

THE SMG REPORT



SHAVONNE BANKS-DAVIS

Theater Teaching Artist making a difference with activism through art

BISHOP J. DREW SHEARD

His Vision for the future of the Church of God in Christ

REMEMBERING CARMAN

The CCM legend has passed away at 65

ROBIN ROBERTS PRESENTS

A MAHALIA MOVIE

Movie about the Queen of Gospel debuts on Lifetime, Saturday April 3rd

IT'S POSSIBLE!

Disney's "Cinderella" starring Whitney Houston and Brandy is now streaming on Disney +



This Week In

The

SMG

Report

Broadening Your World with News From Around the Globe

What Is It?

I first want to thank you for your support of The SMG Report and I'm proud to announce the next phase of our journalism. Currently, content featured in the SMG Report is delivered via articles on our website and is featured SP Radio, "On the Record" which features conversations with recording artists and movers and shakers in the music industry. "Talking Points" profiles thought leaders in the world of business, faith, tech, finance, and entertainment.

We have tried to find the best way to deliver our news to our audience and continue to do so via our website, radio station and podcasts. This month, we have shifted to the format of a digital magazine. If you like it, be sure to tell us. Also share with us your critiques and suggestions for improvement.

Thank you for your support, viewership, readership and listenership. We don't take it for granted and look forward to broadening your world with news from around the globe. Before I go, I want to invite you to share your news with us. If you have news we can use, email it to us at: news@soulprospermedia.com and we'll consider it for inclusion in The SMG Report.

Broadening Your World View with News from Around the Globe



ON THE
RECORD

with Fred Willis



**CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR
FAVORITE FAITH, INSPIRATION
AND ENTERTAINMENT
LEADERS**
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**TALKING
POINTS**

with Fred Willis

Let's Talk About It!

Don't you wanna jam...?



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FROM THE EDITOR

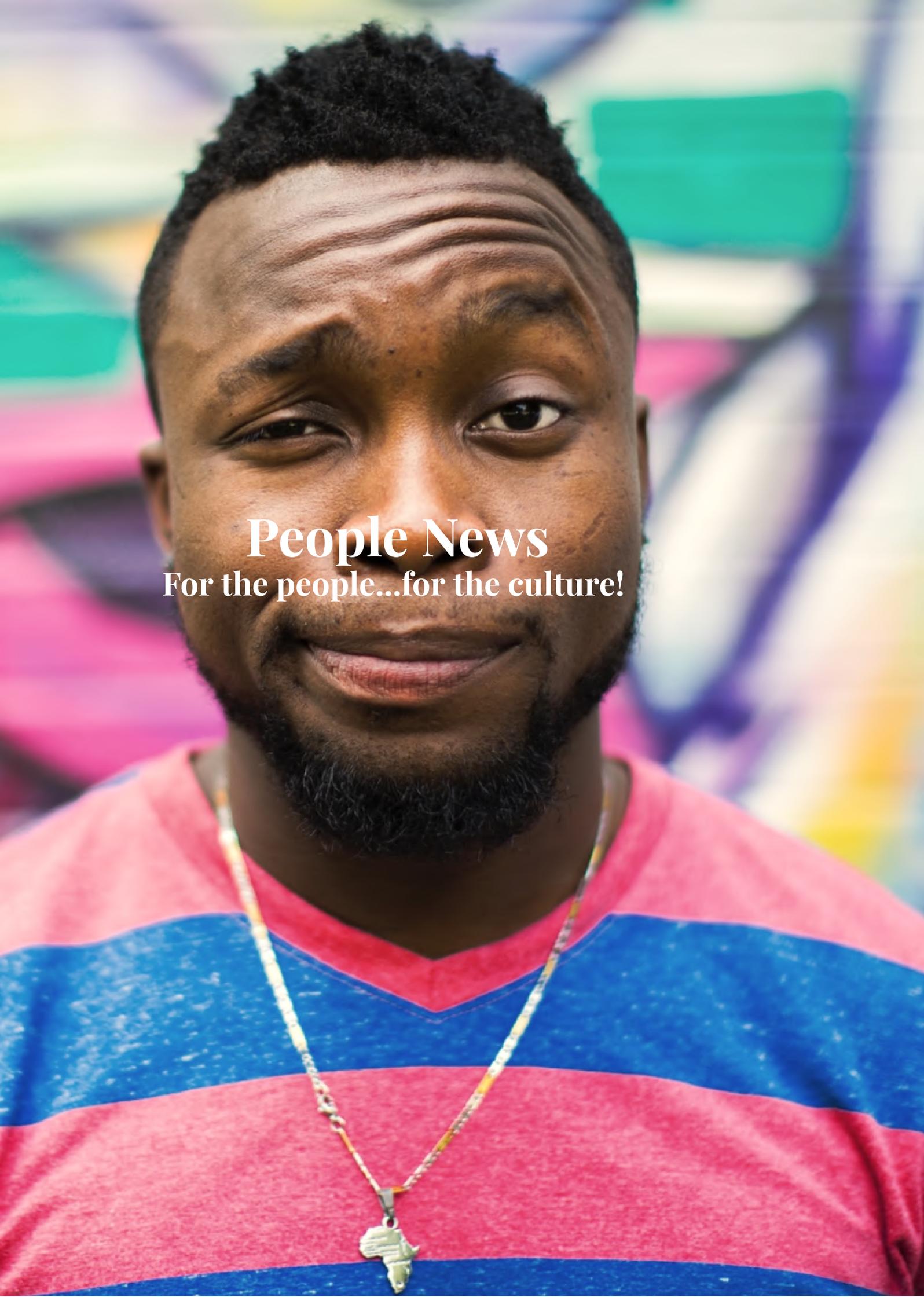
We survived snowmageddon. It was a regular winter storm but what we didn't know is how unprepared our electricity grid was for it. Lights were out and to make matters worse, plumbing was affected and caused flooding to homes and businesses across the state of Texas. I wasn't able to return to a full day of work until Wednesday of this week and I felt every piece of the delay. SoulProsper Radio couldn't update shows, I couldn't record the SMG Report which was supposed to be in video format and we were unsure if our power would remain on.

Once we were at a consistent point of power, I got to work. Because of our week, I was in no mood to record so I did what came natural. I started writing and after hours of editing, a lost edit (it completely disappeared) and a few hours of sleep, I'm pleased to present this edition of The SMG Report. Do I hope you like it? I just hope you read it! I've compiled many stories and included them in this edition exclusively.

These stories would normally be on our website, but I'm putting them in this edition as I try out a new format and formula for what we do at SMG. Thanks for reading and as always, send your feedback to us at: news@soulprospermedia.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

FRED WILLIS, editor





People News
For the people...for the culture!

Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation & Google Cloud Provide Largest Free Virtual HBCU College Fair in the Nation

19TH Annual VIRTUAL HBCU FESTIVAL 2021

ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH & THE ASBC FOUNDATION

SATURDAY FEB 20

8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. EST

PRESENTED BY Google Cloud

2021 FESTIVAL BENEFITS:

- ONLINE CHORAL AUDITIONS
- ALL ACCREDITED HBCUs INVITED TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY
- DEDICATED VIRTUAL SPACE FOR ONLINE STUDENT INTERVIEWS, BAND AND CHORAL AUDITIONS
- FREE ONLINE SEMINARS TO HELP STUDENTS AND PARENTS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

REGISTER FOR FREE!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, EMAIL: HBCUFESTIVAL@ALFREDSTREET.ORG

The Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation is partnering with Google Cloud in presenting the ASBC Foundation's 19th annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Festival, taking place virtually for the first time on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.

For nearly two decades, the ASBC Foundation's signature event has enabled more than 50,000 Black youth –many of whom are first-generation college students – to directly connect with the nation's iconic HBCUs, while also providing a wealth of vital information about the college admissions process, financial aid, academic disciplines, and the vibrant cultural aspects of Black college life.

A majority of the 70+ HBCUs participating in the 2021 Festival will conduct on-site interviews and offer instant admission virtually, and many schools will waive application fees. There is no cost to attend or register for this year's Festival. Since the Festival's inception, participating HBCUs have awarded more than \$40 million in the form of academic scholarships and/or waived fees.

Steven Butschi of Google Cloud says "We are always honored to assist HBCUs in solving challenges through our technology solutions, or by facilitating the recruitment of our country's finest students for these outstanding colleges and universities."

Pastor Howard John Wesley of Alfred Street Baptist Church says that Alfred Street is overjoyed that Google Cloud is partnering with them for the first time as our title sponsor. Google Cloud is committed to HBCUs, higher education for our Black youth as well as diversity, which is why they decided to support this rewarding event." Register today for this awesome event for prospective students!



Join Me In Helping Ms. Opal Lee Make **JUNETEENTH** A National Holiday

Sign Her Petition Today!

**Indomitable,
Undeterred
and more
focused
than ever,**

former educator and lifelong inspirer, Ms. Opal Lee is still at it! It's a new year and a new legislative session. The Juneteenth bills in the Senate and the House of Representatives must be reintroduced for Congress to take them up again so they can hopefully be passed before Juneteenth 2021. At 94, Ms. Opal is giving it all she's got to keep the pressure on and the awareness high that this is something people want to happen, but she needs our help.

