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Speaking Truth to Justice

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BAIL PROJECT

**helps people get out of jail,
reunites families**



BAIL ME OUT

With nearly 2 million people held in the criminal justice system,
Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by cash bail
Of all Black Americans in jail, nearly half are from southern prisons.

**Judges routinely set cash bail well beyond most people's ability to afford it, resulting in
thousands of legally innocent people incarcerated while they await court dates, p3**

Largest-ever HBCU week coming to Walt Disney World Resort next month

NPA NEWSWIRE — Disney's involvement in HBCU Week is part of a relationship between HBCU Week Foundation and Disney on the Yard, an initiative focused on deepening Disney's engagement with HBCUs. By working more closely with HBCUs, Disney aims to continue building a long-term pipeline of Black employee talent through the development of student internships, mentorship opportunities, career and employee spotlights, scholarships and more.

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — High school students from across the Southeast and beyond will descend on Walt Disney World Resort next month for the largest-ever HBCU Week featuring a huge college fair, a parade of high-stepping marching bands, a fierce battle of the bands and a live ESPN broadcast.

A record number of high school students (more than 5,000) and Historically Black Colleges and University representatives (nearly 50) will take part in the weekend event, October 7-9, 2022, when more than \$10 million in scholarships are expected to be awarded, which would be another event record. Since 2017, more than 3,500 on-the-spot admissions have been offered, along with more than \$23 million in scholarships.

This is the first time in its five-year history that the HBCU Week Foundation is hosting its annual event at Walt Disney World Resort, which is expanding the foundation's ability to stage new and more high-profile activities for its attendees. As a result, this year there will be a parade of HBCU bands down Main Street, U.S.A. at Magic Kingdom Park; a battle of the bands at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex along with the college fair; a live broadcast of ESPN's First Take show featuring HBCU Week ambassador Stephen A. Smith and show host Molly Qerim; and several Lunch and Learn seminars for students to gain educational and career insights.

Delaware State, Bethune Cookman, North Carolina A&T, Winston-Salem State and Alcorn

University will participate in the parade at Magic Kingdom and compete in the Battle of the Bands.

"We are pleased to share in the mission to highlight the rich history and cultural significance of HBCUs, creating educational and, ultimately, career opportunities for students," said HBCU Week Founder and CEO Ashley Christopher. "Hosting this national event at Walt Disney World Resort helps amplify the mission of HBCU Week, attracting more parents and students throughout the country to our events and helps make an even greater impact in fostering opportunities for thousands of students."

Disney's involvement in HBCU Week is part of a relationship between HBCU Week Foundation and Disney on the Yard, an initiative focused on deepening Disney's engagement with HBCUs. By working more closely with HBCUs, Disney aims to continue building a long-term pipeline of Black employee talent through the development of student internships, mentorship opportunities, career and employee spotlights, scholarships and more.

"This event is an ideal col-



laboration in that it highlights Disney's commitment to supporting HBCUs and the mission of HBCU Week," said Avis Lewis, Vice President Human Resources, Walt Disney Imagineering and Disney Parks International. "We are pleased with the immense momentum we are seeing already, with unprecedented attendance

at the college fair and a host of exciting events planned. We look forward to seeing students and parents from all over the Southeast enjoying this event and all the magic of Disney while they are here."

Disney theme park admission and reservations are required for entry to Magic Kingdom Park for the HBCU Week band parade. Tickets are also required for the Battle of the Bands at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. There is no admission charge for all other HBCU events.

For more information about HBCU Week and for students to register for the College Fair, visit <http://www.HBCUWeek.org>. Follow HBCU Week at Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

About HBCU Week

HBCU Week was founded by Ashley Christopher, Esq. in 2017. It is managed by the HBCU Week Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. HBCU Week consists of multi-day events held throughout the nation each year, designed to encourage high school-aged youth to enroll in HBCUs, provide scholarship dollars for matriculation and sustain a pipeline for employment from undergraduate school to corporate

America. A highlight of our events is the College Fair, which offers on-the-spot college acceptance and scholarships to qualified high school seniors. <http://www.HBCUWeek.org>. Follow HBCU Week at Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

About ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, located at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, is a premier site for amateur sports in the nation. The complex has hosted more than 100 entertainment and sporting events each year and has accommodated 70 different sports featuring athletes from 70 different countries. Designed to provide professional, amateur and youth athletes with experiences synonymous with the names Disney and ESPN, the 220-acre facility features multiple competition venues, including 16 baseball/softball fields, a 9,500-seat ballpark, 18 multi-purpose outdoor fields for soccer, football, and field hockey, three indoor venues for basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, dance and other indoor sports, a track and field facility and a cross country course. For more information, visit disneysportsnews.com for news releases, photos and videos, follow on Twitter at @ESPNWWOS and at Facebook at ESPNWWOS.

About Disney on the Yard

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do at The Walt Disney Company. Disney on the Yard was established to deepen engagement and relationships to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. We are energized and committed to creating meaningful connections through student internships, networking, mentorship opportunities, career showcases, and more. We will continue to make a difference and move in a more inclusive direction where everyone can be their authentic selves.



Barbara Lee hails Pres. Biden's pledge of \$6B to battle AIDS, TB, Malaria

By Sean Ryan

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) applauded the Biden Administration's announcement on Wednesday of \$6 billion in new funding for the Global Fund at the Seventh Replenishment Conference during this year's United Nations General Assembly.

The United States is proud to be a founding member of, and the largest single donor to, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund). Started in 2002, the Global Fund is a unique financing mechanism that relies on a dynamic partnership among governments, the private sector, and civil society to fight

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria in ways that contribute to strengthening health systems.

"Twenty years after we established the initial framework for the Global Fund, it has become a powerful force for change within the global health infrastructure, saving over 44 million lives from AIDS, TB, and malaria," said Lee. "I commend the Biden Administration's announcement of an additional \$6 billion in funding for the Global Fund and look forward to continuing to partner with the administration and our partners in the fight to save lives and see the first AIDS-free generation."

The 2023 State, Foreign Operation, and Related Programs House

bill includes \$2 billion for the Global Fund in support of the \$6 billion, three-year pledge announced by the United States on Wednesday.

Lee was inspired by her predecessor, the late Congressman Ron Dellums, to establish the framework for the Global Fund. She worked closely with Republican Jim Leach to get H. Res. 3519, the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000, through the Banking Committee, which was eventually signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000. The legislation was later championed at the United Nations by the late Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Sean Ryan is a member of the Media Relations team for Congresswoman Lee's office.



Bail Project helps people get out of jail, reunites families

Hundreds of thousands of individuals locked up in jails almost daily — many find it challenging to pay bail

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA

As public support for criminal justice reform continues to build — and as the pandemic raises the stakes higher — advocates remain adamant that it's more important than ever that the facts are straight, and everyone understands the bigger picture.

"The U.S. doesn't have one 'criminal justice system,' instead, we have thousands of federal, state, local, and tribal systems," Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner found in a study released by the nonprofit Prison Policy Initiative.

"Together, these systems hold almost 2 million people in 1,566 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 2,850 local jails, 1,510 juvenile correctional facilities, 186 immigration detention facilities, and 82 Indian country jails, as well as in military prisons, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories," the study authors said in a press

release.

With hundreds of thousands of individuals locked up in jails almost daily, many find it challenging to pay bail.

