

## Queen Latifah: The 'Joyful Noise' Interview

By Kam Williams  
Special To *The Skanner News*

**B**orn Dana Elaine Owens in Newark, NJ, on March 18, 1970, Queen Latifah is an award-winning actress, rapper, singer, author and entrepreneur. She landed an Oscar nomination in 2003 for Best Supporting Actress, as well as Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations for her performance as Mama Morton in "Chicago."

In 2008, Latifah received rave reviews and won a Golden Globe, SAG and an NAACP Image Award for her powerful portrayal of a mother who overcomes an addiction to crack and becomes a positive role model and AIDS activist in the black community in HBO's "Life Support." In addition to her film and television accolades, she earned a Grammy Award for Best Solo Rap Performance in 1994, and was nominated for Best Female Rap Solo Performance for "Go Head" in 2004. Latifah made her screen debut in Spike Lee's 1991 film "Jungle Fever," and her other film credits include "The Bone Collector," "The Last Holiday," "The Secret Life of Bees" and "Just Wright." Here, she talks about her latest movie, "Joyful Noise," a musical comedy co-starring Dolly Parton.

**Kam Williams:** Hi Queen, thanks for the interview. Queen Latifah: Hey, Kam, no problem.

**KW:** What interested you in Joyful Noise?

**QL:** I felt that its timely, uplifting story was perfect for me, given what's going on in the world right now. And I already loved the studio, Alcon Entertainment. They've made a lot of nice movies in the past ["The Blind Side," "Dolphin Tale," etc.], and they really do a great job of marketing their films. And I liked the idea of working with Dolly Parton and Keke [Palmer].

**KW:** Larry Greenberg asks: What was it like working with Todd Graff? It seems like he knows a lot about both music and comedy. ?

**QL:** He really does. It was great working with him because he's very thorough. I believe he had an excellent grasp of every aspect of the film from the music to the stag-



Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton co-star in "Joyful Noise," a musical comedy set in small-town Georgia, about a widow and single mom who grudgingly join forces to help their church choir rehearse for a national gospel competition. Keke Palmer, center, co-stars.

ing. He knew exactly how he wanted it presented, which made the process a lot easier. And he likes to rehearse, which I do, too. So often, you don't get that opportunity. You only go over everything once and, the next thing you know, you're on set. Todd had a vision of what he wanted to do and, because he also wrote the screenplay, it was easy for him to make observations, take notes and tweak the script whenever necessary. It was perfect!

**KW:** Editor/Legist Patricia Turnier asks: What message do you think people will take away from "Joyful Noise?"

**QL:** I would say that overall, the movie offers an inspira-

tional message of hope, love, camaraderie, joy and overcoming challenges in difficult times. All that good stuff!

**KW:** Harriet Pakula Teweles asks: What's your favorite song in Joyful Noise?

**QL:** My favorite song? For me, it was "Fix Me, Jesus."

**KW:** Harriet also asks: How hard was it to make the switch from hip-hop to acting?

**QL:** Developing my skills and getting really good at acting was actually more challenging than making the switch.

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King County Department of Transportation  
Federal Fiscal Years 2012, 2013 and 2014  
Proposed DBE Goal

### NOTICE

In accordance with requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation as set forth in 49 CFR Part 26, as amended, King County hereby notifies the public that it is recommending the following Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for applicable construction, professional services and procurement contracts during Federal Fiscal Years 2012, 2013 and 2014, beginning October 1, 2012 and ending September 30, 2014.

### OVERALL DBE GOAL OF 8%

The overall race-neutral percentage goal of 8% for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation will apply to projects for which the King County Department of Transportation receives funds from the FTA.

King County invites written comments from the public on the methods used to establish the DBE goal and on the goal for consideration. The proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) for 30 days following the date of this notice. Written comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) days after the date of first publication. The documents are available for review and written comments may be sent to:

Office of Business Development and Contract Compliance  
401 Fifth Avenue, Third Floor  
CNK-ES-0350  
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

Comments can also be sent to the Regional Civil Rights Officer, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Regional Office, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142, Seattle WA 98174.

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