

THE WAYANS FAMILY TO BE INDUCTED INTO NAACP IMAGE AWARDS HALL OF FAME

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LOS ANGELES (February 13, 2025) - Today, the NAACP announced that the legendary Wayans family will be inducted into the esteemed NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame during the "56th NAACP Image Awards" airing live from the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on Saturday, February 22, at 8:00 PM ET/PT on BET and CBS. This year, the broadcast will be extended 30 minutes to 2.5 hours.

The Hall of Fame Award is presented to individuals or groups who have been pioneers in their respective fields and whose influence continues to shape their industry for generations. Past inductees include New Edition, Eddie Murphy, Oprah Winfrey, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Spike Lee, Earth Wind and Fire and more.

"For decades, the Wayans family has been at the forefront of comedy, breaking barriers and opening doors for waves of entertainers," said Derrick Johnson, NAACP President and CEO. "Their trailblazing work in television, film, and stand-up has transcended pop culture and cemented their legacy in the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame. Recognizing their achievements with this induction is a celebration of a multi-generational legacy that continues to advance and uplift communities. The Wayans family has set a standard of excellence, and their influence resonates far beyond the stage and screen."

"The Wayans family revolutionized comedy by blending cultural commentary and fearless humor. From *In Living Color* to blockbuster films, their influence spans generations, breaking barriers for Black entertainers and redefining mainstream comedy," said Connie Orlando, EVP of Specials, Music Programming and Music Strategy at BET. "Their ability to push boundaries while resonating with diverse audiences has left an undeniable mark on the industry. We look forward to honoring their impact by inducting the Wayans Family into the NAACP Hall of Fame live on BET, while celebrating their legacy in entertainment and culture."

As one of the most influential families in comedy and entertainment, the Wayans dynasty has transformed the landscape of film, television, and stand-up comedy for decades. At the forefront of this movement is Keenen Ivory Wayans, who created the groundbreaking sketch comedy series *In Living Color*. This show launched the careers of Hollywood heavyweights like Jim Carrey, Jamie Foxx, and Jennifer Lopez, along with many members of the Wayans family, all while setting new standards for diverse storytelling. At a time when mainstream comedy often sidelined Black talent and perspectives, Keenen shattered barriers as an actor, comedian, writer, director, and producer by centering diverse voices while addressing race, class, and pop culture with unapologetic humor.

In addition to *In Living Color*, Keenen co-wrote and co-starred in *Hollywood Shuffle* alongside Robert Townsend, directed the hit film *Scary Movie*, and wrote, directed, and starred in *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*. His fearless approach entertained while

challenging industry norms, proving that Black creators could be both critically acclaimed and commercially successful in Hollywood.

Damon Wayans Sr. became a comedy icon through his work on Saturday Night Live, Major Payne, and My Wife and Kids, while Marlon and Shawn Wayans co-created and starred in The Wayans Bros. and the blockbuster films Scary Movie, White Chicks, Little Man and Don't Be a Menace to South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood. Dance Flick is another family hit directed by Damien Dante Wayans, with Keenen, Shawn, Marlon, Craig, and Damien as writers and producers. Damon Jr., Keenen, Marlon, Shawn, Kim, Craig, Gregg, and Chaunte all acted in the film. Kim Wayans made her mark as an actress, producer, and writer, while the next generation, including Damon Wayans Jr., has carried the legacy forward with standout roles in Poppa's House, Shrinking, Happy Endings, New Girl, and Let's Be Cops.

Marlon Wayans has expanded his dramatic repertoire with his recent performances in Respect and Air, and as Lou in Bel-Air, earning a nomination for Outstanding Guest Performance at the "56th NAACP Image Awards." Damon Sr. and Damon Jr. have also made history as the first father-son duo nominated for their performances in Poppa's House, with Damon Sr. up for Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series and Damon Jr. for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series.

