

LEDE

KERRY WASHINGTON

Kerry Washington is an Emmy-winning, SAG, and Golden Globe-nominated actor, bestselling author, director, producer, and organizer. A native of The Bronx, New York, Washington is a versatile and fearless multi-hyphenate, and has received high acclaim for her work in film, television, theater, digital media, advocacy, and beyond.

Washington received widespread public recognition for her role as Olivia Pope on the hit ABC drama *Scandal*, breaking barriers as the first Black woman since 1974 to headline a network TV drama. Over the show's seven seasons, Washington earned two Emmy nominations, a Golden Globe nomination, a SAG nomination, and two NAACP Image Awards for her role on the Peabody Award-winning series.

Washington's performances over the years have received many accolades, including nominations for the SAG Awards, Golden Globes, Independent Spirit Awards, People's Choice Awards, MTV Movie Awards, and wins for the Primetime Emmy Awards, NAACP Image Awards, BET Awards, and Teen Choice Awards. Washington's film credits include: *The Prom*, *Cars 3*, *Django Unchained*, *Ray*, *The Last King of Scotland*, *Save the Last Dance*, *Lift*, *For Colored Girls*, *Night Catches Us*, *Peeples*, *The Details*, *Mother and Child*, *Life is Hot in Cracktown*, *Lakeview Terrace*, *Miracle at St. Anna*, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver*, *I Think I Love My Wife*, *The Dead Girl*, *Fantastic Four*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, and *Our Song*.

In 2016, Washington launched her production company Simpson Street, developing a variety of broadcast, cable and digital projects. The company's debut film, HBO's Emmy, Critics' Choice, and Writers Guild Award-nominated *Confirmation*, starred Washington as Anita Hill. Simpson Street launched the series *Five Points* on Facebook Watch in 2018, with its second season released in August 2019. Also in 2018, Simpson Street partnered with Netflix to adapt Broadway's *"American Son"* for the screen following Washington's successful limited run starring in the show, earning Emmy and PGA nominations. In 2019, the company produced the Emmy award-winning second edition of the ABC special, *"Live in Front of a Studio Audience"* which featured re-imaginings of the classic sitcoms *"All in the Family"* and *"Good Times"*. The 2021 special re-imagined *"Diff'rent Strokes"* and its spinoff *"The Facts of Life,"* and received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Variety Special (Live). In 2020, Simpson Street brought the documentary film *The Fight* to Sundance (the film was released later that year on VOD) in addition to releasing the Emmy-nominated series *Little Fires Everywhere* with Hulu. Washington starred alongside Reese Witherspoon and earned Emmy and SAG nominations for her performance. Recently, Simpson Street has released the second season of its digital interview series *"Street You Grew Up On"* on YouTube, where Kerry speaks to artists, influencers and industry experts about their origin stories. The company's first scripted podcast *"The Prophecy,"* premiered in July 2022 as a part of their larger deal with Audible. In addition to producing and acting, Washington is continuing to grow her resume as a director. Her most recent directing credits include *"Insecure," "Scandal," "SMILF"* as well as the pilot episode of the recently released Hulu series *"Reasonable Doubt."*

Most recently she can also be seen starring opposite Delroy Lindo in *Unprisoned*, a comedy series for which she also serves as an executive producer, which just released its second season in July 2024. She has also wrapped production on her next films, *Shadow Force*, and *6888*, which she both stars in and executive produces.

Simpson Street's latest series, legal drama *"Reasonable Doubt"* premiered on Hulu in fall of 2022 and has been renewed for a second season. Other projects in development include Disney original movie *From The Desk of Zoe Washington*, Netflix's *Rockaway*, and FX/ABC Signature's *"The Bobby Love Story"*.

In September of last year Kerry released her memoir *"Thicker Than Water"* in which she shares the moving journey of her life so far and the bravely intimate story of discovering her truth. The book has received with high praise and remained on the New York Times Bestseller list for 3 weeks.

Washington is a lifelong advocate and activist, dedicated to using her voice to fight for justice for all communities. She is focused on building a more equitable democracy and in service of this goal, Washington is the founder of Influence Change, a strategic initiative that partners celebrities, influencers, and creators with high impact, non-profit organizations and activists to increase voter turnout. In 2021, Washington partnered with the Movement Voter Project to launch The VIP Cohort to provide 10 grassroots organizations with the resources and knowledge to build civic engagement in their communities through storytelling and collective action. Washington has been honored as one of TIME Magazine's 2022 Women of The Year, in addition to appearing on the magazine's Most Influential People list in 2014. She has also been honored with the NAACP President's Award in 2013, the GLAAD Media Vanguard Award in 2015, the Baby2Baby Giving Tree award in 2015, and the ACLU Bill of Rights Award in 2016. In 2022, Washington partnered with LAUSD and a coalition of industry leaders and actors, to launch The Roybal School of Film and Television Production, a magnet school aiming to drive transformational change across the entertainment industry for students from underserved communities. It has been announced that Kerry will receive this year's Equity in Entertainment Award at The Hollywood Reporter's annual Women in Entertainment breakfast gala on December 7th. The award recognizes individuals who amplify the voices of underrepresented communities in the entertainment industry.