

2009 Women's Spotlight™ HOSTED BY

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN CINEMA

New York, NY (February 10th, 2009) - Since the inception of the TOMI Film Festival, women filmmakers have been encouraged to submit their work for competition to our 'Women's Spotlight' category mainly because women behind the camera are a dying breed causing few materials to get a 'green light' for production.

At TOMI Film Festival our duty to women filmmakers began with the 2008 NOLA hosted festival winner **Chyna Layne** starring in films such as **Life Support**, **Cadillac Records** and Sundance winner **Lee Daniels Push: Based on the novel by Sapphire** as well as her co-produced film '**A Deeper Love**'.

Beginning in 2009, the Women's Spotlight will be more than just a category for submissions as works from women filmmakers will be featured followed by Q&A from women cast members, directors and/or filmmakers hosted by African American Women In Cinema, a staple in the film festival industry.

"African American Women In Cinema is very delighted to participate in the TOMI Film Festival, 2009 Women's Spotlight and strongly support the mission. We look forward to a wonderful and powerful event as we make history together, states **Terra Renee, President**"

In the tradition of TOMI Film Festival, Women's Spotlight permits a broader viewing opportunity as our festival travels across the country annually during the NBA All Star weekend offering the filmmakers the opportunity to reach many interested patrons from all parts of the world at once.

About African American Women In Cinema

African American Women In Cinema is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support minority women filmmakers by providing resources in the film industry. Incorporated by the Organization's President, Terra Renee, in 2000, the objective of AAWIC is to improve cultural understanding and overall social welfare through the promotion of diversity in all filmed content in both dramatic and documentary formats. www.aawic.org

About TOMI Film Festival

TOMI Film Festival™ was founded in 2007 in an effort to build relationships between the filmmaker and the business of entertainment. Our mission is to supply the filmmaker with not just a financial means of celebratory satisfaction but a more structured business that will incorporate a multitude of actual on-hands work; an investment that will take the filmmaker to new levels of success and achievement. TOMI Film Festival is headquartered in New York. www.tomifilmfestival.org

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