

SEARCHLIGHT
PICTURES

Presents
A Temple Hill Production

THE *Supremes*
AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

Starring

Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor
Sanaa Lathan
Uzo Aduba
Mekhi Phifer
Julian McMahon
Vondie Curtis Hall
and Russell Hornsby

Directed by Tina Mabry

Screenplay by Cee Marcellus and Tina Mabry

Based upon novel by Edward Kelsey Moore

Produced by Marty Bowen, Wyck Godfrey, Isaac Klausner

Executive Producers Laura Quicksilver, Jaclyn Huntling Swatt, Scott Lumpkin

Costume Designer Whitney Anne Adams

Music by Kathryn Bostic

Music Supervisor Robin Urdang

Editor Tariq Anwar

Production Designer Kara Lindstrom

Director of Photography Sean McElwee

Hair Department Head Andrea Jackson

Makeup Department Head Dionne Wynn

<https://press.searchlightpictures.com/>

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THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT follows lifelong best friends Odette (Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor), Barbara Jean (Sanaa Lathan), and Clarice (Uzo Aduba) known as “The Supremes”, who share the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood from decades of weathering life’s storms. Through the joys and sorrows of life, marriage and children, happiness and blues, love and loss, new shades of heartbreak and illness threaten to stir up the past when the trio sees their bond put to the test as they face their most challenging times yet.

Searchlight Pictures presents **THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT**, starring **Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor** (*King Richard, The Color Purple*), **Sanaa Lathan** (*Love & Basketball, The Best Man*) and **Uzo Aduba** (“In Treatment,” “Orange is the New Black”). The film is directed by **Tina Mabry** (*Mississippi Damned, “Queen of the South”, “Pose”*) from a screenplay co-written by **Cee Marcellus** and Tina Mabry, adapted from the novel by **Edward Kelsey Moore**. Rounding out the cast are **Mekhi Phifer** (*I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*), **Julian McMahon** (“Nip/Tuck”), *Soul Food*), **Vondie Curtis Hall** (*Harriet, The Night House*), and **Russell Hornsby** (*The Hate U Give, “Mike”*). The impressive newcomers include **Kyanna Simone** (*Ma, Fist Fight*), **Tati Gabrielle** (“You”, “Chilling Adventures of Sabrina”, “The Last of Us”), **Abigail Achiri** (*Marisol, “The Underground Railroad”*), **Dijon Means** (“BMF”), **Xavier Mills** (“Legacies”), **Ryan Paynter** (*I Win*) and **Cleveland Berto** (*Terminator: Dark Fate, A Journal for Jordan*). Produced by **Marty Bowen, Wyck Godfrey** (*Love, Simon; Smile*), and **Isaac Klausner** (*Smile, First Man*) of Temple Hill, the below the line team includes costume designer **Whitney Anne Adams** (*Freaky*); music supervisor **Robin Urdang** (*Call Me by Your Name, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”*), music by **Kathryn Bostic** (*Clemency*), editor **Tariq Anwar** (*American Beauty, The King’s Speech*), production designer **Kara Lindstrom** (*Den of Thieves*), director of photography **Sean McElwee** (*The Incredible Jessica James*); with hair department head **Andrea Jackson** (*Dreamgirls*) and makeup department head **Dionne Wynn** (*2 Guns*).

“I’m always looking at things with honesty. It’s about telling stories about the dirt that’s under the rug. It’s about playing in that gray area because life is not just black and white.”

-Tina Mabry

A FRIENDSHIP LOVE STORY

For director **Tina Mabry**, bringing the story of *THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT* to life meant nurturing the beautiful story of sisterhood, life and the joy and trials that come with it. Adapted from the 2013 *New York Times* best-selling novel by **Edward Kelsey Moore**, she wanted to approach the film as a love story between three friends. “It’s about the family that we choose, not necessarily the one that we’re born with – the sole family that you create,” she explains. “And how do you, over the course of three decades, keep a friendship together when life is throwing you every possible obstacle it can?”

When pitching the story, Mabry couldn’t help but think about not only her mother, her aunts, her friends, but also herself. She says, “After I went into the pitch meeting, I cried at the end of it, because it is really a story that I am in love with.”

Being in love with the story and bringing it to life aren’t the same thing. And when it comes to a story about women – especially black women – movies haven’t always been as truthful as they should be. “These are characters who are not just ‘types,’” Mabry emphasizes. “They are people, and I wanted to make sure they would be fully embodied. Getting on this project, I was able to really put in my voice to make sure that we’re looking at this story through a lens we often don’t get to see.”

Oscar® nominee **Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor**, who plays Odette, says, “My first impression of the script was that this is an opportunity for women to share space on screen, which doesn’t happen very often, and certainly not with me. It is just a treasure. We underestimate women's friendships and they are so powerful.”

Mabry ultimately found the soul of the story by looking inward. She reflected upon her own relationship with her two lifelong best friends from USC film school. “I realized that over the 20 years we’ve known each other, there’s always been that sisterhood. These are the women that I would die for,” she confesses. “That friendship was something I really wanted to integrate into *The Supremes*. I wanted to make sure that heartbeat stayed, no matter what life threw at them, whether it was when they were 17 or when they near 50 years old. That’s the thing that has sustained my sisterhood with my own Supremes.”

THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT transcends socioeconomic, race, gender, and sexual orientation. “It is a very human story that shows how we all deal with relationships.” Mabry continues, “I realized when looking at these characters, whether it’s Odette who has a savior complex; or someone like Clarice, who is stuck in a box and has been completely morphed into fitting into an image; or Barbara Jean, who is a broken woman trying to find hope, but at the same time, not feeling that she deserves it – each of these women are going through all these things, and what they don’t say weighs on them.”