"It's not just one little old lady in tennis shoes who wants this."

So far, a petition started on [Change.Org](https://www.change.org) has garnered a little over half a million signatures. But this month...Black History Month, she wants to return with 3 Million signatures, proving in her words that it's not just one little old lady in tennis shoes who wants this. Ok friends, we've got to make this happen, for Ms. Opal, but for the culture!

Last year, many blacks opted out of the annual 4th of July cookout and kickback to celebrate Juneteenth. We have to make this happen and get legislation happening under the Biden/ Harris administration to prove to the United States and the watching world just how dedicated they are to impacting social change by recognizing and making Juneteenth a National Holiday. The petition link is on our website and you're invited to add your voice to this just cause, today!

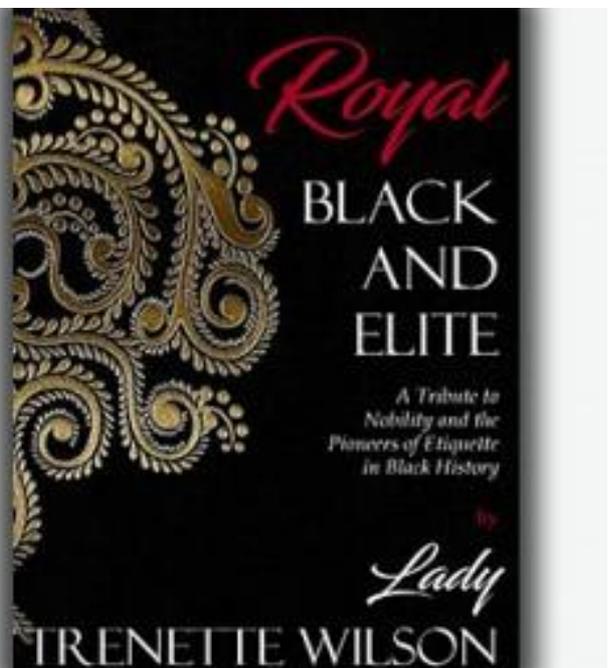
Black Royalty is Black History and This Author Says It Still Exists

In the midst of Black History Month and with the recent swearing-in of the first African American as Vice President, Trenette Wilson (“Lady T”), etiquette expert and social historian, agrees that Americans have much to celebrate, from these modern triumphs to those long-forgotten heroes in our history. She has announced the release of her all-new history book, *Royal, Black and Elite: A Tribute to Nobility and the Pioneers of Etiquette in Black History*, and a virtual “royal” tour.

Wilson says of her new book, “One of the highlights of *Royal, Black and Elite* is the discussion about Black royalty in Europe, the rise of the Black bourgeoisie, and the impact of etiquette on Black communities. The online pictorial exhibit features photographs of Black royals, elite Blacks in business and arts, etiquette pioneers, and Black aristocracy during the turn of the century and beyond.”

Wilson refers to Netflix’s new period piece, *Bridgerton*, written by Emmy winner, Shonda Rhimes who gave the world their first glimpse at a Black queen sitting on the throne of England and says, “As exciting as that show is, what most people don’t know is that Queen Charlotte, the queen featured in the drama is arguably England’s second queen of African descent,” said Wilson, an award-winning author and founder of the National Association of Urban Etiquette Professionals (NAUEP), the largest etiquette association in the nation serving urban communities.

Sounds like an interesting read to me. Lady T’s book “*Royal, Black and Elite: A Tribute to Nobility and the Pioneers of Etiquette in Black History*” is available online and at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Get into black royalty and get your copy, today!



Black and Brown Families Can Learn Financial Literacy with New Card Game, 'Legacy'

Meet the woman on a mission to close the racial wealth gap and to help us have fun doing it. Ruby Taylor, an HBCU grad from Howard University is the founder of the Legacy! Card Game. It is a fun, interactive way for black and brown youths and their families to learn how their career and financial choices impact their legacy and wealth building. It exposes all players to new financial concepts and career possibilities they may not otherwise encounter.

Fully realized by Ruby in 2020, the story of LEGACY began much earlier than that. As a former school social worker, she saw firsthand just how much the youth of today needed something like LEGACY and how important it is for students to learn how to manage and navigate their own wealth and careers. For 15 years, Ruby did this as a social worker before expanding her impact with this card game.

Focused on the empowerment, wealth building and choosing a career path, the lessons of LEGACY don't just apply to the game. They apply to real life. With the wealth distribution gap growing in oppressed communities, it is imperative that the youth of today learn to manage their career and financial goals so that they can be supported in their journeys of learning.

**To learn more or to purchase the game, visit
LegacyCardGame.com**

You're encouraged to Purchase the Legacy Card Game before February 26th to take part in National Family Game Night for Black History Month with your LEGACY card Deck. Learn more at NationalFamilyGameNight.com



Meet the Atlanta Lawyer Putting Our Music Kulture in the Kards

In other family fun night news, I want to introduce you to Kulture Karaoke, a card game invented by Atlanta lawyer, Dae Fenwick. Kulture Karaoke is an adult music card game, combining R&B and Hip Hop music into a game format. Based in Atlanta, Kulture Karaoke is Black woman owned. Dae hopes you will enjoy Kulture Karaoke at your next game night, karaoke night, birthday party, road trip, pre-game or small gathering.

It all started during her birthday celebration in September. Dae and a few friends decided to play karaoke for her birthday. To make things more interesting, she decided to have everyone pull a card and select a song based on categories like "a song that reminds you of middle school." Her friends and family loved it, and the idea for Kulture Karaoke was born.

When Dae launched the product in late October 2020, she sold out of her first set of games in less than a week. Since then, she has sold hundreds of copies of the game in just two months. "The response has been incredible" according to Dae. "We are all stuck at home right now, or at least we should be, so it has been great to see so many people playing Kulture Karaoke on Zoom or with their friends and family at home."

With categories like, "A Song You Had No Business Singing As A Child" and "Biggie vs 2Pac," Kulture Karaoke is a unique take on traditional karaoke that has brought people together for decades to belt out their favorite songs. This unique card game promises to be a hit at your next game night, karaoke night, birthday party, road trip, pre-game or small gathering. Remember, grab a mic, grab your friends, and do it for the "Kulture!"

To keep up with everything Kulture Karaoke, follow the brand on all social platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube @KultureKaraoke, or visit [KultureKaraoke.com](https://www.KultureKaraoke.com).



A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and light blue tie, is sitting at a metal table outdoors. He is looking down at a smartphone in his hands. The background shows a modern building with large windows and some greenery. The lighting is bright, suggesting daytime.

Money News
Business, Finance and Tech

The Black Channel Partner Alliance Hosts its Inaugural Tech Acceleration 'RISE'



Here's more good news from the world finance and tech about MICROSOFT PARTNERS GETTING IN ON THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION MOVEMENT. The Black Channel Partner Alliance exists to convert the less than 1% of the 64,000 Microsoft Partners in the US which are black and lead the transformation by scaling Black-owned technology businesses. Join them for BCPA's "Rise" Launch Event, a virtual celebration commemorating the official launch of the Black Channel Partner Alliance and their inaugural Tech Acceleration Program on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at 10am.

Learn more about BCPA as an economic and equity empowerment 501(c) nonprofit organization, supported by Microsoft. You'll also Hear from their founders, sponsors and supporters about coaching and mentoring, and learn how YOU can be a part of their growing community!

Understanding that diversity in the IT industry could profit an additional \$400 billion in revenue each year, Microsoft is doing its part to contribute to those gains through the Black Channel Partner Alliance and all of its efforts and programs.

To learn more about the BCPA and to register for the FREE Rise Launch Event, visit BCPAlliance.com

Black-Owned Startup Joins \$26B Investment Platform



AfriBlocks is a global Pan-African marketplace of vetted African freelance professionals equipped with intuitive collaboration tools and a secure payment system that makes it easy to get remote projects completed on time, affordably.

By connecting a growing network of African freelancers with paying jobs across the Diaspora, [Afriblocks](#) is poised to do their part to offset the impending global tech talent shortage. And for their work, they have been selected as a part of Techstars Seattle's 2021 cohort!

Since its inception in 2006, Techstars has guided 2,379 companies to raise more than \$11.4 billion in investments. Fueled by its mentorship-driven program, Techstars is steadily building a legacy of successful startups, with more than 80% of participating companies being active or acquired.

Thousands of companies apply worldwide for ten spots in the accelerator. As an official participant, AfriBlocks represents the less than 1% of applicants chosen. In this prestigious position, AfriBlocks will be advised by mentors, investors, partners, and Techstars alumni.

For 13 weeks, our already talented team's skills and know-how will be further enhanced, which will spawn more innovation." Joining the Techstars Seattle class of 2021 is a considerable milestone in the early development of AfriBlocks," reacts CEO and co-founder Tongayi Choto, "The timing couldn't be better as we continue to see development in the African tech ecosystem, which only increases our long-term growth opportunities

At AfriBlocks, they dare to design the future of work in Africa and beyond and their entry into the 2021 Techstars cohort will ensure they do that and more. Congratulations to Afriblocks founders, Roger Roman and Tongay Choto!