Recognizing America's ongoing mass incarceration problem and the difficulties families have in bailing out their loved ones, a new organization began in 2018 to offer some relief.

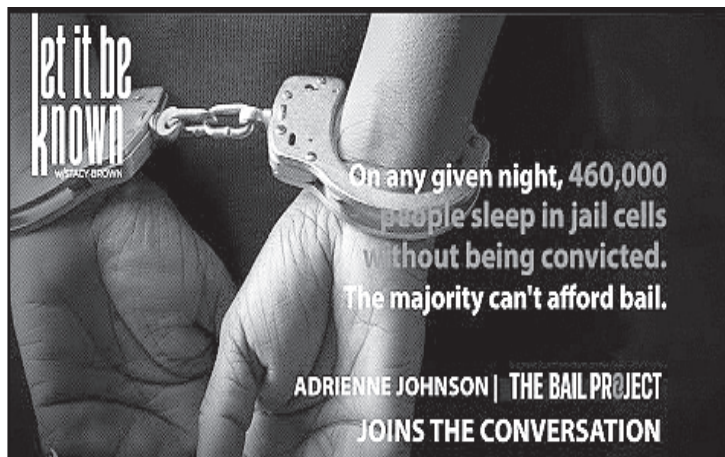
The Bail Project, a nationwide charitable fund for pretrial defendants, started with a vision of combating mass incarceration by disrupting the money bail system.

Adrienne Johnson, the regional director for The Bail Project, told NNPA's Let It Be Known that the organization seeks to accomplish its mission one person at a time.

"We have a mission of doing exactly what we hope our criminal system would do: protect the presumption of innocence, reunite families, and challenge a system that we know can criminalize poverty," Johnson stated.

"Our mission is to end cash bail and create a more just, equitable, and humane pretrial system," she insisted.

Johnson said The Bronx Freedom Fund, at the time a new revolving bail fund that launched in New York, planted the seed for The Bail Project more than a



decade ago.

"Because bail is returned at the end of a case, we can build a sustainable revolving fund where philanthropic dollars can be used several times per year, maximizing the impact of every contribution," Johnson stated.

In addition to posting bail at no cost to the person or their family, The Bail Project works to connect its clients to social services and community resources based on an individual's identified needs, including substance use treatment, mental health support, stable housing and employment.

Johnson noted that officials created cash bail to incentivize people to return to court.

Instead, she said, judges routinely set cash bail well beyond most people's ability to afford it, resulting in thousands of legally innocent people incarcerated while they await court dates.

According to The Bail Project, Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by cash bail, and of all Black Americans in jail in the U.S., nearly half are from southern prisons.

"There is no way to do the work of advancing pretrial reform without addressing the harmful effects of cash bail in the South," said Robin Steinberg, Founder, and CEO of The Bail Project.

"Cash bail fuels racial and economic disparities in our legal

system, and we look forward to supporting the community in Greenville as we work to eliminate cash bail and put ourselves out of business."

Since its launch, The Bail Project has stationed teams in more than 25 cities, posting bail for more than 18,000 people nationwide.

Johnson said the organization uses its national revolving bail fund, powered by individual donations, to pay bail.

The Bail Project has spent over \$47 million on bail.

"When we post bail for a person, we post the full cash amount at court," Johnson stated.

"Upon resolution of the case, the money returns to whoever posted. So, if I posted \$5,000 to bail someone out, we then help the person get back to court and resolve the case," she continued.

"The money then comes back to us, and we can use that money to help someone else. So, we recycle that."

Johnson said eliminating cash bail and the need for bail funds remains the goal.

"It's the just thing to do. It restores the presumption of innocence, and it restores families," Johnson asserted.

Financial fairness at risk with proposed TD Bank-First Horizon merger

By Charlene Crowel
(TriceEdneyWire.com) —

As banks grow larger through mergers and focus on growing online and mobile services, serious concerns emerge on how fair and how accessible banking will be to traditionally underserved Black and Latino communities. In most cases, consumers and small businesses, alike view bank branch accessibility and convenience as key to serving their communities.

Consumer advocates currently are urging bank regulators to thoroughly examine a proposed TD Bank merger, particularly in light of the lender's record with home loans and overdraft fees.

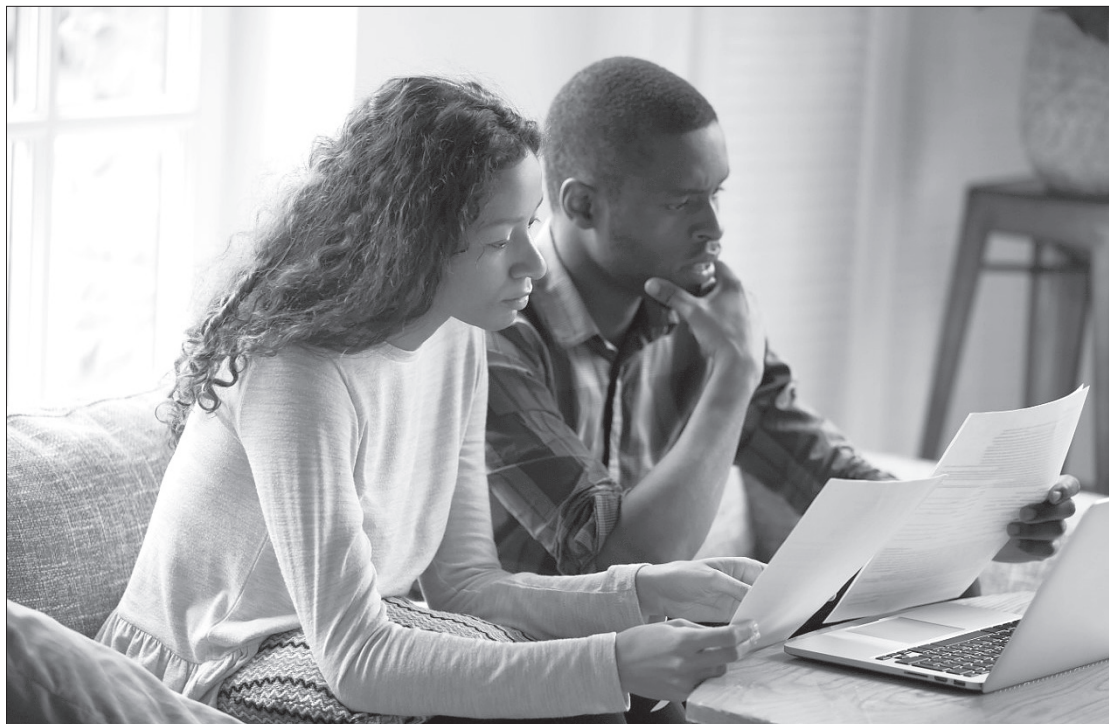
Earlier this year, TD Bank announced its plan to acquire First Horizon Bank and its \$85 billion in assets and 417 locations, largely in the South. If approved by federal regulators, the merger would create the sixth-largest bank in America.

TD Bank already has more than \$1.3 trillion in, 27 million customers and over 1,100 locations spread across 15 states and the District of Columbia. In Atlanta and Dallas, the bank does business as TD Ameritrade. Its largest number of branches by state are located in New York (367), Florida (355), and New Jersey (367).