With the love and support of their sisterhood, each undergoes their own journey of self-discovery. “It’s a beautiful tale of friends that become family and all of the obstacles and joys and triumphs and tragedies of life that we all go through as human beings,” adds **Sanaa Lathan**, who plays Barbara Jean. “This threesome of strong, Black women come together to hold each other up through it all and witness each other.”

Multiple-Emmy®-winner **Uzo Aduba**, who plays Clarice, agrees, adding that “the story of *The Supremes* captures the different stages and phases of friendship—sisterhood, the hard times, the great

times. You get to see them walk through the better and the worst and watch what it takes to keep a bond together.”

Author and creator Kelsey Moore adds, “I want people to come away from this with a feeling of a broader community and that friendship has power and love has power.”

“I think what’s really going to connect the audience is the honesty of it all,” Mabry concludes. “It’s pulling back the veneer, and at the same time, giving you that space and that latitude to laugh and, also, have a place to cry.”

THE YOUNGER & OLDER SUPREMES

Finding women who could authentically embody The Supremes, both in their youth and as adults, as well as other members of the cast, was a significant challenge. “One of the major challenges came in trying to marry a younger character with their adult self because you always have to go through, ‘physically, how do they look and is the audience going to buy that this is the mature, older version?’,” shares Mabry. “But what was also just as important was that the adult actors, who we cast before the younger kids, understood their characters and who they really were at each stage.”

To strike the right balance, Mabry paired the adult actors with their younger counterparts so they could cultivate a relationship and discuss their characters’ journeys, to ensure the adult actors held onto the vibrancy and love of their younger characters and a seamless transition across the film’s 30-year span, from 1968-1999. “I wanted to make sure that our adult actors had room to grow from their younger selves,” says Mabry. She wanted to do that without the audience ever having a hesitation about who or where they are because they’ve fallen in love with them already.

Forming that bond was easy, recalls Ellis-Taylor. “We had a couple of really candid conversations about why these women are where they are in their lives right now. I bring a lot from what is going on in my own life to the screen, and Sanaa and Uzo have also both been incredibly transparent in sharing things that have informed the work that we’re doing on screen. They are the best at what they do, and so that’s where you start.”

“It’s been wonderful collaborating with Sanaa and Aunjanue,” echoes Aduba. “They’re both remarkable actresses who I love, I respect, and have an incredible time with. They have such invention when they create. You want somebody who knows how to swim when you go in the pool, and they definitely do.”

The chemistry extended to their younger counterparts – Kyanna “KeeKee” Simone, Abigail “Abi” Achiri, and Tati Gabrielle, who respectively play Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean – also had easy chemistry.

“It was so perfect,” raves Simone. “I loved working with Tati and Abigail. We had so much fun on and off screen. I feel like the second that all three of us met, we knew that we’d be lifelong friends. It’s almost like we’re The Supremes off camera just like Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean are The Supremes on camera.”

Of course, playing the younger version of characters embodied by such titans was an honor. Simone is especially vocal about that and thought it was one of the most rewarding experiences to be playing the younger version of Ellis-Taylor’s character. “How many times do you get to say that in your lifetime? She’s so amazing,” she gushes. “When I knew that I was auditioning to play a younger her, I did so much research. I just wanted to do Miss Aunjanue justice, and I really hope that I did.”

Achiri concludes about the film, “Hopefully people can watch it and see that yes, you can have someone who you can trust and who has your back from beginning to end.”

THE MEN

Another crucial element in *THE SUPREMES AT EARL'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT* is the men in their lives. **Mekhi Phifer** as James and Russell Hornsby as Richmond, transition from Odette and Clarice's boyfriends to husbands. Barbara Jean's love interest are played by **Julian McMahon** as Ray and **Vondie Curtis Hall** as Lester. Big Earl, the namesake of the diner, played by veteran actor **Tony Winters**, is one of the film's central figures.

Winters describes his character "as a selfless individual who serves his community not for notoriety, not for profit, not for reward, but just because that is his heart. And, so, he becomes a patriarchal figure, a protector, to these young girls."

Xavier Mills, who plays young Richmond and says he's found a mentor in Hornsby, agrees with Achiri about their connection. "What makes this relationship special is that you have two talented people, a pianist, and an athlete, two people who grew up in the church. They understand the pressure and expectations of being perfect," he explains.

"When you see Clarice and you see young Richmond, they're very stylish. They're very put together. I feel like they show Black success. I think their love shows what it's like to be both at the top of their careers, moving into great success. We see how that love is navigated. I think that's special to see a powerful and successful couple."

James, portrayed by **Dijon Means** in his youth, is a different story. "James is a man of quiet strength," shares Means. "He's been through some things in life, and he doesn't really know when to speak up at times. He gets his sense of strength and visibility from Odette."

Phifer elaborates, "James and Odette's relationship is an ideal relationship in the sense that they're the most solid relationship out of everybody in this story; James really supports Odette, especially in her times of struggle."

