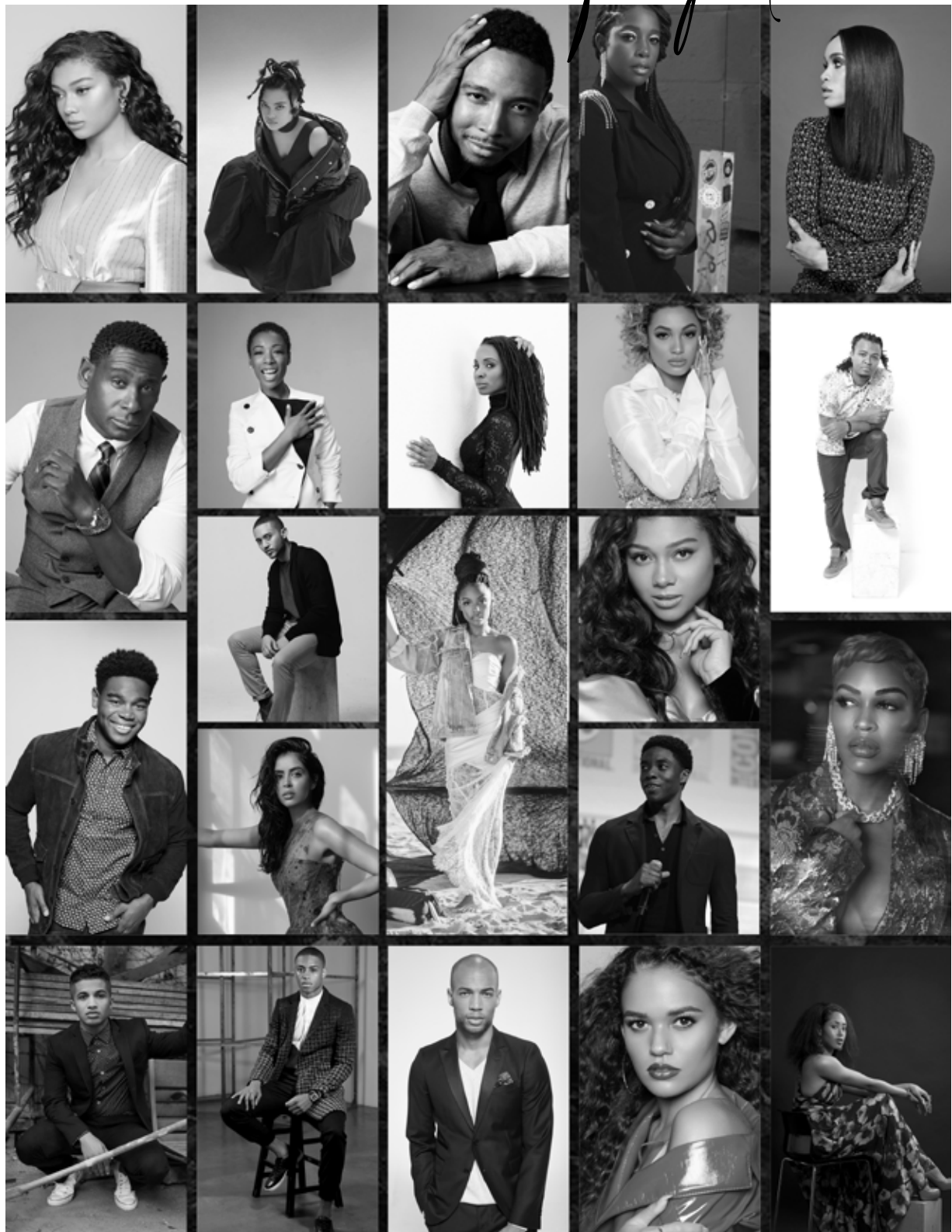


COMPOSURE

Together

ISSUE N° 26



Powerful Voices



CHADWICK BOSEMAN

1976 - 2020

“To be young, gifted and Black... There is a place for us.
There is a screen for us.”

