

# 20th Anniversary Little Miss African American Crowned at Scholarship Pageant



(L-R) Adia Shabazz (blue dress) , Miyae Folkes, Nay Nay Kirby (Little Miss African American 2013), pageant producer Lisa Ruffin, Mariah Hall, Alexis Pryor, Laila Ali, and far right – Shavon Lucky (Little Miss African American 2012) – photo credit: Dana Fikes

Los Angeles – The beautiful Laila Ali served as host for the 20 year anniversary of the Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant (LMAA) held on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. Pageant producer Lisa Ruffin once again inspired a full house as her

talented tots and pre-teens performed amazingly. Celebrity judges included ABC-TV's "Grey's Anatomy" stars Chandra Wilson and James Pickens, Jr., OWN TV star Kym Whitley from "Raising Whitley," Nickelodeon's Arjay Smith, actress Roz Ryan and radio host and tv personality, Mother Love.

The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant is 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.

For more information on the pageant, go to [www.Littlemissafricanamericaninc.org](http://www.Littlemissafricanamericaninc.org).

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## **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](http://www.Littlemissafricanamericaninc.org) and at the Wilshire Ebell box office.

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

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# Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant Announces Nationwide Registration For 20 Year Anniversary !



photo credit: Louis Nettles

Los Angeles – It was 1993 when actress/ choreographer Lisa Ruffin caught the vision that she would positively impact the lives of aspiring little African American girls, instilling in them a strong sense of self-esteem and purpose. She produced her very first Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant and has never looked back. Today, twenty years later, she has not only influenced thousands of lives, but several of those little girls are now grown women who credit the pageant as a focal point in their lives.

The Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant will celebrate 20 years of success on Sunday, August 4, 2013 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. Ruffin has announced a Nationwide Registration and will select 50 young participants, between the ages of 6 and 12, for this landmark celebration.

The pageant has seen a host of celebrity participation over the years including Laila Ali, LL Cool J, Jamie Foxx, Tarji P. Henson and Chandra Wilson. Jay Leno even paid a holiday visit to Ruffin and the pageant participants this past 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." The visit aired during a special holiday highlight segment on "The Tonight Show."



LMAA pageant creator/producer Lisa Ruffin and Jay Leno  
(photo credit : Louis Nettles)

"I am humbled that God has allowed me to continue to do this work for 20 years now," reveals Ruffin. "I'm so proud of all my girls and am so looking forward to this pageant being a extra special celebration!"

Young hopefuls, age 6 – 12 can submit their application for participation at [www.Littlemissafricanamericainc.org](http://www.Littlemissafricanamericainc.org).

For further information call 818-570-0631 or email

Littlemissaa2013@gmail.com. Please include a picture of the contestant with her name, brief information and any available links.

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

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# Little Miss African American Scholarship Pageant Registration Now Open



This year's event will be held Saturday, August 21, 2010 at the Universal Sheraton Hotel at 4:00 p.m. with Red Carpet to take place at 3:00 p.m. The Universal Sheraton Hotel is located at 333 Universal Hollywood Drive in Universal City, CA. The deadline for applications is July 16. For further information email [LittleMissAA@gmail.com](mailto:LittleMissAA@gmail.com). Please include a picture of the contestant with her name, brief information and any available links.



Past celebrity participants have included Emmy nominated actress, Chandra Wilson (ABC's Grey's Anatomy), World Boxing Champion Laila Ali and James Pickens Jr. (ABC's Grey's Anatomy). Rapper LL Cool J made a surprise appearance at the 2008 celebration. For more information go to [www.littlemissafricanamerican.com](http://www.littlemissafricanamerican.com).