Now, Keenen, Marlon, and Shawn Wayans are reviving one of their most successful franchises, bringing a Scary Movie reboot to life and introducing a new generation to the iconic horror-comedy series. The film will hit theaters June 12, 2026. Marlon is currently touring throughout the US on his WILD CHILD Tour which will lead to his sixth standup special. He can next be seen starring in Jordan Peele's upcoming film, HIM (Monkeypaw Productions), hitting theaters on September 19, 2025.

BET and the NAACP remain committed to celebrating Black excellence and resilience through the "56th NAACP Image Awards." Their support extends to the Altadena, Pacific Palisades, and Pasadena communities affected by the recent wildfires. As part of these efforts, BET Media Group, NAACP, JSSK and WME have partnered with LA County and in collaboration with local community organizations such as Community Aid Dena, Altadena Heritage, and WalkGood LA, to launch the Altadena Community Preservation Fund, aimed at protecting homeowners from displacement and preserving the community's cultural heritage.

By visiting www.naacpimageawards.net, the public can vote to determine the winners of the "56th NAACP Image Awards" in select categories. Winners will be revealed during the "56th NAACP Image Awards" telecast on Saturday, February 22, live from the Pasadena Civic Auditorium at 8:00 PM ET/PT on BET and CBS. This year, the broadcast will be extended 30 minutes to 2.5 hours. NAACP will also recognize winners in non-televised Image Awards categories virtually on Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, Feb 19 at youtube.com/naacpimageawards and at the 56th NAACP Image Awards Creative Honors Friday, February 21. For information and updates, please follow NAACP Image Awards on Instagram @NAACPImageAwards.

Globally recognized as one of the most distinguished multicultural awards shows, the “56th NAACP Image Awards” will continue a tradition of excellence, uplifting values that inspire equality, justice, and progressive change, and highlighting artists committed to that purpose.

One of the most iconic annual celebrations of Black excellence, the NAACP Image Awards draws the biggest and brightest stars in Hollywood. Previous years' attendees and winners include Ava DuVernay, Gabrielle Union, Dwayne Wade, Courtney B. Vance, Sherri Shepherd, Colman Domingo, Mike Epps, Keke Palmer, Taraji P. Henson, Fantasia, Danielle Brooks, Usher, Tyler Perry, Angela Bassett, Damon Idris, Michelle Buteau, Victoria Monét, Viola Davis, Beyoncé, Nicco Annan, Ruth E. Carter, Glynn Turman, Quinta Brunson, Nia Long, Keith David, Jennifer Hudson, Stacey Abrams, Tabitha Brown, Erica Campbell, Chris Brown, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Zendaya, Yara Shahidi, Issa Rae, Janelle Monáe, Tracee Ellis Ross, Serena Williams, Kerry Washington, Method Man, Dominique Thorne, Austin Scott, Tyler James Williams, Kyla Pratt, Jabari Banks, and many more.

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About NAACP

The NAACP advocates, agitates, and litigates for civil rights due to Black America. Our legacy is built on the foundation of grassroots activism by the biggest civil rights pioneers of the 20th century and is sustained by 21st century activists. From classrooms and courtrooms to city halls and Congress, our network of members across the country works to secure the social and political power that will end race-based discrimination. That work is rooted in racial equity, civic engagement, and supportive policies and institutions for all marginalized people. We are committed to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities.

NOTE: The Legal Defense Fund – also referred to as the NAACP–LDF – was founded in 1940 as a part of the NAACP, but now operates as a completely separate entity.

ABOUT BET Media Group:

The BET Media Group, a unit of Paramount (NASDAQ: PARAA; PARA), is the world's largest media company dedicated to entertaining, engaging, and empowering the Black community and championing Black culture. Connecting Black audiences through a portfolio of brands including BET, BET+, BET Gospel, BET HER, BET International, BET Jams, BET Soul, BET Studios, and VH1, the BET Media Group is a thriving media ecosystem of leading interconnected platforms across cable TV, streaming, digital, studios, live events and international. For more information about BET, visit www.bet.com and follow @BET on social platforms. For more BET news announcements, visit betpressroom.com.

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