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Jillian Reeves

Media (TV One)

Let's Talk (BET)

Born and raised in the small town of Irmo, South Carolina, Jillian Reeves always knew that she was destined to be a part of the entertainment industry. While attending college at the University of South Carolina, Reeves chose to take an acting class in hopes of scoring an “easy A.” After her obvious talent was pointed out by her professor, Reeves decided to delve deeper into the art form by majoring in Theater with a minor in African American Studies. She fell in love with the collaborative process and went on to continue honing in on her craft while attending grad school at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Grad school opened the door and helped Reeves make the decision to pursue her acting career.

After several successful plays, Reeves was sought out by a talent agent who influenced her move to California to follow her dreams. Reeves went on to star in the BET original movie, *Let's Talk* where she plays Essence, a soulful teacher and spoken word poet who has recently entered into a relationship with a fellow teacher (played by Lamman Rucker.) As their sexual tension grows, the issue of HIV testing raises a new level of discussion and they are forced to analyze their relationship.

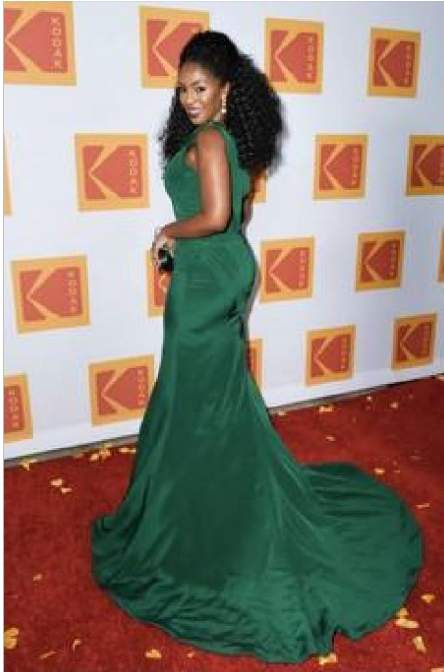
Continuing her success on the small screen, Reeves starred in TV One's *Media* in which she plays Giselle Marks, a resourceful business woman whose personal life has begun to interfere with her professional accomplishments. Throughout Giselle's story in *Media*, she is met with trials that in the end turn her into a woman who refuses to be looked over. Reeves was determined to create a character that her audience could empathize with, rather than pass off as just another “heartbroken women.” Reeves and the cast attended the 48th Annual NAACP Image Awards in promotion of the show. Reeves will next be seen on the silver screen in the film *Raptors*, produced by Martin Lawrence, which is currently in production. Reeves other acting credits include *CSI: Miami*, *The Young & the Restless*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Masters of Sex*.

Outside of acting, Reeves enjoys giving back to causes that are close to her heart. After her role in *Let's Talk*, she spent time traveling the country speaking to communities about HIV protection and safe sex. Reeves is dedicated to educating her peers on the importance of HIV Aids awareness. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is also a cause close to Reeves as she is a major advocate for women's mental health. NAMI provides families who are impacted by mental illness with various public education and awareness activities. Reeves is also active in Big Brothers, Big Sisters, The Boys and Girls Club of America, The Black Lives Matter movement, and local teen mentoring programs.

Reeves' motivation in giving back and her acting career mainly stems from her family. She is the mother of fraternal twin teenagers who have shaped her life in an amazing way. Along with spending time with family, Reeves enjoys exploring new technology, hair and makeup tutorials, knitting, and writing/producing her own content.

Jillian Reeves on the Red Carpet

**KODAK Inaugural
Oscar Gala**



**48th Annual NAACP
Image Awards**



**Premiere of Media in West
Hollywood**



**25th Annual
Movieguide Awards**



**Pan African Film Festival
Media Premiere**



**Finch & Partners Presents
"The Art of Behind the Scenes"
Photo Series Exhibit**



VENTS

M A G A Z I N E

Jill Ree

VENTS MAGAZINE: You have had some interesting and diverse roles since 2002. One I am curious about was your TV time spent with Hannah Montana. Who was your character, how old were you, what age did you play and for how long were you on that particular show?

Jillian Reeves: Wow...that was a long time ago. I was brand new to Hollywood and it was my first Disney experience. I only did a couple of episodes but it was great performing in front of a live studio audience. I think my character was around 25 years old.

VM: Many of the TV shows during that time on Disney and such pulled in strong followings, plus opened doors for many young actors. Do you find currently in the industry that there are still these types of shows available for the younger crowd or has TV taken on a much more serious tone in modern times?

