

The Annapolis Times

Vol. 38 No. 47

September 13 - 19, 2024

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

HARRIS DOMINATES **First Presidential Debate** **as Trump Struggles to Defend Record**



Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris during their first presidential debate in Philadelphia on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. (See article on page 2) Photo: Screen capture from ABC News feed of the debate.

Harris Dominates First Presidential Debate as Trump Struggles to Defend Record

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Vice President Kamala Harris decisively took control of the first presidential debate against former President Donald Trump in Philadelphia on September 10, 2024, delivering a performance that put Trump on the defensive for much of the evening. Moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis of ABC News kept a tight handle on the debate, significantly improving from CNN's June handling of Trump and President Joe Biden.

The debate began with a surprise as Harris approached Trump to shake his hand and introduced herself as "Kamala Harris," an unusual move that set the tone for the night. Trump's trademark scowl stayed in place throughout the debate, as Harris pressed him on his legal woes and diminished his record. Displaying her prosecutorial skills, Harris consistently turned the conversation toward Trump's convictions, his business fraud case, and his role in the January 6, 2021 insurrection.

Harris positioned herself as a problem-solver, taking on issues like housing, childcare, and the economy. In her opening statement, she outlined her "opportunity economy" plan, which focuses on bolstering the middle class.

"I was raised as a middle-class kid, and I am actually the only person on this stage who has a plan that is about lifting up the middle class and working people of America," Harris said. She detailed a \$6,000 child tax credit as part of her plan to support young



Vice President Kamala Harris
Photo courtesy of [nnpa.org](https://www.nnpa.org)

families.

Trump, by contrast, criticized the Biden-Harris economy, calling it "the worst period of time" he had seen. He defended his tariff policies and took aim at Harris, labeling her a "Marxist" while also accusing her of copying his economic policies. "I was going to send her a MAGA hat," Trump quipped.

Abortion rights were another major focus of the night. Trump, when asked if he would veto a federal abortion ban, declined to answer directly, stating, "I won't have to," and arguing that the end of *Roe v. Wade* had satisfied everyone. Harris, in turn, vowed to restore *Roe's* protections through federal legislation if elected.

"I pledge to you: when Congress passes a bill to put back in place the protections of *Roe v. Wade* as President of the United States, I will proudly sign it into law," she said.

As the debate went on, Trump repeated several conspiracy theories, including a claim that migrants were eating pets in U.S. cities, which Muir quickly fact-checked. Trump doubled down, citing "people on television" as his source. Harris largely let Trump's more outlandish statements pass,

opting to stay on policy while allowing the moderators to address his factually inaccurate remarks.

In one of the most heated moments, Harris invited viewers to attend a Trump rally for themselves, commenting, "He talks about fictional characters like Hannibal Lecter and windmills causing cancer. You'll notice people start leaving his rallies early—out of exhaustion and boredom."

Trump, visibly irritated, retorted that he holds "the most incredible rallies in the history of politics," but the debate soon returned to more substantive issues like crime and inflation.

The night clearly contrasted Biden's earlier debate with Trump, as Harris managed to keep Trump on the defensive. Trump continued to fixate on conspiracy theories and past grievances, while Harris stayed focused on presenting her vision for the future.

With fewer than 55 days until the election, the debate sets the tone for what will likely be a hard-fought campaign. As the debate ended, Harris closed with a message to the American people: "This is about who we are as a country. The choice is clear—between chaos and leadership, fear and hope."



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Sextortion: It's a Thing – Again!

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

Recently, I have been getting quite a few text messages and emails about selling my house. I mostly ignore them and don't even open a lot of them... until last week. Like most folk, I have my email accounts accessible via my computers and my cell phone. On this particular day, I heard my notification on my phone, and while multitasking (of course), I opened an email with my home address as the subject. I thought it was another solicitation from a realtor, but to my dismay, it was a sextortion email!! Even for me, this was an alarming and invasive experience that has prompted me to write about it for this column.

