



WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED

A film by Michael Schultz

99 min, 1.85:1, Dolby SR

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WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED

SYNOPSIS

From the best selling novel and stage play, **WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED**, comes the film adaptation of Bishop T.D. Jakes' tale of dysfunction, isolation and finally, inspiration. **WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED** is the story of Michelle Jordan (Kimberly Elise), a young woman raised in an environment of abuse and molestation at the hands of her mother's boyfriend Reggie (Clifton Powell); which her mother Cassie (Loretta Devine) unwittingly condones. These circumstances lead young Michelle into the dark abyss of drugs, prostitution and prison.

While incarcerated, Michelle sends Bishop Jakes (Bishop T.D. Jakes, playing himself) a letter requesting a visit. Jakes agrees to meet Michelle and soon uncovers the painful history that led to her personal demise. After conferring with the warden, he is successful in getting Michelle an early furlough with one stipulation—that she attend Bishop Jakes' upcoming three-day revival.

When Michelle, now a hardened inmate, is released from prison she chooses to stay at a halfway house rather than be under the same roof as Reggie. Still bitter and distrusting of the church community, her mother in particular, Michelle is forced to do some soul-searching that takes her on a journey of recovery and resolve. She encounters past suitors, friends, and family members who've contributed to defining the Michelle of today. What takes place at the church altar on the final night of the revival closes the chapter on the desolation felt by a young girl two decades prior, heals a relationship between mother and daughter, and ends a destructive relationship that should have stopped years before.

Rueben Cannon Productions and Touchdown Productions, Inc. presents the drama *Woman, Thou Art Loosed* starring Kimberly Elise (*The Manchurian Candidate*, *John Q*, *Beloved*), Loretta Devine (*Kingdom Come*, *I Am Sam*, *Waiting to Exhale*), Debbie Morgan (*Love and Basketball*, *Eve's Bayou*, *Soul Food*), Clifton Powell (*The Brothers*, *Friday After Next*, *Civil Brand*), Idalis Deleon (*Six Feet Under*, *Body & Soul*), Michael Boatman (*Spin City*, *Arliss*) and Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Woman Thou Art Loosed is written by Stan Foster (*Hangman's Curse*). The film is directed by Michael Schultz (*Car Wash*, *Cooley High*) and produced by Reuben Cannon (*Get On*



The Bus, Down In The Delta, Dancing In September). This film is co-produced by Tammy Ganes (*Biker Boyz, Roots: Celebrating 25 Years, Dancing In September*), Stan Foster and Will Griffin. Paul Ganes (*Biker Boyz, You Got Served, Playa's Ball*) is line producer. Reinhart "Ray" Peschke (celebrated gaffer of *The Rules of Attraction, Son of Sam, Serving Sarah*) is the director of photography and Rita McGhee (*Biker Boyz, Grown Ups, What's Love Got To Do With It*) rounds out this highly experienced and dedicated crew as the costume designer.



ABOUT THE CAST

KIMBERLY ELISE (Michelle) is a young woman on an odyssey to resolve the demons of her past that threaten to destroy her future.

Elise most recently starred alongside Denzel Washington in the dramas *The Manchurian Candidate* and *John Q*, for which she was nominated for a NAACP Image Award. Elise's other film credits include *Bait* and *Beloved* for which she won a Golden Satellite Award and CFCA Award and was nominated for a Cable Ace Award and NAACP Image Award. Elise made her feature film debut in *Set It Off* opposite Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett-Smith and Vivica A. Fox.

In television, Elise has had recurring roles on the UPN-TV sitcom "Girlfriends" and Showtime Network drama "Soul Food." Her other television credits include the Showtime special "Bojangles" where she starred opposite the late Gregory Hines and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, the ABC-TV movie of the week "The Loretta Claiborne Story," and "The Ditchdigger's Daughter," for which she won a Cable Ace Award.

LORETTA DEVINE (Cassie) is Michelle's mother, a woman who lives in denial of her daughter's abuse.

Most recently, Devine co-starred in the critically acclaimed feature *I Am Sam* opposite Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer. Her next film project is *Baby of the Family* and *Book of Love*. Other film credits include *Kingdom Come* for which she received an NAACP nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture, *What Women Want*, *Urban Legends: Final Cut*, *Down In The Delta*, *The Preacher's Wife* and *Waiting to Exhale* for which she won an Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture.

