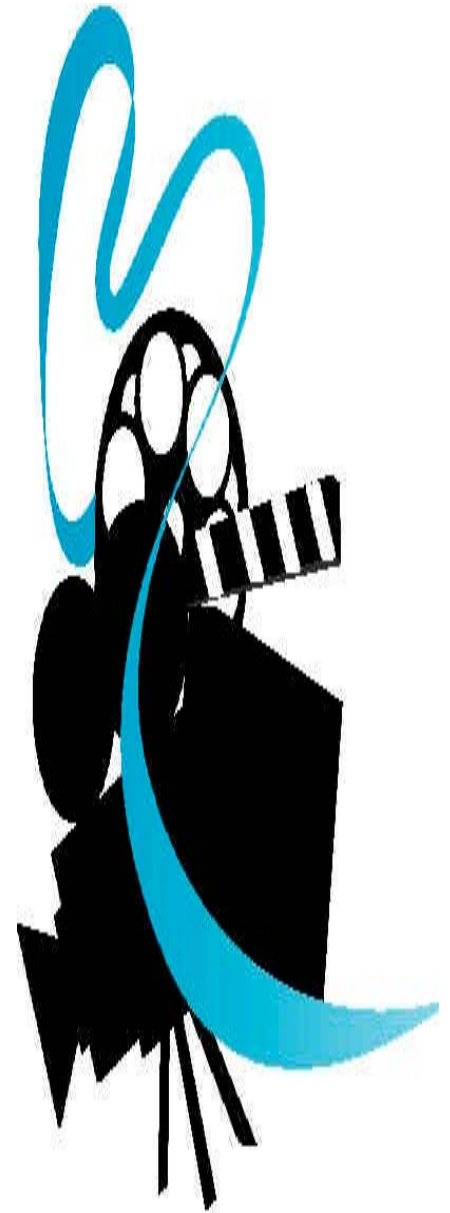


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**YOUR GUIDE TO THE FACULTY AND SPECIAL GUESTS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL BLACK FILM AND MEDIA CONFERENCE
THE PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER
MAY 4 - 7, 2006**



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VINCENT ALEXANDRIA

BET author Vincent Alexandria is an accomplished actor, producer, director, composer, lyricist, screenwriter, vocalist, and musician. He holds a Masters degree in literature from Baker University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rockhurst College.



He is the founder of the **Brother 2 Brother African-American Male Literary Symposium**. Its mission is to enlighten men and women in reading and comprehension to enhance their quality of life. He has inspired countless nationally published authors to show a commitment to their communities and give back to their readers in gratitude for what they have done for them and their careers.

He has completed three murder detective mystery novels, **Postal Blues**, **Black Rain** and **If Walls Could Talk** which is in negotiations for a movie deal. He also wrote the screenplay for **Walls of Deception**.

He is currently co-writing and co-producing two stage plays with comedian Ricky Smiley, **The Color Purple Rain** and **Ain't Nobody Told Me Nothing**.



EMILIA ANDREWS

Emilia Andrews is the president of the American Women in Radio and Television Philadelphia Tri-State Area Chapter and co-owner/ Vice President of **Beholder Productions, Inc.**, a Full Service Creative Visual Media Communications Firm specializing in broadcast and corporate communications.

She received her education in Organizational & Developmental Psychology at both Ursinus College and Temple University. Her experience is vast, including more than 12 years in the medical field and an additional seven years in the communications industry.

As Beholder Productions Senior Producer, Andrews is able to combine her medical training with her love of visual communications. She finds that her psychology background lends itself to excellent research and observational skills -- both critical elements for producing detail-oriented productions and applications. In addition to these duties, Andrews oversees the cast and crew, acts as project manager, provides daily business operations and performs more than 85% of the firm's script writing. Clients enjoy the added benefit of dealing directly with one individual who shares in both the writing and production phases of a project. This ensures that the message intended is well delivered and consistent.

PETER ANDREWS

Mr. Andrews is currently COO of Jeffrey Industries Inc, a Miami Florida based real estate development company specializing in sports and entertainment complexes. He remains a partner and advisor to Primesite Entertainment Inc based in Philadelphia with affiliate offices in Toronto, Miami, and Los Angeles. Peter has over thirty years of experience in the television and motion picture industries.

He began his career with Harry Belafonte Enterprises in New York City as a writer/producer. He then was hired by NBC and became the Vice President of NBC Entertainment. During his seven years at NBC he oversaw a budget of \$80 million and was responsible for developing programming resulting in several Emmy Award winning hits and some of television's most memorable shows in NBC's history. He continued this success as Senior Vice President of Columbia Pictures and then Executive Vice President of MGM Studios, overseeing all network television production and distribution.



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(Peter Andrews continued...)

Mr. Andrews has been an adjunct Professor of Drama at Yale University and the University of Southern California. He has been a guest lecturer at Harvard, University of Pennsylvania and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. He is also the founder and former director of the Warner Brothers Women and Minority Writers Workshop (1976), the longest running and most successful writers' workshop in Hollywood history.

For the past several years, Mr. Andrews has worked as a Producer's Rep and Head of Acquisitions for Ferretina Studios in Toronto, Canada, a leading producer of 3D-CGI animation. As an Executive Producer/Producer's Rep for Mr. Frank Avianca, CEO of Ferretina Studios, they have plans to complete and arrange worldwide theatrical exhibition for 3 projects now in production and post production: **Ferretina**, **Artica**, and **Raspberry Lion**.

