

Savoir-Faire

Magazine

August - Sept. 2015

Actress

KD Aubert

Nominated for
African Oscar

Spectacular
Fashion Skirts
from
Sofistafunk

Color of
Change
Issues
Statement
on
Trayvon
Martin
Verdict

Kevin Hart
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KD Aubert Nominated for Best Supporting Actress in 2013 African Oscars



Screen Africa announced recently that KD Aubert has been nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in Diaspora Film for the 2013 Nollywood & African Film Critics Awards (African Oscars) for her role as Stacey in the 2012 film Turning Point. Hailed as the highest U.S.A. based awards honoring excellence in African filmmaking by The Nollywood Film Critics USA, The African Oscars recognizes excellence of professionals in the African film industry who have positively impacted the lives of citizens. The Nollywood Film Critics USA is the official movie review organization for Nollywood and African films and headed by Founder and Senior Film Critic Dr. Victor O. Olatoye.

Nominees like KD Aubert are capturing a new generation of Nollywood Films within the Hollywood landscape, showcasing how Turning Point is unique in its casting. While similar scale Nollywood films explore socio-political themes, [this film] is a pure character driven story that is easy to relate to (NigeriaShowBiz.com). Turning Point has also been nominated for Best Drama, Best Screenplay, and Best Cinematography in the Diaspora Film Categories in the 2013 African Oscars.

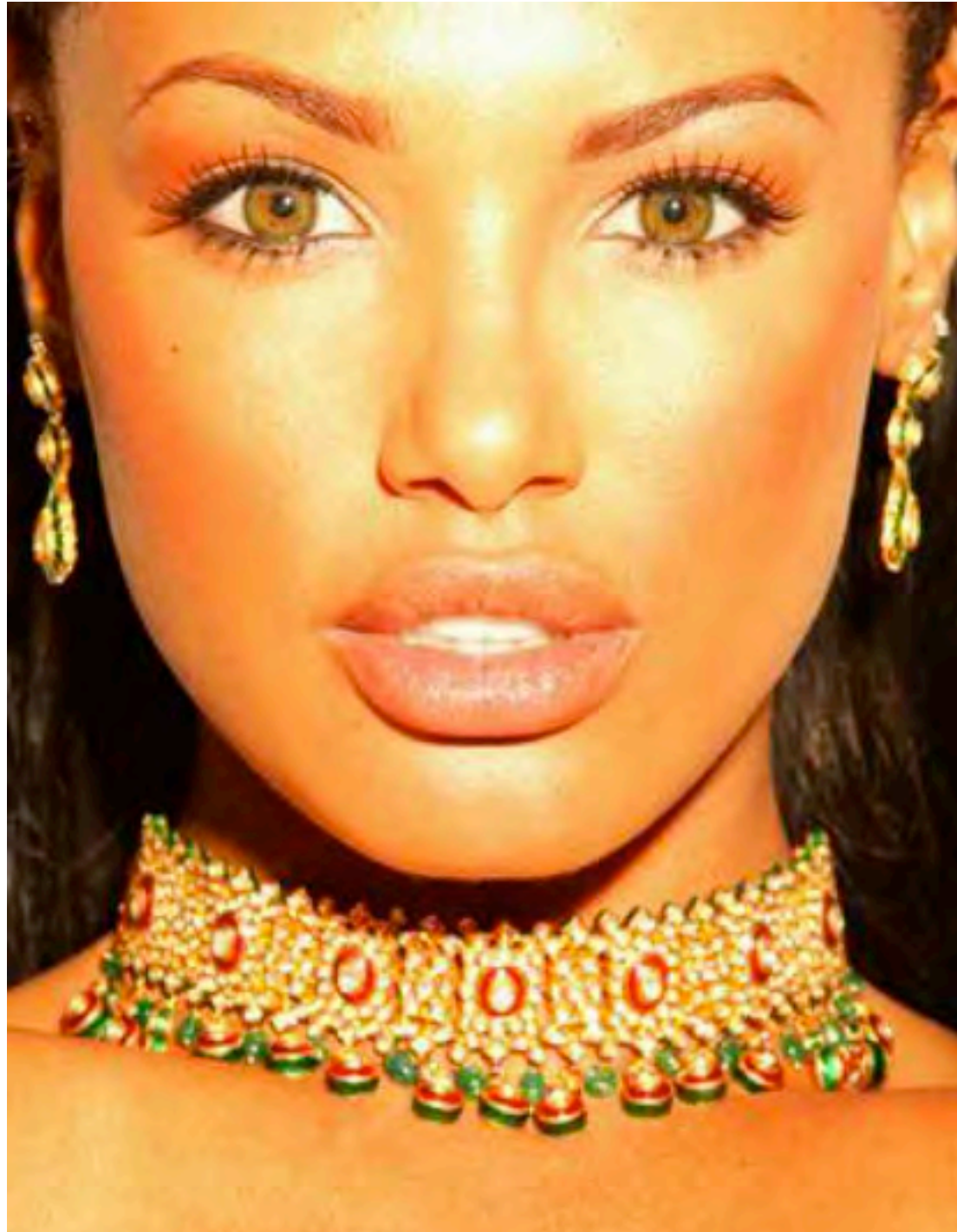
The ceremony is scheduled for September 14th at a red-carpet event at the legendary Warner Theatre in Washington D.C. Special Guest Performers include Yemi Sax, Jerri Jheto, Jennifer Eliogu, and Katumbella. For a complete list of VIP guests