Barbara Jean's complicated love life features Ray and Lester. Ray, aka "Chick," portrayed by both **Ryan Paynter** and McMahon, is a poor, white boy who works at Earl's and captures Barbara Jean's heart. Lester, played by **Cleveland Berto** and Curtis Hall, loves Barbara Jean unconditionally. "Ray and Barbara Jean's relationship is complicated from the start. The main storyline is that me and her, we just see each other for people, and we see the hurt that each other has had," says Paynter. That doesn't mean everything is rose. McMahon adds, "There's a kind of destructive element to their relationship that kind of comes from the way they were raised as children and the environment that they're all in and all that kind of stuff has affected their connection so much so that they can't just get it together."

Lester and Barbara Jean's relationship is layered but authentic in its own right. Berto says Lester "sees a lot in Barbara Jean. He sees her tumultuous past, but he can also see her amazing future with him along with it."

Curtis Hall describes Lester as "a well-established person with money." But while he has many options, he really wants Barbara Jean, who he knows does not love him, but he believes she will one day. *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* dials into that ongoing journey.

CAPTURING THE LOOK OF THE SUPREMES

Hair, makeup, and wardrobe are essential to storytelling, and The Supremes' story and Makeup Department Head **Andrea Jackson**, Makeup Department Head **Dionne Wynn**, and Costume Designer Whitney **Anne Adams** were keenly aware of this.

Adams describes working on the film as "a costumers' dream, having four different decades—to get to go from 1950 to 1968, to 1977, and to '99." Four very distinct times and places in the world. Wynn shares that she pulled inspiration from her mother and aunt to capture the look of Clarice and Barbara

Jean. Jackson was already happy to work on the film, and having her dear friend and collaborator Dionne there just made it better.

To pull the wardrobe together, Adams says, “I went on a rolling trip around the country, basically. I flew to LA, pulled a lot of rental house costumes to get a lot of our stock and then, I went deep into all the vintage stores in LA and New York, and then also locally in Wilmington.”

As she fit the actors, Adams was sensitive to the role clothes play in building a character’s personality. “A lot of it is through their clothes, how they wear their clothes, where they come from,” she says. “All of that story that maybe the audience doesn’t get to see but the actor feels and knows.”

For inspiration, Wynn and Jackson admit to perusing *Ebony* and *Jet* for cues from the past. “In the ‘50s, women really didn’t have a lot of money, but they really took care of themselves as far as roller setting their hair, teasing and curling it, and creating updos,” is the example Jackson offers. At the same time, Wynn shares that “for women of color, there was not an array of makeups. So, they mostly used a lot of powders.”

Wynn says Odette would only wear makeup going to church, so to her everyday look, they added nice highlights and warmth to show that she had love for her friends. “We wanted to see the love coming through that skin,” she explains.

“Clarice would be more a posh woman,” she continues, who shares that her own mother was very similar. Consequently, Clarice “would always be put together.” Using her own aunt, who was a bit bolder for her time, as a template for Barbara Jean, whom she describes as a “natural beauty,” Wynn wanted to see lashes on Barbara Jean and add those little details that say ‘oh, wow, look at her: she’s a knockout.’

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE SUPREMES

One consistent thread throughout their 30 year-long friendship of The Supremes is **Earl’s Diner**. Reflecting on this, Mabry relates, “Earl’s Diner had to live and breathe and fluctuate in a way that it provided a constant for our characters, so they never lose that connection. The women know they can go somewhere where they aren’t supposed to be judged – that’s the meaning of that building.”

Earl’s Diner is, ultimately, the space in which this tale flourishes as the women gather there to catch up on every boyfriend, teacher, job, and dream. “It’s the heartbeat for these women and their sisterhood. We get to see the totality of their existence there,” Aduba explains. “These women always know that no matter what is going on in their life, no matter where they are, they can always reach back into Earl’s Diner as a place of joy.”

Winters sums up the diner as only Big Earl himself could. “Earl’s-All-You-Can-Eat is the heart of the community, and it’s where the relationships that drive the narrative of the story are forged.” He concludes, “The Supremes, through the force of their love for each other and the strength of their friendship, demonstrate to all of us that loving each other is the most important thing at the end of the day.”

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

TINA MABRY (Director & Co-Writer)

A native of Tupelo, Mississippi, Tina Mabry graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts with an MFA in Film Production. A true hyphenate, Mabry is an award-winning writer, director, and producer for television and film. She was a co-producer, writer, and director for USA's hit drama *Queen of the South*. Mabry was also a producer, writer, and director on OWN's *Queen Sugar* created by Ava DuVernay. Mabry's vast episodic directing credits include "Insecure" (HBO), "Dear White People" (Netflix), "Pose" (FX), "Grand Army" (Netflix), "Women of the Movement" (ABC), "Power" (STARZ), the "Beast Mode" pilot (Macro/TNT), and "The Politician" (Netflix).

Mabry began her career co-writing the feature screenplay *Itty Bitty Titty Committee* directed by Jamie Babbit. The film premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2007 and won Best Feature Narrative at South by Southwest Film and Music Festival. Mabry went on to write and direct the groundbreaking feature film *Mississippi Damned*. While playing on the festival circuit, *Mississippi Damned* garnered an impressive thirteen awards from participation in fifteen film festivals including awards for Best Feature Film and Best Screenplay at the Chicago International Film Festival (2009). The film premiered on Showtime Networks in 2011.