Mr. Andrews has an avid passion for working with teenagers and is currently an Instructional Specialist in Digital Production at New Media Tech Charter High School in Philadelphia where he also serves as an admissions officer and Director of Athletics. The school has an enrollment of 200, and each of the inner city students has their own computer and receives specialized instruction in all phases of digital technology in addition to the standard Pennsylvania high school curriculum.

BRYNNE CLARKE

Brynne Clarke has participated in media and television since the young age of eight years old – appearing on the multi award winning and landmark series **Sesame Street** as well as **The Electric Company** a reading instruction program for children. This early exposure to CTW (Children's Television Workshop) and Broadcast media inspired her to go on to college and major in Mass Communications at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she earned her bachelors degree. While a student there, she was the Photo Editor of the weekly paper **NUMMO News**, and a contributor to **The Collegian** along with a regular spot on 2 of the 3 radio stations licensed to the University.

Ms. Clarke spent 3 years at a film post-production house working her way up to Assistant Film Editor, and working on commercials and films. (**THE QUEST FOR ZARATHUSTRA**, **SHEDD'S SPREAD**, **TIDE** to name a few). But upon returning to New York from school, she found herself once again at an old favorite, **CTW**, working as production assistant on the award winning science program, **3-2-1 CONTACT**.

Never far from her roots at Public Television, Ms. Clarke continued her career goals at Channel Thirteen/WNET. She has lent her production expertise to such distinguished programs as **Nature**, and **Bill Moyers' World of Ideas**, a collection of conversations with unique thinkers of the world that included, Peter Sellers, Toni Morrison and Cornel West.

Upon completion of those assignments Ms. Clarke joined Channel Thirteen/WNET's On-Air Production Unit working on live pledge breaks and helping to create WNET's On-Air 'look'. She eventually began producing short form videos, promos and PSA's.

As the millennium changed, so too did Ms. Clarke. She returned to her first love in television, the 'technical' end -- becoming an Engineer and Broadcast Operations Coordinator, and moving into Master Control, the hub of all things that air from WNET and WLIW in New York and the tri-state area. As an engineer and supervisor, Ms. Clarke now manages the air signal of 6 stations: **Thirteen/WNET**, **Thirteen HD**, **Thirteen Kids**, **Thirteen World**, **WLIW21** and **WLIW Create**. She monitors the activity of 4 transmitters and she is responsible for the operations of Master Control during her shift.



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JILL CLARKE

As one of the original cast children on the landmark series "**Sesame Street**", Jill Clarke is no stranger to television and production. In fact, she is a producer for the award-winning PBS series, **Nature** (Thirteen/WNET). Her credits include "**The World of Nature**" a syndicated version of the popular "**NATURE**" program hosted by Walter Cronkite, **Thirteen on the Line** - a live, call-in television show about current events with National Public Radio host, Brian Lehrer, **Women Inc.** a live call-in show with in depth looks at women in business with Fox News and Business correspondent, Karen Gibbs, **Great Performances**, a behind the scenes look at the highly acclaimed Broadway Musical "**Black and Blue**" directed by Robert Altman and **In The Wild** a series of nature shows presented by various hosts including Robin Williams, Julia Roberts, Whoopie Goldberg, and Ewan McGregor.

In addition to her production background, Jill studied piano at the prestigious High School of the Performing Arts and attended prep school at the Manhattan School of Music. She went on to further her musical education at the Berklee College of Music where she earned her bachelors of Music degree in Music Production and Engineering. Jill has played keyboards with various artists in clubs and festivals throughout the tri-state area. She has also toured nationally with the Black-a-Palooza tour as well as with popular recording artists The Temptations, Kelis, and R&B/Country singer Calvin Richardson.

MICHAEL DENNIS

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Michael Dennis holds a BFA from NYU's Film School and a Masters degree in Directing from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. He has worked public relations for Bill Cosby, written a screenplay for Chris Rock and crewed on Jonathan Demme and Oprah Winfrey's film of *Beloved*. He is in the process of developing *Bring The Beat Back*, a multi-part, multimedia history of Old School Rap Music in Philadelphia. *Jazzyfatnastees: In Process* was produced for WYBE-TV's Philadelphia Stories series and has screened successfully at many venues and festivals since its Summer 2002 debut. It was awarded "Best Documentary" honors at the 2003 Cine Noir Film Festival in Wilmington, NC. His feature, *Philly Boy: A Movie About MC Breeze* was voted "Film of the Year" by the users of Phillyhiphop.com. His work has screened nationwide, including the Starz Denver Pan African Film Festival, the Hip-Hop Film Festival (tour), and SE Manly Short Film Festival in Los Angeles. He was awarded the "Emerging Filmmaker Award" at this year's Cine Noir Festival and will soon release a DVD anthology of his short films entitled, *The Reelblack Motion Picture Manifesto*.

Mr. Dennis has also written and directed several narrative shorts including *Next Tuesday*, which premiered in June as part of the third season of WYBE-TV's Philadelphia Stories series. His Syncopation Studios produces documentaries and DVD Electronic Press Kits for other artists including Lady Alma, Jazmine Sullivan and Kindred The Family Soul. Mike also hosts a monthly film screening series in Philadelphia called *Reelblack Presents*. Its goal is to develop and nurture an audience for an alternative African-American Cinema.