According to its website, "Black experiences, in all their diversity, are at the heart of our drive for positive, sustainable change."

But as Sportin' Life, a character in the immortal folk opera, Porgy and Bess, said: "It ain't necessarily so." Indeed, TD's business record sends a different message.

Earlier this year, WHYY, the National Public Radio station serving the Philadelphia metro area, reported that in its region between 2018 and 2020, "TD Bank was more



likely to approve a mortgage loan for a low-income white applicant than a high-income Black applicant...."

TD Bank had the lowest mortgage approval rate for Black applicants in its entire metro area. During this time, "the institution denied 20 percent of all purchase mortgages, but denied nearly 40 percent of all Black applicants," according to the data, which was culled from Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data. By comparison, the denial rate among white applicants was 20 percent."

A similar finding appeared in a 2018 investigative article by Reveal News: "African American and Latino borrowers are more likely to get turned down by TD Bank than by any other major mortgage lender. The bank turned down 54 percent of black homebuyers and 45 percent of Latino homebuyers, more than three times the industry

averages."

Then there's TD Bank's poor record on overdraft fees.

Just two years ago the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) entered into a consent order with TD Bank that provided \$97 million in restitution to 1.42 million consumers, and the CFPB charged the firm a \$25 million civil penalty. The bank had illegally charged customers overdraft fees without first obtaining their consent before enrolling them in its optional overdraft.

Overdraft fees often exploit consumers' short-term cash needs. The vast majority of overdraft fee revenue comes from people with account balances that average less than \$350.

TD Bank's business model relies far more on overdraft fees than other large banks. While some of its peer institutions eliminated overdraft fees, TD charges a \$35

overdraft fee as many as three times a day.

Fortunately, consumer advocates are registering their serious concerns with federal regulators.

"TD Bank cannot serve the needs of low-income communities while insisting on maintaining this large stream of revenue that, by definition, depends on consumers who lack funds," testified Nadine Chabrier, Senior Policy and Litigation Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), at a recent hearing on the merger proposal. She noted that in deciding whether to approve a merger, government regulators, by law, must consider whether community needs would be served.

In an August 23 joint letter sent to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve, agencies whose approval of the deal is re-

quired, consumer advocates made clear their opposition.

"This merger will result in a significant presence in the Southeast, in states like Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, and Florida, among others, where there is a concentration of Black and Latino communities and poverty, often overlapping. These communities bear the acute and disproportionate burden of overdraft fees, calling into the question whether the needs and convenience of the community will be met," wrote the advocates. Elsewhere, they note, "Many affected by relentless overdraft fees end up having their checking account closed, and reentry into the banking system is difficult."

Signatories on the letter included: Americans for Financial Reform Education Fund, California Reinvestment Coalition, Demos, and CRL.

Federal regulators, appointed by the Biden Administration, have signaled scrutiny of mergers is a renewed priority.

Michael Barr, the newly appointed Vice Chair for Supervision of the Federal Reserve System, staked out this position as part of a wide-ranging September 7 speech titled, "Making the Financial System Safer and Fairer."

"Fairness is fundamental to financial oversight, and I am committed to using the tools of regulation, supervision, and enforcement so that businesses and households have access to the services they need, the information necessary to make their financial decisions, and protection from unfair treatment," noted Barr.

Here's hoping Mr. Barr and other regulators keep their word.

Charlene Crowel is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Candace Owens calls Chrissy Teigen a 'sick, mentally ill individual' after admitting miscarriage was an abortion

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Last week, model and author, Chrissy Teigen said that a miscarriage that took place two years ago while she was pregnant was actually an abortion.

She revealed that information while she was speaking at a summit named "A Day of Unreasonable Conversation" on September 15 according to The Hollywood Reporter. Critics immediately went for her neck after she made that revelation. One of the loudest ones was frequent Teigen antagonist, Candace Owens, who attacked her once again on her podcast earlier this week.

The conservative host called the wife of R&B singer, John Legend "mentally disturbed."

Newsweek reported that Owens took some time to give Teigen a little attention in an Instagram Story earlier this week.

"Now I feel like it's open season, and she's a mentally disturbed person and we need to talk about it. Because the mental disease that social media is creating for so many people, she is the number one example of it."

She double downs by stating "The media is trying to make you magically forget—and to instead feel sympathy for a mentally disturbed individual."

She made her a topic of conversation when she spoke about Teigen in a recent podcast when she blasted the model for bringing the abortion/miscarriage situation up when she spoke at the previously mentioned summit.

During her talk, she said she feels it was a "PR strategy" and that Teigen is addicted to social media as she calls her a "total psychopath." She goes on to state that this was done to make people forget about her cyberbullying scandal and to place her in a more positive light as "she's photographing herself going through a miscarriage."

Owens then says, "Chrissy Teigen, I guess who just cannot get enough social media, decided that she wanted to unearth that scenario and get more attention from it, so she initially said it was a miscarriage. She now says that the loss of her son Jack was the result of a life-saving termination—it actually wasn't a miscarriage."



Man threatens McDonald's patrons with axe in New York city

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A man threatened several patrons with an ax at a McDonald's in New York City on Sept. 16. The incident happened at approximately 2:25 a.m. on Delancey Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Thirty-one-year-old Michael Palacios terrorized several patrons inside the restaurant following a physical altercation. Video footage taken at the scene showed Palacios as he argued with several patrons at the establishment.

After the altercation became physical and several people punched Palacios in the head, he took off his backpack and retrieved an ax. Palacios slammed the ax on a table before smashing a glass partition and hitting one patron in the head. After wielding the ax at several other patrons, Palacios left the McDonald's on his bicycle.

The video was posted on TikTok and Twitter where it quickly went viral. "@CrimeInNYC. NYC always good for some chaotic mayhem. He didn't hurt anyone, but it could have been ugly!"



"Upon arrival of officers, witnesses at the location reported that the suspect got into a physical dispute with three unknown males inside of the location," said a spokesperson for the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information. "The suspect removed an ax from his backpack and menaced the unknown males. The suspect intentionally caused property damage to the establishment. The individual was taken into custody by responding officers. A search incident to a lawful arrest, an additional knife was

Candace Owens calls Kim Kardashian a bona fide 'Prostitute' amid sex tape accusations

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*Candace Owens has weighed in on the Kim Kardashian/Ray J sex tape beef now that it has been confirmed that Kim's mother/manager Kris Jenner orchestrated the release of the footage.

"There are really no words that can adequately describe how positively disgusted I am by the story and what this signifies of the world that we are in today. What this really means is that a mother sat down and decided to sell her daughter's body for fame and money and she was successful," said Owens on her talk show, Candace, as reported by MadameNoire.

Owens went on to slam Jenner for "selling her daughter's body for fame."

"I now hold the opinion that Kim Kardashian is a prostitute and I am not going to edit this," she said



in the Twitter video below. "Her mother is a pimp — worse than a prostitute. Kim Kardashian is a corpse. She's a body without a soul. She is so emblematic of the society that we live in today, that if you are willing to degrade yourself, if you are willing to denigrate yourself, then our society, our American society will give you more."

'He was sucker punched': Comedian Rip Michaels says he's removed Tory Lanez from his 'Fall Back in Love Comedy and Music Jam' tour after alleged attack on August Alsina

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In an interview with TMZ, Wild 'N Out comedian Rip Michaels shared his own viewpoint of the events that took place behind the scenes which led to the alleged altercation between August Alsina and Tory Lanez.

