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## **'FASHIONABLY YOURS'**

### **Cast Bios**

**KAT GRAHAM (Lauren)** – Working as an actress, singer, dancer and producer in film, television and music, Kat Graham is one of most accomplished and versatile young talents working today. She will next be seen on the big screen in Mark Amin's period drama *Emperor* opposite Dayo Okeniyi, Bruce Dern and James Cromwell. The film follows the true story of Shields Green, a runaway slave who helped spark the civil war. Following that Graham will star in *Cut Throat City* opposite Ethan Hawke, Wesley Snipes, Terrence Howard and Eiza Gonzalez. The film tells the tale of a heist set in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Recently, Graham wrapped Netflix's "Operation Christmas Drop" a real-life air force mission that started in 1952 and serves as training for the U.S. Air Force. It has since become the longest-running U.S. Department of Defense mission in full operation, and the longest-running humanitarian airlift in the world.

Last year, Graham appeared in the '70s crime thriller *The Poison Rose* opposite Morgan Freeman and John Travolta, and she made history as the first African American to lend her voice to Nickelodeon's "Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." In 2018, she was the lead in Netflix's *The Holiday Calendar* with Quincy Brown, and she appeared with Theo James and Forest Whitaker in Netflix's *How It Ends*. The year before, she took on the role of Jada Pinkett in the Tupac Shakur biopic *All Eyez on Me*, and she appeared in another Lionsgate film, *Where's the Money?*

Graham made her television debut in 2002 on Disney Channel's popular teen comedy "Lizzie McGuire" and in 2009, she starred as Bonnie Bennett in her breakout role for The CW's hit, "The Vampire Diaries." In addition, Graham appeared in a number of popular television shows for Disney, Fox, CBS and ABC. Her other notable film credits include *17 Again*, *The Roommate*, *Addicted* and *Honey 2*.

As a producer, Graham has worked on multiple projects including the docu-web series "Breaking the Record" with Disney's Maker Studios. She is also set to star in and produce a biopic about the Motown singer Tammi Terrell produced with Brad Krevoy, and she recently produced "The Consciousness Collective," a docuseries and podcast presented by Deepak Chopra.

A talented singer and music producer, Graham released her second album, *Love Music, Funk Magic*, in 2017, which she worked on with Babyface and Prince. She released her debut extended play record, "Against the Wall" in 2012, after signing with A&M/Octone/Interscope records, and her first single, "Put Your Graffiti On Me," reached over seven million views on VEVO and hit #5 on the Billboard Dance Chart. She has had multiple Billboard hits, including "Sometimes," and Prince-penned "If Eye Could Get UR Attention." Her debut album *Roxbury Drive*, which included her single "Secrets," featuring Babyface, was released in 2015. Graham, who has a degree in

recording engineering, produced the '90s-inspired album with Jean-Yves Ducornet and co-wrote the record with Babyface.

A trained dancer, Graham has appeared in music videos for a myriad of artists including Pharrell, Missy Elliot, John Legend, Nelly, Diddy and Usher. She has also performed on tracks with Snoop Dogg and will.i.am and in 2007, she went on a world tour with the Black Eyed Peas.

Graham has served as the face of many campaigns and endorsements for brands such as Wet 'N Wild, Degree, Samsung, Avon, Bing, Ford, Aquafina, Abercrombie, Nivea, Armani Exchange and Fanta. She currently is a L'Oréal ambassador, the face of Foster Grant, and appears in the new Lady Dior campaign.

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Graham is a strong advocate for human rights. Her PSA short film for Black Lives Matter landed her an Emmy nomination for best PSA short. She is particularly passionate about the plight of refugees worldwide. As such, she became a high-profile supporter of United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees in 2013. In 2019, she also became a Goodwill Ambassador for Rotary International, another organization providing key support and services on the global stage. In addition to her work with refugees, Graham is a council member for Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

# # #

**KENDRICK SAMPSON (Rob)** – Growing up in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, Kendrick Sampson was surrounded by musicians and artists, and naturally gravitated to the arts. His work ethic, paired with a natural, charismatic personality, took him from one project to the next. His breakout role as Jesse on The CW's hit series "The Vampire Diaries" came in 2013, then in early 2014, he secured a series regular role on the Fox event series "Gracepoint," alongside heavyweights Nick Nolte, Anna Gunn, Jacki Weaver and Michael Pena. In 2015, Sampson joined the cast of the ABC hit series, "How to Get Away with Murder" as Caleb Hapstall, and in 2017, he recurred on the Showtime comedy "White Famous" as well as The CW hit series "Supernatural" and "The Flash."

