

PBS-TV REVIEW: The Women's List

American Masters Special Profiles 15 Prominent Females

By Kam Williams
For *The Skanner News*

If you're all pontiffed-out from the wall-to-wall TV-coverage of Pope Francis' visit, you might like to take a break to check out a different kind of inspirational program airing on PBS. Directed by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, *The Women's List* is an American Masters special featuring one-on-one interviews with a variety of very accomplished females

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a few.

In her revealing tete-a-tete, the self-deprecating Keys admits to being "a nerd, but a cool-ass nerd" who was valedictorian of her high school.

Performance artist Laurie Anderson explains why she never discusses what her inscrutable work is about, while fashion designer Betsy Johnson discusses why she hid the fact that she'd developed breast cancer a decade after getting implants.

Actress Rosie Perez recounts the trauma of being surrendered by her mother to a Catholic orphanage where she was tormented by sadistic nuns on a daily basis. And scriptwriter Shonda Rhimes laments that so many women would rather be cute than equal to men.

Entrepreneur Sara Blakely waxes romantic about how her father's encouragement to take risks during her for-



Wendy Williams, Talk Show Host and Shonda Rhimes, Writer-Producer

from all walks of life.

The documentary is his fifth in the series which has similarly profiled prominent Blacks, Boomers, Latinos and Gays. Among the fascinating icons spotlighted here are Pulitzer Prize-winner Toni Morrison, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, singer Alicia Keys, attorney Gloria Allred, talk show host Wendy Williams, airline pilot Nia Wordlaw, comedienne Margaret Cho and actress Edie Falco, to name

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mative years played a role in cultivating the critical attitude she needed to launch Spanx shapewear success-

fully. And scientist/entrepreneur Elizabeth Holmes notes that she might have failed to build that time ma-

chine in her backyard as a child but, while still in her teens, she did launch a company that is now worth over \$10 billion.

An invaluable collection of intimate, female empowerment tales emphasizing

the urgency of moving deliberately in the direction of your dreams.

Excellent ★★★★★

Unrated

Running time: 54 minutes

Distributor: PBS-TV

The Women's List premieres on PBS on September 25th 2015 at 9 pm ET/PT (check local listings)

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You are cordially invited to attend the Les Femmes Open House. We welcome young girls 6th - 12th grade. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Come and learn the history of this organization that has been serving youth in the community since 1951.

Please contact Carmen Pettiford, *Les Femmes* President 503.830.5732
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