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Nigerian female filmmaker holds movie premiere in Baltimore



Remi Momodu is the executive producer and filmmaker of the movie, "XYZA." She also stars in the film. Momodu looks through a camera lens to get an idea what the director sees while preparing to film on location in Baltimore earlier this year. Momodu aspires to address the stigma associated with domestic violence—particularly in the African immigrant community—through her first feature project. "XYZA" premieres in Baltimore on July 11, 2015. (See article on page 10)

Courtesy Photo

Recent Women's Day Reinforces Value of Douglas Memorial Church

By Ginger Williams

Much has changed in Baltimore as well as around the country since 1962. The more than half-century period has realized great ups and downs from the assassination of black leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to the successful campaign and re-election of the nation's first black president, Barack Obama.

Through it all the Douglas Memorial Community Church has remained consistent as it continues to change lives, build legacies and empower the many women who have walked through the hallowed halls of that place of worship.

The church is well known for its women's ministry, which was the focus of its recent Women's Day Celebration that included interpretive dancing by young parishioners and a keynote address by Pamela J. Meanes, the president of the National Bar Association.

"This is what I do, no [it's] who I am. My profession," said Meanes, a partner in the St. Louis, Missouri law firm of Thompson Coburn LLP. "My calling, [however], is the ministry."

The church's Women's Christian Fellowship—or women's ministry—also counts as the official women's group of the International Council of Community



(Left) Pastor of Douglas Memorial Church Reverend Dr. S. Todd Yeary with Pamela J. Meanes, Esq. Meanes is president of the National Bar Association (NBA) and she delivered the keynote address at the Women's Day service at Douglas Memorial Church on Sunday, May 31, 2015. (Right) Women's Day Committee Members (left to right) Jennifer White; Brenda Lindsey; Dayna Gibson; Romaine Wise and Kim Mitchell. Photos by Ginger Williams

Churches. The group is heavily involved in the activities of the international council as well as its national mission. It stands ready to assist other ministries in the church and each adult female at Douglas Memorial Community Church is automatically enrolled as a member of the Women's Ministry.

The Women's Day event was part of Women's Month 2015, in which the church hosted a jazz brunch on May 9 featuring The Marcus Lansey Jazz Quartet. The month also featured a "Call to

Service Week," and a "Women's Chew and Chat Study," in which women featured in the bible were the topic of discussion.

The distinguished women also took time out to remember the leadership of Dr. Marion C. Bascom, a civil rights leader who served as pastor for 46 years at Douglas Memorial Community Church before his death three years ago at the age of 87.

"Reverend Bascom worked alongside Dr. King during the Civil Rights era and

continued his advocacy during his tenure at the Fire Department," said long-time parishioner, Beverly Reid.

During her keynote address, Meanes noted the importance of the church during the fight for civil rights. She said she is the product of a generation not afraid to call out injustice.

"The fight for injustice is the right thing to do," she said calling herself an instrument of justice"...a "social engineer," fighting for justice and equality for everyone."

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Interest groups, special and public

By Tom H. Hastings

We often hear politicians call their opponents an “interest group.” What does that mean? It can be misleading.

When the citizens of a town try to fix a bad ordinance so that their lives are safer, more productive, more prosperous and more equally just for all, should they have that right? Of course, they are acting in the public interest.

When a profit-seeking corporation tries to fix a state law so that business lowers costs at the expense of their workers, taxpayers and the healthy cleanliness of drinking water, should they have that right? Of course not, they are acting as a special interest group, that is, a narrow elite will profit and all else will pay the costs, meaning that special interest groups are usually acting against the public interest.

Of course, there are cases that are mixtures of the two and in a democracy, those deserve the most public discourse so that everyone can be heard and a wise decision can be made.

Is a group dedicated to equal justice for all a special interest group? According to a judge in Scotland Neck, North Carolina, yes. When a 61-year-old African American man, Roger Anthony, refused to stop riding his bicycle in November 2011, a 27-year-old white cop driving alongside him shot him with a taser. Anthony was knocked from his moving bike and his head received a fatal blow on the pavement.

There were no complaints of any criminal or suspicious activity by Anthony except for “Biking While Black.” This was so egregious that the District Attorney filed misdemeanor assault charges and then allowed the police officer to take advantage of a plea bargain that put him on probation. The judge agreed.

The spokesperson for the local NAACP told the media it was unjust that any man should attack another, kill him, and never serve a day in jail. The judge waved aside those comments, telling the inquiring journalist that the NAACP is a “special interest” group.

What an interesting use of that term. If people of color want equal rights, that, to a North Carolina judge, is a special interest group. Really? What’s next? Those who want clean air are part of a special interest group? The Association of Air Breathers would probably include most humans. Justice for all seems to be a fairly universal, public interest, goal.

What of the case of a corporation that services the military? Do they get to claim public interest status or are they special interest? The Pentagon burns through approximately \$2 billion daily, every day, seven days a week and watching the massive bleed off to war profiteers is instructive. On June 29, 2015, it was announced by the DoD that, amongst many other contracts to many profiteers, Lockheed would get another \$119 million to spruce up Balad Air Base in Iraq.

“This contract is 100-percent foreign military sales. This award is the result of a sole-source acquisition,” noted the Air Force. In other words, your tax money that you worked for going to fix a base in Iraq and no bids were taken. Does this smack of a Good Old War Profiteers Club special interest grab to anyone else?

What if that \$119 million were used to create jobs for every young person willing to work in our national forests, pulling out downed wood to be used for a variety of purposes? Or perhaps it could provide some educational opportunities for STEM education for our public schoolchildren. There are so many life-affirming, infrastructural, palliative projects that need funding to give all of us a better life— all in the public interest.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is Founding Director of PeaceVoice

A beginning solution for Charleston

By Dr. Ken Morgan

The domestic terrorist attack at Emmanuel AME church killing nine black people should be an eye opener. Since blacks gained their freedom inclusive of a failed Radical Reconstruction that ended with the Tilden Hayes Agreement in 1877— domestic terrorist attacks have been an official license, both legal and illegal. They have been an indelible stain on America’s societal fabric that continues to touch and include more than an individual fiber. It is not just about Dylann Roof.

So now the individual has been caught should we sing “Kumbaya,” and lovingly come together to heal as the media has drummed in our heads over the last week or so as a cure for this terror? Yeah! Right!

Will gun control be the answer? If you believe that gun control will stop racist violence and address the deep social ills of Charleston, you must believe in Santa Claus. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Will getting rid of all Confederate flags rid the United States of “Charleston-like” terrorist acts? To tell the truth, for me the flag symbolizes how most of the Confederate army, composed primarily of poor whites who fought in a war that lined the pockets of the large Bourbon plantation landowners. They served as fodder for a cause that kept them barely above the status of black slaves.

Okay, get rid of these flags if it helps ease your mind. I am with you. Please don’t hold your breath for it to do much of anything.

Historically, self-defense— yes, I said it— has proved its mettle as an effective deterrent to racist violence. The Dea-

cons of Defense, Robert Williams, and Malcolm X thought so. Read Lance Hill’s “Deacon’s for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement” or Robert Williams’s “Negroes with Guns” or any of Malcolm’s speeches. If you want to go farther back in time, read David Krugler’s “1919, The Year of Racial Violence: How African Americans Fought Back.”

Charleston, just as important masks other oppressive conditions that blacks have historically faced. Quality of life social indicators and inequalities still put Charleston blacks at the bottom. Gentrification has forced blacks out of the downtown peninsula area to North Charleston. Oh, by the way, this is where a racist cop shot and killed Michael Scott.

It is reported that Dylann Roof justified his killing nine people partly because he thought that black people were taking over. Dylann, you possess the mindset of the Confederate soldier spoken about with a modern day twist.

Blacks are blamed because of affirmative action or because they take whites hard earned money from being on the dole. Blacks, the LGBTQ folks, and other scapegoats are supposed to degrade the American way of life. The true culprit is the U.S. led economic crisis that drives more and more people down the economic and the quality of life social indices. Do you feel it?

Dr. Ken Morgan is an activist scholar, who teaches and coordinates the Urban Studies program at Coppin State University.

