

by Gina Prince-Bythewood and starring Senaa Lathan; *A Lesson Before Dying*, starring Don Cheadle and Mekhi Pfeiffer; and *Miss Ever's Boys*, starring Alfre Woodard and Laurence Fishburne.

Kemle became the Executive Vice President of the Samuelsson Group, where she partnered with the award-winning Chef Marcus Samuelsson who opened The Red Rooster in Harlem in 2010 to critical acclaim, and launched the Marcus Samuelsson brand across TV, digital, social media, and consumer products. She utilized her artist and celebrity relationships in media, music, and the arts to create integrated branding opportunities with corporate sponsors such as Target, Mastercard, Kraft, Martha Stewart Living, Sirius XM, and Scripps Food Network. While at the Samuelsson Group, she produced the Scripps Food Network documentary, “*Savoring Harlem*” and collaborated with TV ONE to produce, “*John Legend: Live from the Red Rooster*.”

With Chef Marcus Samuelsson on board as Executive Chef, and Anna and Andrew Chapman’s involvement as co-founders, Kemle was inspired to create a nonprofit concept after observing children running from their schools to the local bodegas to grab sodas and chips. Kemle leveraged the power of media and technology to educate children through an innovative interactive digital and video in-school curriculum called Green Beetz. The program has now reached over 200 children in the Harlem area and was the official after school program for the YMCA in Harlem. This past fall, Green Beetz partnered with Grow NYC to roll out the program through math and science classes in over 500 schools in New York City, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.

Most recently, Kemle produced a documentary on President Obama for BET and the Executive Producer was Stanley Nelson. She also has served as the Senior Editorial Producer for *America Inside Out*, a six-part documentary series for National Geographic, with Katie Couric as Executive Producer.



ROSEANNE CHERY

ACTOR

@rose_cherie_

Roseanne Chery is adamant about working hard and creating the life you desire – a lesson imbedded in her as part of her Haitian upbringing. In 2011, she graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Communication, Culture, and Media Studies (CCMS). From there, she worked at an asset management firm as a Retail Investment Specialist. Three years later, with a thousand dollars to her name, two duffle bags, and an acoustic guitar, Roseanne decided it was time to reconnect with her passions.

Whether it has involved Off-Broadway plays, fashion shows, or dancing as a youngster at Penn’s Landing, Roseanne has always found her way to a stage. In 2014, she began to enroll in various productions and acting courses throughout New York City, and had even landed a scholarship in doing so. By 2016, Roseanne landed her first lead role in a short film, and recently starred in an upcoming TV Series entitled *Sole Kings*.

Roseanne is making her mark. Having traveled from Haiti, Mexico, Canada, and across America, Roseanne continues to connect with others from various walks of life. Roseanne’s experiences allow her to further her skills – not only as a model, but as an actress, a writer, and an aspiring director.



MAGALY COLIMON

ACTOR

@Conchshellproductions

Magaly Colimon is an actress, a writer, and a producer who was born and raised in New York City. She is a Yale School of Drama Acting graduate. Her acting credits include television (*Blue Bloods*, *Law & Order SVU*, *The Closer*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Sex In The City*, *Guiding Light*, etc.), film (*Bold as Love* and *Yes, Madame*) web series (*BN4Real* and *4Divas and a Camera*), and theatre (*Jitney*, *Lincolnesque*, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *For Colored Girls*, *Lost Creek Township*, and more). Magaly’s writing credits include produced plays and short films: *Butterscotch and Fudge*; *The Hunting Season*; *Muddled Images*; *Yes, Madame*; *BN4Real*; and *Straight Talk Against The Grain*.

Magaly is the Founder and currently the Artistic Director of Conch Shell Productions or National Geographic, with Katie Couric as Executive Producer.



LISA NICOLE WILKERSON

ACTOR

@LisaNicoleWilk

Lisa Nicole Wilkerson is a Broadway actor, public speaker, and voiceover artist. A native of St. Louis, MO, Lisa received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, and then worked at a top public relations firm before pursuing a career in the performing arts.

