VINTER 2022/2023 ISSUE

CULTURED FOCUS AWARDS 2022 EXCELLENCE

ACTOR SPOTLIGHT FRANCESCA VAN HORNE



TOP HOLIDAY FILM 2022

THE MODERN DAY FILMMAKER WITH

ireeyk Unen ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE





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CULTURED FOCUS MAGAZINE CELEBRATING ARTS, CULTURE AND HUMANITY

Editor's Note

Welcome to Cultured Focus.

The magazine commenced with a vision of providing an entertainment magazine to highlight arts and culture from around the world. Our aim has been to share unique talent, celebrate cultural differences, and elevate marginalized voices, among others.

Cultured Focus had an incredible year focused on celebrating amazing artists and their achievements from Dubai Expo 2020 to Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, Venice Film

Festival and many others. We are proud of all the winners of the 2022 Cultured Focus Awards and thank them for participating in our Diversity in Film Symposium at the 79th Venice Film Festival.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to celebrate arts, culture and humanity with the intention to impact the world and leave it better than we found it.

Taylor Re Lynn

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Cultured Focus Magazine

Since 2016

Cultured Focus is an entertainment news magazine that provides the latest in arts and culture within the United States and globally.

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THE MODERN DAY FILMMAKER Advocating for Social Change with Evgeny Afireevsky

By: Taylor Lynn

In modern times, activism takes many forms. Demonstrators and commentators alike both see themselves as activists and advocates of various causes and rightly so.

A fter all, all activists can play a part when it comes to raising awareness vis-à-vis a number of important issues. Having a positive impact on the world is not limited to one position or one role. This is a principle that seems to have been wholly embraced by Russian-born American filmmaker Evgeny Afineevsky, who works day and night to achieve goals related to social change. Through his films, Afineevsky seeks to enlighten the world about the plights people are facing worldwide.

At a time of disinformation, when antidemocratic forces are going full swing, his films serve the purpose of acting as a light in the dark that guides the way towards truth and objectivity. However, although the truth is where he wants us to arrive, you are duly warned that the journey there might not always be pleasant. In fact, in his documentaries, Afineevsky does not shy away from showcasing the suffering that comes with war. "War is hell, and there are no victors in it, only victims", it has been stated. Through his documentaries, Afineevsky makes sure that this message is passed on to his viewers.

Although he's well known for his latest documentary, Freedom On Fire: Ukraine's Fight For Freedom, which was just screened at the 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival this September, and for which he received the "Excellence in Film



Award" during the Cultured Focus Awards and Diversity in Film Symposium, the truth is that Afineevsky's endeavors started well before 2022. In fact, at the age of 22, Afineevsky was already working in the film industry.

However, his big break came about in 2015. It was at this time that he released Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom, which deals with a civil rights movement that quickly morphs into a revolution. In this film, Afineevsky covers the 2013-2014 Ukrainian Euromaidan protests, which led to Russia's unlawful and illegal annexation of Crimea. In 2017, on the other hand, the director also released "Cries from Syria", which deals with the Syrian refugee crisis, which is still ongoing. Given all of this history, it is reasonable to conclude that Afineevsky's films are less of an individual project and more of a way of life.

In fact, it's almost as if the director lives and breathes to empower and recognize the situations that others find themselves in. One of the most important concepts he manages to capture in his latest documentary is the resilience and strength of Ukrainian women and female journalists, to whom his documentary is dedicated.

"It is great to see women fulfilling duties in the war equal to men. A lot of characters in this movie are women. It is a testament to women's empowerment and a testament to their ability to be equal to men", the director stated during the film symposium. "They have the toughest jobs not just from raising kids, but saving their lives, not just to be reporters but to be reporters in the war, and on the front lines", he continued. "For me, it is dedication to all these journalists and women who bring the truths every day to educate the world and to give this important information that we are missing. It is important to emphasize the women's role in this war and pay tribute to women and journalists who seek the truth and give their lives for freedom of speech," Afineevsky stated.

Commenting about the war itself, the filmmaker notes that history does indeed repeat itself. What humanity has to do is to learn from the past so that it does not make the same mistakes in the future, he observes. However, when asked if he thinks lessons are being learnt, Afineevsky replies in the negative. "Every century gives us a person who has an imperialistic desire, and it [always] ends badly...Unfortunately, the lessons are the same in every century", he said. However, before he concludes his argument, he adds an important proviso: "The difference now is that the weapons are much more massive and destructive". It goes without saying that he's right in making this statement, even more so because Russia has been threatening to use a tactical nuclear weapon in recent months.

However, Russian threats don't deter Afineevsky, who believes that Ukrainian strength, determination and resilience can push the country towards victory. "I just hope that my movie can bring Ukraine one step closer to victory and raise a call for action to stand for Ukraine," he observed.

Given Afineevsky's history of working towards change, it is only reasonable to conclude that his work in the film industry is not only courageous but also exemplary. The hope is that through his work, others will be inspired to use their talents to leave a positive impact on humanity. What is sure, however, is that as a modern-day filmmaker, Afineevsky has definitely managed to punch above his weight when it comes to advocating for social change. Others, too, are definitely welcome to follow in his footsteps...



Photo Credit: Reuters/Alamy

Evgeny Afineevsky with cast members Nataliia Nagorna (L) and Hanna Zaitseva (R)

NEXT-GEN STAR FOR THE NEXT-GEN SUIT



OSS brand ambassador and TikTok's most followed star, Khaby Lame, is the face of this campaign. Khaby has shown that he is more than just a social media star – he is a true BOSS, who leads by example. With his undeniable humor and intelligent wit, in combination with his bold self-expression, he is also an inspiration for all ages. This makes him the perfect fit to showcase the versatility and technical performance of the knitted woolblend suit.

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Meet BOSS's latest 'Suit of the Future' - the knitted Merino wool-blend suit. Essentially the knitted woolblend suit is an evolution of the classic suit towards comfort, innovative material, and performance.

It is a bold innovation in comfort, craft, style, and sustainability. Designed and developed in partnership with The Woolmark Company, the suit's characteristic sleek silhouette is crafted using an innovative construction method. This disruptive technique requires no seams, cutlines, or technical trims, ensuring that no fabric goes to waste during assembly.

By its very nature, wool offers breathability and stretching - key features sought in the development of a BOSS Performance style. Merino wool's unmatched natural qualities, ranging from temperature regulation to natural elasticity, superior softness and resistance to stains, odors and wrinkles, adapt to the needs of any occasion. Additionally, an exclusively developed yarn lends the suit its greater flexibility, durability, and comfort.

The knitted Merino wool-blend suit continues BOSS' legacy of tailoring innovation with a design approach that is oriented to meet the needs of today's pioneer, today's BOSS - that's you! Engineered for performance, the suit has the comfort and ease of knitwear with the elegance of tailoring, making it the perfect choice for life on the move. With the 'Suit of the Future', you are ready for any event or occasion. This product is available globally, in select BOSS Stores and on boss.com.

