

Ava Duvernay inks deals with OWN and Harpo Films

from entertainment page 1

tor, "Alone"), Liesl Tommy (Tony-nominated director, "Eclipsed") and Christina Voros (acclaimed cinematographer and director "The Ladies," "Child of God") will join previously announced Julie Dash (Sundance award-winning "Daughters of the Dust") to direct upcoming episodes of the second half of season two, airing this fall.

About Ava DuVernay

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay was nominated for an Academy Award and won the BAFTA for Best Documentary for "13th" which had the honor of opening the New York Film Festival before premiering on Netflix. The documentary showcased her commitment to activism and reform in the criminal justice system. Previously, she directed the acclaimed feature film "Selma," which was nominated for two Academy Awards and four Golden Globes.

Winner of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival's Best Director Prize for her previous feature "Middle of Nowhere," DuVernay's earlier directorial work includes "I Will Follow,"

"I'm so proud of Ava and her ability as a filmmaker to challenge the status quo and push for inclusiveness on screen and behind the camera. I love, love, love the work we have been able to create so far. I am looking forward to developing many more meaningful projects together," said Oprah Winfrey, CEO, OWN and Harpo Films.

"Venus Vs," "My Mic Sounds Nice" and "This is The Life."

DuVernay recently wrapped production on directing Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time" based on the beloved children's novel of the same name; marking the first time an African American woman has directed a feature with a budget over \$100 million. The film, which stars Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling, will be released in March 2018.

In 2010, DuVernay founded ARRAY, a film collective which distributes and amplifies the work of people of color and women directors, named one of

Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies in Hollywood.

About "Queen Sugar" (Wednesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT) In the contemporary drama "Queen Sugar," the Bordelon siblings struggle to move forward with their lives as they strive to honor the legacy of their father following his unexpected passing. Charley (Dawn-Lyen Gardner, "Unforgettable") relocates to Saint Josephine, Louisiana, to help run the family business. As the only black female sugarcane mill owner, she must fight to regain her independence while rebuilding her relationships with her estranged siblings. Ralph Angel (Kofi Siriboe, "Girls Trip") struggles to transform from a formerly incarcerated single father to a landowner in the eyes of his family as he works to restore his relationship with his

Please see ent. page 4



BOSTON, MA— Carlos Watson, Emmy Award-winning journalist and Editor in Chief of OZY.com, will host a new, prime-time, cross-platform debate program, Third Rail with OZY. Co-produced by WGBH Boston's Studio Six and OZY Media, and made possible with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and The Pew Charitable Trusts, this seven-part series will broadcast and stream Fridays at 8:30pm ET, starting September 8, 2017 (Check your local and cable networks for channel designation.). Intriguing, unexpected and enlightening, Third Rail with OZY promises to present new voices and valuable dialogue for the digital age. In a fresh addition to the PBS line-up, Watson will frame each week's half-hour show around a single, provocative question. Expert and celebrity guests will debate it in the studio each Friday, moderated by Watson, and informed by the weeklong social media conversation leading up to it. The series' underlying query in this contentious age is: can dialogue—informed by data—alter people's points of view?

"Third Rail with OZY will be sharp, smart, and—we hope—fun. WGBH's partnership with OZY Media creates a rare and important opportunity for Americans to really listen to each other, and engage with a diverse range of viewpoints for a new type of conversation," says Denise Dilanni, series creator and senior executive in Charge for WGBH.

"After the success of Point Taken in 2016, we are excited to welcome Carlos Watson back to PBS stations this fall. Carlos brings a unique combination of smarts and razor-sharp wit to his role as host and moderator, exploring a range of topics that are timely and relevant to the concerns of the American public," said Marie Nelson, vice president, News and Public Affairs, PBS. "While there are many issues that divide our country, there is often common ground to be found. We are proud to continue to serve as a platform for spirited and civil discussion."

Online and social media voting will be used to assess outcomes of each week's debate. Viewpoints posted on Facebook and Twitter, and on PBS.org, will be integrated and displayed as part of the program. To frame and inform the televised and digital discourse, the Marist

Please see ent. page 5

Lifetime bolsters scripted content for fall schedule

Lifetime continues to dominate true story space. Greenlights new Toni Braxton film, biopic of Gold Medalist Simone Biles, Flint, and Elizabeth Smart.

