

## Tyler Perry Defends Kim Kardashian Casting

Courtesy of EURweb.com



Tyler Perry is firing back against his fans who are protesting the casting of Kim Kardashian in his upcoming film "The Marriage Counselor."

As previously reported, folks are up in arms that the reality star, who divorced her husband Kris Kardashian after just 72 days, was chosen to play the friend of star Jurnee Smollet.

Dozens of fans flooded Perry's website with their outrage. One disgruntled poster seemed to sum up the overall sentiment, writing: "Well Tyler, since you are going ahead and keeping Kim Kardashian in your new movie in spite of how your fans feel tells it all. You're beginning to sound arrogant. I feel so proud of how hard you work and how connected you are to your fan base. I don't see it as your fans telling you what to do I feel like we can because of our undying support, but dang it Tyler Perry, Kim Kardashian does not fit."

Tyler has finally responded to the criticism in an email to his fans.

He begins: "I think many of you know that this is a very difficult time of year for me, so what I try to do is make sure that I'm working during this time. All I wanted to do was shoot a great film and try to keep my mind off the holiday grief that I have been experiencing for the past two years. I could not have imagined I'd be getting all these emails about Kim Kardashian. I HAVE SEEN THEM!! YOU HAVE BEEN HEARD!! ...LOL..."

Later in the letter, Perry writes, "I thought and still do think, that it would be very responsible of [Kardashian] to be a part of this film. To have the young people that look up to her, see her in a film that is about, what happens in life when you make the wrong choices. Whether you're aware of it or not, to be honest with you I wasn't, millions of young people adore her and are following her every move."

## Kim Kardashian Hires Nicole Kidman's Acting Coach for Upcoming Role in Tyler Perry Film

Courtesy of New York Post



Kim Kardashian has hired the acting coach that Nicole Kidman thanked when accepting her Best Actress Oscar for "The Hours."

To help her nail her role in the upcoming Tyler Perry film "The Marriage Counselor," Kardashian turned to Susan Batson, the acting coach who has worked with Oscar winners Juliette Binoche, Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Connelly as well as with Tom Cruise and Jennifer Lopez.

According to Life & Style magazine, Kardashian decided to hire Batson to help her play her part in the Perry movie while parsing her emotions in the wake of filing for divorce from Kris Humphries. "Kim had been confident about the movie, but with recent events she has been worried that the stress of her real life would show through," a source told the magazine. "So that's what Susan was there for."

Batson must think Kardashian has potential. In a New York Magazine interview, Batson said that she does not take on every client.

"If you know who I said, 'Don't bother sending' to agents ..." the coach said, trailing off. "You have to have talent. Otherwise I really can't work with you."

Kardashian flew home to Los Angeles recently from Atlanta, where she had been filming "The Marriage Counselor."

## African American Faces in the Media - It's Time For A Change

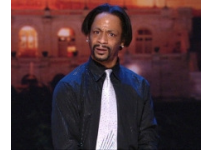
By Charles R. Gray



It never ceases to amaze me that characters that portray hookers, pimps, drug dealers, prisoners or any other type of criminal are readily accepted as African Americans by the entertainment industry. It would seem that any role or character that denigrates African Americans whether it is in print or on the big screen is the call of the day. On the other hand, if a script or manuscript comes across the desk of an executive that portrays an African American in a positive light these roles and characters are discarded.

Where are the characters with brown faces who are Kings, Princess, Princesses, those who can fly, ride winged horses, or those who carry a magic sword and slay dragons? Of course these characters and roles seemed to be for the most part reserved for those who are of the white persuasion. Is there any wonder that pound for pound white children walk with a greater sense of pride and do better in school than African American children? There is a passage in the Bible that reads as a man thinketh so is he. This would lead one to think what exactly are our children thinking? Maybe, just maybe, they think the way they do because they see themselves and African American adults portrayed in such a negative light. The problem seems to lie in the fact that we leave it up to the powers that be as to how we are portrayed in the media. The history of Black colleges and universities dates back to 1837 to counter the prevailing practice of limiting or prohibiting the education of Blacks. Even then African Americans knew as a people that if we were to be properly educated we had to do it ourselves. In the years to come between 1837 and 1944 some sixteen Black colleges would rise out of the ground. Because of this factor, even before the turn of the century, Blacks were able to get a quality education. I submit that we as African Americans dictate how we are portrayed in the media, not just in America, but to the world. I don't mean to preach hate. However, why should we leave it up to a people who have a history of telling our story their way? It is often said that if you want something done right you must do it yourself. The Hispanic community has a watch dog committee whose soul purpose is to make sure they are portrayed in a positive light by the media. We as African Americans should make it our duty to see to it that when it comes to heroes and sheroes in stories and fairytales that our children see the images of themselves.