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Millions of whites feel Charleston church killer 'could be my son'

By Matthew C. Whitaker
NNPA Guest Columnist

On Wednesday, June 17, 2015, Dylan Roof, a 21-year-old white supremacist, massacred nine black worshipers in the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Among those slain at close range with a .45 caliber semi-automatic weapon, were an 87-year-old woman and Emanuel's pastor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a South Carolina state senator. This atrocity was not only a premeditated stab at the heart of Black America, and one of the moral epicenters of the African Diaspora, it was the latest in a long history of calculated and explicit acts of racial terrorism perpetrated against African Americans.

This was neither random or without context. Yet, one week after the attack, I continue to hear many observers describe their "shock" and "surprise." Even a casual reader of American history, and an occasional news listener, would know that there has never been a cessation of racist beliefs and racial

conflict in America. White supremacists have never waived the white flag. The Confederate flag is their banner de jour. Indeed, racial tensions have only worsened of late. Almost daily we are bombarded with news of unarmed black people being shot while talking, walking, running, working, playing and now

only imagine receiving were, Heaven forbid, the tables turned. They empathize with Roof. They do not see him first as the latest in a long line of racist mass murders—the most recent, hateful, violent personification of our grossly unequal and unjust system, which is characterized and fueled by white domi-

you support. Don't stop! People of color need relief and you're next up at bat. If true change is to be made, we will need all hands on deck—especially yours.

The absence of racism is not the presence of anti-racism. We need more than good intentions. We need whites to—as Mahatma Gandhi urged—to "be the change you wish to see." Racism will not go away until we eradicate it and you must be as invested in its demise as people of color for this to happen. In the words of civil rights warrior Fred Shuttlesworth, "rattlesnakes don't commit suicide; ball players don't put themselves out. You gotta put 'em out."

To people of color, wake up and keep your heads on a swivel. The American promise is virtuous and our advancements are real but our trek in the wilderness continues and in the words of Robert Frost, we have "miles to go before we sleep." There is no shelter or sanctuary for black people in America.

Black people, we will not surrender and we will not back down. Others will either venture down the "rabbit hole," unplug, and stand side-by-side with us in struggle, or we will compel them to, beginning with relegating the Confederate flag, the symbol of white supremacy and hatred that Roof so proudly waved, to museums where it belongs.

Matthew C. Whitaker is ASU Foundation professor of history and founding director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at Arizona State University. He is also the owner and CEO of The Whitaker Group, L.L.C., an equity and inclusion, cultural competency, and human relations consulting firm. Follow him on Twitter at @Dr-Whitaker.

"It reported that the number of so-called Patriot groups, including armed militias, skyrocketed following the election of Obama in 2008—rising 813 percent, from 149 groups in 2008 to an all-time high of 1,360 in 2012. The number fell to 874 in 2014, which is nearly six times higher than when Obama took office."

praying while black. Indeed, The Southern Poverty Law Center reveals that there has been a "30 percent increase in hate crimes since 2000."

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When I rejected a white male acquaintance's attempt to describe Roof as a "misguided kid," he angrily declared, "Roof could be my son." As the "Oracle would say, "Bingo." He, and millions more like him, identify with Roof. They grant the baby faced, salad bowl haircut wearing white supremacist the kind of absolution that many people of color can

nance and disavowal of white supremacy. They see him not as the harbinger of violent bigotry, but an unwitting victim. Yes, as their son.

Perhaps this is why, as historian and public intellectual Brian Behnken recently observed, "Trayvon Martin buys skittles and an ice tea and ends up murdered. Dylan Roof murders nine black folks and gets treated to Burger King." Apparently murderous white supremacists can also "have it their way."

We must look courageously at the nature of white supremacy in America and the ways in which it defends itself at all costs. To my white brothers and sisters who have taken up the struggle and descended upon Charleston, signed petitions, written letters, donated to the cause and otherwise acted in the aftermath of Roof's carnage, thank you for

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Baltimore Native Develops Affordable Housing in PG County

By Stacy M. Brown

Bobby Turner was born and raised in Baltimore, so when it comes to developing affordable workforce housing in nearby Prince George's County and across the nation, the successful businessman isn't just passionate. "I'm fanatical," he said.

Through his California-based Turner Multifamily Impact Fund, an innovative social impact investment fund designed to address the critical shortage of affordable workforce housing across the country, Turner has announced the first acquisition, Regency Pointe, a 599-unit garden-style apartment community in Prince George's County.

Plans are to preserve Regency Pointe as affordable for workforce households earning up to 80 percent of the area's median income.

Turner says his firm will enrich the property with innovative resident-focused programs, environmentally responsible practices and intitutional



Baltimore native Bobby Turner of Turner Multifamily Impact Fund has acquired Regency Pointe, a 599-unit garden-style apartment community in Prince George's County. Plans are to preserve Regency Pointe as affordable for workforce households earning up to 80 percent of the area's median income.



Courtesy Photos

quality property management operations.

Located in Forestville, Maryland, the property offers a lower-cost housing alternative for people who work in the D.C. metro area, and currently has approximately 1,300 residents.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned throughout my career is that

making money and creating positive social change do not need to be mutually exclusive," Turner said. "We founded Turner Impact Capital on the principle that market-driven solutions can be applied and scaled to address many of today's most pressing societal issues in ways philanthropy and the government cannot."

As with his other properties, Turner says he will seek out schoolteachers from charter schools his company is involved with, law enforcement officers, nurses and other blue-collar workers. In some cases, he will offer them apartments free of charge in exchange for certain services.

"The teacher would give one night a week for training, the officer would provide one night of security for the neighborhood," he said.

Residents will include professionals who earn too much to qualify for subsidized housing, but not enough to afford higher cost apartments or home ownership in the communities near where they work.

"Workforce housing is an overlooked segment of the real estate market with a significant mismatch in supply and demand that we believe offers a compelling investment opportunity," Turner said. "For nearly 20 years, we've proven that investing in ethnically diverse communities with a mismatch in supply and demand for local services can generate strong financial returns, while benefiting local communities and facilitating positive social impact."

The company will seek to maintain the workforce-housing status of the properties it acquires, while making physical and management upgrades to improve operations and the quality of life for its residents.

Turner also plans to roll out education, healthcare and security programs for residents and communities, such as after school tutoring, employment assistance, community health and well-being services and neighborhood watch programs.

"Being driven by profits doesn't mean I have to drive up the price of rent," Turner said. "You can be creative, innovative and think outside of the box. The stakeholders will support and patronize the property by doing these things."

Turner pointed out that the recent unrest in places like Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri is a result of lost hope, something that shouldn't be.

"You can't have people spending 50 percent of their income on rent and a lack of educational and professional opportunities. It leaves them without hope that they can no longer envision the American Dream," Turner said.

He says that eventually he plans to build more units in Maryland as well as work to improve charter school laws here.

If for no other reason, Turner said it's personal—"My mom is there in Baltimore," he said. "So, I have to make my investors proud and I have to make my mother proud."



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Ravens give TE Coach Richard Angulo a great opportunity

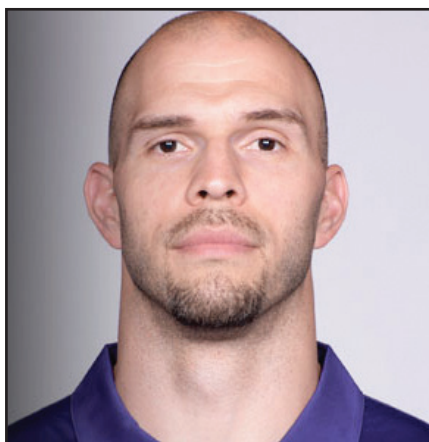
By Turrón Davenport

You never know when a big time opportunity will present itself in the NFL. The phrase, "I am always ready so I never have to get ready" is the mentality that anyone who is associated with the NFL has to have. The Baltimore Ravens new tight ends coach, Richard Angulo is an example of this. Angulo was promoted to the tight ends coaching position after he spent the 2014 season as an offensive coaching intern.