and Live Performers please visit http://www.africanoscar.com/Performing_artists.aspx

About The Nollywood & African Film Critics' Awards (African Oscars):

The Nollywood & African Film Critics' Awards, also known as The African Oscars, is an accolade bestowed by the Nollywood Film Critics USA the official movie review organization for Nollywood and African films to recognize excellence of professionals in the African film industry and with honorary awards to honor humanitarians, dignitaries and government official who have positively impacted the lives of citizens. The maiden edition was hosted by the twin city of Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina USA on the 16th of September 2011. The coveted and prestigious Nollywood & African Film Critics' Awards are the most prominent award ceremony honoring the African cinema and the only awards to boast of African movie stars from around the world under one roof for the greatest African film awards event in North America.

Nollywood & African Film Critics' Awards is designed to promote African Cinema, music and culture worldwide. The prestigious Nollywood & African Film Critics' Awards (African Oscars) are awards of merit and are considered the highest U.S.A. based awards honoring excellence in African filmmaking.



KD AUBERT

**AFRICAN
OSCAR
NOMINEE**

K.D. Aubert appears in several upcoming films to be released, including Queen Latifah's *Percentage*, *Lap Dance* aka *Monica* (starring James Remar, Lynn Whitfield, Carmen Electra) and comedy film *My Sisters Wedding*.

Aubert is known for her international modeling career with campaigns for Fredrick's of Hollywood, Escada, and Fanta (as one of the original Fanta girls).

As an actress, she has starred in cult films such as *Friday After Next*, and appeared in numerous films and television shows including *Soul Plane*, *The Scorpion King*, and *CSI NY*.



Crystal Styles and Dwan White

Marketing's Dynamic Duo

House of Cheatham, Inc.

Dwan White and Crystal Styles know that women have a personal attachment to the maintenance and styling products purchased for their hair.

As Director of Global Marketing & Product Development, and Marketing Project Manager, respectively, they lead the Marketing Department at House of Cheatham, Inc., the Stone Mountain-based manufacturer of leading hair care brands, including: Africa's Best, Kids Organics, Organics by Africa's Best, Aunt Jackie's Curls & Coils and Texture My Way.

White, a native of New Orleans, LA, has a career that spans twenty-five years and includes experience in Branding, Marketing Strategy, Research & Segmentation, Creative Marketing, and Project Management in Miami and Atlanta.

She was introduced to the Ethnic Health & Beauty Industry in 2000, as a Marketing Consultant, creating new products and promotional strategies for various hair and skin care manufacturers.

After a segue into Marketing with Hostess, Inc. in Kansas City, MO, she returned to Atlanta in 2008 as the head of Marketing at House of Cheatham.

White has developed nearly one-hundred (100) products spread across eleven (11) different brands. She credits consumer insights as the most powerful tool in helping make decisions about the types of products & brands she introduces to the domestic and international marketplace.

Additionally, as the company's Creative Director, she manages a team of graphic designers, photographers and stylists to

create the look and feel for all product packaging and collateral materials.

Styles, a native of Spartanburg, SC, but who calls Atlanta home, has enjoyed (20) years in various areas of Broadcast Journalism, Video Production, Marketing and Mass Communication. She is a former news reporter & anchor, with media experience launched from working at WSB- TV in Atlanta and other news markets, in addition to making her way back to Atlanta in 2007 where she established her own media business (Crystal Clear Multimedia).

Styles' professional background gives her the insight in understanding the importance of connecting with people at an array of different levels, from executives to the general public. At House of Cheatham, she manages Promotions, Advertising, Social Media, Consumer Contact, Special Events and various customer-related projects. In short, Styles keeps the company's brands on the mind of the consumer.

She notes that the recent emergence of the natural hair segment keeps her particularly busy. "This segment demands education, so I have to make sure that everywhere they turn for information, our brands are front and center, and ready to satisfy their needs."

This Marketing duo provides House of Cheatham with perfect "push/pull" synergy, where White pushes viable new products into retail, and Styles helps to pull through sales by connecting with the consumer.

