



For Immediate Release

**UP PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE UP MOVIE
COMEBACK DAD
AT AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL (ABFF) IN NEW YORK ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

**This Marks the Fourth Movie Produced from
Winning and Honorable Mention Scripts in the
UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF**

**Charles S. Dutton, Tatyana Ali, Brad James, with Loretta Devine
Star in the Father-Daughter Drama**

Debuts on UP on Saturday, July 12

ATLANTA – June 5, 2014 – UP, the television network dedicated to uplifting viewers every day, today announced the world premiere of the movie *Comeback Dad* (#ComebackDad) at Film Life's 18th Annual American Black Film Festival (ABFF) in New York City on **Saturday, June 21 at 4:30 p.m. EDT** at the SVA Theater (333 West 23rd St., NY, NY). *Comeback Dad* marks the fourth film to be produced and air on UP as a direct result of the network's highly successful "UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition," now in its fourth year.

The script is by newcomer Kimberly Walker, the Honorable Mention Winner in last year's UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF. Last year's Competition Grand Prize screenplay winner *Mary Jo's Candy* (working title), is scheduled to go into production in June and premiere later this year on UP.

Comeback Dad is a dramatic, emotional father-daughter reunion film, starring Charles S. Dutton (*Rudy*, “Roc”), Tatyana Ali (“Love That Girl!,” “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air”) and Brad James (UP’s *Marry Me For Christmas*, “For Better or Worse”) with Loretta Devine (UP’s *Saving Westwood High*, “Grey’s Anatomy”). The movie is directed and executive produced by nationally-syndicated radio host/writer/producer/director Russ Parr (*The Undershepherd*, *35 and Ticking*) and produced by Swirl Films. Filmed in Atlanta, *Comeback Dad* will debut exclusively on UP on **Saturday, July 12.**

“We are excited to premiere the movie *Comeback Dad*, a moving, emotional, beautifully-shot father-daughter film, at this year’s ABFF,” said Brad Siegel, vice chairman, UP. “We were so impressed by both the winning script *Mary Jo’s Candy* by Keronda ‘KiKi’ McKnight and this honorable mention script by Kimberly Walker in last year’s UP Faith and Family Screenplay Competition that we decided to produce both films this year. The scripts that we receive for the UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition display the depth of talent and kind of entertaining, contemporary and uplifting stories that we develop and share with our viewers. And, the movies that result from these scripts are among our most watched original movies. Now in its fourth year, this Competition has proven to be a valuable source for fresh, creative storytelling from aspiring African-American writers.”

“UP’s commitment to ABFF through its screenplay competition reinforces the entire filmmaking process – taking a project from script to screen. Tangible career opportunities are exactly what emerging artists need to help further their careers. Brad Siegel and the UP team have created a truly meaningful partnership,” said Jeff Friday, ABFF Founder and CEO.

In *Comeback Dad*, Nima Babineaux (Tatyana Ali) looks like a woman who has it all – she is an accomplished pianist who runs her own music school and is engaged to Spence (Brad James), a successful engineer who adores her. But, in truth, she has never recovered from her alcoholic father, Othell (Charles Dutton), walking out on their family and it has made it hard for her to truly trust anyone. When Othell decides it is time to make amends and tries to reenter her life, Nima begins an emotional and eye-opening journey she could have never expected. Loretta Devine stars as Malinda, Othell’s sister. The ensemble cast also includes Donna Brisco, Elizabeth Omilami, Ja’El Robertson, Takara Clark, E. Roger Mitchell, Todd Anthony and Palmer Williams, Jr.

In addition, UP will present a Live Table Read at ABFF where a scene from each of the top three 2014 screenplay finalists will be performed live by celebrities and finalists from ABFF’s Star Project Acting Competition. The Table Read will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 20th in the SVA Theatre. Following the three live screenplay scene performances, one Grand Prize winner will be announced and selected to receive \$5,000 during the “ABFF Honors” Awards presentation.

For the fourth year, UP is partnering with the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) on its annual UP Faith and Family Screenplay Competition. The Competition, developed to promote the development of faith-friendly, family entertainment screenplays, with a focus on the American Black experience, is a component of UP’s Official

Sponsorship of Film Life's 18th annual ABFF, which is the preeminent festival promoting cultural diversity within the film and television industry. This is the first time the ABFF will be held in New York City.

