

Raphael Saadiq & Terrence Blanchard Join Genius: Aretha Franklin



Raphael Saadiq Credit: Aaron Rapoport

Raphael Saadiq and Terrence Blanchard have joined National Geographic's GENIUS: ARETHA. Saadiq has signed on as executive producer and he will be responsible for producing, recording and arranging the music. Blanchard is slated to write and produce the score.

The first-ever scripted series on Aretha Franklin will air Monday, May, 25th 2020 at 9 PM CT. The global anthology series will air over four consecutive nights and it will look at how Franklin started out as a gospel prodigy and became the Queen of Soul. The eight-part series will look at Franklin's career and her impact as an artist.

"We're serving the Queen of Soul and we're thrilled and blessed to have deep soul brothers like Raphael Saadiq and Terrence Blanchard on our team," said Suzan-Lori Parks, showrunner and executive producer. "They're both accomplished musicians with diverse backgrounds – both who have broken down barriers with the power of music."

Saadiq's R&B legend goes back to the '80s when he started out with Tony! Toni! Tone! and most recently released his Jimmy Lee solo album last year and created a musical score for the HBO TV show Insecure. He also received a Academy Award nomination for his songwriting collaboration with Mary J. Blige for the movie Mudbound. Blanchard has been scoring films for decades most famously for Spike Lee and the multi-Grammy winner has contemporary credits for his work on *Black KKKlansman* and *Harriet*. Blanchard had this to say about his involvement:

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"I'm so humbled to be a part of a project that honors someone I've idolized and had the great privilege of working with. Aretha was one of a kind talent that transcended all musical genres. She is the gold standard."

Legendary record producer Clive Davis, who produced many hits for Franklin, is an executive producer along with Atlantic Records CEO and Chairman Craig Kallman. The previously announced cast includes Cynthia Erivo as Franklin, Pauletta Washington, Courtney B. Vance, David Cross, Patrice Covington, Marque Richardson, Steven Norfleet, Omar J. Dorsey, Malcolm Barrett, Kimberley HÃ©bert Gregory and Rebecca Naomi Jones.Â



Terence Blanchard Credit: National Geographic

Kandace Springs Covers John Coltrane's Soul Eyes Featuring Terence Blanchard

[youtube id="SeEK83sdAfI"] Kandace Springs covers John Coltrane's "[Soul Eyes](#)" with Terence Blanchard and it's also the title of her debut album coming out June 24th in North America and July 1st worldwide. If you pre-order the album now and you can immediately receive "Soul Eyes" the single.

Terence Blanchard to compose original score for upcoming Broadway production of A Streetcar Named Desire



BROADWAY, SPRING 2012

New York: Front Row Productions (Stephen Byrd, Alia Jones) is proud to announce that the world-renowned film composer and trumpet player Terence Blanchard will compose the original musical soundscape for the upcoming Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams'™ A Streetcar Named Desire, directed by Emily Mann, starring Blair Underwood. Spring of 2012. Theatre TBA. For more information please visit www.streetcaronbroadway.com.

Set against the backdrop of New Orleans' gritty French Quarter, Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize winning drama, A Streetcar Named Desire tells the tale of former school teacher and socialite Blanche DuBois, as she's forced to move in with her sister Stella and her animalistic husband Stanley (Blair Underwood). But the fragile, Blanche quickly gets a gritty life lesson in the seamy, steamy underbelly of 1940's New Orleans.

Streetcar was last seen on Broadway in 2005 starring Natasha Richardson, Amy Ryan and John C. Reilly. Front Row Production's™ multi-racial production of A Streetcar Named Desire is a follow-up to their highly successful Broadway production of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, which starred Terrence Howard, Phylicia Rashad, Anika Noni Rose and James Earl Jones and was directed by Debbie Allen. The production subsequently moved to London's™ West End (with Jones and Rashad joined by Sanaa Lathan as Maggie, and Adrian Lester as Brick) where it was honored with the "What's Onstage" and the

prestigious "Olivier" awards for Best Revival.

TERENCE BLANCHARD (Composer) recently completed work on Lucasfilm's, RED TAILS starring Academy Award winner Cuba Gooding, Jr., Academy Award nominee Terrence Howard and Emmy Award winner Bryan Lee Cranston, as well as his critically acclaimed score for the Broadway play, The Mother***** With The Hat, currently playing in New York starring Chris Rock. In addition to composing the music for the Broadway remake of A Streetcar Named Desire, he has also been commissioned by the Opera St. Louis for a project that will premiere in 2012.

Blanchard just completed a national co-headlining tour with Branford Marsalis and will continue to tour with his quintet throughout 2011. Additionally, after serving as Artistic Director of the Thelonious

Monk Institute, Blanchard has now been named Artistic Director of the Henry Mancini Institute at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

As a film composer, Blanchard has more than 50 scores to his credit and received a Golden Globe nomination for Spike Lee's 25th Hour. Blanchard's music was also recently seen in Spike Lee/HBO's If God's Willing And The Creek Don't Rise, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Hurricane Katrina disaster and the sequel to the critically-acclaimed 2006 film, When The Levees Broke. The film shows the current state of Blanchard's native New Orleans five years after Hurricane Katrina, and follows the lives of several individuals and their families in the aftermath of one of the worst disasters to occur in U.S. history. Blanchard won a Grammy for his 2007 CD "A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina)," which included tracks from Levees.

In 2009, Blanchard loaned his musical voice to Louis the Alligator in The Princess and the Frog. He has completed scores for Lee's Miracle at St. Anna, the soundtrack for Darnell Martin's Cadillac Records and Guy Moshe's adventure thriller Bunraku (Demi Moore, Woody Harrelson and

Josh Hartnett). Other film music written by Blanchard includes Kasi Lemmons' *Eve's Bayou* and *Talk to Me*, Oprah Winfrey's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Tim Story's *Barbershop* and Ron Shelton's *Dark Blue* and music for over one dozen Spike Lee films and documentaries.

Terence Blanchard has established himself as one of the most influential jazz musicians and film score masters of his generation, a member of a jazz legacy that has shaped the contours of modern jazz today. With more than 29 CD™s to his credit, Blanchard is a four-time Grammy Award winner and has received multiple Grammy nominations as well as a Golden Globe nod. His latest CD, "Choices," was released by Concord Jazz in 2009 to widespread critical acclaim. Recorded in New Orleans at the Ogden Museum Of Art – itself a survivor of Hurricane Katrina – "Choices" addresses the choices we all make in life " both as a society and on a personal level. Guest artists on "Choices" include writer, speaker, educator and activist Dr. Cornel West and singer, musician and composer Bilal. West performs spoken word pieces on the album with Bilal providing vocals on several of the tracks.

www.TerenceBlanchard.com