

The Wayans Family null

Hall of Fame

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 Git 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.