

# PAN AFRICAN

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## FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

### MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release  
April 18, 2022

#### **MAHALIA JACKSON *REMEMBER ME* STARRING LEDISI TO OPEN THE 2022 PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL**

*Evening hosted by actor and activist Danny Glover*

**WHO:** **DANNY GLOVER** (*The Color Purple*), Grammy winner **LEDISI**, **COLUMBUS SHORT** ("Scandal"), **JANET HUBERT** ("Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"), **WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON** ("The Steve Harvey Show"), **VANESSA A. WILLIAMS** ("Soul Food"), **KEITH DAVID** ("Greenleaf")

Per tradition, this year's festival will feature a wide variety of celebrity guests and dignitaries in attendance at PAFF's events and screenings.

**WHAT:** Opening night of the Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF), world premiere of *REMEMBER ME, THE MAHALIA JACKSON STORY*

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
Red Carpet @ 5:30PM  
Screening @ 7PM

**WHERE:** The Directors Guild of America (DGA)  
7920 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES** - The 30th Pan African Film and Arts Festival will kick off its in-person return and 13-day run with the world premiere of *REMEMBER ME: THE MAHALIA JACKSON STORY* as its opening night selection on April 19 in Los Angeles at the Directors Guild of America.

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Starring the Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter **Ledisi** in the lead role, **REMEMBER ME: THE MAHALIA JACKSON STORY** will explore the trauma of Jackson's early childhood, and how those experiences help to strengthen her faith in God, and allowed her to use her amazing voice as a vessel for perseverance and unwavering integrity. Ledisi previously played the legendary gospel artist in 2014's *Selma*.

Named after Jackson's classic song "Remember Me," the film will also highlight her career and close friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as her often-overlooked contribution to the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1950s and early 60s. In fact, it was Jackson's consistent encouragement and devotion to equality that inspired King's "I Have A Dream" speech during the March on Washington.

Alongside Ledisi, the film's cast includes Columbus Short, who will portray Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Janet Hubert as Aunt Duke, Wendy Raquel Robinson as Cylestine, Vanessa A. Williams as Lucille, Keith David as Ink Williams, Corbin Bleu as Cab Calloway, and Keith Robinson as Thomas Dorsey.

Written and executive produced by Ericka Nicole Malone and directed by Denise Dowse, **REMEMBER ME: THE MAHALIA JACKSON STORY** is co-executive produced by Phillip E. Robinson and produced by Vince Allen, with Paul Wright III serving as Music Supervisor.

The 30th Pan African Film & Arts Festival Opening Night is sponsored by Stocker Street Creative, Glassdoor, and FX Networks.

PAFF30 will take place in-person April 19 – May 1, 2022, at the Cinemark Baldwin Hills and the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza. The Festival will showcase nearly 200 films, as well as a slew of accompanying filmmaker Q&As and audience engagement opportunities.

PAFF is sponsored in part by the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell through the

Department of Arts and Culture, LA Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, LA Councilmember Curren Price, LA Councilmember Herb Wesson, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, LA Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund with the California Community Foundation, and the LA County COVID-19 Arts Relief Fund administered by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture.

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The 30th Pan African Film & Arts Festival's sponsors include Major Festival Sponsors: Stocker Street Creative, FX Networks, and Glassdoor.

Additional sponsors include: ALLBLK, University of Southern California (USC), Procter & Gamble (P&G), Showtime, Paramount+, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), Union Bank, Sony Pictures Entertainment, STARZ, Unilever (Dove), Kaiser Permanente, Bank of America, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Los Angeles Lakers, Directors Guild of America, Motion Pictures Association, West Basin Municipal Water District, SAGindie, Water Replenishment District, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Theater, Film & Television, 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, LA Rams, IKEA, Cinemark, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, and Warner Media.

### About the Pan African Film Festival

Established in 1992 by Hollywood veterans Danny Glover (*The Color Purple*, *Lethal Weapon*), the late Ja'Net DuBois ("*Good Times*"), and Ayuko Babu (Executive Director), the Pan African Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has remained dedicated to the promotion of Black stories and images through the exhibition of film, visual art, and other creative expression. PAFF is one of the largest and most prestigious Black film festival in the U.S. and attracts local, national, and international audiences. In addition, it is an Oscar qualifying festival for animation and live-action films, and one of the largest Black History Month events in America.

**Press Kit/Assets:** Click [here](#) to download the REMEMBER ME press kit.

**Press Credentials:** We are accepting applications for the 2022 Pan African Film & Arts Festival at [paff.org/pressroom](https://paff.org/pressroom). No walk-up requests will not be granted. Media approved for credentials will receive limited access to red carpet events and screenings and panels on a space-available basis.

### Press Contacts:

[press@paff.org](mailto:press@paff.org)



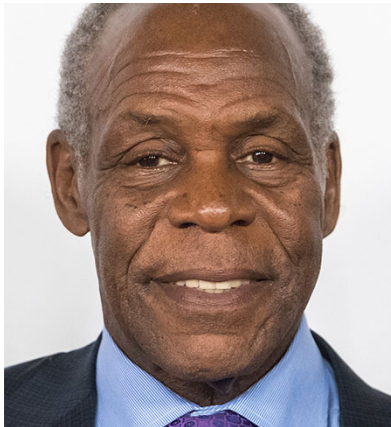


30TH ANNUAL  
**PAN AFRICAN**  
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

**OPENING NIGHT**  
**Remember Me: The Mahalia Jackson Story**



**AYUKO BABU**  
PAFF Executive Director



**DANNY GLOVER**  
PAFF Co-Founder



**DENISE DOWSE**  
Director



**ERICKA NICOLE  
MALONE**  
Writer/EP



**LEDISI**  
Mahalia Jackson



**COLUMBUS  
SHORT**  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



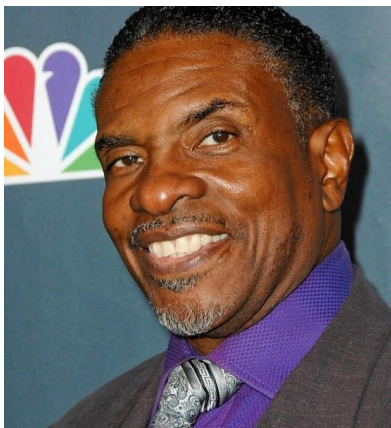
**JANET HUBERT**  
Aunt Duke



**WENDY RAQUEL  
ROBINSON**  
Cylestine



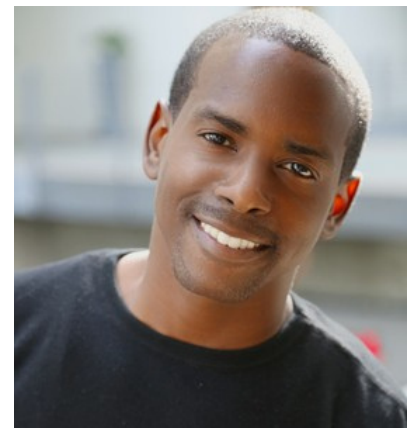
**VANESSA A.  
WILLIAMS**  
Lucille



**KEITH DAVID**  
Ink Williams



**CORBIN BLEU**  
Cab Calloway



**KEITH  
ROBINSON**  
Thomas Dorsey