

MALIK YOBA

Actor, Musician, Educator, Inspirational Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur

The three time *NAACP Image Award Winner* is probably best known for his roles as an actor in the 1993 Disney classic, *Cool Runnings*, and the hit Fox television series *Empire* and *New York Undercover*. Malik Yoba has proven himself to be much more than what first meets the eye. As an actor, writer, director, producer, musician, activist, educator, inspirational speaker, entrepreneur and author, Yoba tackles his quest to live a purpose filled life and not only entertain but also educate young and old alike in communities across the world on the value of accountability, integrity and leadership. Born in the South Bronx and later raised in Harlem NY, Yoba lives his life as an example to young people across the country and abroad that those very streets, which breed, apathy, hatred and violence, can give birth to positive ideas and upward mobility. Shot by a stranger and left for dead at the age of 15, Yoba had already realized he had a passion and gift for moving others and raising consciousness. That near death experience in high school solidified his belief in personal and social responsibility and spurred him toward a life of service, creativity, volunteerism, community activism and entrepreneurship. He has made it his life's mission ever since to use the arts as his weapon of choice.

A Hollywood veteran of almost three decades and thirteen network/cable series as a lead, Yoba was last seen weekly in 2017 on the ABC drama *Designated Survivor* as FBI Deputy Director Jason Atwood and the host of TV One's true crime series *Justice By Any Means*. Other past series include *Alphas*, *Defying Gravity*, *Bull*, *Trinity*, *Kingpin*, *Raines* and *Thief*. He has enjoyed recurring roles on *Revolution*, *Arrested Development*, *Girlfriends*, *Single Ladies* and has appeared in numerous guest-starring roles including *Justified*, *Blue Bloods*, *Limitless*, *The Good Wife*, *Person Of Interest*, *Law and Order* and *Nikita*. There are 40+ film credits to his name including, but not limited to *Copland*, *'Til Death Do Us Part*, *Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married and Why Did I Get Married Too*, *Smoke*, *Blue in the Face*, *Soul Food*, *Ride*, *Bad Dad Rehab*, *Criminal* and *Betty and Coretta* where he says he had the "great honor" of portraying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. opposite Angela Basset. International productions include the Danish film *Oh Happy Day*, the BBC film *Turks and Caicos* directed by David Hare and a Korean action film currently entitled *P.M.C (Private Military Company)* for CJ Entertainment slated for worldwide release in 2018. He will also appear next in Jordan Peele's TBS' comedy with Tracey Morgan *The Last OG* and the drama series *Seven Seconds* on Netflix.

At the age of thirteen Yoba was a member of *The Metropolitan Opera Children's Theater Guild* and at sixteen years old worked with *The Negro Ensemble Company*. His recent stage appearances include The Atlantic Theater Company's *The Loneliness Of The Long Distance Runner*, The New Group's production of *Everythings Turning Into Beautiful* with Daphne Rubin Vega and The Delaware Theater Company's *The Piano Lesson*. In 2003 he established, *The Malik Yoba National Theatre (MYNT) Company* to create, acquire, produce and distribute content for the urban theatre market. He has co-written two successful touring musicals for stage, *What's on The Hearts of Men* and *Acoustic Chocolate*, which have also been adapted for screen. Next on stage in *October 2018* at the *Apollo Theater* is the world premiere of his one man show *Harlem to Hollywood*, a musical-autobiography set in a therapist office co-written and directed by Broadway veteran Kevin Ramsey showcasing Yoba's original music and character work in which he portrays over twenty characters.