LEXUS COLLABORATES with designer harris reed to reimagine dorothy's ruby slippers for ALL-NEW RX



In collaboration with Harris Reed, the acclaimed fashion designer known for challenging expectations, Lexus has reimagined an icon from "The Wizard of Oz" – Dorothy's ruby red slippers. Under license from Warner Bros. Consumer Products, the concept celebrates the automaker's daring redesign of its bestselling, most iconic vehicle, the allnew

2023 Lexus RX. It is an extension of the vehicle's launch campaign that reminds us to never lose our edge with a modern interpretation of one of the most celebrated films of all time. What if, in "The Wizard of Oz," Dorothy had ignored the advice to "follow the yellow brick road" and took the road less traveled instead?

As a gender fluid designer, I've always been fueled and inspired by choosing the path less traveled.

With the "Ruby Red Rims," Harris Reed and Lexus present the RX as the ultimate vehicle for inspiring drivers to veer off of the beaten path. "As a gender fluid designer, I've always been fueled and inspired by choosing the path less traveled," said Harris Reed. "With the bold new design of the Lexus RX and the cinematic Hollywood classic, 'The Wizard of Oz,' I took inspiration from the literal

interpretation of choosing your own path and pursuing a new journey down the red brick road, with a nod to the film's iconic ruby slippers and my own designs."

> The "Ruby Red Rims" RX will make additional appearances throughout the country later this year and next. For more information on the 2023 RX, visit www.lexus.com/ newRX.

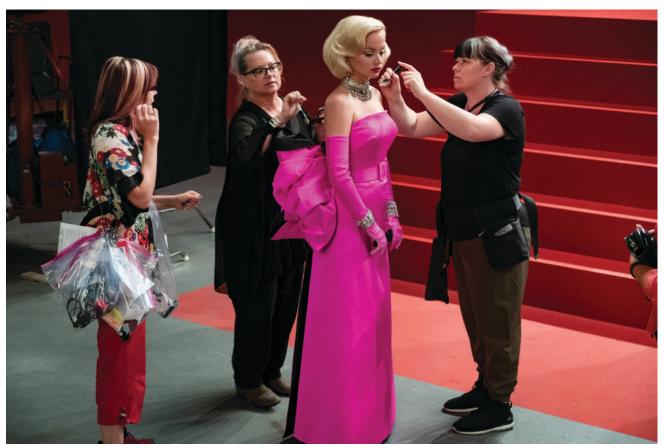


Photo Credit: Matt Kennedy / NETFLIX

An Inside Look Behind Ana de Armas' Iconic Transformation into Marilyn Monroe

By: Nikoleta Morales

From director Andrew Dominik, and based on the bestselling novel by Joyce Carol Oates, the NC-17 film 'Blonde' boldly re-imagines the life of one of Hollywood's most enduring icons, Marilyn Monroe. From her volatile childhood as Norma Jeane, through her rise to stardom and romantic entanglements, 'Blonde' blurs the lines of fact and fiction to explore the widening split between her public and private selves.

ultured Focus Magazine spoke to the makeup and hair department heads, Jaime Leigh McIntosh and Tina Roesler Kerwin, behind Ana de Armas' iconic transformation

as Marylyn Monroe. The film has received both positive and negative feedback from the audience but Ana's transformation into Norma Jeane and Marylyn seizes to amaze many viewers.



Jaime Leigh McIntosh /Photo Credit: Brett Stanley

Tina Roesler Kerwin

The NC-17 film can currently be seen on Netflix and in selected theaters.

"I appreciate when a film challenges the norm. It's not a normal Marylyn movie. It's based on a book and a novel. It is great to see something that makes you feel. Just feel. Marylyn had a quote - "If you can't accept me at my worst you don't deserve me at my best." We did a bit of both!" said Kerwin.

Both McIntosh and Kerwin worked tirelessly with a small team of two under them to make the director's 10-year vision and research of Marylyn Monroe come true. With time not on their side, they managed to not only deliver Dominik's vision but to transform Ana de Armas into her most iconic look yet as Marylyn Monroe.

"All I could do was watch Ana's performance.

She was amazing," said McIntosh.

Transforming Ana was not an easy process as one would imagine. It took the team a couple of tries to get the Marilyn look right as well as a few misses and hits in the beginning. But thanks to advice from the director, the team was able to make Ana's transformation successful. "Don't put Marilyn's makeup on Ana, transform Ana into Marilyn," Kerwin recalls the director telling her.

"It was very emotional for all of us! We figured it out and we knew what the next two months would look like. It was also emotional for Ana," said Kerwin in regards to the first time they transformed Ana into Marilyn.

According to McIntosh and Kerwin, Ana's transformation took on an average two to two and a half hours each day. They would then take



Photo Credit: Matt Kennedy / NETFLIX

everything apart and do it all over again.

McIntosh said the process can be very disconnecting. "The first time we tested bold caps and the wig was down here. It took a while before we saw everything done at the same time and you only get Ana for a certain amount of time," she added. She had to use prosthetics in order to make Marylyn's wig look natural on Ana's dark hair and change many different wigs such as a long brunette wig, a longer blonde and creamy blonde to achieve the 50s, 60s look.

She said part of the challenge was not having enough wigs, creating a natural head of hair, and trying to copy Norma's natural hair and the style. But the biggest compliment that they received is that despite the challenges, they made her and the cast look "real," which according to Kerwin is the biggest compliment they could receive.

"For everybody that worked on the film the biggest challenge was time. We had a lot to accomplish in a short period of time. We were shooting in color and in black and white. Trying to find colors in black and white and in color and still match the famous footage was a challenge. It was an enormous amount of work and I was surprised when we pulled it off," said Kerwin.

In regards to the feedback they received, Kerwin said: "This is one of those movies not only appreciated by peers but regular makeup and hair people. It is reaching audiences past the film business. It's got its own legs. It's unusual when a film comes out and challenges the viewer so much. It's a hard path to walk in Monroe's shoes with illness, childhood trauma, and male dominated industries. Those are hard shoes to walk in."

"I think controversy is great! It's art and people are talking about it!" added McIntosh who also urged people to go see the film and talk about it.