His role was a support role in which he worked with then offensive quality control coach Jay Harbaugh. Angulo's primary duty was to provide statistical analysis along with self-scouting reports and breakdowns of opposing defenses. He was a part of an offensive coaching staff that led the Ravens to franchise records in total yards (5,838) and total points (409).

Angulo took part in the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship with the Minnesota Vikings in 2013. His coaching career started with a brief stint at Lake Forest (IL) College as the tight ends coach. He moved on to Trinity International where he coached an offensive line that gave up only 1.5 sacks per game in an offense that was tenth in the NAIA in 2012. Angulo's offensive line paved the way for the school's first ever back-to-back 1,000-yard rusher in 2012 and 2013.

The Ravens new tight ends coach actually played the position himself in the NFL with four different teams.



Richard Angulo
Baltimore Ravens TE Coach
Courtesy Photo/baltimore Ravens.com

Angulo was drafted by the St. Louis Rams in the seventh round of the 2003 NFL Draft. He then went on to play for the Minnesota Vikings, Chicago Bears and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Recently, The Ravens selected two tight ends in the NFL Draft. Their second pick, Maxx Williams has said that his goal is to get stronger. Williams also said that he wanted to improve his blocking. Angulo's background is a perfect match for the Ravens young tight end. Having a coach like Angulo who played the position and served as a strength/conditioning coach will help the team's new tight end immensely.

Nick Boyle, the other tight end drafted by the Ravens drafted this year has already been impressive at the Organized Team Activities (OTA) and mini-camp. Second year player Crockett Gillmore has taken most of the reps as a starter and has stood out very well. Gillmore is likely to be the starter at the tight end position for the Ravens this season.

Coach Angulo will be the driving force behind the development of a young group of tight ends in Marc Trestman's tight end friendly offense.

Send your community calendar events
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Crab Feast

The S.E.E.D. Church located at 400 East 31st Street in Baltimore is hosting a crab feast and music festival on Saturday, August 1, 2015, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information or tickets, call 443-882-8544.

Toll Rollbacks Begin Across Maryland

Towson— Just in time for the busy Fourth of July holiday weekend getaway, tolls have dropped significantly. Effective, Wednesday, July 1, 2015, toll rates decreased dramatically at seven toll facilities operated by the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), as well as the all-electronic toll road, the Inter-county Connector, and the I-95 Express Toll Lanes (ETL). That's good news for the record-breaking 754,000 Marylanders projected to travel by car for the holiday, according to AAA Mid-Atlantic.

The E-ZPass discount for Maryland residents crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge is increasing tomorrow to 37.5 percent from the current 10 percent, and the toll rate drops from \$5.40 to just \$2.50 per round trip. The commuter rate for Maryland residents living on the eastern and western shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay, and enrolled in Bay Bridge Commuter Plan, will drop 33.3 percent, from \$2.10 to \$1.40, a 70 cent discount. Cash customers crossing the Bay Bridge eastbound in a two-axle vehicle will now pay \$4, instead of \$6 previously, a dis-

count of \$2, or 33.3 percent.

The discount for Maryland E-ZPass account holders will increase from 10 percent to 25 percent for trips along the Harbor Crossings, including the Baltimore Harbor and the Fort McHenry Tunnels, and across the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695), as well as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway (I-95), and the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge. The toll fee drops by \$1.20, a price reduction from \$7.20 to \$6 round trip on those toll facilities. Likewise, the Maryland E-ZPass discount for Maryland account holders will increase to 25 percent from 10 percent for trips across the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge. That means the round trip toll for the bridge drops by 90 cents at the toll plaza from \$5.40 to \$4.50.

To take advantage of the new E-ZPass discount, Maryland residents are encouraged to sign up for a Maryland E-ZPass. The new discounts increase from 10 percent to a range of 25 percent to 37.5 percent, according to the MDTA.

A vertical advertisement with a blue background. At the top, the word "ADDICTION" is written in large, white, all-caps letters. Below it, the words "Hope & Help Line" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a photograph of a woman in a white tank top and dark pants, standing on a beach with her arms raised in a gesture of hope or triumph. At the bottom of the ad, the text "FREE INSURANCE ASSESSMENT" is written in white, all-caps, followed by the phone number "800-986-1468" in large, bold, blue, all-caps letters.



Lessons Learned

How Businesses in Ferguson Are Recovering

July 8, 2015

8 - 9:30 a.m.

Radison Hotel at Cross Keys

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

Cost is \$30 pre-registered members,

\$60 non-members and walk-ins



A City-to-City Dialogue

Over the past nine months, the St. Louis Regional Chamber, the area's leading private sector economic development organization serving a 15-county, bi-state region, has lead the way for the business community in rebuilding.

Join the Baltimore City and County Chambers of Commerce for "Lessons Learned: How Businesses in Ferguson Are Recovering," with Joe Reagan, President and CEO of the St. Louis Regional Chamber.



Don't miss your chance to hear from those who have been there.

Call 410-837-7101 to Register

Devin Allen: Awakenings, In a New Light Debuts at Reginald Lewis Museum

Allen's first solo exhibition debuts new community space "Lewis Now" at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum from July 10 to December 7, 2015

Baltimore— "Devin Allen: Awakenings, In a New Light," the first solo show of Baltimore photographer Devin Allen, exhibits images of the 2015 Baltimore protests and debuts a new community space inside the Reginald F. Lewis Museum called Lewis Now. The 27-year old photographer graced the cover of Time Magazine in May, making him only the third amateur photographer to do so. The images on view reveal diverse moments, showing both the struggle and humanity of protest, including from the side of law enforcement.

The exhibition is a historical moment for Allen and the museum as the photographer headlines the launch of Lewis Now, a new community space that provides a platform for community engagement. The exhibition is on view Friday, July 10 to Monday, December 7, 2015 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum located at 830 East Pratt Street in Baltimore City, and is sponsored by PNC Bank.

"Devin, through his poetic and compelling photographs, reveals the complexity of those days with the perspective of someone who grew up in West Baltimore. His part in helping to define the image of our city not only gives us a more holistic understanding of the protests, but the act of self-defining is important in an era where practices like racial profiling impose images upon African Americans and threaten to define their identity for them," says Dr. Skipp Sanders, executive director of the museum. "The museum is proud to host his first solo show and to have it debut our Lewis Now space. His work corresponds perfectly to the idea behind Lewis Now, which is to provide the community with a free and public place to gather, converse, and exhibit content around issues and stories that are relevant to current times."

A number of images have been enlarged to 20-foot wide, providing a boldly immersive visitor experience. They have been wheat pasted onto the wall by Allen, in a nod to the street origins of the images. Visitors can interact with the exhibit by writing responses to the prompt, "Where were you?" on a timeline that shows a number of events Allen captured during his documentation of the protests.

"PNC and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum together will present an exhibition from Devin Allen that captures his extraordinary images of Baltimore residents during an emotional time for everyone to see," said Laura Gamble, PNC's regional President for Greater Maryland. "We hope our support of this powerful exhibition is another way to stimulate dialogue about how we can work together to move Baltimore forward."

The new Lewis Now space is located on the ground floor of the museum and is free and open to the public. Allen can be followed on Instagram @bydvnlIn.



Baltimore photographer Devin Allen and Deborah Nobles-McDaniel, Registrar for the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. The 27-year old photographer graced the cover of Time Magazine in May this year, making him only the third amateur photographer to do so. His first solo show "Devin Allen: Awakenings, In a New Light," will exhibit images of the 2015 Baltimore protests. The exhibit opens at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum on Friday, July 10 and runs until December 7, 2015.

Courtesy Photo/RFL

Nigerian female filmmaker, holds movie premiere in Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

The Nigerian film industry is growing and the world is taking notice. In June, Fortune magazine reported that as of 2009, Nigeria surpassed Hollywood and is now the second largest film industry in the world by volume, after the Indian film industry called Bollywood.

Ola Balogun; Hubert Ogunde; Jab Adu; Moses Olaiya; and Eddie Ugboma are considered the first generation of Nigerian filmmakers who laid the foundation for Nollywood, which is known as the Nigerian film industry. By the nineties, Nollywood expanded within Africa, before attracting a global following.