To date, the UP Faith & Family Competition has generated three films that UP has produced and aired on the network. These include *In the Meantime*, written by Nzinga Kadalie Kemp, and *Raising Izzie*, written by David Martyn Conley – both produced by Roger Bobb of Bobbcat Films, the only two-time winner of the Best Film Award at ABFF. The third film is *Somebody's Child*, written by Siddeeqah Powell and directed by Gary Wheeler. *Raising Izzie* and *Somebody's Child* were the number one and number two ranked telecasts in their time slots among African-American W18-49 on their premiere nights.

UP presents ***Comeback Dad***, a Swirl Films production. Starring Charles S. Dutton, Tatyana Ali, Brad James, Loretta Devine, Donna Brisco, Elizabeth Omilami, Ja'El Robertson, Takara Clark, E. Roger Mitchell, Todd Anthony and Palmer Williams, Jr. Directed and Executive Produced by Russ Parr. Produced by Eric Tomosunas, David Eubanks and Keith Neal. Director of Photography is George Su. Editor is Dante Wyatt. Written by Kimberly Walker.

Follow our cast at:

- www.UPTv.com/ComebackDad
- Tatyana Ali on Twitter [@TatyanaAli](https://twitter.com/TatyanaAli)
- Loretta Devine on Twitter [@lodivadevine](https://twitter.com/lodivadevine)
- Brad James on Twitter [@MrBradJames](https://twitter.com/MrBradJames)
- Elizabeth Omilami on Twitter [@4hosea](https://twitter.com/4hosea)
- Takara Clark on Twitter [@Takara_Clark](https://twitter.com/Takara_Clark)
- E. Roger Mitchell on Twitter [ERogerMitchell](https://twitter.com/ERogerMitchell)
- Todd Anthony on Twitter [@iamToddAnthony](https://twitter.com/iamToddAnthony)
- Palmer Williams, Jr. on Twitter [@palmerwilliamsj](https://twitter.com/palmerwilliamsj)

About UP

UP, America's favorite network for uplifting entertainment is a 24-hour television network that provides high-quality, diverse, family-friendly programming, including original and premiere movies, theatricals, drama and comedy series, music and holiday specials. UP can be seen in 67 million homes in high definition (HD) and standard definition (SD) on cable systems including Bright House Networks, Cablevision, Charter Comcast, Cox Communications, Time Warner Cable as well as DIRECTV (Channel 338), DISH Network (Channel 188) and Verizon FIOS (Channel 224). As part of its mission to entertain and uplift, the network's pro-social initiative "Uplift Someone" reminds and inspires people to do simple acts of kindness. UP is also a service provider to its sister network ASPIRE. Based in Atlanta, UP is a division of UP Entertainment, LLC, which also offers gMovies, the first faith-friendly streaming movie service.

Follow UP on the Web at www.UPtv.com, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UPtv>, Twitter on [@UPtv](https://twitter.com/UPtv) and Instagram at UP_TV.

About Swirl Films

Swirl Films (www.swirlfilms.com), America's "number one urban film production company," focuses on independent features and multi-camera productions. Recent films include 2012 ABFF Best Narrative Feature, Best Actress and Best Director winner *The Under Shepherd, 35 & Ticking* and *Percentage*, with Flavor Unit Production (Queen Latifah & Shakim Compere). Swirl Films is a major content provider for UP. Most recently, Swirl Films produced *Marry Me For Christmas*, starring Malinda Williams and Brad James, and *The Perfect Summer*, starring Eric Roberts, Sydney Penny and Jason Castro in his TV acting debut. In addition, hit programming includes *She's Still Not Our Sister*, *Sugar Mommas*, and the *Wedding Vow* series. Additional original productions include: *Love For Sale* and *Something Like A Business*, starring Kevin Hart, Clifton Powell and Kym Whitley.

About ABFF

Established in 1997, the core mission of the ABFF is to promote cultural diversity within the motion picture industry. Through its film showcases and special contests, it annually introduces the top echelon of emerging artists to the film and television industry. The ABFF is a property of Film Life, Inc., a New York-based event marketing, and production and film distribution company founded in 2000 by Jeff Friday (CEO). Visit www.abff.com for more details.

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