

HAKIM A. KHALFANI

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



BIOGRAPHY

Ask writer / director Hakim A. Khalfani, aka, HAK, how long he's been directing, and he'll tell you, "All my life." Some of HAK's fondest childhood memories are those of the all day Saturday movie marathons with his brothers and cousins. Those all day movie fests always culminated with home reenactments of the day's blockbusters, directed by HAK. HAK's professional career in entertainment began shortly after graduating from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, with a BS in Finance. HAK was a Sr. Financial Analyst for entertainment mogul Barry Diller, and his many companies including Savoy Pictures, Home Shopping Network, USA Networks, and USA Broadcasting. While crunching numbers for Diller, HAK's deeply rooted passion for filmmaking reignited. During lunch, HAK regularly walked to the infamous Book Soup bookstore on Sunset Strip, to read scripts and literature on screenwriting and directing during his break. After work, HAK would often return to his favorite corner in the store, and get lost in the pages until closing time. After years of preparing financial statements, budgeting, and forecasting for Diller, and the loss of his mother to cancer, HAK took the risky leap from the financial tier of entertainment to writing and production.

HAK eventually left USA Networks, and enrolled in the UCLA Extension film school program. After completing three days of class, HAK learned that in the film business, it's "who you know, then what you know." Given the cost of film school and the network of people in television and film he has, he decided to hold steadfast to his dream and focus on what he could afford to do. Write! In 2003, HAK wrote the original script, "White Boy Rick". This script quickly circled through the hands of George Furla, Mark Wahlberg, Antoine Fuqua, Paul Rosenberg, and Jimmy Iovine. Though the film was never given the green light, it introduced HAK to several key decision makers in Hollywood, and began a successful career in film.

While filming a documentary for a Def Jam artist, HAK had the opportunity to meet and work with Russell Simmons. Being impressed with HAK's unique vision and screenwriting skills, Simmons hired HAK to direct the lead music video for the feature film, "Waist Deep". HAK's success with his music video directorial debut, landed him his next job writing and directing his first feature film, "4 LIFE", starring Wood Harris and Elise Neal.

In 2010, HAK wrote and directed his most prized film to date, FORGIVENESS, a faith based film, starring Richard T. Jones. In the summer of 2015, FORGIVENESS, garnered a multitude of awards, including Best Feature Film at the HBO, Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, Best Feature at the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival, Best Feature at the Gary Indiana Black Film Festival, and Best Faith Based Film at the International Black Film Festival Nashville. In 2016, FORGIVENESS, won 5 awards from the San Diego Black Film Festival including Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Supporting Actress. FORGIVENESS is distributed by Novus Content, and releases September 9th, 2016.



[Forgiveness Movie Trailer Link](#)

[Movie Clip](#)

FORGIVENESS

SYNOPSIS

Every Sunday, the small town of Canton, Mississippi, knows they are in the good hands of **Pastor Joseph Jenkins**; a charming, wise, and honest man that everyone in the town loves. On a routine morning drive through Canton, Pastor Jenkins sees a young woman receiving roadside assistance for her overheating car. He stops and offers her a ride. The young woman is a local community college student. On their way, the Pastor's beautiful wife, calls while going into child labor. In a rare moment of panic, Pastor Jenkins, distracted from the road and driving recklessly - crashes. Though he and the girl are unhurt, this accident killed a woman and two children. Meanwhile, Detective Herbert Lewis is present in court, following the well-publicized controversial trial of the pastor. Detective Lewis is obsessed with this case, because of the similarities of a family tragically killed in a car accident, to his own family. During the witness testimony of the girl riding with the pastor, Detective Lewis recognizes the witness on the stand from previous arrests involving prostitution, and immediately becomes intrigued by this case. After the acquittal, Lewis goes against all orders from his superior, **Captain Kittridge**, and the advice of his partner, Detective Stewart, and pursues both the girl and Pastor Jenkins until he solves the mysterious crime involving the two.



HAK answers the 10 most asked questions about the making of *Forgiveness*

Q. 1. What Inspired you to write this movie?

A. My girlfriend at the time, broke up with me for something that I did, and too embarrassed to mention. She cut me off, wouldn't speak, or forgive me for nothing in the world. And that bothered me to the point, that I had to research the word, Forgiveness.