Activism Through Art

Theatre Teaching Artist & Acting Coach ShaVonne Banks-Davis and her company Acting With Mrs. Davis got a huge lift from Beyoncé Carter's BeyGOOD foundation and the NAACP. NAACP Empowerment Programs in union with BeyGOOD's Black-Owned Small Business Impact Fund united to expand economic opportunity by awarding grants of \$10,000 on the 15th of each month through the end of 2020.

"I also want to thank Clark Atlanta University and my favorite Professor, the late Carol Mitchell-Leon for showing me the tools to be a compassionate educator and leader. I live by the CAU motto, 'I will find a way or make one.'"

COVER STORY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH ACTIVISM THROUGH ART

ShaVonne Banks-Davis,

Owner of

Acting With Mrs. Davis

Acting With Mrs. Davis injects Theatre Arts into local youth programs to foster creativity, inspire youth, grow educators, build positive culture, and support creative arts within the community. Davis' primary goal is to provide free Theatre Arts programs and opportunities for youth worldwide. This change, however, began at home.

Upon returning from Clark Atlanta University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts, the Fort Worth native taught in the Fort Worth, Dallas, and Grand Prairie School Districts. While teaching, she realized the potency with which she could reach her students, their shared love of Theatre Arts.

Through Acting With Mrs. Davis, ShaVonne Banks-Davis seeks to impact change within communities throughout the DFW area, nationally and even globally, saying,



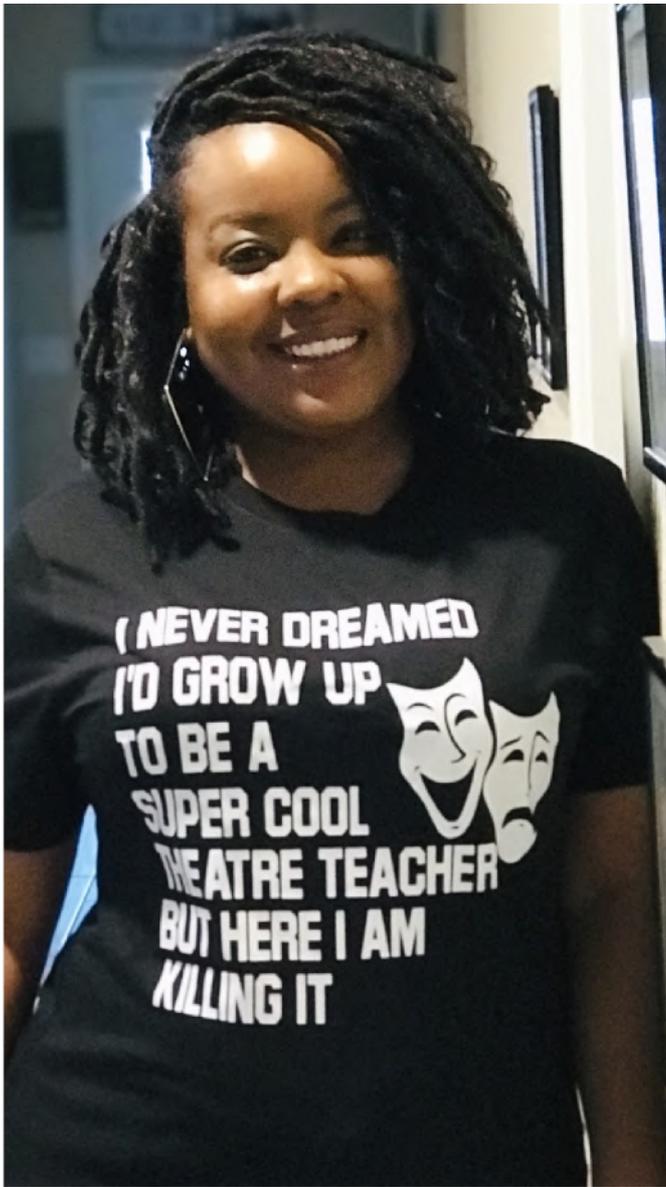
“There are so many life skills to be learned from the study of Theatre. It is not only acting, but public speaking, critical thinking, team-building, culture, and self-confidence are all by-products of the academia of Theatre.”

After spending time in Davis' classroom, students with no experience and no initial interest in Theatre were soon performing for the community, winning Theatre competitions, and being accepted into advanced Fine Arts programs. This momentous joy punctuates Davis' vision for her company. Acting With Mrs. Davis is a rescue for many children who regularly experience the heartbreak of having to discontinue their pursuit (of Theatre/Acting) because they can't afford youth acting programs.





Shayonne Banks-Davis



Mrs. Davis also plans to make a scholarship donation to the Maroon 9 Virtual Fine Arts Competition and is currently conceptualizing the 2nd Annual DFW Virtual Youth Enrichment Summit for Middle and High School students. Last summer's immense success was celebrated throughout the metroplex and in the mentoring and youth advocacy communities. The funds will also aid in the planning and preparation for the "Youth Need Love" summer program for previously adjudicated youth.

Davis learned firsthand while teaching at-risk youth that the challenge is seldom interest, the real challenge is affordability. Knowing that many parents can't afford extra-curricular enrichment programs is at the heart of Acting With Mrs. Davis' activism through the arts.

"There are so many life skills to be learned from the study of Theatre. It is not only acting, but public speaking, critical thinking, team-building, culture, and self-confidence are all by-products of the academia of Theatre."

-ShaVonne Banks-Davis

Acting With Mrs. Davis endeavors to pay it forward, ensuring that cost will never be a deterrent to youth experiencing an opportunity to learn and love theatrical expression. Thanks to the NAACP's Empowerment Programs partnership with BeyGOOD's Black-Owned Small Business Impact Fund, Acting with Mrs. Davis will provide free virtual Theatre Arts classes for children ages 2-18 beginning with its spring season which begins in February.



Mrs. Davis loves the kids, here she is with one of her classes



Serena's Superiority

Tom Brady's seventh super bowl win cements him as the GOAT in the NFL but observers were quick to point out that there's an athlete greater than he.

The GOAT of GOATS is not MJ, her name is Serena Williams. If you don't understand why, you must have stopped counting. Her individual and doubles win totals, and world #1's eclipse all other athletes. Sis made news this week though with a wardrobe win at the Australian open.

The look was inspired by FloJo and was equally awe inspiring as the late track and field legend's career and influence. In this week's other Serena news, let's have a look at how she's giving back through her jewelry line.

Tennis icon, fashion and jewelry designer Serena Williams is extending her support of Opportunity Fund. Throughout February, a portion of proceeds from Serena Williams Jewelry will benefit Opportunity Fund's Small Business Relief Fund, directly supporting Black small-business owners.

With the creation of jewelry that reflects Serena's positivity, determination and generosity comes a renewed commitment to the community, emblematic of her unstoppable desire to support others in a meaningful way.

Serena's Instagram presence this February pays tribute to Black women whose strength, courage and vision have changed the course of history: Among these unstoppable forces of female power are: Mary Mahoney, the first licensed black nurse in the U.S.; Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for poetry; physician and astronaut Mae Jemison, the first black woman to fly into space; and Janet Collins, the first Black prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera.

On the next page, we've provided a glance at a few of the items in the aforementioned collection.

**Serena Williams' Jewelry
Unstoppable collection is available on
www.serenawilliamsjewelry.com.**





GOT NEWS WE CAN USE?

send it to us

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GOT A TIP?

news@soulprospermedia.com



Church News

Not just announcements, good news



**DR.
FREDERICK D.
HAYNES III**

“What I have accomplished in life has everything to do with great teachers. Nelson Mandela was right when he said, ‘Education is the great equalizer,’ and Frederick Douglass was right when he said, ‘Knowledge unfits one for enslavement.’ Paul Quinn College has experienced a revival and ushered in a renaissance of HBCU education. I thank God that DISD has partnered with this HBCU and I pray for continued renaissance of education here on the Southside of Dallas.”

Dallas ISD Trustee Maxie Johnson and Michael Hinojosa, Dallas ISD Superintendent, recently announced updates on the new secondary school to open in the fall of 2021 on the campus of Paul Quinn College.

The school which will serve students in grades 6-12, with plans to become an international baccalaureate program will be named in honor of Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, Dr. Frederick Haynes, III has served the Dallas-Ft. Worth communities for nearly four decades.

Known nationally as “the drum major for justice,” he has modeled his ministry like Dr. King’s on the intersections of faith and justice. Dr. Haynes works diligently to stand up for justice and to create positive change nationally, and in the Dallas-Ft. Worth community. From leading protests and demonstrations, to registering thousands of voters, to providing food and other needed resources, to decreasing crime, to serving as a voting super center, Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III and Friendship-West Baptist Church has always been in the forefront of creating positive and lasting social change, community leader, social justice advocate and senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church.

Congratulations to Dr. Haynes and to all the students who will attend this prestigious school on the hallowed campus of a prestigious institution of higher learning.