IVAN DIXON

Ivan Dixon was born April 6, 1931. He is probably best remembered for his role as Sergeant James Kinchloe on **Hogan's Heroes**. One of his first acting credits was for the celebrated television anthology **The Dupont Show of the Month** in the 1960 production of **Arrowsmith**. He went on to act in the film version of the theatrical drama **A Raisin in the Sun** with Ruby Dee and Sidney Poitier in 1961, in which he played Asagai, the African boyfriend of Beneatha. He also portrayed Jim in the 1959 film version of **Porgy and Bess**. One of his most important film roles is in the acclaimed drama

Nothing But a Man (1964) in which he played Duff, a Southern railroad worker who must decide if his life, his marriage and his relationship with his son will repeat the mistakes his own father committed. Unlike many films of the era, it presents a cast of black characters who are fully developed individuals, with problems, joys and identities of their own. Dixon acted with Poitier again in the 1965 film **A Patch of Blue** about a blind white girl falling in love with a black man (Poitier).



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(Ivan Dixon continued...)

In 1965, Dixon began his enlistment as Sergeant James Kinchloe on "Hogan's Heroes" He left the series in 1970, one year before the show ended. His post-"Hogan" films included: **Suppose They Gave a War and Nobody Came?** (1970), the Vietnam veteran melodrama **Clay Pigeon** (1971), and **Car Wash** (1976, as the boss, Lonnie). Other television acting credits include the 1987 mini-series **Amerika**, the 1986 mystery film **Perry Mason: The Case of the Shooting Star**, in which he played the judge, and the 1974 action drama **Fer-de-Lance** (aka **Death Dive**).



Ivan began directing films in the early 1970s, such as the 1972 gang warfare flick **Trouble Man** and the 1973 action movie **The Spook Who Sat by the Door** (which he also produced). For television, he directed **Love Is Not Enough** (1978), the series **Palmerstown, U.S.A.** (1980), the detective series **Hawaiian Heat** (1984), and the telemovie **Percy & Thunder** (1993).

REL DOWDELL

Writer/director Rel J. Dowdell is a native Philadelphian. Growing up in the Mount Airy section of town, he attended Henry Houston, Masterman and Central High School. He is a Magna cum Laude (English) graduate of Fisk University, and received his Masters in Film degree from Boston University. While at B.U., he became the first African-American to win the top prize in filmmaking at the school's annual Summer Redstone Film Festival in 1996 with his thesis project film called **Train Ride**. That short thesis film also starred the late, Emmy Award winning actress Ms. Esther Rolle, whom Rel met while she was in Boston performing in the play "A Raisin in the Sun" at Boston's famed Huntington Theater. Not only did Ms. Rolle appear in the short film **Train Ride** (which went on to win several national and international prizes), but she also agreed to participate in Rel's feature-length version of the same film, reprising her role as the Dean of Students at fictional Sanders University. Rel's feature-length version of **Train Ride** ended up being Ms. Rolle's last performance. Ms. Rolle literally rearranged her dialysis treatment to fly from LA to Philadelphia to be in Rel's film when he secured financing for the project. **Train Ride** was shot at Cheyney University, which is American's oldest historically African-American College.



HISANI DUBOSE

A graduate of Seton Hall University, Hisani DuBose spent years performing as a dancer and singer before turning to screenwriting. Her musical **Different Kinda Blues** opened at Seton Hall University before moving to a professional regional theater for a month of successful weekend runs.

Ms. DuBose studied at Frank Silvera's Writer's Workshop in Harlem and at an intensive screenwriting workshop run in Manhattan by the Writer's Guild of America. She has directed three short movies, written feature-length screenplays, and produced a few documentaries. As an Associate Programmer at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center she produced dozens of community performances with major international artists including jazz artists like Paquito D' Rivera, Hugh Masekela and Babatunde Olatunji. In collaboration with Grammy and Tony nominee Reg E. Gaines (for "Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk," Hisani produced a choreo-poem called, "Brick City Blues." She is also the founder/director of the NJ Movie Maker's Network, a statewide service organization for New Jersey-based independent filmmakers. Her brilliant, thought-provoking documentary is entitled **THE VANISHING BLACK MALE**.



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TIM GREENE

Tim Greene is a Sony Innovators Award Finalist for Film/TV. His films have been distributed in 21 countries and three languages - English, Spanish and French - without the help of agents or lawyers. He was honored as the Best Writer, Producer, Director at the Philadelphia International Film Festival for the parody **Ya Grandma's A Gangsta**.

A former radio personality in Los Angeles - KKBT (100.3 FM The Beat) and KJLH (102.3 FM The Rhythm), Charlotte (KISS 102 FM) and in Philadelphia at WPHI (100.3 FM The Beat). In Japan Tim produced and hosted the TV and radio show "Dance City from Hollywood" heard on Bay FM and through out Japan via satellite.

The writer, director and producer also wants to continue discovering raw talent. To achieve that aim, Greene will launch the **Ultimate Hip Hop Motion Picture Consortium** with the help of marketing guru Beryl Wolk, cofounder of the Cable Guide magazine. The consortium will have branch offices in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Charlotte, NC.