— Rest In Power

IN THIS
ISSUE



Powerful Voices,
Powerful Stories

THE
TEAMS

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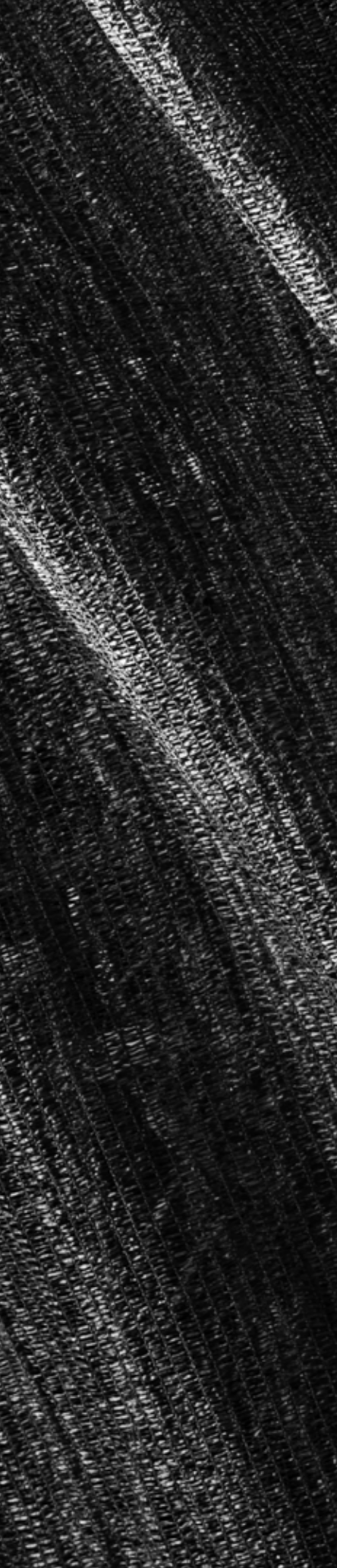
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COMPOSURE

Together

Composure is a smaller, independent publication. We may not have the vast backing mainstream magazines have, but we are also not forced to limit our pages to what's more simply digestible by the general public. It would be easy to sit back and go on with life, pretending that the current socio-political climate in the grips of a pandemic doesn't exist to make readers feel at ease, but this is not a time to be comfortable. As a media outlet, this is not a time to toss pages of pretty things to buy or meaningless stories to everyone. Too many times, the fear of backlash becomes a prison for editors and writers. However, after months of deciding and questioning where to take the next issue, we have veered off the original plans of our editorial calendar and want to look back at every single issue produced. Let us revisit the People of Color who've graced our pages and humbled us with their words.

This issue is for them and the People of Color who have built this magazine from its inception by our publishers to the editorial teams and freelancers who've dedicated their time and passion to every single photograph and word.

To all these talents working in an unfair industry that is slowly trying to change bit by bit as the rest wake up to the fact that life as we know it cannot continue the way it has. We hope you look through this special issue and feel your heartstrings pulled as was ours when we reread every interview again feeling deeply grateful and indebted for these people putting their work and their voices out there to be seen and heard.

I welcome you to share with us your stories and feedback:
min@composuremagazine.com

From everyone who has been a part of Composure

*Powerful Voices,
Powerful Stories*



Ashley Blaine Featherson

"THE WAY I STAY GROUNDED IS — I HAVE AN AMAZING THERAPIST. I GO TO THERAPY ONCE A WEEK. I REALLY ENCOURAGE EVERYBODY TO DO SO, ESPECIALLY PEOPLE FROM THE AFRICAN DIASPORA, BECAUSE WE HAVE TRAUMAS, AND WE'RE STILL HEALING FROM THINGS THAT NOBODY HAS HELPED US GET THE TOOLS TO HEAL FROM, AND WE HAVE TO TAKE THAT INTO OUR OWN HANDS. MY ADVICE WOULD BE—SURROUND YOURSELF IN-PERSON PHYSICALLY WITH WONDERFUL PEOPLE. BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THAT THAN WHO YOU ARE CONNECTED WITH ON SOCIAL CHANNELS BECAUSE IT'S A MEDIUM THAT'S NOT REAL."



Margot Bingham

"I JUST HOPE I CAN CONTINUE TO WORK AND DO WORK THAT I'M PROUD OF. THAT IS IDEAL."

