



SoulVision

M A G A Z I N E



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EDITORS NOTE

BK Fulton



| “Take the first step in the right direction and change the world.”

This issue of SoulVision Magazine focuses on leadership and how it can shape and influence art. Humans take pride when someone “steps up” for an important cause. Whether it is a leader like Rosa Parks who decided that sitting down wherever she pleased after a full days work was right, or Barak Obama addressing the world from the oval office in a time that required unity, leaders emerge and often inspire. Artists capture great moments in the human story when they sing, write, and innovate about leaders. Our world can become even better when we lead or follow leaders and work on just causes together. The leaders in our May issue are among the lesser known and yet important influencers in the world who have chosen to do the meaningful work that benefits generations. We hope their lives and example will inspire all.

Brave Williams: Golden Heart (continued)



She grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. Because of her mixed-race heritage (Czech and black), the kids at school would bully her. “My sister and I experienced a lot of bullying and situations that tested our courage. At the time it hurt, however, it later taught us strength and helped us to develop an enduring mind frame. I wouldn’t have changed it for the world,” she says. The name ‘Brave’ did not come from this moment, but instead in another display of strength. When she was 13, she spoke at an open mic in Baltimore. She was speaking a truth way beyond her years. The audience called her “Brave” for saying what everyone else was too afraid to say out loud.

“My sister and I experienced a lot of bullying and situations that tested our courage.”

Spoken word was where Brave felt most comfortable artistically. She could speak her truth and people would listen. She would write and rap. She didn’t find out until much later that she had the gift to sing. She would listen to an eclectic group of artists for inspiration. “It was a lot of Tupac, Maya Angelou, and Jill Scott. When Jill Scott came out, that changed my interest in music and

made me want to turn my poetry into songs. When I first started in music, I was a rapper. I was constantly rapping and doing poetry. It wasn’t until I turned one of my raps into a song, I discovered that I could sing,” she says. She still considers herself to be a poet and is in the early stages of writing a book. Like anything, she wants to take her time to make it right. Publicists want to write it for her, but she believes writing it herself will give her more time to make it perfect.

“The entertainment business is multiple marathons. In order to get across your first finish line (whatever that is) working hard, focus, and prayer are the needed tools...”

In the late 2000s, Brave created the R&B vocal girl group, RichGirl. While the group was short-lived, Brave received the blessing to go solo. She started her own label and ended up securing a distribution deal with Empire Records along the way. “It was important for me



Brave Williams: Golden Heart (continued)



to have my own label because as an artist, it gave me the power and control to create my destiny,” Brave says. The digital revolution has changed the relationship between record labels and artists significantly. Brave not only has artistic freedom, but the ability to gain more widespread visibility of her music in the digital space via her distribution deal. Brave has learned to be patient with her career. She believes what is for her will be for her. “Nothing in life is a sprint. The entertainment business is multiple marathons. In order to get across

“Everything that is meant for you will attract to you as long as you do your part.”

your first finish line (whatever that is) working hard, focus, and prayer are the needed tools. Your mind is your greatest enemy and asset,” she says.

Acting is a fairly new category for Brave. The biggest challenge has been letting herself go to be in the present. “Acting challenges me as an artist because it forces me to be authentic as my character. I have to turn off my mind and ask, what would the character do? Being an artist can be tough as we often overanalyze, overthink, and simply try to control our immediate situation. Acting releases that,” she says. While playing Shelby Quinn in *Love Dot Com*, Brave found similarities between herself and her character. “I related to her stubbornness. It was hard for her to not get out of her own way and appreciate what was in front of

Brave Williams: Golden Heart (continued)

her,” she says. “That used to be a trait I exuded often growing up. Being a Taurus, I have to work on not being stuck in a particular mindset, as life is forever evolving and you have to be willing to keep an open mind.”

Early on, it is important for young artists to carve out their own paths. Brave struggled with her confidence early in her career. “Your journey is sincerely your journey. You have to make sure you don’t get distracted by someone else or things you see or from the images you click on. You have to make sure you aren’t chasing an idea of what you think you should look like, sound like, or act like. You need to hone in on who you are and simply give that because everything that is meant for you will attract to you as long as you do your part,” Brave says. “I wish someone had told me that. As an artist, we’re like sponges. You build on the idea in your mind that, ‘When I meet this person, I’m sure they are expecting me to look and act like this or the song needs to be this as opposed to what I really want to sing in my heart.’ So, I got to a point where I was able to find my own voice and confidence in who I am. I put my foot down and said, ‘You don’t have to be someone you’re not.’”

In the age of social media, it can be hard for young artists to find their footing and become their authentic selves. There is the constant lure of following the pack to stay relevant. “In 2019, I feel like it is much harder for you to be an individual. Girls want to look like the Instagram models they see and want to start doing those type of things to gain attention,” Brave explains. “It’s not even who they are—they are just doing it because the next girl is doing it. I would simply say: find out who you are, be confident and show the world that person.”