"There was no fight, let's just be super clear there was no fight. I don't know why people say it's a fight, that was not a fight. He [Alsina] was sucker punched by Tory Lanez, so that's pretty much — yeah I was there."

Michaels continued, "It was straight like more of an assault type thing anyway."

Due to Lanez's alleged violent behavior, Michaels made an executive decision to cut the "Say It" singer from his "Fall Back In Love Comedy and Music Jam" tour, stating the vibe behind the tour surrounds unity and fellowship, two emotions Lanez has noticeably lacked after video footage showed Lanez with a few bodyguards follow Alsina after the



"Entanglement" singer ignored his handshake.

"At this moment, we have to proceed without him [Lanez] because we want to make sure that every person in that audience has a great time and great feeling and that same energy of each artist enjoying themselves and having a great time." Michaels said.

@Gossipofthecitytea uploaded a recording of Lanez and Alsina

before and after their interaction. In the video, Lanez can be seen holding his hand out for Alsina to shake, to Lanez's apparent surprise, Alsina kept walking without acknowledging Lanez. This act prompted the "LUV" R&B singer to begin to walk in the opposite direction of Alsina before turning around with a group of men as they walked toward Alsina's direction.

Surveillance video shows Chaka Zulu (Ludacris' manager) was jumped before fatal shooting

Philadelphiaobserver.com

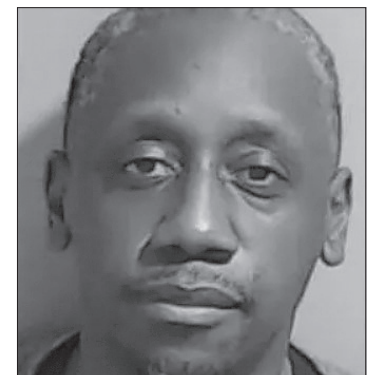
As the Beacon previously reported, Chaka Zulu, who is the co-founder of record label Disturbing Tha Peace and longtime manager of Ludacris — was recently arrested on murder charges. On Tuesday (September 13), he reportedly surrendered to police and bonded out on the same day.

Zulu, whose real name is Ahmed Obafemi, was arrested in connection to the June 26, 2022 shooting in the parking lot of his Buckhead, Atlanta, GA restaurant, Apt4B. In the incident, which "was

a result of a dispute," Obafemi was one of three people shot and rushed to the hospital. The shooting left one person dead, a 23-year-old man named Artez Benton.

Zulu has also been charged with aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and simple battery.

TMZ has obtained surveillance footage of the events leading up to the shooting and it shows a group of men, including Benton, in the parking lot of the restaurant. Zulu reportedly exchanged heated words with someone in



the group before he is jumped and beaten by the men. Chaka is the first to fire a weapon, striking Benton who later died from his injuries



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Stay woke

All-white jury acquits officer who killed unarmed Black man

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A former Texas police officer was charged with shooting and killing Jonathan Price in October of 2020, per NBC News. Thursday he was acquitted of his murder charge after the jury found the officer's actions as reasonable. However...not one person on that jury was white. Price's family and their civil rights attorney Lee Merritt believe bias influenced the verdict.

"There was not one person that looked like me. There was not one person that looked like my father. There was not one person that looked like Lee Merritt. Period," said Price's sister, Sabrina to NBC Dallas-Fort Worth.

Reports say former Wolfe City Officer Shaun Lucas confronted Price at a convenience store after receiving a call about a fight. Lucas thought Price was intoxicated and attempted to detain him. Price allegedly told the cop, "I can't be



detained," and the two struggled while Lucas tried to restrain him. Per the affidavit, Lucas deployed a stun gun on Price as he walked away but Price tried to reach out and grab the end of it from Lucas' grasp. This prompted the officer to fire four times at Price's upper torso. He died in the hospital.

Initially, Lucas was fired after Texas Rangers found his actions "were not objectively reasonable" in a preliminary investigation. However, even after finding Price was non-threatening at the time of the shooting, the jury found Lucas innocent.

School bus driver fired, arrested after being caught pushing 2 Black students on video

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A white bus driver in Morgan County, Georgia, has lost his job after a video showed him straight-up shoving a pair of young Black siblings.

The incident went down on Sept. 9 and stemmed from the bus driver — James O'Neil — instructing a 6-year-old boy to sit at the back of the bus.

According to the Morgan County Citizen, this went against the regular practice of younger children sitting toward the front of the bus, as high school students sat toward the back.

After the 6-year-old objected, the bus driver proceeded to shove him, according to another



student's video footage.

In response, the boy's 10-year-old sister objected by yelling, "Stop pushing my brother!"

O'Neil responded by telling her to "shut [her] mouth," and he proceeded to then aggressively push the 10-year-old while saying, "What a pain in the neck you guys are. Get back there."

You can check out the video below, as Tina Knowles-Lawson, Beyoncé's mother reposted it.

Bus driver caught on video shoving Black siblings arrested, charged

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The mother of two Georgia children who a school bus driver assaulted is calling for harsher penalties for the man who abused them.

Nequana Carter believes James O'Neil received a "slap on the wrist" from authorities after he was caught on video shoving her two children who were under his care on a school bus earlier this month. She also thinks the crime was racially motivated, but investigators said they "could not establish a nexus" to support her claim.

O'Neil was arrested for two counts of simple battery on Friday, Sept. 16. The district fired him shortly after the incident. Simple battery is a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to one year in prison. Because O'Neil committed the crime as an employee, it could be

escalated to a high or aggravated nature, which means he could be subject to a \$5,000 fine instead of \$1,000.

James O'Neil was arrested on Sept. 16, 2022. (Photos: Video Screenshot)

"The charges are enough to say, 'we did something, so now they can ease up on it,'" Carter told Atlanta Black Star. "No, it is not enough."

O'Neil is seen in the viral video pushing Carter's 6-year-old on Sept. 9 before his sister intervenes. The driver then tells the 10-year girl to return to her seat and later threatens to take her phone. Carter said the driver wanted the boy to sit in the back, but that area is reserved for high school students. At one point, the small boy who was shoved over in the seat appeared frantic.

The children's parents have since removed them from the

mostly white Morgan County school system and placed them in a more diverse school district.

Morgan County Chief Deputy Keith Howard said the investigation into the incident "was complicated by the allegation that the incident was perceived as being racially motivated." Investigators looked at three videos. Two of the videos were recorded by others students aboard the bus. They also reviewed official footage from the bus security camera.

Carter showed Atlanta Black Star a second video where O'Neil and Carter's daughter are in another dispute about where her little brother is on the bus. The man mocks how the girl speaks. He also walks past a white student who is standing on the bus and does not reprimand him, Carter pointed out. She believes her children were singled out because of their race.

Notorious Karen who called the cops on Black bird watcher sued her employer for firing her, then lost

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The white woman who called the police on a Black bird-watcher for nothing other than being Black, filed a lawsuit against her former employer. She claimed they wrongfully terminated her and defamed her as a racist. According to NBC News, she lost her little suit.

To be honest, she'd be filing defamation suits left and right if she wanted to track down everyone who called her a racist. What a day it was when Twitter got a hold of that video of Amy Cooper calling the police on a Christian Cooper, a bird-watching Black man.