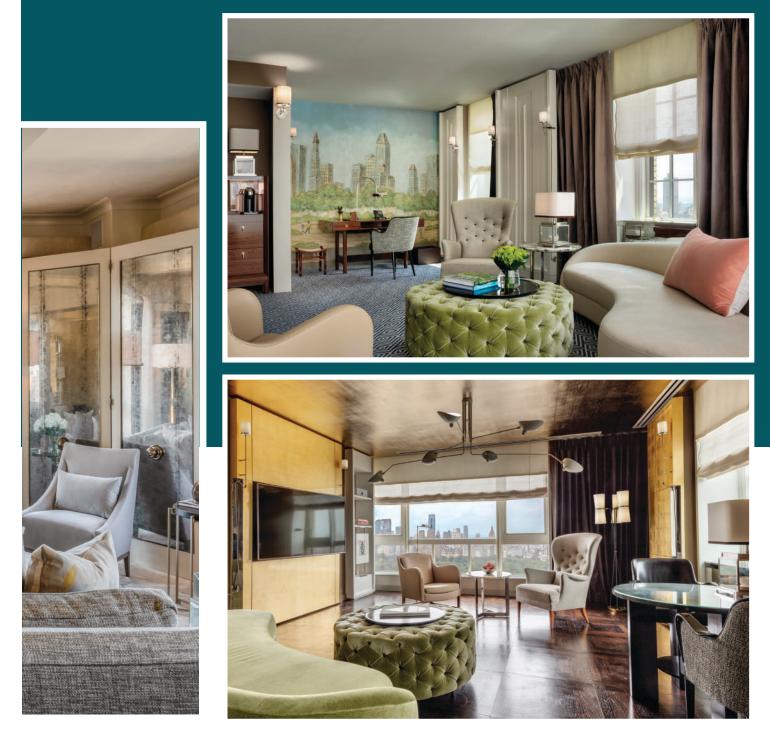
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Singer Gola Pioneers **'CHANGE'** FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN IRAN

By: Nikoleta Morales



Images: Laetitia Dumez

About Change



'CHANGE' illuminates the struggle of the Iranian people with clarity, truth, and passion. In a society where those that suffer the most are systemically silenced, Gola takes it upon herself to amplify the horrific tragedies inflicted upon countless Iranian families in hopes of catalyzing social reform. The album is not only a beacon of hope for the future of Iranian and Middle Eastern women, but also immortalizes the forced sacrifices and premature deaths endured by women like Mahsa Amini who was recently beaten to death by the morality police in Iran because of a couple strands of her hair falling outside of her scarf.

Listen on Soundcloud | Instagram | Spotify

Release date: Listeners can stream 'CHANGE' on all major streaming platforms out now.

For more visit: www.evergreenent.com/gola-change

OMEGA's LATEST SPACE WATCH TRACKS THE RHYTHMS OF THE RED PLANET

The creators of the first watch worn on the moon have anticipated the next giant leap with a stylish new Speedmaster designed to measure every moment on planet Earth - and Mars. Made in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), OMEGA's Speedmaster X-33 Marstimer is everything the name suggests.

Providing power to the new Marstimer is OMEGA's 5622 Calibre. A highly precise, thermo compensated, quartz movement, which handles the watch's many digital and analogue functions with speed and efficiency.

For President and CEO Mr. Raynald Aeschlimann, producing the Marstimer was a must for a brand with space travel in its bones. "Anyone interested in space, or even science fiction, is obsessed with Mars. It has generated so much curiosity, so many incredible stories. We have even created a name for its imaginary inhabitants. It's so close yet so far. We long to walk across its surface. To be here on Earth and able to track its movements, gives the term timepiece a whole new meaning. I'm thrilled with this new addition to the famous Speedmaster family."

Although a crewed mission to the red planet may still be years away, OMEGA's new Speedmaster X-33 Marstimer is available now, at multiple locations across Earth. A must for professionals, space fans and passionate collectors, it's stylish to wear, compelling to operate and makes a perfect companion piece to OMEGA's Speedmaster Moonwatch.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.OMEGAWATCHES.COM

Exiled Iranian Singer Gola's New Album 'Change' **Empowers Women Of Iran**

By: Nikoleta Morales

umerous protests in Iran and around the world sparked by the death of 22-yearold Iranian woman Mahsa Amini have now become a global movement for change, freedom and human rights. Amini was brutally beaten to death and detained by Iran's morality police for breaking the Iranian law, which requires women to properly cover their hair with a headscarf, Hijab.

Cultured Focus Magazine spoke with exiled Iranian singer Golazine, internationally known as Gola (meaning "flower" in Iranian), about her experience as an Iranian woman, her new album and what change needs to happen in Iran. Her new album 'CHANGE' makes a bold statement directly to the Iranian women in the fight for gender equality in spite of Iran's oppressive Hijab mandates and human rights violations. "Mahsa Amini was iust a normal girl walking

on the

streets of Iran. She was arrested and beaten so brutally by the morality police and died. Morality police are vans with both women and men (because men can't touch you) patrolling everywhere and making sure everyone's Hijab is appropriate and to the standard of the country. You must be fully covered and if by any chance your hair is out you can be arrested, kidnapped and end up somewhere you don't know, and your family won't know," said Gola.

> Known by Iranians as the Lioness of Iran, Gola delivers a divine manifestation of bravery, advocacy, and justice with 'CHANGE.' She is simultaneously beloved by the Iranian people and outcast by the government, having been exiled from the country for over a decade, as she continues making radical statements advocating for gender equality that renounce the Iranian governments' oppressive laws and punishments inflicted upon Iranian women.

"What is happening [in Iran] is overdue. Women are living in suppressed situations I lived in as well. Their tactic is to create fear. When you are in prison so much can happen to you - you can be tortured, raped, your voice can't be heard," said Gola. "I am so proud of the new generation because they don't take this anymore. Thanks to social media and hashtags we live in a different world where we can be each other's voice."

Gola became the face of the "Hijab No Hijab" movement in Iran after her self-taped and directed video for "Haghame" ('It Is My Right'), which went viral on the National Day of Hijab. She has been arrested many times during her youth for opposing the Iranian government and her career as a solo female pop singer is a severe enough crime to get her arrested and likely killed if she ever attempted to return to Iran.

"I always wanted to remove my Hijab when I was seven. I was arrested many times back home. Once they broke my arm and I couldn't go back and study music in the university and I was playing instruments. It suffocated me. It made me small. I felt like I had to do something about it. I have been fighting against the Hijab for more than 40 years now," said Gola. "I decided to sing my Hijab song in front of the camera as a protest and to make sure the government can hear my voice. It was shared by millions. I believe it helped unite women with the message to the government that we no longer follow your rules."

Gola said that the Hijab is the most important pillar of Iran. From a very young age they have to wear a Hijab to go to school and to have education. "Every morning when you go to school they check your nail polish, your bags to make sure you have no makeup, and you must live in the way that they want you to live. What the control does to you by the time you grow up is your visions are so narrow because what you wanted to do was impossible to you. You become someone who thinks anything is impossible," said Gola. As there is a global push to raise awareness throughout the world for the current events and human rights violations occurring in Iran, Gola says it is important to raise voices and advocate for change.

"I want to thank all the people who are standing by the Iranian people. We are being heard. Thank you for being by our side and making

sure our voice is heard. Be loud. Share it and let's get rid of the dictatorship. It's like cancer - if you don't get rid of it today it will kill us all one by one. Help us get rid of it," urged Gola.

Gola's music is her way to be loud and be heard. Her new album illuminates the struggle of the Iranian people with clarity, truth, and passion. The album is not only a beacon of hope for the future of the Iranian and Middle Eastern women, but also an intimate look into Gola's own struggles as an Iranian woman.