*Bishop J.
Drew
Sheard: A
Vision for
the Future
of the
COGIC*



Special Report:

It's time for the quadrennial election in the [Church of God in Christ](#). Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake has announced that he will not seek re-election, opening the top spot in the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world. This is no light matter and many of the long



serving Bishops on the [General Board](#) have asked the constituency of the church to consider them as the next Chief Apostle of the Grand Ole Church. [Bishop J. Drew Sheard](#) is among the men vying for the top spot and has offered his extensive record of church and community service to bolster his claim and further enforce his qualifications to lead the church with global congregants.

Bishop J. Drew Sheard is the Senior Pastor of [Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church](#) of Church of God In Christ (COGIC) in Detroit, Michigan and is also the - Prelate of Michigan North Central Jurisdiction; Chairman of the Michigan & Canadian Council of Bishops and General Board Member of the International Churches of God In Christ since 2012.

The deaths of four General Board members combined with the retirements of the Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and General Board member Bishop George McKinney, the Church of God In Christ rests on the precipice of great transition. For many congregants, the future of the church rests on this election and their vote will seek to secure a future they can believe in.

The Presiding Bishop is elected as the culmination of the vote for the COGIC General Board. The Bishop receiving the most votes is then elevated to Presiding Bishop of the church of roughly eight million members around the world.

For his part, Bishop Sheard is ready to continue the work he has done in and around Detroit and within the church in various roles of service. The Presiding Bishop is elected as the culmination of the vote for the COGIC General Board. The Bishop receiving the most votes is then elevated to Presiding Bishop of the church of roughly eight million members around the world.

Bishop Says...

There is a need for secure leadership to even move the church forward and to embrace those who are potential leaders and not be threatened by potential leaders. We need to embrace them and nurture them so that we can make sure that our church remains in good hands.

We'll continue our economic developments in Memphis and hopefully we'll be able to do things that are economically by region because there are some things that are germane to certain regions of our country that our church can be involved in that will not compromise our standard of holiness.

I'm not afraid to sit down with different generations and seek what it is that they need as far as ministry is concerned because ministry as a whole isn't ministry unless you're meeting the needs of people. I demonstrated that when I was the youth president of the Church of God in Christ. I made changes so that we were doing ministry as far as helping those in the youth department.

I did that as the chairman of AIM (Auxiliaries in Ministry), we became sensitive to what different generations needed as far as ministry and we formed ministries to help in those areas. We will hear the millennial, we will do what is necessary, but we won't push our seniors off the cliff because, the church should encompass all generations.

A NEW LEADER WILL EMERGE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST AFTER THE VOTE ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD. ALL GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS HAVE MADE THEIR CASE AND PRESENTED THEIR RECORDS OF CIVIC AND ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR COGIC CONSTITUENCY. BE PRAYERFUL FOR THE CHURCH IN THIS SEASON OF TRANSITION FOR ITS LEADERSHIP.



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**TALKING
POINTS**

with Fred Willis

Let's Talk About It!

A photograph of a stage with red curtains. The curtains are a deep red color and are hanging in vertical folds. The top of the image shows the dark stage structure and the curtain rod. The lighting is focused on the curtains, creating a warm, slightly dim atmosphere.

Entertainment News

All things on stage, on screen and on the radio

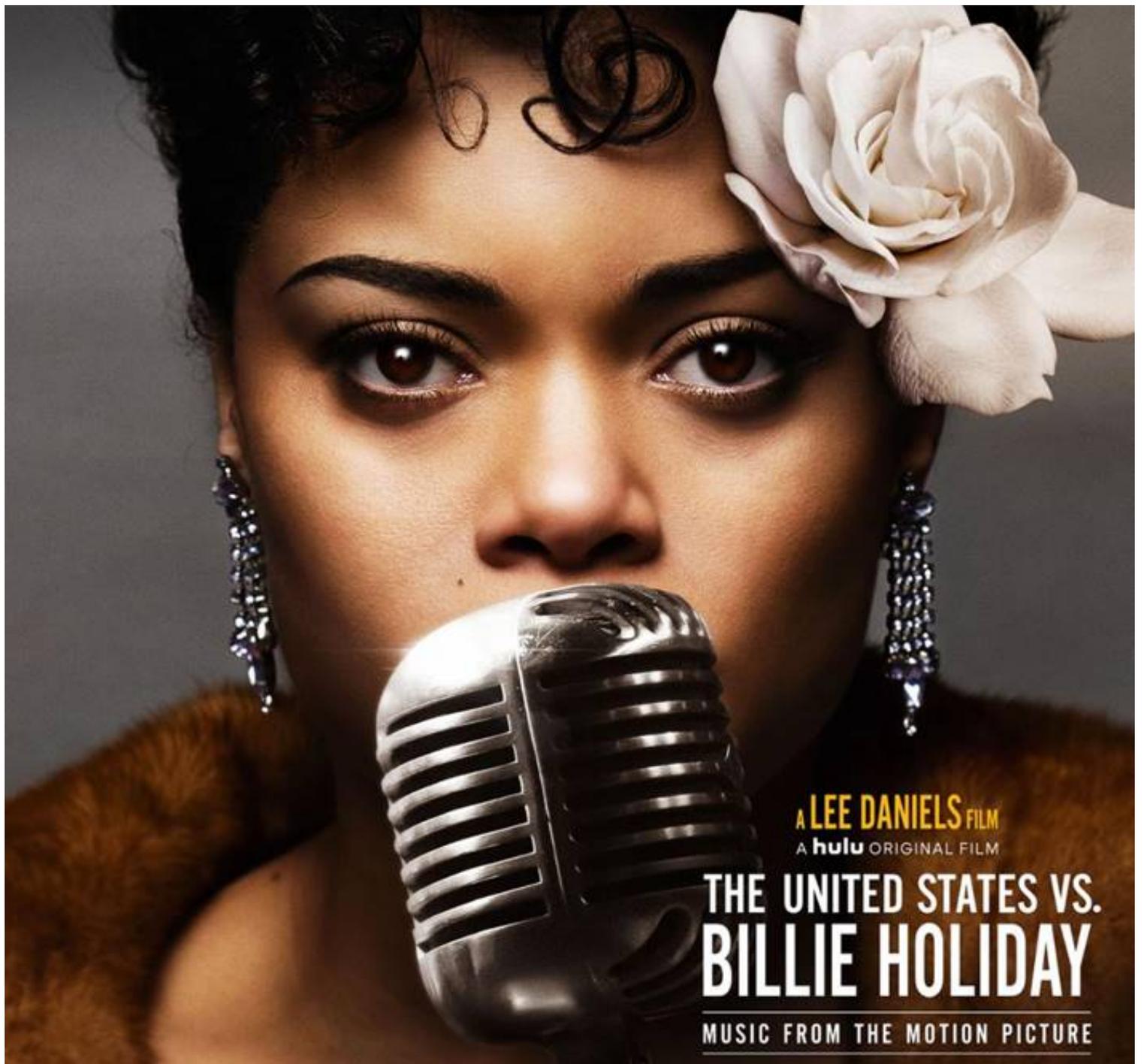
Andra Day: Singer shines as her star rises

States The United

Lady
HAS A NEW NAME
Day

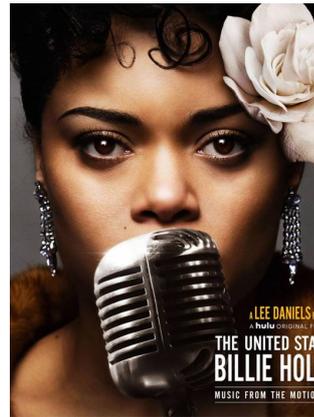
VERSUS

*Billie
Holiday*



“If Billie Holiday were with us now, I believe she’d want to see Strange Fruit evolved. If Strange Fruit was a call to awareness, Tigress & Tweed is a call to action because she laid the groundwork. Raphael Saadiq sent the perfect track and the lyrics finally came to me like a flood after a prayer one day. I hope people are strengthened by Truth and Love when they hear it.” -Andra Day

Lady Day Has a New Name



From L to R: Andra Day as Billie Holiday, Center, Andra Day, Press Photo, R: Cover Art for the film soundtrack. "The United States vs. Billie Holiday" debuts Friday February 26th on Hulu

ANDRA DAY SHINES AS STAR AND LEAD OF "THE UNITED STATES VS. BILLIE HOLIDAY"

“How much time do you want for your progress?” The late, great James Baldwin’s question to America remains unanswered. Today, [Andra Day](#) evokes Baldwin’s militant spirit with “[Tigress & Tweed](#),” a thought-provoking and poignant original song written by the GRAMMY® Award-nominated singer/songwriter, activist, and actress along with Raphael Saadiq. The timely track will feature in [The United States vs. Billie Holiday](#) and arrives ahead of Andra’s starring role, which revolves around racism and the late legendary Holiday. The biopic debuts February 26th on Hulu. Available now on Warner Records, “Tigress & Tweed” is the standout song of the film’s forthcoming soundtrack.