“I used to be all about my work, and I still am, but I am now open to the idea of finding that special person.”

Brave is busy finishing up her debut album, *Brave Williams*, and filming the film, *Available Wife*, which made us ask if she was dating anyone. “I have opened myself up to the idea. I used to be all about my work, and I still am, but I am now open to the idea of finding that special person. The energy you put out into the universe will come back to you. There was a long period of time where I wasn’t putting that energy out. It simply wasn’t important to me. But now I have graduated to another level. If “Prince Charming” happens to hit my shopping cart in Whole Foods, I’ll take it.” As cliché as it may sound, being yourself is never a bad thing. Your life becomes more joyful in the process of finding the authentic you.

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INTERVIEW

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom



Hugh participating in march in Columbia, SC, in 2000 to protest the Confederate flag flying at the State Capitol.

Photo from National Urban League (NUL) Archives.

| “Always know what you are capable of.”

The Civil Rights Movement would not have been a success without the sacrifices of the era’s young people. After college, many of the “talented tenth” took their skills to help directly with the movement. This meant helping people register to vote, offering legal counsel, and organizing protests. Hugh Price is one of those figures. When he graduated from Amherst College, Hugh was a marshal at the March on Washington in 1963. After seeing the huge crowd, he was inspired to give up personal aspirations and live his life for the betterment of his community. He would eventually become the president and CEO of the National Urban League. Throughout his career, Hugh has championed civil rights and has influenced a young and courageous generation of activists. Hugh Price discussed with us in great detail his life story of unflinching service and exceptional sacrifice.

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom

Where are you from and what was it like growing up there?

I was born and raised in Washington, D.C. My home town was a rigidly segregated town when I was a child. It was below the Mason-Dixon Line. All aspects of life were segregated—schools, movie theaters, restaurants, you name it. The fabled U Street was “our” downtown. You could buy clothes at the big department stores in the white people’s downtown, but you had to try them on elsewhere.

I grew up in the orbit of Howard University. Both of my parents were graduates of Howard. Virtually, all of their friends were Howard graduates who had stayed in D.C. The ethos of Howard permeated our community. That ethos led to progress and success. We were prepared to go through the barriers of racism and segregation and not let those barriers mess with our heads and affect us.

Many of our neighbors were quite illustrious people in the annals of the African-American experience. Charles Hamilton Houston was a neighbor and friend of my parents. He was the architect of the successful school desegregation lawsuits. Also, on our street was the famous sports reporter, Arthur “Art” Carter, as well as the Hall of Fame sports reporter, Sam Lacy, who crusaded for the integration of Major League Baseball. Right up the street from our home on New Hampshire was Todd Duncan, the opera singer who performed as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*. These were my parents’ contemporaries. Culturally, it was a very rich neighborhood.

Who was your biggest inspiration growing up?

The most proximate people you can imagine—my father, my mother, and my brother.

My father was a very self-reliant person. His mother was widowed when my Dad was three. She was trained as a school teacher, but she couldn’t get a job in D.C. She worked as a maid for wealthy white women. As a child, my father lived with his first cousin. Dad was a pioneer



Hugh with his mother, Charlotte Price.

when he became the second African-American physician to be certified by the American Board of Urology, the major certifying institution. He became one of the nation’s foremost authorities on venereal diseases. Ironically, the first African-American to be certified was my father’s first cousin.

His stepfather did not particularly believe in higher education. In order to pay his way through Howard Medical School, my dad would go to classes during the day and then he ran elevators in the apartment buildings of wealthy white people at night. He would study in between the runs of the elevator.

I learned the virtues of service and hard work from my dad. He had his own medical practice. He taught part-time at

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

Howard Medical School as did many other graduates who stayed in the Washington, D.C. area. He also worked in the free clinics at Freedmen's Hospital. My dad would often be out of the house and at the operating table at 7 a.m. and wouldn't get back home until 9 p.m. Through all of this, he published articles about some of the major cases he had. I don't know where he found the time and energy.

He was a great provider. Even though he didn't make a lot of money, there were never conversations about finances. His patients were the working class. Sometimes he got paid with Smithfield hams at Christmas time.

He taught me the centrality of family. If there was ever a ceremony at school where my brother or I got some kind of award, my dad was always in the audience. Even



Hugh delivering a speech as president of NUL.

Photo from NUL Archives.

though he was a reserved man, he had this unrestrained cheer when we walked across the stage. We always knew where he was because we could hear him.

He never worried about celebrity or social life. My parents were very much peas in a pod. He loved nature. He became a disciple of Henry David Thoreau. He collected first editions of his work. He and my mother visited Walden Pond. Nature was an outlet from all of the stress of his medical practice. He never aspired to be anybody other than himself. The whole idea of knowing who you are, being comfortable in your own skin and not worrying about what other people think about you, had a huge impression on me.