Mabry's accolades include a DGA Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Children's Programs and an NAACP Image Award for *Melody 1963: Love Has to Win* (Amazon). Out Magazine listed her as one of the most inspirational and outstanding people of the year (2009), Filmmaker Magazine named Mabry among the "25 New Faces of Independent Film," the Advocate magazine featured her in their list of "Top Forty Under 40", and with over 300 nominees and only 50 selected artists, United States Artists named Mabry the James Baldwin Fellow in Media (2010). In addition to winning the Creative Promise Award of Tribeca All Access, Mabry has participated in several talent development programs including the Fox Writers Intensive, Sundance's Screenwriters Intensive, and in a plethora of Film Independent's Artist Development programs (Project: Involve, Directors Lab, Writers Lab, Fast Track) where *Mississippi Damned* was awarded the Kodak Film Grant. She was also in the inaugural class for Women in Film's ReFrame Rise initiative (2019), highlighting her commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the industry.

MARTY BOWEN (Produced By)

Before founding Temple Hill Entertainment in 2006 with Wyck Godfrey, Marty was a partner and agent at United Talent Agency. He has since gone on to produce or executive produce some of the most popular entertainment of recent years, including films such as the *Twilight Saga*, *The Maze Runner* trilogy, *The Fault In Our Stars*, *First Man*, *Fatherhood*, *The Hate U Give*, *Love, Simon* and most recently, *Smile*. His television credits include "Dave," "The Outsider," "Revenge," and "Love, Victor."

WYCK GODFREY (Produced By)

Wyck Godfrey is a film and television producer who founded Temple Hill Entertainment with Marty Bowen in 2006. Together, they have produced a number of successful film franchises, notably *The Twilight Saga* and *The Maze Runner* trilogy, as well as *The Fault in Our Stars* and *First Man*. Godfrey was named President of Paramount Motion Picture Group in 2017, where he oversaw the production of films ranging from *Rocketman*, *A Quiet Place*, and *Top Gun: Maverick*. In 2020, Godfrey returned to producing with Temple Hill Entertainment, where he has since produced *Smile*, *Emergency*, and *On the Come Up*. Over his career, his films have grossed over 7 billion dollars in Worldwide box office.

ISAAC KLAUSNER (Produced By)

Isaac Klausner is the Head of Film at Temple Hill Entertainment, a film and television production company based in Los Angeles & London. Over the past sixteen years at the company, he has produced numerous films and shows across many different genres, ranging from the *Twilight* franchise, *The Fault in Our Stars*, to *First Man*.

Isaac's more recent projects include *Turtles All the Way Down*, *We Have a Ghost*, *Somebody I Used To Know*, *Smile*, *On the Come Up*, *Emergency*, *Happiest Season*, *Love, Victor*, and *Fatherhood*.

Originally from Washington, D.C., Isaac resides in Los Angeles with his wife and three children.

WHITNEY ANNE ADAMS (Costume Designer)

Whitney Anne Adams is a costume designer who has worked on internationally acclaimed films that have been featured at the Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, and Toronto International Film Festivals. She is a member of both the United Scenic Artists Local 829 and the Costume Designers Guild Local 892 IATSE. Her films include *We Have A Ghost*, *Three Months*, *India Sweets and Spices*, *Freaky*, *Irreplaceable You* and *The Eyes of My Mother* as well as the independent film *Story Ave* which had its world premiere at 2023 SXSW. Adams is a passionate advocate for the art of costume design which helps define characters and serves as an essential part of storytelling.

Raised in Northern California, Adams spent her educational years and the beginning of her professional career working in all realms of theatrical costume design, dressing and tailoring. At UC San Diego, she studied under Tony Award-winning costume designer Judith Dolan while also working as a tailor and dresser at the La Jolla Playhouse.

After completing her degree, she moved to New York City, landing a job as a firsthand and tailor at Carelli Costumes where she worked for several years constructing couture garments for Broadway, film & TV, as well as concerts and private clients. Some of her favorite projects there include helping build all of Beyoncé's costumes for her 2009 *I Am Sasha Fierce* tour, working as Liza Minelli's personal seamstress on various outfits, and getting the chance to hone her fine embroidery and beading skills. During this time, she was also the personal seamstress to famed Oscar®-winning costume designer Eiko Ishioka. Working on Baz Lurhmann's *The Great Gatsby* as the costume design assistant to four-time Oscar®-winning costume designer, production designer, and producer Catherine Martin solidified her passion for her craft.

ROBIN URDANG (Music Supervisor)

Robin Urdang, owner of Reel Music SuperVision is a Music Supervisor for Film and TV. She has garnered 3 Emmy®'s for her work on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," is a Grammy nominee, has won numerous Guild of Music Supervisor Awards, an HMMA award and received a Gold Album for her work on Luca Guadagnino's feature film, *Call Me by Your Name*.

Some of Robin's other projects include "Love & Death," the Oscar®-winning and nominated films, *Nomadland*, *Beginners*, "Rabbit Hole," *Palm Springs*, *Bones and All*, *Suspiria*, "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," and Luca Guadagnino's latest film *Challengers*. Robin has collaborated with Luca for several years, currently finishing *Queer* and beginning work with him on *After The Hunt*. She also continues her long-time collaboration with Amy Sherman-Palladino and Dan Palladino on their newest series "Etoile." In addition, Robin is working on "Tracker" for CBS, "Cross" for Amazon, and *On Swift Horses*, an independent film starring Jacob Elordi and Daisy Edgar Jones.

Robin is a native New Yorker and currently resides in Los Angeles.

KATHRYN BOSTIC (Composer)

Kathryn Bostic is an award-winning composer, vocalist, and pianist known for her work on Broadway and across multiple media platforms, and for her critically acclaimed symphonic performances. In 2016, Bostic became the first African American female score composer in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Her scores and songs can be heard in productions of award-winning directors and writers. Bostic earned Emmy nominations for her scores in the films *Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir* and *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*. For the Morrison documentary, she also wrote and performed the closing-title song, “High Above the Water,” which was an Oscar-shortlisted song in 2020. At the Society of Composers & Lyricists' inaugural awards in January 2020, her score for this film was awarded “Outstanding Score for an Independent Film.” Excerpts have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic-Reel Change concert series.

