

THE EBONY CANAL

NARRATED BY VIOLA DAVIS

FEATURING

ALANA YZOLA-DALY



ASSOC. PRODUCER, THE EBONY CANAL

THURSDAY FEB. 12
4:30PM - 8:00PM
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

DR. LARKINS-PETTIGREW



BIRTH EXPERT & OB/GYN

AIKA ALUC, MPH, PhD



POPULATION HEALTH

TANEKA JONES, PhD



BIOENGINEERING

DR. ASHLEY BONNEY



OB/GYN LVHN

REMARKS

EMMAI ALAQUIVA



DIRECTOR, THE EBONY CANAL

FILMSCREENING + PANEL

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER
420 E. PACKER AVE. BETHLEHEM, PA 18015

TRUE PROGRESS BEGINS HERE

A STORY OF BLACK INFANT HEALTH.

BOUNCE PERRY. LEHIGH.EDU
MARKETING & EVENTS

EVENT SCHEDULE

4:30pm - 5:30pm	Reception in Butz Lobby
5:30pm - 5:40pm	Transition to Baker Hall
5:40pm - 6:15pm	Welcome & Film Screening
6:15pm - 6:30pm	Director Remarks
6:30pm - 7:15pm	Panel On-stage
7:15pm	Diane H Dalzell, Poetry Reading
7:15pm - 8:00pm	Networking Reception Butz Lobby

*(Introductions: Mark Wilson/Zoellner Arts Center,
Bart Bailey/Courage 2 Care, Donald Outing/Lehigh University)*

PANEL

FEATURING

Alana Yzola-Daly

Assoc. Producer, *The Ebony Canal*

Dr. Larkins-Pettigrew

Birth Expert & OB/GYN

Aika Aluc MPH, Ph.D. (candidate)

Population Health

Taneka Jones, Ph.D.

Bioengineering

Dr. Ashley Bonney

Lehigh Valley Health Network OB/GYN

Emmai Alaquiva

Director, *The Ebony Canal*

SYNOPSIS

The Ebony Canal is an award-winning documentary film narrated by Academy Award-winning icon, Viola Davis. This masterful cinematic poem directed by Emmai Alaquiva examines the HERstoric portal between the disparities of infant mortality and the current state of maternal health orbiting Black and Brown women. With collaborative insight of Former VP, Kamala Harris, Lamman Rucker, Kimberly Seal Allers, Charles Johnson and some of the top experts, we reveal the hurt, healing and hope of this voyage. Despite the undercurrents, the mission aims to foster a new wave of solution-driven practices. The vision is to move maternal health forward in the journey to save Black and brown mothers and their babies.



Viola Davis, Narrator, is a critically revered actress of film, television, and theater and has won rave reviews for her multitude of substantial and intriguingly diverse roles including her Oscar winning performance in *Fences* (2016). In 2015, Davis won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Drama Series for her work in ABC's *How To Get Away With Murder*, making her the first black woman in history to take home the award. In addition to acting, Viola currently produces alongside her husband and producing partner, Julius Tennon, through their *JuVee Productions* banner. Viola was passionate about taking this journey with Emmy Award-Winning Director, Emmai Alaquiva.

ABOUT



Emmai Alaquiva, Director, once homeless, is now a six-time Emmy and Three-time Webby Award-winning film director for *Roc Nation*, *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*, *Donkie Hodey*, CBS, *The ROOTS* and more. His work has been featured nationally on *Good Morning America*, *VIBE*, *Forbes* and *The New York Times* for manufacturing the future of cinematic art

across the multiverse of purposful media. "The sky is not the limit," says Alaquiva who's dynamic body of work has been recognized by President Barack Obama. Today, he is one of the most distinguished trailblazers in the creative arts industry.