In television, Devine has starred on the FOX-TV drama "Boston Public" for three seasons and has won NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress in a Television Movie, Mini Series or Dramatic Special and Outstanding Support Actress in a Drama Series. Other television credits include "Freedom Song," "Lillie," "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," "Funny Valentines" and "The PJ's" with Eddie Murphy.



A seasoned thespian, Devine received critical acclaim for her work on Broadway, and is best remembered for her role as a member of the sultry and sassy trio in “Dream Girls.”

CLIFTON POWELL (Reggie) is the abusive boyfriend of Cassie, who becomes Michelle’s predator.

Powell recently won honors as Best Performance by an Actor at the American Black Film Festival for his role in *Civil Brand*, as Captain Deese opposite Lisa Raye, Monica Calhoun and Nbushe Wright. His next film project is *Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Story* starring Jamie Foxx and Regina King. Other film credits include *Friday After Next*, *Crime Partners*, *Bones*, *The Brothers*, *Rush Hour* and *Why Do Fools Fall In Love*.

Powell’s television credits include “Law & Order: Criminal Intent,” “Third Watch,” “One on One,” “The Parkers” and a recurring role on “Moesha.” He also starred in the cable movie “A Private Affair” opposite Vanessa Bell-Calloway.

DEBBI MORGAN (Twana) is the take-no-prisoners; wisecracking neighbor who tries to help Michelle overcome the trauma of her past.

Morgan is best known for her portrayal as Dr. Angela “Angie” Baxter on the long running ABC-TV soap opera “All My Children,” where she won an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series and was nominated for a two Soap Opera Digest Awards for Outstanding Lead Actress: Daytime and Outstanding Young Leading Actress on a Daytime Serial.

Morgan has also received critical acclaim for her roles on the big screen including *Love & Basketball*, *The Hurricane* for which she received an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture, and *Eve’s Bayou* for which she won an Independent Spirit Award and CFCA Award. Other film credits include *She’s All That* and Tim Reid’s *Asunder*.



Starting her career in daytime soaps, Morgan has appeared on the ABC-TV daytime dramas “General Hospital” and “Port Charles” and on the NBC-TV daytime drama “Generations.”

IDALIS DELEON (Nicole) is Michelle’s childhood friend who after experiencing her own downward spiral reunites with her on a journey of inspiration.

Deleon’s entrée into the business began in music as a member of the multi-platinum singing group “Seduction.” She later sharpened her skill in front of the camera as an MTV VJ. Her film credits include *Man of the Year*, *Very Mean Men*, *The Expendables* and *BAPS*, starring Halle Berry. Deleon’s television credits include a recurring roles on HBO’s hit television drama “Six Feet Under” and on the FOX-TV sitcom “Living Single” starring Queen Latifah and Kim Fields. Other television credits include “The District,” and “The Wayan’s Brothers.” Deleon is also a weekend host on EXTRA: The Entertainment Magazine.

MICHAEL BOATMAN (Todd) is Michelle’s childhood sweetheart and a possible key to her recovery.

Boatman is best known for his roles as Carter Sebastian Heywood, Michael J. Fox’s gay cabinet member on “Spin City” and Stanley Babson on HBO’s award winning comedy “Arliiss.” Boatman also had a recurring role on the ABC-TV drama “China Beach.”

SEAN BLAKEMORE (Pervis) is Michelle’s former drug dealer and pimp who attempts to prevent Michelle from leaving the past behind her.

Blakemore received honors at the 2003 Hollywood Black Film Festival for his portrayal of an unfaithful boyfriend in the independent film *Big Ain’t Bad*. He recently completed filming for the dramatic thriller *Motive* starring Vivica Foxx and set for theaters in 2004.



RICKY HARRIS (Eli) plays the slick-talking sidekick of Pervis. Harris' film credits include *Bones* starring Snoop Dogg, *Simon Sez* with Dennis Rodman and the urban comedy *The Breaks* featuring Loretta Devine, hip hop artist E40 and George Clinton.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

MICHAEL SCHULTZ (Director): After undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University, Schultz attended Princeton; where in 1966 he directed his first play, *Waiting for Godot*. Schultz joined the Negro Ensemble Company in 1968, which brought him to Broadway in 1969. He received a Tony nomination for direction that same year for “Does a Tiger Wear a Necktie?” His breakthrough production was *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*, which he restaged for television in 1971. Schultz' earliest film projects included *Cooley High* and *Honeybaby*, *Honeybaby* combined low comedy with profound social comment. Schultz also brought to the big screen such memorable cinematic gems as *Car Wash*, *Which Way is Up* and *Busting Loose* both starring Richard Pryor.