BET's Sunday Best to Include Chaka Khan and Tamela Mann



BET's "Sunday Best" is back with not only Kirk Franklin as host and Kim Burrell as a mentor. The main stage on the show will also be taken over by leading voices including Chaka Khan and Tamela Mann in the coming weeks. According to BET, both artists are among a list of voices slated to give special guest performances during season six.

"Season six won't disappoint with more memorable performances by the contestants and guest appearances by mainstream and gospel greats old and new including show-stopping performances by Chaka Khan, Fantasia, Kelly Price, Tamela Mann, Israel Houghton, CeCe Winans, Mali Music and Kim Burrell," reports BET.

As previously reported, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin and CeCe Winans are all returning as judges this season.

"Sunday Best" airs Sunday nights at 8 p.m. on BET.



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New Gospel Artist

Sherry "Songbird" Futch

Her voice is described as, "amazing, unbelievable, a gift from God." One lady said, "I've never heard such a unique and beautiful voice. Sherry has just released her first gospel album called, "**Breaking Out.**"

Sherry said, "My goal is to bring life to everyone around me and to bring souls to Christ through my music ministry. I am a lover of music ranging from Gospel to R&B to Contemporary and Pop. I was born to sing and have been singing ever since I could make a sound. From the church pulpit to Military Arenas to my first television performance of Showtime at the Apollo at the age of 13, I knew that I was made to sing for the Lord. I enhanced my gift of singing by attending Chantilly Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School, Northwest School of the Arts, and singing with the 3rd Infantry Division Band in The United States Army. I have had the pleasure of singing as a featured soloist with the US Army Soldier Show, numerous occasions of singing the National Anthem, and winning the Fort Stewart Army Idol/Rising Star Competition 2008 and 2009.

The inspiration of my life comes from my three wonderful children and my amazing husband who gives me the support I need no matter what! I am a strong Believer that with God nothing is Impossible! I can do all things through Christ Jesus and if I can picture the Dream it is reality. My heart is shaped and built with singing. Singing is what I was created to do. So get ready for the Blessings that God has in store. I Pray that my music will be a blessing to every listener and change lives.

Sherry "Songbird" Futch

Learn more about Sherry at: www.sherrysongbird.com

Dr. Adiaha Strange



A PASSION FOR THE DISABLED

Dr. Adiaha Strange is the owner and director of GIC Inc. (Growing in Care), a home and community health care agency in Charlotte, NC established since the year 2000 www.gicofcharlotte.org.

She is passionate about helping the disabled and has made a life long commitment to doing so. She helps those who many of us never think about. Dr. Strange is an example of a person who is truly dedicated and committed to her cause. It always takes a special person to care for those with special needs. She has proven herself to be that warm, caring, spiritual person that gives all to her family and those she services through her business.

As a business owner, she proudly provides services to children and adults with disabilities under a contract with Medicaid, Medicare, and Veterans Assistance. Her research experience includes a qualitative phenomenological study to explore the attitudes, beliefs, and behavior of providers of adult care services with regards to their effect on the challenges faced by consumers with disabilities. This business was founded after working in the classroom and seeing the need for additional transition and support for students, beyond high school. Her company offers a variety of services to include Home Support, Home & Community Support, Personal Care Support, Respite Support, Day Support, Supportive Employment, and Residential Support.

Dr. Adiaha Strange believes that "success is a choice." She feels that you can choose to be successful which means taking the right steps to make your career happen. She believes people should pursue their true passion; do what is really in their hearts to do so that they can withstand all the obstacles and challenges that go along with being successful.

She has worked in the field of education since 1998. She specializes in working with adults and children with unique learning styles and differences. www.drstrangeeducation.com. The goal of this website is to provide techniques and strategies to promote individualized instructional designs to all level of students. Dr. Strange is fully committed to the production of critical thinking skills to enhance learning and believes that she must *make a difference in the lives of students by exchanging information*

Adiaha has served as an additional Teaching resource with experience in giving seminars and facilitating courses in the Department of Professional Studies / The School of Arts and Sciences / the College of Arts and Sciences / & The School of Business Management, using a remote online platform and environment for both distance and traditional educational institutions, to include an international campus.

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Patrick Wellington is the owner of Wellington Hair Spa in New York. His salon has a warm decor and relaxing atmosphere. A native of Jamaica, Patrick came to New York at age 13, sponsored by his father. He began his phenomenal hair styling career at age 22. According to Patrick, "what I enjoy most about being a stylist is seeing the wonderful transformation of the hair and the smile on the client's face once the hair is done."