So, what is sextortion? It is a form of cybercrime where an attacker claims to have access to sexually explicit/intimate photos or videos of you—and threatens to release them to family, friends, or the public unless their demands are met. These criminals often have no such material and are using scare tactics to manipulate you into paying money or providing other sensitive data.

A sextortion email often begins with an alarming subject line meant to grab your attention. In my case, I assumed the email was another real estate solicitation. But upon opening it, the email claimed that the sender had hacked into my device and captured explicit footage of me. The scammer insisted they had accessed my webcam and recorded video while I visited adult websites—a claim that was entirely false but designed to evoke fear and panic in me.

Sextortion has been around for a while and can typically include a password you have used on an online account tied to your email address. Now they are taking a new twist. Mine included a Google Maps picture of



It's important to stay vigilant against bad actors.

Graphic Design by Karen Clay

my home, along with the threat. So, your next question may be, “how did they get your home address?!?” When a company experiences a data breach, the information obtained through the breach is often sold on the dark web and used by bad actors in scams such as this one. While such an experience is concerning, there are steps you can take in response.

Do Not Respond to the Email: The primary goal of sextortionists is to provoke panic and elicit a response. Responding only confirms that your email address is active and may lead to further harassment or attempts at extortion.

Do Not Pay Any Ransom: Sextortionists rely on threats to extract payment, but in most cases, they do not have the compromising material they claim to possess. Paying the ransom only fuels their criminal activities and does not guarantee that the threats will stop.

Check Your Email and Account Security: Sometimes, sextortionists will reference old passwords obtained from previous data breaches to make

their threats seem credible. If you recognize the password in the email, it's a good idea to immediately change the passwords on any accounts associated with that email. Use strong, unique passwords for each account and consider enabling two-factor authentication (2FA) for an additional layer of security.

Scan for Malware: While most sextortion emails are merely scare tactics, it's wise to scan your computer and devices for malware, especially if the email claims to have gained access through hacking. Use reliable antivirus or anti-malware software to ensure that your systems are secure.

Report the Email: Reporting the email to your email provider is essential. Most email platforms allow you to mark the message as spam or phishing, which helps block similar messages in the future. You can also report the email to local authorities or organizations specializing in cybercrime, such as the Federal Trade Commission (<https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/assistant>) or the Internet Crime Complaint Center (<https://www.ic3.gov/>).



*Karen Clay,
Clay Technology and Multimedia
Courtesy Karen Clay*

Monitor Data Breaches: Keep track of data breaches that may involve your email or personal information. Websites like “Have I Been Pwned” (<https://haveibeenpwned.com/>) allow you to check if your accounts have been compromised in a breach, helping you to stay proactive in securing your data.

Additionally:

1) Never send compromising images of yourself to anyone, no matter who they are — or who they say they are.

2) Don't open attachments from people you don't know and be wary of opening attachments even from those you do know.

3) Turn off [and/or cover] any web cameras when you are not using them.

Staying calm, taking immediate steps to secure your accounts, and reporting the scam, can protect yourself and prevent your attacker from succeeding. Remember, sextortion is a scare tactic, and in most cases, the threat is empty. Stay informed, stay vigilant, and protect your digital life from these deceptive threats.

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



Remembering an Icon

The Legendary James Earl Jones Passes Away at 93

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent
[@StacyBrownMedia](#)

James Earl Jones, the legendary actor whose deep, resonant voice became synonymous with some of the most iconic characters in film history, passed away Monday, September 9, 2024 at his home in Dutchess County, New York. He was 93.

His representatives at Independent Artist Group first confirmed the actor's death to Deadline. Over a remarkable career that spanned six decades, Jones earned an indelible place in both Hollywood and Broadway. He became one of only a few entertainers to achieve the prestigious EGOT, winning an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony.

Best known to many as the commanding voice behind Darth Vader in "Star Wars," Jones brought depth and gravitas to the villainous character, making him one of cinema's most unforgettable antagonists. He reprised the role in "Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith" (2005) and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" (2016), further cementing his legacy in the galaxy far, far away.