“Tigress & Tweed” features a resolute Andra singing in her signature evocative style, pleading for the hurt and voiceless. “Say a prayer for me / Strange fruit, come down off that tree,” Andra sings at the beginning of the song, nodding to Holiday’s immortal Black protest song.

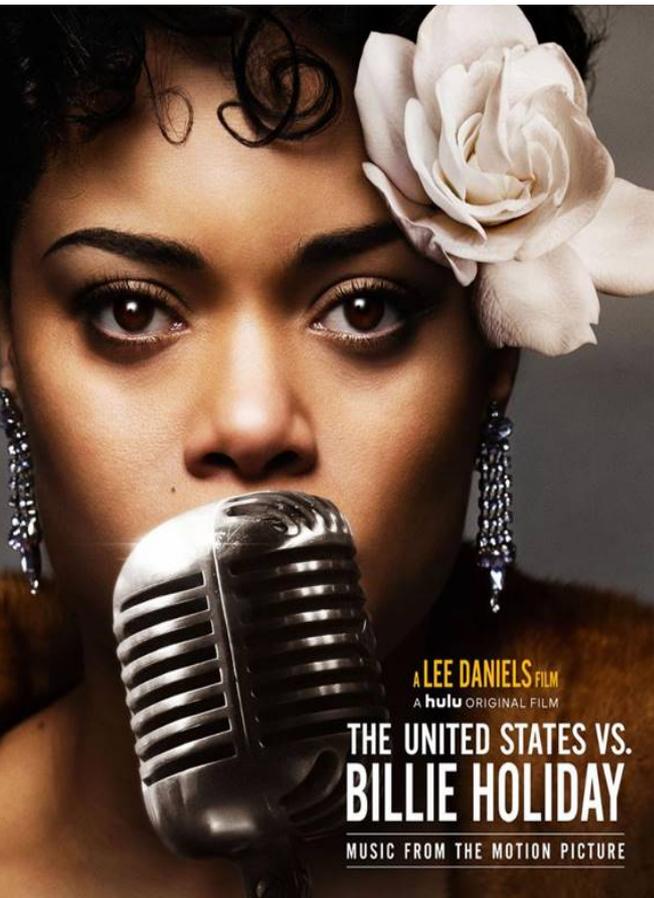
The United States vs. Billie Holiday, in which Andra makes her feature-acting debut as Holiday, will shed light on the innovative vocalist’s embattled years as a target of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics—the unit sought to imprison Holiday on drug charges, a retaliatory action given her dedication to singing highly politicized songs like “Strange Fruit” and her efforts to integrate her audiences. Andra stars alongside Moonlight lead, Trevante Rhodes, in the biopic, directed by Lee Daniels (Precious, Empire) and written by Pulitzer winner Suzan-Lori Parks.

In addition to sharing several new singles—including a stirring rendition of “Strange Fruit”—in the lead up to the film, Andra also performed as part of President Biden’s Inauguration. She will be honored at the Critics Choice Association’s third annual Celebration of Black Cinema on February 2nd for her work in The United States vs. Billie Holiday, and she also graced the covers of Variety Magazine and V Magazine. Already receiving an outpouring of critical acclaim, the film appears in TIME Magazine’s “Most Anticipated Movies of 2021” list, and Andra Day is featured in Variety Magazine’s 2021 Oscars predictions for “Best Actress.” “Tigress & Tweed” is the latest stopping point in a busy 2021 for Andra Day and a reminder of her power as a songwriter.



GOL DE N LADY DAY

For her incredible work on the film, Andra Day has been nominated for two Golden Globe Awards and has made various lists of anticipated winners this award season. 3x GRAMMY® nominee Andra Day is best known for her 2016 GRAMMY®-nominated behemoth, “Rise Up,” which has amassed 1 billion streams and garnered RIAA triple-platinum certification. Working with GiveDirectly, Andra recently released “Make Your Troubles Go Away” to fight COVID-19. Next, she stars as Billie Holiday in the upcoming biopic, *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*, directed by Oscar-winner Lee Daniels.



New UMOJA Radio APP presents the best in black programming

Here's some BIG Radio news for you, A new unapologetic platform for empowerment through media, podcasts, and radio stations has been launched on Google Play and the App Store.



It's called [Umoja Radio App](#), and it's a joint effort created by the owners of five Black-owned radio stations - WUVS 103.7, WHPB 98.5, WUGM 106.1, WVBH 105.3, and WQID 105.3. The platform represents the latest chapter of excellence in Black media.

Umoja Radio App features over 45 independent Black-owned community-based radio stations with a mission of Black empowerment. This unique approach has been designed to meet significant public demand for an urban outlet with engaging, educational, entertaining content, filling the void created by other platforms which lack diversity and inclusion.

According to the creators of Umoja Radio App, iHeartRadio refused to allow their stations on its platform, so they decided to create their own. Unlike other media apps, the development of this app embodies African liberation from the limitation of traditional media, traditional media platforms, and traditional gatekeepers. Umoja stands for “unity,” and through this platform, they strive to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and the human race.

If interested, you can Submit your podcast to info@umojaradioapp.com. Users can download Umoja Radio App from Google Play, the iOS App Store, or by visiting UmojaRadioApp.com



Bridge to U' Seeks to Unite Black People Worldwide



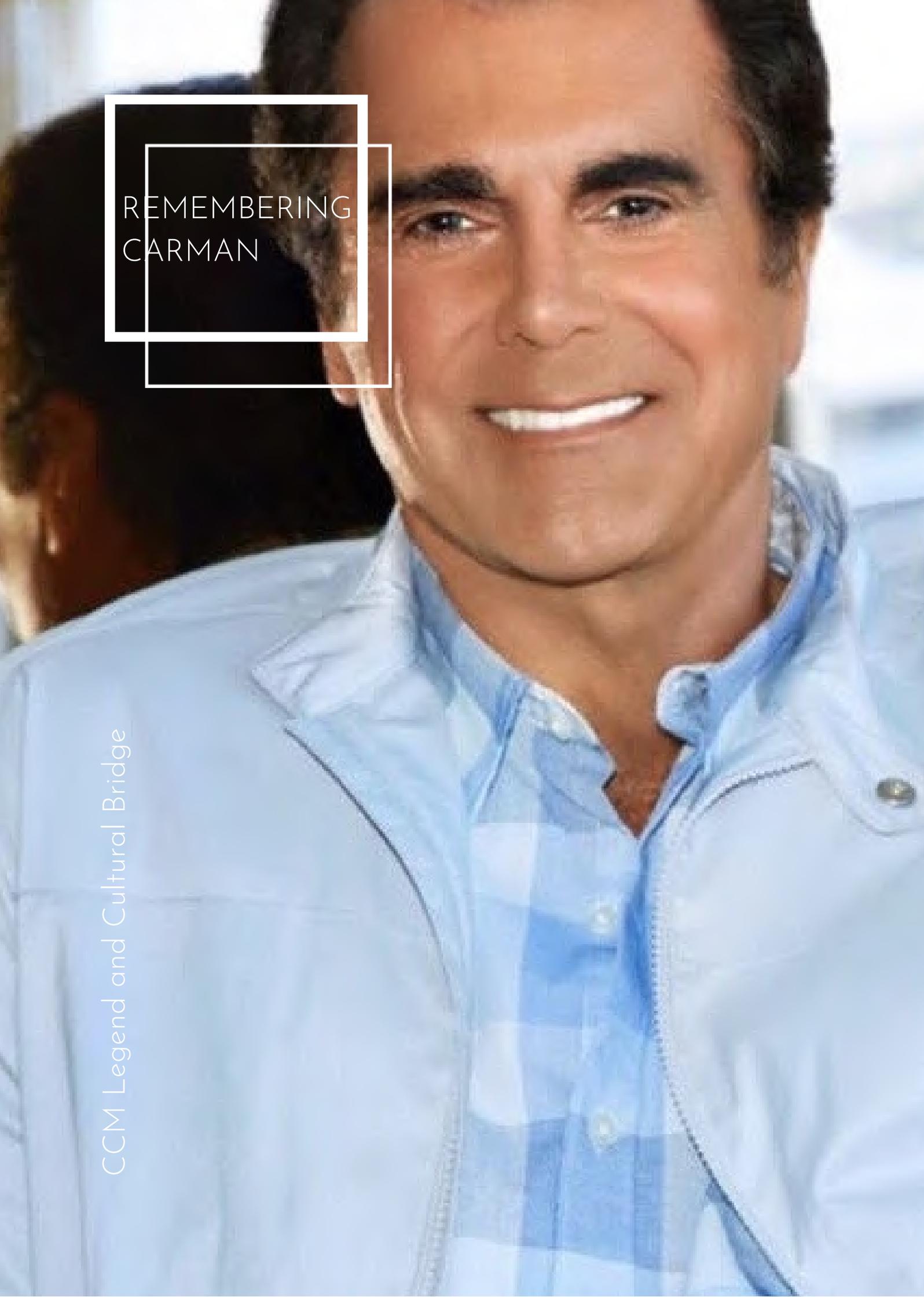
"I was excited to see how much this topic was needed and wanted because less than two months after launch, the show was featured in the Diaspora Digital News in Dubai, and has attracted many Black leaders who subscribe to the power of unity,"

In other radio news, MEET THE WOMAN WHOSE PODCAST BUILDS BRIDGES, NOT WALLS, BETWEEN BLACK PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. Monique Russell is a multi-cultural woman with heritage in the Bahamas, Nigeria, and the United States is a trusted communications advisor and has served organizations like the Centers for Disease Control, Equifax, NCR, FEMA, and the world's busiest airport, Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International, among others.