Shanola Hampton

"MY HEART IS FULL FROM DOING WHAT GOD PUT ME HERE TO DO — REMAIN HUMBLE, GRATEFUL, AND KIND. IT'S EASY TO BE NICE, AND IF YOU CAN'T BE, I DON'T HAVE TO FALL VICTIM TO YOUR UGLY. I DON'T DO MEAN."



Samira Wiley

"YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE THROWN INTO SITUATIONS THAT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN BEFORE. I THINK THE ONE THING THAT YOUNG ACTORS, OR HONESTLY YOUNG PEOPLE, NEED TO ASK THEMSELVES — ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS AND HOW PASSIONATE ARE YOU?"





Cleopatra Coleman

"I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO STRETCH MYSELF, AND ACTING WAS THE NEXT EXTENSION — JUST MORE CREATION AND GROWTH."

Dexter Darden

ON BROTHERHOOD — "JUST HOW MUCH WE LOVE EACH OTHER. THAT CAN'T BE TAUGHT OR FAKED."



Allen Maldonado

"I SAW A WOMAN DOWN THE ALLEY WHO SEEMED TO BE EXHAUSTED. WITH ALL THE COMMOTION AROUND ME, ALL I COULD DO WAS FOCUS ON THIS TIRED WOMAN. SO I SLOWLY APPROACHED THE WOMAN, AND I REALIZED — IT WAS MY MOTHER. FROM THAT MOMENT ON, I REALIZED THAT I WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO SUPPORT MY MOTHER AND MY FAMILY — ACTING WOULD BE THE GOD-GIVEN GIFT THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. MY MOTHER IS MY TRUE INSPIRATION, NOT TO BECOME AN ACTOR BUT ALSO TO ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS IN LIFE."



Printz Board

"I WOULD SAY TO THESE KIDS — GRAB MY HAND. I'M A REAL PERSON. I'VE DONE IT. IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M BETTER THAN YOU, IT'S BECAUSE I'M FOCUSED. YOU HAVE SOMETHING GREAT RIGHT NOW."





Sierra McClain

"I'M A SMALL PART OF SOMETHING BIG. WHEN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS FOR ONE OF US, SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS FOR ALL OF US. A WIN FOR ME IS A WIN FOR ALL OF US."

Keith Powers

ON RECOVERY ROAD — "ANYTHING THAT HAS A TOUCHY SUBJECT ALWAYS DOES WELL BECAUSE THEY'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT LEAP. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALLY GO THROUGH THIS, AND THIS IS WHAT WE NEED ON TV — SHOWS WITH MESSAGES. I KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT THEIR KIDS TO WATCH THAT KIND OF THING, BUT HONESTLY, THEY ARE GOING TO RUN INTO THIS STUFF OUT IN THE REAL WORLD, AND I THINK FOR THEM TO PUT IT ON TV AND LET KIDS TOUCH THE SUBJECT AND LEARN FROM IT, THAT'S SUPER COOL."





Jordan Fisher

“THIS JOURNEY HAS
BEEN INCREDIBLE.”



David Harewood

ON HIS ROLE IN FREE IN DEED –
“THE PREPARATION TO PLAY ABE
WAS REALLY VERY INTERESTING
AS I MYSELF HAVE A VERY
SECULAR UPBRINGING, YET I
FOUND MYSELF READING AND
DIGESTING BOTH THE OLD AND
NEW TESTAMENTS WITH A FAIR
DEGREE OF RELISH. I’M ASHAMED
TO ADMIT THAT I HADN’T REALLY
STUDIED THE BIBLE MUCH, AND
I BECAME FASCINATED WITH
JUST HOW VIOLENT CERTAIN
PASSAGES WERE. ALSO, I HAD
NO IDEA SO MANY OF TODAY’S
SAYINGS ORIGINATED FROM
BIBLICAL SAYINGS. IT REALLY WAS
A JOURNEY FOR ME.”

Tahj Mowry

ON HIS DREAM ROLE — “I WOULD SAY SOMETHING THAT IS TOTALLY OPPOSITE OF WHO I AM. MAYBE SOMEONE A LITTLE BIT DARKER, HEAVIER...”