My mother was also an enormous influence on my life. My father was always focused on the medical practice. He was a traditionalist. He didn't believe wives should work so my mother "got even" by volunteering 40-50 hours a week. She was very active with the League of Women Voters and campaigned to bring voting rights to Washington, D.C. Along with a number of her friends, including many in the neighborhood, she was very active in supporting the desegregation of Washington schools. I learned by looking at the footnotes of Charles Hamilton Houston's biography, that my parents were part of the group of neighbors and friends who gave financial support for the lawsuits Houston filed to bring down school segregation. She was determined to live in as much of an integrated world as she possibly could. For example, we were members of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington where people of all walks of life were welcomed.

I can't remember who organized it, but diplomats from all over the world would visit Washington for conferences and my parents would have them over for dinner. I would never forget sitting in our house with folks from Japan and Sweden. We learned from them and they learned from us.

My brother, who is five years older than me, is very smart and ambitious. However, he struggled in school because

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

of his dyslexia. As an undergraduate, he loved socializing. He would be on probation one semester and the Dean's List the next. It didn't matter, he always wanted to party.

It took him about seven years to get through college but when he graduated from Howard, he wanted to go to medical school. Some folks doubted whether or not he could handle it—including my father. All of the reading that goes with the early years of medical school is really tough, but he powered through it. When he got to the more practical, second two years of medical school, he lifted up and went into orbit academically. By the time he graduated, he had Georgetown University Hospital and Medical School after him to do his follow up studies and even become a faculty member.

My brother was always encouraging me. If there was ever a major challenge and I was deciding whether or not to make a run at it, he would always tell me to just go for it. The only thing they can say is "no."

What was the single most important lesson that helped shape you as you began the early phases of your career?

I was most impacted by my mother's work in the civil and voting rights space. She was active and was determined to do what she could do to help promote integration, school quality, and voting rights. She even testified before a congressional committee for higher minimum wages. She and other patriots were always trying to advance the rights of our people.

I observed this when I was little. It carried all the way to my teenage years. The summer that I got out of college in 1963, I participated as a marshal in the March on Washington. Both my mother and my future mother-in-law were at the march. There was a point of crystallization for me when I was in the midst of the crowd of over 250,000 people. I wanted to be of service and help black people get ahead and surmount the obstacles we faced in a segregated world.

Take us through the journey of your career.

I was fortunate to do well in school. Therefore, I was blessed to get into a terrific college, Amherst College, and into a terrific law school, Yale. I was around brilliant classmates and professors. I will not say that I was a scholar. I wanted to take the courses and do well. I wanted to play intercollegiate sports. I belonged to a fraternity. I met the coed who would become my wife of over 55 years. I tried to live college life to the fullest without flunking out.

Because I was able to get a job at the VA as a typist, I earned a pretty decent income during the summers. From 1959-1963, tuition plus room and board at Amherst College cost about \$2500 a year. I earned \$1200 a summer as a clerk typist. I made \$100 a week. I was able to buy a brand-new Volkswagen Beetle for \$1600 cash with my summer earnings. My parents were, fortunately, paying the cost of college. After having my car on campus my sophomore year, my grades slumped, and I got a letter from my father. In those days, your grades went home with the tuition bill. We were not liberated adults, yet. The letter read: "Dear Son, I just got your grades. I see you are having a good time. We have a two-car garage. One of the bays is empty. Love Dad." In other words, you may think



Hugh mingling with the children at the "Doing the Right Thing" rally organized by the Los Angeles Urban League as part of the National Urban League's Campaign for African-American Achievement. Photo provided by the LA Urban League.

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

you own that car but if the grades don't come up the next marking period, the car is coming home. I saluted and got myself straight. My grades went up. I was keeping my car.

At Yale, I encountered not only brilliant professors, but also people like Marian Wright Edelman and Eleanor Holmes Norton. They were two or three years ahead of me. They were already legends. They went down South to help with voter registration and participate in the greater movement. This reinforced the impact of the March on Washington on me.

The 60s was a time when young folks who really wanted to be of service were going straight into the Civil Rights Movement. Many of them placed their lives on the line in the Deep South. I decided I wanted to be active up North and got deeply involved in the Anti-Poverty Movement. After law school I became a legal services lawyer in New Haven, representing poor people.

I came along in a time when people would take chances on folks who were bright, hard-working, and curious. They didn't necessarily require that you possess years of deep, specific experience in the field. They wanted to see what you were capable of. In 1967, New Haven had riots. The Black Coalition of New Haven was created to try to put the pieces of the city back together. I was hired as the first executive director of the Black Coalition at the age of 26.

There I was in the middle of it all. I was their face and their ultimate advocate. I served on the defacto staff as director of the Hill-Dwight Citizens Commission on Police Community Relations. We dealt with groups like the Panthers. We dealt with the fact our organization was infiltrated by the police and we were wiretapped. It was an incredible professional growth experience.