Lisa served as dance and fight captain in The Gershwins’ *Porgy and Bess* (starring Audra McDonald and David Alan Grier). For her role, Lisa won the Fred and Adele Astaire Award for “Outstanding Female Dancer in a Broadway Show.” Additional highlights of her performance career include: the Broadway production and of the national tours of *The Lion King* (as Nala) and *Mamma Mia!* (as Ali), the off-Broadway and regional theater productions of *Purlie* at City Center ENCORES! and Pasadena Playhouse (starring Blaire Underwood and Loretta Devine), *Once on This Island* (as Ti Moune) at The Gallery Players Theater, *River Deep: A Tribute to Tina Turner* at Playwright’s Horizons, and *Godspell* (as Robin) at St. Louis Black Repertory Company, where she received a Woody King Award nomination for “Best Actress in a Musical” for her performance.

As a public speaker, Lisa is passionate about empowering others and often speaks from her signature platform “Everything You Need You Already Have, and Everything You Have is Good Enough.”* She has had the privilege of speaking at conferences, schools, and arts centers from New Brunswick, N.J. to Orlando, FL.

As a voiceover artist, Lisa has been the principal voice or narrator in national and regional ad campaigns for television, radio, and new media for such companies as Ford, AT&T, Stop & Shop, Children’s Fionase, the hit video game *Red Dead Redemption 2*, as well as a variety of audiobooks.

Lisa was a co-founder of the not-for-profit organization Broadway in South Africa (currently on hiatus). It gave Broadway performing artists opportunities to use their talents for positive change, by helping to instill life skills through arts education, for aspiring South African youth and young adults in need.

JOIN OUR
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
CELEBRATION



THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF TRYIN’ TO SLEEP IN THE BED YOU MADE, BY NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHORS, VIRGINIA DEBERRY AND DONNA GRANT

Geena Davis Institute  on Gender in Media

HOSTED BY 72ANDSUNNY + LAI COMMUNICATIONS

Celebrate Black History Month by shining a spotlight on the beauty and strength of women and girls of color using literature as the entry point.

The evening will feature dramatic stage readings from the award-winning and beloved DeBerry and Grant novels followed by a live panel discussion on the current state of women and girls of color in Hollywood and Media. The panel will highlight recent research studies by Baylor University as well as Creative Artists Agency and shift7. The former study found that movies starring women of color had strong staying power (which equals profitability) in movie theaters on an average of twenty weeks. The latter study looked at movies, from 2014 to 2017, and found that films with female leads earned more than their male-led counterparts.

With all of the great successes and progress for women in 2018, there is still more work to do.



WED FEBRUARY 20 | 6 PM - 8:30 PM | NEW YORK





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CEO
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DR. TYRHA M. LINDSEY-WARREN

MANAGING DIRECTOR
L.A.I. COMMUNICATIONS
PRODUCER
@Tyrhamarie

Tyrha M. Lindsey, PhD, MBA, is a business executive, artist, entrepreneur, and emerging academic marketing scholar who has over fifteen years of experience working in marketing, public relations, and integrated marketing communications. She received her Bachelor of Science in Radio/TV/Film from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, her Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, with a concentration in Marketing, from the Peter F. Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California, and received her PhD in Marketing at Rutgers Business School. Dr. Lindsey-Warren is a published author and researcher as well and works as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Marketing at the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

As the Managing Director of L.A.I. Communications, Dr. Lindsey-Warren has experience working in marketing and public relations in Corporate America, Advertising, Entertainment, the Performing Arts, Sports, and more. Specifically, in Hollywood she has worked for Quincy Jones* David Salzman Entertainment, Creative Artists Agency, and Edmonds Entertainment – all in the development of television and film ideas and properties. She is currently a part of the producing team for Bishop T.D. Jakes' International Faith and Family Film Festival at MegaFest and the Over-the-Rhine International Film Festival.

In her spare time, she volunteers as a Board Member for Iris House in Harlem, New York, which is an agency dedicated to helping women of color with HIV/AIDS; the Greater Hudson Valley and the Central Texas Chapters of the LINKS, Inc.; and Jazz Forum Arts, which presents nationally renowned and emerging jazz artists in the Greater New York City area. Dr. Lindsey-Warren is newly married to Sidney L. Warren, a successful franchise restaurant entrepreneur.

