



EMBARGOED UNTIL 8AM PST MAY 29, 2025

**WINNERS AND SPECIAL HONOREES ANNOUNCED FOR THE
7TH ANNUAL AAFCA TV HONORS**

“FOREVER,” “PARADISE” AND “MATLOCK” ARE MULTIPLE WINNERS

**KEITH LE GOY, AYO DAVIS, TINA PERRY, MARA BROCK AKIL, MICHELLE BUTEAU,
NNEKA ONUORAH, DENISE NICHOLAS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL HONORS**

Los Angeles (May 29, 2025) — The African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA) is proud to announce its winners of this year’s AAFCA TV HONORS, its annual TV TOP TEN LIST and its 2025 class of Special Achievement Honorees. The 7th Annual AAFCA TV Honors will take place on August 23, 2025, at the historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

This year’s WINNERS, as voted on by the AAFCA membership, are as follows:

- Best Drama - “Paradise” (Hulu)
- Best Comedy - “Harlem” (Amazon Prime)
- Best Actor - Sterling K. Brown, “Paradise” (Hulu)
- Best Actress - Kathy Bates, “Matlock” (CBS)
- Best Writing - “Forever” (Netflix)
- Best Director - Anthony Hemingway, Thembi Banks, Mara Brock Akil and Regina King, “Forever” (Netflix)
- Breakthrough Talent - Skye P. Marshall, “Matlock” (CBS)
- Best Documentary - “Number One on the Callsheet” (Apple TV+)
- Best Reality - “Gen Zone” (BET+)
- Best Limited Series - “The Big Cigar” (Apple TV+)
- Best TV Movie - “The Supremes at Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat” (Hulu)
- Best Ensemble - “Bel-Air” (Peacock)
- Best New Show- “Forever” (Netflix)

AAFCA’s selection for the 2025 TOP TEN TELEVISION PROGRAMS is as follows:

1. “Forever” (Netflix)
2. “Paradise” (Hulu)
3. “Cross” (Amazon Prime)
4. “Harlem” (Amazon Prime)
5. “Bel-Air” (Peacock)
6. “Power Book: Raising Kanan” (Starz)
7. “Dope Thief” (Apple TV+)

8. “The Bear” (“Hulu”)
9. “The Chi” (Paramount+ with Showtime)
10. “Abbott Elementary” (ABC)

“Do not miss the winning programs and performances and AAFCA’s Top 10 TV shows of the year,” said AAFCA president and co-founder **Gil Robertson**. “We look forward to celebrating a banner year for television, with our winners and Top 10 list reflecting incredible creativity, compelling narratives, and the powerful resonance of diverse storytelling across all platforms.”

In addition to this year’s winners of the AAFCA TV HONORS and the announcement of the Top 10 television programs of the year, AAFCA is thrilled to announce this year’s class of special honorees. Selected by the AAFCA TV HONORS awards committee, these individuals represent a dynamic cross-section of leaders and visionaries making an indelible impact across television and streaming platforms.

“Our honorees are the heartbeat of the television industry,” said **Gil Robertson**, AAFCA Co-Founder and President. “As the entertainment world finds its footing again post-COVID, post-strikes, and amid a shifting political and cultural landscape, this year’s class of honorees exemplifies the solid, innovative leadership that is essential to moving the industry forward.”

Now in its seventh year, the AAFCA TV Honors has become a bellwether event within the entertainment industry—serving as both a celebration and a reflection of the groundbreaking work happening in television and streaming.

This year’s special honorees include:

Keith Le Goy, Chairman, Sony Pictures Television – TV Vanguard Award

Le Goy is chairman of Sony Pictures Television (SPT), one of the television industry’s leading content providers. He is responsible for all television production operations, of one of the TV industry’s leading content providers, producing, distributing and carrying programming worldwide in every genre and for every platform.

- **Ayo Davis, President, Disney Branded Television – Salute to Excellence Award**

As president of Disney Branded Television, Davis is responsible for producing premium original content for kids and families across Disney+ and Disney Junior. Under her leadership, the network has launched favorites like “Marvel’s Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur,” hit animated series “Bluey,” Disney Jr.’s “Ariel” starring Amber Riley and Taye Diggs, and “Descendants: The Rise of Red” starring Brandy and Rita Ora. Having spent over two decades at Disney—starting in casting before moving into content—Davis has made her mark.

- **Tina Perry, President, OWN TV – Visionary Award**

Perry has served as President of OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network since 2019, overseeing all creative and operational aspects of the network, reporting directly to OWN Chairwoman and

CEO Oprah Winfrey and Warner Bros. Television Group and US Networks Chairwoman and CEO Channing Dungey. Under her leadership, OWN has solidified its role as a leading destination for Black audiences. The network continues to dominate Friday and Saturday nights among African American viewers with hit series such as *Love & Marriage: Huntsville*, *Family or Fiance*, and *Ready to Love*. Over the past year, OWN's average premiere ratings among Black women aged 25-54 have increased by 6%.

- **Mara Brock Akil, Producer/Screenwriter - Legacy Award**

A groundbreaking television writer and producer, Akil's work has shaped modern Black storytelling on TV. Her work includes writing for "South Central," and becoming the youngest African-American showrunner at 30 with her hit series "Girlfriends." Additional projects include "The Game," "Being Mary Jane," and "Black Lightning." Brock Akil's most current series, "Forever," just debuted on Netflix.

- **Michelle Buteau, Actress/Comedian - Trailblazer Award**

Comedian, actress, producer, and podcast host, Buteau is known for her bold humor. She began stand-up in 2001 after working as a TV news producer in New York. Her big break came five years later on Comedy Central. Named one of Esquire's "comedians to watch" in 2017, she went on to host the "Late Night Whenever!" podcast and Netflix's "The Circle." Her comedy special, "Welcome to Buteaupia," earned a 2021 Critics' Choice Award. In 2020, she published "Survival of the Thickest," later adapted into a Netflix series. She starred in the 2024 film "Babes."

- **Nneka Onuorah, Producer/Director - 2025 Horizon Award**

Onuorah is an Emmy-winning film director and producer known for bold, socially resonant storytelling. The winner of a Primetime Emmy for directing "Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls," her most recent Prime Video project, "Megan Thee Stallion: In Her Own Words" spotlights the superstar rapper's rise to fame.

- **Denise Nicholas - 2025 TV Icon Award**

Denise Nicholas is a renowned actress and author, best known for her roles in films like "Let's Do it Again" (1975) and "Capricorn One" (1977) as well as her TV roles on "In the Heat of the Night" and "Room 222." She is also the author of the novel "Freshwater Road" and has received several accolades for her writing, including the Best First Novel Award from the American Library Association's Black Caucus. She got her start on stage touring with the Free Southern Theater through the rural South during the Civil Rights Movement.

###

About AAFCA

The African-American Film Critics Association (AAFCA) is the largest collective of Black film critics in the world, dedicated to celebrating excellence in film and television. Founded in 2003, AAFCA presents a range of annual awards celebrations and special events that honor outstanding achievements in the entertainment industry. Since its inception, the organization has remained committed to amplifying Black voices in film criticism and arts and entertainment journalism across the African Diaspora. AAFCA's mission has always been clear: to elevate diverse perspectives and create space for underrepresented voices in media.

For media inquiries or more information, please visit www.aafca.com.

Media Contact:

PERCEPTION PR

Lea Yardum / lea@perceptionpr.com / +1 323 606 2080

Natasha Barrett / natasha@perceptionpr.com / +1 323 606 3239

Maggie Bie-Grace / maggie@perceptionpr.com / +1 508 505 8152