Born on January 17, 1931, in Arkabutla, Mississippi, Jones's contributions to the arts extended far beyond "Star Wars." He voiced the beloved character "Mufasa" in Disney's animated classic "The Lion King" (1994) and again in the 2019 live-action remake. His unmistakable voice was also a signature of CNN's "This is CNN" campaign.

Jones's acting career began on the stage and in film with his breakout role in Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove" (1964). His powerful on-screen presence led to roles in a variety of acclaimed films, including "Conan the Barbarian" (1982), "Coming to



James Earl Jones 2010

Photo: Stuart Crawford

America" (1988), "The Hunt for Red October" (1990), and "The Sandlot" (1990). He earned an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Jack Jefferson in "The Great White Hope" (1970), a role that also won him his first Tony Award.

On Broadway, Jones was a force to be reckoned with. He earned four Tony nominations and took home two wins for "The Great White Hope" in 1969 and August Wilson's "Fences" in 1987. His contribution to the stage was celebrated with a Special Tony Award in 2017.

Jones's talents were equally recognized on television, where he won two Primetime Emmys in 1991 for "Gabriel's Fire" and "Heat Wave." His voice and presence on-screen were magnetic, a testament to his versatility as an actor who could excel in drama, comedy, and everything in between.

A recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2002, Jones's lifetime of achievements earned him accolades from SAG-AFTRA and the National Board of Review and a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Recording in 1977.

The Rev. Vaile Leonard: Celebrating 25 Years of Serving the Recovery Community

By Ursula V. Battle

National Recovery Month is a national observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with mental and substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives. Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those living in recovery.

One of the most remarkable narratives one will ever hear about the gains made by those living in recovery is the story of the Reverend Vaile Leonard. The Baltimore native overcame heroin and alcohol addiction to start the Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC). Heralded as one of the most successful recovery centers in the country, LTC has been credited with helping dozens of women overcome drug addiction.

“Personally, when I look back, I’m just filled with gratitude,” said Rev. Leonard. “I’m filled with gratitude because God gave me a second chance at life. I’m grateful when I look back because God has allowed me to be of service. I created so much havoc when I was actively using that I really do feel as though it’s my reasonable service to give back.”

For 25 years, LTC has been helping women in recovery. A residential therapeutic treatment program, women living in the homes work on a self-improvement plan while living as a family unit to support their own and each other’s recovery process. LTC also operates a training center.

“This is National Recovery Month, but it’s so meaningful because for 25 years, we have been able to serve women in the recovery community and expanded our services to also provide training,” said Rev. Leonard. “We’re happy about that, because 25 years ago, they said we couldn’t do it because our



The Rev. Vaile Leonard, founder of Light of Truth Center (LTC), a residential therapeutic treatment program for women in recovery.

Photos by Ursula V. Battle

organization was comprised of mostly volunteers. And so, for 25 years, we have proved that people do care, that people will serve, and that has been our strength.”

With the theme “Beyond Abstinence: Recovery, A Journey to Wellness,” LTC will mark its quarter-century milestone with the 25th Silver Jubilee of the Light of Truth Center, Inc. The Anniversary Gala will be held Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the One God One Thought Center (OGOT) located at 3605 Coronado Rd., in Windsor Mill, Maryland.

Mary Cross and the 2NspireU Band Family will be the featured performers. Other event performers include Ollie Wright & From the Soul Band, Spoken Word artist Tiffany Ginyard, keyboardist Aaron Hill and Saxophonist Crissy Cromwell.

“People have really rallied behind this event,” said Rev. Leonard. “People really get the depth and joy of us being here for 25 years. We are still here, and people are very excited.”



Vaile Leonard stands in the street of her former neighborhood.

A non-profit organization, LTC provides safe and supportive housing in an environment conducive to recovery, transition and restoration for women recovering from addictions.

