

Marlon Wayans: ‘A Haunted House’ Interview

Multi-talented Marlon Wayans graduated from the prestigious High School of Performing Arts in New York and Howard University’s Film School. He is best known for getting his start in Hollywood as a cast member of the Emmy Award-winning comedy series, In Living Color. Marlon then went on to create executive produce and star in The Wayans Bros on the WB.

Together with brothers, Keenen and Shawn Wayans, and producer Rick Alvarez, he formed the successful production company, Wayans Brothers Entertainment. Some of his noteworthy credits include: The Ladykillers, directed by the Coen Brothers; the record breaking Scary Movie and Scary Movie 2, Little Man, White Chicks, Norbit, Behind the Smile and Dance Flick. Marlon’s compelling dramatic performance as a drug addict in Darren Aronofsky’s Requiem for a Dream proved he could do more than comedy. Most recently, Marlon was seen starring opposite Channing Tatum in the box-office smash, G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra. Projects in development include: Super Bad James Dynamite, based on his comic book series of the same name, Pretty Ugly, The Year of Living Biblically, and an animated series for TBS entitled The Black Family.

Next, he will be seen playing the title role in Sony Pictures, Richard Pryor: Is It Something I Said? Marlon will also star in the



CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

upcoming Harmony Korine film Twinkle, Twinkle.

Marlon continues to publish books under the 101 Ways title including 101 Ways to Know You’re a Golddigger, 101 Ways You Know It’s Time to Get Out Of Your Mama’s House and 101 Ways to Know You’re Having a Ghetto Christmas as well as the children’s series Boo Crew which stemmed from the animated series the Wayans’ created for Nickelodeon.

Here, he talks about his latest film, A Haunted House, a spoof of the Paranormal Activity franchise.

Kam Williams: Hi Marlon, thanks for another interview. How ya’ been, bro?

MW: I’m good, Kam. Thanks for having me.

KW: Where did you find the inspiration to write this film?

MW: I was watching Paranormal Activity 1 and 2, which were very successful hits at the box-office, and I just thought to myself, “If I want to do a movie,

how am I going to approach this?” Then, I had this epiphany that, “Damn, white people do a lot of stupid stuff in these movies.” Wouldn’t it be funny if a lot of paranormal activity happened to a black couple? Now, how do I keep them in the house longer than five minutes? That became the comic premise for the movie. From there, it just snowballed into a bunch of jokes. So, I got together with Rick Alvarez, my producing partner, and we decided to write it together.

KW: Are you the only Wayans in this film?

MW: Yeah.

KW: That must be a first. How do you explain that? We’re used to seeing multiple Wayans in a Wayans production.

MW: Nobody loves me. [Chuckles] No, everybody wanted me to do this one by myself, and I wanted to do it by myself. So, this is sorta like my first solo album. I didn’t pull any tricks out of my hat, and just went with the natural flow of the film.

KW: How did you go about assembling the cast?

MW: Just from meetings and readings. Everybody was game to do it, and I was very happy about that.

KW: What audience are you trying to attract? The same crowd that went to see Scary Movie?

MW: Not just them. They’re older now. I really want to hit the next generation of kids, the Youtube Generation. And also women, because it’s a relationship movie with romantic elements. I think anybody who wants to laugh is the intended audience.

KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that you wish someone would?



Marlon Wayans

MW: No, people ask me everything.

KW: The Teri Emerson question: When was the last time you had a good laugh?

MW: I was just watching The Campaign on video. Will Ferrell makes me laugh. So, does Zach Galifiniakis. But when Will punched the kid in the face, I was hurting. And then when he punched the dog, too, I was hurting some more. Those two scenes made me laugh hysterically.

KW: What is your guiltiest pleasure?

MW: My piano. Although I don’t know if playing piano is a guilty pleasure. My guiltiest pleasure would be wine.

KW: The bookworm Troy Johnson question: What was the last book you read?

MSN: 50 Shades of Grey. I’m almost through it.

KW: The music maven Heather Covington question: What was the last song you listened to?

MW: ASAP Rocky’s album.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

MW: None, because I hate cooking. But I do make the candied yams every year at Thanksgiving. And they’re awesome! You could definitely get diabetes and cavities from them, but they’re delicious!

KW: What’s the recipe?

MW: If I tell it to you, I’ll have to kill you. [Laughs]

KW: The Uduak Oduok question: Who is your favorite clothes designer?

MW: I have a few, because I like mixing and matching. I like All Saints. They make great

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Sign The Skanner News petition to President Obama, “A Marshall Plan for Black America,” at the “We the People...” website: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEATTLE 2013

If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to The Skanner at info@theskanner.com

Thursday January 17

5TH AVENUE THEATER TO HOST KING COUNTY’S ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION. The public is invited to join King County employees at the historic 5th Avenue Theater in downtown Seattle for a free event. The celebration will include guest speakers, musical performances and much more. Noon-1 p.m. 1308 5th Avenue. Seattle

Saturday January 19

CELEBRAT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR’S LEGACY. Commemorate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. by planting a tree to celebrate peace and diversity in our world. 1– 4 p.m. Discovery Park, 3301 W. Government Way.

Sunday January 20

FREE FAMILY DAY- CULTURES OF THE WORLD. Come celebrate the New Year with art activities and performances from around the world. Noon – 4 p.m. Bellevue Arts Museum, 510 Bellevue Way NE.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. REDEEMING THE PROPHETIC VISION EVENT. 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. The event aims to recognize the prophetic vision of Dr. King with a program that has an edge of social justice in its message. Urban Church: The Downtown Church, 902 Market St. Tacoma.

Monday January 21

FREE INAUGURATION DAY VIEWING PARTY. Town hall of Seattle is hosting a free early – morning Inauguration Day Viewing Party complete with big – screen coverage, coffee and light breakfast items for purchase and the company of hundreds of fellow Seattleites. Admission is free however, attendees should register at the “buy tickets” link at www.townhallseattle.org 8 a.m. Great Hall enter on Eighth Avenue. Seattle

Saturday January 26

CLARE VANDERPOOL READS FROM NAVIGATING EARLY AT THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY. Navigating Early is a story of two boy’s epic quest on the Appalachian Trail. 2 – 3 p.m. Seattle Public Library, Northgate Branch, 10548 Fifth Ave. NE.