

Media Questions Of The Week

Did the audience misunderstand Mary J. Blige singing an acapella cover of Bruce Springsteen's "American Skin" to Hilary Clinton?

You are using the [facebook] shortcode wrong. See examples [here](#).

Is Laila Ali being apathetic when she says that Tweeting and posting about Black Lives Matters is useless and a threat to her endorsements?



Why did North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory pass a [law](#) banning the public from seeing police body cam footage if they are trying to be transparent and gain the public's trust?

Laila Ali and Meagan Good to Host 21st Annual Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant



Los Angeles – The Little Miss African American Scholarship

Pageant (LMAA) comes of age this year with its 21-year anniversary celebration on August 10, 2014 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles. Actresses Laila Ali and Meagan Good will co-host, joining Dawnn Lewis, the mistress of ceremonies, as a bevy of little beauties, ages six to 12, make their way on stage to compete for over \$10,000 in scholarships and prizes. Pageant producer Lisa Ruffin notes that this year's event will also celebrate past contestants who have grown up and gone on to accomplish wonderful feats!

Judges this year include Penny Johnson Jerald (ABC-TV's "Castle"); Ella Joyce (TV One's Belle's); Lamman Rucker (TBS's "Meet the Browns"); Shamicka Lawrence (VH-1's "Hollywood Exes") and TV/radio host Mother Love, to name just a few. The pageant starts at 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at www.littlemissafricanamerican.org as well as at the door. VIP and reserved seating is available.

As the longest running pageant of its kind, the Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant continues to extend its history of dedication to a legacy of nurturing young girls into proud and intelligent young women. The original creation of actress/ choreographer Lisa Ruffin, the Little Miss African American Scholarship pageant has consistently emphasized brains over beauty, positively impacting the lives of thousands of impressionable young women.



Pageant producer/ choreographer, Lisa Ruffin

Cites Ruffin, "These young ladies just keep me going strong. This year, as we turn 21, we honor them all, past and present. Alycia Jones was the very first LMAA and received her bachelor's degree from University of Florida. Our second, Alexis Witherspoon competed in the Olympics Trials, then graduated from USC. LaTanya Fisher was LMAA 1995 and she graduated from USC as well. Myisha Lyseight was LMAA 1996. She earned her B.S. in Psychology from UCLA. She went on to

complete her Masters degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Syracuse University in New York. She also played it forward by joining the LMAA staff last year.”

“The state of Texas produced LMAA 1998, Lauren Hayes. Lauren graduated from the very prestigious Notre Dame and is currently working there. Then there is Miss Shakina that Academy Award winner Mo’Nique crowned,” continues Ruffin. “She graduated from USC and is in Law School at Howard University. We train our girls to wear their C.A.P. (Confidence, Awareness & Pride)!”

For more information and to purchase tickets go to <http://littlemissafricanamerican.org/> .

For a visual overview of the pageant and its impact on contestants, go to <http://vimeo.com/15018101>.

Laila Ali to Host the 20 Year Anniversary Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant



Los Angeles – The beautiful athlete and television personality Laila Ali will inspire the hearts of many when she hosts the 20 year anniversary of the Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant (LMAA) on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. Pageant producer Lisa Ruffin has planned a luminous affair for her participants and attendees this year with a host of celebrity

judges that include ABC-TV's "Grey's Anatomy" stars Chandra Wilson and James Pickens, Jr., OWN TV star Kym Whitley from "Raising Whitley," Nicklelodean's Arjay Smith and "Girlfriends" Golden Brooks. The Wilshire Ebell is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. in Los Angeles, south of Wilshire Blvd. Tickets are available at [www. Littlemissafricanamericaninc. org](http://www.Littlemissafricanamericaninc.org) and at the Wilshire Ebell box office.



LMAA Judges top to bottom,
left to right: Chandra
Wilson; James Pickens, Jr.;
Kym Whitley and Arjay Smith

The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant has served as one of the nation's most astute educational programs dedicated to empowering young African American women between the ages of 6 and 12 with the concepts of CAP – Confidence, Awareness and Pride. Lisa Ruffin, an actress and choreographer, has successfully utilized the pageant format to introduce girls from around the country to the arts, introduce them to public speaking and engage them in individual creativity.

The full curriculum encompasses a summer program of coaching, guest lectures and demonstrations on the heritage of the African America experience. The young ladies are tutored in voice projection, poise, body movement and memory technique by instructors from the worlds of art, entertainment and education.

The pageant has seen a host of celebrity participation over the years including LL Cool J, Jamie Foxx and Taraji P. Henson . Jay Leno even paid a holiday visit to Ruffin and the pageant participants last Christmas, acknowledging the wonderful work Ruffin has done over the years with a surprise visit from China Ann McClain, the star of the Disney Channel's "A.N.T.

Farm” and Tyler Perry’s “House of Payne.” and

This year’s host, Laila Ali is especially fitting for the vision of LMAA. The mother of two, Ali is a world-class athlete, fitness and wellness expert, cooking enthusiast and the founder of the Laila Ali Lifestyle Brand. The daughter of the legendary Muhammad Ali, Laila is also a four-time undefeated world boxing champion. In addition to her work as a cast member of NBC’s highly touted reality program “Stars Earn Stripes” where she competed to raise money for a charity that supports veterans and their children, Laila hosts ABC-TV’s “Everyday Health.”



Pageant creator/producer
Lisa Ruffin

“I get ecstatic and teary eyed when I think about all the young lives we have been able to touch over a span of 20 years,” offers Ruffin. “There are grown women as well as young girls out there in the world who we have positively influenced and I am just extremely grateful.”

Tickets are available at www.Littlemissafricanamericaninc.org and at the Wilshire Ebell box office.

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Actresses Tichina Arnold,

Chandra Wilson, Laila Ali, Claudia Jordan and Former NFL Curtis Conway Celebrate Little Miss Pageant



“Every year is a special year for us, but there is something about

your Sweet Sixteen which adds to the occasion,” offers pageant producer, choreographer/actress Lisa Ruffin. “Our Little Misses have their very own role models in Sasha and Malia Obama this year. They are shining examples of the world of possibilities available to these young women as they pursue their dreams. It’s an exciting time for all.”