

BEN VEREEN

Few entertainers today are as accomplished or versatile as Ben Vereen.

His legendary performances transcend time and have been woven into the fabric of this country's artistic legacy. His first love and passion is and always will be the stage. On Broadway, Ben Vereen has starred in *Wicked*, *Fosse, I'm Not Rappaport*, *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Pippin*, *Grind*, *Jelly's Last Jam* and *A Christmas Carol*. His role in *Pippin* garnered him both the prestigious Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award for "Best Actor in a Musical."

In 2022, Ben was a series regular on the Chuck Lorre **B POSITIVE** on CBS, and in 2021 completed multiple episodes of **THE GOOD FIGHT**, playing FREDERICK DOUGLAS, also on CBS. He performed his concert act for the Star Trek Convention in Las Vegas, and has upcoming dates in Chicago, Las Vegas, and the Carolinas. Before Broadway reopened, Ben appeared in the national commercial to bring back NYC and Broadway "It's Showtime in NYC." In June, he was awarded the inaugural **JUNETEENTH LEGACY AWARD** from the Broadway League, as well as receiving the **HERO'S AWARD** from the First Responder's Children's Foundation due to his presence at Ground Zero in helping the first responders. He was recently honored with the **SIDNEY POITIER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** from the **NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL**. Ben performed an abundance of virtual events during Covid in 2020 and most of all his deep passion for the Homeless, led him into producing, directing, and starring in a benefit for 'Care for the Homeless'. His passion of the arts and education is ongoing and each year teaches classes online and in person.

Ben appeared in **MAGNUM P.I.** and **BULL** for CBS, multiple episodes of **STAR** for Fox, and the BET Series **TALES**. Ben also co-starred with RICHARD GERE in **TIME OUT OF MIND**, HRIS ROCK in **TOP FIVE**, and was featured as Dr. Scott in the re-imagined **THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** for 20th Century Fox. Bryan Cranston picked Ben to costar in **SNEAKY PETE** for Amazon. Ben continues to tour the country with his concert act, motivational lectures, master classes. He performed sold out runs at Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as in Toronto, Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh, as well as a lecture at Tuskegee University for Black History Month. He won a Tony Award/Drama Desk for *PIPPIN*, starred in such musicals as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fosse*, *Hair*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Chicago*, *Wicked*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, to name a few and is remembered for films like 'SWEET CHARITY', 'ALL THAT JAZZ,' and the Emmy winning role of Chicken George in the iconic **ROOTS**.

In March 2022 Ben starred in the video/recording of a new song, "We Sing For Ukraine." The proceeds from this song will benefit both UNICEF and Abundance International. He was featured on *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *Good Day New York*, *The Real*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and in *Town and Country* magazine to name a few. Ben appeared on CBS's "Welcome Back Broadway" TV special. He was also chosen to be the face of "Welcome Back New York City" on a national commercial. During the pandemic, Ben performed with the NYPD Jazz orchestra for their Gala, and directed and performed in "Virtual Vereen and Friends," which benefited Care For the

Homeless. In 2020, he participated in multiple performances for the Actor's Fund. The theatre 54 Below streamed one of his concerts benefiting first responders and in December 2020 he appeared in a program for Jewel's Wellness Experience through her Children's Foundation. Ben is an active member of Americans for the Arts, the largest advocacy group of the Arts in America. He went to Washington DC and spoke before Congress defending the National Endowment for the Arts against the proposed budget cuts. He also attended the Democratic National Convention where he spoke to various senators, congressmen, governors on the arts and education and later sang "WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW" on television in front of the approximately 50,000 delegates. Ben was inducted as an honorary member into Phi Beta Sigma and continues to be an active member.

Ben has received a number of awards including Israel's Cultural and Humanitarian Awards, three NAACP Image Awards, an Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award and a Victory Award. He has received honorary doctorates from the University of Arizona, Emerson College, and Columbia College in Chicago. He received an Achievement in Excellence Award from his alma mater, the High School of the Performing Arts. Ben has also been inducted into The Theatre Hall of Fame, the Dance Hall of Fame, and has received various Emmy and Golden globe nominations. In, New York City he received the Broadway World Cabaret Award for BEST CELEBRITY MALE VOCALIST and the Career Achievement Award (Le Prix International Film Star Awards Organization). Ben produced an event for **CARE FOR THE HOMELESS**, served on Ballet Florida's Board of Directors, worked with the **AMERICAN RED CROSS** and **SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME ASSOCIATION**, and **THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY FUND**. Ben spearheaded his own organization, **CELEBRITIES FOR A DRUG FREE AMERICA** which raised money for drug rehabilitation centers, educational programs and inner city community-based projects. The Community Mental Health Council awarded Ben with their 2004 Lifeline Celebration Achievement Award Scholarship for the Performing Arts, and in 2004, he received an Achievement in Excellence Award from his alma mater, the High School of the Performing Arts. He is most proud of his ongoing work involving the Arts and Education, and providing the youth with arts programs across America. Ben received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The Gold Coast International Film Festival, and he was honored as a living legend by **THE AMERICAN BLACK FILM INSTITUTE**.