Meagan Good

ON GOD AND ACTING — “TO BE A PART IN WHAT HE’S ‘ALLOWED’ ME TO DO, SO I DO IT BECAUSE I LOVE IT AND I ENJOY IT, BUT I DO IT MOSTLY BECAUSE THE PLATFORM IT ALLOWS ME TO HAVE IS IMPACTFUL TO YOUNG WOMEN. I’M ABLE TO HAVE A VOICE AND AN INSTRUMENT THAT CAN INFLUENCE AND INSPIRE POSITIVITY. I CAN LET THEM KNOW THEY’RE CAPABLE OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING, THAT THE SKY IS NOT EVEN THE LIMIT, NO MATTER WHAT THEY’VE BEEN THROUGH, WHAT THEY’VE DONE OR WHAT’S BEEN DONE TO THEM.”



Madison Pettis

"TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS. IF SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, IT PROBABLY ISN'T. ALWAYS LISTEN TO THAT LITTLE VOICE INSIDE YOUR HEAD."



Sierra Capri

"I HOPE YOUNG GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN KNOW THAT IT IS OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES AS LONG AS YOU LEARN FROM THEM. THAT IS WHAT GROWING UP IS ALL ABOUT. NO ONE WALKING THIS EARTH IS PERFECT, AND IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY."





Sofia Bryant

"I THINK THAT AS A PERSON OF COLOR IN THIS INDUSTRY, IT'S ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO BE SOMEONE OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE INSPIRED BY. GROWING UP IN FINLAND, I REALIZED QUITE EARLY ON HOW IMPORTANT AND IMPACTFUL IT IS TO HAVE SOMEONE YOU CAN LOOK UP TO WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU AND HAS THE SAME IDEAS OR INTERESTS AS YOU. BEING THAT FOR SOMEONE IS SO SPECIAL."



Kendrick Sampson

"I THINK THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN SACRIFICING TIME AND RESOURCES TO HELP OTHERS. THERE IS NOTHING MORE HEALING AND BENEFICIAL FOR THE PERSON RECEIVING AND FOR THE PERSON GIVING. THE MORE HUMBLE I AM, THE MORE CONFIDENT I AM. IT MAKES ME AN EFFECTIVE COLLABORATOR BY CONSTANTLY REMINDING ME THAT I CAN DO SO MUCH MORE WITH OTHERS THAN I COULD EVER GET DONE ALONE."



Elizabeth Rodriguez

ON *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK* —
“WHAT MAKES IT RARE IS THE
COMBINATION OF BEING SHOT IN A
VACUUM, HAVING THE TRAJECTORY
THAT IT HAD, AND LOOKING AROUND AND
SEEING SO MANY WOMEN, WHETHER
IT WAS WRITERS, PRODUCERS, OR
SHOWRUNNERS. WE HAD MORE FEMALE
DIRECTORS THAN ANY OTHER SHOW.
WE HAD MORE WOMEN IN THE CREW
THAT WERE IN POSITIONS THAT WEREN'T
JUST HAIR, MAKEUP, AND WARDROBE.
THAT IS A RARITY THAT FILLS YOU IN A
DIFFERENT WAY.”



Bianca Santos

“OFTENTIMES IN LIFE, YOU CAN
COMPARE YOURSELF TO SOMEONE
ELSE AND FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SMALL
LIKE YOU DON'T MATCH UP. THERE
IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE SOMEONE
OUT THERE THAT YOU THINK IS
SMARTER OR RICHER THAN YOU,
BUT THE POINT IS THAT YOU CAN
SURPASS ALL THAT IF YOU JUST BE
YOU.”



Jessica Marie Garcia

"YOU SHOULD BE YOUR NUMBER
ONE FAN. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS
BE YOUR BEST FRIEND."



Sammi Sanchez

"YOU NEED TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO, AND
YOU NEED TO BE HAPPY DOING IT."