“Our longevity is a tribute to our genuine love and care for the recovery community, for those we serve and for those that we train,” said Rev. Leonard. “We’re a love-based leadership organization. We don’t turn people away, we don’t criticize, we don’t beat up, and we don’t judge people. We tell the women who come to us that you’re not broken, so we’re not trying to fix you. There’s nothing wrong with you...you have a disease of addiction, and we just need to support you in a new way of life.”

She added, “I think that love radiates when we’re training people. In everything we do, love is the basis. I believe that love radiates into the community, and it just comes back to us like a huge wave.”

Rev. Leonard has been drug-free for

nearly 33 years. A native of Baltimore, she has garnered numerous awards and honors for her work, including the prestigious New Thought Walden Award.

During the Anniversary Gala, some of the women who have gone through LTC will share their testimonies. Rev. Leonard said that plans are in the works for an LTC-operated Recovery Café.

“I am filled with ‘Thank you, God,’” said Rev. Leonard. “‘Thank you, God for allowing me to be of service. Thank you, God for allowing us to create housing. Thank you, God for allowing us to get some sisters off the corner. Thank you, God, for allowing us to create a training arm. Thank you, God for allowing us to be an umbrella for other organizations who need to be of service. Thank you, God for allowing us to have such an impact.’”

For more information about LTC or to purchase tickets for the Gala Event, call (443) 393-2109 or visit www.lightoftruthcenter.org.

Mary Cross' Tribute to the Music of Phyllis Hyman Featured at LTC's 25th Silver Jubilee at OGOT on Sept. 28th

By Ursula V. Battle

Mary Cross, whose sultry, smooth, and timeless vocal tonalities are reminiscent of the late R&B singer Phyllis Hyman, along with the 2NspireU Band Family will be the featured performers for the 25th Silver Jubilee of the Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC). The Anniversary Gala will be held Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the One God One Thought Center (OGOT) located at 3605 Coronado Rd, Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244.

With the theme "Beyond Abstinence: Recovery, A Journey to Wellness," the celebration will mark LTC's 25 years of dedication, transformation, and unwavering support for serving women in recovery. Founded by the Rev. Vaile Leonard, LTC is heralded as one of the most successful recovery centers in the country. Cross and the 2NspireU Band will perform Mary Cross' Tribute to the Music of Phyllis Hyman, which has drawn sell-out audiences and rave reviews.

"Far and wide, we have something to celebrate," said Cross, whose vocal delivery showcases both her range and versatility which resonates with listeners worldwide. "I look at Vaile Leonard as a hero. What she's doing to help people, what she has done with her life, and her unwavering commitment to support women is everything. She advocates for women."

LTC has recovery houses throughout Baltimore. Women living in the homes work on a self-improvement plan while living as a family unit to support their own and each other's recovery process. LTC also operates a training center.

Rev. Leonard battled and overcame a heroin addiction before founding the residential therapeutic treatment program, which has been credited with

helping dozens of women overcome drug addiction. She has garnered numerous awards and honors for her work including the *New Thought Walden Award*. The prestigious award honors those who use empowering spiritual ideas and philosophies to change lives and make the planet a better place.

"Vaile Leonard has provided us with another platform and place that women can call, can be seen, can be heard, and can be accessed," said Cross. "I have also dedicated my life around empowering women, and so I really wanted to be a part of this event."

Cross has released four singles to notable reception, including "Promise," which was also identified by Soultracks as one of the Top 100 songs of the year. She released her EP titled "Sentimental Journey" in June. Cross' sultry, smooth, and timeless voice has earned her the nickname "The Mother of Cool Smoke."

Cross said she founded the Mary Cross 2NspireU band with the goal of connecting with audience members by delivering timeless music that takes listeners back down memory lane to an era when lyrics told stories and a time when love was king.



Cross' sultry, smooth, and timeless voice has earned her the nickname, 'The Mother of Cool Smoke.'



Mary Cross will perform Mary Cross' Tribute to the Music of Phyllis Hyman for the 25th Silver Jubilee of the Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC) on Sat., Sept. 28th.

