



# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Top Talent Lined Up for Film Life's 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS – A Celebration of Black Cinema: Past, Present & Future**

**Cedric “The Entertainer” to Host Gala Event**

**Sidney Poitier to Receive Distinguished Career Achievement Award**

***The Color Purple* Inducted into Classic Cinema Hall of Fame**

**Kimberly Elise to Receive Rising Star Award**

**Nominations for Outstanding Motion Picture of the Year include *Are We There Yet?*, *Coach Carter*, *Crash*,  
*Diary of a Mad Black Woman* and *Hustle & Flow***

**Jeff Friday and Suzanne de Passe to Executive-Produce Event Airing October 19**

**Complete List of Nominations Attached**

A distinguished list of high-profile talent will be on hand for Film Life's 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS – A Celebration of Black Cinema: Past, Present & Future, presented by Turner Network Television (TNT). Cedric “The Entertainer” (*Madagascar*) will host the gala awards show that recognizes creative achievement by persons of African descent in feature-length motion pictures, both in front of and behind the camera, and honors outstanding films portraying the Black experience. This year's top award nominees include *Crash*, and *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, each of which received six nominations, *Hustle & Flow*; which received four; and *Coach Carter*, with three nominations.

Film Life's 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS, executive produced by Jeff Friday, CEO of Film Life, Inc., and Suzanne de Passe, CEO of de Passe Entertainment, will premiere **Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 10 p.m. (ET/PT)**, exclusively on TNT.

Legendary actor/director/producer Sidney Poitier will receive the Distinguished Career Achievement Award, recognizing his trailblazing work as actor/writer/director for such films as *Lilies of the Field*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Stir Crazy*, *For Love of Ivy* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. And Kimberly Elise, a nominee for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, will receive the Rising Star award.

The 1985 adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Color Purple* will become the first film inducted into the Black Movie Awards Classic Cinema Hall of Fame. Producer Quincy Jones is the first member of the creative team to confirm his appearance on the program.

In addition to serving as host, Cedric “The Entertainer” is also a nominee for Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for his work in *The Honeyymooners*. Also nominated in that category are Don Cheadle (*Crash*), Terrence Howard (*Hustle & Flow*), Samuel L. Jackson (*Coach Carter*) and Will Smith (*Hitch*). Nominees for Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role include Kimberly Elise (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Meagan Good (*D.E.B.S*) and Queen Latifah (*Beauty Shop*).

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The 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS will also honor made-for-television movies, with *Lackawanna Blues*, starring S. Epatha Merkerson and Terrence Howard and executive-produced by Halle Berry, Vince Cirrincione, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Shelby Stone; *Sometimes in April*, starring Idris Elba and Oris Erheuro and executive-produced by Raoul Peck and Joel Stillerman; and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, starring Halle Berry, Michael Ealy and Ruben Santiago-Hudson and executive-produced by Kate Forte, Quincy Jones and Oprah Winfrey nominated for Outstanding Television Movie. The ceremony will honor an up-and-coming director with the HBO Director to Watch Award. Nominees this year are Rodney Evans (*Brother to Brother*), Frank E. Flowers (*Haven*) and Rob Hardy (*Trois, Pandora's Box*).

The 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS will be taped at the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday, Oct. 9. A prominent committee of film critics, entertainment editors and prestigious members of the artistic committee choose nominees and recipients of the awards from a list of eligible films released in the U.S. between January 1 and July 31, 2005.

Press credentials for the 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS can be obtained through the following link: [http://www.turner.com/press/2005\\_BMA\\_Credential\\_Form.doc](http://www.turner.com/press/2005_BMA_Credential_Form.doc).

Cedric "The Entertainer" is best known for his crowd-pleasing roles in such films as *The Honeymooners*, *Madagascar*, *Johnson Family Vacation*, *Barbershop*, *Intolerable Cruelty*, *The Original Kings of Comedy* and *Be Cool*. His other big-screen credits include *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Man of the House* and *Big Momma's House*. He lent his voice to *Dr. Dolittle 2* and *Ice Age* and is currently working on *The Cleaner* with Lucy Liu and *Mr. Lucky* with Bruce Willis.

His award-winning career spans television, live performances and film. Among Cedric's many accolades are the AFTRA Award of Excellence in Television Programming for his series "Cedric 'The Entertainer' Presents" and a record-setting four consecutive NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for *The Steve Harvey Show*. In 1994, he received the Richard Pryor Comic of the Year Award from BET for his work as host of *Def Comedy Jam* and *BET's Comic View*. Now helming his own production company, A Bird and A Bear Entertainment, Cedric develops and produces feature films. *Johnson Family Vacation* was the first under the company's banner, which grossed over \$30 million. The name "Cedric" is fast joining the ranks of other one-name celebrities as an iconic symbol of high caliber performance.