In 1977, I got a call from out of the blue by a man named Max Frankel who was the editor of the editorial page at the *New York Times*. He told me that I was under consideration for appointment to the Editorial Board of the *New York Times*. And I said, "What? Is this a group you get together for lunch a couple of times a year to say how you

are doing?" He said, "No, you write editorials for the *New York Times*." I said, "Well I haven't written for anybody to speak of, so why me?" He said, "Well, you've written, but just not for newspapers. We would like for you to come down for an interview." I went down for the interview and wrote several sample editorials. They hired me. I did that for about five and a half years.

I then was approached by the head of the public television station in New York City, WNET Thirteen. They were looking for somebody to become the senior vice-president in charge of the Metropolitan division that ran the program schedule and on-air fundraising. I didn't know anything about television. In fact, in that pre-cable era, the signal was so weak outside the city, it was hard to watch. I was appointed head of the Metropolitan division and then after a year and a half, they made me the head of the entire national production division. All of a sudden, I was running the division of the WNET Thirteen, which was probably the largest production operation in all of public television.

I was running the division that produces *Great Performances and Nature*. Our terrific producers created new series like *American Masters* and *The Mind*. I was overseeing all of these amazing world-class productions and traveling around the world—going to Vienna and sitting on the beaches of Cannes doing co-production deals.

I would just look and say, what am I doing here? But the joke wasn't on me. I was the first African-American running the largest production operation in all of public television. I made a run for the presidency of the station in 1987 but wasn't successful. I didn't want to stay. I wasn't happy about how the search was handled. I thought they gave the internal candidates, including me, short shrift.

About that time a good friend of mine was appointed to be the president of the Rockefeller Foundation. I wrote him a letter congratulating him. I went on to suggest to him some things that I thought they might be interested in. He got the message that I was available and invited me to join the foundation as vice president. I got to originate a lot of

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)



Hugh's mother, Charlotte Price participating with the League of Women Voters in a voting rights rally in the 1950s in Washington D.C. She's wearing the check coat and seated in the buckboard seat. Photo appeared in the Washington Star.

new initiatives like the National Guard Youth Challenge Program which gives school dropouts a second chance.

Then, the National Urban League opportunity materialized in 1994. It was something that I had dreamed about my entire life. I had come of age professionally with people like Whitney Young, Vernon Jordan, John Jacob, Franklin Thomas, Roy Wilkins, and Clifton Wharton as my role models. These were brilliant, devoted professionals who were deeply committed to the cause and the advancement of black people. The National Urban League was then and now, a revered and indispensable organization that has been serving black people since 1910. It was truly a privilege to be considered, recruited and appointed to that position. That was a dream come true.

When I was young, I set out to have as much fun as I could professionally as long as I could get away with it financially. And by fun, I mean I wanted to pursue work that was fulfilling, of service and made me feel like I was making a contribution. I got married in the middle of my first year of law school. Our first child arrived in the middle of my second year. I had a family. I knew that whatever I was doing professionally, I had to provide for my family just like my father did for his. This balance defined much of my life.

It's funny. When I didn't get the job as president and CEO of WNET Thirteen in New York, it kind of put me in a funk. I was sort of moping around the kitchen and our eldest daughter, who is very spiritual, came to me and said, "Don't worry about getting that job. You're being saved for something more important." She said that to me in 1987. I didn't know what she was talking about, but all of a sudden, the clouds cleared, and I started the job hunt. That's when the Rockefeller Foundation position happened. When I was appointed President and CEO of the National Urban League seven years later, the something that my daughter had foreseen had materialized.

Were you satisfied with the progress of the National Urban League's agenda during your tenure as CEO?

Yes, on a number of levels. One of my main objectives was building on the legacy, platform and contributions of others. The Urban League is almost 110 years old. We've only had eight CEOs in the organization's entire history. Each CEO builds on the legacy and foundation of the previous CEO.

I used to walk in the lobby of our headquarters every morning and say to myself, "We must build on what John Jacob, Vernon Jordan, Whitney Young, and Lester Granger created." We do not want, in any generation, to mess this up or weaken it. We have an obligation to build and evolve so that this institution can continue to be of service and has all of the skills and assets that it needs to be relevant. We must continue to be a leader and servant into the next century. That was what I had tried to do organizationally. I had no clue how it would happen. I just knew it had to happen.

We wanted to fortify our board and staff. We wanted to focus the organization a bit more programmatically. We wanted to create a very strong policy and research presence in Washington. We wanted to grow our endowment. We did what we needed to do to strengthen the affiliate movement. I used to say to folks in our organization, "The graveyards are filled with the carcasses and coffins of fabled nonprofit organizations and for-profit corporations that

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

did not evolve.” They did not assess where they stood in the grand scheme of things and therefore fell by the wayside. Our job was to make sure that did not happen to the Urban League. It didn’t and still hasn’t. The League under its terrific current president, Marc Morial, is stronger than ever. We wanted to concentrate heavily on education and that was my shtick. We believed achievement mattered and encouraged parents to be deeply involved in their children’s education. We were a major player in education policy.