His memorable television roles that have stood the test of time include **Chicken George** in *ROOTS* and **Louis Armstrong** in *Louis Armstrong - Chicago Style*. Other television credits include *How I Met Your Mother*, *Grey's Anatomy* (Prism Award), *Hot in Cleveland*, *NCIS*, *House of Payne*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *OZ*, *Star Trek - The Next Generation*, *The Jamie Fox Show*, and *Accidental Friendship* (NAACP IMAGE AWARD) *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Silk Stockings*, *Webster*, and *J.J. Starbuck and Booker*, *Anne Rice's Feast of All Saints*, *Intruders They Are Among Us* (Emmy nomination), Faerie Tale Theatre's *Puss N' Boots* with Gregory Hines, *The Jesse Owens Story*, *Ellis Island* (Golden Globe Nomination), *Lost in London*, *Salute to Liberty Special*, *Tenspeed and Brownshoe*, *The Muppet Show*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Pippin: His Life and Times*, *The Love Boat*, *21 and Wake Up*, *SCTV*, *The Magic of David Copperfield*, *Jenny's Song*, *The Nanny*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Lois and Clark*, *Promised Land*, and *You Write the Songs*. His television special Ben Vereen: His Roots received Seven Emmy Awards. Not forgetting his younger audiences, Ben released a number of well-received

children's Sing-Along musical video. He also provided voice-overs for the show *Wonder Pets* for Nickelodeon was featured in *Faerie Tale Theatre's Puss and Boots, Mother Goose Rock "n" Rhyme, The Kid Who Loved Christmas* and played **Mayor Ben** in Hallmark's Zoobilee Zoo.

In February of 2011, Ben released his CD *Steppin' Out Live with Ben Vereen* and staged a triumphant return to Broadway with his concert "**BEN VEREEN ON BROADWAY AT TOWN HALL**". On January 30th, 2012, Ben was inducted into *The Theatre Hall of Fame*. He performed for 100,000 people at the Washington Monument on July 4th and in August, Ben was inducted into *The Dance Hall of Fame*. In 2009, he performed at the **Inaugural Ball** with Peter Yarrow and Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul and Mary. He then entertained at the reopening of the *Ford Theatre* in Washington, D.C., which was also attended by President and Mrs. Obama. Ben also received the Broadwayworld.com **2012 Cabaret Award BEST CELEBRITY MALE VOCALIST** for his dazzling 2 week run at the New York City's latest music venue *54 Below*. In May of 2013, Ben received his honorary degree from the LaGuardia School of Performing Arts. In 2017, the Friar's Club honored Ben Vereen for his lifetime achievements in the arts.

"It's always pleasant to spend time in the company of a survivor, a pro, and a performing prince. Ben Vereen is all three." - *New York Times*

AWARDS

Theater

- 1973 Tony Award Best Actor in a Musical: Pippin [winner]
- 1973 Drama Desk Award Outstanding Performance: Pippin [winner]
- 1972 Tony Award Best Featured Actor in a Musical: Jesus Christ Superstar [nominee]
- 1972 Theatre World Award: Jesus Christ Superstar [winner]

Television

- 2008 NAACP Image Award: Outstanding Actor in a TV Movie, Miniseries, or Dramatic Special - Nominee
- 1992 Emmy: Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Special - Nominee
- 1985 Golden Globe: Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Miniseries or Motion Picture
Made for Television - Nominee
- 1977 Emmy: Outstanding Continuing or Single Performance by a Supporting Actor in Variety or Music - Nominee
- 1977 Emmy: Outstanding Lead Actor for a Single Appearance in a Drama or Comedy Series - Nominee
- 1976 Golden Globe: New Star of the Year - Actor - Nominee
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HONORS