Q. 2. What was it like working with the great actors in your film?

A. Working with such great actors, makes everything magical. To see someone take the words and actions I wrote, and bring them to life is magical. Great Acting makes a good writer, great!

Q. 3. If you had to do it over again, what would you do differently?

A. I would have never called the "poor man's version of Shamar Moore". You know who you are.

Q. 4. How did you get started in the film business?

A. My good friend introduced me to Russell Simmons. Russell and I bonded really well. He hired me to direct my first music video. With the success of my first video, I was offered a deal to write and direct a movie.

Q. 5. How did you get Richard T. Jones to star in your film?

A. My producer Inny Clemons gave him the script, and he loved it. Richard is an ordained minister, and this role came at a time where he was at a place with God, and he wanted to do it.

Q. 6. Is this your first film?

A. It's the first film I'm proud of. The first film I directed, "4 Life", Tony Austin, who financed the movie, woke up one morning and decided that he wanted the director credit, and took my name off. I wasn't apart of the edit, and when I saw the movie, I was glad he took my name off.

Q. 7. How did you raise the money to do this film?

A. I didn't. A client that I directed a music video for, told me he had a book, that he wanted to make a movie, and asked me if I could write and direct a film adapted from the book.

Q. 8. How long did it take to do this film?

A. I wrote the script in two weeks, shot the film in 15 days, and it took about a year to edit and score the film.

Q. 9. Who are your influences?

A. First, My mother and Grandmother are my influences in life. In film, the writer / directors Spike Lee and Quentin Tarantino. Directors F. Gary Grey, Antoine Fuqua, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Thomas Carter (coach Carter), Michael Shultz (Woman Thou Art Loosed), Inny Clemons, Ruben Cannon, Kenya Barris, and Russell Simmons.

Q 10. What's next for you?

A. I don't know? I've written over 30 movies, I want to do them all.



CodeBlack/Lionsgate

[4 Life Movie Trailer Link](#)

AWARDS

FORGIVENESS

- **BEST FEATURE FILM**

HBO

- **BEST FEATURE FILM**

Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival

- **BEST FEATURE FILM**

Greater Cleveland Urban film Festival

- **BEST FILM**

San Diego Black Film Festival

- **BEST DIRECTOR**

San Diego Black Film Festival

- **BEST ACTOR**

San Diego Black Film Festival

- **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

San Diego Black Film Festival

- **BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

San Diego Black Film Festival

- **BEST FAITH BASED FILM**

International Black Film Festival Nashville

- **BEST NARRATIVE FILM**

Gary Indian Black Film Festival

- **OFFICIAL SELECTION**

PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

- **OFFICIAL SELECTION**

Twin Cities Black Film Festival



PRESS

FILM & TV

Forgiveness The Movie Makes Debut At Pan African Film Festival



Naomi Bonman / February 18, 2015 / 1 / 72



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Little Big Man, HAK, Wins First Best Feature Film HBO Award, Preps For Next Screening At The Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival



Naomi Bonman / August 31, 2015 / 0 / 472



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Forgiveness Wins Big at HBO Awards Martha's Vinyard

2015-09-18

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"Forgiveness" Writer/Director, Hakim Khalfani, wins the 2015 HBO best feature film award.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Los Angeles, CA-September 18, 2015) "Forgiveness" Writer/Director, Hakim Khalfani, wins the 2015 HBO best feature film award, at the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival. Spike Lee was this year's guest speaker at the director's brunch sponsored by Hennessy, and was elated to see another Morehouse College Alumnus receiving the honor and prize award. "Forgiveness" is nominated for best feature film again at the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (GCUFF) and International Black Film Festival (IBFF) in Nashville, TN.

GCUFF screening on 9/18 9:00pm and 9/19 9:45 pm, in Cleveland, Ohio.

IBFF screening is 10/3 2:30 pm, in Nashville, TN



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A Celebration of Culture



GCUFF 2013 SHORT

Published on Feb 11, 2013 The Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (GCUFF) was created to expose



"If a man trespasses against you, you rebuke him. If he repents, then you forgive him." Luke 17:3

Los Angeles, CA- September 30, 2015 Two-time award winning film, *Forgiveness*, starring Richard T. Jones and Robinne Lee, is scorching the urban film festivals across the country. After winning The HBO Best Feature Film award at The Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival, writer/director Hakim Khalfani picked up the programmer's choice, Best Feature Film award, at the Greater Urban Cleveland Film Festival, and three more nominations for best feature film at; The International Black Film Festival of Nashville (IBFFN), The Gary Indiana Black Film Festival (GIBFF), and The Twin Cities Black Film Festival (TCBFF).

