

BronzeLens Women Superstars Awards

Written by



Atlanta – The BronzeLens Women Superstars Award was created to honor the accomplishments of women of color in the film and television industry.

In four short years it has become a coveted signature event for industry insiders, corporations and the local community, inspiring and informing women from all walks of life while providing a platform for interactive networking.

This year's awardees included LaTanya Richardson-Jackson, Issa Rae, Anna Maria Horsford, Tonya Lewis Lee, Mahira Kakkar, Kasi Lemmons, Ingrid Saunders-Jones and Valerie Benning Barney.

Star of stage, film and television, Richardson-Jackson, who is married to actor Samuel L. Jackson, recently played the role of Grandma Sands in the "The Watsons go to Birmingham 1963" which aired on the Hallmark Channel. She was named Visionary Superstar.

The multitalented Rae is CEO and Owner of Issa Rae Productions. Named the Emerging Superstar awardee, Rae is the writer, director, producer and star of the highly successful web series "The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl."

Horsford is known for her role as Thelma in the NBC sitcom "AMEN," as well as the sitcom "The Wayans Bros" and films "Friday" and "Friday after Next." Horsford is currently starring in the BET sitcom "Reed Between the Lines." She was honored as a Legendary Superstar.

The Vanguard Superstar award went to Producer and author Lee, founder of Madstone Company Inc. Most recently Lee partnered with Emmy award winning producer Nikki Silver to form ToniK Productions and served as producer for the film version of the children's book, "The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963."

Rising Superstar honoree Kakkar is an actress of stage, film and TV who starred as Asha in the award winning film "Hank and Ahsa."

Legendary Behind The Lens Superstar, Lemmons started in films such as "Silence of the Lambs" and Spike Lee's "School Daze" before moving behind the camera with her directorial debut "Eve's Bayou," which won several awards including the Spirit Award for Best First Feature. Lemmons' latest directorial/writing project "Black Nativity" is due this Thanksgiving.

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Retired Coca-Cola executive, Saunders-Jones, served as senior vice president of global community connections for The Coca-Cola Company and chair of the Coca-Cola Foundation. As the leader of Coca-Cola's philanthropy efforts, the company contributed more than \$460 million to support sustainable community initiatives. In her position at Coca-Cola, Saunders-Jones was the first corporate sponsor of the BronzeLens Film Festival. She was honored as a Dream Maker Superstar.

Another Behind The Lens Superstars awardee, Benning Barney is a television and movie producer whose credits include "Shaquille O'Neal Presents: All Star Comedy Jam," "Laugh at My Pain" and "Eddie Griffin: Freedom of Speech."

Founded in 2009, The BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color.