2022 - The Sidney Poitier Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Black Theatre Festival
2022 - The Broadway League's Juneteenth Legacy Award
2022 - Hero's Award from the First Responder's Children's Foundation
2021 - inducted into the American Black Film Institute's Hall of Fame
2020 - Broadway Beacon Award for Lifetime Achievement

2019 - Gold Coast Arts Center's Lifetime Achievement Award
2017 - Friar's Club honor for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts
2014 - named Cabaret Award BEST CELEBRITY MALE VOCALIST
2013 - First recipient of the Walk of Fame Award from the LaGuardia School of Performing Arts
2012 - inducted into the [National Museum of Dance](#)
2012 - inducted into the Dance Hall of Fame.
2011 - inducted into the [American Theatre Hall of Fame](#).^[7]

MARY-LOUISE PARKER

Mary-Louise will next star in Paramount Global's highly anticipated limited series THE GRAY HOUSE. She recently can be seen in Bernardo Britto's OMNI LOOP which premiered at this year's SXSW festival. Other film and television include SENECA: **ON THE CREATION OF EARTHQUAKES and THE SAME STORM, COLIN AND BLACK AND WHITE, WEEDS** (Golden Globe award, Emmy and SAG nominations) **ANGELS IN AMERICA** (Emmy, Golden Globe and Satellite awards) **THE WEST WING**, (Emmy nomination) **MR. MERCEDES, BILLIONS, WHEN WE RISE, THE FIVE SENSES** (Gemini award) **R.I.P.D., RED and RED 2, SOLITARY MAN, BEHAVING BADLY, RED SPARROW, RED DRAGON, FRIED GREEN TOMATOES, BOYS ON THE SIDE, GRAND CANYON, SUGARTIME, THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES, A PLACE FOR ANNIE, THE ROBBER BRIDE** (Emmy nomination) **ROMANCE AND CIGARETTES, PIPE DREAM, GOLDEN EXITS**, and others.

Theater-Broadway revival of **HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE**, a role she originated off-Broadway (Tony nomination, Obie Award, Lucille Lortel Award and Outer Critics Circle awards). In 2021, Mary-Louise won the Tony Award for Adam Rapp's **THE SOUND INSIDE. PROOF** (Tony Award, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, Lucille Lortel, Obie, awards) **PRELUDE TO A KISS** (Tony nomination, Theatre World Award, Clarence Derwent Award, Drama Desk nomination), **HEISENBERG, THE SNOW GEESE, RECKLESS** (Tony nomination) **FOUR DOGS AND A BONE, THE ART OF SUCCESS, HEDDA GABLER, BUS STOP, COMMUNICATING DOORS, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, HAY FEVER**, and others. She was a member of Circle Rep Theater Company.

Also a writer, Mary-Louise was an on-staff contributor at Esquire magazine for over a decade, and has written for The New York Times, O magazine, Bullet, Bust, Glamour, Hemispheres, The Riveter, In Style, and others. Her first book, *Dear Mr. You*, was translated into multiple languages, and included on the San Francisco Chronicle's list of best books of the year. The audio book was nominated for best narration by the Audio Publishers Association. she was a contributor to the anthology Anonymous Sex, and her poetry was featured in Three Views.

For her philanthropic work, she has been awarded The Woman of Vision award from the David Lynch Association, the Sandra Day O Connor award, the GLAAD Award, the HETRICK MARTIN AWARD, and others.

DAISY HEAD

Daisy Head is currently the lead of the new Paramount limited series, ***THE GRAY HOUSE*** directed by Roland Joffé.

Daisy can also currently be seen as one of the leads in Eric Heisserer and Shawn Levy's ***SHADOW AND BONE*** for Netflix.

She can newly be seen starring in ***DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES*** with Chris Pine, Michelle Rodriguez, and Regé-Jean Page and directed by Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley.

Daisy can also be seen starring opposite Matthew Modine in the ***WRONG TURN*** reboot for Constantine films. Daisy was in Gary Fleder's ***A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHTMARE*** for A&E.

Daisy has been a lead in many international movies and series including ***GUILT*** for ***FREEFORM*** and ***GIRLFRIENDS*** for BBC, ***UNDERWORLD BLOOD WARS*** for SONY/ SCREEN GEMS and ***OPHELIA*** for IFC FILMS where she is starring opposite Daisy Ridley and Naomi Watts to name a few.

She is currently starring in ***HARLOTS*** for HULU, of which she is one of the new female leads this season starring opposite Samantha Morton, Lesley Manville and Liv Tyler.