REUBEN CANNON (Producer) has worked with some of the biggest names in Hollywood including Whoopi Goldberg, Bruce Willis, Spike Lee and Will Smith, both as a producer and casting agent. He has produced and cast more urban themed film and television projects than anyone in Hollywood history. And if these aren't large enough accomplishments, Daimler/Chrysler honored Cannon with the first “Behind the Lens Award” for his contributions in television and film at the 2002 NAACP Image Awards.

A seasoned industry buff with an eye for a great project, Cannon has found a way to successfully gain financial support for independent film projects that have resulted in its investors yielding 20 percent plus on their investment. Some of Cannon's credits as a producer include the recently completed feature *Love Don't Cost a Thing*, starring Nick Cannon and newcomer Christina Milian, the HBO movie *Dancing In September*, *Down in the Delta*, *The Women of Brewster Place* and *Get on the Bus* directed by Spike Lee.

Cannon received an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters from Morehouse College.



PAUL GARNES (Line Producer) has produced several features including *Biker Boyz* which starred Laurence Fishburne, *Get Up Stand Up Comedy* and the NBC-TV special “Roots: Celebrating 25 Years.” His production supervisor credits include *You Got Served* and the HBO movie *Dancing in September*. Garnes also served as unit production manager on *Playas Ball*.

TAMMY GARNES (Co-Producer) began her production career working with Reuben Cannon and Spike Lee on *Get on the Bus*. Since, she has served as producer on several film projects, including *Biker Boyz* which starred Laurence Fishburne, the NBC-TV big event “Roots: Celebrating 25 Years,” the HBO movie *Dance In September* and *Get Up Stand Up Comedy*.

STAN FOSTER (Writer) began his career as an award-winning actor. Along with dozens of feature film and television credits, he starred for three seasons as (Marvin Johnson) in the Emmy Award winning CBS-TV drama “Tour of Duty.” Through Columbia Pictures Television, Foster created and developed the sitcoms “Homeboys in Outer Space” and “Work of Art” which aired on UPN-TV, the Fox-TV comedy “The Clique” and “True Dat” for Comedy Central.

Foster recently completed *Tara*, a film he both wrote and produced, which stars Isaiah Washington, Ice T., Miguel A. Nunez and Guy Torry and *Hangman’s Curse* based on the novel by best selling author Frank E. Peretti.

WILLIAM GRIFFEN (Co-Producer) is recognized for his powerful business acumen and ability to launch successful entertainment companies/projects. Griffin began his career as an investment banker with Goldman, Sachs & Company. Over time he has developed an aptitude for helping CEO’s of media companies develop strategies to capitalize on the convergence of media. Griffin earned a juris doctorate degree from Harvard Law School and received his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College.

CHERYL MILLER (Co-Producer)....

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WOMAN, THOU ART LOOSED

"Woman, Thou Art Loosed" (WTAL) is a Sunday school curriculum that became a national conference, a best-selling book and a Grammy-nominated CD. In 1992, while he was senior pastor of the Temple of Faith Church in Charleston, WV, Bishop Jakes' presented to his adult class a lesson called, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" and word spread. By the hundreds, women began to come to hear a man identify their hurts and show God's way to hope and redemption.

Today, WTAL is still Bishop Jakes' most popular message; women by the thousands from all over the world continue to gather each year to hear this timeless and powerful message. Most recently, WTAL has been set to music in "Woman, Thou Art Loosed: Songs of Healing and Restoration." Recorded live by Integrity Music at the 1996 conference in New Orleans, the album received 1998 award nominations for a Dove and a Grammy.



*Bishop T.D. Jakes
Biography*

“He is a virtuoso, a prodigy. The only thing more exhilarating than the style of T.D. Jakes’ sermons is their rigor and compassion.”

--Time Magazine, September 2001

Pastor, community advocate, humanitarian, author, songwriter, playwright, conference speaker and broadcaster, Bishop Thomas D. Jakes, Sr. was born on June 9, 1957 in South Charleston, WV. His parents, businessman and entrepreneur Ernest Sr. and educator Odith were charitable benefactors in their community, and to whom their son credits for his own integrity, discipline and self-reliance. From a very young age, he was devoted to the gospel and in 1979, Bishop Jakes began fulfilling his call to the ministry by founding and serving as Pastor of Greater Emmanuel Temple of Faith, a small storefront church in Montgomery, WV, which originated with only 10 members.