As Nollywood Africa continues to evolve, 40-year-old Remi Momodu aspires to make a meaningful contribution to Nollywood USA. By day, Momodu works as a full-time nurse in Baltimore County, but the busy wife and mother of four has not left her creative aspirations behind. Momodu is the executive producer and the filmmaker of the forthcoming movie, "XYZA," which will be shown in Baltimore on July 11, 2015. Sixty cast and crewmembers contributed to Momodu's first feature project. However, the presence of women who produce or direct African films is still relatively rare.

"It is not very common, and so we are picking up as well, and are trying to gain ground in that area," Momodu said.

Originally from Nigeria, Momodu spent most of her time living in Baltimore over the last 20 years, although she now resides in Howard County. She majored in Criminal Justice at University of Baltimore, completed studies at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and is currently working toward earning her MBA from the University of Baltimore.

Despite her noteworthy academic achievements, Momodu has had an interest in the struggles of women and children, from the age of nine or ten. While growing up in her homeland, Momodu began to form opinions about gender equality and the treatment of women. In 2014, she founded Unique Me Productions, a local company, which provides custom and high-quality com-



Remi Momodu is the executive producer and filmmaker of "XYZA." Momodu is standing next to the film's director, Ikechukwu Onyeka during filming on location in Baltimore late last year. Courtesy Photos

mercial video production and music video production. The first time the screenwriter made her acting debut in 2013 by appearing in several African movies, such as a comedy called "American Mama." Momodu also took the basics of filming and acting classes, to understand the elements of film before pursuing "XYZA."

She remarked that supporters are happy to observe a woman addressing the issue of domestic violence in film. In the lead role, Momodu portrays Xyza—a medical student whose professional dream was nearly derailed after meeting a Nigerian expatriate living in the U.S. Xyza battles mental, emotional and physical abuse, but Momodu chose to tell the story from a perspective that addresses stigma.

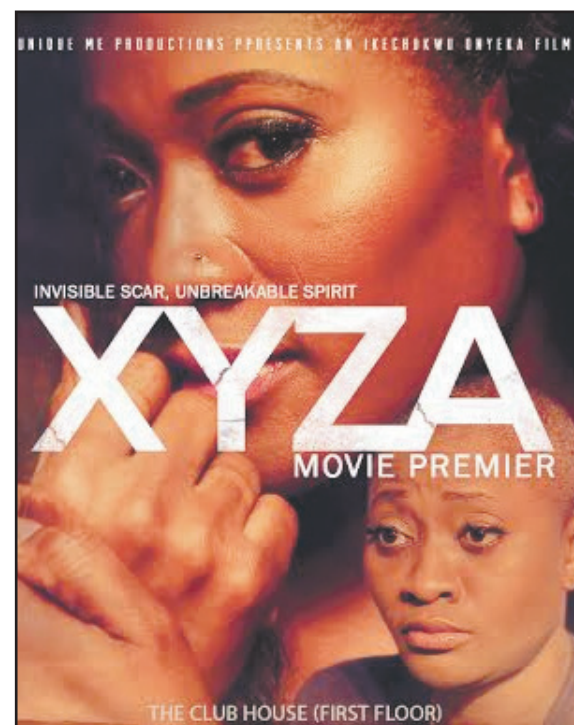
"With telling the story from Xyza's point of view, you don't have to remain in an abusive relationship. It's okay to be a single mom. It's okay to be divorced and still have your life, and still have your children," Momodu said. "The movie is about bringing more awareness to that issue [of domestic vio-

lence]. A lot of men and women are suffering. Our goal is to try to educate people, enlighten people, also help people to learn more about the issue, and also for them to get help before it's too late."

Momodu strives to become a change agent in society. Exploring an important issue through film is one way that she is moving toward achieving her goal.

"We can benefit from watching what we live through," Momodu said. "Whether you are white, black or [regardless of] where you come from, you can certainly relate to the story and also benefit from it."

A premiere of "XYZA" will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2015 at the Best Western Plus Hotel located at 5625 O'Donnell Street in Baltimore at 7 p.m. An after-party will follow.



To learn more about the film, visit: www.uniquemeproductions.com and to purchase tickets for the premiere, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/xyza-movie-premiere-tickets-16796444618>.

Local lawyer, boxer focuses on father, son relationships

By Stacy M. Brown

One national news publication called Venroy July a “triple threat,” while another said the boxer and CEO is among Baltimore’s entrepreneurs under 40 that are worth keeping a close eye on.

The Duke University graduate, lawyer and boxer has set aside the gloves and is focusing on promoting the sport as well as championing a closer relationship between fathers and their sons.

“I grew up in Jamaica and one of the things I remember growing up was watching boxing with my father,” said July, an attorney at the Baltimore firm of Hogan Lovells. “I remember him explaining to me the rules of boxing and how things worked. I remember going through each round and we would talk about it after each round and see how we feel about who won the round and who was the better fighter.”

During that time, July says his mother remained neutral, allowing father and son time to bond, which has led to July’s new program, the “Bring Your Boys” initiative.

July’s Hardwork Promotions Company has scheduled a fight card at Tall Cedars Hall in Baltimore for Thursday, July 9, 2015 in which all boys age 15 and under who are accompanied by their fathers will be admitted for a \$10. Additionally, Hardwork Promotions invites all military personnel, police and firefighters to the event for half the price of admission— Ringside VIP tickets are \$600, regular VIP tickets are \$75 and general admission is \$40.

The fight card features Baltimore’s Travis “Seever” Reeves, who is seeking to continue a streak of six straight wins. Drayvontay Rawls of Capitol Heights, Maryland and Joel Young from Beltsville are also included on the card.

“The role of fathers in the lives of boys are critical and then when you think about what’s gone on in Baltimore



Duke University graduate, lawyer and boxer Venroy July has set aside his boxing gloves and is focusing on promoting the sport as well as championing a closer relationship between fathers and their sons with a new program “Bring Your Boys” Initiative. The program allows boys 15 years and under accompanied by their fathers admission to the event for \$10.

Courtesy Photo/Hardworkpromotions.com

recently, having that bonding time is vital and having police officers there too is important because the impact of the community yelling and cheering at a boxing match with police officers can have a great impact,” July said.

July earned his reputation as a competitor back in Jamaica. He was on the wrestling team at the University of North Carolina while pursuing an undergraduate degree in political science and economics. He later earned a law degree from Duke University and landed a job at a firm in Washington, D.C.

However, as he told Yahoo! Sports, the website that called him a “triple threat,” being an attorney means reading contracts all day. It didn’t provide him with the physical challenges he yearned for.

“My entire life had been a balance

between sports and school. Even when I was at law school, I was wrestling for Duke,” July said. “I’ve always been about the balance and having a workout is a great way to break up the day and stay healthy. Let’s be honest, lawyers aren’t the most healthy people.”

When he decided to box as a Cruiserweight, July won his first fight and, after a few more triumphs, highly regarded boxing officials began to take notice, telling him that he had a future in the “Sweet Science.”

“Everybody kept telling me that if you turn pro and go 10-0, that’s the big break,” he said. “They kept telling me that 10-0 is the magic number. I got to 5-0 and I was saying to myself, ‘Man, I’m halfway there.’ I kept going and I got to 10-0 and the break didn’t come.”

However, that could be because of the busy schedule he has kept outside of the ring. Most notably, July’s “Bring Your Boys” initiative has become a top priority. He says bringing fathers and their sons together affords him a great privilege and great joy.

“How many people would like to bring their sons to an event, but they’re not going to bring them because of the price? Boys are going to be left at home because fathers are not willing to pay that kind of money,” July said. “So we just thought that for this, we wanted to create an atmosphere to allow fathers and sons because for me, it was so instrumental.”

For tickets for the upcoming boxing event or for more information about Hardwork Promotions, visit: www.hardworkpromotions.com.

Pre-Med Internship for College Students Available

The Baltimore City Medical Society Pre-Med Internship offers currently enrolled pre-med college sophomores, juniors and seniors, a unique opportunity to experience the day-to-day practice of medicine and the important work of local and state physician membership organizations. During weekly sessions over a ten-week period, students meet one-to-one with physicians, participate in patient advocacy activities, and gain a better understanding of the health care system and efforts to bring about reforms. The deadline for applications is Friday, July 31, 2015. For more information, contact the Society by email: info@bcmstdocs.org or call: 410-625-0022.