Since 1997, Jeff Friday, founder of the Black Movie Awards and the American Black Film Festival, has made a name in the film industry by providing opportunities for independent Black filmmakers to showcase their work to an ever-broadening audience through the Acapulco Black Film Festival, which relocated to Miami and expanded to become the American Black Film Festival in 2002. The Festival will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in 2006 as it continues to spearhead the global distribution of quality Black films as the leading American brand marketing and distributing Black movies and related entertainment content.

Oscar® nominee Suzanne de Passe's long list of award-winning, high-profile shows and specials includes the Emmy®-winning *Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever* and *Motown Returns to the Apollo*. Additionally, she executive-produced *The Essence Awards* in 2002 and 2003, as well as the annual *NAACP Image Awards* over a three-year period, concluding in 2003. She has also executive-produced such memorable television miniseries as *Lonesome Dove*, *The Jacksons: An American Dream*, *Buffalo Girls*, *Small Sacrifices* and *The Temptations*. Her Academy Award® nomination came for co-writing the screenplay for *Lady Sings the Blues*.

Turner Network Television (TNT), television's destination for drama and one of cable's top-rated networks, offers original movies and series, including *Into the West*, an epic six-week television event from DreamWorks Television and master storyteller and executive producer Steven Spielberg; the detective drama series *The Closer*, starring Kyra Sedgwick, and the action-packed crime series *Wanted*, with Gary Cole; powerful one-hour dramas, such as *Law & Order*, *Without a Trace*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, *Charmed*, *Judging Amy* and *Angel*, with *Alias* and *Las Vegas* joining the line-up in September and *Cold Case* coming in October; broadcast premiere movies; and championship sports coverage, including NASCAR and the NBA. TNT is also available in high-definition.

Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., a Time Warner company, is a major producer of news and entertainment product around the world and a leading provider of programming for the television industry.

-30-

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*This information can also be accessed on TBS, Inc.'s press site at [http:// www.turnerinfo.com](http://www.turnerinfo.com).*

**A complete list of nominations is attached.**

## 2005 BLACK MOVIE AWARDS

### Nominations

#### OUTSTANDING MOTION PICTURE

*Are We There Yet?* (Producers Matt Alvarez, Ice Cube, Dan Kolsrud), Columbia Pictures  
*Coach Carter* (Producers David Gale, Brian Robbins, Michael Tollin), Paramount Pictures  
*Crash* (Producers Don Cheadle, Paul Haggis, Mark R. Harris, Robert Moresco, Cathy Schulman, Bob Yari), Lions Gate Films  
*Diary of a Mad Black Woman* (Producers Reuben Cannon, Tyler Perry), Lions Gate Films  
*Hustle & Flow* (Producers Stephanie Allain, John Singleton), Paramount Pictures

#### OUTSTANDING TELEVISION MOVIE

*Lackawanna Blues* (Executive producers Halle Berry, Vince Cirrincione, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Shelby Stone. Producer Nellie Rachel Nugiel), HBO  
*Sometimes in April* (Executive Producers Raoul Peck, Joel Stillerman. Producer Daniel Delume), HBO  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Executive producers Kate Forte, Quincy Jones, Oprah Winfrey. Producer Matthew Carlisle), ABC

#### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Don Cheadle (*Crash*), Lions Gate Films  
Cedric "The Entertainer" (*The Honeymooners*), Paramount Pictures  
Terrence Howard (*Hustle & Flow*), Paramount Pictures  
Samuel Jackson (*Coach Carter*), Paramount Pictures  
Will Smith (*Hitch*), Paramount Pictures

#### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Anthony Anderson (*Hustle & Flow*), Paramount Pictures  
Chris "Ludacris" Bridges (*Crash*), Lions Gate Films  
Morgan Freeman (*Batman Begins*), Warner Bros.  
Steve Harris (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Lions Gate Films  
Terrence Howard (*Crash*), Lions Gate Films

#### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Kimberly Elise (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Lions Gate Films  
Meagan Good (*D.E.B.S.*), Screen Gems  
Queen Latifah (*Beauty Shop*), Screen Gems

#### OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

Loretta Devine (*Crash*), Lions Gate Films  
Taraji P. Henson (*Hustle & Flow*), Paramount Pictures  
Thandie Newton (*Crash*), Lions Gate Films  
Zoe Saldana (*Guess Who*), Columbia Pictures  
Cicely Tyson (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Lions Gate Films

#### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING

Tyler Perry (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Lions Gate Films  
Angela Robinson (*D.E.B.S.*), Screen Gems  
Norman Vance, Jr. Kate Lanier (*Beauty Shop*), Screen Gems

#### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING

Thomas Carter (*Coach Carter*), Paramount Pictures  
Darren Grant (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*), Lions Gate Films  
F. Gary Gray (*Be Cool*), MGM  
Tim Story (*Fantastic Four*), Twentieth Century Fox  
Kevin Rodney Sullivan (*Guess Who*), Columbia Pictures

#### HBO DIRECTOR TO WATCH (Independent Filmmakers)

Rodney Evans  
Frank E. Flowers

Rob Hardy