Prominent organizations have taken note of Bostic’s talents, earning her commissions from the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Bangor Symphony Orchestra, among others. The Chicago Sinfonietta chose her as their first artist-in-residence during the 2020–23 seasons. Her work has also been performed by orchestras nationwide. Bostic’s collaboration with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra began in 2019 with the premiere of her piece, *The Great Migration: A Symphony in Celebration of August Wilson*, a tribute inspired by her work with the renowned playwright. Other PSO commissions include *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am (Cinematic Excerpts)*, based on her Emmy-nominated score, and *As I Please*, inspired by oral history projects with African American women from Pittsburgh’s Hill District and curated with talent from the local artistic community.

Notable appearances of Bostic’s music on Broadway include her collaboration with August Wilson on *Gem of the Ocean* and her music for *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, which featured Robin Williams. She has also recorded and performed with many artists, including Nas, Ryuichi Sakamoto, and David Byrne, and has toured extensively to perform at festivals and venues worldwide. An advocate for music education, Bostic has been a guest artist at Tufts as well as at numerous colleges, universities, and cultural centers. Bostic has recently received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from her alma mater, Tufts University.

TARIQ ANWAR (Editor)

Having spent 18 years at the BBC, Tariq Anwar learnt his craft by cutting a huge array of programs; Music and Arts, Documentary Features, Light Entertainment, Drama Series and Serials, News, etc. He worked on extremely tight schedules, and the lessons he learnt in terms of storytelling, structure and how to make fast decisions were invaluable to his later work. Tariq has since cut a diverse selection of feature films, television dramas, and documentaries, and has won and been nominated for multiple awards. He won the European Editor Film award for his work on *The King’s Speech*, for which he also received nominations for the Academy® Awards, BAFTA and ACE awards in 2011. Other recent feature film work includes *Farming*, *Human Capital*, *Worth*, *Ironbark*, *The Lady In The Van*, *Curve*, *Libertador*, *Great Expectations*, *Law Abiding Citizen*, *The Other Man*, *Revolutionary Road*, *The Good Shepherd*, *Stage Beauty* and *Sylvia*, as well as *American Beauty*, for which he was nominated for an Academy® Award, an ACE award and won BAFTA and GBFE award for Best Editor. Further BAFTA wins include the television dramas “Oppenheimer” and “Caught on a Train,” and nominations include *The Madness Of King George*, “Summer’s Lease,” “Fortune’s War,” “The Monocled Mutineer,” and “Tender is the Night.” He recently received a Sophia Lifetime Achievement Award in Portugal and had a book – *Movers and Shakers the Monster Makers - An Irreverent Take on the Film Industry from an Editor’s Perspective* - published.

Recent productions include *One Night in Miami* and *The Courier*. He is the father of actress, Gabrielle Anwar.

KARA LINDSTROM (Production Designer)

Kara Lindstrom's life in the art department began with work on *Nightmare on Elm Street*. From there, she went on to art direct the iconic *Heathers* and continued as a set decorator on such films as *Marshall* (directed by Reginald Hudlin), *French Kiss* (directed by Lawrence Kasden), *Strange Days* (directed by Kathryn Bigelow), *In the Line of Fire* (starring Clint Eastwood), and the mini-series "Drug Wars" (produced by Michael Mann).

Her credits as a production designer include Academy Award®-nominated *Nyad* (starring Annette Bening and Jodie Foster, directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin), *Prey* (directed by Dan Trachtenberg), *Otherhood* (directed by Cindy Chupack), *Den of Thieves* (starring Gerard Butler, directed by Christian Gudagast), *Dear John* and *Safe Haven* (directed by Lasse Halstrom).

Lindstrom also wrote the screenplays for *Killing Me Softly* (directed by Chen Kaige) and *A Time for Dancing*, for which she earned an Emmy® nomination. Lindstrom has been named by *Variety* as "One of Ten Screenwriters to Watch" and is a two-time prize winner in the British Columbia Islands Short Story Awards.

SEAN McELWEE (Director of Photography)

Originally from New Jersey, Sean McElwee is a cinematographer whose award-winning films have screened all over the world at festivals such as Sundance, Tribeca and Karlovy Vary. His credits include *Old Dads*, Hulu's upcoming second season of "Tell Me Lies," *Little Fish*, *Horse Girl*, *Spin Me Round*, *The Incredible Jessica James* and the anthology series "Room 104." He graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and, after nearly 20 years in Los Angeles, currently resides in New Orleans.

DIONNE WYNN (Makeup Department Head)

Dionne Wynn is a celebrity makeup artist who believes beauty is an ever-evolving discipline and has spent more than 20 years dedicated to the science, technique, and beauty of healthy skin. Her artistry personality and extraordinary work ethic have afforded her a solid reputation which is just one of the reasons she can connect with a myriad of clients to create their vision. She has emerged as one of the leading makeup artists in Hollywood for her capability to enhance her clients' natural beauty as well as creating more dramatic effects that are modern and on trend.