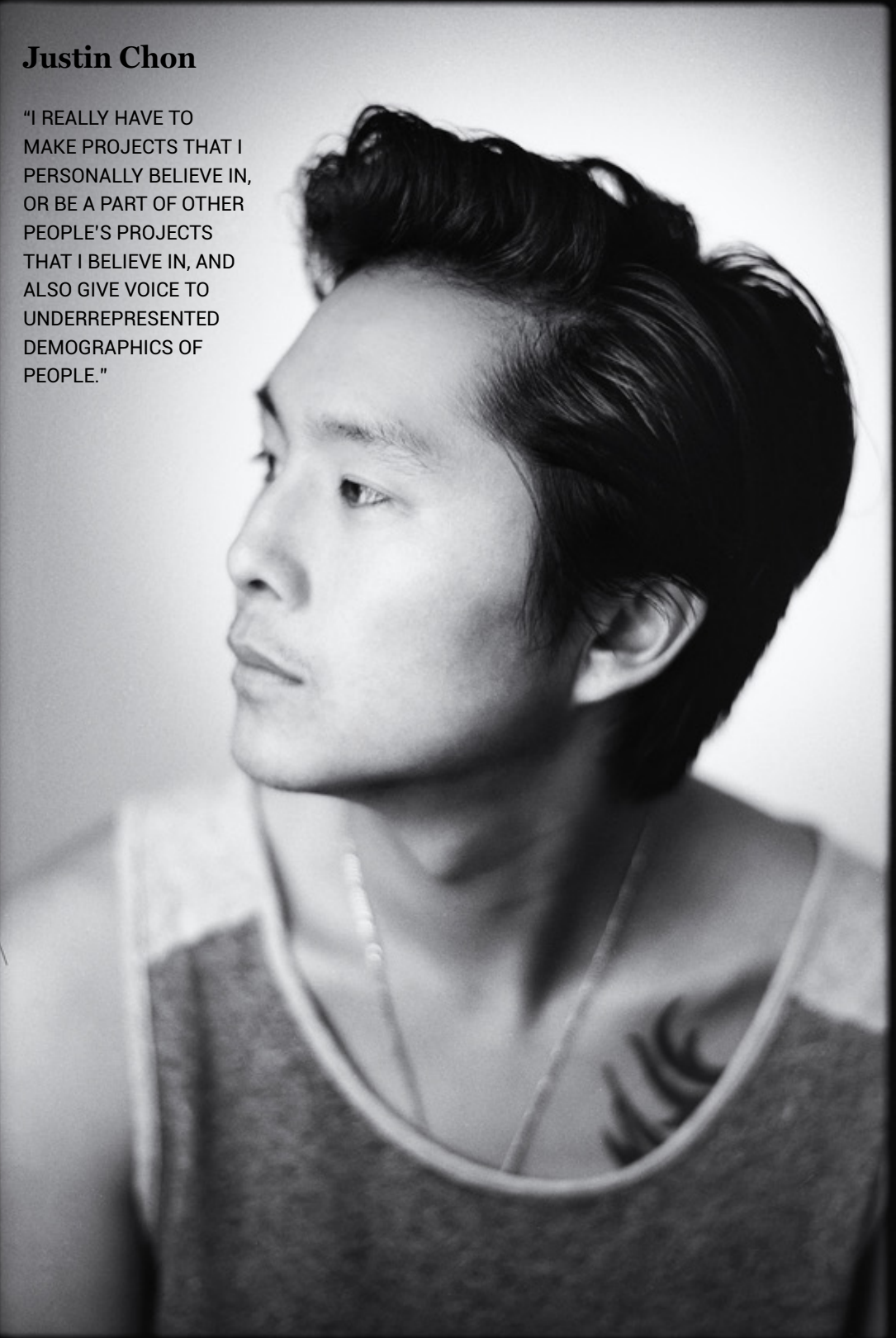
Daniella Alonso

"I LOVE PLAYING STRONG, POWERFUL ROLES BECAUSE I WANT YOUNG WOMEN, AND ALL WOMEN, TO SEE THAT AND TAKE CONFIDENCE IN THAT."

KODAK 100TMX

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Justin Chon

"I REALLY HAVE TO MAKE PROJECTS THAT I PERSONALLY BELIEVE IN, OR BE A PART OF OTHER PEOPLE'S PROJECTS THAT I BELIEVE IN, AND ALSO GIVE VOICE TO UNDERREPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS OF PEOPLE."



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Kiki Sukezane

"I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING FROM HUNGER OR THOSE WITHOUT CLEAN WATER TO DRINK. I NEED TO FIND OUT HOW I CAN REALLY HELP, NOT ONLY FOR A SHORT TERM BUT FOR A LIFETIME."



Emeraude Tobia

"I HAVE BEEN SO BLESSED, SO SHARING IN ANY WAY AND GIVING BACK IS SO IMPORTANT."