"This film was excellent, with a unique twist. I was really surprised to see the superb cast. Hakim Khalfani directed a masterpiece..." Sandy Scott

[Click Here for Fox 8 News link](#)

Across Black America week of Sept. 24

Compiled by Carol Ozemhoya. | 9/24/2015, 11:32 a.m.



Also of interest



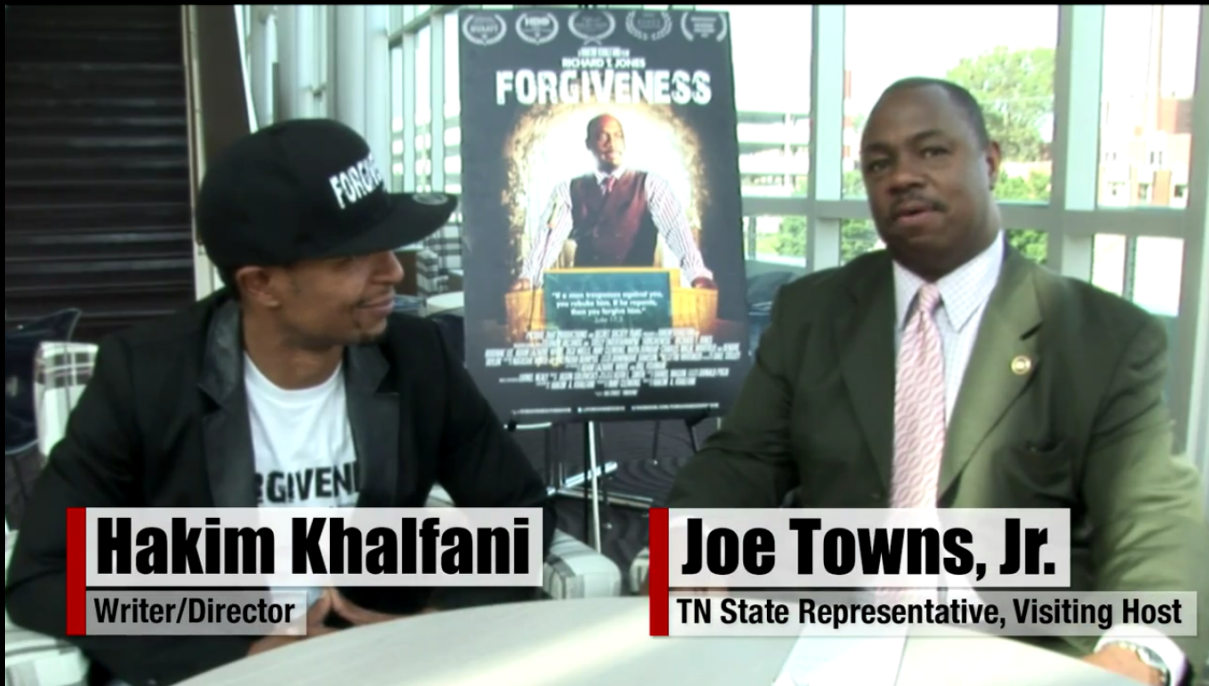
African American news for

Hakim Khalfani, the writer and director of "Forgiveness," won the HBO Best Feature Film award at the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival last month. Khalfani is a graduate of Morehouse College, where Spike Lee is an alumni. Lee was the guest speaker at the director's brunch during the festival. Since winning the prestigious award, Khalfani has entered talks with the show VICE for a drama series involving Mikhi Pfiefer and Wood Harris.



Spike and HAK

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Hakim Khalfani

Writer/Director

Joe Towns, Jr.

TN State Representative, Visiting Host

[Click Here for IBFF Interview link](#)

FILM & TV

FORGIVENESS the movie, takes home five awards at The San Diego Black Film Festival



[Posh Tailored Article](#)



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