TYSON HALL

Artist and actor Tyson Hall is a director's ideal. He is well rounded, knowledgeable, visually expressive and most of all, extremely talented. His resume reflects this. He has worked alongside **Charles Stone III** and **Susan Smith** on the film **Paid in Full**, John Leguizamo on the film **Empire** and Soul Plane director Jessie Terrero on the film **The Clinic**, which was featured at the **2003 SUNDANCE FILM Festival**. He also worked alongside Delroy Lindel and Tommy Davis.



Tyson has studied with **James Pringle of the Harlem Theater Company**, **Tony Greco** and **Susan Batson**. Tyson gained experience at **The Nuyorican Café** and **Theater 22** where he worked with outstanding writers Amiri Baraka and Ishmeel Reed.

His first television credit was as a guest star on **New York Undercover**. He relocated to California and went on to book roles on **Moesha** and the **Larry Miller** film, **King Con**. While in California, he wrote and developed his own film entitled **A Calling**. On his return to New York, Tyson booked a recurring role on the HBO series **Oz**. He recently shot an episode of the hit television series **The Wire**.

ANTHONY HENDERSON

Philadelphia native Anthony Henderson is a fashion stylist, consultant, wardrobe and costume designer who serves local, national and international clients. Mr. Henderson is well known through the entertainment industry and is commonly referred to as the "Fashion Stylist to the Stars". Anthony is a fashion correspondent for the Philadelphia Daily News. He was featured in the 2003 Holiday Issue of Philadelphia Style Magazine. Furthermore, Anthony can be heard on various radio stations promoting his numerous projects and answering listeners' questions.

Anthony has dressed such personalities as Grammy Award Winner, pop artist and Actor "Eve", Morris Chestnut, the late Esther Rolle "Train Ride", Danny Glover, "ABC newscaster" Rick Williams, Philadelphia Eagles' Bobby Taylor, Queen Penn, MC Lyte, radio announcer WDAS Patty Jackson and the credit list goes on and on.

In his free time you can always find Mr. Henderson assisting others in all areas such as producing fashion shows, fashion consultant for weddings, conducting workshops and training sessions, and speaking to youth interested in the fashion industry.



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HOTEP

Hotep is owner and operator of Skinnymen Productions, an independent, multi-media EDU-tainment company based in Atlanta, GA. If being recognized as a visionary media mogul, Hip-Hop celebrity and savvy businessman weren't enough, Hotep (a Morehouse college graduate) is also a ten-year veteran educator in the Dekalb county school system. A strong proponent for media control, independence and self-empowerment, Hotep has been properly nicknamed **HUSTLE SIMMONS**.

The word edu-tainment was actually coined by legendary rapper, **KRS-1** in the late eighties-early nineties. It is made up of 2 words, **education** and **entertainment**. When asked why he undertakes so many media projects Hotep continues, *"Media is the most powerful educational tool we have. If you influence what people see, hear and read, then you influence the way they think and therefore the way they behave. This is my way of improving problems in the Hip-Hop and African-American communities, educating and empowering through entertainment and mass media."*

Hotep uses his multi-media products, vision and business savvy as tools to tour the world as a motivational speaker. His documentary **Independent Doing Major Things** debuted in the number one spot in Atlanta and holds the distinction of being "the film that beat Harry Potter".

MIKE LEMON C.S.A.

Mike Lemon has been a casting director for over 20 years after 12 years as an actor and director. He was a member of SAG and AFTRA with experience on stage, on camera and in the sound studio. Bringing his performance experience to casting, he has earned a reputation as an "actor's director" who brings out the best in auditioning talent. In 2001 being admitted into the Casting Society of America, the professional association for casting directors honored him.

He's a co-founder and host of The Lab, a Filmmakers' Workshop that has inspired and facilitated the production of seven independent films in seven years. He's on the Advisory Board of the Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia and the planning committees for both the TAGP annual auditions and The Barrymore Awards. He's also been on the steering committee of Indy Fest for The Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema and The Atlantic City Film Festival and his close ties with the Philadelphia Film Office, The Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association (PIFVA) and the Sharon Pinkenson Film Project.



DR. LORETTA LONG

For the past 38 years, Dr. Loretta long has been better known throughout the world as "Susan," one of the Sesame Street's original hosts. As an educator and actress, she holds unique credentials to validate her commitment to helping people learn, especially through the media.

Dr. Long is a Visiting Scholar in Cultural Diversity at the University of Scholar in Cultural Diversity at the University of Scranton. The hallmark of her educational career is her emphasis on synthesizing education and entertainment. Because of the pervasive nature of the media in our culture, Dr. Long contends that rather than approach education in a traditional manner, contemporary educators must expand their roles to be "edutainers". Much of her activity in education now is training teachers to use multimedia in order to better reach media-accustomed, audio-visually oriented students. A former English and Social Studies teacher, Dr. Long has taught in Detroit and New York City public school systems. Today she continues her efforts as a published author of the children's book, "Courtney's Birthday Party," a role model, mentor, actor, and motivational speaker.



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(Dr. Loretta Long continued...)

Dr. Long received her undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and a doctorate in education from University of Massachusetts. Her dissertation was based on a study, which explained "Sesame Street" as a model for teaching preschoolers via television.