Everyone will be bringing something to the 4th of July picnic, but you can bring the grand finale. Each of these tasty sweet treats captures the flair of the 4th without the fuss. In just a little time, you can add patriotic color and fun flavor to classics like cupcakes and cookies.

Red, White and Blue Swirled Cupcakes: Everyone loves picnic treats they can grab and eat, and these July 4th cupcakes also bring pyro-technics to the plate. Each is topped with an explosive three-color swirl of icing, easily created with the Color Swirl Three-Color Coupler.

Creamy Coconut Cookie Flag: Give the day a flag-waving finish with red, white and blue royal iced cookies that hold up to the heat using the Color Right™ Performance Color System. The tropical taste combination of toasted coconut and creamy vanilla is just right for summer.

It's a great feeling to bring a dessert that can't miss. The Wilton Test Kitchen developed these deliciously easy ideas to go with your summer celebration so you can enjoy the fireworks with everyone else. For more party ideas, visit www.wilton.com.

(Source: Family Features)

Creamy Coconut Cookie Flag

Yield: About 3 dozen 3-inch cookies

Cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
1 egg
1/4 teaspoon Toasted Coconut Treatology Flavor Concentrate
8 drops Creamy Vanilla Custard Treatology Flavor Concentrate
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

Icing

3/4 cup + 3 teaspoons water
12 cups (about 3 pounds) confectioner's sugar, sifted
6 tablespoons Color Flow Mix Color Right Performance Color System (see colors tinted below)

Icing Colors

Red (formula 32): 1 1/2 cups icing + 62 R + 8 O

Deep Blue (formula 647): 1/2 cup icing + 27 B + 5 P + 6 R

White: Reserve 2 cups icing

Note: Make and decorate cookies 1 day in advance to allow for drying time. Heat oven to 350°F.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and flavors. Mix flour, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Do not chill dough. Divide dough into 2 balls.

On floured surface with rolling pin, roll each ball into a circle approximately 12 inches in diameter by 1/8 inch thick. Cut cookies with star nesting metal cookie cutter. Dip cutter in flour before each use. Bake cookies on ungreased cookie sheet 8–11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned.

Prepare Color Flow icing. Tint icing following color formulas above. Use tip 3, a parchment bag and full-strength icing to outline cookies: 32 in red, 21 in white and 16 in blue. Let cookies dry 1–2 hours.

Thin 1 cup red, 1/4 cup blue and 1 cup white icing. Use thinned icing and disposable decorating bag to fill in

cookies. Fill in 8 of blue outlined cookies with white icing and remaining cookies with matching outline color.

Let dry 8–12 hours.

To serve, arrange cookies on tray in stars and stripes design.





DAZZLE GUESTS WITH A

JULY 4th FEAST

Celebrate warm weather, abundant outdoor activities and all the fun of July Fourth with a flavorful and festive gathering. Independence Day only comes once a year, so make it count and invite your favorite guests over for a memorable event. You'll go out with a bang when you serve up these palate-pleasing dishes at your patriotic party.

Patriotic and Perfectly Sweet

This July Fourth, serve watermelon. This yummy fruit boasts sweetness and nutrition at a great value. Loaded with vitamins A, B6 and C, as well as antioxidants and heart-healthy amino acids, it's a welcome addition to your summer spread. For more recipes, visit www.watermelon.org.

Red, White and Blue Watermelon Cake

Servings: 6–8

1 seedless watermelon

1 cup low or no fat natural vanilla flavored yogurt

1 cup sliced almonds
1 cup blueberries
1 cup sliced strawberries

Place watermelon on side on cutting board.

Cut 3–5 inches off each end to create large center slice between 3–5 inches in depth. Trim off outer rind.

Cut watermelon slice into 6–8 pie-shaped wedges. Blot edges with paper towels to absorb excess moisture.

Dip the back (curved) side of each slice in yogurt and then almonds, re-assembling pieces on serving platter as each piece is completed.

When finished, it will look like piecrust of almonds around watermelon slices. Frost top of reassembled watermelon with remaining yogurt and decorate top with berries. Serve cold.

Fresh Off the Grill

“For a red-white-and-blue burger that tastes as good as it looks, I use ground bison on a brioche bun, topped with Castello Burger Blue Cheese,” says celebrity chef Michael Symon. For more recipes, visit castellocheeseusa.com.

Bison Burger with Blue Cheese

Recipe courtesy of Michael Symon, Servings: 4

Kosher Salt

Freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 pound ground bison, loosely packed into burger patties
4 slices Castello Burger Blue cheese
4 brioche-style soft hamburger buns, toasted
1 small red onion, very thinly sliced into rings
1 cup arugula

Heat your grill to medium-high heat.

Season burgers with salt and freshly ground black pepper on both sides. Drizzle with olive oil, then place on grill.

Cook 3 minutes, then flip.

Add slices of blue cheese (1 slice per burger), and let cook another 1–2 minutes.

Remove burgers from grill and place patties on toasted buns.

Top each burger with slice of red onion and 1/4 of arugula.



(Source: Family Features)

Rambling Rose

Happy 4th of July to all!

Hello every one and Happy 4th of July. Hopefully we will have great weather this weekend, because we know that many of you will be celebrating outdoors with cook-outs.

To help you with some of your 4th of July celebrations, Bleues on the Water located at 7696 Altoona Beach Road in Glen Burnie/Pasadena area is having an All American Cookout on Saturday, July 4th from 7-11 p.m. This is an exclusive waterfront venue with stunning views of fireworks. For more information, call 410-760-4115. Tell them Rambling Rose told you about it!

Kick off your 4th of July weekend with Havana Night on July 3 at the hottest happy hour in town at Little Havana Restaurante y Cantina Cubana, 1325 Key Hwy in Baltimore. This event is hosted by Valerie Fraling, Marty Glaze, Zack McDaniels, George Ray, Sonjay De-Cairies and Darnell Moses.

The Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund is looking for gifted and talented children from the ages of 5-17 years that can sing or play an instrument to audition for a scholarship to help in their future music career. For applications please go to www.rosapryormusic.com or call Dr. Donna Hollie at 410-358-9875 for more information or to get an application mailed to you. The deadline is August 1, 2015.

Also, the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund is in desperate need of your help for sponsors or donations for the children's scholarships. We appreciate anything you can give. The organization is a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) in good standing that has given over 100 music scholarships to underprivileged children over its 25 year history. Any dollar amount you can donate will be appreciated. Send donations to: 214 Conewood Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136; write check payable to: Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund. You can also go to the website www.rosapryormusic.com and send donations thru PayPal. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I want to thank the Baltimore Times for their donation.

Now for some more fun stuff. Mannnnnnnnnnnn! This is where I would like to be for part of the 4th of July weekend. One Love Cultural Arts International Food Festival is Sunday, July 5 starting at 12 noon at Lake Clifton Park 2801 Harford Road at Saint Lo Drive in Baltimore, Maryland. It is a family friendly event full of live entertainment from both local and international artists. The headliner is Grammy Award-winning Reggae artist Beenie Man. The event also has food, local and international vendors, arts and crafts and a kid's corner. For more information, call 443-769-7270. Make sure you check this out.

More fun stuff coming up such as, The Faisonian Club with CH Productions & GH Productions hosting the "DipNc Festival" on Saturday, July 11 rain or shine from 12 noon until 8 p.m. for adults only (not allowed to bring children of any age). This event is really awesome too. There will be live entertainment, vendors, swimming, camping, cook-out, dancing, and barbecue indoors and outdoors. The party never stops. For ticket information, call 443-801-1100 and tell them Rosa Pryor told you.

Let's not forget the Baltimore/Washington Caribbean Carnival, Festival and Parade that happens every year held July 11-12 on Saturday from 12 noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon until 9 p.m. at Lake Clifton Park. Dr. Elaine Simon, CEO and founder of the festival has accomplished something special with this event. It is the most beautiful, festive, colorful, exciting event ever came to Baltimore in Caribbean style. There is none like it. Take my word for it. Many islands will be represented by beautifully hand-crafted costumes, steel band performers, and a spectacular street parade. The parade is Saturday, July 11 beginning in the 900 block of East 33rd Street at 1 p.m. For more information, call 410-362-2957.