Photos courtesy of Mary Cross

Born and raised in Camden, New Jersey, Cross said people constantly comment on how much she sounds like Hyman, prompting her to perform the Mary Cross' Tribute to Phyllis Hyman. In 1995, Hyman who was also a songwriter and actress, committed suicide after an extended struggle with her mental health. Some of Hyman's most notable songs are "You Know How to Love Me," "Living All Alone" and "Don't Wanna Change the World."

According to Cross, her most recent tribute to the late singer in New Jersey sold-out a month before the event and was attended by some of Hyman's relatives. Cross is the recipient of numerous awards and recognition. The singer said she is personified by her innate passion for Classic Soul, Jazz and R&B and is looking forward to

performing at the 25th Silver Jubilee.

"Out of this event, I would like to see people become even more aware about the importance of sisterhood, that we support one another, and that music has a place no matter what," said Cross. "I encourage everyone to celebrate the great work of Light of Truth."

Other event performers include Ollie Wright & From the Soul Band, Spoken Word artist Tiffany Ginyard, keyboardist Aaron Hill and saxophonist Crissy Cromwell.

To purchase tickets for the event or for more information call (443) 393-2109 or visit www.lightoftruthcenter.org.

Entrepreneur, Author Empowers Aspiring Authors with Dreams to Write, Publish Books

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Jessica Tilles, a resident of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, regards literacy as a tool for change.

“It has the power to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and build bridges between cultures and communities. Through reading, we can explore new ideas, learn from diverse perspectives, and foster empathy,” said Tilles.

She has been a change agent who nurtures other author’s dreams, and by building her own audience.

“I have self-published 12 titles of my own through Xpress Yourself Publishing (XYP), the independent publishing company I established in 2000,” Tilles said.

The entrepreneur stated that writing gives us a voice to share our own stories; advocate for ourselves and others; and contribute to the broader narrative of society. “Indiscretions,” her latest published work, was released June 2024.

Tilles is a proven visionary who has taken chances to leap forward with her endeavors.

“In 2006, I expanded XYP to include works by other authors, publishing titles from 80 different writers until 2015, when I closed submissions indefinitely. While this period was an exciting and fulfilling experience, I decided to refocus XYP strictly on my own publications,” the award-winning publisher and best-selling author said.

Tilles created The Writer’s Assistant in 2000 because she was passionate about publishing her first novel, “Anything Goes.”

“At the time, book publishing was a costly endeavor, and I had very limited funds. With no background in graphic

design or book production, I took it upon myself to learn everything I needed to know. Using Terry McMillan’s “Waiting to Exhale” as a guide, I began to understand the intricacies of formatting. I noticed the book’s copyright page mentioned it was “set in Caslon,” which I assumed referred to the font. After searching for and finding Caslon online, it became my go-to font for formatting, and I have been using it for the past 24 years,” said Tilles.

The ambitious writer eventually designed a new book cover using a royalty-free image. The step led to her development of additional graphic design and book formatting skills.

She added, “Over time, I improved, and as word spread, other authors began to ask for my assistance with their book covers and formatting.

This demand for my services led to the official establishment of The Writer’s Assistant. In 2009, I rebranded the company as TWA Solutions and Services to expand beyond book publishing. Now, 24 years later, I am a professional book cover designer, editor, formatter, website designer, ghostwriter, and book coach, providing comprehensive support to authors throughout their publishing journeys.”

While Tilles remains deeply entrenched in the literary industry, she noted that a common misconception that many of her clients have about the writing and publishing process is that it is a quick and straightforward journey, although following detailed steps helps to achieve the best results.

“They might assume that once a manuscript is completed, the rest of the process—such as editing, formatting, and marketing—will be relatively simple and fast,” said Tilles.

She also said, “Writing is just the beginning; a manuscript typically benefits from thorough editing to enhance its clarity and impact. Formatting the book for various print and digital platforms involves technical aspects that ensure it looks professional and is compatible with different devices.”

According to Tilles, the development of a comprehensive marketing strategy, reaching readers, and development of an effective author platform are other important aspects of the publishing process.