Victoria Moroles

"I THINK THE BIGGEST STRUGGLE IS SELF-ACCEPTANCE, WHETHER THAT BE SELF-ACCEPTANCE OF YOURSELF OR ACCEPTANCE OF OTHERS."



Kimiko Glenn

"I THINK THE COOLEST PART OF BEING ON THIS SHOW HAS BEEN WITNESSING HOW "OITNB" (*ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*) HAS BROADENED THESE TYPES OF PEOPLE WE SEE ON TELEVISION. WE ARE NOW STARTING TO TELL THE STORIES OF PEOPLE OF ALL SHAPES, SIZES, AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, AND HOW IT OPENED UP A DIALOGUE FOR THE TRANS COMMUNITY."

Anna Akana

"THAT'S THE MOST YOU CAN HOPE TO DO
FOR SOMEONE—TO REALLY MAKE A BIG
DIFFERENCE LIKE THAT IN THEIR LIFE."



Tim Jo

"I JUST WANT TO BE ABLE
TO BE ON TELEVISION AND
HAVE ASIAN KIDS WATCH
TELEVISION AND FEEL LIKE
IT'S NO BIG DEAL THAT
ANOTHER ASIAN GUY IS
DOING IT."





PARRI\$

"I'M ALL ABOUT WOMAN EMPOWERMENT. IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO REALLY TRY AND EMBRACE. IT'S SUCH A BIG CHALLENGE FOR US AS WOMEN EVERY DAY. IT'S A JOURNEY I'M STILL GOING THROUGH, AND IT'S ABOUT GOING THROUGH IT WITH OTHER WOMEN AND WANTING TO CELEBRATE EACH OTHER INSTEAD OF PUTTING EACH OTHER DOWN. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE TO UNITE INSTEAD OF COMPETE."

Jeannie Mai

ON THE REAL — "OUR SHOW IS A GENUINE EXAMPLE OF HOW I WISH THE WORLD COULD BE, DIFFERENCES AND ALL— WE ARE FAMILY."



A full-page photograph of actress Summer Bishil. She is standing on a set of outdoor stairs at night, looking back over her shoulder towards the camera. She is wearing a long, voluminous, off-the-shoulder gown with a white base and a pattern of large, colorful flowers in shades of purple, pink, and yellow. The stairs and the brick wall to her right are illuminated by warm, golden light from a wall sconce. In the background, a dark wooden dining table and chairs are visible on a patio.

Summer Bishil

ON HER ROLE AS MARGO
WITH THE MAGICIANS —
“SHE DOESN’T APOLOGIZE
FOR HERSELF. THAT
DOESN’T MEAN SHE FEELS
ENTITLED, BUT THAT SHE’S
JUST SO AUTHENTICALLY
HERSELF.”

A close-up, black and white portrait of actress Brenda Song. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking directly at the camera with a calm, steady gaze. She is wearing large, elegant earrings that feature a vertical line of four pearls. The lighting is soft and focused on her face, creating a classic, intimate feel.

Brenda Song

“GROWING UP AND WHEN I FIRST STARTED
ACTING, THERE WERE SO VERY FEW ASIAN
ACTORS ON TV AND ON THE BIG SCREEN. TO
HAVE LITERALLY WATCHED THAT CHANGE AND
PROGRESSION HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE.”



Ally Maki

ON ASIAN AMERICAN GIRL CLUB — “THE IDEA REALLY CAME FROM MY PERSONAL STORIES OF FEELING EXCLUDED, ESPECIALLY FROM THE COUNTLESS CLUBS THAT I SO DESPERATELY WANTED TO FIT IN. THE IDEA THAT ONE COULD FEEL SO LONELY INSIDE OF SOMETHING DESIGNED TO BE INCLUSIVE WAS HEARTBREAKING. MY GOAL WAS TO CREATE SOMETHING BY GIRLS THAT LOOK LIKE ME, FOR GIRLS THAT LOOK LIKE ME, TO CREATE THE SISTERHOOD AND “CLUB” I WOULD’VE WANTED AND NEEDED AS A KID.”



Parveen Kaur

“I’VE LEARNED TO BE KINDER TO MYSELF AND REALIZED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE CRAFT ITSELF AND TO FOCUS ON JUST THAT.”