The first-ever Black cultural unity podcast called Bridge to U uniting Black people worldwide was launched last year in the midst of a global pandemic, and high tensions and division. The podcast is entitled [Bridge to U](#) which is Available on Apple Podcasts creates a safe space to have honest & constructive conversations on a number of oftentimes polarizing topics within the global Black community.

The host, Executive Communications coach and speaker, Monique Russell, asks guests questions out of curiosity and not judgment because she believes that offering guests a space to share their experiences or explain their perspectives is the first step in understanding each other. Bridge to U uses curiosity and understanding as tools to build a bridge not a wall between each other and Black unity.

So far, the show has attracted and featured guests from London, the United States, Dubai, Nigeria, Grenada, and Ghana. This should be good, to find the show search for [Bridge to U](#) on Apple Podcasts.



REMEMBERING
CARMAN

CCM Legend and Cultural Bridge

CCM

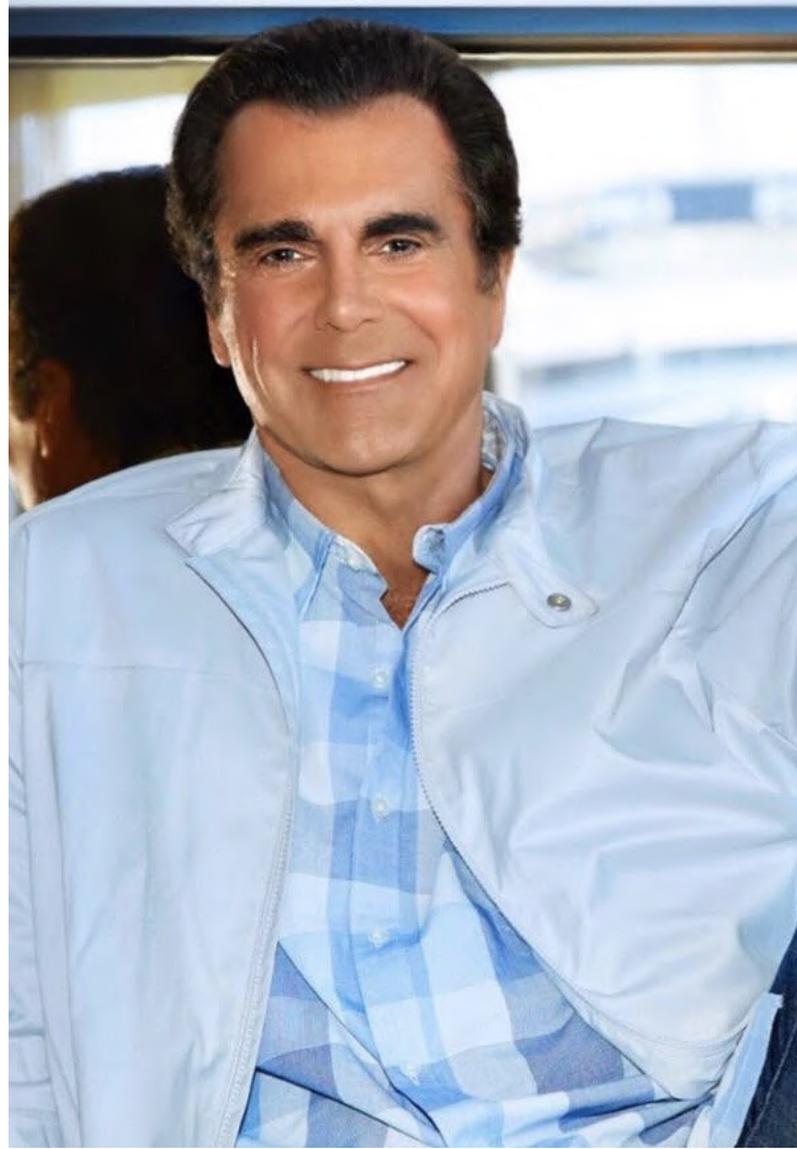
Legend CARMAN has Passed Away

GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame member, CARMAN, passed away Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at a Las Vegas, Nevada hospital, after fighting a series of complications resulting from surgery to repair a hiatal hernia.

Carman Dominic Licciardello, known to fans worldwide as “Carman,” was 65.

Born January 19, 1956 in Trenton, New Jersey, Carman began his musical career playing drums in his mother’s band at the age of 15. Carman holds the world record for having the largest audience to see a single Christian artist. He set the record for the largest concert at Texas Stadium with more than 71,000 fans and led more than 80,000 fans in worship in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Among his many awards, Carman received the House of Hope of Humanitarian Award for his positive influence in the lives of American youth in 2006, other noted recipients of this award include Ronald & Nancy Reagan and Billy Graham. The Gospel Music Association honored Carman with induction into the GMA Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2018. Billboard named Carman “Contemporary Christian Artist of the Year” in 1992 and 1995, and in 1993, his album, Addicted to Jesus, earned the distinction of Contemporary Christian Album of the Year. Carman was Grammy-nominated multiple times as the Best Pop Contemporary Gospel Artist. His recording, “A Long Time Ago in a Land Called Bethlehem” was nominated for



“Album of the Year” by the Recording Academy in 1986.

In 1985, the release of his first #1 song, "The Champion," solidified his place in music history and defined his soul-winning career as one of endurance, grit, dedication, and pure talent. Anyone who knew Carman knows that he counted only this as his greatest lifetime achievement – winning millions of souls to Christ. Matt Felts, Carman's manager, states: "When Carman resumed touring again a few years ago, he was concerned that no one would care that he was back. He was wrong.

Every night fans packed out venues and his ministry was as powerful as it ever was. This world has lost a light in the darkness but today Carman saw first hand the fruit of his labors.

Carman was planning to embark on a 60-city tour later this month.

when never is just the beginning

Jackie Long
Denise Boutte
Christian Keyes
Vanessa Simmons
Bebe Drake

with Master P
and Ella Joyce

never *and* again

A FILM BY LAZRAEL LISON

BET+

SUMMER HOUSE PICTURES
J&R PRODUCTIONS AND GENIUS MINDS PICTURES PRESENT
A LAZRAEL LISON FILM "NEVER AND AGAIN"

MUSIC COMPOSED BY HAROLD SQUIRE EDITED BY BRADY HALLONGREN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL EDO KEANE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MASTER P
ROMEO MILLER TATIANA CHEKHOVA-LISON ANTONIO TROTTER KRISTI KILDAY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LAZRAEL LISON

SOUNDTRACK BY ASAH ENTERTAINMENT



Master P At It Again with 'Never and Again'



momentary lapse in judgement pulls them apart. As has often been said over the course of history, time heals all wounds, because many years later, their paths cross again and the two are forced to trust one another.

football, ultimately falling madly in love in the process. The Never and Again 11 song soundtrack lead single "Made For Me" by acclaimed Gospel Singer Tim Rogers features R&B singer Tweet.

If the storyline doesn't draw you in, the cast certainly will. Master P, Jackie Long, Denise Boutte, Ella Joyce, Christian Keyes, Vanessa Simmons, Bebe Drake, Cymphonique Miller, Day 26's Willie Taylor, Bishop Don Magic Juan and Jayson Bernard all -star in Never and Again, streaming now on BET Plus and AMAZON.

As with many love stories including during the puppy love phase with couples first starting out, outside circumstances can cause things to unravel. In Never and Again, the same reigns true as the love between Kevin and Jasmine takes a dramatic shift as tragedy soon unfolds and a

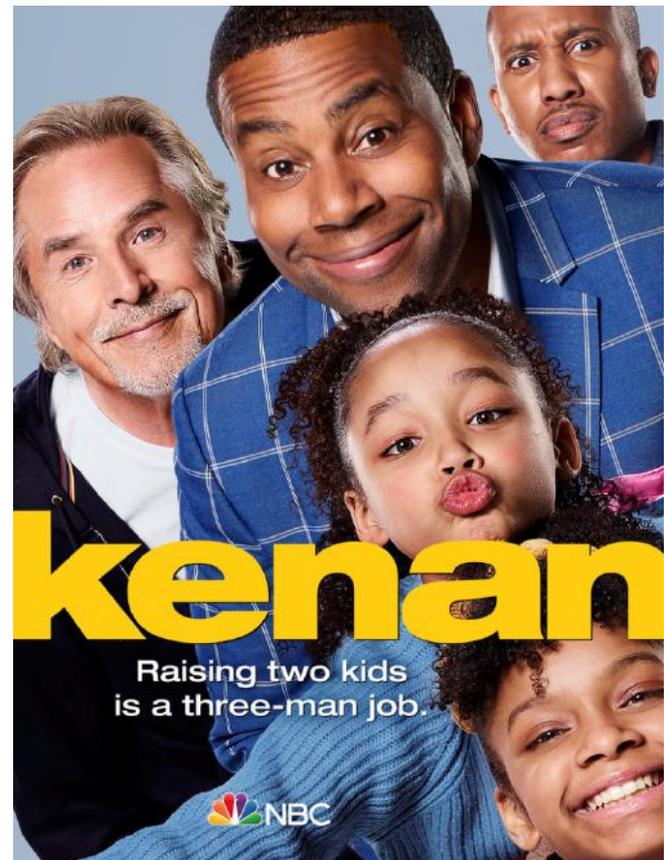
Here's a piece of news I'm thrilled to share with you because it comes from a few of my friends! Hip hop icon & Media Mogul Master P & Romeo Miller team up with film director LazRael Lison & soundtrack producer Tracy Bell (Asah Entertainment) on new romantic comedy film "Never and Again" scheduled to release February 11th on [BET Plus](#) & [Amazon](#).