SEE JANE SALON | MEMBERS ONLY
TRYIN' TO SLEEP IN THE BED YOU MADE
STAGE READING + PANEL DISCUSSION
WED FEBRUARY 20 | 6 PM-8:30 PM | NEW YORK



VIRGINIA DEBERRY

AUTHOR
@VirginiaDeBerry
@Cutestillcounts

DONNA GRANT

AUTHOR

Virginia DeBerry & Donna Grant – Authors of *TRYIN' TO SLEEP IN THE BED YOU MADE*. With seven novels to their credit, Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, best friends for over 25 years, have turned a friendship into the most successful and enduring writing collaboration in African American fiction.

Before becoming novelists, Donna was dared by co-workers at the *New York Daily News* to attend a model agency open call, which led to more than a decade as a plus size model, represented by the 12+ division of Ford Models. During that career, Donna was featured in catalogs and national ads, on the pages of such magazines as *Essence*, *McCalls*, *Family Circle* and *Woman's Day*, and made appearances on “*Today*,” “*Good Morning America*,” and “*Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*.”

Virginia, a former high school English teacher from Buffalo, NY moved to New York City, after almost 10 years in the classroom, at the urging of a friend in the fashion business and started a successful career as a plus size model. She was frequently featured in catalogs, advertising, magazines, and appeared on several television programs, including “*The Today Show*.” She retired from modeling after two years and became Vice President of BB/LW, an agency for plus size and petite models, as well as a spokeswoman for Hanes hosiery.

The duo's modeling careers led to the opportunity to launch *Maxima*, a fashion and lifestyle magazine for plus-size women, where Virginia was editor-in-chief and Donna the managing editor. When publication of *Maxima* ceased, Virginia and Donna decided to try writing a book together. Their efforts eventually led to *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made* (1997), which was a critical success, an *Essence* magazine bestseller, and won the Merit Award for Fiction from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, as well as the 1998 Book of the Year Award from the Blackboard Bestseller List/African American Booksellers Conference-Book Expo America. More than that, *Tryin'* hit an emotional nerve with readers from all over the world who continue to write to Donna and Virginia more than a decade later. *Far From the Tree* (2000) became a *New York Times* bestseller, and *Better Than I Know Myself* (2004) received two Open Book Awards, and was included on the Best African American Fiction of 2004 lists of both Borders and WaldenBooks.

Donna attended Barnard College and is a graduate of New York University. A Brooklyn native, she currently lives in the borough with her husband. Virginia attended Fisk University and is a graduate of SUNY at Buffalo. Virginia now lives in New Jersey.

Gotta Keep on Tryin' (January 2008) was the long-awaited sequel to their first novel, *Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made*. In January 2009, Touchstone Hardcover Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, published DeBerry and Grant's novel, *What Doesn't Kill You*. In 2011, Touchstone published their last novel, *Uptown*.



HARRY LENNIX

ACTOR
WRITER
@HarryJLennix

Harry Lennix is a distinguished film, television, and stage actor who currently stars as Harold Cooper, Assistant Director of Counterterrorism for the FBI, on NBC's *The Blacklist*. Moviegoers know Lennix as General Swanwick, from the Warner Brothers blockbuster *Man of Steel* and the hit sequel, *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

Lennix made his Broadway debut in Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson's Tony nominated *Radio Golf*. In Feb. 2018, Harry made his off-Broadway NY directorial debut with *A Small Oak Tree Runs Red* at The Billie Holiday Theatre. He has directed the stage version of Robert Townsend's *The Five Heartbeats*, which received three NAACP Theater Award nominations and *The Glass Menagerie* for Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater Company. He also starred in August Wilson's *King Hedley II* at the Mark Taper Forum. The Ensemble Theatre in Houston recently honored him “Actor of the Year”.

In July 2014, Lennix created Exponent Media Group, a movie production company he founded with longtime Chicago associate Steve Harris. Projects completed include Mr. Sophistication about a brilliant but self-destructive stand-up comedian and H4, a fresh interpretation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* with an all-black cast filmed onstage and in the streets of South Central, L.A., and *Revival!*, a joyful re-telling of the gospel according to John the Apostle.