Brenda Gilbert, Executive Producer, is the Co-Founder & President of BRON, a company she co-founded with husband Aaron L. Gilbert in 2010. The BC based parent company BRON Media Corp. has global divisions which include BRON Studios, BRON Creative, BRON Animation, BRON Releasing, BRON Digital, BRON Life, and an affiliate media fund, BRON

Ventures. Brenda previously served as President of BRON Animation, where she produced and recently delivered the original animated film *The Willoughbys* to Netflix. Currently, her focus is on BRON Life, the company's non-scripted division, where she's passionate about giving a voice to those who need one.



Janis Burley Wilson, Co-Executive Producer, has been an arts leader for almost two decades in Pittsburgh and beyond. Burley Wilson launched the Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival (PIJF) in 2011 and is one of the few women in a curatorial and directorial role in jazz. In addition to leading as President, she is the Artistic Director of the AWAACC. She is

most excited about the permanent exhibition, *August Wilson: The Writer's Landscape* that opened in 2022. A shrewd arts administrator, under her leadership, the August Wilson African

American Cultural Center supports a wide landscape of artists from around the world that foster art rooting in the african diaspora. The organization is bound for a bright and sustainable future.



Alana Yzola-Daly graduated from University of Maryland in 2014, and has a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism. She has worked as an Editorial Producer and On-Air Anchor with Complex Networks, a video producer and editor with National Geographic, and as a freelance host for BBC World News' *The Travel Show*. Alana has also worked as a senior video producer

with Insider, with a focus on food, travel, entertainment and culture stories. At Insider, she developed hundreds of videos for their social media channels and website, totaling hundreds of millions of views. Yzola has also acted as the showrunner for two successful international food and travel series for Facebook.



Dr. Maragret Larkins-Pettigrew, MD, MEd, MPPM, is a professor and academic chair in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Drexel University College of Medicine. She continues a general gynecology practice and supervision of students and residents at Allegheny Health Network (AHN). A prolific and highly sought-after speaker, Dr. Larkins-

Pettigrew has presented in local, national and international settings on a range of topics including the impact of the pandemic on Black people worldwide, maternal and neonatal mortality, global health, the epidemiology of HIV, the social determinants of health, and promoting diversity in the C-suite.



Aika Aluc, is a Lehigh Univeristy Ph.D. candidate in population health, advances postpartum care, and maternal resilience through research and advocacy in the Lehigh Valley—driving policy, equity, and community engagement at the intersection of health and social justice.



Taneka Jones is a Research Assistant Professor with the department of Bioengineering in the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science at Lehigh University. Jones is a steminist with a multifaceted background spanning science and engineering education, tissue engineering research and research consulting. Interests include utilizing disruptive

technologies for translational research, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, medical devices, developmental biology and drug discovery applications. Adept at building strategic relationships between academic, government and industry stakeholders.



Dr. Ashley Bonney, is an Obstetrics and Gynecologist doctor in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Bonney grew up in Maryland and excelled academically. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2018. For a time afterward, she worked in health care—including a role as a chief scribe for

an orthopedist, and a job as a patient care coordinator at an ophthalmology office. Bonney attended the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. She is with Lehigh Valley Health Network part of Jefferson Health.



Diane H Dalzell is an emerging spoken word poet based in New York. She is passionate about utilizing the power of her voice to spark discussion around matters such as justice, equity, and belonging. Her writing focuses on themes of love, mental health, racial equality, women's empowerment, and humanity. She

brings a fresh, authentic perspective to common issues of today. In addition, Diane is a voiceover artist with completed works in audiobook narration, corporate training, poetry reads and online ads. Diane began writing poetry in college as an emotional outlet and realized that she possessed true talent.

SUPPORTERS



LEHIGH
UNIVERSITY

- **Office of Inclusive Excellence and Belonging**
- **Gender, Leadership, and Empowerment Center**
- **Center for Cultural Engagement**
- **Zoellner Arts Center**



Courage to Care is founded on decades of operational leadership, which cultivates an environment where employees thrive and meet client/customer needs. We walk with our clients on a journey focused on justice, equity, diversity and inclusion to realize the strengths that align with emotional intelligence, generative dialogue and the core competencies of the organization.

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A STORY ON BLACK INFANT MORTALITY

NARRATED BY
VIOLA DAVIS