We were also very proud of the work we did in fighting against police brutality and unwarranted use of deadly force. This was long before Black Lives Matter. The League played an important role in getting President Clinton to pay attention to this issue with our press conferences. Leaders of our affiliates would come to Washington with the parents of young people who had just gotten shot by the police. We complemented the street protests, particularly of Al Sharpton and others, by working the policy front. I know we made a difference.

We were also involved in the battles to preserve and protect the principles underlying affirmative action. The horrific book called *The Bell Curve* came out, questioning the intellectual capacity of African-Americans. We lit out after that book. We said this is scurrilous research and racist. We held a major press event with Stephen Jay Gould and Edmund Gordon and a number of other experts to attack the fundamental premises of the book. I feel very gratified about the contributions the League has made.

At what point in your career did you begin to feel you had made it?

Like I said earlier, I wanted to have as much fun as I could professionally, as long as I could get away with it financially. I was never bored a day in my life in any job that I held. I moved around a lot, so I didn’t have the chance to get bored. I was a professional explorer, but as someone who was committed to service. This defined my entire career. I “made it” when I retired and had gotten away with it financially. I capped my career with the privilege of



Hugh addressing the cadets in the Puerto Rican unit of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, which he originated.

Photo provided by the Puerto Rican National Guard.

teaching at Princeton University. I worked with a remarkable generation of brilliant young people. The entire journey has been unexpected and thrilling.

My wife and I will be married for 56 years in December. We have three daughters and two sons-in-law who we love dearly. I worked very hard, but I also worked hard at being a loving and supportive husband and family man. I was all in career-wise, but I did not allow that to ruin the personal aspects of my life. The primacy of family which my parents instilled in me had an impact; it still does.

There were some disappointments. It would have been fun to be the first African-American president of the largest public television station in the nation. It took a while to get over it, but I was being saved for something more important and I can’t imagine a more fulfilling job than being president and CEO of the National Urban League.

What projects are you currently working on? How do you relax?

I do not have any new projects on the horizon. I recently finished two major projects. I published a memoir titled *This African-American Life* in 2017 and have done dozens of events over the last couple of years to promote it. I

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

served on The National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development. It was a remarkable effort. They issued their big final report in January.

I read a lot. I read material that is very intense then I have to relax my brain, so I read something less heavy. For example, I went from reading the fabulous new Frederick Douglass biography to reading the biography of Ernie Banks, a great Chicago Cubs shortstop. The next book I will pick up after that is a new book called *Putin's World*. I go in and out of relaxing the brain and ramping it up again.

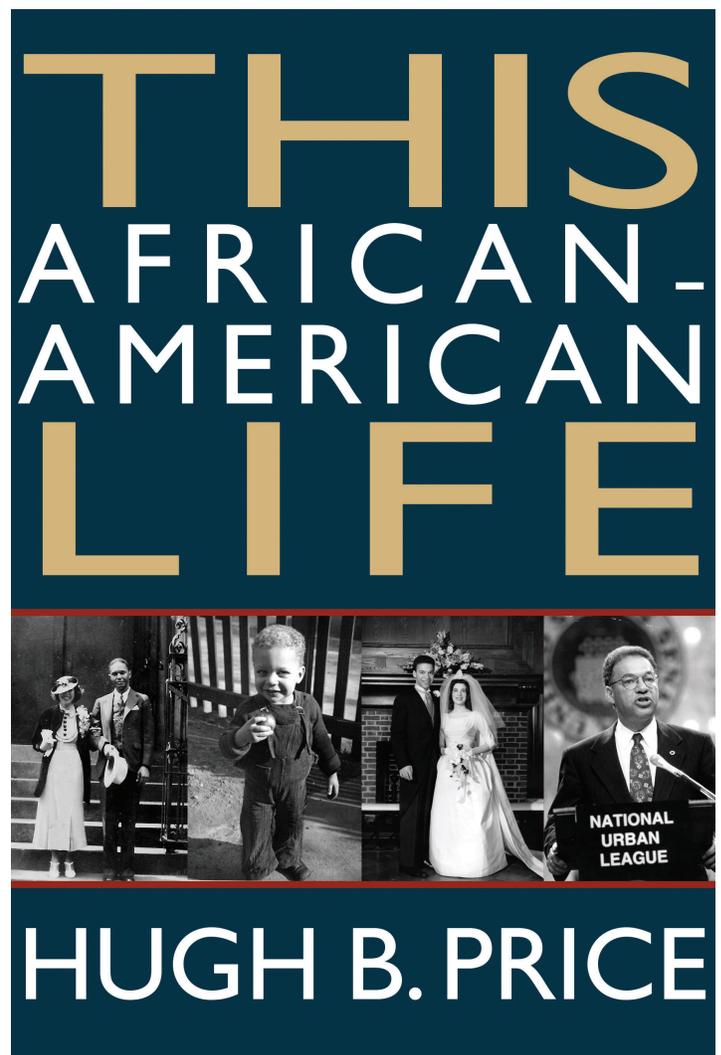
I'm trying to be true to the fact that my wife and I are retired. I've entered the zone where if I get asked to do stuff, I'm really selective. My wife and I spend a lot of time doing activities together. Despite the expense of living in the New York City area, there is always something fascinating to do. My wife is involved with the Neuberger Museum. We recently went on an art trek to a place called The Brant in the Lower East Side. The Brant has one of the most remarkable collections of paintings by Jean-Michel Basquiat anywhere in the world including one that sold for \$150 million. I stood two to three feet from it. We have a place up in the Berkshires, so we love going up there and relaxing. When we get the opportunity, we love visiting our sprawling family which is spread out all over the country.