Tilles also stated that an effective way for an author-to-be to begin to pen a book is to establish a clear writing routine and set manageable goals.

“Begin by dedicating a specific time each day or week to writing, even if it’s just for a short period. Consistency is key to making progress,” she suggested.

The veteran writer advises aspiring authors to start with a simple outline or concept for their books while jotting down main ideas, themes, and the general direction they want their story to take.

“This outline will serve as a roadmap and help guide you as you start writing,” said Tilles.

Tilles noted that joining a writing group or community can be helpful. Engaging with other writers can provide support, motivation, and valuable feedback.



Jessica Tilles, owner of TWA Solutions and Services, offers services that cater to both the literary world and beyond. Tilles, a veteran wordsmith, business owner, and book coach has published works by other writers as well as her own.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Tilles

Additionally, Writer’s Digest (www.writersdigest.com) is a valuable resource that Tilles often recommends to fellow authors. Articles about writing techniques, tips for self-publishing, and resources about query letter guides, and advice on finding literary agents are some of the areas that Tilles mentioned are available through it.

“As an author and someone who has always been passionate about storytelling, I am committed to promoting literacy and helping others discover the joy and potential that comes with it,” said Tilles.

Visit TWA Solutions and Services via www.twasolutions.com and Tilles’ author website via www.jessicatilles.com.

Save the Date!

Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival Returns to Annapolis in New Location on Sat., September 14, 2024, New Festival Chairs Seek Growth

By Andrea Blackstone

The countdown week of The Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival (KKHF) has begun. The 34th annual celebration will be held at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (Blue Lot), located at 550 Taylor Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The family-friendly festival that celebrates the culture of the African Diaspora through a blend of music, dance, art, and education will continue to offer cultural enrichment on a Main Stage, a Community Stage, and throughout the Blue Lot at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

Festival goers can stop and shop to patronize vendors; enjoy featured dance performances, experience interactive activities for children provided by the Chesapeake Children's Museum and Sankofa Children's Museum of African Cultures; purchase a diverse range of foods provided from talented chefs and licensed caterers; and experience an array of live musical performances. A Community Stage will offer engaging, informational talks and demos.

Keke Wyatt, an acclaimed American singer-songwriter and television personality, will headline this year's festival. Critical Condition Band, a popular Go-Go band that has performed throughout the Washington, D.C.-Metropolitan area for nearly 20 years will perform. Brandon Woody's Upendo will provide soulful jazz sounds. Other performers, including locals such as Annapolis' own Davvone D'Neil will also be featured. A KKHF entertaining favorite, Clones of Funk will return.

Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc is a 501(c)(3) organization that is

responsible for organizing the KKHF. The KKHF remains to be a treasured part of Maryland's cultural event lineup, despite transitions that have occurred over the years. The original Kunta Kinte Celebration was held in September 1987.

Kevin Smith, an Annapolis, Maryland resident, and David Stansbury, an Annapolitan, are new co-chairs of The Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival. Both men chose to get involved following in the footsteps of Jan F. Lee, the previous chair. Lee continues to serve as Board President of Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc. She previously stated that she is very excited about Smith and Stansbury's vision and energy. A festival launch party fundraiser was held in late April. Growth and innovative thinking is a top priority.

"We believed that Annapolis' longest running festival, nationally known, should go to another level and we wanted to be a part of it, while keeping the legacy alive," Smith also stated.

Stansbury pointed out a major event change this year.

"The Festival will have on-site parking available at the new venue, the Navy-Marine Memorial Stadium (Blue Lot)."

Parking can be pre-paid.

The KKHF is rooted in historical events that were brought to light and depicted through the late author Haley's book, "Roots." It offers an annual chance to celebrate African and Caribbean heritage and pay homage to Kunta Kinte. Kinte was Haley's enslaved descendant who arrived in Annapolis on the Lord Ligonier in 1767.

