

Throwback: In Living Color

[youtube id="MS054NSiGiI"]

Keenan Ivory Wayans and Damon Wayans created *In Living Color* in the early '90's and it jumpstarted the careers of Jennifer Lopez, Jim Carrey, David Alan Grier, Tommy Davidson, Jamie Foxx, Kim Coles and the Wayans siblings. The show was unique because of its mostly African-American cast and contemporary folk humor. Carrey's "[Fire Marshall Bill Burns](#)," Damon Wayans' "[Homey The Clown](#)" and Jamie Foxx's "[Wanda](#)" skits were a few of the raw-styled characters that reflected Generation X's humor. Hip-hop music and culture had a strong presence with Shawn Wayans DJing, the dance routines of the The Fly Girls lead by Carrie Ann Anaba, Heavy D's theme song and regular appearances from artists like Queen Latifah and A Tribe Called Quest. The show had high ratings and in 1990 it won an Emmy for Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Series. Despite being a hit with the American public the Wayans brothers clashed with Fox over creative issues which eventually shut the show down. In 5 seasons and 125 episodes from 1990-1994 *In Living Color* made history by being the first major comedy variety show to write unapologetic humor from the perspectives of minorities and to experience success while launching some of the biggest names in the business. In January 2015 [Entertainment Weekly](#) reported a future rebooting of *In Living Color* with two half hour episodes.

Throwback: The Five

Heartbeats

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The Five Heartbeats were a collage of several musicians including The Temptations, James Brown, The Dells, Wilson Pickett, The Four Tops, Frankie Lymon and others. Keenan Ivory Wayans and Robert Townsend co-wrote the story that would star Leon, Townsend, Tico Wells, Michael Wright and Harry J. Lennix as The Five Heartbeats. Townsend narrated the rise and decline of the group from their heyday in the '60's to an unexpected reunion in the '90's. The soundtrack featured the expertly lip-synched "A Heart Is A House For Love" performed by The Dells and ["Nights Like This"](#) sung by After 7. In 2013 Robert Townsend announced that he was working on a sequel.

Why We Laugh (Trailer)

Robert Townsend directs this film about Black comedy and comedians. It really does give credence to the saying "laugh to keep from crying."