’m ten dimensional. I’m on all of it.*
>
> — Jay Will

He encourages people who look at his career and want the same thing to do whatever makes them happy and to stop doing what they hate. “If you’re doing something that you hate, it’s like you’re doing it wrong. Do something that you love. Do something to make you happy. And don’t lie to people. That’s all.” Inspiring others to the best, most authentic version of themselves is the personal purpose he named.

MOB LAND AND TULSA WEIRDOS

Season five is already underway in New York for a particular reason the show has not fully explained yet. “We got sent out here and it’s just mob land, right,” Will said. “So we’re going to see how that intermingled with us Tulsa weirdos.” The cat is out of the bag. The train keeps rolling. Will is clear that the job is a blessing and that the work—both the acting and the music—continues until it cannot stop anymore.

FIND JAY WILL

Watch Tulsa King Season 4 on Paramount+ beginning October 16, 2026. Season 5 is currently in production in New York. Stream previous seasons on Paramount+. Check for “Championship Ring” and upcoming singles across major platforms. Follow Jay Will on Instagram @jay_will9.

Interview conducted by Paul Salfen for AMFM Magazine, October 2026.

Paul Salfen is Managing Editor of AMFM Magazine and a veteran interviewer of film, television, music, and sports figures. He is the author of Going For It!, a collection of Hail Mary moments from the artists and athletes he has spent two decades putting on the record.