In addition to appearing on "Sesame Street," Dr. Long has appeared in Broadway shows such as "Guys and Dolls" and "Sweet Charity." Her film credits include "Cotton Comes to Harlem," "Husbands," and "the Out of Towners".

DEBORAH J. MCDUFFIE

The late, great Luther Vandross once called her, "the most famous unknown producer in the business". You might not know her name, but you would only need to hear a few bars from one of her legendary spots to know how significant her presence in the music and advertising industry has been. She is Debbie McDuffie, and the accomplishments of her lifetime are amazing. Her advertising spots alone crossed over into every radio format, from R&B to Country and everything in between. The list of talent she has produced and worked with reads like a volume from Who's Who in the Music Industry. It includes phenomenal artists such as Quincy Jones, Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, Chuck Mangione, The Isley Brothers, Janet Jackson, Jose Feliciano, Aretha Franklin, Ray Baretto, Grover Washington, Jr., Peter Allen, Roberta Flack, The Dazz Band, Melba Moore, James Ingram, Lakeside, Will Smith, Patti Austin, BB King, Hugh Masekela, Al Green and Ashford & Simpson.



Her career in advertising began in 1971 at McCann Erickson, one of the world's largest advertising agencies. The first campaign she worked on was the legendary "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" commercial for Coca-Cola. Within 6 months of being hired at McCann, she went from trainee to producer, the first African American female producer in the industry. Her fluency in Spanish enabled her to produce acts not only in the U.S., but entire Spanish language campaigns for both Coca-Cola and Miller Beer in countries such as Mexico, Panama and Columbia. These feats were accomplished at the age of 20.

After a highly successful ten-year stretch at McCann, she formed her own production company in 1981. Jana Productions amassed an impressive client list and grew to a quarter million dollar business in two years. Throughout the 80's, her work in advertising was unprecedented. She composed and arranged the music, hired the singers, musicians and announcers, as well as recorded the jingles. Her client list included **NBC**, **General Motors**, **Exxon**, **Gino's Pizza**, **Kentucky Fried Chicken**, **Reynolds Wrap**, and her main client **Miller Beer**. In 1982, she won the two highest awards in the advertising industry, a Clio and a CEBA for her Kentucky Fried Chicken spots featuring Gladys Knight and legendary radio announcer, the late Frankie Crocker. In 1983, she was featured as an Essence Woman in **Essence Magazine**. She was also a highly sought after session vocalist. In fact, she sang background on the soundtracks of two highly successful MGM pictures, **Fame** and **The Wiz**. Her success continued into the 90's. Most notably, in 1993 she restructured and produced the legendary talent competition **Amateur Night at the Apollo** in Harlem, N.Y.

In 1996, she relocated to Jacksonville to fulfill her desire to work with youth. She founded the award winning Ritz Voices, an 80-voice all city youth chorus featuring the most talented voices in Jacksonville and outlying areas and created Amateur Night at the Ritz, a venue for Jacksonville youths to display their talent. She has served as director of choral studies at the Paxon School for Advanced Studies. Just last year, she founded the Northeast Florida Foundation of the Arts Inc, which produced two major events for the NFL during Super Bowl XXXIX, and the non-profit Jacksonville School of Music at the Jacksonville Landing.

Never far from music and production, she has produced the McDonald's Gospel Fest in Jacksonville, and co-produced the up-coming **Disney Gospel Choir Fest**. She is also Special Programs Producer for the Ritz Theater and La Villa Museum, and has served as both a judge and the host of the television show, **Gimme the Mic, Jacksonville**.



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DARYL 'CHILL' MITCHELL

Daryl 'Chill' Mitchell grew up on Long Island and first came to public attention as a member of the three-man rap group Groove B. Chill. Making the video to promote their debut album, **Starting from Zero**, introduced them to the Hudlin Brothers and led to their feature debut in **House Party** (1990), written and directed by Reginald Hudlin. Finding the experience particularly enjoyable, Mitchell decided to focus on an acting career and, after appearances in **House Party 2** (1991) and **Boomerang** (1992), landed a co-starring role as the rapper Kayam in Steve Gomer's **Fly By Night** (1993), winner of the Filmmaker's Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival. His other feature credits include the by-the-book private in **Sgt. Bilko** (1996) and supporting roles in the comedies **A Thin Line Between Love & Hate** (also 1996) and **Home Fries** (1998).

Mitchell has enjoyed his greatest success, however, on the small screen, working first as a regular on the short-lived NBC series **Here and Now** (1992-93), starring Malcolm-Jamal Warner before landing the regular role of lunch counter operator Dexter Walker on **The John Larroquette Show** (NBC, 1993-97). While filming **Toothless** (1997) for ABC's **The Wonderful World of Disney**, he met Kirstie Alley, and the two got on so famously that Mitchell ended up as Leo, the harried marketing executive, on Alley's sitcom **Veronica's Closet** (NBC, 1997-2000). Among his other TV projects were an appearance in the CBS miniseries **Queen** (1993), based on the Alex Haley story of his paternal grandmother, a reunion with Warrington Hudlin for **The First Commandment** segment of the HBO anthology **Cosmic Slop** (1994) and a portrayal of basketball player (and later coach) Dean 'The Dream' Memminger in the biopic **Rebound: The Legend of Earl 'The Goat' Manigault** (HBO, 1996).

