

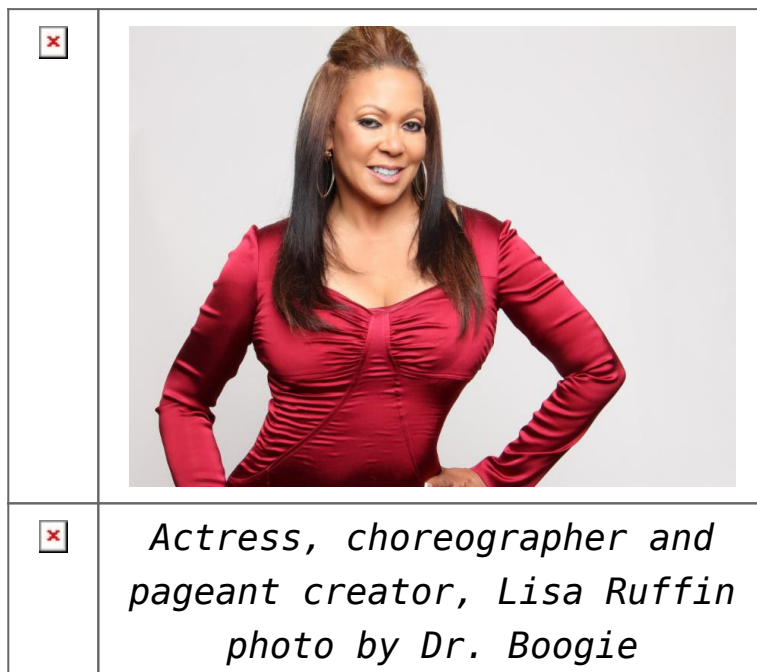
Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant Announces Nationwide Registration for 23rd Annual Event



On **Sunday, August 7**, a very lucky group of young women will be inducted into a program that has become a national tradition for 23 years now. The date marks the return of the **23rd Annual Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant**. **Lisa Ruffin**, actress, choreographer and creator of the pageant, is confirming girls for the event with a nationwide registration that is open until **June 10, 2016**. This year's pageant will be held at the **Music Center's Mark Taper Theater**, located at 135 N Grand Ave. in downtown Los Angeles, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Girls, between the ages of six and 12 are welcome to apply at <http://littlemissafricanamerican.org> by the deadline date.

The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant is the longest running pageant of its kind and is dedicated to the intellectual and artistic success of young women. Mentors from Julliard, USC, UCLA, Howard University and the Broadway stage participate by teaching an eight-week educational program that culminates with the pageant event. The girls are afforded a

prime opportunity to experience lessons they won't learn in the traditional classroom. Over \$10,000 in scholarships and prizes are awarded at the final event. Over the years, celebrity participation and support has included **Jay Leno, LL Cool J, Jamie Foxx, Laila Ali, and Meagan Goode.**



“The pageant is an on-going dream come true each year,” cites Ruffin. “Hundreds of the past contestants are all grown up now. Many have graduated from college, some have professional careers and some are wonderful mothers now. All of them are making a difference in this world. The scholarship pageant has become a milestone in their lives.”

This year’s educational component will see the young misses deal with issues related to bullying and being judged by their peers; learning about their genealogy and building their family trees; and nurturing healthy body images with nutrition, exercise and focus.

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

For a visual overview of the pageant and its impact on contestants:

[vimeo id="15018101"]

21st Annual Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant Crowns a Queen!



Miyae Folkes, age 12,
from Los Angeles, CA –
LMAA Queen 2014

Los Angeles – The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant (LMAA) successfully celebrated its 21st year and crowned Miyae Folkes, age 12, as its new queen. Actresses Laila Ali and Meagan Good hosted, joining Dawnn Lewis who served as the mistress of ceremonies, as little misses ages six to 12, competed for scholarships and prizes. Pageant

producer Lisa Ruffin highlighted this year's production by acknowledging past contestants who had participated over the years and were now grown up.



Left to right: Actress Laila Ali, pageant producer Lisa Ruffin, LMAA Queen Mayae Folkes, 2nd runner up, Chaya Mathews from Las Vegas, actress Dawnn Lewis and actress Megan Good

Judges this year included 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"), actress Roz Ryan and TV/radio host Mother Love, to name just a few. Over \$10,000 in scholarship and prizes were awarded with Women Aware making a generous \$5,000 contribution.

Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant is the longest running pageant of its kind and 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 continues to emphasize brains over beauty, positively impacting the lives of thousands of impressionable young women.



Actor and LMAA judge, Lamman Rucker
pageant producer/ choreographer, Lisa Ruffin and
LMAA technical advisor, Paul Jones

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

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

All Photos: NFR Photography

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>.

Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant Announces Nationwide Registration



Los Angeles – The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant will celebrate 21 years on Sunday, August 10, 2014 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. Pageant producer Lisa Ruffin has once again announced a nationwide registration and will select 50 young participants, between the ages of 6 and 12 for the event. The pageant has seen supported over the years from numerous celebrities including Will and Jada Smith, Denzel Washington, Shaquille O’Neal, Laila Ali, LL Cool J, Jamie Foxx, Tarji P. Henson, Chandra Wilson and James Pickens, Jr.

The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant is an educational program. The girls learn to wear their “C.A.P.” which stands for Confidence, Awareness and Pride. Selected participants undertake a cultural enrichment program designed to promote teamwork, self-esteem, and heighten cultural awareness. They take classes in public speaking, science, technology and etiquette and are taught performances by award winning choreographers. The young ladies make new friends and

learn about their rich African American history.

“By fostering these universal attributes at such a tender age, our girls grow to be leaders in their communities and help to change the world,” cites Ruffin.

The pageant will award over \$10,000 in scholarships this year. Young hopefuls, age six to 12 can submit their application for participation at www.LittleMissAfricanAmerican.org. The last day to register is May 14, 2014.