



For Immediate Release

UP PRESENTS THE UP ORIGINAL MOVIE

MY OTHER MOTHER

A FAMILY DRAMA STARRING ESSENCE ATKINS,
LYNN WHITFIELD, JASMINE GUY, GREGALAN WILLIAMS,
ANGIE STONE AND KENDRICK CROSS

PREMIERES EXCLUSIVELY ON UP,
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7 P.M. EST / 6 P.M. PST

This Marks the Fifth Movie Produced from
Winning Scripts in the UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF

ATLANTA – August 19, 2014 – UP presents the UP Original Movie *My Other Mother*, an emotional, heartwarming drama about a demanding national TV news anchor who reconnects with her equally-demanding birth mother. Starring Essence Atkins (*Haunted House 2*, "Half & Half"), Lynn Whitfield (*The Josephine Baker Story*, UP's *The Dempsey Sisters* and *Somebody's Child*) and Jasmine Guy ("The Vampire Diaries," "A Different World"), *My Other Mother* will make its world television premiere on UP on **Sunday, September 21, 2014 at 7 p.m. EST / 6 p.m. PST**.

Produced by Swirl Films, the film is directed by Stan Foster (*Peacher's Kid*, "Tour of Duty"). The ensemble cast also includes GregAlan Williams (UP's *Marry Me For Christmas* and *Somebody's Child*, "Necessary Roughness"), Angie Stone (UP's *Where's The Love?*, "The Rickey Smiley Show") and Kendrick Cross (*Iron Man 3*, "The Game").

My Other Mother marks the fifth 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 Keronda "KiKi" McKnight, the Winner in last year's UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at the American Black Film Festival (ABFF).

In *My Other Mother*, Candace "Candy" Meyers (Essence Atkins) is a successful anchor on a top-rated national magazine show. Fiercely independent and committed to her job, Candy doesn't make many friends with her demanding, gruff nature. In fact, her only true friend might be her long-time manager Lewis (Kendrick Cross). Candy discovers that an anonymous fan she's had for years has passed way – and he was her biological father Freddy Nelson! Content with the love and support of her adoptive family, Candy has never been curious about her biological parents. That all changes when she travels back for her father's funeral, meets the Nelson family – including biological uncle Abner (GregAlan Williams), Freddy's wife Delores (Angie Stone) and her two step-brothers – and discovers that her reclusive, angry and stubborn birth mother, Mary Jo (Lynn Whitfield) is going to be a challenge. The journey these two surprisingly similar women take getting to know each other will break down walls and open them up to a life they never knew was possible.

"We are thrilled to bring Keronda 'KiKi' McKnight's impressive, winning script to life on UP as part of our ongoing commitment to the UP Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF," said Sophia Kelley, senior vice president of programming, UP. "Viewers are going to enjoy seeing our outstanding leads – NAACP Image Award-winning Essence Atkins, Emmy® Award-winning Lynn Whitfield and NAACP Image Award-winning Jasmine Guy – acting toe-to-toe as daughter Candy, birth mother Mary Jo and adoptive mother Evelyn."

For the fourth year, UP has partnered 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 annual ABFF, which is the preeminent festival promoting cultural diversity within the film and television industry.

To date, the UP Faith & Family Competition has generated four 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 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. The fourth film, *Comeback Dad*, had its world premiere on UP in July.

UP presents *My Other Mother*, a Swirl Films production. Starring Essence Atkins, Lynn Whitfield, Jasmine Guy, Greg Alan Williams, Angie Stone and Kendrick Cross. Directed by Stan Foster. Produced by Eric Tomosunas, David Eubanks and Keith Neal. Director of Photography is George Su. Editor is Dante Wyatt. Script by Keronda 'KiKi' McKnight.

Follow our cast at:

- www.UPtv.com/MyOtherMother
- Essence Atkins on Twitter [@essencesays](https://twitter.com/essencesays)
- Lynn Whitfield on Twitter [@MsLynnWhitfield](https://twitter.com/MsLynnWhitfield)
- Jasmine Guy on Twitter [@TheJasmineGuy](https://twitter.com/TheJasmineGuy)
- GregAlan Williams on Twitter [@GregAlanW](https://twitter.com/GregAlanW)
- Angie Stone on Twitter [@RealAngieStone](https://twitter.com/RealAngieStone)
- Kendrick Cross on Twitter [@kennythepoet](https://twitter.com/kennythepoet)

About UP

UP is the television network dedicated to uplifting viewers every day with original and acquired movies, reality and dramatic series, comedies and music specials. One of the most trusted family-friendly networks on cable, UP can be seen in 67 million homes on cable systems and satellite providers across the United States in both standard and high definition. Along with its mission to entertain, uplift and inspire viewers, UP's pro-social initiative "Uplift Someone" reminds and inspires people to do simple acts of kindness. Based in Atlanta, UP is a division of UP Entertainment, LLC, which also offers gMovies, the first faith-friendly streaming movie service and provides sales and operations services to the ASPIRE network.

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.

Note to Editor: For additional press materials, high resolution photos and screeners, please visit:

www.UPtv.com/pressroom.

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