JR: I think networks like Disney, Nick, Nick Jr., and ABC Family/Freeform still provide great opportunities for young actors. These networks still know how to find young talent that appeals the younger crowds and eventually become the next generation of stars. I do agree that tones and subject matter have become more serious. I think its incumbent upon all of us in the entertainment community to handle sensitive subject matter in a responsible and mindful way.

VM: Your acting has you pretty equally balanced between film and TV. Do you find you have a preference for either one to act in?

JR: General all work is good work, lol, but I'd say I really like TV. I loved TV as a child (like really, REALLY loved it) and continue to love it to this day. As actor the faster pace and faster turn really appeals to me. Films are more time consuming but the upside to that is it allows for deeper character development.

VM: How about as far as watching. Do you find yourself to be more of a movie watcher or a TV couch potato?

JR: I am DEFINITELY more of a TV Couch Potato/Netflix binger.

VM: Talk about your new role coming up in the TV Show, Media. It's plot sounds a lot like life... while making your plans... life has other ideas.

JR: I play the steamy, cunning Giselle Marks. My character works for the rival company that challenges Jump Media and the Jones Family. I loved this character because I feel like she represents a side of women we don't often see. She works hard but is constantly overlooked and disregarded and she decides she's not gonna take it anymore. The plot is a series of exciting twists and turns. Much like life you can't predict whats going to happen from one moment to the next. It's a wild ride

VM: Would you say Media is a good reflection overall on today's life style or would it fall under a drama fiction tale much like Dallas did in its time?

JR: That's an interesting question. Given the current state of our country, that truth is officially become stranger than fiction, lol. I think that although Media is grounded in truth and real stories we don't hesitate to layer in a grit and high drama that pays perfect homage to the iconic shows like Dallas and Dynasty.

Jillian Reeves

VM: You are currently working with Martin Lawrence in another new project. Has it wrapped up and what is the name?

JR: The project is called Raptors its based on an award-winning short written by Kevin Brooks and we are scheduled to begin filming in late March/early April.

VM: What character role will you be playing in this new project?

JR: I'm playing Kim Palmer a news producer whose suburban straight-laced boyfriend decides to patrol an inner city community in order to protect his grandmother. Together along with his inept best friend they try to stamp out crime in an inner city community.

VM: How has it been working with Mr. Lawrence as executive producer?

JR: We haven't started filming yet so I'll have the answer to this during our next interview, lol. So far the entire team has been great and I look forward to working with Martin more when we begin filming.

VM: Where can we find your new series, Media, so we can tune in? And what is the projected date/time/tune in for Raptors?

JR: You can find MEDIA on TV One. Raptors will probably be in the Fall/Winter. You can always check my social media or website for updates at Twitter: @jillianreeves and Instagram @theonlyjillian

VM: Finally, as you have been involved in this industry for quite sometime now Jillian, do you feel more and more doors are opening up for women in general that offer a diversity of challenging layers to dig deep into the heart of an actor?

JR: We are in a really exciting time. There is finally a real push toward diversity both in front of and behind the camera and more roles and opportunities for women and women of color. We still have a lot of work to do but I'm more encouraged than ever. Media is a wonderful example of strong female roles that really allow an actor to create and soar. It's only the beginning.

10 Things with Jillian Reeves



You're originally from South Carolina. Why did you choose acting as your career path?

I went locally at the University of South Carolina. I took an acting class during my second semester, because I ended up on academic probation after my first semester of my freshman year, and I thought it would be an easy A. While in that class, my acting professor told me "I had something" and put me in my first play. I'd say, that's when I first caught the acting bug. I went on to grad school in Chicago for acting and I continued to book work. Looking back, I'm not sure if I chose acting, I think it chose me.

Which actors body of work have had the most positive impact on your own career thus far? I love Danny Glover. He came to my school when I was in college, and he was extremely encouraging and inspiring. His work has always been excellent and he's also had integrity in life and in art. He combines artistry and activism, in a way I respect and admire.

What was your first big role and how did you react when you finally landed it?

I actually booked the lead in the BET movie, *Let's Talk*, within a couple of months from moving to Los Angeles. I was excited because I was still new to LA. I'm not sure I realized what a great opportunity it was until we started production. It was a wonderful way to begin my LA journey.

You've been casted in *Media* on TV One. How were you first introduced to the project?

I previously worked with the director Craig Ross, Jr. a few months before this project, on a pilot. Casting brought me in, I auditioned and the rest is history.