ERIC MONTE

Eric Monte is an award-winning screenwriter, television writer, playwright and book author whose work is world famous. He is the writer of the 1974 blockbuster hit movie **Cooley High**, which won him the NAACP Image Award for "Screenplay of the Year". According to the Museum of Television and Radio, Mr. Monte is credited as being the first African American in the history of television to create a hit sitcom, **Good Times**. He has an unprecedented track record of creating hit characters and shows. Two of his most memorable characters are George and Louise Jefferson of **The Jeffersons**. He also created the hit television series, **What's Happening**. His other television and screen credits include **Moesha**, **Benson**, **The Wayans Brothers**, and **All in the Family**.

Mr. Monte's talent is not limited to the arena of television and film. He wrote, produced and directed the talk show **H.O.P.E.** as well as numerous music videos. He also served as personal writer to Reverend Jesse Jackson and was a contributing writer to **Upscale** magazine. He is the author and publisher of the book **Blueprint for Peace**. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America, who recognized him as a Pioneers & Powerbrokers honoree. Mr. Monte's Hollywood "how-to"/"how-not-to" story/advice leaves audiences informed, inspired and amazed.



DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Dominique Morisseau has written and/or performed in over 20 plays, short stories, and poems. Author of two NAACP Image Award-winning plays, she has had work appear both onstage and in print in New York, Michigan, California, and all across the U.S. She was recognized as a "Pioneer in Arts" at the University of Michigan in 2000 for her work on two choreopoems **Redemption (ablackmantrip)** and **The Blackness Blues-Time To Change The Tune (A Sister's Story)** which received a letter of appreciation from Nikki Giovanni. Dominique has since authored and premiered several plays in New York City as well as **The Almighty Isis** a novel and screenplay. She has worked alongside Ruby Dee, Mos Def, and director Rod Gailes on **Pharoah Jones** playing the featured role of Pam.



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SHANNON NEWBY

Shannon Newby is the founder of **OUT THE HOUSE MOTION PICTURES**, an independent film company located in Philadelphia, PA. The company has produced several films including his hit feature film **DIRTY LAUNDRY**, which won for Best Director at the Atlantic City Film Festival and Best Feature at the Philadelphia International Film Festival. His other critically acclaimed independent masterpiece, **FORGET TOMORROW**, won the Silver Award in the Short Film Category at the Philadelphia International Film Festival. Shannon is also a published editorialist and aspiring novelist.



VINCE PAUL

This actor, agent & author, has been called a Triple Threat excelling in all three of these careers simultaneously. Vince Paul has lived and worked in New York City and Chicago prior to moving to Charlotte, NC in 1989. The multi-talented artist has an impressive track record in the fields of modeling, television, film, and theater production. He is one of the areas leading commercial and print models in the Southeast. Appearances in advertisements and commercials of national companies such as **Ebony**, **Bally Total Fitness**, **Ford Motor Company**, **Wachovia**, and **Nike** has made him a sought after actor and model.

Vince has dominated the theater circuit with his leading performances on Broadway in several National Gospel Productions over the past decade. He has made appearances in **Law and Order** as well as in the Whoopie Goldberg movie, **Eddie**. He also played the role of Hubert Delany in the CBS movie **Having Our Say** starring Diahann Carroll and Ruby Dee. Vince also had the privilege of working with legendary actor Sidney Poitier as his stunt double in **The Last Brick Maker** on CBS.

Vince's dream and pursuit of equity and empowerment for all model's and actors of all races was realized in the spring of 1998 when he developed and implemented Talent Link Inc. Based in Charlotte NC. **Talent Link** emerged as a new cutting edge type of talent agency that accommodates both the "Artists" and the "Industry," specializing in the training and casting of ethnic talent in the film, television, print, industrial, voice over and theater industries. Talent Link is now recognized as the largest ethnic owned talent agency in Southeast region with a 90% placement rate. He is committed to educating aspiring artists in the entertainment industry. In April of 2001, he self-published the #1 industry handbook **The Talent Guide**.

Vince 's leadership qualities, hard work and determination has allowed him to place talent for several national commercials including Visa, Ford Motor Company, Nascar, and Coca Cola to name a few. His talent placements in television and film include **Dawson's Creek**, **One Tree Hill**, **Domestic Disturbance**, **Shallow Hal**, **Juwanna Mann**, **Black Knight**, **The Kings of Comedy**, **Carrie: 2 The Rage**, **The Patriot**, **Hannibal**, **Black Dog**, **Remember The Titans** and **Drum Line**.



DAPHNE MAXWELL REID

Daphne Maxwell Reid is most widely recognized for her role of Aunt Viv in NBC's hit comedy **The Fresh Prince of Bel Air**. She is also known for her roles on **Frank's Place** and **Snoops**, two CBS hit series, which also featured her husband actor Tim Reid. Her other television credits include roles in **Simon & Simon**, **Hardcastle and McCormick**, **WKRP in Cincinnati**, **Cagney and Lacey**, **Hill Street Blues**, **Murder, She Wrote**, **The Fall Guy**, **The A-Team**, **The Cosby Show** and **Sister, Sister**. She has also co-starred in movies of the week for NBC, CBS, and PBS, as well as the feature films **Protocol**, and **Once Upon a Time ... When We Were Colored**.



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(Daphne Maxwell Reid continued...)