The Black Business Summit hosted by Lou Fields is Thursday, July 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Arch Social Club, 2326 Pennsylvania Avenue. The theme is "From Ferguson to Baltimore" with a focus on developing and supporting black business in Baltimore. There will be food, speakers, presenters, vendors and more. For more information, call 443-983-7974.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space. Enjoy your holiday, be safe and love one another. Remember, if you need me, call me at





"Bleues On The Water"

410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.


UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

ROSA PRYOR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.
Presents Their 19th Annual
DELUXE OLDIES BUT GOODIES CRAB FEAST
(A Fundraiser for the Children)
Saturday, July 18, 2015 2:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.
IN MEMORY OF YVONNE MCKINNEY
AT
THE VFW POST 6506
PHILADELPHIA ROAD
(OFF 695-RT 7 NEAR GOLDEN RING MALL)
ROSEDALE, MARYLAND 21237
(410-391-6506)





ALL THE CRABS YOU CAN EAT ON SITE (NO TAKE OUT)
***Free Draft Beer *CASH BAR* (No outside Alcohol permitted) *Dancing**
***Door Prizes *Vendors *CRABS BY AL'S SEAFOOD**

DINNER MENU Served from 2:30-5 p.m. Only
Crab Soup, Corn on the Cob, Bake Beans, Hot Dogs, String Beans, Swedish Meatballs, Fried Chicken, Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Tossed Green Salad, Deserts, water and Sodas



DJ "Sugar Chris" will
Musically Entertain You



Rosa Pryor's Group from out of Washington, DC Area: **"SIGNATURE LIVE" WILL ALSO PERFORM TO HELP CELEBRATE "SHORTY", ROSA HUSBAND'S 75TH BIRTHDAY**

DONATIONS: \$50.00 PER PERSON (All Donations are Tax Deductible)

FOR TICKET INFORMATION:
Chair & CO-Chair persons: James Pope 410-443-691-0538 & Marcia Pryor 410-233-4307
Committee: Della Wagner, Kim Thomas, Shorty Trusty, Betty Eggleston 410-323-4927
Rosa Pryor 410-833-9474 or Email (rosapryor@aol.com)

Send Donation Payable to: Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, Inc., 214 Conewood Road, Reisterstown, Maryland, 21136 or Go on our Web Site: www.rosapryormusic.com and click on Pay-Pal (using your credit card), THANK YOU!

RED, WHITE AND BOOM

Celebrate July 4th with Savings!

MVP
8⁹⁹
LB



Value Pack
Boneless Ribeye Steak
Without MVP Card \$11.99 LB



MVP Pork
Back Ribs
Without MVP Card \$3.99 LB

2⁹⁹
LB

Value Pack
Boneless Chicken Breast
Low Price Every Day

1⁹⁹
LB

MVP Food Lion
8 Piece Hot or Cold Fried Chicken
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

5⁹⁹
EA

MVP 12 Oz.
King's Hawaiian Original or Savory Butter Rolls
Without MVP Card \$3.99 EA

2⁹⁹
EA

MVP Bulk
Washington Bing Cherries
Without MVP Card \$3.99 LB

1⁹⁹
LB

MVP Whole
Seedless or Seeded Watermelon
Without MVP Card \$4.99 EA

2⁹⁹
EA

MVP Container
Blueberries, Blackberries or Raspberries
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

1⁹⁹
EA

MVP 44-48 Oz. - All Varieties
Food Lion Deli Salads
Without MVP Card \$5.99 EA

4⁹⁹
EA

COOK OUT With these SAVINGS

2⁹⁹
EA MVP

14-15 Oz. Pkg. - Select Varieties
Ball Park Beef Franks
Without MVP Card \$3.99 EA

2⁹⁹
EA MVP

8 Ct.
Ball Park Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns
Without MVP Card \$2.49 EA

2⁹⁹
EA MVP

6-12 Oz. - Select Varieties
Kraft Shredded, American Singles or Velveeta Sliced Cheese
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

2⁹⁹
EA MVP

48 Oz. - All Varieties
Edy's Ice Cream
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

3⁹⁹
LB MVP

Yellow or White
Food Lion Fresh Deli American or Hot Pepper Cheese
Without MVP Card \$4.99 LB

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Single items at 15 price

6.5-8.3 Oz. - Select Varieties
Betty Crocker Suddenly Salad
Without MVP Card \$2.49 EA

4⁹⁹
EA MVP

23.5-36 Oz. - Select Varieties
Edwards Pies
Without MVP Card \$6.49 EA

2⁹⁹
FOR \$5 MVP

24 Pack - 16.9 Oz. Bottles
Food Lion Drinking Water
Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA

2⁹⁹
FOR \$1 MVP

15 Oz.
Van Camp's Pork and Beans
Without MVP Card 99¢ EA

2⁹⁹
FOR \$3 MVP

22-28 Oz. - Select Varieties
Bush's Best Baked or Grillin' Beans
Without MVP Card \$2.19 EA

2⁹⁹
FOR \$5 MVP

10 Oz. - Select Varieties
A.1. Steak Sauce
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

MVP SAVINGS CENTER

8⁹⁹
EA MVP

-\$1 off 1

7⁹⁹
EA MVP

69-75 Oz. Liquid or 23-31 Ct. Pods - Select Varieties
Tide Laundry Detergent
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

2⁹⁹
EA MVP

10-14 Oz. - Select Varieties
Kraft Deluxe or Velveeta Shells & Cheese Dinner
Without MVP Card \$2.79 EA

4⁹⁹
EA MVP

6 Big or 8 Regular Rolls - Select Varieties
Sparkle Paper Towels
12 Double Rolls
Angel Soft Bath Tissue
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

2⁹⁹
FOR \$3 MVP

20-48 Ct. - Select Varieties
Home 360 Designer Plates or Bowls
Without MVP Card \$2.49 EA

Indie Soul Music

By Phinisse Demps

Back in the day when I was deejay, I would spend hours, not to mention money, listening to and buying music. I was the type of deejay who wanted the newest music first or to introduce a new artist that no one was checking for. It's the same attitude I have when it comes to the music for this column. This week I have some reviews from Slum Village and Hayley Fahey.

Haley Fahey: Fahey began following me on Twitter. I always check to see who follows me to see what they are about. Fahey was a joy to discover. Not only is she a talented writer and music lover, checkout her blog here: www.hayleymfahey.wordpress.com, she is wonderful music artist. She writes, sings, and plays guitar. Her voice is very soulful and big She reminds me of Joss Stone and Joni Mitchell (incidentally, on Fahey's Soundcloud, she does a cover of Mitchell tune, Woodstock that just blew me away). She definitely delivers that acoustic soul. Check out for yourself, visit: www.soundcloud.com/hayley-fahey.

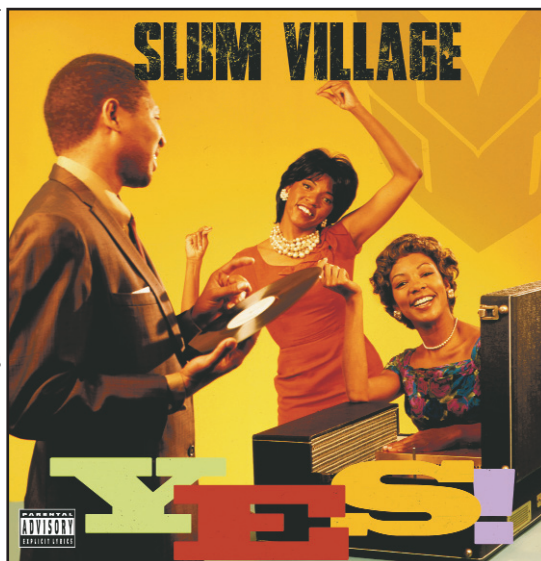
Slum Village: As one of the most underrated hip-hop groups, these dudes have always been true to who they are and their sound. They never disappoint. They are not flashy or in the running for awards but true to the culture of the music.