Christian told NBC he asked her to put her dog back on her leash, in accordance with Central Park's policy. In response, the Karen dialed 911 alleging an "African American man" threatened her and her dog, as it vigorously tried to wiggle from her grasp on the collar.



Texas city settles lawsuit over mother's arrest captured on video

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A Texas city has settled a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by a Black mother after she and her daughter were wrestled to the ground and arrested by a white police officer following a dispute with a neighbor.

City of Fort Worth officer settles lawsuit from Jacqueline Craig for \$150,000, pending City Council approval

Jacqueline Craig and one of her daughters were wrestled

to the ground and had a stun gun pointed at them by Fort Worth officer William Martin in December 2016. Another of Craig's daughters, who filmed the incident on her cellphone, was also arrested.

Charges against all three were later dropped. Martin served a 10-day suspension for violating departmental policies.

The city agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$150,000, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported

Friday. The settlement is pending City Council approval.

As part of the settlement, the city admits no other fault and there are no other requirements, a Fort Worth spokesperson said.

Craig has alleged the neighbor grabbed and choked her young son after seeing him litter. Craig and the neighbor both called police.

Video of the arrests, which was posted on Facebook and viewed more than a million times, raised



accusations of racism.

Mayor Pro Tem Gyna Bivens told the newspaper she was glad the lawsuit was settled.

"This put a big weight on her.

It put a big weight on the city, and I hope the settlement is enough for everyone to feel refreshed and ready to move forward," Bivens said.

Editorial - Opinion



By Jesse Jackson Sr.

The passing of the British Empire

the face of the British Empire, the head of not just a nation but a global empire which devolved into a global commonwealth. From her corgi dogs to her wardrobe choices to the family squabbles and scandals, Queen Elizabeth was a fixture – a symbol of stability in times of trouble.

Her commitment to her duties – however ceremonial – was praiseworthy. While as Queen in Britain her political opinions and preferences are by tradition masked, peoples across the world saw her as a source of solace and of concern. Even the reports of the racial tensions within the royal family did not disrupt that image.

Yet while we mourn the passing of the Queen, we should not mourn, as Harvard historian Maya Jasanoff has written, the passing of the British Empire.

“The sun never sets on the British Empire” was once literally true. At its height in the early 1900s, the tiny British island ruled over 412 million people, nearly one-fourth of the world’s population at the time, and over 13.7 million square miles of territory, nearly one-fourth

of the world’s territory.

Imperial nostalgia paints this as a picture of “white man’s burden,” the civilizing force of Britain benignly ruling over its subjects. In fact, 65 countries have to date claimed independence from Britain – and many of these only after brutal resistance from the British. The first of the many revolutions against the empire was that of the American colonies. Our Declaration of Independence declared independence from the British crown, after detailing “a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.” Our independence was achieved only by force of arms.

Britain’s empire included many settler nations – like South Africa and Australia – that savaged indigenous populations to take their lands, their minerals and jewels, and too often their people.

In Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Yemen, Nigeria, Ireland and more, popular independence movements were met with violent suppression, mass arrests and often

torture. In many cases, Britain invented the tactics that Americans grew to know – from counter-insurgency campaigns to detention camps, to systematic torture.

Even with the Queen presiding over the Commonwealth of Nations, 56 states largely former territories of the British Empire, a slow reckoning of this past has begun. In 2013, Kenyan victims of torture won a lawsuit providing them with damages. In 2019, survivors from Cyprus achieved the same. Calls for reparations or for at least official investigation and apology for the horrors abound.

Just as U.S. school boards and legislatures struggle with how to deal with its legacy of slavery – in textbooks, in official statutes, in public monuments – so too Britain now wrestles with how to think about and teach its history. Just as there has been a fierce reaction here, so too in Britain, xenophobes demand a continued whitewashing of the history of violence, oppression and economic exploitation.

In fact, coming to grips with the reality of the past is part and

partial of changing to meet the challenges of the modern day. The Britain that once ruled much of the world now struggles to rule itself. With Brexit, it has left the European Union. With the growing movement toward Scottish independence, it faces dissolution within. It is heading into the worst economic crisis in decades – even as inequality reaches ever more obscene extremes, yet its financial center – the City of London – looks abroad not at home for its investments. Demagogues call upon the mythic past while failing to deal with the current grim realities. What is needed is a politics that brings people together in a national project of renewal. Imperial nostalgia, global adventure, the dominance of the financial elite stand in the way.

Queen Elizabeth II garners praise for her grace, her discipline, her commitment. Her passing should mark not only the end of an age, but the end of a delusion. Britain will not be made great again by looking backward, but only by understanding the reality of its past, and creating a new future.

- Queen Elizabeth II’s death at 96 has occasioned an outpouring of tributes and grieving across the world. Heads of state, including Joe Biden, mourn her passing. Common citizens have built mountains of flowers at her gate. The British football league even postponed its games for a weekend in her honor.

Crowned queen in 1953 at age 25 in the wake of World War II, Queen Elizabeth II served as

I asked what kind of family



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On the scene

Red carpet premiere for Hulu's 'Reasonable Doubt' radiates sex appeal

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Thursday, September 22, Onyx Collective hosted a fascinating red carpet premiere for their first scripted series, "Reasonable Doubt," at NeueHouse in Hollywood, California. The charismatic cast thrilled fans as they strolled down the carpet dressed to impress. Their magnetic sex appeal is contagious on and off screen!

Creator/Executive Producer/Showrunner Raamla Mohamed and Executive Producers Larry Wilmore and Pilar Savone with cast Emayatzy Corinealdi, McKinley Freeman, Michael Ealy, Tim Jo, Angela Grovey and Sean Patrick Thomas, attended the elegant red carpet event along with co-stars Aderinsola Olabode, Thaddeus J. Mixson, and Co-Executive Producer Shawn Holley.

"Reasonable Doubt" centers on Los Angeles based high-powered criminal defense attorney, Jacqueline "Jax" Stewart as she deals with past traumas, a failing marriage, motherhood, and a murder case, all while trying to keep her life together. The sexy legal drama features an all-Black writing team and each episode was directed by Black directors. The show's title and each episode title is inspired by Jay-Z's debut album *Reasonable Doubt* and his discography. The show also features contemporary and classic hip-hop, R&B, and neo-soul artists. The series' music is composed by Adrian Younge and Ali Shaheed Muhammad ("Luke Cage"). The Hulu Original Series premiered on Tuesday, September 27th with two



Emayatzy Corinealdi attends the red carpet premiere of Onyx Collective's "Reasonable Doubt" at NeueHouse in Los Angeles, California

episodes. New weekly episodes stream Tuesdays on Hulu.

Luminaries in attendance included Eugene Byrd, Perri Camper, Chris Cassarino, Anthony Chatmon, Tiffany Yvonne Cox, Erin Croom, Paul Fox, Shannon Kane, Brooke Lyons, Victor Rasuk, Nefari Spencer, Devon Franklin, Tara Duncan, President of Freeform and Onyx Collective, and Hulu President Joe Earley.

CAST: The "Reasonable Doubt" amazing cast consists of Emayatzy Corinealdi, McKinley Freeman, Michael Ealy, Tim Jo, Angela Grovey Sean Patrick Thomas, Thaddeus J. Mixson and Aderinsola Olabode.

