

Sports & Entertainment

Lifetime greenlights biopic 'Can You Feel the Beat: The Lisa Lisa Story' set to debut in 2025

Martin takes home TSWA Defensive Player of Week

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 28, 2024 - Singer and actress **Lisa Velez** (Lisa Lisa) who rose to fame in the 80s supergroup Lisa Lisa and **Cult Jam**, joins forces with Lifetime to executive produce and star in, *Can You Feel the Beat: The Lisa Lisa Story*. The fully authorized biopic will premiere in 2025 as part of the network's Voices of a Lifetime movie slate which includes previously announced **Mary J. Blige's** *Family Affair*, executive produced by Mary J. Blige and starring **Ajiona Alexus** and **Da'Vinchi**. The film stars Lisa Velez as her mother, **Jearnest Corchado** (Sneaker Heads, Little America) as Lisa Velez, **Bre Z** (All American, Empire) as Toni Ménage and NYC radio personality, **Angie Martinez** as Nurse Rodriguez.



Selena and **Jennifer Lopez** to shine. As a 15-year-old Puerto Rican girl from Hell's Kitchen, Lisa Velez endured sexism, racism and hid her breast cancer diagnosis to become the first Latina artist to hit multiple music Billboard charts including songs "Can You Feel The Beat," "All Cried Out," and "Lost in Emotion." Lisa's constant companion through her tumultuous ride to the top was her best friend and backup singer, Toni Ménage. Toni's unwavering support

helped Lisa learn how to take control of her professional and personal life. This true-life story of two best friends who refused to allow themselves to be destroyed by the entertainment business is filled with twists and turns and ends triumphantly as the two refused to give up on their dreams.

Abbey Sibucuo, Ron Robinson and Eric Tomosunas serving as executive producers. Produced in association with GroupM Motion Entertainment with **Richard Foster** and **Chet Fenster** serving as executive producers. **Tailiah Breon** directs from a script by **Rebecca Murga**.

tion for women dedicated to offering the highest quality original programming spanning award-winning movies, high-quality limited series and breakout non-fiction series and documentaries. Lifetime has an impressive legacy in public affairs, bringing attention to social issues that women care about with initiatives such as the long-running Stop Breast Cancer for Life, Stop Violence Against Women, and Broader Focus, a major global initiative dedicated to supporting and hiring female directors, writers and producers, including women of color, to make its content.

Lifetime Television, LMN, Lifetime Real Women® and Lifetime Digital are part of Lifetime Entertainment Services, LLC, a subsidiary of A+E Networks. A+E Networks is a joint venture of the Disney-ABC Television Group and Hearst Corporation.

The film tells the story of global phenomenon, Lisa Lisa who paved the way for artists like

Can You Feel the Beat: The Lisa Lisa Story is produced by Swirl Films with Tracy "Twinkle" Byrd, Lisa Velez, Toni Ménage,

ABOUT LIFETIME

Celebrating over 40 years of entertaining audiences, Lifetime is a premier entertainment destina-

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – University of Memphis senior redshirt-junior linebacker Chandler Martin was named Tennessee Sports Writers Association (TSWA) Defensive Player of the Week on Tuesday, the association announced.

The captain of the Tiger defense, Martin, totaled 11 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and a pair of sacks to grow his season total to 6.0 (No. 19 in FBS).

Martin has been the anchor of a much-improved Memphis defense this season that held Charlotte to just 52 offensive plays – the lowest amount by a Tiger opponent this season.

Martin adds the honor to a trio of AAC Defensive Player of the Week nods this season. The Lithonia, Georgia, native leads The American with 6.0 sacks and 12.0 tackles for loss in 2024. His three fumble recoveries are also good for the second most in FBS while his 12.0 tackles for loss rank sixth in the country.

As a unit, the Tiger defense ranks No. 5 nationally in turnover margin (+11), No. 12 in turnovers gained (16), No. 14 with 42.0 tackles for loss, No. 33 in scoring defense (20.9 avg.) and No. 34 in rushing defense (117.5).

The Tigers' 7-1 start is the best since Memphis did the same in 2019 before finishing 12-2. Memphis has scored 20 or more points in 35-consecutive games – the longest active streak in the nation – dating back to a 33-28 win over Tulane on Nov. 27, 2021.