What advice would you give to the next generation of activists who would like to make real change in their communities?

It is critically important to be grounded and to understand the way communities, people and organizations work. You miss a lot if you only fly at a very high altitude and assume that you know all of the answers. It is very important to understand the nature and frailties of people and institutions. You can proclaim that this should happen or that should happen, but often times it doesn't. You won't be able to change anything if you don't understand the vagaries of reality. Understand that change can happen rather quickly and at times, rather

slowly, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't organize and prepare. You want to be ready for it. Then, when the window of opportunity opens, you can climb through.

You look at how long it is taking to solve issues surrounding climate change and the resistance that we still must overcome. You look at what it took to get the Voting Rights Act passed. The March on Washington didn't yield a lot with President Kennedy. But after his tragic assassination, Lyndon Johnson was a very unexpected gift to the African-American community. Nobody saw Lyndon Johnson's liberalism coming. When he arrived on the scene and was ready for change, all the work that leaders of the Civil Rights Movement had put in bore



Cover of Hugh's recent memoir, *This African-American Life*.

Hugh Price: Champion of Freedom (continued)

fruit. Johnson was ready to giddy on up and get legislation passed. In a matter of a couple of years, decades of work crystallized in legislation.

During my later professional years, I saw the opportunity structure open up and immensely talented people could find jobs and make careers in worlds where we never had a presence before. A lot of talented people gravitated to the private sector. We must always remember that despite all the ugliness and pushback these days, Barack and Michelle Obama have shown the world what is possible in America. I sense that there is a real awakening of commitment and activism now. The outpouring of young candidates running and succeeding during the last midterm election was spurred by grassroots groups who were doing world-class organizing. There is a renewed spirit of service and commitment to changing this country.

Personal integrity is also important. We each have to be comfortable in our own skin about what we're are prepared to sacrifice for the sake of our careers. I was not prepared to give up family. That is a very personal judgment. I was telling my students, "You all have to figure out where you are along the spectrum and then live with it." You have to decide where you fit and then be at peace with it.

MOVIES

Stacy Spikes: Disruptor-In-Chief



| “Always be ahead of the curve.”

The means of how we see films is a rapidly changing process that no one can predict. Stacy Spikes is responsible for some of this disruption. He is an entrepreneur like no other. He developed the Urbanworld Film Festival in 1997—the premier festival responsible for bringing more diverse voices to the big screen. Ava DuVernay, Issa Rae, and Tiffany Haddish have all premiered work at the festival.

Stacy has an appreciation for films and works to make sure everyone can join in on the fun. “I am from Houston, Texas. I specialize in promoting the seeing and attending of movies via subscription or advertising services,” he says. He’s always had a passion for cinema. Streaming cannot replicate the magic feeling of seeing a movie in theaters. Stacy wants to preserve that feeling.

In the early stages of Stacy’s creation, MoviePass, he could see the trend of subscription-based services being a substantial business model on the horizon. MoviePass allowed movie fans to see a set number of movies, for a monthly fee. Unfortunately, after disagreements over price points with new CEO Mitch Lowe and others, Stacy was ousted by the very company he built.

Stacy Spikes: Disruptor-In-Chief (continued)

“We are working on some exciting brands that we will be partnering with around some exciting movies that people will get to see for free. We are thrilled to start to have customers use the service.”



Now, Stacy is building something even more exciting and potentially more lucrative—**PreShow**. Stacy describes the service as “a next-generation platform that allows customers to see movies in theaters for free by using a proprietary ad platform.” As of this writing, the Kickstarter campaign for the service has surpassed its campaign goal by more than 450 percent. Recognized as one of the top African Americans in technology by USA Today, Spikes has a talent for identifying what audiences want to see and putting it out into the world in an easily accessible package. “We are working on some exciting brands that we will be partnering with around some exciting movies that people will get to see for free. We are thrilled to start to have customers use the service,” he says.

