

Sharma Sets Sights on Hillary, Poised to Make History



Hillary Clinton with Dinesh Sharma

By **Kam Williams**
For *The Skanner News*

Dinesh Sharma is a social scientist, marketing consultant and an acclaimed author with a doctorate from Harvard University. He is an Associate Research Professor at the Institute for Global Cultural Studies at SUNY-Binghamton; an adjunct Professor in Organizational Psychology at Fordham University; and a senior fellow at the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Research in New York City. Dr. Sharma's biography of the 44th President of

the United States, entitled "Barack Obama in Hawaii and Indonesia: The Making of a Global President," was rated as among the Top 10 Books of Black History for 2012 by the American Library Association, Book List Online. His next book, "The Global Obama," was published by Routledge Press and received Honorable Mention on this critic's Ten Best Black Books of 2014 as published by the African-American Literary Book Club (AALBC) and widely syndicated across the country.

Sharma's recent articles and opinions have

appeared in the New Republic, UPI, AP, Real Clear Politics, Raw Story, Asia Times and numerous other newspapers. Here, he discusses his new book, "The Global Hillary: Women's Political Leadership in Cultural Contexts."

Kam Williams: Hi Dinesh, thanks for the interview.

Dinesh Sharma:

Thanks, Kam, for this opportunity to speak with you about my new book.

KW: What about Hillary Clinton interested you enough to edit a book about her global image?

DS: I think she is by far the most qualified person running for the White House right now -- Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, First Lady -- who also happens to be the

first woman candidate, pretty close to securing the nomination.

KW: Tell me where you got the idea for "The Global Hillary."

DS: This is a follow-up to "The Global Obama" book which you reviewed. The same publisher, Routledge Press, wanted me to write a book about Hillary Clinton's leadership.

KW: How would you describe the main thesis of this opus?

DS: In this book, we explore the linkage between "Smart Power" and Hillary Clinton's leadership style. Can she advance American leadership and women's development worldwide? "The Global Hillary" addresses these questions

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Dr. Warrington Avery (Kevin Willmott). He suggests that African Americans attempt to colonize Mars, and turn the red planet into a virtual utopia where they will be entirely free from white oppression.

And wouldn't you know, a spaceship has already been built and George Washington Carver (George Forbes) has developed an atomic rocket fuel made from peanuts and sweet potatoes. The crew volunteering for the maiden voyage consists of Dr. Avery, his daughter Beneatha (Danielle Cooper) and their pilot, Captain Race Johnson (Tosin Morhunfola).

The three astronauts blastoff, travel through space and eventually crash on the surface of what they believe to be a distant star. However, only after christening it "Planet Negro," do they gradually come to realize that they've time-traveled to the future and landed back on Earth in present-day Kansas City.

There, the trio is in for quite an awakening, between discovering that the United States has an African American president and that Blacks now use the "N-word" as a term of endearment.

"Where we come from, that's what they call you right before they kill you," Dr. Avery explains to B-12 (Trai Byers), a rapper ostensibly oblivious of the slur's ugly legacy.

Written and directed by and starring Kevin Willmott, *Destination Planet Negro* is a goofy spoof of the B-movie genre that's basically played for laughs. Yet, it simultaneously serves as a sophisticated satire that makes some thought-provoking observations about American culture along the way.

In that regard, it is reminiscent of Willmott's own *C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America*, a brilliant, alternate-reality comedy which speculated about what the country would be like today if the South had won the Civil War. As for *Destination Planet Negro*, it's also highly recommended, provided you're in the mood for a campy, low-budget sci-fi whose cheesy special effects are more than offset by a profusion of insightful social statements.

Excellent ★★★★★
Unrated
Running time: 98 min.
Distributor: Candy Factory Films

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