She currently is the exclusive makeup artist for actress Tiffany Haddish across live entertainment, film, television, and public appearances. Others she has worked with include Kevin Hart, Gabrielle Union, Regina Hall, Lorenz Tate, Omari Hardwick, Tosin Cole, Jacob Lattimore, Michael B. Jordan, Tasha Smith, Keith David, Seal, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Meagan Good, Minnie Driver, Paula Patton, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Kristin Cavallari, Jonathan Bennett, Josh Duhamel, 50 Cent, Jodi Turner-Smith, and Yvonne Orji among many others.

In addition to working as a personal makeup artist, Dionne has worked on television and film sets including *Me Time*, Disney's *Haunted Mansion*, *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*, "The After Party" (seasons 1 & 2), *Bad Trip*, *Here Today*, *On The Count Of Three*, *Like A Boss*, *The Card Counter*, *Night School*, *Girls Trip*, *Birth of a Nation*, *Beyond The Lights*, "The Last O.G.," "Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G.," "The Oath," "The Last Ship," *Nobody's Fool*, "The Carmichael Show," *Love by the 10th Date*, "Tiffany Haddish: She Ready!," "Tiffany Haddish: They Ready!," *From the Hood to Hollywood* and more.

Dionne's work has been featured in a range of national media outlets and her expert commentary has been sought by *Vogue*, *Time*, *People*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Into The Gloss*, and many more. She is a three-time nominee as well as winner of the Hollywood Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist Guild Awards Artisan Best, as well as a member of IATSE Hair & Makeup locals 706 & 798, Women In Film, Greenlight Women, and the Television Academy.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

AUNJANUE ELLIS-TAYLOR (ODETTE)

Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor is an Oscar®-nominated actress who most recently wrapped the lead role in Ava DuVernay's feature film adaptation of Isabel Wilkerson's NYT Bestseller *Caste*. She also stars the FX limited series "Justified: City Primeval" opposite Timothy Olyphant.

In addition, Ellis-Taylor stars in *Plan B*, *Nickel Boys*, *The Deliverance* opposite Andra Day and Glenn Close, and *The Color Purple* with Halle Bailey, Taraji P. Henson, and Colman Domingo. On the small screen, she recently co-starred with Courtney B. Vance in the Michael B. Jordan-produced series "61st Street."

Ellis-Taylor's inspired portrayal of Oracene Price, mother to tennis icons Venus and Serena Williams, in the feature film *King Richard*, for which she received a Best Supporting Actress nomination at Academy Awards® in 2022 while also winning National Board of Review, HCA, and AAFCA's Best Supporting Actress awards. Ellis-Taylor also received Best Supporting Actress nominations from BAFTA, Critics Choice, Golden Globes®, and the NAACP Image Awards among many others.

Since 2019, Ellis-Taylor has received two Emmy® Award nominations: the first for her portrayal of Sharone Salaam in Ava DuVernay's limited series "When They See Us," and the second for her performance in the JJ Abrams and Jordan Peele-produced series "Lovecraft Country" as Hippolyta. Ellis-Taylor's remarkable embodiment of gospel music legend and pioneer Dr. Mattie Moss Clark in *The Clark Sisters: The First Ladies of Gospel*, earned her a NAACP Image Awards nomination.

Other notable credits include *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *The Birth of A Nation*, *Pimp, Miss Virginia*, *The Help*, and the acclaimed miniseries "The Book of Negroes" for which she received Critics Choice and NAACP nominations as well as won a Gracie Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in a Made for TV Movie or Limited Series.

SANAA LATHAN (BARBARA JEAN)

Sanaa Lathan is an actor, director, producer, and activist, well-known for starring in such hit films as *Love & Basketball*, *The Best Man* and *The Best Man Holiday*, *Brown Sugar*, *Alien vs. Predator*, *The Perfect Guy*, and *Nappily Ever After*.

She recently made her feature directorial debut with *On the Come Up*, based on the *New York Times* best-selling novel of the same name. The film, in which she also stars, premiered at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival to stellar reviews. In 2021, she made her directorial debut, created during the pandemic, at the Tribeca Film Festival with the short *Leap* about a Zoom therapist who suffers from OCD and panic disorder.

Her notable recent acting roles include *Young. Wild. Free*, which premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, the limited series "The Best Man: The Final Chapters," an Emmy®-nominated turn in the third season of the hit series "Succession." Other noteworthy roles include the action thriller *Hit and Run* opposite Lior Raz, the episode "Replay" with Damson Idris in Jordan Peele's reboot of "The Twilight Zone," "The Affair," the series "Shots Fired," Rashid Johnson's screen adaptation of *Native Son*, Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion*, *Now You See Me 2*, *American Assassin*, and *Something New*.

Lathan is the voice of 'Donna Tubbs' on animated series "Family Guy" and "The Cleveland Show," as well as that of Catwoman in the animated series "Harley Quinn." On stage, Lathan received a Tony Award nomination for her portrayal of Beneatha Younger in the Broadway revival of *A Raisin in the Sun* and starred as Maggie the Cat opposite James Earl Jones in the Olivier-award-winning revival of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at the Novello Theatre in London's West End.

UZO ADUBA (Clarice)

Uzo Aduba is a three-time Emmy® winner (two for portraying "Suzanne 'Crazy Eyes' Warren" in the critically-acclaimed Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black" and the third for her role as trailblazer Shirley Chisholm in the FX limited series "Mrs. America") and Tony-nominated actress for *Clyde's* from Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage.

Notable recent projects from Aduba include the limited series "Painkiller" alongside Matthew Broderick exploring the origins of the opioid crisis; the Shondaland comedic White House murder mystery *The Residence* with Andre Braugher and Susan Kelechi Watson; the indie comedy/mystery *Providence* with Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Lily James; and the HBO drama series "In Treatment".