Additional film credits include *Timeless* (2017), *Needlestick* (2017), *Traveling Without Moving* (2017) and *Saint Mary's Secret* (2017), Spike Lee's *Chi-raq* (2015), *72 Hours* (2015), *Romeo and Juliet in Harlem* (2015), *Back to School Mom* (2015), *Stand Down Soldier* (2014), *The Algerian* (2014), *State of Play* (2009), *Across the Universe* (2007), the Oscar®-winning *Ray*, (2004), *Barbershop 2* (2004), *The Matrix: Reloaded* (2003), *The Matrix: Revolutions* (2003), *Love and Basketball* (2000), and *The Five Heartbeats* (1991). Lennix received widespread critical acclaim and a Golden Satellite Award as Aaron in Julie Taymor's *Titus* (1999) with Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange.

In 2006, Lennix starred in the Golden Globe® nominated ABC series *Commander in Chief* as Jim Gardner, the Chief of Staff to POTUS. He also starred as political activist Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. in Showtime's *Keep The Faith Baby* (2002) for which he won a Black Reel Award, a Golden Satellite Award, and a NAACP Image Award® nomination. Select television credits include recurring roles on Showtime's *Billions*, Fox's *Dollhouse* and *House*, HBO's *Little Britain*, NBC's *ER*, CW's *Emily Owens, M.D.*, and the critically acclaimed 24 as Walid Al-Rezani.

Lennix is active in various civic groups, and serves as Spokesman for NOBLE, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives as well as being an ambassador to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. He is also on the Advisory Council for Northwestern University, his alma mater, and is a board member of Reading Rescue, a training program for educators teaching reading skills to at risk elementary school children.

Harry is married to Djena Graves Lennix, a businesswoman. They reside in Los Angeles and New York.



YOLONDA BRINKLEY

FOUNDER
DIVERSITY IN
CANNES
@DiversenCannes

Yolonda Brinkley, a full-service marketing communications professional, is an Illinois MBA with extensive brand development, event production, and public relations experience. She holds a BA from Clark Atlanta University and is fluent in French with international experience.

Yolonda worked ten years at Ford Motor Company, including assignments with the Lincoln Mercury, Aston Martin, Jaguar, and Land Rover brands. During her ten-year tenure, Yolonda fostered relationships with Fortune 500 companies and other notable organizations including Nike's Jordan Brand, Jim Beam, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Magic Johnson Enterprises, New Jersey Nets, Madison Square Garden, Sybase Golf Tournament, United States Tennis Association, and Black Enterprise Magazine.

Since 2008, Yolonda has managed events for the NAACP Hollywood Bureau (Image Awards), the Hollywood Black Film Festival, and Filmmakers Alliance. She's represented actors and filmmakers at global film festivals, including Sundance and the Toronto International Film Festival. Additionally, she sets brand marketing strategy for sports and entertainment figures, including Bill Duke, for whom she served as personal and production publicist for the “Light Girls” Documentary, which premiered on The Oprah Winfrey Network.

Yolonda constantly creates opportunities for herself and impacts the global entertainment industry as the creator of Beyond Borders: Diversity in Cannes, an independent filmmaker movement promoting inclusion at the Cannes Film Festival. Celebrating a decade of diversity in May 2019, the movement was established to promote the presence of underrepresented filmmakers sharing stories about marginalized populations during the Cannes Film Festival.

Yolonda loves traveling, coordinating special events, and all facets of the performing arts – especially dance. Most importantly is her love of family because she understands the need for a solid foundation and appreciates those who have contributed to the woman she is today.



TRACEY KEMBLE

PRESIDENT
TRACEY KEMBLE
PRODUCTIONS

Tracey Kemble is an award-winning accomplished media and marketing executive with more than fifteen years of experience as a writer, producer, and branding expert. Most recently, Kemble created and executive produced the 2015 GLAAD media award nominee for Best Outstanding Reality Series, “*Born To Style*.”

Kemble began her career at the Hollywood Pictures/Walt Disney Company and was credited with brokering the deal to bring the directing duo Allen and Albert Hughes to the company to direct the critically acclaimed film, *Dead Presidents*.

As Vice President of Production at HBONYC, Kemble shepherded critically acclaimed films such as *Disappearing Acts*, directed