## Katt Williams Questioned by Police



Courtesy of Blackamericaweb.com

TMZ reports that comedian Katt Williams, a female companion and members of his entourage were stopped and questioned yesterday by police after receiving a call about a person stealing from a Best Buy store in Ohio.

After a brief investigation, no one was arrested, but one of the entourage was cite for a minor misdemeanor.

The comic-actor has starred in many movies and television sitcoms including the film "Friday After Next," Nick Cannon's improv show "Wild 'n Out," the sitcom "My Wife and Kids" and was the voice of the character A Pimp Named Slickback in "The Boondocks."

## Queen Latifah Reveals Plan To Adopt



Courtesy of EURweb.com

In an interview with More magazine, Queen Latifah opens up about the devastating loss of her brother and admits she wants to adopt a child as soon as next year.

"I'm definitely going to adopt – or have – a child," she tells the publication. "I've wanted to adopt since I was 17 or 18 years old." In discussing the 1992 death of her older brother Lance Owens – who died at the age of 24 while riding a motorcycle that she'd bought him – the 41-year-old Jersey-born rapper-turned-actress says the ordeal has inspired her to live life to the fullest.

## **TV ONE's New UNSUNG Episodes, Vesta, Freddie Jackson, David Ruffin and...more.** Courtesy of Radio Facts

**TV** One gets the New Year off to a rockin' start with ten all-new episodes of **Unsung**, its NAACP **Image Award**-winning series of one-hour biographies celebrating the lives and careers of successful artists or groups who, despite great talent, have not received the level of recognition they deserve or whose stories have never been told, beginning Monday, January 2 at 10 **PM ET**. The full picture of black music in America is a rich kaleidoscope of talented artists and so much bigger than acknowledged superstars and household names like Aretha, Whitney, Stevie and Marvin. Many of the greatest have either failed to achieve that same level of superstardom – or have compelling life stories the details of which have largely remained untold. Ten of black music's most talented artists and groups will be recognized this winter in all-new episodes of **Unsung**, **TV** One's top-rated and most highly anticipated series. The episodes will air weekly on Mondays at 10 **PM**, repeating at 1 **AM** (all times **ET**) and will chronicle the careers of: Vesta Williams (January 2), Bobby Womack (January 9), Atlantic Starr (January 16), Freddie Jackson (January 23), Full Force (January 30), Millie Jackson (February 6), Ray Parker, Jr. (February 13), Sheila E. (and the E. family) (February 20), David Ruffin (February 27), Whodini (March 5).

**Check your local TV listings for times.**

## **Tellin' It Like It Tis** by G. Ball

Greetings America, hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Our condolences go out to the family of J. Blackfoot and Lee "Shot" Williams. Both of these talented brothers will be missed.

Recently I watched the Soul Train Music Awards as the careers of Earth, Wind & Fire and Gladys Knight were honored with the Legends Award. Seeing these music legends receive their awards and hearing them talk about how many years they have been in the business, started me thinking about how Black Music has changed since the days of Motown, Stax, and Philly International Records. During the 60s, 70s and 80s the song were filled with romance, tenderness and seduction this was the kind of music that would put a person in a romantic mood. Women loved listening to those old love songs and men liked them as well because the songs help express their feelings toward that special lady.

I remember spinning records in clubs and at parties during the 60s and 70's about 20 minutes before closing there would be a lot of request for slow songs like Let's Get It On, Just My Imagination, The Best Thing That Ever Happened, Reasons, Me & Mrs. Jones.

Artist in the 60s, 70s and 80s embraced life not only did they sing about love the also had a message in their music James Brown made folks aware that it was alright to Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud and The Chi-Lites sang about giving More Power To The People, Sam Cooke sang about A Change Is Gonna Come.

Now don't misunderstand me I'm not saying that the artists of today don't have talent because they do what I'm saying is some of the music of today lacks the feel of love take the song "Quickie" by Miguel, when he says, "I don't wanna be loved. I want a quickie." This song isn't about love it's about sex, sure back in the day we had songs about sex but in the music of today the artists don't even try to romance a woman in a love song and without romance how can you have love? As the old saying goes time brings about a change and I guess that's what happened to the romance in Black Music.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'll catch you next time when I continue just "Tellin It Like It Tis.