Partnership Between Kevin Hart and Coke Zero Builds on Male-Focused “It’s Not Your Fault... Enjoy Everything” Marketing Campaign



ATLANTA- Coke Zero celebrates guys being guys and humorously defends all things male when the brand teams up with comedian Kevin Hart to promote his new movie, *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain*. “Let Me Explain’ builds on the current Coke Zero marketing platform, called ‘It’s Not Your Fault...Enjoy Everything,” said Lauventria Robinson, Vice President, Multicultural Marketing, Coca-Cola North America Group. “We have teamed up with Kevin to take a lighthearted and satirical perspective on the stereotypical things that men do, while cheering guy moments of bonding and camaraderie. Coke Zero has given men the excuse that it’s okay to be who you are; ‘it’s not your fault.’ Kevin has their back with the opening line, ‘let me explain.’ It’s a perfect partnership for a brand that celebrates men.”

“I’m excited about releasing *Let Me Explain* and working with Coca-Cola Zero to bring it to the masses,” said Hart. “The movie and Coke Zero share a similar view on not making excuses for a man being a man. We have reasons why we do what we do and most start with, we’re men. So it’s okay to play video games all night, talk junk with your boys or pretend you’ve worked out harder than you have – that’s what men do. Coke Zero says that’s cool and so do I.”

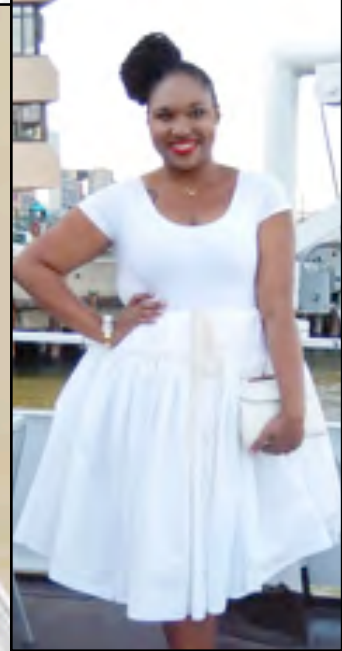
In addition to the tour, Hart’s entertainment company, HartBeat Productions, will produce a TV spot and three digital vignettes for Coke Zero, promoting the new movie and the Coke Zero “Enjoy Everything” message. The hilarious 30-second TV spot, entitled “Theater Seats,” will air on BET and TBS and also be posted online. This fall, the three digital vignettes – all about Coke Zero through the lens of *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain* – will be released on the comedian’s and the brand’s various social media platforms.

“We are thrilled that Coke Zero is giving us the freedom to inject the HartBeat voice into these creative pieces to bring laughter to fans all summer long” said Leland “Pookey” Wigington, HartBeat Productions, Vice-President.

For more information on the *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain* movie tour and hotline, follow @CokeZero on Twitter or like the Coca-Cola Zero page on Facebook. Lucky consumers can win VIP passes to the private screenings through promotions with partnering radio stations in each of the Coke Zero screening markets.



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Black Man Can Awards Honors Positive Black Males



Kenneth J. Montgomery
Wins Law Category

Often negative portrayals of black males make indelible impacts on how the people of the world view black men and boys and how they view themselves, especially when a positive male role model is absent. [Brandon Frame](#), a 25 year-old author, scholar, educator and Morehouse graduate didn't meet his own father until he was 18 and with his desire to seek out positive Black male role models finding none, he created the website, [TheBlackManCan.org](#) to counter the stereotypes he found with positive stories of Black men and women globally. To-date the site has featured over 150 extraordinary men and women and is embarking upon their **2nd Annual Black Man Can Awards** honoring over 60 distinguished Black men in 12 categories and also give out a Man of Distinction award to a black man serving in the armed forces.

2013 Nominees included: **Carmelo Anthony, Ne-Yo, Luther Campbell, Mayor Jamel Holley (Roswell, NJ), Michael Tubbs (Youngest Elected Official in the Country), Sean-Michael Spence (Entertainment Attorney), Rob Hill, Sr. (Author/Motivational Speaker)** and more.

All winners of the 2013 BlackManCan (BMC) Awards will receive an official crystal award trophy, website badge, bragging rights for one year and other sponsored products from sponsors including: Solo Noir, Final Frame Ties, Define Yourself Redefine the World Journal , Chris Colon Originals , Beecology, Photomosaics® and Just Act Strategy . The Black Man Can Awards are presented in partnership with [Hip Hop Gives Back](#), [The Black Man Can](#) and [Black Celebrity Giving](#).

Brandon has always had a vision for achieving his goals. His path to greatness started early, but some of his most distinguished experiences were cultivated while attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Morehouse, Brandon's affinity for developing young Black Males into positive Black Men was formed, in addition to his love for business and education and with that passion, Brandon is Director of Business Partnerships & Development at Hartford-based High School Inc. and founder of The Black Man Can Institute. Brandon is the author of ***Define Yourself, Redefine the World: A Guided Journal for Black Boys and Men*** that debuted in January to raving praise from the likes of: **Dr. Chris Emdin**, Professor at Columbia University; **Dr. Walter Kimbrough**, President Dillard University; and **Kevin Ollie** Head Coach, University of Connecticut, to name a few.