[Never and Again](#) focuses on a budding romance between Kevin (Long) and Jasmine (Boutte) first sparked during their teenage years. The duo equally supported and shared passion for each other's dreams. Her love for music and his love for

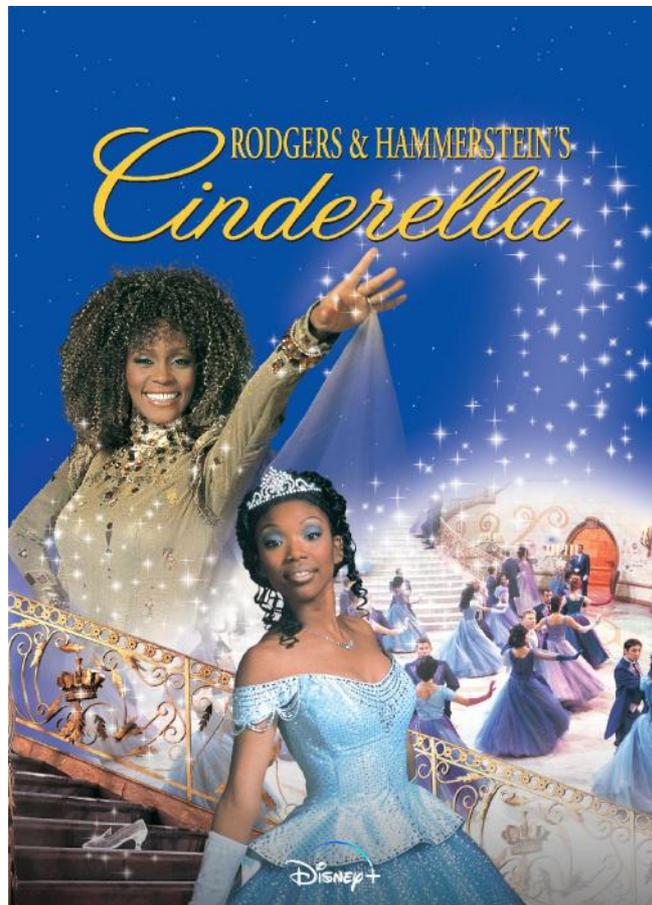
In television news, Kenan Thompson returns to sitcom life as the start of a new show by the same name! **Kenan** is a single-camera comedy follows a widowed dad, juggling a high-profile job as the host of an Atlanta morning show and raising his two girls.

As he tries to move on, his father-in-law (Don Johnson, *Miami Vice*), his brother (Chris Redd) and co-workers all have strong opinions on the best way to live his life. The shows themes move from Kenan raising the twin daughters as a single father with the help of their grandfather and his brother. His father in law's parenting style differs from his and at some moments, his input hurts more than it helps. What sitcom would be complete without a difficult love line...there's a bit of that too with the lovely Kimrie Lewis starring as his producer, friend and like interest?

Dads, you know the struggle is real...doing one daughter's hair is strenuous enough, but Kenan's role is a father to twin girls and what a challenge that can be. Juggling all this along with staying at the top of his game as a morning show host is challenging enough.



*See how well he does it or or if he does it at all,
Tuesdays on NBC starting February 16th.*



"Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" will join the "Celebrate Black Stories" collection that is on Disney+ alongside "Soul," "Black Is King," "Black Panther," "Hidden Figures," and many more.

Here's another one for the culture...At the stroke of midnight on Friday, February 12, "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella" will begin streaming exclusively on **Disney +**.

The beloved televised movie musical stars Brandy in the title role and Whitney Houston as "Fairy Godmother" alongside Whoopi Goldberg, Victor Garber, Natalie Desselle Reid, Bernadette Peters, Paolo Montalban, Jason Alexander, and Veanne Cox.

Since premiering in 1997 to sixty million viewers during "The Wonderful World of Disney" on ABC, "Cinderella" starring Brandy and Whitney Houston became an instant fan favorite, beloved by critics and audiences alike and earning 7 Emmy Award nominations.

Celebrated for its diverse representation, sweeping musical acts, and unforgettable song book, the 1997 film features an incredible array of beloved and original songs by the iconic songwriting duo Rodgers & Hammerstein, including all of the fan favorites from the film.



LIFETIME TO PREMIERE THE GOSPEL BIOPIC ROBIN ROBERTS PRESENTS: 'MAHALIA' APRIL 3

Lifetime's highly anticipated gospel biopic Robin Roberts Presents: Mahalia, will premiere Saturday, April 3 at 8:00pm ET/PT. An impressive list of Broadway stars including Tony® nominee Joaquina Kalukango (Slave Play), Jason Dirden (Fences), Olivia Washington (The Butler) and Rob Demery (Lovecraft Country) join the film which is directed by Tony® Award-winner Kenny Leon and stars Tony Award nominee, SAG and Grammy® Award winning actress Danielle Brooks (Orange is the New Black) as the gospel legend and civil rights trailblazer.

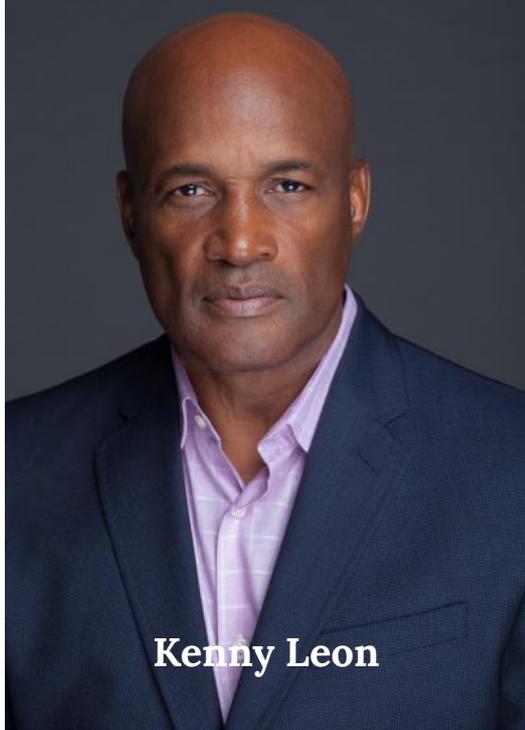
In the movie, Dirden stars as Russell Roberts, the dashing, music-loving Reverend who falls for Mahalia when they first meet in the late 1940s while Kalukango takes on the role of Mildred, Mahalia's talented and opinionated, long-time pianist. Washington portrays Estelle, a piano teacher Mahalia meets at church who goes on to become her life-long friend and Demery stars as the influential civil rights leader.

Born in New Orleans, Mahalia Jackson began singing at an early age and went on to

become one of the most revered gospel figures in U.S. history, melding her music with the civil rights movement. Her recording of the song "Move on Up a Little Higher" sold millions of copies, skyrocketing her to international fame and gave her the opportunity to perform at diverse settings including in front of a racially integrated audience at the prestigious Carnegie Hall and at John F. Kennedy's inaugural ball. An active supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, Jackson sang at numerous rallies, including the March on Washington in 1963 alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in hopes that her music would encourage and inspire racial equality.



Danielle Brooks



Kenny Leon



Joaquina Kalukango



Olivia Washington



Robin Roberts

'Mahalia' comes to Lifetime from Rock'n Robin Productions and Lincoln Square Productions, Mahalia is executive produced by Robin Roberts and Linda Berman. Danielle Brooks and Kenny Leon are co-executive producers. Leon directs from a script written by Bettina Gilois and Todd Kreidler.



