

Celebrity Interview: Kevin Costner

Kevin Michael Costner was born in Lynwood, California on January 18, 1955. He began his career in independent films, gradually earning small parts in more established movies. His first major motion picture role was in the coming of age comedy, *Fandango*.

Throughout his career, Kevin has varied his choices with comedy, action and drama role. He has appeared in such popular box-office hits as *No Way Out*, *Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams*, *The Bodyguard* and *Wyatt Earp*. And his exceptional filmmaking abilities were showcased in *Dances with Wolves*, which he produced, directed and starred in, and which won seven Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director.

In addition to appearing in memorable roles in *JFK*, *The Untouchables* and *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, Kevin re-teamed with his *Bull Durham* director Ron Shelton for the hit feature *Tin Cup*. He also starred in *Thirteen Days*, successfully collaborating again with his *No Way Out* director Roger Donaldson. His other film credits include *For Love of the Game*, *The War*, *3,000 Miles to Graceland*, *Dragonfly* and *The Postman*, his second directing effort.

Kevin last directed the box office hit and critically acclaimed film *Open Range*, where he co-starred alongside Robert Duvall and Annette Bening. More recently he was



CELEBRITY INTERVIEW

by Kam Williams

Book Review: Dark Girls, by Bill Duke

by Kam Williams Special To *The Skanner News*

Last year, the documentary *Dark Girls* was nominated for an NAACP Image Award. Now, the film's director, Bill Duke, has published an equally-valuable companion piece celebrating the beauty of ebony-hued black women.

The classy coffee table book is comprised of over 80 full-page portraits of sepia-skinned sisters of every age and from every walk of life. Besides breathtaking photographs by Barron Claiborne, the opus includes the heartfelt reflections of each of the subjects about her coloring.

Retha Powers recalls being teased in grammar school by a mean classmate, before she expresses her concern about the welfare of her 6 year-old daughter, Isa. Sensitively answering her curious child's questions about hair texture and styling, the supportive mom asserts that



“90% of beauty is between the ears. It's an inside job.”

Another contributor is Camille Winbush, best known for playing niece Vanessa on *The Bernie Mac Show*. She admits that her feelings were hurt at the age of 12 while participating in a fashion show, when she was asked “What's wrong with

you?” backstage by a white girl pointing out her pigmentation. Fortunately, the gorgeous child actress had already been taught that “dark was normal and beautiful.” Among the other luminaries weighing-in, here, are the comedienne Sommore, TV Judge Mablean Ephraim, Hip-Hop star Missy Elliott, actress Loretta Devine, Olympic gold medalist Dawn Harper-Nelson, and actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, to name a few. Artist/communications strategist Floydetta McAfee probably sums it all up best when she says, “I know and understand my history as an African-American. I come from the bloodline of many proud and self-assured people who are dark like me. I embrace that bloodline and our skin tone. In this dark skin I was born, grew up, traveled the world, and live proudly.”

An uplifting collection capturing both the intelligence and elegance of darker-skinned sisters.

seen in *Superman: Man of Steel*; the spy thriller *Three Days to Kill*; and the football inspired *Draft Day*.

When not working on films, Kevin sings lead vocals and plays lead guitar in his band, *Modern West*, and can be seen playing venues across the country. The band's song “The Angels Came Down” from their album *Turn It On*, was recently adopted by

the *Gold Star Moms* and *Gold Star Wives* organizations, which support the mothers, wives and families of fallen soldiers.

See COSTNER on page 11

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This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

With thanks to
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