2013 AWARD WINNERS



Jordan Williams & Brandon Iverson



Carlton Morton



Myron Wright

The Black Man Can 2013 Award Winners



Brent D. Page



Nathaniel Jackson Jr.



Latiq Agard

Self-Made Women



John
Evah
SUPER
RICH
Michael &
Russell Simmons

Featuring
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tools, in
and exp
interview
leaders

Janice McClean

Entrepreneur's Edge TV Show

Hosted by
Janice McClean

Janice McClean is the producer and host of Entrepreneur's Edge TV program. She started the TV program in 2004. The purpose of the program is to find answers to the questions about starting a business; financing a business; what kind of certifications are needed; and what resources are available to new business owners. Entrepreneur's Edge tackles these roadblocks by bringing on people with stellar talent in business and communications. As you can see, she has interviewed many high profile people.

The show airs in Maryland, New York, D.C. and Washington. The show will be airing on Fox in September.

She has come across people of all walks of life and takes their wisdom back to her audience by way of her 3 camera team, Scott Brown, Michael Davis and Jermaine Owens.

"I learned a lot from Bill Clinton," Janice said. He is extremely witty, knowledgeable and resourceful." She said that the former president has a program called Clinton Global Initiative, which brings people together from all walks of life to learn how to make the world better. She has met many famous people including Madelyn Albright, Usher, and MC Lyte who she said is one of the impressive women she ever met because of her wisdom and insight. Janice is looking forward to creating a new TV show next year which deals with the "reality" of starting a new business.



Janice McClean and Usher (above) and below she is shown with Bill Rancic, Bill Clinton, and Rain Pryor



Black Barbie

The Dance by the Hip Hop Dance Conservatory of New York City





A Dance with Meaning

By Daphney Grier, Editor

Black Barbie is an amazing dance of movement and intellect joined together. It was created over a five year period by artistic director, Safi A. Thomas. The dance takes you through a journey of a young man's mind who has many concerns. As he sleeps, the dance moves through many thoughts of the man's mind. He dreams of the good and the bad. He remembers himself as a child; he dreams of making love to beautiful, enticing women. He thinks of world issues as dancers swirl around him in a hip-hop rhythm. He dreams of himself as the Black Super Hero. He dreams of "**Black Barbie**" as she is born into a world of cruelty, selfishness, and destruction. Each dancer represented a thought in the man's mind. They were uniquely and creatively painted with body paint to exaggerate the dramatic moving bodies on stage to a hip-hop rhythm. As the Black Barbie herself was painted completely black.

Black Barbie is a production of the Hip-Hop Conservatory of New York. After the conclusion of the dance, Safi A. Thomas held an open forum to discuss the meaning of the dance. He also addressed many social issues during the dance and afterwards during the discussion, including how women are treated and the inequality that exists between the sexes. This is a dance with meaning. The artistic director did not just train the dancers to dance, but he also took them on a cultural journey to teach them about the many aspects of society that affect our thinking and way of life. The dance was amazing.

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WWE'S BELLA TWINS STAR IN NEW DOCU-SERIES ON E!



Los Angeles, CA – WWE and E!, partner to bring viewers the first-ever look into the world of the WWE Divas in the all new docu-series, “Total Divas.” Cameras will follow the lives of five Divas - both in and out of the ring - giving a first-hand look at the electric personalities, compelling personal lives and incomparable in-ring performances that have helped make WWE the most successful organization in sports entertainment history.

With the triumphant return of fan favorites, The Bella Twins, Nikki and Brie, after a year-long break, the two sisters are met with an explosive mix of energy from two gorgeous, polar opposite newbies who enter the rigorous WWE training program for a chance to call themselves Divas. The series opens with a look inside the most-anticipated WWE event of the year, WrestleMania®, marking the first time that any television series was granted exclusive behind-the-scenes access to WWE.y, “Total Divas” will highlight the glamorous, chaotic and often dramatic lives of the WWE Divas . The show airs on Sundays at 10pm ET/Pacific Time following “Keeping Up With the Kardashians,” only on E!

Nikki Bella (Stephanie Garcia Colace) of the tag team “The Bella Twins”

A self-admitted “tomboy” with a feminine side, Nikki originally planned to play professional soccer until a leg injury ended her career. From there, she followed her twin sister Brie to the WWE. Nikki is idolized by fans and newbie Divas-in-training alike, but, the rivalries and competition runs thick within WWE – especially between the Bellas and their tag team nemeses “The Funkadactyls.” Outside the ring, Nikki has been sustaining a secret, steady relationship with one of the biggest names in WWE history. For the first time, the couple will open up about their personal lives together.