According to KKHF's Facebook account, after Kunta Kinte's capture



Ni Dembaya African Drum & Dance Ensemble dancers on the Main Stage at a previous Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival entertain festival goers. This year marks the 34th year of the annual celebration. It will be held at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (Blue Lot), on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. in Annapolis, Maryland. Photo: Christian Smooth, Smooth House Productions

in the Gambia, he embarked upon the journey to Maryland aboard the ship for four months.

"He survived the trip and was then sold to John Waller, a Virginia plantation owner in Spotsylvania County, who renamed him Toby."

Bill Haley, Jr., who is Alex Haley's grandson, is a part of the distinguished Kinte and Haley lineage. He shared sentiments about this year's festivities.

"The Kunta Kinte festival is a not only a celebration of my ancestor, who unwillingly found himself thrust upon the shores of Annapolis some 257 years ago— but a collective celebration of our African strength, sacrifice, heritage, and culture which has contributed mightily to the past, present, and future building of our great nation," Bill said.

The KKHF is known for providing a platform to learn more about

cultural heritage, increase awareness about unfamiliar resources, provide community fellowship, and a place for vendors to receive more exposure and support of their talents and businesses.

Volunteers and sponsors continue to uplift the community through their participation. Festival goers can join them by supporting the growth of the upcoming, free festival through attendance.

"Just show up! We need more of the community to stick together and walk in the spirit of unity to honor our ancestors. It takes a village!" Stansbury added.

To obtain more information and updates about Saturday's KKHF, visit www.KuntaKinte.org and @KuntaKinteFest on Instagram and <https://www.facebook.com/KuntaKinteFest> on Facebook.

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Mary Cross

2 InspireU Band



Ollie Wright

From the Soul Band



Tiffany Ginyard

*Spoken Word
Artist*



Aaron Hill

Keyboardist



Crissy Cromwell

Saxophonist



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28 September 2024

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Ravens Derrick Henry Reflects on First Game

By Tyler Hamilton

The results surely didn't go the way the Baltimore Ravens wanted, but they finally got to see new running back Derrick Henry in a game that mattered. Baltimore's opening drive was an example of what could become a bully of an offense for the Ravens. Behind the power running of Henry, the Ravens drove 70 yards on 11 plays and took up 6:46 in game time. Henry capped it off with a five-yard run to the end zone.

It was Henry's first time scoring as a member of the Ravens. Offensive coordinator Todd Monken appeared to have found himself an easy way to look wise. Just give the ball to Henry and watch him work. The touchdown had special meaning to Henry, and that's understandable.

"It was good to get in there. They did a great job blocking," Henry said. "[I] had a hole, [and I] just had to hit it and get in the end zone. Getting on the board and getting a touchdown felt good, but it was early in the game."

Henry carried the ball five times to pick up 20 yards on the opening drive. He only got the ball eight more times over the remainder of the game. Henry finished the day with 13 carries for 46 yards and a touchdown. That's hardly the performance Henry had become known to produce.

Getting away from the run was something that shouldn't happen with Henry on the team. That's what hurt the Ravens last season in the AFC Championship game against the Chiefs. It gave the Ravens another loss at the hands of the Chiefs.

There's a lesson to be learned.

"We were able to put ourselves in a position to be able to have a chance to win the game, even [when] things weren't happening in the game – as far as on our side of the ball," Henry said.



Derrick Henry

Photo: AP Photo/Ed Zurga

"There are a lot of things we can learn from and a lot of things we can continue to build on, so that's what you want to do as a team – learn from the mistakes and hit on the positives."

The Ravens lost the game, one they should have won, but there will be more shots at the goal.

Finally getting game time with Lamar Jackson was an invaluable experience. Henry reflected on his first game with Jackson.

"Lamar [Jackson] is Lamar. Just like everybody else, he's going to do him and make plays and put us in a

position to win. Lamar is Lamar, still," Henry said. "I don't expect [anything] less from [Lamar Jackson]. That's what he's been doing his whole career. That's the type of player he is. We're teammates now, but I've been seeing him when I was on the other side. That's the type of player Lamar is. He's going to put it on the line every single time."

The Ravens will be the home team in this week's game against the Raiders at M&T Bank Stadium.

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