SYNOPSIS: In "Reasonable Doubt," you'll judge Jax Stewart for her questionable ethics and wild

interpretations of the law... until you're the one in trouble. Then you'll see her for what she is — the most brilliant and fearless defense attorney in Los Angeles who bucks the justice system at every chance she gets.

CREDITS: "Reasonable Doubt" is created, written and executive produced by Raamla Mohamed. Kerry Washington directs and executive produces alongside Pilar Savone for Simpson Street and Larry Wilmore via Wilmore Films. Shawn Holley and Jon Leshay serve as co-executive producers. The series is the first scripted drama from Onyx Collective and is produced by ABC Signature, a part of Disney Television Studios. (Photo Credit: Frank Micelotta)



(L-R) Sean Patrick Thomas, Michael Ealy, McKinley Freeman attend the red carpet premiere



(L-R) Pilar Savone, Raamla Mohamed, Emayatzy Corinealdi, Larry Wilmore, Tara Duncan attend the red carpet premiere



Cast & Creatives of "Reasonable Doubt" (L-R) Sean Patrick Thomas, Michael Ealy, Tim Jo, Angela Grovey, Pilar Savone, Emayatzy Corinealdi, Thaddeus J. Mixson, McKinley Freeman, Aderinsola Olabode, Raamla Mohamed, Tara Duncan, Larry Wilmore attend the red carpet premiere



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Derrick Cain, Community Engagement Editor

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Culture



Rihanna will perform at Super Bowl LVII

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The NFL just landed what's likely to be its most anticipated Super Bowl halftime performer since Janet Jackson. Most anticipated because the marquis entertainer for the February 2023 show is Rihanna, an artist who still ranks as one of the most popular singers in the world who also hasn't given a concert in nearly five years.

And most important for a number of reasons. Her appearance signals a change of heart by one

of the most influential artists of her generation, who along with several other popular performers had publicly sworn off performing at the NFL's biggest event. Rihanna previously stood in protest of the league's excommunication of quarterback Colin Kaepernick over his silent sideline protests over police brutality. Kaepernick was last on an NFL roster in 2016, the same year Rihanna dropped her most recent album. Since then, the NFL signed a deal with Jay-Z's Roc Nation management company that was supposed to help the league

smooth over relationships with Black entertainers and address its blind spots on social justice.

Getting Rihanna, a Roc Nation artist who just a few years ago wanted no parts of the Super Bowl, to headline the halftime show makes that deal look like it's paying off for the league—especially given Kaepernick won't be suiting up anytime soon and the NFL spent all summer defending itself against a racial discrimination lawsuit filed by a coach who's currently on the staff of one of its teams.

Award-winning Broadway star, singer, and actress Marva Hicks dies at 66

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Marva Hicks, beloved for her notable musical, Broadway, and television credits, has passed away.

A representative for the late Motown: The Musical star announced that she died in New York City on Friday, September 16. No cause of death accompanied the unfortunate news.

Hicks' family released a grievous statement in honor of her life.

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear Marva Hicks Taha. Our beloved wife, family member and friend will be greatly missed and remain marvelous in our hearts forever," her husband, Akwasi Taha, and family said in a statement shared with The Hollywood Reporter.

"The love she had for her husband, family, friends and entertainment community knew no bounds. We have been deeply touched by the incredible outpouring of love. Thank you for your compassion and prayers."

A native of Petersburg, Virginia, Hicks graduated from Howard University before making her theatrical debut in Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. The 80s and 90s were filled with opportunities for Hicks to make a name for herself as an R&B vocal talent. She lent her sultry alto voice in background



vocals for the likes of Whitney Houston, Chaka Khan, and Glenn Jones. In 1991, she released her own self-titled album, which included a Top 10-charting hit single, "Never Been in Love Before."

Hicks continued hitting the charts with a duet with Michael Jackson on his number one hit "I Just Can't Stop Loving You." She also performed with both Jackson and Stevie Wonder on numerous worldwide tours.

In 1997, Hicks made her return to Broadway as an understudy for Rafiki in Disney's The Lion King before stepping into her role as The Radio in the original production of Caroline, Or Change. Her final Broadway performance was in Motown: The Musical, where she sang "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" as originally written for Gladys Knight. She is a three-time Helen Hayes Award winner for her stage repertoire.

Remembering

Marva Hicks Taha 66, award-winning actress/singer

By Mya Abraham

Marva Hicks Taha, a/k/a Marva Hicks an award-winning actress and singer, has died at age 66 in New York City. Reps for the trailblazing star confirmed the news, and a cause of death has not been revealed. Her husband Akwasi Taha and her family also released a statement:

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear Marva Hicks Taha. Our beloved wife, family member and friend will be greatly missed and remains marvelous in our hearts forever. The love she had for her husband, family, friends and entertainment community knew no bounds. We have been deeply touched by the incredible outpouring of love. Thank you for your compassion and prayers. Memorial arrangements will be announced in the coming days"

The Petersburg, Virginia native was a Howard University graduate. Her distinct voice is heard on her

debut, self-titled album released in 1991. Her hit single, "Never Been In Love Before" peaked at No. 7 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart and spent 17 weeks on the chart overall. During her time as an artist, she also collaborated with Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder on several international tours and served as a background vocalist to Whitney Houston, Chaka Khan, James Ingram, and many others.

Hicks was also a key figure in the theater world being a three-time Helen Hayes Award winner. Her Broadway credits include Motown, The Lion King, Lena Horne: The Lady at Her Music, Caroline or Change, and most recently, an off-Broadway production of Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous. The Helen Hayes Award recognizes the "outstanding achievement from professional theatres and theatre-makers across the DC area," paying tribute to the late Hayes, who is considered to be the "First Lady of American Theatre." Hicks



Marva Hicks Taha, a/k/a Marva Hicks
(Photo: Paul Zimmerman/Getty Images)

additionally had a slew of film and TV credits including Sister Sister, Mad About You, and Star Trek. VIBE sends our deepest condolences to the Hicks-Taha family during this time.

Pope Francis appeals for release of Catholics kidnapped in Cameroon

(GIN) –

Pope Francis has added his voice to calls by the bishops of Cameroon for the release of five priests, a religious sister, a cook, a catechist and a 15 year old girl kidnapped in southwest Cameroon where a civil war has been raging between the French and English-speaking communities for years.

At a mass on Sept. 25, the pope said he was praying for peace in Cameroon. "I join in the appeal of the bishops of Cameroon for the liberation of people kidnapped in the diocese of Mamfe," according to the Catholic News Agency.

In addition to the kidnappings on Sept. 16, gunmen set fire to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nchang, Cameroon, according to Vatican News.

Catholic bishops in Cameroon strongly condemned the attack in a statement that called for the immediate release of the kidnapped Christians.

"We insist on this because this act has now crossed the red line and we must say that 'enough is enough,'" they said in the statement.

The roots of the current Anglophone problem can be traced back to the First World War when the British and French occupied the "German Kamerun Protectorate" and divided its territory into two parts. This partition gave rise to the development of a different cultural heritage and identity in the British and French regions, a

development that would create problems for future attempts at reunification.

In 1961, the U.N. held talks to determine whether the British territory should be annexed to Nigeria or Cameroon. Critics labeled the talks "false negotiations" involving parties with asymmetrical powers.