"The album is the story of my life and everyday life for the women of Iran. I imagined living in a country that is peaceful and free. That inspired me to see a different Iran and the only way to change is to bring awareness and be loud," said Gola. "I hope listeners will come to my world and the millions of Iranian girls and women and will feel our pain and our hope too. I want to use my music towards change, humanity and making a difference in this world. I believe in the power of music and how it can change people's behavior."



Gola continues to break barriers and empower girls. Her music and videos have garnered millions of listens and views on streaming platforms like YouTube, iTunes, Spotify, Radio Javan and others. Her work has previously caught the attention of major media outlets such as i-D. The Times and The Sunday Times UK, TMRW Magazine, and

Hunger Magazine, while she continues releasing projects that amplify her mission to spread empowerment, peace, and love.

"I loved Madonna and I used to wear my hair like her. I wanted to ride my bicycle and I decided to shave my hair. Every time I chose freedom as a child. That is very important right now. Girls and women in Iran are not fighting for equality but for human rights for their and the next generation. They are so brave. They are facing bullets and guards. They know that they may never go home. They may be arrested, tortured, may end up dead. I came out of Iran not only to pursue music and singing but to make sure every woman can live freely and the way they deserve to live in Iran in the future," said Gola.

Gola was exiled from Iran and immigrated to London to pursue her passion and to be free. Despite missing her country, family and friends, Gola believes she is on a mission to make a change in the world.

"I can't go back to Iran because I chose to

sing," said Gola. "Moving to England liberated me as a person and showed me that anything is possible. As women we are strong. We can make anything happen in the world. I miss my friends, my rose garden I grew up in, my family but if I go back I will be arrested. I want to make sure the next generation do not need to leave Iran to pursue their passions or talk freely. I want to see Iran as a free country where anything is possible and not fearful because Iran is a beautiful country. Our culture is poetry, music and is very rich. The scenery is beautiful and the food is amazing," said Gola.

Her transition to a new culture wasn't easy. The process to immigrate from Iran was difficult and she had to learn how to find her own feminine power in a foriegn country where she was free.

"It is extremely difficult to leave Iran. As a girl who has lived under suppression, it's a bit of a culture shock. You have so many choices but it is tough to earn money, to follow your passion, to find your power and to realize you are a person [on your own] and you make a difference in this world. It is important to know that it is not easy for people coming out of Iran. I couldn't speak English when I came. It was difficult but not impossible," said Gola who now believes she has found her true and authentic self.

Her message to everyone is to be loud and be united. "If our dictators are united, power will win over humanity. That is what is happening right now. We need to live in a world where humanity wins over power. We need to be united and loud. They are killing their own people on the streets right now and they don't care. What do you think they will do when they have nuclear power? They will kill everyone and no one will be safe," said Gola. "We need to live in a world that respects our choices, otherwise we can't live happily and peacefully."

Gola's album "CHANGE" is available on Spotify and other streaming services.

Listen on Soundcloud | Instagram | Spotify





GODIVA Chocolatier, the global leader in premium chocolate, was founded in Brussels in 1926 by Belgian Chocolatier, Pierre Draps. As GODIVA delivers upon its promise of "opening people's eyes to a more wonderful world," customers can expect to find GODIVA in many fine retailers, supermarkets, drug stores, online, and, depending on the market, at boutique retail locations, cafes, and GODIVA Delight, too.

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN FILM Cultured Focus Awards 2022 & Diversity in Film Symposium

By: Margaux Paul and Taylor Lynn



As the film industry continues to grapple with issues of diversity and inclusion, it is more important than ever that we celebrate those taking a stand and advocating for change. One such group of individuals who have made significant strides in this area are the four honorees who were highlighted for their excellence in film at the Cultured Magazine's Annual Awards and Diversity in Film Symposium.



hese four honorees are "Culturepreneurs" in society. By giving their activism and work the spotlight it deserves, we hope to showcase the importance of standing up for what is right despite societal and governmental pressures for things to remain the way they are. These four honorees were Pino Calabrese, Evgeny Afineevsky, Daphne Di Cinto, and Ainslee Alem Robson.

These award winners have demonstrated tremendous courage and dedication in advocating for greater diversity and inclusion in the film industry, using their voices to call out



unfair practices and highlight the need for change. And not only do they speak out on these issues, but they create real change through their work. They have paved the way for other filmmakers to follow suit and take a stand, showing us all that we must continue to speak out against inequality in Hollywood if we want to see lasting change in the industry.

At the Cultured Magazine's Annual Awards and Diversity in Film Symposium, the esteemed Italian actor Pino Calabrese was honored with the Cultured Focus Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his illustrious and fruitful career that spanned the stage, film, and television for more than 50 years. At the 2019 Sorrento Film Festival, he was recognized for his work in the film "Breaths." During the event, Calabrese made the following remarks: "I would like to envision a world in which each individual could be expressed on screen. We must never lose sight of diversity as a source of wealth."

Evgeny Afineevsky, who was previously nominated for both the Academy Award and the Emmy Award, was also honored. His critically acclaimed films investigate the independence and dignity of people, notwithstanding the presence of war or hardship experienced. Documentaries directed by Afineevsky are works of art because they expertly delve into the lives and stories of regular people and offer them a voice. Through his work, Afineevsky emphasizes how important every voice is to be heard.

His latest acclaimed documentary film "Freedom On Fire: Ukraine's Fight For Freedom", was screened at The 79th Venice International Film Festival.

Daphne Di Cinto is not

only a renowned playwright, director, and producer but also an accomplished actress. Her film, "Il Moro," has already been recognized with several awards, the most recent of which was the Best Director of a Foreign Short Film at the Madrid International Film Festival 2022. She was awarded the Cultured Focus Visionary in Film award for her work.

Her II Moro film, which was screened during the event, focuses on the son of a servant - Alessandro de' Medici - who became the Duke of Florence. The period drama is set during Italy's Renaissance and based on the life of Alessandro de' Medici, the first black head of state in Europe.

The piece aims to give voice and representation to Europeans of African descent. Di Cinto, who played Sarah Basset in the Netflix series Bridgerton, explains "Il Moro aims to be an ode to selflove for Black-Italians, Afropeans and the African diaspora, a reminder that we are an integral part of European history beyond the way it has portrayed us up until now". She adds that "this isn't just black history, it's an intersection, the prelude to a diverse society that should have been honored generations ago. Part of Greenlight Project's mission is to spotlight characters that have been painted out of the picture and restore a positive and inspiring perception of black identity today."

And Ainslee Alem Robson won the Cultured Focus Award for Innovation in Film. Her mixed expertise in philosophy and digital media gives her liberatory storytelling tactics. Through a cross-cultural, feminist, and first-generation American lens, she creates worlds centered on decolonization tales that dissect identity, illusion, hierarchy, and colonial legacies using cinema and developing digital art tools to express her message.

Robson had her film "KANDAKA" screened at the Venice Production Bridge. It was part of the Venice-Gap market, where hopefuls go to find gap financing to complete films. KANDAKA is about the female African ruler, Queen Amanirenas, who led Kushite armies in victories against the Romans and Emperor Augustus. Her previous works were in the art and virtual reality space, winning awards for the latter with Ferenj: A Graphic Memoir in Virtual Reality.

