

Arts & Entertainment

Rihanna, Wealthiest Super Bowl Entertainer Ever

By Joseph Green-Bishop, Texas Metro News Correspondent

When Rihanna, the Barbadian-megastar and successful cosmetics and lingerie executive, took the Super Bowl LVII stage a week ago, approximately 100 million television viewers witnessed the wealthiest halftime performer in the history of the annual event.

With a net worth of \$1.7 billion, Rihanna, who was born Robyn Rihanna Fenty, sits at the pinnacle of a Super Bowl list that includes Dolly Parton, Jennifer Lopez, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Beyonce, Madonna, Bruno Mars, Katy Perry, Gloria Estefan, Alicia Keys,

Bono, Dr. Dre, Billy Joel, Garth Brooks and numerous other world-famous performers, according to Forbes.

Jay-Z, himself a billionaire entertainer, described Rihanna as a “generational talent who has exceeded all expectations in every instance. She is one of the industry’s most prominent artists,” he said. This year’s Super Bowl was played on February 12 in Glendale, Ariz. The event was the first time that both teams were led by an African American quarterback.

“It is awesome that Rihanna has accomplished so much at such a young age,” said Yolanda Frazier Gills, the founder of Frazier Gills, a certified tax resolution firm in

Dallas, a former chairperson of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce. “She is an example of wealth building, and of controlling her own destiny. We need more role models like her.”

The 57th Super Bowl took place on February 12th at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ. Apple Music partnered with the National Football League in producing the event, according to league officials. “Rihanna has been a cultural force throughout her career,” said Seth Dudowsky, an awarding-winning music executive, who is also the director of music for the NFL. “We are thrilled to welcome Rihanna to the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime stage” Mr. Dudowsky said.



Jay-Z, himself a billionaire entertainer, described Rihanna as a “generational talent who has exceeded all expectations in every instance. (Photo: Rihanna at the Met Gala in 2017 / Danilo Lauria / Wikimedia Commons)

Rayan Lawrence Reflects on Hit Cable Series and the Influence of 50 Cent

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Rayan Lawrence doesn’t let his success make him arrogant.

Lawrence, who plays K-9 in the hit Starz show BMF (Black Mafia Family), is just enjoying his newfound fame as the show’s new lead character.

Lawrence told the Washington Informer, “I love this, it’s so cool.”

“Back in New York, I went to a fashion show, and everyone there loves K-9. Because of what we’re doing with the character, everyone loves me.”

BMF tells the true story of how the Flenory brothers — Demetrius “Big Meech” Flenory and Terry “Southwest Tee” Flenory — fought their way out of poverty and the war on drugs in Detroit to become cultural and hip-hop game changers.

As the Flenory brothers build a national empire, their pursuit of the American Dream is tied in with themes of family, faith, and loyalty.

Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, a business and hip-hop mogul, is the executive producer of the hit show. Starz just announced that it has signed on for a third season of BMF.

The aspect of family creates a great attraction for Lawrence, he asserted.

“I was raised to value family, so it’s been amazing to be a part of this,” Lawrence said. “And to work with 50 Cent again. I worked with him on ‘Power,’ and I’ve been so



excited to meet him.

LaLa Anthony, Mo’Nique, Steve Harris, and others also appear on BMF.

But playing the role of K-9, a ruthless gang leader aligned with Big Meech, counts as Lawrence’s biggest role to

date.

In the past, he has appeared as a guest on shows like Ironside, FBI, and Magnum P.I.

He said that when he was a guest on Blue Bloods, he learned a lot from the famous actor Tom Selleck.

But he also gives credit to actor and director Shiek Mahmud-Bey, who has made a name for himself onscreen and teaches actors like Lawrence through his “Char’Actors” company and “Shiek Studios.”

New York, Detroit, Arkansas, and Atlanta are all now home to Shiek

Studios.

Later this year, Shiek Studios will add Shiek University, a school where people can learn how to be a director.

Lawrence said, “Shiek is my guy.”

“We’ve worked together for many years. When we worked on a movie together, I found him very interesting,” Lawrence said.

“A director told me

about Shiek, so I looked him up and thought, ‘Oh, I get it.’ I wanted to be a part of what he was doing, and I love the way he does his job. He helped me with auditions and gave me advice on BMF.”

Lawrence said Mahmud-Bey taught him to be true to the characters he portrays.

“I learned a lot from what he taught me,” Lawrence added.

“Be honest and sure of yourself, and be present, ready to listen and answer. That’s what he said to me.”

That advice worked out well.

Lawrence said he was moved to learn more about the history of slavery while he was making the movie “Underground.”

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