Jason Dirden



Linda Berman



Rob Demery

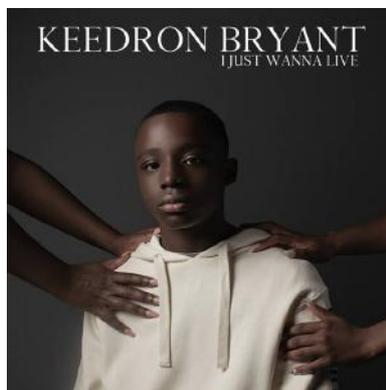
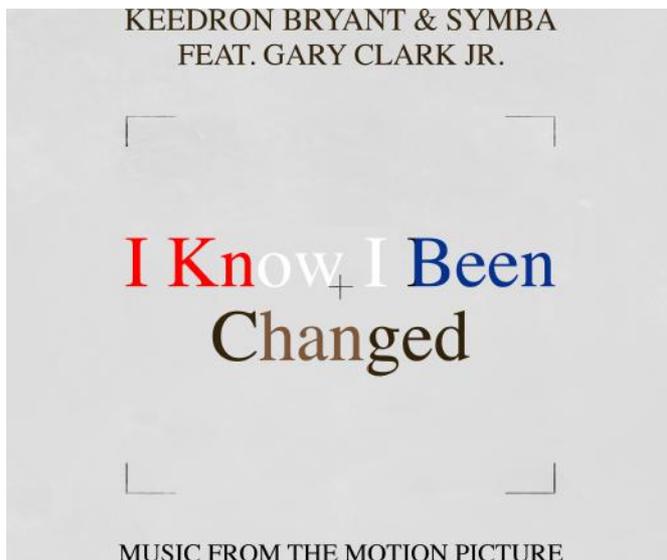
A close-up portrait of a young Black man with short hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Young, Social Agent of Change

Keedron

Bryant is living
his dream

The teenage sensation is featured on the "American Skin" soundtrack with "I Know I Been Changed"



C H A N G E D

Singing acapella on a smartphone-shot video, [Keedron Bryant](#) moved the world to tears with nothing more than his powerhouse voice and the declaration, “I’m a young black man doing all that I can.” The 13-year-old Florida native’s YouTube performance of “I JUST WANNA LIVE” surged around the globe as a clarion call for change and the unassuming soundtrack to a moment of revolution. He performed the song on The Ellen DeGeneres Show via FaceTime, and received acclaim from Good Morning America, CNN, The Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation, Access Hollywood, and BBC News. Will Smith incorporated the clip in his “No Justice, No Peace” montage, and LeBron James posted it on Instagram with the caption, “I LOVE YOU KID! I LOVE US!” None other than President Barack Obama also cited it.

Born in Sicily to minister parents, Keedron began singing at just five-years-old. Attending church regularly, he developed a passion for gospel music. The budding talent first turned heads on season four of Little Big Shots. Represented by Heather Beverly, Esq. in association with Tabetta Plummer, Esq., and legendary producer Dem Jointz, Keedron catapulted to the top of the conversation in 2020, landing a deal with Warner Records and releasing the official “I JUST WANNA LIVE” single as his debut. With R&B energy, soul range, and gospel power, he will undoubtedly make a major impact.

Last month, Bryant released his anthemic cover of gospel legend LaShun Pace’s classic song “I Know I Been Changed,” joined by the rapper Symba and GRAMMY®-winning artist Gary Clark Jr. As the theme of Nate Parker’s politically charged film American Skin, the song continues Keedron’s mission to shed light on the injustices faced by Black and Brown people in the United States.

Produced by Dem Jointz (Kanye, Janet Jackson, Chris Brown, Rihanna), Keedron and his team revamp Pace’s simmering tune with the spirit and strut of a protest anthem. He soars above haunting choirs and Gary Clark Jr.’s thunderous riffs, proclaiming that the angels are on his side. Symba checks in for powerful verses about the slowness of change and the need for fiery revolution: “Everything you say I am you’re about to turn me into it.” It builds into something deeper than the song, bigger than any of us: a real cry for a new world.

“I Know I Been Changed” is a fitting theme to American Skin, written and directed by the film’s star, Nate Parker. The movie follows a Black Marine veteran trying to seek justice for his son who was murdered in front of him by a white police officer during a traffic stop.

Keedron has always had a revolutionary potential in his music, and now the world is listening. His fans and supporters include renowned artists like Dr. Dre, Alicia Keys, Kirk Franklin, and Andra Day. He’s also garnered attention from publications like Associated Press, who named his breakout hit single “I JUST WANNA LIVE” their 2020 Song of the Year.

He recently performed a rendition of Marvin Gaye’s “Mercy, Mercy, Me” on Good Morning America after covering the song for ESPN’s The Undefeated compilation, I Can’t Breathe / Music for the Movement. And for Christmas 2020, he released a charming EP, The Best Time of Year, featuring three holiday classics and a new song with his sister Aiyanna Bryant. Keedron has a lifetime ahead of him, but he’s already making the world a better place with his presence.



**MOTOWN GOSPEL SIGNS NINE-
TIME GRAMMY® NOMINATED
SINGER/SONGWRITER
KELLY PRICE**

KELLY PRICE



WELCOME
TO THE
FAMILY.



“Whatever side of me that people have loved through the years, be it R&B or gospel, they are going to get all of that on this album, Price says. I let my team know that I needed to get back to work to finish this project and get my message out. I couldn’t imagine going through 2020 without having a foundation of faith and a strong belief in God.”

-Kelly Price

GRACE

KELLY PRICE

Motown Gospel, in joint venture with SANG GIRL! Inc., announces the signing of iconic singer and songwriter Kelly Price, as she readies the release of her new gospel project, Grace, on April 2, 2021. The 6-track EP is available for pre-order now, with the lead single, "Grace," and an accompanying lyric video out, now.

The release of Grace comes fifteen years after Price's acclaimed gospel album, This Is Who I Am, which hit #1 on Billboard's Top Gospel Albums chart and landed in the top ten of the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart.

"Whatever side of me that people have loved through the years, be it R&B or gospel, they are going to get all of that on this album, Price says. I let my team know that I needed to get back to work to finish this project and get my message out. I couldn't imagine going through 2020 without having a foundation of faith and a strong belief in God."

"From her iconic vocals to her vast songwriting catalog, Kelly Price's contributions to hip-hop, R&B and gospel music cannot be overstated," shares EJ Gaines, Co-Executive Director, Motown Gospel. "We're excited to partner with her as she shares her craft, and her heart, with the world."

Standing on her foundation of faith and belief in God, Kelly Price poured her heart and soul into Grace and used it as a healing tool after losing her grandfather early in the 2020 pandemic, followed by the sudden passing of her mother at the end of the year. The result is a story of joy, pain, love and loss, with Grace becoming one of Price's most inspirational and moving projects to date.

Hulvey Drops New Single

HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW SINGLE & MUSIC VIDEO FOR "REASONS", FEATURING LECRAE & SVRCINA OUT NOW

Hulvey, from Reach Records, has dropped his highly-anticipated new single "Reasons" featuring his mentor and labelmate Grammy Award-winning rapper Lecrae and pop sensation SVRCINA. "Reasons" is impacting radio now and can be streamed and downloaded across all digital platforms.

The song communicates the authentic fears the Brunswick native felt about losing his grandfather, life after death and thoughts of eternity.

The chorus, performed by SVRCINA, reminds listeners there are many reasons for people to keep on moving forward and to not give up.

Lecrae jumps in on a verse communicating about the trials life throws at us from death, loss and trauma but we can find hope in Christ to push through.

Hulvey says he wrote "Reasons" to "remind people that even though we have lost so many things: friends, families, jobs, homes, even our minds, peace and hope is still here. God is still completely and willing to wrap you up anytime. He has paved a way for us to be free."

The 22-year-old Brunswick, GA native, went from dropping out of college and scrubbing toilets at Publix to becoming Reach Records latest hip hop rising artist.

His label debut project BRKNHRT released in 2020 and immediately garnered

him national praise. Pandora named him "Christian Artist to Watch in 2020", his tracks 'Higher' and 'Real Love' from Hulvey Vol. 1 and Hulvey Vol. 2 were featured on VH1's Love and Hip Hop Atlanta in 2020 and 'Cold Blooded' was featured on ABC's hit show 'The Rookie'.



"The video for "Reasons" by Hulvey featuring Lecrae and SVRCINA can be viewed on Youtube.

REASONS HULVEY LECRAE SVRCINA



HE'S
MADE
FOR IT

www.madetostandout.com





MEET TONY GALLOWAY AKA DJ STANDOUT



During the pandemic, Tony and his family wanted to create a brand that could spread a positive message. 'Made To Standout' was created and the apparel company has taken off but in a way they didn't expect. They've recently been surprised to see that they can't keep one of their sweatshirts in stock. Their, "Created, Chosen, Gifted" sweatshirt has been in such high demand and not from the millennial customers they market to but to parents across the country who have sent them heartfelt, emotional messages about why they've bought this particular sweatshirt.



Many of the messages are coming from parents of adopted and special needs children. One parent wrote that she has two sons with dwarfism and wanted to request smaller sizes in the sweatshirt so they could wear them. Tony made sure to get the smaller sizes in just for them!

Tony and his family never thought the positive message they wanted to share would touch and resonate with so many people and so quickly, but he's inspired to continue spreading this message and bringing a community together to know they were made to standout.

MADE TO STANDOUT.

Don't you wanna jam...?



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A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper left, there is a potted plant with large, dark green, waxy leaves. In the lower left, a white smartphone lies on the desk with its screen off. In the lower center, a black camera lens is visible. In the lower right, a portion of a white notebook with a light blue cover is seen. The text is centered over the desk surface.

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