When one door closes, another opportunity usually presents itself. That opportunity may not come from someone else, but may come from within.

For more information on Stacy’s latest venture PreShow click [here](#).

MOVIES

Miguel A. Núñez, Jr.: Entertainer-At-Large



| “Believe in your potential.”

Miguel A. Núñez, Jr., never let distracters and doubters discourage him from pursuing his dream of becoming an actor in Hollywood. He was born in Manhattan, New York, but was raised by his grandparents in a small town in North Carolina. “I ran away from home and lived in the streets of Downtown Los Angeles in search of a dream,” he says, “a dream I had since I was three years old.” Miguel stuck to his dream, bought a ticket to Hollywood and did what he needed to do to be a Hollywood star.

Miguel A. Núñez, Jr.: Entertainer-At-Large (continued)



Miguel believes his purpose as an entertainer is to leave an emotional impression on his audience. “I would describe my craft as an entertainer, not just an actor, but somebody who changes your reality and changes your perception of the moment. “I strive to be someone who can make you happy when you’re sad and make you sad when you’re happy.”

In the late 80s, he starred in the TV drama, *Tour of Duty*, and in the 90s sitcom, *Sparks*. In his roles as Marcus Taylor and Maxey Sparks, Miguel proved early on to be a likable entertainment figure to the masses. Miguel stretched his comedic acting chops when he played in the 2002 feature-length comedy, *Juwanna Man*. At the time of its theatrical release, it challenged the assumptions men have about women’s experiences. Miguel is quick to share that he’s working on *Juwanna Man 2* for fans of the cult comedy classic.

Today, Miguel continues to stretch the type of roles audiences expect him to play. “I am happy and proud to be a part of the new incredible hit drama, *The Family Business*. *The Family Business* is based on a novel by Carl Weber. The intensity of the show is breathtaking. It is hip, cool, and the actors are amazing. This is one of the projects I am most proud to be a part of. I am also in development on a show entitled *Singing with the Stars* with partner and wonder producer, Rodney Jerkins. It will be number one.

“I don’t know what the future holds for me, but I put my trust in God and myself and let no one’s opinion determine my destiny. If you don’t believe in yourself, then no one else will.”

Miguel is still channeling that little child with a twinkle in his eye, determined to be the best entertainer he can be. “I don’t know what the future holds for me, but I put my trust in God and myself and let no one’s opinion determine my destiny. If you don’t believe in yourself, then no one else will.”

To keep up with Miguel A. Núñez, Jr., follow him on IG @mnunezjr and Facebook or Twitter @MiguelANunezJr.

MOVIES

Nia Hill: Making Moves Behind the Camera



| “Use your art for a greater purpose.”

Nia Hill has been using her art to uplift and change the minds of policy leaders and viewers alike. “I am from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I moved to Jerez, Spain right after University to complete a second degree in Spanish to accompany my communications degree,” she says. “After a couple of years in Spain, I returned to the US and relocated to Atlanta, Georgia and began working with regional and touring theater companies. I then started my own concert booking and touring agency, The Solstice Group. In 1997, I started Strange Fruit Media, where our focus was on film, television, commercials and music videos.”

Nia Hill: Making Moves Behind the Camera (continued)

She wrote and directed the film, *Colored My Mind*. The film highlights five women who manage to navigate through the world of autism. Through the lens of an educator, an actress, a lawyer, a music manager, and a homemaker, viewers are pressed to consider the marginalized experiences of those of color who are dealing with autism. It was screened in President Obama's White House and managed to influence the passage of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. The Act allocated nearly a billion dollars in spending on autism over five years. The film continues to be shown today to continue the fight for autism awareness.

Nia has also lent her talents to the TV and music industry. She was an executive producer for the BET hit singing competition, *Sunday Best*. During her time as executive producer, she garnered an NAACP Image award and a Grammy for co-writing and co-producing Le'Andria Johnson's "Jesus." You don't always need to be in front of the camera to receive your dues.

Nia Hill is a passionate visionary who has done so much through her art to empower those who cannot empower themselves. Art can change public opinion and policy. Her company, Outer Child, LLC continues this mission. Use your art for a greater purpose and someone may just be willing to listen and help you make the change you seek.

To learn more about Nia Hill, follow her on IG [@hilldistrict](#) and Twitter [@NiaTHill](#).



CHEF'S CORNER

Chef James Boukhalfa



Smoked Salmon and Crab Meat Millefeuilles

Course: Brunch

Cuisine: French

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

(to toast bread and assemble millefeuilles)

Total Time: 30 minutes

Servings: 2



“This easy French recipe is perfect to include in your brunch or lunch menu.”