Both Di Cinto and Robson have created films that highlight historical black leaders and rulers during the Italian Renaissance and Roman Empire's, respectively. An era so whitewashed in history books and culture, you'd believe



people of African descent didn't exist or had no positions of authority. Both directors are shattering stereotypes and breaking down barriers to woman in film.

These four honorees are change-makers in the film industry, striving to create a more inclusive space for diverse opinions and people from all corners of society. By using their platforms to shed light on important causes related to representation in film, these award winners are leading the charge for a more inclusive and equitable future for the film world. And we owe it to them to continue supporting their efforts and advocating for the changes they are calling for. So let's all take a stand and continue to push for greater diversity and inclusion in Hollywood, just as these inspiring award winners have done. After all, it is only by working together that we can

truly make a difference.

In addition to the award recipients, Dr Justin Randolph Thompson also shared some thoughts on diversity and inclusion at the symposium. Thompson is an artist, a professor, and the founder of **Black History Month Florence** (BHMF). His work explores historic implications of triumph, victory and ascension by recontextualizing references from Roman antiguity and mending these with aspects of African-American culture, both past and present. "Throughout the archive in Italy," Thompson said, "there's a presence that dates back into antiquity of a black presence in this country, but the knowledge of that is not spread. It's not around. One of the layers of challenges is the fact that when these stories are only circulated amongst really small circles of academics, then we have the challenge of getting them out."

Venice Film Festival Committee Member, journalist and film critic Angela Prudenzi highlighted the importance of women's voices in cinema and spoke on initiatives that further that mission including the Women in Cinema: An Inclusive Project. WICIP is the first international project aimed at promoting Italian cinema written, produced, and directed by women, which is also available in an accessible version. It was selected as a Special Project by the Italian Ministry of Culture. The project includes 5 films selected among both fiction features and documentaries. Based on that. there will be screenings as part of the core programme. This is an invaluable opportunity for a true exchange of ideas among women authors, researchers and producers of different nationalities, as well as a chance to develop joint production projects and/or lay the foundation for specific studies.



Evgeny Afineevsky

Pino Calabrese

Daphne di Cinto

Ainslee Alem Robson

Dr Justin Randolph Thompson

The Cultured Focus Symposium on Diversity in Film was led by award-winning actress and writer Francesca Van Horne. The meeting was led by journalist Ekaterina Shevliakova.

Other celebrity guests in attendance included members

of Il Moro's talented cast including Alberto Boubakar Malanchino, Andrea Melis, Lorenzo Tronconi, Loretta Grace, Ira Fronten, Aida Diouf, Judith Saint Jermain, Cecilia De Pasquale, and Charity Dago. The event was hosted by film producer Taylor Re Lynn.



Angela Prudenzi Speaking at the Diversity in Film Symposium



BEST COLOR MAKEUP ITALY: **The Best Beauty Looks For the Red Carpet**

By: Ekaterina Shevliakova

Best Color Offers Cutting-Edge Quality Products

Best Color is a makeup brand based in Italy, specializing in makeup applications for all occasions. Their high-quality makeup pieces feature a wide range of products, such as foundation, face makeup, eye makeup, lip color, and various makeup accessories.

B est Color offers cutting-edge products: dermatologically, ophthalmologically, clinically tested, approved by the strictest legislations such as the USA, JAPAN, and CE, and strictly cruelty-free. Their highquality products are made possible by carefully choosing raw materials and respecting nature and 'the environment.

In addition, Best Color Makeup offers a wide variety of elegant makeup products that represents you. So whether you want to

go from glam to natural makeup, the brand has the best products to make you look glamorous at every turn. Most importantly, the application of makeup products is easy to use thanks to the innovative packaging of each product.

With twenty years of experience, Best Color Makeup | Italy offers you professional makeup products and guarantees fantastic color payoff, longevity of the makeup, and quality product for the price.

PRODUCTS OFFERS

Bests Color offers products such as:



Foundation:

You may shop a variety of foundations, from compact and liquid foundations to stick foundations.



Concealers:

You may shop for concealers, and these help you to cover up blemishes, dark scars, and hyperpigmentation, or you may use a concealer that is a shade lighter to create the perfect highlight look.



Face Powders:

Best Color also offers face powder that you may use to set your makeup or to help absorb oils on your skin. You may opt for a translucent powder that is excellent for all skin colors, or you may choose to shop for their compact pressed powder.



Blush

Add color to your skin with their 3D effect blush. Their blush accentuates your face and helps to feature your cheekbones for a more sculpted look.



Lipsticks:

Choose from their variety of lipstick colors, from crimson red to berry plum. Their lipsticks are for all occasions and all seasons.



Eyeshadows:

You may choose from their variety of eye makeup for your makeup.



Mascara Devil Lashes:

Devil's eyelashes ...

Give your lashes a sensational look with our new BestColor DEVIL LASHES mascara, the result of a perfect combination of brush and liquid formula, to offer a volumizing and lengthening effect that lasts all day.



Nail Polish:

Their nail polish has over ten colors, and their formulation is non-toxic. Their new formula allows for an easy and light application that gives extreme shine and coverage for bright nails

Best Color Makeup Brand was Featured at Venice Film Festival



At the 79th Venice Film Festival, Best Color Makeup joined other known makeup brands such as Armani to provide unforgettable makeup glamour. Best Color Makeup worked to help achieve the stunning makeup looks for celebrities that graced the red carpet.

Best Color Makeup brand sponsored makeup for the 'Culture d Focus Awards and Diversity in Film Symposium' during the 79th Venice Film Festival presenting each guest with a gift bag and providing makeup services for journalist.

> Jestcolor il make up italiano

For more information on Best Color Makeup Brand, you may contact them at **www.bestcolor.it** or follow on Instagram/Facebook @ bestcolormakeup.

ANNOUNCES FIRST



Stuart Weitzman brand is celebrating its first global collaboration with the launch of the Disney x Stuart Weitzman Capsule Collection. With the goal of driving brand heat and gaining new consumer and consumer insights, this truly epic collaboration brings together both brands' most iconic silhouettes - the worldrenowned characters, Disney's Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, and Stuart Weitzman's globally recognized footwear styles - to create a collection to delight

THE COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE ON STUARTWEITZMAN.COM

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Francesea (Jan Horne A Portrait of a Dynamic Storyteller

By: Lisa Reynolds

Francesca Van Horne is a creative chameleon. She's sunk her teeth into the role of writer, director and actor, on both stage and screen. Van Horne was recently invited to moderate the industry leader panel at the Venice Film Festival - Cultured Focus Awards & Diversity in Film Symposium. The event showcased her incredible capacity as both a journalist and actor as she added depth and insight to the event.

er successful moderation of the symposium is likely a product of the diversity and richness of her creative career. Van Horne's writing and performances bring an authenticity to storytelling that can only arise from the trenches of personal experience. Her own journey through an abusive relationship that ended in divorce, set her on a path of personal growth and healing. Her dynamic performance in the one-woman show, 'Tales from the Trundle' saw her transform into 13 diverse characters – her ability to guide audiences through a raw and



emotional journey to self-love and freedom is quite remarkable. It's no surprise 'Tales from the Trundle' has seen worldwide success following its first series at the prestigious 7th Annual Festival of 'The United Solo' in New York.