AMETHYST DAVIS

Amethyst Davis is an actress. She portrays Winnie on FX's genre-breaking drama, ***Kindred***.

Davis began her career with her break-out role in the 2016 web series ***Dick Kelly*** as Kelly Hopkins. Since then, she's appeared in ***Fatal Attraction***, ***Atlanta***, and ***Kinfolk: The Series***.

CARRIE PRESTON

Carrie Preston (born June 21, 1967) is an American actress, director, and producer. She is best known for her roles as Arlene Fowler in the HBO fantasy drama series ***True Blood*** (2008–2014) and as Elsbeth Tascioni in the CBS legal drama series ***The Good Wife*** (2010–2016), the Paramount+ legal drama series ***The Good Fight*** (2017–2022), and CBS crime drama series ***Elsbeth*** (2024–present). For her work on ***The Good Wife***, Preston received a **Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series**.

Preston also appeared in the CBS crime drama series ***Person of Interest*** (2012–2016), the NBC comedy series ***Crowded*** (2016), and the TNT crime drama series ***Claws*** (2017–2022). She has starred in films such as the romantic comedy ***My Best Friend's Wedding*** (1997), the comedy-drama ***Transamerica*** (2005), the romantic comedy ***Vicky Cristina Barcelona*** (2008), the drama ***Doubt*** (2008), the drama ***To the Bone*** (2017), the slasher horror ***They/Them*** (2022), and the comedy-drama ***The Holdovers*** (2023).

LORI MCCREARY

Lori McCreary is the **CEO of Revelations Entertainment**, a film and television production company she and actor **Morgan Freeman** founded in **1996** with a mission to produce entertainment that reveals truth. The duo first worked together on McCreary's critically acclaimed "**Bopha!**" (Freeman's directorial debut) in 1992.

McCreary's film and television credits include the upcoming Rendezvous with Rama to be directed by Dune's Denis Villeneuve, Award-winning Invictus, 5 Flights Up, the groundbreaking documentary film about cancer, The C Word, and was Executive Producer for 120 episodes of CBS's hit television series Madam Secretary starring Téa Leoni. She is an Executive Producer of the highest-rated series in National Geographic Channel history, The Story of God, as well as the expansion series The Story of Us. McCreary also served as Executive Producer of Discovery Science's Emmy-nominated series Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman, exploring how science pushes the boundaries of our understanding of the universe.

McCreary is a unique combination: **part film producer, part UCLA-trained computer scientist**. She maintains a passionate, ongoing dialogue with filmmakers, talent and executives to stay ahead of technology, and works to change the landscape for diversity in the industry. She is President Emeritus of the Producers Guild of America (PGA), founder of the PGA's Motion Picture Technology Committee, served as a Co-Chair of the PGA Awards, and now chairs the PGA's One Guild committee. McCreary sits on the Board of Trustees for the American Film Institute, is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and has been profiled by The Wall Street Journal and featured in The Hollywood Reporter's Most Powerful Women in Hollywood issues.

LESLIE GREIF

For three decades, Leslie Greif has worked in Hollywood creating hits in every format - scripted and unscripted television, documentary specials and motion pictures.

In 2019 Leslie sold his production company, ThinkFactory Media to media conglomerate, ITV. He then founded Big Dreams Entertainment with a boom. Big Dreams Entertainment collaborates with the creative community and has produced in all genres (TV Series, Limited Series, Documentaries, Game Shows, and Movies).

In that same year, Greif inked a 10-picture deal with Lifetime and produced an award-winning film for Hallmark. Recently, he and Big Dreams developed, co-wrote, and executive produced the wildly successful ten-part limited series THE OFFER for Paramount+ about the making of The Godfather. Big Dreams has also made over a dozen TV movies for Lifetime since its founding, including the smash hits "Surviving Compton: Dre, Suge, and Michelle", "Kirk Franklin's A Gospel Christmas", "Girl in the Basement", and "Vanished: Searching for my sister." Big Dreams

has also found international success with "Expedition Unknown: Egypt Live", which was viewed by millions in 95 countries.

Over the course of his career, Greif's projects have collectively earned 5 Emmy Awards (from 20 nominations), A Golden Globe (from 2 nominations), 5 Guild Awards (from 23 nominations), and 2 Guinness World Records.

Leslie Greif has worked most major Hollywood studio, in addition having very close production affiliations with studios in Atlanta, Cairo, and Romania. With decades of experience producing projects with budgets ranging from under \$1 million to over \$50 million, Greif can bring any project to fruition!