Maxwell Reid was born and raised on Manhattan's west side and was encouraged by several of her teachers to enroll in the renowned Bronx High School of Science, where she graduated as Senior Class President and Merit Scholarship recipient.

While pursuing a major in Interior Design and Architecture at Northwestern University, an English teacher from her high school submitted a photograph to a magazine editor and friend who was preparing an article on college women. The result was a trip to New York and Maxwell Reid's first full-page photograph in **Seventeen Magazine**. Quickly signed by the Eileen Ford Agency, she appeared in many magazines, and was also the first black woman to grace the cover of **Glamour Magazine**.

Next, Maxwell Reid broke into the acting field. She had the opportunity to audition for a part in the series **The Duke** starring Robert Conrad, who promised her a continuing role, and kept his word. In 1979, she headed to Los Angeles where she continued to work with Robert Conrad, who enlisted her as the villainess in his series, **A Man Called Sloane**, and subsequently her first movie of the week, **The Coach of the Year**. In February of 1980, she met her husband, Tim Reid, who she had previously known in Chicago.

Maxwell Reid is also a designer and creates most of her own wardrobe. She was asked to display some of her designing abilities as a guest co-host for ABC's **Home Show**, which led to a regular co-host spot. In 1992, she took her sewing talent into a co-venture with the McCall Pattern Company and created, produced and starred in a four-video and four-pattern kit titled **Suddenly You're Sewing**. With monthly visits as a celebrity presenter on QVC TV, Maxwell Reid sold over 10,000 kits and through retail outlets, she sold another 15,000. The kit has been widely acclaimed and in 1992 won the prestigious PCM award for the "Best New Product" from the home sewing and craft industry. She also designs a bi-annual line of patterns for the McCall Pattern Company called the Daphne Maxwell Reid Collection, available in fabric stores across the country.

In 1997, she and her husband co-founded New Millennium Studios, Virginia's first full service studio complex. At NMS, she has earned the nickname of "Mama Millennium" for her unbelievable ability to juggle the countless tasks involved in running the studio, while also remaining calm, cool and collected, with a ready ear for anyone who needs her valuable advice and expertise.

MONTY ROSS

Monty Ross has produced motion pictures and videos for more than 17 years. His passion for the industry has not only fueled a major impact on the Hollywood arena, but also paved futures for a myriad of young professionals.

His professional life began after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Clark College, (currently Clark Atlanta University). The following next two years were spent collaborating and consulting with fellow executive producer Tyrone Harris and director George Folkes. The filmmakers received a grant to develop a film project with the Federal government job training program initiative, **CETA** (Comprehensive Employment Training Act). This collaboration presented an opportunity to mentor and train 24 young filmmakers from the Atlanta public school system in producing, writing and directing their own film projects. The project received an award from the US Department of Labor.



After completing the project for CETA, Ross was asked to audition for a theatre company founded by Executive/Artistic Director Michelle McNichols called the Atlanta Street Theatre. Ross and five other actors developed an original improvisational play for young audiences. The troupe presented two shows a day and taught creative workshops on ways to develop creativity.



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Later that year, Ross teamed with film director Spike Lee. He spent three months in New York assisting and starring in Lee's thesis film, **Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop-We Cut Heads**. The student film earned major film festival prizes and received a Student Directors Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's. (Monty Ross continued...)

While still a resident of Atlanta, Ross continually sought new media opportunities and began his television career as Floor Director and Stage Manager for WSB-TV, Channel 2.

In 1985 he paired with Lee again, this time serving as Production Supervisor on the critically acclaimed independent feature film **She's Gotta Have It**. The film won numerous film awards in addition to the Prix de Jeunesse at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

Ross went on to co-produce the highly anticipated second Lee feature, **School Daze**. The \$6 million dollar film was shot entirely on location in the heart of the Atlanta University Center. It was one of the first out of state motion pictures of the 80's to employ many local technicians, actors and crew members from Atlanta and it's surrounding communities. All equipment, props, set design materials, camera stock, grip and gaffer purchases were made from local vendors.

Also among Ross' production credits are **Do The Right Thing**, **Mo Betta Blues**, **Jungle Fever**, **Malcolm X**, **Crooklyn**, and **Clockers**. Each feature film project came with it's own set of complex production problems. Lee along with Ross successfully lobbied many of the industries toughest unions to open their doors and as a result over 200 technicians have received their union membership cards.

Having broken into the established ranks of Hollywood features by their own initiative was just the beginning. They felt an obligation to give back to other aspiring young filmmakers. To demystify the film process, Ross went to Lee with a job training seminar concept. Once given the go ahead, Ross co-founded the 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks Institute. The institute offered young aspiring filmmakers and students the opportunity to attend workshops in film production, editing, writing and directing taught by industry leading professionals. Because the institute had such favorable results Lee asked Ross to develop a film internship program. The job training internship program gave over 400 students an opportunity to gain hands on entry-level experience working on one of the many 40 Acres film, commercial or music video projects.

During this time, the production company began producing more commercials and music videos. This established relationships with such notables as, Michael Jordan, Steve Wonder, Anita Baker, Prince, and other major celebrities. From these relationships came the coveted Nike Air Jordan campaign, spots for ESPN, HBO Sports, Coke, Levi and AT& T.