"As the British Southern Cameroons' nationalist conflict continues to wax and wane, the people of former British Cameroons live with a sense of deception in the present-day République du Cameroun," wrote scholar Fonkem Achankeng in the Journal of Global Initiatives.

The proportion of Anglophone Cameroonians to French-speakers is currently at around 16%, down from 21% in 1976.

Attacks on the church were also denounced by the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA)—an independent, non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit making organization dedicated to the protection and advancement of human rights.

In a related development, the rights watchdog, Human Rights Watch, reports the re-arrest of prominent Cameroonian Anglophone peace activist Abdul Karim Ali. He is accused of possessing a video on his phone showing alleged human rights abuses committed by a Cameroonian soldier against civilians in the country's English-speaking regions. w/pix of Church of St. Mary's Nchang



Church of England bars Tutu's daughter from funeral

(GIN) –

The daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu said she was "stunned" by the Church of England when they denied her the right to officiate at her godfather's funeral because she is married to a woman.

According to the Rev. Mpho Tutu van Furth, an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Washington, DC, the Church barred her from officiating despite her late godfather's personal wish that she lead the ceremony at his funeral.

Her godfather, Martin Kenyon, died in England last week. He was 92.

"You can't speak a message of welcome and love and live a message of exclusion," the Rev. Tutu van Furth said. "It's incredibly sad," she told BBC News. "It feels like a bureaucratic response with maybe a lack of compassion."

Martin Kenyon and Desmond Tutu became friends when they were both students at Kings College. Tutu would become a voice for LGBT equality, speaking in a video released by the Free & Equal campaign.

"I cannot keep quiet when people are penalized for some-

thing about which they can do nothing," Tutu declared. "First, when women are excluded just simply and solely because they are women. But more pernicious, more ghastly is the fact that people are penalized, killed, all sorts of ghastly things happen to them simply because of their sexual orientation."

"I oppose such injustice with the same passion that I opposed apartheid."

Mr. Kenyon, a powerful force in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, was also an early, outspoken critic of the Anglican Communion's stance on gay rights.

However, its sister Anglican church in the US, The Episcopal Church, does allow clergy to enter into gay marriages.

Marceline Tutu van Furth, a Dutch academic who is married to the Archbishop Tutu's daughter, said the church told them it accepts priests in same-sex relationships but not if they are married.

The Church of England and the Episcopal Church are tied together in the global Anglican Communion, which represents about 85 million worshipers around the world. The Episcopal Church has

taken a stance in favor of acceptance of gay clergy and members, starting with the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson, an openly gay priest, in New Hampshire in 2003.

The Church of England, however, has said that under its religious laws, while it permits same-sex civil partnerships, it does not support same-sex marriage because it would go against its teachings. Gay clergy are expected to remain celibate, and those in same-sex marriages are not permitted to be ordained.

Tutu remarked in 2013: "I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. No, I would say sorry, I mean I would much rather go to the other place. I would not worship a God who is homophobic and that is how deeply I feel about this."

He added: "I am as passionate about this campaign as I ever was about apartheid. For me, it is at the same level."

In the end, Tutu was able to fulfil her godfather's wish as the service was moved from a church and was instead held in her godfather's garden in Shropshire. w/pix of Archbishop and daughter



Entertainment



By Don Thomas

Hit-Boy featured on Beyoncé's Renaissance album

Beyoncé's 8th studio album Renaissance, has arrived. This is her first album in six years and first since her world-conquering Lemonade. The 16-song project cites production by Hit-Boy for her song "THIQUE." Hit-Boy, who's no stranger to collaborating with artists, is responsible for producing a string of anthemic records for Beyoncé including "Sorry," "Flawless," and "Bow Down/I Been On" to name a few.

"Renaissance" references disco, funk, house, techno, bounce and more, the generally upbeat songs draw from a wide array of writers and producers. Other Beyoncé collaborators include, The-Dream, Pharrell Williams and Drake.

Ahead of Hit-Boy's forthcoming EP due for release this fall, the beatmaker is leaning heavily into embracing all aspects of his artistry. Since announcing his partnership with UnitedMasters to launch their Beat Exchange marketplace, he has shown no signs of slowing down, landing an instrumental role in Madden 23's global campaign for their official launch.



Chauncey Hollis a/k/a Hit-Boy



Beyoncé Knowles-Carter

Hit's prolific run in music has cemented his position as one of the industry's most sought after beatmakers. Fueled by his boundless ambition to leave a legacy of dominance, the California-bred sound architect has captured the attention of Hip-Hop enthusiasts around the world for his musical contributions. Most recently, he's ascended from behind the boards to flex his knack for storytelling with tracks "Corsa" feat. Dom Kennedy and "Scholar" feat. 24hrs and Devin Morrison.

Fan favorites like "better off" by Ariana Grande and "Woo" by Rihanna are snapshots of Hit-Boy's versatility as a producer. Alongside his accomplishments in the hip-hop space, Hit has made inroads within pop, collaborating with artists such as, Selena Gomez "Good For You," and The Pussycat Dolls "Love the Way You Love Me" and more.

More About Hit-Boy:

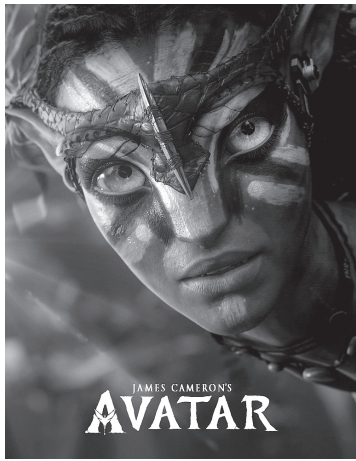
As one of the music industry's most sought out hip-hop producers, the California-bred Hit-Boy has more than earned his moniker. Born Chauncey Hollis, the 34-year-old, 3 time Grammy Award-winning artist from Pasa-

dena and the neighboring Inland Empire, boasts an impressive roster of credits, from wielding pop smashes for Beyoncé, Rihanna and Ariana Grande to producing hit records for Jay-Z, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar, Travis Scott, and more over his 13 plus years in the industry.

As a rapper and songwriter in his own right, Hit-Boy has recorded and released seven mixtapes and three collaborative albums. Recently earning a Grammy Award for Nas' King's Disease II, Hit served as an executive producer on the Best Rap Album. The producer has earned his first-time Grammy nomination for the Producer of the Year category.

Hit-Boy has racked up several additional accolades, including Producer of the Year at the 2021 and 2020 BET Hip-Hop Awards, Producer of the Year at the XXL Awards, Outstanding Producer of the Year at the 2021 NAACP Image Awards and Complex's Best Hip-Hop Producer Alive of 2020. Hit recently served as executive producer for Big Sean's Detroit 2 which debuted No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and Benny the Butcher's Burden of Proof. Follow Hit-Boy on Instagram/Twitter and Facebook.

Disney re-releases James Cameron's amazing 'Avatar' in stunning 4K High Dynamic Range



By Audrey J. Bernard

As the story goes, thirteen years ago, James Cameron introduced moviegoers to a world unlike any they'd ever seen with his breathtaking epic "Avatar." Cameron's visionary tale delivered a fully immersive cinematic adventure of a new kind, charting

one man's fight to save the alien moon he learns to call home. Perhaps most significantly, though, "Avatar" set a new standard for the cinematic experience by marrying spectacle, compelling characters, and technical wizardry resolutely in service of telling an immersive and emotional story. Now, audiences can experience the majesty and wonder of the film anew as a remastered "Avatar" was released in theaters worldwide September 23, 2022 for the first time in stunning 4K, at a higher frame rate and with high dynamic range affording moviegoers another chance to travel in both 2D and 3D for a limited time across the universe to the distant planet of Pandora in the year 2154.