Their latest project, "YES," is another classic just in time for summer. "YES" contains music production by the one and only J-Dilla, (Baltimore's hip-hop scene, hosts a tribute to J-Dilla every year called B-More Dilla). Slum Village's "YES," is by far their best project to date and that's hard to say since I am a fan of their music. Lyrically these guys have grown in the music scene and their music has grown with them. Outstanding guests on the project include Bilal, Phife Dog, and De La Soul. My favorite tracks include: "Right Back,"



Courtesy Photo/Haley Fahey

"Yes-Yes (Remix)," "Push It Along," "Tear It Down," "Too Much" and "We On The Go." Head to your record store and pick up Slum Village's "YES" today!



Indie Soul: BET Awards Show



Janet Jackson was honored with Ultimate Icon: Music Dance Visual Award by BET. Courtesy Photo/BET

By Phinisse Demps

By now many of you have seen the BET Awards show where Diddy fell through the floor; Kendrick Lamar ripped the stage; Lil Kim sent the audience into a frenzy; and Smokey Robinson killed the new school with words and showmanship. Could there be more?

If it was up to me, I would like the show to be a more balanced presentation of black culture. It is supposed to be about the celebration of black music and black art, yet it didn't come across as such. We have skewed so young that we forget about appearances by veteran actors Kerry Washington, Viola Davis, and Denzel Washington. Why not revamp and give a more balanced view of who we are as a people and not just the same ole, same ole!

We forget the other aspects of culture:

Jazz, soul, blues, stage, and much more. There is artistry in all that, which we need to celebrate and embrace. If this was the hip-hop awards then yes, by all means, have at it. We are talking Black Entertainment Television. We are talking BET Awards. These past few years we have had a lot to celebrate from the writers to the producers, to directing, casting and so much more. It's shame that we don't show it all. Our nominations should reflect that as well, including performances, and not just be about who is popular on social media.

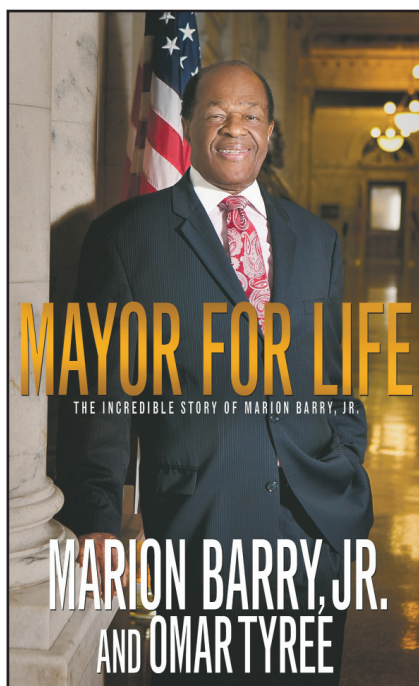
Black is beautiful, bold, conscious and soulful. No matter where it comes from. We are works of art. This one night of the year should capture all of that. This is by no means disrespect to BET. It's just a plea from someone who is a fan who wants a more balanced view of who we really are.

Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments.
To contact Phinisse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: lfpindiesoul@gmail.com
Follow him on Twitter: [@lfpindiesoul](https://twitter.com/lfpindiesoul).

Indie Soul Book Review

This week we review for you, “Mayor For Life The Incredible Story of Marion Barry, Jr.” written by Marion Barry Jr. and Omar Tyree. The four-time mayor of Washington, DC tells his shocking and courageous life story, beginning in the cotton fields in Mississippi, to the executive offices of one of the most powerful cities in the world. Known nationally as the disgraced mayor caught on camera smoking crack cocaine in a downtown hotel room with a mistress, Marion Barry Jr. has led a controversial career. This provocative, captivating narrative follows the Civil Rights activist, going back to his Mississippi roots, his Memphis upbringing, and his academic school days, up through his college years and move to Washington, DC, where he became actively involved in Civil Rights, community activism, and bold politics.

I find it incredibly courageous that Barry is brutally honest about who he is as a person, his personal mistakes and how it affected his life from a political and personal standpoint. No matter what one thinks about that one night that cost him plenty, you can’t take away the fact that Marion Barry Jr. is an icon and should be remembered for that. Blacks in the D.C area thrived under his three terms, so much so that the residents of the District voted him into a fourth term after the scandal and after the prison sentence. The people didn’t judge him on his personal issues but on his service for the city.



Marion Barry Jr. passed away on November 23, 2014. Since his passing, D.C. has continued to honor his legacy. A summer youth program that Marion Barry Jr. started has been renamed the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute and D.C. Mayor, Muriel Bowser, announced the formation of the D.C. Commission to Commemorate and Recognize the Honorable Marion S. Barry Jr.

Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: lfpindiesoul@gmail.com Follow him on Twitter: @lfpindiesoul.

Indie Soul Spotlight: Root Branch Academy

By Phinisse Demps

The chaos that engulfed the entire community and left us with so much work and conversation to have. The only problem is, we are not listening to or have invited those to the table to partake of the conversation on how to rebuild the City of Baltimore. There two groups, women and young people. Vonnya Pettigrew wants to change that. Pettigrew was affected by the riots. Her home on 26th street was fire bombed. She was left for the new few days looking for a place to call home but in the process was thinking of a way to reach those who have a voice but were not being heard. “I think we need to actively find solutions to address educating our kids and teaching them to self-love themselves. We need action not constant conversation,” says Pettigrew.

Her company, Root Branch Film Academy, offers a three-week summer film enrichment program onsite at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum for youth ages (8 - 12). This summer, the young media makers will produce a short documentary-styled film profiling one of the museum’s most popular exhibitions. Adds Pettigrew, “Our young people need to know where they come from in order to do better. That is our job as parents, as adults, and role models. They need guidance and direction. This project is about educating letting them learn history so they can come to a better of an under-



Vonnya Pettigrew with youth reporter, Madison. Courtesy Photo

standing as to who they are and what other have gone through for them. This way are they not only learn about being a filmmaker, they are learning history.”

Space is Limited! There is still time to register as classes begin next week. Visit: www.rootbranchfilmacademy.com, for more details.

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Annapolis Named One of the Top Ten Best All-American Vacations for 2015

Annapolis— Families making plans for Fourth of July weekend are invited to set their sights on Annapolis, Maryland. TravelChannel.com has just ranked Maryland's capital city among the top ten best All-American Vacations for 2015. The "Travels Best: All-American Vacations" calls Annapolis the "epitome of classic Americana," and invites visitors to check out the City's historic homes, maritime heritage, U.S. Naval Academy and Maryland crabs.

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau (AAACCVB) President and CEO Connie Del Signore says, TravelChannel.com is right on target with its assessment, "It's hard to be more All-American than Annapolis. It was the nation's first peacetime capital— known better today as 'America's Sailing Capital.' We invite visitors to come and explore our history, our architecture and our Chesapeake Bay. Our guess is they'll want to stay."

TravelChannel.com enlisted a panel of experts to help determine the ten best all-American vacations for 2015, includ-



ing Robin Bennefield (freelance travel writer and producer), Jessica Bowers (family travel expert, SuitcasesandSip-

pyCups.com), Guillaume Dutilh and Jenna Spesard (TinyHouseGiantJourney.com) and Jessica van Dop DeJesus

(U.S. Marine and editor of DiningTraveler.com).

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Annapolis July 4th Celebrations

Annapolis 4th of July Parade!

Saturday, July 4, 2015,

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Come join this patriotic salute to our nation, with marching bands, fire engines old and new, cars and vans, service clubs and scouts! ROUTE: Stepoff is at Amos Garrett and West St. We'll head down West Street, wrong way around Church Circle, down Main Street, left on Randall Street, and ends in front of the Market House. Anywhere along the parade route will provide a good view of the parade.

United States Naval Academy Band

Saturday, July 4, 2015, 8:00 pm to Dusk

Location: Susan Campbell Park -City Dock

The USNA Concert Band performs a public concert series featuring everything from light classics to marches to classic band literature and patriotic songs.