In the summer of 1995, Ross held true to his commitment to inspire young filmmakers by serving on the Board of Media Projects for the Virginia based award winning Youth Entertainment Studios, whose mission is to empower young filmmakers with confidence-building media production and marketing skills.

By 1996, Ross returned to television as a freelance producer. He produced music videos for Geffen records recording artist, The GZA, and Tommy Boy/ Penalty records recording Artist Shabazz. Next he went on to direct and produce two 60-minute documentaries for SI Productions based in Burbank, CA. Nina Long and Malcolm Jamal Warner hosted the documentaries, **Welfare to Work** and **After Affirmative Action**. Both programs were syndicated to over 100 stations nationwide and aired on many NBC stations and affiliates.

In 2002, Ross teamed with producers Geoffrey Garfield, Adam Clayton Powell III and Adam Clayton Powell IV to produce the made for television movie **Keep the Faith, Baby**, the story of the legendary Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. The film debuted on the Showtime/Paramount Pictures television network and later that year received a NAACP Image award nomination and a Proclamation from the city of New York.

Ross has come full circle and is once again teamed with director Spike Lee at 40 Acres. His responsibilities now include developing special projects, long term growth strategies, and providing research and development in new media technologies.



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PROFESSOR DRU RYAN

CEO and Executive Director of **Hip Hop Matters**, Andrew J. Ryan has been a faculty member of the George Mason University since 1999, teaching courses in statistics, Internet Literacy and multimedia. Raised in the Bronx, New York, his urban upbringing sparked his passion to integrate Hip-Hop and education.

In the spring of 2002, Ryan introduced a new course, "Beats, Rhyme, and Culture," the first class on Hip-Hop at GMU. He followed this with "Black Voices in Hip-Hop" (2003); "'Hip-Hop Literacies" (2005) -- a technology and writing intensive course. In the fall of 2005, he taught "Politics, Policy, and Hip-Hop" at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), his second semester at UDC.

DAMON P. SALEEM

Damon P. Saleem is a versatile, dynamic actor. His extensive list of film and television credits include **Next Tuesday**, **The Practice**, **The X-Files**, **Grace Under Fire**, **Walker Texas Ranger** and **Law and Order**.

ED SHOCKLEY

Award-winning theater artist Ed Shockley served for over 10 years as Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Dramatists Center (PDC) and in more recent years for the American Concert Theatre (ACT). Having started writing at age nine – comic books – he later moved on to poetry, fiction and drama. He is author of more than 50 plays, as well as numerous professional articles and educational materials on the arts of playwriting and directing. He has designed and taught theater courses at Temple University, NYU, Nassau Community College and continues to teach play/film writing and World Theatre history at the University of the Arts and Rutgers.

With a \$100,000 W. Alton Jones Foundation grant, he and musical collaborator, Grammy Award winning composer and best-selling novelist James McBride, produced their box office record setting urban opera, **Bobos**, at Philadelphia's American Music Theatre Festival. **Bobos** won the much-coveted Richard Rogers Award as well as the Stephen Sondheim Award for Outstanding Contributions to American Musical Theatre.

Mr. Shockley is a lifelong advocate of education and personal growth. He has assisted in the design and founding of numerous arts organizations including the Rainbow Company (American Music Theatre Festival), the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival, Reality Crew (Venture Theatre), the Philadelphia Dramatists Center, the Seeing Place Festival and the American Concert Theatre.

In recent years he has simultaneously taught at the University of the Arts and Rutgers University. He has directed the courses of the ACT and the emerging Mosaic Theatre and directly coached aspiring and professional playwrights and directors. He is the writer of the short film **Stone Mansion** that has won worldwide acclaim and has been broadcast nationally by SHOWTIME television. He has mastered the unique martial arts of Aikido and Aiki-weapons and collaborated with famed sensei/dancer Henry Smith (6th Dan) to define a new American stage combat vocabulary. He is contributing author to the upcoming NPR Radio play **The Corner** while simultaneously developing his new stage play, **Johnson Family Saga**, which tracks the experiences of generations of Americans from the colonial period through to recent times in a totally innovative theatrical structure. "We tend to get stuck in form," he says. "Form has to serve art and art has to serve our realization of humanness."



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DENISE SPILLER

Denise Spiller is a retired Correctional Officer after 15 years of service with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department. As an experienced freelance writer, managing editor and screenwriter, Denise now acts as Chief Operations Officer of Kaizen Publication. Motivated by the desire to help other writers learn from her experience, Denise's efforts are guided by the foundational goal of teaching new writers navigation techniques to get into the Publishing or Entertainment Industry.



Denise is the President of Chameleon Media Group and founder of the African American Literary and Media Group. Chameleon owns 12 online entities including Black News and TV, African American Film and Radio (AAFAR) and Soulful Writer. She has served as casting director, documentarian, production assistant, script consultant, and writer for the San Francisco Film Arts Foundation.

JOHN CANADA TERRELL

John Canada Terrell is a versatile actor who captivates audiences with his memorable characters. Audiences remember him in the role of Greer Childs in Spike Lee's smash hit movie **She's Gotta Have It**. He also captivated fans with his portrayal of Michael "Flash" Turner in **The Five Heartbeats**. His other film and television credits include **Boomerang**, **Mo' Better Blues**, **Law and Order**, **Rooftops**, and **The Scarecrow and Mrs. King**.