In 2010 Yoba began creating and producing branded digital content with a webseries he wrote, directed and starred in which launched on BET.com entitled *ShopTalk* for *Gillette*. This led to a distribution deal with AOL and his current work in branded entertainment and marketing where he has written, produced or directed content for the fashion brand *NESH NYC*, *The American Cancer Society*, *The United Negro College Fund* and *AARP*. Finding this work extremely exciting and creatively satisfying, in 2013 he co-founded *iconic32*, a content, brand strategy and marketing firm that uses pop culture to promote social good for clients with a focus on CSR platforms. His responsibilities include but are not limited to business development, strategy, commercial writing /directing and event production. Before his acting career took off Yoba was actively pursuing a career in music and was co-musical director for the *Jim Henson Productions/ABC* produced Saturday morning show *CityKids*. He also wrote the theme song for the Jamaican bobsled team in the movie *Cool Runnings*. He has been a guest on numerous talk shows including *Oprah*, *Inside The Actors Studio*, *The Wendy Williams Show*, *Charlie Rose* and has performed as a musical artist at Carnegie Hall and New York's Theatre at Madison Square Garden among many other venues nationally and internationally.

Respected among his peers in education and community activism, as a teenager he tutored kids in Harlem and taught theater. From the ages 19 to 24, starting first as a volunteer and then being hired as a full time educator, Yoba worked with the *City Kids Foundation*, a multicultural youth leadership organization that used performing and visual arts to educate and promote social change. In 1987 at the age of 20, Yoba worked in 13 New York City Public High Schools with a program called AIDP (Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention), in which he and his *City Kids Foundation* team assessed students, faculty and parents needs in order to improve the quality, content and form of education, thereby improving attendance which was then presented to the Board of Education in a proposal for reform. By the age of 23 his work had not gone unnoticed as he was appointed vice president of the organization and served from 1991-1993. In 1989, he co-founded the City Kids Foundation branch in Los Angeles. Yoba designed and facilitated workshops on leadership, diversity and inclusion, community organizing; conflict resolution, team and self-esteem building and occasionally performed with the City Kids Repertory Company. Over the years Yoba has worked with tens of thousands of young people all across America and around the globe. From Yale to Rikers Island High School and Spafford Detention Center in New York to students at Johannesburg Secondary School in South Africa to young people in Toronto, Jamaica, Korea, Ethiopia and Belize, Central America to name a few. For his dedication to youth, Yoba has been recognized by or worked with *US Presidents Bill Clinton and Barak Obama*, *The Congress of the United States*, *The Mayor of New York City*, *NYPD*, *UNICEF*, *McDonald's Black Achievers*, *Hale House*, *The Ethiopian Children's Fund*, *The Conference of Black Mayors*, *The Congressional Black Caucus* and more. He is also a well sought after inspirational speaker and presents workshops to corporations, prisons, colleges, universities, churches and community organizations around topics ranging from Diversity and Inclusion, leadership, team building, mass incarceration reform and more. In 2011 the title "Professor" was added to his list of accomplishments as Yoba completed his first semester teaching a course he developed called "*The Working Actor*" at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus.

In 2006 Yoba became a published author when he co-wrote a book with his sister Akoshia Yoba, titled "*Please Return My Phone Call! Preventing the Demise of Personal and Professional Relationships*", a handbook for business and interpersonal relationships that challenges the thought processes of students, individuals, business owners and billion dollar corporations as it pertains to interpersonal communication, integrity, accountability, leadership, and proper follow through. Yoba has travelled extensively facilitating workshops based on the book. Previous clients include, *Edward Jones*, *BNY Mellon*, *Citrix*, *Columbia University Film*

School, Yale University and Morgan's Hotel Group. Yoba also sits on the boards of *The Center For Social Innovation*, a co working space for social impact entrepreneurs in NYC and *Boston Arts Academy Foundation*, which supports the only performing arts High School in the city.

Cited by the New York Times Magazine as “An artist who will most likely influence American culture in the next thirty years...” (Nov 1994) Yoba is truly multifaceted and likes to refer to himself as a “Swiss army knife”. Aside from currently creating, producing, acting in and directing numerous projects, his storytelling passion extends to community and real estate development and in 2017 after a ten year apprenticeship with NYC based La Cite Development he established *Yoba Development* with active projects in Baltimore MD and Bronx NY.

For more information on the book, seminars, workshops, appearances or keynotes please contact his manager Kieran Maguire kmaguire@arlookgroup.com or BigSpeak.com/MalikYoba