Independence Day Celebration at a Signer's Home and Garden

11:00 AM - 5:00 pm

William Paca House, 186 Prince George Street

William Paca was one of the four Maryland men who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Celebrate America's birthday by touring the grand Georgian mansion that he built 250 years ago and wandering the paths of his beautifully restored two-acre pleasure garden. Along the way, visitors will likely encounter Mr. Paca himself and other notable Annapolis residents and hear why they pledged their lives, fortunes and



honor to the revolutionary cause of American independence. Hands-on activities for kids of all ages will bring the struggles of American independence to life. Admission included in general admission.

Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

William Paca House and Garden, 186 Prince George Street

10:00 am—11:00 am Join Historic Annapolis in welcoming thirty-five new citizens into the American family at the 9th annual naturalization ceremony held at the William Paca House & Garden. Robert Clark, President of Historic Annapolis, will host the ceremony, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials will administer the Oath of Allegiance to the candidates for citizenship. Annapolis High School's NJROTC unit will provide a cadet color guard, and the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis will lead the singing of the national anthem and perform a selection of patriotic songs.

11:00 am– 12:00pm Concert by Maggie Sansone, hammered dulcimer artist

11:00 am – 4:30 pm Living History in the William Paca House! Come meet Mr. and Mrs. Paca and other Annapolitans as they debate the importance of independence. Tours Are offered every 30 minutes and hands-on activities will be on-going!

2:00 Mr. and Mrs. Paca will join the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence at 2:00 pm to ring the Liberty Bell on St. John's College. Free Admission; no reservations required.

4th of July Fireworks in Historic Annapolis

Saturday, July 4, 2015, 9:15 pm

Annapolis launches its fireworks from a barge in Annapolis Harbor. The best viewing areas include public spaces Northeast of the Severn River, along the



Naval Academy Bridge (limited parking area), any of the street-end parks facing Spa Creek, and aboard a boat in the Annapolis harbor. The Spa Creek Bridge will be closed to traffic beginning at 9 p.m. to create a spectator pier with an unobstructed view of the fireworks.

Parking and Transportation

Parking will be restricted in many areas and parking in residential areas is not suggested. Instead, park in Park Place Garage or Knighton Garage. There will be no City shuttle to the Stadium. Other City Parking garages include Gott's Garage and Hillman Garage.

Parking Restrictions: Beginning at 4 p.m. and extending until about 10:30 p.m., parking will be prohibited and violators may be towed from the following areas:

- City Dock
- Main Street
- Randall Street
- Market Space
- Cathedral Street between West and Franklin Streets
- Both sides of Severn Avenue between First and Burnside Streets
- East side of First, Second and Third streets between Severn and Chester Avenues
- South side of Chesapeake and Chester avenues between Riverview Avenue and Burnside Street
- Bay Ridge Avenue between Sixth and Burnside Streets.
- Bembe Beach Road from Awald to end.

Courtesy Photos

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Eco-Friendly Mosquito Control

By Melinda Myers

Don't let mosquitoes keep you from enjoying your garden and outdoor parties. Look for environmentally sound ways to manage these pests in your garden and landscape.

Start by eliminating standing water in the yard. Buckets, old tires and clogged gutters and downspouts that hold water make the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Drain water that collects in these as well as kids' toys, tarps and pool covers. Store these items in the garage or turn them over to keep them from becoming a mosquito breeding ground. Even small containers hold enough water for hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes to breed.

Change the water in birdbaths at least once a week. Consider installing a small pump to keep water moving to prevent mosquito breeding or use an organic mosquito control like Mosquito Dunks and Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and water features. The Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while the Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control. They are both certified organic and safe for pets, fish, wildlife and children.

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. These pests are less attracted to the

lighter colors and can't readily reach your skin through loose clothing. And be sure to cover as much of your skin as possible with long sleeves and pants.

Add a few birdhouses to the landscape to bring in the birds. You'll enjoy their beauty and benefit from their diet of insects, including many garden pests and mosquitoes.

Keep the garden weeded. Mosquitoes rest in shrubs, trees and weeds during the day. Removing weeds and managing neglected garden spaces will make your landscape less inviting to these pests.

Consider using a personal repellent to protect you against disease-carrying mosquitoes. For those looking to avoid DEET, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has also approved products with the active ingredient picaridin (found in Skin so Soft products), IR3535, and the synthetic oil of lemon and eucalyptus. Avoid products that contain both sunscreen and insect repellents as you need to apply the sunscreen more often than the repellent.

Add a bit more protection while sitting or eating outdoors. Use a fan to create a gentle breeze that keeps the weak flying mosquitoes away from you and your guests. Some gardeners even take a small fan into the garden, while weeding.

Then add a bit of ambience to your next party by lighting a few citronella



Weeding the garden, adding some birdhouses, eliminating standing water and using fans and citronella candles are just a few of the eco-friendly ways to keep mosquitoes at bay this season. Courtesy Photo/James Gathany CDC

candles for your evening events. Citronella oil and the scented candles do have some mosquito repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout your entertainment space. Position the candles within a few feet of your guests. This can provide some short-term relief from these pests for you and your guests.

Melinda Myers is a Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist with more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books. For more information, gardening videos and tips, visit: www.melindamyers.com.

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture needs volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as docents for special events and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with children's activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college and high school students. Service-learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Volunteer orientations are held at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. For more information, contact Erica Holmes at 443-263-1800 or email: holmes@maamc.org or visit the museum's website: www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

American Healing Arts Alliance Needs Volunteers

AHAA is a non-profit educational alliance of healing arts and sciences organizations, educators, practitioners, students and supportive individuals. AHAA sponsors regional healing arts events and international inner peace building educational programs. Volunteers, age 18 and up, are needed to help with our on-going programs and special events. Coordinators and assistants are needed for the following areas: Membership development, volunteer recruitment, event planning, Peace Nouvella Players™ ensemble development, fundraising, sponsorships, press releases, publicity, publications, resources directory and website updates. Contact Alice Yeager at 410-956-0055, E-mail info@americanhealingarts.org, or visit the website at: www.americanhealingarts.org for more information.

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Kids Nearly New Fall Sale Saturday, Sept 19th. 8a-1p 140 family booths selling everything for NB-teens. booth info KNNsale.com

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

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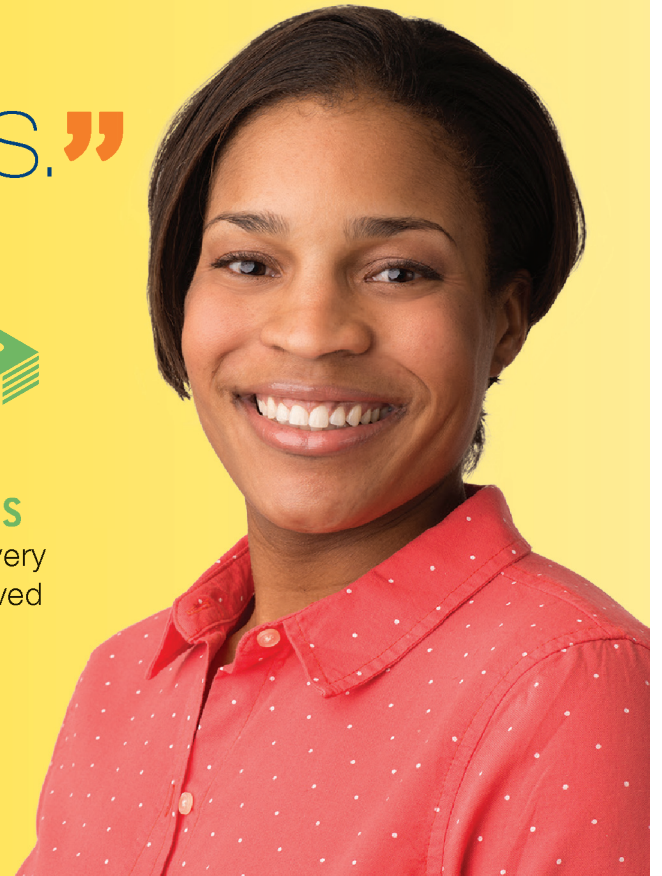
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Stephanie
LAUREL



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