Memphis fans can see the Tigers back in action at Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium on Friday, Nov. 8 in an American Athletic Conference matchup with Rice. Single-game tickets for the 2024 season can be found at by visiting www.gotigersgo.com.

From Howard to Hollywood: The 2nd Annual HBCU First Look Film Festival set for November 8-10 at Howard University

The Nation's Premiere Celebration of HBCU Filmmakers and Hollywood Executives to Feature Projects from Andscape, NBC, Oxygen True Crime and TVOne Conversations with Actors Including Naturi Naughton-Lewis, Keshia Knight Pulliam, E. Roger Mitchell, LaRoyce Hawkins, Comedians Loni Love, Kym Whitley, Grammy-Award Winner and Politician Shyne Barrow, TV Executive Jawn Murray, Oxygen's Faith Jenkins, Executive Producer Nkechi Okoro Carroll and Director David E. Talbert



Radio: A Conversation on Power, Passion & Perseverance with NAACP Image Award-winning actress **Naturi Naughton-Lewis**. Moderated by Emmy Award-winning host, comedienne and actress **Loni Love**, the two will discuss the state of the industry

and navigating its landscape. •Presented by NBC: *Crafting Change: A Career in Storytelling and Advocacy* with executive producer and showrunner **Nkechi Okoro Carroll** (Found, All American) •Career Development with speaker **Keanna "KJ" Rose**, a 2024 "I Aspire" 100 honoree, speaker, author and FAMU alum •Presented by Oxygen True Crime: *Faith Jenkins: From Prosecutor to Producer*, a conversation with former Manhattan prosecutor, television producer and speaker **Faith Jenkins** (Oxygen True Crime's *Killer Rela-*

tionship with Faith Jenkins) •The annual HBCU First LOOK Film Challenge, which received over 200 film submissions, will award three winners with internships. •TVOne Presents "FLUFF YOUR FEATHERS: How to effectively introduce and promote your best asset...YOU!" •Presented by Andscape: *Closing Night at the Movies*, 'The Honorable: Shyne' Documentary. A Clips & Conversation event with a panel featuring Grammy-Award winning artist **Shyne Barrow**, Director **Marcus A. Clarke** and *Andscape's*

Justin Tinsley and David Dennis Jr. Informational sessions celebrating iconic Black films include: • **STRICTLY BUSINESS**: A discussion on independent filmmaking and entrepreneurship with production companies • **THE BLACK GODFATHER**: A panel on documentary filmmaking, music licensing and supervision • **BEAUTY SHOP**: From costume design to character makeup, a talk about the glitz and glam of production • **DREAMGIRLS**: A conversation Please see sports-Ent. 4

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- The HBCU First Look Film Festival, dedicated to inspiring diversity within the next generation of film, TV and broadcasting, reveals their second annual screening, speaker and programming slate, taking place November 8-10, 2024, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

As the nation's only film festival honoring HBCU educated filmmakers, executives and content creators, the three-day festivities include celebrities and "I Aspire" honoree changemakers committed to building bridges with HBCU students to Hollywood in support of "A Celebration of Black Cinema x Activism."

AARP returns as a supporter of the festival's My HBCU Joy Awards Luncheon honoring **Keshia Knight Pulliam, Stacy Milner** (HBCU in L.A.) and **TeeJ Mercer** (Move-In Day Mafia) on Saturday, November 9th where three winners from the HBCU First LOOK Film Challenge will be announced.

New this year, #HowWeHBCYOU – P&G's national program supporting students attending HBCU's to and through graduation — presents Beyond the Lights Career and Vendor Lounge. The space serves to connect students to mentors and industry experts and is one of the ways P&G is delivering on its commitment to Widen the Screen. A content creation and partnership platform, Widen the Screen supports creators to share the full richness of their experiences in authentic ways. This in turn enables P&G and its brands to reach more people with relevant content that reflects their everyday lives.

The 2nd Annual HBCU First Look Film Festival Highlights include:

•Presented by Café Mocha



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— B O R N A G A I N —

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November 5th