Beyond her impressive work on the stage, Francesca has also taken on roles as both producer and actor for numerous successful productions including the indie film 'El Gallo', 'Dancing Through It' theatre production and the 'Dream Sequence' short film.

In light of this success, Van Horne went on to develop and perform in a sequel entitled 'Stumble' – a clever play on words inspired by her experiences with online dating apps such as Bumble. The 45-minute comedy piece sees Van Horne once again morph herself into a disparate assortment of relatable and believable characters. An overarching theme behind her work is a commitment to sharing relatable truths – exploring life's highs and lows and mistakes and triumphs.

Beyond her impressive work on the stage, Francesca has also taken on roles as both producer and actor for numerous successful productions including the indie film 'El Gallo', 'Dancing Through It' theatre production and the 'Dream Sequence' short film. One of her more recent projects includes her first feature screenplay, 'Two Sisters' - named as a finalist at the Manhattan Film Festival 2022. It's exciting to consider how her involvement with future projects will contribute to the creative industry at large – keep your eyes peeled!

Without question, Van Horne is a creator at her core. Through her writing and acting, she invites audiences to navigate the full spectrum of their humanity and life experiences. She is at her greatest sharing authentic stories that translate. It's safe to say, if Francesca Van Horne is telling a story, it will be well worth a listen.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.francescavanhorne.com



WILLIAMS SONOMA

CALIFORNIA

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WILLIAMS SONOMA Expands Hold Everything Collection



Williams Sonoma, a brand portfolio member of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. (NYSE: WSM), the world's largest digital-first, design-led and sustainable home retailer, recently announced the expansion of the popular Hold Everything collection. The versatile collection offers customers organizational, storage and cleaning solutions for every room in the home. The new additions to the Hold Everything line will provide customers with additional designs to maximize space and provide organizational solutions in a clean, modern aesthetic.

The new Hold Everything collection includes sleek functional storage for countertops, shelves, refrigerators and pantry. Designed for function and style, the new in-drawer organizers, stacking shelf-risers, and bins provide custom storage solutions for cabinets and drawers, while products designed for the refrigerator allow customers to take advantage of stackable storage that keeps food easily visible and within reach. Pantry storage products recently added to the Hold Everything collection, keep food fresh and organized with stacking glass containers and airtight ashwood lids.

"As customers continue to spend more time in their

home than ever before, we are seeing an increased interest in storage solutions and products that help with cleaning and organization," said Williams Sonoma President Felix Carbullido. "Our design teams will continue to develop the Hold Everything collection to provide smart, sustainable solutions to address the evolving needs of our customers."

The complete Hold Everything collection is now available at Williams Sonoma stores and on the Williams Sonoma website, www.williams-sonoma.com/holdeverything.



Top HOLIDAY FILMS of 2022

By: Brendan Luck

The holidays are one of the most popular times for cinema, and why that is should come as no surprise. Since most families are afforded time away from their busy work and school schedules, most opt to spend some of that free time visiting their local cinema to see one of the new and exciting releases.

Here are some of the new films set to hit the theatres this holiday season we recommend.



1. Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

RELEASE DATE: November 11, 2022

While some of the recent Marvel films haven't been able to capture audiences quite as well as some of their most classic releases (we're looking at you, The Eternals) – this sequel to 2018's beloved Black Panther is sure to excite fans of the character, despite former Black Panther star Chadwick Boseman's tragic death from cancer in August of 2020.

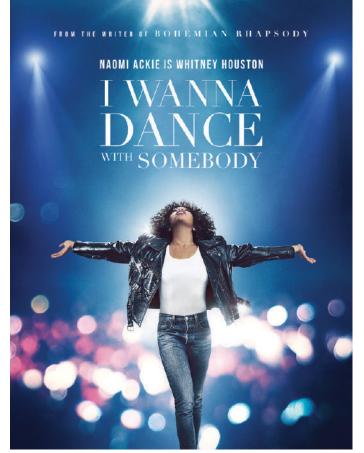
This film is set to pick up after the events of the previous film, with Angela Bassett getting top billing as Queen Ramonda of Wakanda. Letitia Wright plays Shuri, the princess of Wakanda who will act as a spiritual successor to the late T'Challa. We're interested to see how Marvel and returning director Ryan Coogler will be able to handle the loss of their popular star, while also pivoting the series in a new direction.



2. Violent Night RELEASE DATE: December 2, 2022

It's not too often that we get to see comedies on the silver screen, as the genre has seemingly failed to garner the big audience draws enjoyed by superhero films or science fiction. Nevertheless, director Tommy Wirkola hopes to rejuvenate the genre with some much-needed life in Violent Night, starring David Harbour (of Stranger Things fame).

Harbour plays the role of Santa Claus, reimagined as a gruff, booze-drinking figure who is tasked with saving a wealthy family from a group of armed mercenaries on Christmas night. Judging from the title and concept alone, this one is sure to be a Holiday treat.



3. I Wanna Dance With Somebody

RELEASE DATE: December 23, 2022

Music biopics seem to be all the rage. Coming off the heels of successful biopics like Bohemian Rhapsody (2018), Rocketman (2019), and Weird: The Al Yankovic Story (2022), I Wanna Dance with Somebody sets sight on telling the story of the late Whitney Houston, the American pop icon who's soaring vocals and stunning beauty dominated the decades of the 1980s and 1990s.

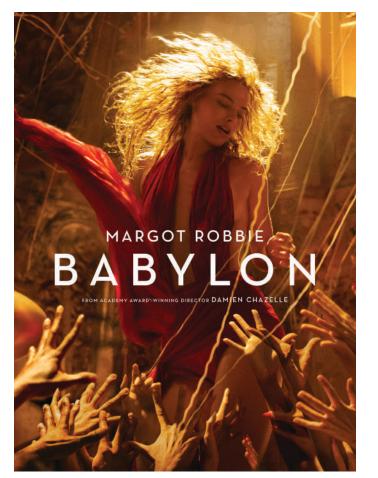
Relative newcomer Naomi Ackie takes center stage as Houston, with Stanley Tucci filling in as Clive Davis, Houston's long-time record producer. Though we already know how this song ends, we're sure that I Wanna Dance With Somebody will be worth a watch this holiday season.



4. Corsage RELEASE DATE: December 23, 2022

Well-made historical dramas always seem to please audiences, and Corsage looks like no exception to this rule. Set in 1877, Corsage follows a fictional account of a year in the life of Empress Elisabeth of Austria, played in the film by Luxembourgish starlet Vicky Krieps. Renowned for her beauty, Empress Elisabeth is forced to maintain her public image upon turning the age of 40, an age that the Austrian populace views as "old".

