



'REDEMPTION IN CHERRY SPRINGS'

Cast Bios

ROCHELLE AYTES (Melanie Abrams) – After 18 years in the business, Rochelle Aytes is a certified Hollywood veteran with an ever-expanding resume that she can now add the producer role too. Along with her arc on the CBS drama series "S.W.A.T" and nine-episode arc on the Syfy series "The Purge," she starred in and produced the drama feature, *The Men in My Life*, loosely based on her life. Aytes was also seen in the Netflix series "Dolly Parton's Heartstrings." In 2017, she wrapped her fourth and final season of ABC's nighttime drama "Mistresses" opposite Alyssa Milano.

On the big screen, Aytes was last seen as the lead in *My Favorite Five* opposite Brian White. She also heavily recurred in ABC's "Criminal Minds" and CBS' "Hawaii Five-O." Additionally, Aytes has appeared as a series regular on several high-profile shows such as the "Bosom Buddies-esque" ABC sitcom, "Work It," and ABC's "The Forgotten," which marked Christian Slater's first foray into television. From there, she went on to recur on hit series "Desperate Housewives," and "Detroit 1-8-7."

Aytes had a series of big studio films that release when she first came to Los Angeles, including the Warner Bros. feature *Trick r Treat*, opposite Anna Paquin and for director Michael Doherty. Before that, she landed the female lead in *Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion*, opposite Blair Underwood, Tyler Perry and Boris Kodjoe. The film opened #1 at the box office with an impressive \$30 million in just three days. In 2008, Aytes shot two series for FOX and was a series regular in the pilot "13 Graves," opposite Matthew Lillard, as well as a full season as a series regular on FOX's "Drive" opposite Emma Stone and Nathan Fillion.

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KEITH ROBINSON (Jake Collins) – Keith Robinson continues his pursuit of a successful music and acting career with the release of "Love Language," a single off his upcoming album Love Episodic 2, and with a starring role opposite Essence Atkins in the BET television movie "Open," in which the song is featured.

In a world where talent is an ingredient for success, Robinson is ahead of the game. He is a true triple threat – having already mastered acting and songwriting, he is now positioning himself to take over the music world with his velvety voice.

Before making his way to Hollywood, the Kentucky native set his sights on music and attended the University of Georgia. He has had an illustrious acting career, landing an incredible 60 projects in both television and film.

Robinson has been able to establish himself as a face to watch in the entertainment industry, starring in popular works like *Dreamgirls*, *This Christmas*, *Four Seasons*, *Fat Albert*, "Saints & Sinners," and *Cru*. In "Saints & Sinners," which recently started its fourth season on Bounce TV, Robinson stars as Miles Calloway, a music star straddling the worlds of secular and gospel music. Robinson's song "Happy" was featured in the season premiere, with the song having more than 2 million views on YouTube.

Robinson may be best known for his critically acclaimed role as C.C. White in the Academy Award winning feature film, *Dreamgirls*, which remains a major benchmark in his career as an actor and singer. In the musical, Robinson's big solo, "Patience," which he also performed live at the Academy Awards, earned him an Oscar nomination. In addition, his voice is heard on six songs from the film's soundtrack.

After *Dreamgirls*, Robinson began recording his debut album, *Utopia*, subsequently releasing several fan favorites including, "My Hustle" produced by RZA, "Loving You," "Simple Hello," "Ride for You," "Thirsty" and "DJ Lady." He went on to work on projects including *Dear John*, *35 and Ticking*, and *Hopelessly in June*. While finishing work on his second album, he was also completing work on his directorial debut with *The Greener Grass Experiment*, in which he also starred and wrote.

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FRANKIE FAISON (Uncle Joe) – Frankie Faison is a well-seasoned actor, having done over 100 films, voiceovers, televisions shows, and stage productions. His ability to cross over all genres is notable in some of his most recognized performances from the critically acclaimed crime series, "The Wire," Cinemax's action thriller "Banshee" and NBC's "The Village." In film, Faison is known for his work in the psychological horror *The Silence of the Lambs* as well as all the other *Hannibal* films – the only actor to have that distinction – in addition to the fan-favorite Spike Lee dramedy *Do the Right Thing* and Keenan Ivory Wayans' hilarious comedy *White Chicks*. He earned Tony Award and Drama Desk nominations for his portrayal of the brain-damaged Gabriel to James Earl Jones' Troy Maxon in August Wilson's award-winning play, *Fences*.

Faison's other Broadway appearances include *Getting Away With Murder*, the Brooks Atkinson Theatre production of *Of Mice and Men* and the Circle in the Square revival of *The Iceman Cometh* and *The Shadow Box*. He also took on the challenge of playing the role of Memphis in August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* and the monumental role of Willie Loman in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

In television, Faison recently wrapped a role in the upcoming NBC rom-com pilot, "Someone Out There," alongside Gabrielle Dennis. Prior to this, he reprised his role from "The Good Wife" in the spinoff series, "The Good Fight" for CBS All Access. He also appeared in SyFy's "The Expanse," CBS' "God Friended Me" and "Hawaii Five-0," and recurred on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." Previously, Faison appeared in the feature films *The Grudge* for Screen Gems and in a lead role in Amazon's television movie, "American Girl." Additional television credits include a recurring

role on the hit Marvel/Netflix series "Luke Cage" and guest spots in "Elementary," "Lie to Me," "Blue Bloods," "Army Wives" and "Law & Order: SVU," to name a few.

In between television and theatre, Faison has continued to weave a series of studio and independent film performances. He received back-to-back rave reviews for his performance in the independent feature *Adam* opposite Hugh Dancy as well as the John Krasinski directed dramedy *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*. Other film credits include *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*, *Meet the Browns*, *For Sale by Owner*, *Splinterheads*, *Gods and Generals*, *Highwaymen* and *The Thomas Crown Affair*.

Faison can currently be seen in the Amazon feature *I'm Your Woman*, produced by Jordan Horowitz and starring Rachel Brosnahan, as well as starring opposite Kevin Hart in the Sony comedy feature *Fatherhood*, available now on Netflix.

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