



## **“Women SuperStars” – Lights! Camera! Action! BronzeLens Film Festival (Aug. 27) to honor top women of color in film and television**

2022 Honorees are:

*Shayla Cowan, Bria Samoné Henderson, Eva Marcille, Saycon Sengbloh, and Salli Richardson Whitfield*



### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **For Immediate Release:**

(Atlanta) August 25, 2022 - On Saturday, August 27, The BronzeLens Film Festival (BronzeLens) in Atlanta will honor some of the world's top women of color in film and television during its “Women SuperStars” awards event at The Starling Midtown Atlanta. The Bronze Carpet will run from 6 - 6:45 pm before the program at 7 pm. The honorees bring a combined six decades of excellence in the television and film industry.

The BronzeLens Women SuperStars Honors was created in 2010 to recognize women of color in an industry that needs their voice, vision, and influence. Many studies continue to underscore that women of color are needed in a film and television industry that is largely male and non-diverse.

“Women SuperStars Honors has evolved to become a groundbreaking event within the festival that serves as inspiration for women from all walks of life,” said Kathleen Bertrand, BronzeLens founder, and Executive Producer. " Since its inception 58 of the most influential women of color in the film and television industry have received the award. Issa Rae, Ava DuVernay, Queen Latifah, Neema Barnette, Cheryl Boone Issacs, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Julie Dash, Ruby Dee, S. Epatha Merkerson, Regina Hall, and Crystal Fox are among the list of past honorees.”

With gratitude for their talent and contributions to the industry, the following awardees have worked on significant projects and made history.

**Rising SuperStar:** Bria Samoné Henderson who can currently be seen playing 'Dr. Jordan Allen is in David Shore's hit medical drama series THE GOOD DOCTOR for ABC.

**Emerging SuperStar:** Saycon Sengbloh currently stars in the ABC reboot of the classic 1980's family comedy The Wonder Years from executive producers Saladin Patterson, Fred Savage, and Lee Daniels. She was also recently seen as Erma Franklin, sister to Aretha Franklin, in the biopic Respect, starring Jennifer Hudson (MGM/United Artists).

**Emerging Behind the Lens SuperStar:** Shayla Cowan is Producer and Chief of Staff for Will Packer Productions. Cowan joined Mr. Packer's company in 2008 as a crew member on the film "Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming." Cowan produced "Wendy Williams: The Movie" which aired on Lifetime in 2021 and was an Associate Producer for "Girls Trip," "Night School," "Little," "What Men Want," "Breaking In" and "Almost Christmas." Will Packer and Ms. Cowan were selected as Producers for the 2022 Academy Awards 94th Oscars Ceremony. They are the first African American producing team in Oscar history.

**Behind the Lens SuperStar:** Salli Richardson Whitfield is a 30-year industry veteran who has credits as an actor, producer, and director. She has been featured in over 20 major motion pictures and has starred opposite several of Hollywood's top actors, including Samuel L. Jackson in THE GREAT WHITE HYPE, Denzel Washington in ANTWONE FISHER, and Will Smith in I AM LEGEND.

**Vanguard SuperStar:** Eva Marcille is an actress, model, entrepreneur, and television personality who won the third season of America's Next Top Model. With breakout roles in the "Game", "Smallville", "I think I love My Wife", "Everybody Hates Chris" and Tyler Perry's "House of Payne", she eventually was able to seize the role of Tyra Hamilton on the daytime soap "Young and The Restless" which earned her two NAACP award nominations.

### About the BronzeLens Film Festival

BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is a non-profit organization, founded in 2009, that is dedicated to bringing national and worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color. Its mission is two-fold: to promote Atlanta as the film mecca for people of color, showcase films, and provide networking opportunities that will develop the next generation of filmmakers. Since its inception, BronzeLens producers have brought national and worldwide attention to Atlanta, helping to showcase the city as a leader in the thriving film industry.

### Media Access

Approved media will have access to festival programming and will receive a code with confirmation. To request access, please email [nicolebronzelens@gmail.com](mailto:nicolebronzelens@gmail.com).

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