Emily Tosta

ON PARTY OF FIVE — “WE WANT TO START CONVERSATIONS. WE WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THESE FAMILIES GO THROUGH. WHEN WE GET MESSAGES FROM PEOPLE SAYING THEY FEEL REPRESENTED, THEY FEEL LIKE THEIR STORIES ARE BEING TOLD, THEY CAN RELATE TO OUR FAMILY, THAT MEANS THE WORLD TO US.”



DaniLeigh

“YOU HAVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR VISION AND THEN SEE IT THROUGH.”



“Please, I Can’t Breathe...”



STORY BY THE COMPOSURE EDITORIAL STAFF & EDITORS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLYN AYERS

We know you’re used to seeing scores of beautiful editorials, fashion and beauty products, but these unprecedented times have pushed our society into a corner. While our world is reeling from the effects of Covid-19 still with no exact end in sight, we now, devastatingly again, find ourselves facing the on-going war where a monstrous racial divide still haunts humankind. Leaving us all to question, how do we stop history from repeating itself over and over again, so our future generations, our beautifully innocent children, don’t have to face such atrocities?

It starts with each of us as individuals. We need to responsibly educate ourselves and understand not just the United States history, but the global history, behind the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the severe implications it had on why this divide still exists now and why marginalized communities are still suffering. We must learn. We must listen intently to Black perspectives, hear and share their experiences. We must teach our young to break the vicious cycle, and we must demand change.

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Nina Pop, Dreasjon Reed, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Jonathan Ferrell, Renisha McBride, Stephon Clark, Jordan Edwards, Jordan Davis, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, John Crawford III, Oscar Grant, Freddie Gray, Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Terence Crutcher, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Jacob

Blake, Elijah McClain... the names do not end. All these people are on a list that’s so unimaginably long, and there should not even be such a list. All have become grave headlines that have ignited us to stand up and demonstrate around the country and the world that we must end the murders, the brutality, the pain and the racial divide now—entirely and forever.

Celebrities have taken to social media voicing their outrage using their platforms to reach as many as possible. However, not everyone has millions of followers, but each of us can have an impact. You may not realize, but every conversation, every post, story, tweet, whatever it may be has influence, and though it may feel small, it’s part of an imperative collective. Silence isn’t the answer. We should never feel fear to voice our anger and sadness for tragedies that should never transpire.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE WAYS TO SHOW SUPPORT, HERE ARE A FEW TO START WITH:

01. George Floyd's brother, Philonise Floyd, has organized a **Go Fund Me campaign**. From the campaign page, "This fund is established to cover funeral and burial expenses, mental and grief counseling, lodging and travel for all court proceedings, and to assist our family in the days to come as we continue to seek justice for George. A portion of these funds will also go to the Estate of George Floyd for the benefit and care of his children and their educational fund."
02. Participate in a call for justice by using these contact numbers and call scripts given out by ACLU Minnesota found <https://www.aclu-mn.org/en/call-for-justice-for-george-floyd> to reach Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison.
03. Sign the **petition at Color of Change** or text "FLOYD" to 55156 to demand all officers be charged.
04. Sign the **petition at Change.org** as they work to gain the attention of Mayor Jacob Frey and the District Attorney Michael Freeman.
05. Sign the **petition at Change.org** to bring justice for Breonna Taylor, her innocence and that arrests are made.
06. Donate to the **Minnesota Freedom Fund** as they aid and support protestors in the ongoing movements right now, and for helping with bails, bonds and those caught in the deportation detention system.
07. Donate to the **Black Visions Collective** as they develop "powerful strategic campaigns, we seek to expand the power of Black people across the Twin Cities metro area and Minnesota."
08. Donate to **Reclaim The Block** as they help with violence prevention, mental health, worker protection and housing.
09. Donate to **Campaign Zero's** push to limit the use of police force, demand accountability with body cams, push for community representation and help investigate and prosecute.
10. Donate directly to the **Black Lives Matter** as the monetary support will go towards "the Movement to fight for Freedom, Liberation and Justice."

"The feeling in the nation must be quickened, the conscience of the nation must be roused, the propriety of the nation must be startled, the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed...Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will. If there is no struggle, there is no progress...I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong. "

— FREDERICK DOUGLASS, ABOLITIONIST LEADER (1818 - 1895)