An international co-production, Corsage is the first English-language film to be directed by Marie Kreutzer, a popular Austrian filmmaker whose work has been screened at multiple recognized film festivals.



5. Babylon

RELEASE DATE: December 23, 2022

If there's one thing Hollywood loves, it's films about Hollywood. The third film from director Damien Chazelle (of La-La Land fame), Babylon is a dramedy set in the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema, where filmmakers and performers alike were transitioning between the silent era of films and the "talkies" of the future.

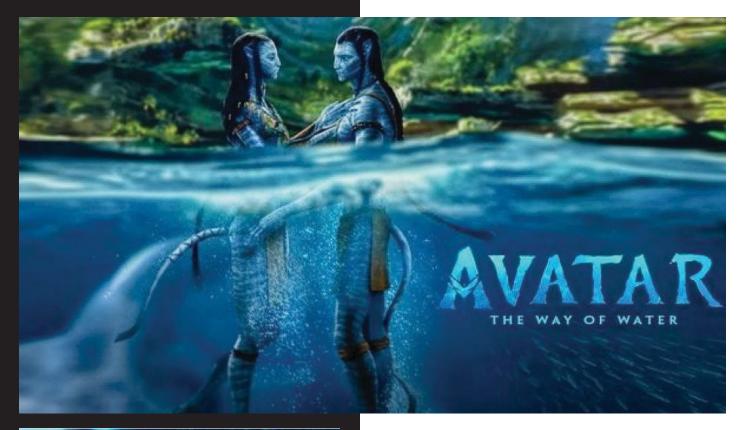
The film features an ensemble cast boasting the likes of Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Tobey Maguire, Olivia Wilde, and Spike Jonze. With a cast filled with this much talent, this film is going to be hard to miss. Be sure to check it out this holiday season.

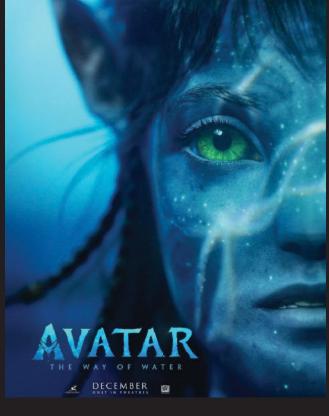


6. Matilda RELEASE DATE: December 25, 2022

Nostalgia meets music with this adaptation of the Tony and Olivier Award-Winning musical based on the classic 1996 film (which itself was adapted from a Roald Dahl book). With music and lyrics from Australian musician and comedian Tim Minchin, this popular musical has been a hit with audiences in London and has been playing in the city's West End continuously since its premiere in 2011.

A British production, this film stars Alisha Weir as Matilda Wormwood, a young, intelligent girl with abusive parents who develops psychokinetic powers, which she uses to play pranks on said parents. The 1996 version of the story (directed by Danny DeVito) is much cherished, and this adaptation is sure to please fans of the original film and book.





7. Avatar: The Way of Water

RELEASE DATE: December 16, 2022

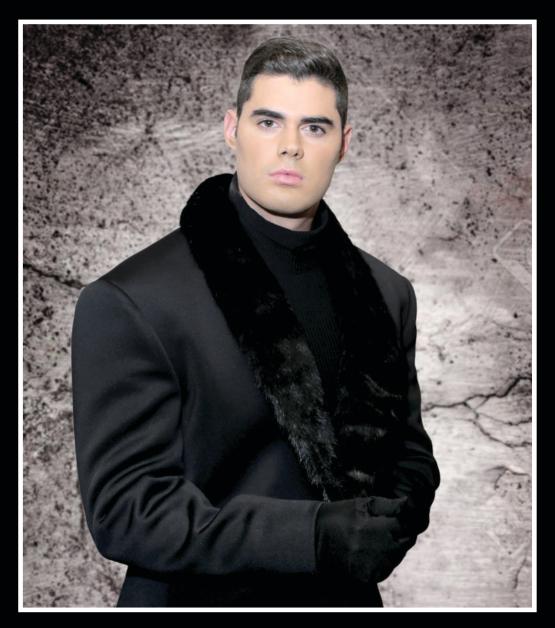
The long-anticipated follow-up to the recordbreaking Avatar (2009), Avatar: The Way of Water comes over a decade after its predecessor, which wowed audiences with its revolutionary visual effects. Director James Cameron (Titanic, The Terminator) returns for this installment in the Avatar franchise, alongside the leads from the first film, Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, and Stephen Lang.

The first film managed to smash box-office records and still remains the number one highestgrossing film of all time, with a colossal total of \$2.9B USD in worldwide gross. While it remains to be seen if this sequel will be able to match the original film as a cultural phenomenon, we're certain it will be worth checking out in December of 2022.





Strong cuts, a clean affect and lines remain hallmarks of the brand. Contact info@franklineugene.com for more information regarding this collection and pre-order.



ABOUT FRANKLIN EUGENE

Franklin Eugene is a global design company and worldwide aspirational lifestyle platform that produces transformative experiences through men's alta moda (bespoke/haute couture), men's and women's Italian leather accessories, men's luxury and ready-to-wear, a select offering of high street clothing, and global humanitarian endeavor. Franklin Eugene International LLC received the Best Luxury Fashion Designer 2018 Award as part of the Global Excellence Awards sponsored by LuxLife Magazine.

Elevating Black Women's VOICES IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR

By: Kimberly Coleman

CEO of Beyond the C-Suite Deandra Coleman discusses how to elevate the voices and stories of at least 1,000 Black woman executives in the workplace and beyond through The Seen & Heard Experience within five years. As the CEO of a branding, communications and PR agency, I am using my expertise to build disruptive personal brands for Black senior level executive women by helping them write and publish their book with a ghost writer and pairing them with a public speaking coach to pen their signature speech and learn how to command an audience."



Companies have tirelessly demonstrated that no matter how many lunches we work through, family obligations we miss, or nights we stay late to finish a project, we are replaceable.

B lack women have had to endure the emotional, mental and financial abuse of the workforce for far too long. We are undervalued and underpaid while having to be the

total package inside and outside of the workplace in order to get a morsel of the sponsorship, advancement and recognition that that others receive. Black women need to unapologetically raise hell via their voices and disrupt the systems of abuse that have been plaguing us since we were brought to this country. It is time to bring disruption to the workplace. Disruption is a term that's thrown around a lot these days, but Black women have been disruptors since the beginning of time. Innovating, taking risks, showing up unapologetically as our authentic selves, and always looking for new ways to make things happen is key. And is it any surprise this comes so naturally to us when it was once our only way of survival?

In a business setting, being a disruptor means being able to challenge the status quo, to think outside the box, and to propose new and improved processes. It's about being unafraid to strut across ground where no one has walked before. If it sounds uncomfortable, well, that's because it can be, but the good news is it gets easier with practice. Invest in a personal brand that is rooted in your values and a strong message to put the power back in your hands by allowing you to create a name and reputation for yourself that is not contingent on your current job title or employer.