Ingredients

- 6-8 slices of smoked salmon (depends on size of salmon slices)
- 6 slices of white bread cut into rectangles (4×2 inches)
- Half a can special crab meat (jumbo or special)
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ tsp. lemon juice
- 1 chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. chopped oregano
- ½ tsp. chopped scallions
- ½ tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp. creme fraiche
- 1 tbsp. finely diced European cucumber

Preparation

1. To make the crab salad, put the crab meat in a bowl and add the following: diced cucumbers, herbs, lemon juice, mustard, mayonnaise and creme fraiche. Gently mix.
2. Lightly toast the sliced bread rectangles.
3. Cover 1 slice of bread with smoked salmon. Cover the smoked salmon with 2 tbsps. of the crab meat salad.
4. Repeat the steps to make second stacks of bread layered with smoked salmon and crab meat salad.
5. Put the second stack on top of the first stack. Then cover with a third slice of bread and smoked salmon. This will make 1 millefeuilles.
6. Repeat the process to make a second millefeuilles.
7. Serve.

Special Note:

* Use 1-2 smoked salmon slices per layer, depending on size of salmon slices.

Restaurant Information: Chef James Boukhalfa is Executive Chef at the *Via Mizner Golf and Country Club* in Boca Raton, Florida, which includes the popular Grill Room & Bar.

Gloucester Institute: Future Leaders of America



Emerging Leaders Financial Literacy Seminar at historic Holly Knoll

| “Create lasting change.”

Each month we highlight a community program that aligns with the values of SoulVision Magazine. We believe engaging with one’s community is critical to fostering positive change in the world.

For our May issue, we highlight The Gloucester Institute, a nonprofit organization that is instrumental in “providing an intellectually safe environment where ideas can be discussed and transformed into practical solutions that produce results for future leaders.” The Gloucester Institute carries on the educational legacy of Dr. Robert Moton, a legendary President of Tuskegee University, formerly known as the Tuskegee Institute. His retirement home, Holly Knoll, houses the Gloucester Institute. The Gloucester Institute was founded by

the influential, conservative leader, Kay Coles James. As founder and president, her mission is to create the next generation of leaders in the African-American community.

The Gloucester Institute’s programs work diligently with some of the brightest undergrad and graduate students from around the nation. The Emerging Leaders program works with young college students to develop writing, speaking, networking, and business and social etiquette. The Moton Fellowship Program gives ambitious graduate students the opportunity to be mentored by some of the most revered leaders in business, government, and nonprofit organizations. The Gloucester Institute prepares emerging leaders to make America a more inclusive and tolerant place.

Gloucester Institute: Future Leaders of America (continued)

The term “solutionists” is key to the Institute’s mission. The idea is to move away from identity politics and come together with solutions for the greater common good of the nation. When we are open to speaking to each other about the issues that are pressing, real change can happen.



Kay Coles James with ELP Class of 2019

There’s a great possibility the next great President, the next great US Senator, or the next innovative CEO could walk through the Institute’s doors. The key is to get students in early, while they are still developing and learning. When the opportunity comes, Gloucester Institute graduates will be prepared and ready to challenge the status quo. The younger generations must create change that can last beyond their lifetime.

To find out how you can give your support to The Gloucester Institute, visit their website <https://www.gloucesterinstitute.org/>.

The Honorable Kay Coles James



Kay Coles James is a woman who cares deeply about the well-being of future leaders. She believes with a great education, one can do anything. She founded the Gloucester Institute, where ambitious people of color can have the opportunity to make life-changing connections with some of the biggest players in the private and public sectors. The Gloucester Institute works with young people to become “solutionists” who will create practical solutions to today’s most pressing issues.

Kay did not come from a home that was typically middle-class. Her father left her family when she was just four years old and her mother never held a steady job. Kay was raised by her uncle and aunt who were professionals—a businessman and a school teacher. Through these two figures, a young Kay Coles James understood the value of education. This is where she learned the values of self-sufficiency and tact. Kay remembers too well the time she faced racial discrimination when she was integrating schools on the Northside of Richmond, Virginia. It was tough for Kay. It was important for her to get through it and fight for her right to be treated as an equal human being.

The Honorable Kay Coles James (continued)

She went on to graduate from Hampton University and has received honorary degrees that include a Doctor of Laws from Pepperdine University, the University of Virginia's Publius Award for Public Service, and the Spirit of Democracy Award for Public Policy Leadership from the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. She has served under the late Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, Governor George Allen, and President George W. Bush.

Kay Coles James is the first African-American woman to become president of the conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. She continues to fight for what she believes is the right way to move America forward. Kay's quote reminds us to do our very best, and in return, we will be rewarded for our hard work and determination.

View video at
soulvisionmagazine.com/the-honorable-kay-coles-james/

“Focus on excellence in all that you do, because cream always rises to the top.” –The Honorable Kay Coles James (Founder and Board Chair, The Gloucester Institute)