Brie Bella (Brianna Garcia Colace) of the tag-team “The Bella Twins”

The other half of the dazzling and devious Bella Twins, Brie debuted on SmackDown in 2008. Alongside her sister Nikki, the half-Italian, half-Mexican beauties have quickly become two of the most popular Divas in history, each with their own solo reign as WWE Women’s Champion. Outside of the ring, Brie has found love in the arms of one WWE’s biggest names, Daniel Bryan.



The Akira Center of Harlem Put Father's First

The Akira Center, headed by Lena Green, (above), puts Father's First, through its community service program in Harlem, which seeks to "inspire, mobilize, and equip fathers to become instrumental in the well-being and development of children." Lena found that there was very little support for fathers. Non-custodial fathers are faced with a lot of issues regarding custody and visitation and often found that these were sometimes traumatic situations for fathers. The lack of advocacy and support leaves many fathers feeling disempowered. She works with them to get visitation rights, including helping them to write letters to the court regarding visitation, and how to fight for their rights. Lena is a licensed clinical social worker with a background in Mental Health. She has worked for the Manhattan District Attorney's office for over 6 years, the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, and Bureau of Maternal Infant & Reproductive Health.

She is very much qualified to deal with issue of depression, anxiety, grief and loss. She talks to men about their feelings and explains to them the symptoms of depression and anxiety. In addition, the program provides parenting education, individual and group counseling, youth and family workshops, social service advocacy, and professional training and coaching. She even has a "New Dad Bootcamp" which deals with simple tasks such as changing diapers, and engaging with babies from the start. According to Lena, "We want to help men the best dads that they can be." To learn more about the Fathers First program, contact the Akria Center at 917-701-2708 or you may go their website at www.akiracenter.org

Court Orders Morning After Pill Must Go Over-the-Counter Without Restrictions

The Morning After Pill is controversial because it seems like an immediate abortion pill because it releases anything from the night before.

Recently, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ordered the Obama administration's Food and Drug Administration to comply with U.S. District Court Judge Edward Korman's Order to make to make two-pill versions of emergency contraception available over-the-counter without a prescription, age requirements or other restrictions on how it is sold. The government had sought a stay of Judge Korman's Order from the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

"This decision affirms that the unnecessary restrictions that have been imposed by the FDA were never supported by scientific evidence," said Andrea Costello, Senior Staff Attorney for the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund and lead attorney for the National Women's Liberation Plaintiffs. "This decision throws a wrench in the delay tactics of the Obama administration, which has continued to stall putting the Morning-After Pill over-the-counter by subjecting the



FDA's decision making to politics at women's expense."

"This is a watershed moment in the fight for reproductive rights in the United States," stated attorney Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, Executive Director of the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund. "For the first time women and girls will be able to have full access to emergency contraception without the government imposing improper and illegal barriers."

"Women all over the country have been fighting for years to put the Morning-After Pill on the shelf where it belongs," said Erin Mahoney, Plaintiff with National Women's Liberation.

"It is a great victory today that the court agreed that it belongs over-the-counter without restriction. We are going to keep fighting in

opposition to any effort by the Obama administration to overturn this important victory."

The Partnership for Civil Justice Fund (PCJF) represents the plaintiffs, grassroots feminist activists with National Women's Liberation (NWL) and 15-year-old Anaya Kelly in *Tummino v. Hamburg*. The lawsuit was filed along with the Center for Reproductive Rights and Southern Legal Counsel against the Food and Drug Administration and Health and Human Services.

On April 5, the Court ruled in the plaintiffs' favor that there was no scientific basis for the Obama administration to continue to restrict access to emergency contraception. Judge Korman ordered that it be made available to women and girls "without a prescription and without point-of-sale or age restrictions within thirty days."

The Court found that the FDA had improperly restricted this safe and effective contraceptive after election-year "political interference" from the White House, and had done so against the medical and scientific evidence recommending the drug be made readily available.

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Alvin & Friends Restaurant

Former Ford Model & Painter Becomes Restaurant Owner



Alvin Clayton has dreamed of opening his own restaurant ever since working at L.A.'s Georgia in the 1990s. That upscale Melrose Avenue eatery – opened by L.A. Lakers star Norm Nixon with the Roxbury's Brad Johnson – attracted a star-studded crowd with its "southern bistro" cuisine. Clayton has tweaked that idea with Alvin & Friends, located in New Rochelle, N.Y. which offers contemporary cuisine with both Caribbean and Southern flavors.

The Walls of Alvin & Friends are graced with magnificent painting created by himself.

The painter/model/restaurateur, originally from Trinidad, came to the U.S. as a soccer player, who was recruited by Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. He attended on a full academic and athletic scholarship, but his plans to play professionally folded along with the North American Soccer League. At the suggestion of a friend in the business, Clayton visited the Ford modeling agency in New York, and his clean-cut good looks landed him jobs for major fashion magazines like GQ, Vogue, Vanity Fair, Esquire, Glamour and Self.

