

Sports & Entertainment

Award-winning actress, producer Marsai Martin to serve as Creative Ambassador for 2025 HBCU First LOOK Film Festival, Nov. 6-8

Young visionary joins to bring movie magic and fresh entrepreneurial perspective to ‘Elevate Future Storytellers’

Washington, D.C. , July 14, 2025)– The 2025 HBCU First LOOK Film Festival announced today that actress/producer and entrepreneur Marsai Martin will be the Creative Ambassador for the third annual film festival. Convening again at Howard University from November 6 – 8, 2025; the HBCU First LOOK Film Festival will continue to provide a platform for young creatives to present their work and learn about the diverse aspects of the business from HBCU alumni and industry allies who support the cultural institutions.

Martin, best known for her breakout role as Diane on ABC’s “Black-ish,” recently starred opposite Viola Davis and Anthony Anderson in the Amazon action thriller “G20.” In 2019 at just age 14, Martin was the executive producer and star of the film “Little.” For her work on “Little,” Martin holds the Guinness

World Record as the youngest Hollywood executive producer for the movie. She later started her company Genius Productions at age 14, making her the youngest individual to get a first-look deal at Universal Pictures or any major studio.

Martin will open the Festival with a fireside chat hosted by actress and comedienne Loni Love, an alum of HBCU Prairie View A&M University.

“I’m excited to join forces with the HBCU First Look Film Festival,” adds Martin. “The opportunity to impact the HBCU creative community in a space curated just for them to level up is truly amazing.”

HBCU First Look Film Festival’s founder and CEO Sheila Eldridge believes Martin’s industry insights help to deliver programming that is authentic and relevant to aspiring young storytellers.

“Marsai is an undeniable force leading the next generation of great storytellers,” says Eldridge. “We’re thrilled to have her on board not only to inspire the stu-



“Marsai is an undeniable force leading the next generation of great storytellers,” says Eldridge. “We’re thrilled to have her onboard not only to inspire the students but as a creative voice that will elevate the entire Festival experience.”

connecting executives and students to build a pipeline of talent and career opportunities that is a celebration of Black filmmakers rooted in the HBCU culture.

dents but as a creative voice that will elevate the entire Festival experience.”

The festival’s 2024 HBCU First LOOK Film Challenge drew more than 250 submissions, with winning entries in the categories of short, feature and animation, demonstrating the versatility of young filmmakers. This year’s film challenge submissions are outpacing last year’s, with the addition of the Global Impact category open to creatives whose films hail from countries outside

the US. All submissions close on August 28, 2025.

Early bird weekend HBCU First LOOK Film Festival passes are available until August 28 at \$15 for currently enrolled students and \$30 for general admission.

For the latest on HBCU First LOOK Film Festival schedule download the HBCUFIRSTLOOK App and visit www.hbcufirstlook.com or www.FilmFree-way.com.

On all social platforms:

@HBCUfirstlook #hbcufirstlook #Elevatefilmmakers #Elevatestorytellers

About HBCU First LOOK Film Festival

Founded by Howard University alumni Sheila Eldridge, the HBCU First LOOK Film Festival is inspiring a new generation of minority talent and storytellers in the film, television, and broadcasting industry by teaching HBCU students practical skills to improve their craft, creating platforms to showcase their work,

Past sponsors and media partners include iHeartMedia - Black Information Network, AARP, HBCYOU, Andscape, NBC, ESPN, TVOne, Oxygen True Crime, HBCUGO.TV, Howard University Television + Film, Howard University Television (WHUT), Howard University Radio Network, SiriusXM Channel 141 & 142 and the Cafe Mocha Radio Network.

Soccer head coach Mulrooney unveils Tigers 2025 fall slate; Regular season opens August... from sports page 1

travel to face the reigning Missouri Valley Conference champions, Evansville, on Aug. 31.

September begins with a home match on the 3rd against FGCU. This will be followed by a road nonconference match at Jacksonville on Sept. 7. American Conference play opens with a third-straight game against a school from Florida, with Memphis hosting FIU on Sept. 12.

On Sept. 16, Memphis travels to Chapel Hill, N.C. for a midweek match against the North Carolina Tar Heels. North Carolina has made the NCAA tournament in each of the last five seasons, with the Tigers and Tar Heels meeting in the first round in the 2023 postseason.

Memphis travels to UAB on Sept. 21 to take on the Blazers in a series where the Tigers have won the previous five contests. The month of September ends with a home American match against Tulsa, which will be the

inaugural Cancer Kickers Night. In 2024, the Tigers bested the Golden Hurricane for their first conference win of the season.

October begins with a match on the 3rd against Charlotte, who won the American Tournament last season. The following week, Memphis travels to Florida for a match against FAU on Oct. 12. The Tigers will play a school with an owl for a mascot for the second week in a row as they will host Temple on Oct. 18 for the Tommy Smith Alumni Weekend game.

The month of October ends with a road match on Oct. 25 against a new conference opponent that the Tigers are highly familiar with in Missouri State. The Tigers and Bears have faced off 16 times, including matches in each of the last two seasons. In 2024, the then 15th-ranked Bears defeated the Tigers in Memphis, while in 2023, the Tigers upset the then No. 9 Bears

in Springfield. The reigning regular season champions of the Missouri Valley Conference join the American after reaching the NCAA tournament in each of the last six seasons.

The regular season concludes

on Nov. 2 when Memphis plays host to South Florida for its final home match of the year.

The conference tournament is set to take place from Nov. 7-15, with first-round matches being held at the campus of the higher

seed and the semifinals and final being held at the No. 1 seed’s campus. Last season, Memphis hosted the semifinals and final of the tournament after securing a regular season title in the final match of the season.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Soccer, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Email entertainment news to MTentertainment@prodigy.net

Memphis Athletics celebrates record-breaking fundraising from sports page 1

Memphis Athletics' strategic focus on long-term sustainability, using innovative fundraising approaches to build a lasting foundation that supports future generations of Tigers.

"This historic fundraising year is a testament to the belief that Memphis Tiger alumni and fans have for the university and its athletics department," said Cooper Jones, Deputy Athletics Director & Chief Revenue Officer. "With new gifts and com-

mitments ranging from \$10 to \$10 million, philanthropic support for the Tigers has never been greater. We're incredibly grateful to everyone in the Memphis community who contributed to this record-breaking year."

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Athletics, or how to support the Tigers, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Donovan Mathena named to Allstate Good Works Team from sports-Ent. 4

- 11 players from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Divisions II, III and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)
 - 1 honorary head coach
- All members are selected by a voting panel of former Allstate AFCA Good Works Team members, current and former head coaches and journalists who look for exceptional leadership

on and off the football field.

Fans can join the conversation on social media with #Good-WorksTeam throughout the season.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Football, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Watch for
The Mid-South Tribune’s
Agriculture Special Edition.