MEKHI PHIFER (JAMES)

Mekhi Phifer has captured the attention of critics and audiences alike with performances that cross all cinematic genres. Phifer is perhaps best known to television audiences for his portrayal of Dr. Gregory Pratt on the iconic series "ER," for which he received two NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. He is also well known for his memorable role as Future in the iconic film *8 Mile*.

Born and raised in New York, Phifer's acting career spectacularly began when he secured the lead role in Spike Lee's *Clockers* through an open casting call and earned critical acclaim working alongside Harvey Keitel, John Turturro and Delroy Lindo for his compelling performance as young New Jersey drug dealer Strike involved in a murder cover-up.

Phifer currently stars as Markus Knox opposite Octavia Spencer, Lizzy Caplan and Aaron Paul in the series "Truth Be Told." He also appeared opposite Laurence Fishburne and Forest Whitaker in the game changing mini-series "Roots." Other TV credits include the series "House of Lies," "Torchwood," "Lie To Me" as FBI Agent Ben Reynolds, the Australian series "Secret City," "Frequency," "Chicago P.D.," the Hulu series "Love, Victor," the highly-rated film *Carmen: A Hip-Hopera* opposite Beyoncé Knowles, and the Emmy®-winning original movie *A Lesson Before Dying* with Don Cheadle and Cicely Tyson.

His many film career highlights include Zach Snyder's *Dawn of the Dead*, as Max in the *Divergent* franchise, *O, Paid in Full*, *Ruthless*, *Soul Food*, *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*, *Hell's Kitchen*, *Obsession*, *Canal Street*, *Uninvited Guest*, and *Shaft*, among others.

Phifer made his Broadway debut alongside Dule Hill, Tracie Thoms, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, and Condola Rashad in Lydia R. Diamond's critically acclaimed play *Stick Fly*, produced by Alicia Keys and directed by Kenny Leon. His upcoming projects include the independent feature *Lights Out* and *The Silent Hour* opposite Joel Kinnaman and Mark Strong.

JULIAN McMAHON (RAY/CHICK)

Julian McMahon most recently starred in Dick Wolf's hit CBS crime drama "FBI: Most Wanted," as Jess LaCroix. Prior to "FBI: Most Wanted," McMahon, known for his starring role in "Nip/Tuck," had roles in Hulu's Marvel series "Runaways," "Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency," the miniseries adaptation of "Childhood's End," as well as "Charmed."

On the film side, McMahon appeared in *You're Not You*, opposite Hilary Swank, Emmy Rossum, Josh Duhamel, and Marcia Gay Harden, Stephan Elliott's comedy-drama, *Flammable Children*, opposite Guy Pearce, and *Monster Party*, directed by Chris Von Hoffmann. Other feature credits include *Faces In The Crowd*, *Paranoia*, and *Fire With Fire*.

McMahon also played super villain Dr. Victor von Doom in the *Fantastic Four* franchise and appeared in *Premonition* opposite Sandra Bullock.

VONDIE CURTIS HALL (LESTER)

Vondie Curtis Hall is an acclaimed actor, director and screenwriter who can currently be seen as a series regular in the limited series "Justified: City Primeval" opposite Timothy Olyphant, Boyd Holbrook, and Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor. Other recent credits include a lead role in Alexi Hawley and Doug Liman's hit series "The Recruit," in a supporting role in the film *Raymond & Ray* directed by Rodrigo Garcia starring Ewan McGregor and Ethan Hawke, David Bruckner's *The Night House* opposite Rebecca Hall, and *Blue Bayou* from MACRO Ventures opposite Alicia Vikander and Justin Chon, who also wrote and directed the film, that premiered at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival. Curtis Hall received acclaim for his role as Reverend Green in Kasi Lemmons' Oscar® and Golden Globe®-nominated film *Harriet*, the first feature-length biopic of the iconic freedom fighter starring Cynthia Erivo as Tubman.

In addition to his TV work on "Daredevil," "Chicago Hope," "For the People," and "ER," which earned him an Emmy® nomination, the Detroit native has appeared in over 40 feature films, most notably *Die Hard 2*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *Eve's Bayou*, *Breaking Brooklyn*, and *Cymbeline*.

As a director, he has received several nominations for the films *Gridlock'd*, *Waist Deep*, *Redemption*, and *Abducted: The Carlina White Story*. Additional directorial credits for film and TV include *Toni Braxton: Unbreak My Heart*, "ER," "Firefly," "Gossip Girl," "Sleeper Cell," "The Starter Wife," "Boston Legal," and *Faith Under Fire*, which won the 2019 Christopher Award, Vision Award, Wilbur Award and Gracie Award.

RUSSELL HORNSBY (RICHMOND)

Russell Hornsby has been named one of Variety's "10 Actors to Watch." His catalog of film, television, and stage credits include *Lincoln Rhyme: Hunt For the Bone Collector*, *The Hate U Give*, *Creed II*, the Oscar®-nominated *Fences*, the limited series "Seven Seconds," and "The Affair." Hornsby currently stars in the mega-hit series "BMF" going into its third season.

Other notable credits on the big and small screen include Jim Sheridan's *Get Rich Or Die Tryin'*, Sheldon Candis' Sundance Grand Jury Award-nominated film *Luv*, the critically-acclaimed series "Lincoln Heights" as police officer Eddie Sutton, the hit series "Grimm," "Luke in "In Treatment" opposite Gabriel Byrne, and the series "Lost in Space."