Last year he starred in Freeform's "Ghosting: The Spirit of Christmas," a cautionary tale of texting while driving and currently stars in Channing Godfrey People's film *Miss Juneteenth*, which explores the journey of a young woman's dream deferred.

Sampson uses his voice to empower marginalized communities and to shine light on issues of inequity. His activism focuses on racial justice, specifically within criminal justice reform and uniting the oppressed Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. He is a proud supporter of the Standing Rock and Black Lives Matter movements, progressive political campaigns, and social justice education. A true advocate for change and community building, Sampson founded BLD PWR. Now in its third year, the organization is committed to taking action in a healthy way. His ultimate goals are to build up the next wave of activists while providing resources and tools for equitable change on a grassroots level.

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**SHERYL LEE RALPH (Janet)** – With continued success on stage, screen, television and music along with her philanthropic endeavors, Sheryl Lee Ralph has never been one to rest on her laurels. A triple threat, Ralph is an acclaimed veteran of film, television and the Broadway stage. Her award-winning work includes creating the role of Deena Jones in the legendary hit musical, *Dreamgirls* and earning Best Actress nods for Tony and Drama Desk Awards. She returned to Broadway for a 12-month stint in the Tony-award winning musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, portraying the sassy chanteuse Muzzy Van Hossmere. Ralph then reunited with Loretta Devine and Jennifer Holliday for a sold out, one-night-only, *Dreamgirls* reunion celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show. In 2016, Ralph returned to Broadway as Madame Morrible in *Wicked*, making her the first African American actress to take on the classic role on Broadway.

No stranger to television, Ralph's past TV credits include "It's a Living," "Designing Women," "The District" and "Moesha." She also spent three years as a lead on the hit Nickelodeon series "Instant Mom" opposite Tia Mowry-Hardtrick and Michael Boatman. At the same time, Ralph recurred as Claudette for two seasons opposite Jon Voight in Showtime's "Ray Donovan." In between all of that, she appeared in "Two Broke Girls," "Smash" and an arc on "Criminal Minds." She can also be seen recurring as Mama Colton on CBS's "MacGyver" and on TNT's "Claws." Last year, she starred as one of the leads in the CBS comedy "Fam" opposite Nina Dobrev, Tone Bell, Odessa Adlon, and Brian Stokes Mitchell. She is currently reprising her role as Claudette on "Ray Donovan" and will recur in the new Freeform series "Motherland."

On the big screen, Ralph has worked with some of many of Hollywood's leading and award-winning men, including Denzel Washington in *The Mighty Quinn*, Robert De Niro in *Mistress*, Danny Glover in *To Sleep with Anger*, and Eddie Murphy in *The Distinguished Gentlemen*. Ralph picked up a win for Best Supporting Actress at the Independent Spirit Awards for her performance in *To Sleep with Anger*.

Finding success in writing and directing, Ralph's award-winning short film "Secrets," co-starring Alfre Woodard and Robin Givens, was a finalist in the HBO Film Short Competition, Showtime's Filmmaker Award Series, and the BET Filmmaker Award Competition. The film was also selected as the audience favorite at the Outfest Film Festival and was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, as well as the Hollywood Film Festival, the Acapulco Film Festival and the Urban World Film Festival. Ralph is also the creator of the Jamerican Film and Music Festival. In 2017 and 2018, she did four back-to-back movies, *Just Getting Started* opposite Morgan Freeman, Tommy Lee Jones, and Rene Russo, "Christmas at Holly Lodge" for Hallmark Channel, Netflix's *Step Sisters*, with Naturi Naughton, and "No Sleep 'Til Christmas" for Freeform. Last year she appeared in the made-for-TV movie "Christmas Hotel," and two series "A Black Lady Sketch Show" and "Young Justice."

Ralph resides in Los Angeles and Philadelphia with her husband, Senator Vincent Hughes.

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