Pastor

Now, 20 years later as a Pastor and some 25 years later serving in the ministry, he pastors what Christianity Today calls “one of America’s fastest growing mega-churches.” Named *The Potter’s House*, this multiracial, nondenominational church with 59 active internal and outreach ministries has dominated church growth records since 1996. In only five years since relocating the church from West Virginia to Dallas, TX, The Potter’s House grew from 50 families to more than 28,000 members to date.

In January, 1999, the New York Times named Bishop T.D. Jakes as “one of the top five evangelists most frequently cited by scholars, theologians, and evangelical leaders to step up the international pulpit behind the Rev. Billy Graham” while Time magazine featured Bishop Jakes on a September 2001 cover and named him “America’s Best Preacher.”

Often referred to as a “Shepherd to the Shattered,” Bishop Jakes has made great strides in Dallas to help turn around the lives of the homeless, drug addicts, prostitutes, single mothers, and others in life-threatening circumstances. In addition, The Potter’s House has created programs such as The Guardians, an outreach to the homeless; Rahab International, an outreach to prostitutes and women in abusive domestic situations; a GED literacy program; the Transformation Treatment Program for drug and alcohol abusers; an AIDS outreach; and a prison outreach. A devoted advocate of religious outreach to prison inmates, Bishop Jakes has been to several prisons to minister in person, most recently at a three-day summer crusade at San Quentin. He also created The Potter’s House Prison Satellite Network, which provides gospel programming to more than 375 prisons in 40 states, a viewership more than 350,000 inmates.



Evangelist

To reach the greater religious community, Bishop T.D. Jakes preaches the gospel on his national weekly television broadcast “The Potter’s House” on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), Black Entertainment Television (BET) and the Daystar Network. He broadcasts to international audiences weekly via the Inspiration Network, Christian Channel Europe and the God Channel. His other weekly program is “The Potter’s Touch,” a daily 30-minute talk show that focuses on many of the pressing topics and situations that affect the church and the Body of Christ. It is seen on both the Trinity Broadcasting Network and Black Entertainment Television.

Bishop Jakes is the CEO of The Potter’s House Ministries, a non-profit organization that produces three major national conferences – “The Pastor’s and Leadership Conference,” “ManPower,” and “Woman, Thou Art Loosed!”(WTAL). WTAL, a powerful and popular symposium for women that addresses the pain of women of all races and ages, has set national indoor attendance records with 84,500 attendees and an additional 20,000 in overflow at the Georgia Dome in 1999.

He is also the founder of the for-profit T.D. Jakes Enterprises, which employs his other aptitudes as author, songwriter and playwright. A renowned religious author with 27 books to his credit, Bishop Jakes has had 11 of them featured on various Christian, Secular and Business Best Seller Lists. His top five bestsellers are: “Maximize the Moment;” “Woman, Thou Art Loosed;” “The Lady, Her Lover and Her Lord;” “The Great Investment: Faith, Family and Finance;” and most recently, “God’s Leading Lady,” which has peaked at #4 on the New York Times Hardcover Advice List.

His theatre production company, Touchdown Concepts, created and produced the plays, “Woman, Thou Art Loosed!,” and “Behind Closed Doors” which both became the number one gospel play in the U.S. Furthermore, Jakes’ music label, Dexterity Sounds, in collaboration with EMI Gospel Music, was created for the purpose of developing music with a divine message. Their first effort resulted in “The Storm Is Over” debuting at number one on Billboard’s Gospel chart, and received a Grammy nomination and other numerous musical achievement awards.



In 1998, the “Woman, Thou Art Loosed!” cast album featuring T.D. Jakes on vocals, received a Dove award and a Grammy nomination. Furthermore, Billboard magazine named Bishop Jakes’ albums “Sacred Love Songs” and “Live from the Potter’s House” among the top Gospel albums of 1999.

Bishop T.D. Jakes is also a columnist on three nationally circulated magazines, “Gospel Today,” “Christianity Today” and “Ministries Today” as well as the largest faith based Internet site in the world, www.beliefnet.com. Bishop Jakes heads two of most widely accessed ministry Internet sites in the world today, www.thepotterstouch.org and www.thepottershouse.org.

He has been a frequent guest on several national news programs as a source of spiritual advice and inspiration. Presidents and statesmen have frequently asked for his wisdom and counsel. Most recently, Bishop Jakes was asked by President Bush to meet with 35 other religious leaders to discuss the September 11 tragedy and how to recuperate from it.

Bishop Jakes lives in Dallas with his wife Serita and their five children.