LOS ANGELES, CA — Lifetime ups its premium scripted content with new season greenlights of the critically-acclaimed drama series **UnREAL** for a fourth season and freshman drama **Mary Kills People** for a season two, it was announced today by Liz Gateley, EVP and Head of Programming for Lifetime. The renewal of **UnREAL** comes ahead of its much-anticipated third season, which will debut in early 2018 alongside **Mary Kills People**. Lifetime's scripted fare also includes the straight-to-series psychological thriller from Greg Berlanti and Sera Gamble, **YOU**, starring Penn Badgley and Elizabeth Lail, which begins production this August. In line with Lifetime's Broad Focus initiative, more than 50% of directors for these series are female, and are predominately produced and written by women.

With three original cable movies ranked in the top four in women 25-54* this year, Lifetime furthers its supremacy in long form storytelling with greenlights of **Faith Under Fire** and **The Simone Biles Story** (working title). Grammy winner Toni Braxton, whose Lifetime biopic **Toni Braxton: Unbreak My Heart** was the #1 rated cable movie of 2016**, makes her return to the network to star as Antoinette Tuff, a clerical worker who talks down a school shooter in **Faith Under Fire** from Sony Pictures Television. America's most decorated gymnast with 19 Olympic and World Championship medals, Simone Biles also signs on for a Lifetime biopic revealing the sacrifices and dedication it took

her to become one of the greatest and most celebrated athletes in the world.

"It's an exciting time for all women when a female-directed movie, featuring a female superhero, tops the summer box office," said Gateley of the July 28th announcement. "In television, Lifetime is the top tier destination for hiring female writers, directors and producers and we continue to celebrate the everyday, real-life heroes in our programming."

Lifetime also sets airdates for its fall movies: **The Watcher in the Woods** (Oct 21) starring Academy Award winner Anjelica Huston and directed and executive produced by Melissa Joan Hart; **Flint** (Oct 28) starring Queen Latifah, Jill Scott, Marin Ireland and Betsy Brandt from executive producers Neil Meron, Craig Zadan and Katie Couric; **The Lost Wife of Robert Durst** (Nov 4) starring Katharine McPhee and Daniel Gillies and **I Am Elizabeth Smart** (Nov 18) featuring Elizabeth Smart and starring Skeet Ulrich, Deirdre Lovejoy and introducing Alana Boden.

SCRIPTED SERIES
UnREAL- Returns Early 2018
UnREAL gives a fictitious behind-the-scenes glimpse into the chaos surrounding the production of a hit dating competition program, **Everlasting**. **UnREAL** is led by flawed heroine Rachel Goldberg (Shiri Appleby), renowned for her skills manipulating her relationships with, and among, the contestants to get the vital dramatic and outrageous footage that the program's dispassionate executive producer, Quinn King (Emmy-nominated Constance

Zimmer), demands. Season three features **Everlasting's** new feminist "suitsess," Serena (Caitlin FitzGerald, **Masters of Sex**), who is determined to have her pick of eager male suitors. Co-created by Marti Noxon and Sarah Gertrude Shapiro and produced by A+E Studios, seasons three and four are helmed by showrunner and executive producer Stacy Rukeyser. **UnREAL** season three is also executive produced by Shapiro, Robert M. Sertner, Sally DeSipio, Peter O'Fallon and David Solomon. **UnREAL** is the first scripted series fully produced and distributed by A+E Studios. A+E Networks also handles global sales for **UnREAL**, which has been sold and airs in more than 100 territories.

Mary Kills People- Returns Early 2018

Single mother Mary Harris (Caroline Dhavernas) is an ER doctor by day, but by night, she and her partner Des (Richard Short), a former plastic surgeon, moonlight as underground angels of death helping terminally ill patients slip away on their own terms. So far Mary has managed to stay under the radar; but death is hot, business is booming, and her double life is getting complicated. When her world starts to unravel, Mary realizes she's going to have to fight dirty if she's going to stay in the killing game. Jay Ryan returns as Ben Wesley. **Mary Kills People** is executive produced by Tassie Cameron, Amy Cameron, Jocelyn Hamilton and Tecca Crosby. The series will be directed by Kelly Makin, Norma Bailey and David Wellington

Please see ent. page 4

Travel on the Book lane on The Mid-South Tribune and Black Information Highway.com



August Highlights

Editor's Note: See below August Highlights of OWN! Oprah Winfrey Network. Please check your local cable network for designated channels. All times are in ET/PT. Check local cable network for any re-broadcasts.