What was it about the script that made you want to jump on board and be a part of this project? I was really intrigued that it was the brainchild of Cathy Hughes, who founded RadioOne and TVOne. She's an icon in the African-American community and I was excited to work with anything she was a part of. Also, Giselle was such a different character than I've played in the past. I was excited to be able to experiment with the extremes of emotion, pain and desperation she felt.

As mentioned, you play the role of Giselle Marks. What are the many sides of Giselle and what do you enjoy about bringing this character to life?

I love that she is vulnerable, yet strong. Many times, we feel that we must be one or the other. She sacrifices way too much of herself for the people and company that she's passionate about. But, I love that at the end of the day, she is a survivor.

What can viewers expect to see from Giselle and the other characters on *Media*?

With Giselle, you can expect drama, fireworks and heart! Haha! With the characters, you can expect a bit of everything, including, drama, humor, betrayal, intrigue... you won't want to miss the series!

If you weren't building your career as an actress, what kind of career would you have now?

Wow, that's a great question. I have so many different interests and skills. I've written and produced before, I also used to work in Corporate America. I'm guessing if I weren't acting, I'd have climbed pretty far up the corporate ladder by now.

When it comes to fashion, who are some of your favorite designers and what style of clothes appeal to you the most?

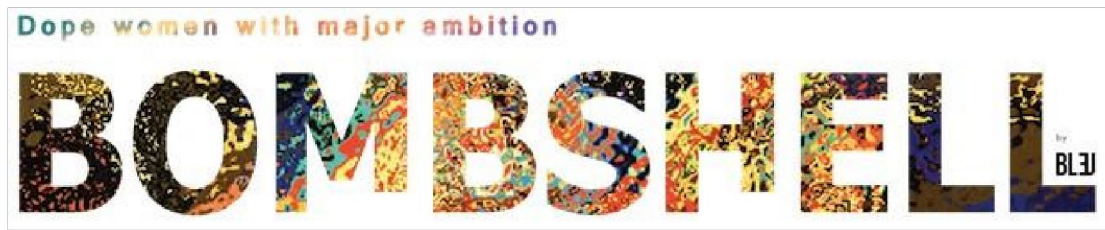
I enjoy being a girl, so I love clothes that celebrate that. Whether fun and flirty, sexy or sophisticated; I love clothes that celebrate womanhood and real women's curves.

We look forward to seeing you on *Media*. What other projects do you have coming up?

Up next is a project called *Raptors*, written by Kevin Brooks and executive produced by Martin Lawrence. We start shooting late March/early April 2017. It's also pilot season in LA, so we'll see what else comes up!

Instagram: [@TheOnlyJillian](https://www.instagram.com/TheOnlyJillian)





TV One ‘Media’ Star Jillian Reeves: A Woman with Ambition



The first thing you need to know about **Jillian Reeves**, actress who is casted as spitfire, Giselle, on **TV One’s** original movie turned series, *Media*, is that she is the embodiment of the phrase ‘making moves.’ Starting her acting career in college, Reeves has come a long way and shows no signs of slowing down. This month she will begin shooting, *Raptors*, a film produced by comedic legend, **Martin Lawrence**.

Through her talent, openness, and charm she has been able to climb to the top. Keep reading to discover Ms. Reeves’ journey and her philosophy on how to balance it all:

The latest project that you were part of was, *Media*. Tell us what it’s about.

Media comes from the brain of **Cathy Hughes**, who founded **Radio One** and **TV One**. Much like her life, *Media*, is about a family who owns a multimedia conglomeration of radio, print, TV, and the ruthlessness of keeping a stronghold on that business. I’m in the rival company that’s coming in to take their crown. I’m trying to get to the top by taking them down.

In the movie you played Giselle Marks. Who is she as a character?

Her title is the Director of Business Development. She works in a rival company. She's actually the rival of the daughter of the matriarch of the main family. There is some man drama [laughs] between a guy that she likes and a guy that I like, and there is some personal animosity. I bring a lot of drama to the situation, and at one point I'm holding her up at gunpoint. I was a little off the chain in this [laughs]. It was fun—a fun ride.

You are also involved in a new project, *Raptors*. What is that about?