Disney re-released Cameron's Academy Award-Winning 2009 global spectacle "Avatar" in anticipation of the sequel "The Way of Water." By brilliantly utilizing enhanced 3D technology, Cameron transported filmgoers inside the narrative, enabling them to truly

experience the richly detailed environments of Pandora and allowing them the opportunity to traverse its magical terrain alongside brave and bold heroes Jake and Neytiri.

The astonishing adventure is more exciting the second time around as moviegoers get to revisit the wonderment of the original science-fiction epic. The re-released "Avatar" is still very popular with moviegoers generating an impressive \$10 million Nationwide over the weekend, landing in the third place at the box office, and pulling in \$29.5M internationally, which is important when you realize that the movie is more than 10 years old and is the highest-grossing global release in history! These are encouraging numbers to rest easy on leading up to the sequel "The Way of Water," which opens in December 2022.

SYNOPSIS: The year is 2154, and Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is a former Marine confined to a wheelchair, yet, despite his physical

limitations, Jake remains a warrior at heart. He is recruited to travel light years across the universe to a human outpost on Pandora, where a corporate consortium is mining a rare mineral that is the key to solving Earth's energy crisis. Because Pandora's atmosphere is toxic, they have created the Avatar Program, in which human "drivers" have their consciousness linked to an avatar, a remotely controlled biological body that can survive in the lethal air. These avatars are genetically engineered hybrids of human DNA mixed with DNA from the natives of Pandora... the Na'vi. Reborn in avatar form, Jake can walk again, and he is given a mission to infiltrate the Na'vi, who have become a major obstacle to mining the precious ore. But after a beautiful Na'vi female, Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), saves Jake's life, everything changes. Jake is taken in by her clan and learns to become one of them by completing tests of strength and courage. As Jake's relationship

with his reluctant teacher Neytiri deepens, he learns to respect the Na'vi way and finally takes his place among the indigenous tribe. Soon, events draw him into a clash of civilizations, and Jake faces the ultimate test as he leads a monumental battle that will decide the fate of an entire world.

CREDITS: Written and directed by Academy Award winner James Cameron, the remastered "Avatar" stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez and Sigourney Weaver. The film was produced by James Cameron and Jon Landau, and executive produced by Laeta Kalogridis and Colin Wilson. Nominated for nine Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director, the film won three Oscars, for Best Cinematography, Production Design and Visual Effects. (Photos Twentieth Century Fox's AVATAR. Photo courtesy of WETA. © 2009 Twentieth Century Fox. All Rights Reserved)



(L-R) Jake Sully (voiced by Sam Worthington) and Neytiri (voiced by Zoe Saldana)



(L-R) Sigourney Weaver as Dr. Grace Augustine and Sam Worthington as Jake Sully



Michelle Rodriguez as Trudy Chacon



Jake Sully (voiced by Sam Worthington) riding the Great Leonopteryx Toruk



Stephen Lang as Colonel Miles Quaritch



Neytiri (voiced by Zoe Saldana)



Neytiri (voiced by Zoe Saldana) and Jake Sully (voiced by Sam Worthington)



Jake Sully in fight scene

Juke joint blues in the deep South keeps Tyler Perry's 'A Jazzman's Blues' kickin'!

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Thursday, Thursday, September 22, Netflix hosted a New York Special Screening for Tyler Perry's latest gem "A Jazzman's Blues" at the swanky Paris Theater on Manhattan's trendy Upper West Side. Perry, resplendent in a sleek black and white dinner jacket over black dress pants, was joined by some of his talented cast including Solea Pfeiffer, Amirah Vann, Austin Scott, Joshua Boone. In attendance was Producer, Screenwriter and Creator Tyler Perry along with some of the cast Solea Pfeiffer, Amirah Vann, Austin Scott, Joshua Boone and many who attended the screening to support the film which is streaming on Netflix now!

CAST: "A Jazzman's Blues" stars Joshua Boone and Solea Pfeiffer as star-crossed lovers Bayou and Leanne alongside an ensemble cast that includes Amirah Vann, Austin Scott, Milauna Jemai Jackson, Brent Antonello, Brad Benedict, Kario Marcel, Lana Young and Ryan Eggold.

SYNOPSIS: A Jazzman's Blues spans decades, telling the story of two young people in rural Georgia in the 1930s and '40s whose love for each other is compromised



Tyler Perry joins his cast of 'A Jazzman's Blues' in a Q&A after the screening



Tyler Perry and cast from 'A Jazzman's Blues'

by where they find themselves, unbearable family pressures and the violent racial oppression of the day. Both Bayou and Leanne are the proverbial black sheep of their respective families — Bayou for his dark skin and perceived learning disabilities, Leanne for being the fair-skinned, "uppity" young woman who dares to want autonomy over her own body and choices. The script seamlessly weaves historical and cultural elements of the era into the would-be couple's personal lives, building a wall of economic hardship, colorism, white supremacist violence and misogyny that suffocates them. A sweeping tale of forbidden love, "A Jazzman's Blues" unspools forty years of secrets and lies soundtracked by juke joint blues in the deep South.

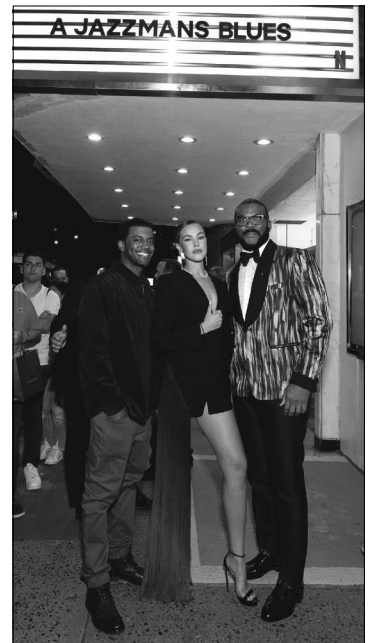
CREDITS: "A Jazzman's Blues" features an original song performed by Ruth B., edited by May-sie Hoy, songs arranged and produced by multi-Grammy winner & two-time Academy Award nominee Terence Blanchard, music by Aaron Zigman and choreography by Debbie Allen with sweeping cinematography by Brett Pawlak.

LAST WORD: At the end of filming Perry addressed social media and expressed his feelings about his latest masterpiece. "About 26 years ago, I was struggling and not sure if I would be able to break into the entertainment business. I had managed to sneak into (cause I was broke) a play called Seven Guitars, and I got a chance to speak with the great August Wilson at an after-party. I didn't know how he would receive me because the kind of plays I was doing weren't



Dress to perfection Solea Pfeiffer

Broadway, but he was so kind, encouraging, and inspiring that I went home and wrote my very first screenplay. I called it A Jazzman's Blues." The film can be seen on Netflix. (Photos courtesy Netflix)



Fabulous Joshua Boone, Solea Pfeiffer and Tyler Perry



Fashionable Amirah Vann

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