More than that, a strong personal brand empowers you to be more intentional about your career growth. New opportunities come more easily because you're top of mind for the right people. You attract clients, mentors, and sponsors who value what you know and who you are while being more likely to get paid your worth. When you're clear about your value, what you bring to the table, and where you want to go, it's easier to negotiate from a place of strength and make decisions that align with your goals.

Three Challenges That Black Women Executives Face When Trying to Get Their Personal Brand Seen and Heard:



1. AFRAID SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT

There is such a thing as career suicide by voicing opinions, social media and kicking up too much dirt. The problem? The threshold seems to be impossibly low for Black women. Too often, we stay silent when we have something of value to contribute to the conversation. Whether it's because we don't want to ruffle any feathers or we don't want to seem like we're trying to take over, we hold back when we should be speaking up.

The next time you're in a meeting, make it a

point to share your thoughts and ideas. If you're worried about how you'll be received, start by framing your comments as questions. For example, "I'm not sure if I'm understanding this correctly, but could it be approached in a different way?" or "Have we considered doing X instead of Y?"

This allows you to test the waters. And who knows, your input just might be the gamechanger that propels the project forward.

2. AFRAID TO EMBRACE YOURSELF AS A BRAND

From the time we begin our careers, we're conditioned to believe that we are replaceable. If we are unwilling to do something, then there are five more people in line ready and willing to do our job better and for less money. While there may be some half-truth to the latter, we are not interchangeable cogs in a machine.

Your experiences, perspectives, and skill sets comprise your unique and priceless expertise. These culminate to curate a specific part of your personal brand.

Yes, your brand.

When you think of branding, you probably think

of big companies with expensive marketing teams managing and fine-tuning their every move and message, but branding can be as simple as deciding how you want to be perceived in the world and ensuring everything you do aligns with it. Like big companies, your brand is simply an amalgamation of your image, message, and values.

3. AFRAID TO FAIL

Let's face it...we often don't receive the grace we need in order to embrace the notion of

"failing forward". Disruption by definition is not a conventional path. So it's important to accept that failure is a possibility - and even a probability - when you're trying to do something new and different.

The important thing is to not let your fear of failure hold you back. It's okay to make mistakes - in fact, it's essential if you want to learn and grow. What matters is that you get back up and try again. Stepping into your role as a disruptor can feel huge, but it's also incredibly empowering.

The Two Ways That Black Women Executives Often Feel "Muted" And How The Seen & Heard Experience Combats This



"Access ain't inclusion." - Anthony Jack

We've pulled up a seat to the proverbial table. Increasingly more of us in Corporate America even have a front row seat. But inclusion? That is a different story.

Access to the table doesn't mean we're invited into the conversation or, perhaps worse, respected.

It doesn't matter how many "firsts" we achieve.

We can be the first black woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company or one of the few black women to win an Oscar, Grammy, Emmy or Tony. Because, even though we've worked to scale the ladder, we often end up being the only black woman in the room.

And, if I can be honest, it's a lonely place to be.

It can feel like for every glass ceiling we shatter, they install two more with bulletproof glass just beyond that one. We are muted. We are muted first by not being invited into certain high-level, decision making rooms and second by the bar being raised slightly higher every time we exceed it.

As a Black woman, when you take action and leverage your inherent brilliance, you open yourself up to opportunities that can have a major impact on every area of your life.

The Seen & Heard Experience accesses your brilliance and leverages it into an unstoppable, monetizable weapon against your silencing.

You deserve all of the recognition and accolades, and to be given your flowers now. You deserve to be seen and heard for all of your ideas, insights, and accomplishments!

You can begin to shift the paradigm by taking control of your narrative and investing in your personal brand elevation. I'm talking about being strategic with your time, energy, and money. Putting yourself first. And most importantly, creating your own opportunities.

That's what The Seen & Heard Experience is all about - It is time to UNMUTE YOURSELF.

What Participants Can Expect From The Seen & Heard Experience And How They Can Get Involved?



The Seen & Heard Experience is a lux, exclusive, year-long program curated for high-powered Black women executives who want to leverage their knowledge, experience and expertise to prosper and thrive beyond the c-suite.

Inside The Seen & Heard Experience, you will:

» Ditch procrastination and finally become the published author you've been dreaming of.

- » Unveil your core message to craft and finetune your signature speech.
- » Master marketing techniques for maximum book sales.
- » Learn how to pitch your professional speaking brand.
- » Connect and celebrate with fellow Black executive sisters.

The Seen & Heard Experience is not only about taking your career and personal brand to the next level but also about enjoying the process.

That's why we've thoughtfully included two luxury retreats!

What better way to launch your soft elevation than by being pampered and surrounded by likeminded women who are ready to take on the world?

You'll enjoy:

- » A private suite in an all-inclusive 5-star resort
- » A beachfront welcome reception
- Engaging classes on personal branding, book writing, stage presence, marketing, and public relations
- » Invaluable networking events
- » A mini-photoshoot
- » Outlining your book, poolside
- » A farewell brunch (who doesn't love a good brunch?!)

And so much more!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to network, learn, and relax all wrapped in decadent luxury all happening in one of the most beautiful places on earth

If you're ready to use your voice and platform to create a true and lasting impact for yourself, your children, and the world, then it's time to be seen and heard.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE AT:

The Seen and Heard Experience.co



MDASWIM is an all-Italian brand of swimwear and beachwear, born many years ago from the pleasure of beautiful and well-made things. The inspiration for the lines, colors and shapes comes from everything that surrounds us: the detail of a work of art, the harmony of nature, the detail of a dream still clear upon awakening, a memory of childhood, a smell, a taste... to the casual suggestions of a little girl.

All this and much more contributes to the creation of our swimwear and clothing line for adults and children. We use only the best Italian materials, then entrusted to the skilled hands of artisan workshops that individually package each piece. A small team that creates unique products, with great attention to detail and the typical quality of Italian know-how. Everything that will then be worn is thus the result of a sartorial production system, from its conception to its realization.

If Made in Italy is in our DNA, so too is hand made : all the crochet details are handmade in Abruzzo with fine Italian pure cotton yarns; all the patterns of our fabrics are made by a team of creatives who always draws new and original patterns, giving life to a unique design capable of satisfying every need. Mum, dad, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, nephews, friends, friends ... whatever the team, we will give you the opportunity to make the same costume to be able to share it during your days at the beach.

FOR MORE, VISIT: www.mdaswim.it/essenziale



TIFFANY



TIFFANY & CO. INTRODUCES THE "LOSE YOURSELF IN LOVE" CAMPAIGN STARRING BEYONCÉ

Tiffany & Co. announced that legendary powerhouse and ultimate modern-day woman, Beyoncé will star in its latest campaign celebrating individuality, love, and universal connection. The result of a close collaboration and a shared vision between the star and Tiffany & Co., "LOSE YOURSELF IN LOVE" is a fiercely elegant homage to the joy of being one's unapologetic self – a call to embrace the power of possibility.

> #LOSEYOURSELFINLOVE #TiffanyAndCo @TIFFANYANDCO

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE VISIT PRESS.TIFFANY.COM

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