Sparked by auditioning and winning the role of the Scarecrow in *The Wiz* in high school, Hornsby, who trained in the theatre program at Boston University and studied for a summer at the British Academy of Dramatic Arts program at Oxford University, has an extensive theatre background. Paying his dues, the Oakland native progressed from background performances to the bright lights of Broadway, appearing in numerous productions, including August Wilson's *Fences*. even video game voice work on his resume.

Hornsby, who also has video game work on his resume, resides in Los Angeles with his family.

ABIGAIL ACHIRI (YOUNG CLARICE)

Abigail Achiri was born in Bafut, Cameroon, West Africa. Her family moved to Texas when she was 18 months old. To help Abigail learn English, her mom had her watch *The Sound of Music* and that's where

her love for acting and music began. Growing up she loved being the center of attention and putting a smile on people's faces. In elementary school, she would often write songs and act out scenarios and stories with her brothers. In a typical African household, children are given three career path options—doctor, lawyer or engineer, but Abigail knew she was going to be an actor. At 14, she was selling candy at school (... which was sort of against the rules) so that she could pay for acting classes and headshots. Abigail was further inspired when she learned Selena Gomez went to middle school with her older brother. Abigail thought “if she can do it, so can I.” During her junior year Abigail would drive three hours (to and from) to Dallas every Saturday to take acting classes.

One of Abigail's first roles was a recurring arc for Barry Jenkins' *The Underground Railroad*, a role which Jenkins wrote for her after seeing her initial audition for the lead, but feeling she wasn't quite right for type-wise. She also appeared in the limited series “Boo, Bitch” and the independent feature *Marisol*.

KYANNA “KeeKee” SIMONE (YOUNG ODETTE)

Kyanna “KeeKee” Simone will next be seen in Adam McKay's Los Angeles Lakers-inspired hit series “Winning Time.” Notable roles over the past five years include Alex Heller's *The Year Between*, which had its world premiere at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival, the Freeform hit series “grown-ish”, Ryan Murphy's acclaimed FX anthology series “American Horror Story,” a recurring role as the energetic new kicker for the football team on season three of the hit drama “All American” alongside Taye Diggs and Daniel Ezra, the film *Project Power*, opposite Jamie Foxx, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Dominique Fishback, the Netflix series “Chambers” opposite Uma Thurman, and *Ma* as the younger version of star Octavia Spencer's character Sue Ann.

Early memorable roles include playing the young Deborah Lacks to Oprah Winfrey's older version per the icon's request in the acclaimed film *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, a recurring role as Kiesha in the hit DC superhero drama *Black Lightning*, and as Brenda Moore in director Yann Demange's crime drama, *White Boy Rick*.

TATI GABRIELLE (YOUNG BARBARA JEAN)

Tati Gabrielle can be seen in seasons three and four of the hit Netflix series “You” as Marianne Bellamy, as Hannah Kim in “Kaleidoscope,” and opposite Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg in the feature film *Uncharted*. She is best known for her breakout role as Prudence in “Chilling Adventures of Sabrina.” An agent of change, the Bay Area native and pescatarian, who is of African American and Korean descent, consciously supports DEI initiatives, mental health awareness, and sustainability. She currently resides in Los Angeles.

TONY WINTERS (BIG EARL)

Tony Winters is an actor, writer, and producer with nearly 100 credits over his long career. Notable credits include the hit series “Your Honor,” “Yellowjackets,” “Shameless,” and “Black Monday,” as well as the STX film *National Champions*, the NBC juggernaut “This Is Us,” and “Young Sheldon” on CBS.

The Detroit native is perhaps best known to television audiences as Clive, owner of the High Yellow Restaurant, on the critically acclaimed “Queen Sugar” series, and for his guest-starring turn as Mayor Wilkins in an Emmy®-nominated episode of “Silicon Valley.” Gamers also recognize him as the tough-as-nails assistant coach from the best-selling video game NBA 2K15 as well as NBA 2K16 directed by Spike Lee. Winters made his directing debut, helming an episode of “Two Degrees: The Series,” where he also co-stars as the friend of a divorced man, on a journey between his second and third wives.

XAVIER MILLS (YOUNG RICHMOND)

Xavier Mills generated buzz for his casting in a lead role for the proposed series adaptation of the beloved feature film “The Wood.” His notable credits include “Interview with A Vampire,” “Tales,” “Cherish the Day,” “Legacies,” “Ordinary Joe,” and the indie drama *Making Him Famous*.

DIJON MEANS (YOUNG JAMES)

Dijon Means recently appeared in season two of the hit series “P-Valley” and can be seen in the film *Harold and The Purple Crayon* starring Zachary Levi and Zooey Deschanel.

CLEVELAND BERTO (YOUNG LESTER)

Cleveland Berto has appeared in several film projects, including Denzel Washington’s *A Journal for Jordan* starring Michael B. Jordan and Chanté Adams and Tim Miller’s *Terminator: Dark Fate*. On TV, he has appeared as Hurby Azor in the *Salt-N-Pepa* biopic, the series “Bosch: Legacy,” “FBI,” and “Chicago P.D.” on NBC.

RYAN PAYNTER (YOUNG RAY/CHICK)

Ryan Paynter has had roles in the acclaimed Netflix series “Stranger Things,” the Hulu limited series “Dopesick,” and “Echoes.” Recent projects include the film *The Paramedic Who Stalked Me* and the series “Sweeties” and “Toke N Choke Dispensary.”

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