



For Immediate Release

## AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL HONORS RETURNS IN 2023 TO CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN HOLLYWOOD

**Gala Ceremony Recognizes Outstanding Artists,  
*Movie of the Year* and *Documentary of the Year* Hosted, by Two-Time  
Emmy® Nominated Writer, Comedian and Actor Deon Cole**

LOS ANGELES – (December 14, 2022) – ABFF Ventures LLC today announced **American Black Film Festival (ABFF) Honors** will be held in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 5, with two-time Emmy-nominated writer, actor and comedian **Deon Cole** returning as host. ABFF’s annual award season gala honors Black artists who have made significant contributions to the motion picture and television industry, as well as those who champion diversity and inclusion in Hollywood.

The tributes will be presented in multiple categories, including **Hollywood Legacy Award, Excellence in the Arts Award, Entertainment Icon Award, Rising Star Award** and **Industry Leadership Award**. In addition, **ABFF Honors** presents competitive awards for *Movie of the Year* and *Documentary of the Year*. The nominees and winners for both categories are determined by the more than 100,000 alumni of the film festival.

“This has been a phenomenal year for Black artists, and we are thrilled to celebrate their many successes, milestones and breakout moments. I’m equally excited to have comedic genius **Deon Cole** hosting this inspiring ceremony,” said ABFF President **Nicole Friday**. “There is no better place to feel uplifted, encouraged and appreciated than in your own community. **ABFF Honors** provides that unique platform.”

Widely known as a regular on the ABC hit series *black-ish*, **Deon Cole’s** career features an extensive body of work in television, writing and comedy. On the acting front, he currently can be seen in Jeymes Samuel’s *The Harder They Fall*. He recently wrapped a role in Kenya Barris and Jonah Hill’s *You People*. Next up, he joins the cast of *The Color Purple* and will star in the drama series *Average Joe*. From the stand-up comedy stage, **Deon** recently released his one-hour special *Charleen’s Boy*. In 2019, his

hilarious original comedy special *Deon Cole: Cole Hearted* ran on Netflix following the success of his appearance in *The Standups*. His earlier work includes his one-hour special *Deon Cole: Cole Blooded Seminar* and his stand-up documentary *Workin' it Out*.

**ABFF Honors'** celebrated list of former award recipients include, **Denzel Washington, Ava DuVernay, Regina King, Tiffany Haddish, Ryan Coogler, Don Cheadle, Will Packer, Queen Latifah, Lena Waithe, Terrence Howard, F. Gary Gray, Billy Dee Williams, Issa Rae, Omari Hardwick, Louis Gossett, Jr.,** the late **Diahann Carroll** and the cast of classic films and television shows ***Martin, The Wire, Hollywood Shuffle*** and ***Love Jones***.

**ABFF Honors** is executive produced by **Nicole and Jeff Friday** (ABFF Ventures) in association with **Rikki Hughes** (Magic Lemonade) and **de Passe Jones Entertainment**.

The 2023 **ABFF Honors** sponsors and partners to date are Cadillac (Presenting) and Sony Pictures Entertainment (Official). For more information about **ABFF Honors** visit [www.abffhonors.com](http://www.abffhonors.com).

#### **About ABFF Ventures LLC**

ABFF Ventures LLC is an entertainment company specializing in the production of live events and platforms that celebrate Black culture and achievement. The company's flagship event, the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), founded by Jeff Friday in 1997, is the leading festival of its kind showcasing Black storytelling. Having premiered the work and encouraged the careers of many of today's most successful filmmakers and actors the ABFF has become the standard-bearer of excellence for Black American creativity. For more information about the festival, including submission deadlines and how to obtain an ABFF pass, visit [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com). Follow @ABFF on Twitter and @AmericanBlackFilmFestival on Instagram and Facebook.

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Deon Cole headshot credit: Deon Cole