His work took him all over the world, and it was while living in Paris that he taught himself to paint. His biggest influence was Henri Matisse, whose paintings he studied intently and whose bright color palette reminded him of home.

Today his vivid paintings are featured on the walls of Alvin & Friends as well as the homes of celebrity collectors like Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, and Don Cheadle. (To see more of Clayton's art visit his website, www.alvinclayton.com.)



Alvin & Gwen Clayton



Film About Lost Georgia Slave Cemetery Wins at International Film Festival



ATLANTA – “*I Remember, I Believe*,” the Georgia Department of Transportation’s acclaimed film documenting the discovery and relocation of what is believed to be a lost Middle Georgia slave cemetery, has been selected for two gold prize awards from nearly 80 world-wide entries in an international film festival devoted to exploring human culture.

The 33-minute film, which focuses on efforts at the Avondale Burial Place in Bibb County, received the Best Script and Best Music awards at the Archaeology Channel’s International Film and Video Festival in Eugene, OR. “*I Remember, I Believe*,” a Department collaboration with Georgia Public Broadcasting, New South Associates, Inc., and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), also was cited by festival judges for Honorable Mention (being among the top three entries) in the Best Film, Best Public Education Value, Best Cinematography and Most Inspirational categories.

Georgia DOT was made aware of the unmarked graveyard which came to be known as the Avondale Burial Place during right of way negotiations for a Bibb highway project. Subsequent archaeological digging at the site resulted in the recovery of 101 burials. Historical research and analysis by the Department’s Office of Environmental Services and consulting partner, New South, suggests that Avondale Burial Place was a late 19th/early 20th century cemetery for African-American tenant farmer families and, possibly, African-American slaves. Georgia DOT and New South identified living descendants of some of those individuals buried at the site and re-interred the remains of the 101 individuals at the nearby Bethel AME Church. Descendant families participated in the re-interment services and now have a tangible connection to their ancestors and their heritage.

The film previously received FHWA’s Exemplary Human Environment Initiatives Award, recognizing Georgia DOT’s effort to “improve conditions for human activities while protecting the natural environment.”

“*I Remember, I Believe*” can be viewed at: www.avondaleburialplace.org



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What's New

If anyone knows how to engage an audience, it's [NeNe Leakes](#). And now, the [Real Housewives of Atlanta](#) star will bring her charm to daytime TV. NeNe will serve as a co-host for an upcoming episode of Kris Jenner's new show, *Kris*. NeNe is joining a rotating cast including Joan Rivers, Diddy, Ryan Seacrest and others. Jenner's daughter Khloe will also be a co-host. Among the topics surely to be discussed with Jenner? NeNe's [lavish wedding to Gregg Leakes](#), which will also be featured on [the upcoming Bravo series I Dream of NeNe: the Wedding](#), set to premiere this fall.



NeNe Leakes



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The Ms. Foundation for Women Funds Study Which Finds Mothers in the Restaurant Industry Cannot Afford Child Care and Basic Needs

“Talk to almost any mother working in the restaurant industry and she’ll tell you how tough it is to get any child care, much less child care that provides a nurturing environment for her children,” said NWLC Director of Child Care and Early Learning Helen Blank. “This happens because all too often, women in these jobs struggle with limited incomes, little or no control over their work schedules, and unpredictable and unstable work hours.

Recently, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) released a new report, *The Third Shift: Child Care Needs and Access in the Restaurant Industry*, examining the accessibility and affordability of childcare for mothers in the restaurant industry. Over the course of 6 months, ROC United conducted surveys with more than 200 mothers in New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, Detroit, and Los Angeles -- in order to capture the lived

experience of mothers in the restaurant industry. The report coincides with the premiere of “Nakima,” a short film by Danny Glover’s film company, Lourvecture Films, depicting a day in the life of Nakima, a New York based mother working in the restaurant industry.

According to a 2013 Pew Research Center Report, four in ten households with children under age 18 have a female breadwinner. The restaurant industry employs over ten million workers, making it one of the largest segments of the U.S. economy. Of that 10 million, more than five million are women, two million are mothers, and one million are single mothers with children under the age of 18.