We start shooting next month. It's sort of a dramedy. Its about two friends who live in the hood—well they don't live in the hood now, they live in the suburbs—but their grandmother still lives in the hood, and they sort of become these superheroes of the hood. They're trying to stop the drug dealing on their block, and I am the girlfriend of one of the guys, who also works at a newspaper. It's sort of similar to *Media* in terms of doing a one hour movie that they hope to spin-off . I get intertwined with some of the shooters and the news, the people that I don't know are in this drug business, and my boyfriend. It's a dramedy because its funny, but it's a got some serious subject matter. My character is more straight-laced. She's a bit more professional and by the book, but I think she's going to end up having a lot of interesting twists and turns as we go along.

Are you excited to be working with Martin Lawrence?

It should be interesting, I'm excited though! I definitely grew up with 'Martin' on TV, and he's still on TV all the time on syndication. So far, all of the interaction has been great and it should be fun. I'm excited to really get into the work and shoot, and just learn from him and be a part of the whole process.

What is the biggest difference between shooting a series and a movie?

A series is faster paced, for a longer time. A movie generally, and depending on the budget, you have a little more time with the material and to develop your character. With *Raptors* we're not shooting until next month, but I got the script in January. I had more time to sit with it. But when I did *Media* I got the script on Monday and was shooting on Thursday. So, it turns around much quicker. The film has a more relaxed pace. It's subtler. The acting style is subtler for the movies. For TV you have to amp it up one more notch for the small screen. Theater, you knock it up a couple notches. Those are the differences I think.

Read the interview here:

<http://bleubombshell.com/blog/2017/03/29/tv-one-media-star-jillian-reeves/>



Profile: Actress Jillian Reeves



We got the opportunity to chat with *Media* star **Jillian Reeves** about making it in Hollywood and her involvement with HIV Aids awareness. While Reeves is not a UCLA alumna, she still has great advice for collegiate based on her own experiences at University of South Carolina.

Her Campus: Where did you go to college? What was your major? If possible, what is your graduation year?

Jillian Reeves: I went to the University of South Carolina where after many, many different majors I ended up majoring Theater and minoring in African-American studies. Graduation year is classified!

HC: Can you tell us about your role in TV One's *Media*? Has it changed how you view the entertainment industry, if so then how?

JRI play steamy, cunning and clever Giselle Marks. My character works for the company that challenges Jump Media and the Jones Family. I loved this character feel like she represents a side of women we don't often see. She works hard but is overlooked and disregarded and she decides she's not going to take it anymore. this project has definitely been a fascinating experience. We often only see the side of media so it was great to explore the ~~the corporate~~ corporate side of



HC: What was it like working with Vanessa Williams in *Ward of the State*?

JR: Vanessa is a consummate professional. She's incredibly genuine and talented. It was a pleasure playing her little sister as well as the daughter of the hilarious and fabulous Janet Hubert who played Aunt Viv from the *Fresh Prince of BelAir*.

HC: Can you tell us about your BET film *Let's Talk*?

JR: In *Let's Talk* I played Essence Williams a strong, confident woman who's ready for an intimate relationship with her gorgeous love interest, Greenleaf's Lamman Rucker. The film takes us on her journey as she navigates the sensitive subject matter of couples HIV testing. The film offered a great example to people on how to advocate for themselves even when in difficult circumstances.

HC: HIV/AVDS Awareness seems especially important to you, could you please tell us why you are so passionate about this cause and what we can do to get involved?

JR: When I look at the statistics for women, especially African-American women as well as our youth/young adult population it's difficult for me NOT to be passionate about this issue. Currently, young people age 13 to 24 account for more than 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses. Yes, 13 to 24! As of 2013, 44% of young adults 18-24 did not know they were infected.

Women make up about 1 in 4 of the people living with HIV in the US with African-American women being disproportionately affected. An estimated 11% of women living with HIV do not even know they are infected.

Considering these stats, I'd say the best way to begin your involvement is to get tested, know your status and encourage your friends and family to do the same! Support films and organizations that raise awareness to these issues & seek to bring about significant change and progress. Additionally, don't be afraid to ask a potential intimate partner to get tested. It's your body, it's your health and it's your life! In *Let's Talk* my character asks her boyfriend to get tested together. He did not react well, but she held firm, he eventually agreed, and it brought them closer together. We did a real HIV test during filming! I make this a practice in my personal life as well. It feels a little uncomfortable at first but people are usually really happy to find out their status and are just delaying out of fear. The good news is, women have made progress over the last decade decreasing new HIV diagnoses by 40%! Let's keep this trend going by continuing to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and safe sex practices! As women, we must be empowered to take care of ourselves and our health. Let's be the change we want to see in the world.