NEW SERIES & SEASONS (P) Denotes: Premieres

GREENLEAF

Two-night midseason premiere Tuesday, August 15 and Wednesday, August 16 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT)

*The series will air regularly on Wednesdays (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT)

OWN's original drama series "Greenleaf," from award-winning writer/producer Craig Wright ("Lost," "Six Feet Under") and executive producers Oprah Winfrey ("Selma") and Clement Virgo ("The Book of Negroes"), takes viewers into the unscrupulous world of the Greenleaf family and their sprawling Memphis megachurch, where scandalous secrets and lies are as numerous as the faithful. In the series' second season, the Greenleaf family tree will split at the root as Jacob (Lamman Rucker, "Why Did I Get Married?") ventures off to begin his new career with long-time rival church Triumph Ministries, breaking faith with his father, Bishop James Greenleaf (Emmy-winner Keith David, "Community"), while his mother, Lady Mae Greenleaf (Golden Globe nominee and Emmy-winner Lynn Whitfield, "The Josephine Baker Story"), struggles with Jacob's decision to abandon the family. Meanwhile, after exposing her uncle Mac's (GregAlan Williams, "The Accountant") crimes, but failing to bring him to justice, Grace "Gigi" Greenleaf (Merle Dandridge, "The Night Shift") finds herself intrigued with someone new, Darius Nash (Rick Fox, "Dope"), a local journalist who's been closely following the ongoing threats plaguing the Greenleaf empire.

(P) Tuesday, August 15 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: The Bear Grace (Merle Dandridge) and Mac's (GregAlan Williams) showdown sends shockwaves through the family. Jacob (Lamman Rucker) offers the

Bishop (Keith David) an olive branch. Kevin (Tye White) makes a decision that leaves Charity (Deborah Joy Winans) reeling.

(P) Wednesday, August 16 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: Call Not Complete

Jacob (Lamman Rucker) and Kerissa (Kim Hawthorne) establish their new ministry. Charity (Deborah Joy Winans) desperately tries to reach Kevin (Tye White). Darius (Rick Fox) gets an offer that may take him out of Memphis, leaving Grace (Merle Dandridge) to wonder where she fits in his life.

(P) Wednesday, August 23 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: Changing Season

When Sophia (Desiree Ross) and Zora (Lovie Simone) are excluded from the upcoming debutante Cotillion, Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) sets out to make things right. Grace (Merle Dandridge) is inspired by Basie's (Jason Dirden) sermon. Charity (Deborah Joy Winans) reaches out to Carlton (guest star Parnell Damone Marcano).

(P) Wednesday, August 30 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: House Rules

Basie's (Jason Dirden) sermon regarding inclusivity in the church goes viral, lighting a fire under Grace (Merle Dandridge) and provoking the Bishop's (Keith David) suspicions. Kerissa (Kim Hawthorne) pushes Jacob (Lamman Rucker) to get a day job.

BLACK LOVE

Series premiere Tuesday, August 29 (10 p.m. – 11 p.m. ET/PT)

*The series will air regularly on Saturdays (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT) beginning September 2

"Black Love," highlights love stories from the Black community and seeks to answer the burning question, "What is the secret to making a marriage work?" "Black Love" dives into how love begins while showing the reality of what life-long love looks like, and offers proof that while it can happen for everyone, it isn't a cakewalk. The docu-series shares honest, emotional and sometimes cringe-worthy always-true love stories. Featured couples include Oscar-winner Viola Davis and husband Julius Tennon, Hollywood power couple Meagan Good and

Please ent. page 4

Forgiving Christmas

A Contemporary Novel

By Arelya J. Mitchell

Performed in audio by

Janine Santana

Available on Audible.com, iTunes.com, Kindle, and print

at Amazon.com

When Christmas brings you the best and worst and delivers you the bonus of the Great Recession, can you keep your family together? "Forgiving Christmas" is a contemporary novel wrapped in symbolic twists and the reality that 'life' happens and what happens transcends all seasons.

"Forgiving Christmas" by Arelya J. Mitchell, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of The Mid-South Tribune, is now available on Kindle and in print in bookstores and at Amazon.com. The audio version of the novel performed by Janine Santana is available also at Amazon.com