Key findings include:

- Child care is not affordable for mothers working in restaurants. Mothers reported spending an average of 35% of their weekly wages on child care;
- Over 90% of mothers surveyed did



not receive paid sick days to care for themselves or their sick children;

- Eighty-five percent of those surveyed reported that they were unaware of available subsidies or of employer-sponsored programs. Of the 15% that knew assistance was available for child care, less than half received help from the program;
- Almost half of the mothers surveyed reported having an unpredictable schedule; forty percent said their schedule changed on a weekly basis, and 5%

reported that it changed daily;

- Barriers to reliable child care have led to unemployment and underemployment for mothers in the restaurant industry, resulting in being passed over or not considered for promotions and hiring. A third of mothers surveyed said that child care impaired their ability to work desirable shifts, and almost half suffered negative consequences at work because of arriving late or leaving early due to childcare. “Millions of mothers work in the restaurant

industry, one of the nation's largest and fastest growing sectors, earning poverty wages despite working full time," said Saru Jayaraman, co-director of ROC United. "The National Restaurant Association lobbies to keep the federal tipped minimum wage at \$2.13 per hour, to prevent increases in the tipped and full minimum wages across the country, and to deny earned sick time from workers everywhere. The restaurant industry's poverty wages prevent women from being able to afford the childcare that they desperately need, impeding their ability to secure stable employment and provide a sustainable and healthy environment crucial to the early development of their children." To read the full report and learn more about the methodology, visit <http://rocunited.org/the-third-shift>



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Fashion + Passion

National Black Theatre Festival Remembers Founder the Late Larry Leon Hamlin



Larry Leon Hamlin was nationally and internationally known for his profound contributions to Black theater in America. He was celebrated twice at the White House upon receiving two personal invitations from former President and Mrs. William Clinton to attend The Recipients of the National Medal of Arts and The Charles Frankel Prize Awards. He was a professional actor, director and playwright. His acting experience includes stage, film and television. Mr. Hamlin wrote four full-length plays, two info-dramas and directed more than 200 productions. Also, he was the only American producer and artistic director to produce eight **National Black Theatre Festival@s**.

Mr. Hamlin was the founder, producer and artistic director of the National Black Theatre Festival® (NBTF), one of the most historic and culturally significant events, not only in the history of Black theater but also in American theater. This event is held biennially in the City of Winston Salem, NC. Some long-time sponsors include the City of Winston Salem, Wachovia Corporation, The Millennium Fund, Sara Lee Branded Apparel (now Hanesbrands, Inc.) and Reynolds American (formerly R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company).

The festival is currently celebrating its 24th Anniversary. His wife, Sylvia Hamelin now heads the organization and continues in the footsteps of her late husband. For more information about the National Black Theatre Festival, go to www.nbtf.org

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Color of Change the Largest Online Civil Rights Organization Issues Statement on Trayvon Martin Verdict

New York, NY -- Rashad Robinson, Executive Director of ColorOfChange.org, the nation's largest online civil rights organization, issued the following statement:

“George Zimmerman was found “not guilty” of second degree murder for shooting and killing unarmed 17 year old Trayvon Martin in February 2012. This is another tragedy for Black families everywhere, and another instance of how law enforcement and our criminal justice system routinely fail Black people and communities. Were it not for Trayvon’s family and countless supporters taking action, Zimmerman would have never faced a single question about his actions at all. Tonight, as George Zimmerman walks away without penalty, the verdict sends a clear message about the minimal value placed on the lives of young Black men and boys everywhere. And it is also a clear lesson about the power of culture and media to shape negative perceptions and attitudes, with grave consequences. Since Trayvon’s death, widespread media coverage has perpetuated inaccurate and dehumanizing stereotypes of Black youth -- the very kind of depictions that have served to excuse unprovoked violence against young Black men by and boys for years.

“Throughout this trial, we’ve endured a steady stream of media attacks on Trayvon Martin - an innocent, unarmed teenager who was profiled, stalked, and murdered on his way home from buying candy. By amplifying unfounded claims about Trayvon, news media magnified the very same racial stereotypes and false perceptions that put Trayvon’s life in danger in the first place, while ignoring his family’s rightful pleas for justice. Numerous outlets have been passing along unfounded, baseless conjecture as evidence, and reviving deep-seated stereotypes to validate Zimmerman’s defense. This type of newscasting portrays Black teenagers as inherently threatening and violence-prone, but it’s actually the unfair and dehumanizing portrayals in the mass news media that are proven to be life threatening to Black men and boys. We already know that inaccurate media portrayals lead to warped biases against Black people, which lead to negative attitudes and aggressive, harmful treatment by judges, juries, police and others vigilantes wielding dangerous preconceptions like George Zimmerman.

“In a media environment that continues to cast Black men and boys as thugs, it's not surprising that the tragic death of an innocent young man has become a character trial for Black people everywhere. The media’s portrayals cannot be taken lightly when their words and images contribute to lives being put at risk. We must change news media practices and the media landscape to present evenhanded, accurate and multi-dimensional portrayals of Black people, and all people.

“After more than a year waged in battle for justice for Trayvon -- the trial is finally over -- but ColorofChange remains deeply committed to creating a more honest and humane media landscape. We send our love and support to Trayvon’s family and we will continue to demand an end to media, culture, and a criminal justice system that dehumanizes young Black men like Trayvon and enables a culture in which Black lives are seen as less valuable.”



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