



EDWINA FINDLEY

BIOGRAPHY

Edwina Findley is an award-winning film, television, and theatre actress, celebrated by critics as “a marvel to watch.” Known to global audiences as the hilarious ‘Sheila’ in Shonda Rhimes’ hit Netflix series “The Residence,” Edwina first captured hearts as ‘Tosha’ on HBO’s groundbreaking series “The Wire,” and garnered critical attention for her role as Rosie in Ava DuVernay’s Sundance award-winning feature “Middle of Nowhere.” She then earned an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Supporting Female for her “skin-prickling performance” in “Free In Deed.” A vibrant and versatile actress, Edwina starred opposite Toni Collette in Amazon’s global thriller “The Power,” with Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart’s in Warner Bros’ hit comedy “Get Hard,” “Fear The Walking Dead,” Tyler Perry’s “If Loving You is Wrong,” HBO’s “Veep,” “Rogue Agent,” “Black Lightning,” “Chicago Med,” HBO’s “Treme,” and “Shots Fired” from “Woman King” director Gina Prince-Bythewood.

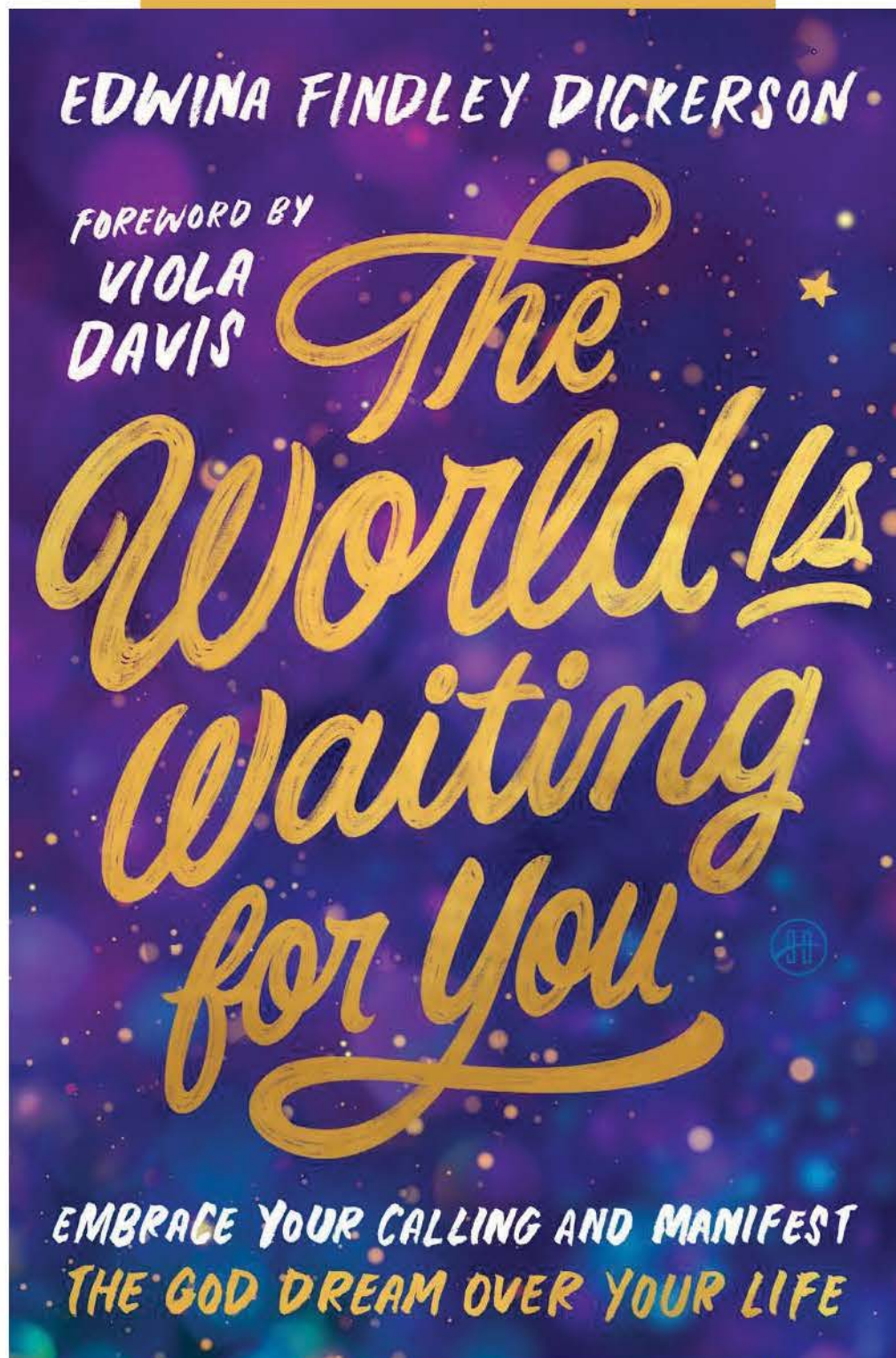
Edwina is a native of Washington, DC, where she attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts then studied drama at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. Theatrically, Edwina has performed around the world and at some of the nation’s finest theaters, including The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Juilliard, Atlantic Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, Baltimore Centerstage, and Cleveland Playhouse. Edwina received a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Lead Actress for the historical drama Gee’s Bend, and an NAACP Theatre Award nomination for Eclipsed, set during the Liberian war.

Proclaimed in the New York Times as a “life force,” Edwina is a global speaker, mentor, and CEO of Abundant Life University. This fall, she will release her debut book entitled “The World Is Waiting For You” (HarperOne), a faith-full and laugh out loud guide to manifesting your “God Dream” and creating the life you’ve always wanted. With a foreword by Academy Award winning actress Viola Davis, the book shares Edwina’s hard-won wisdom regarding manifesting your highest vision, discovering and surrendering to God’s plan, strategically preparing for the life you are praying for, and bravely unleashing your gifts and talents to change the world.

Watch Edwina's performances and more at www.edwinafindley.com



BOOK



From award-winning actress Edwina Findley Dickerson, a faith-full and laugh-out-loud guide to manifesting your "God Dream" and creating the life you've always wanted.

Is it possible that everyone on earth was born with a special superpower, talent, and gifting to change the world? Is there a divine calling and awe-inspiring "God Dream" over their lives that's higher than their wildest imagination? If so, what is the secret to discovering this grand vision, and supernaturally manifesting it here on earth?

The World Is Waiting for You, written by award-winning actress Edwina Findley Dickerson, takes readers on a humorous and faith-filled ride, sharing incredible supernatural stories of how God radically manifested His divine dream for Edwina's life, and how you, too, can manifest the fullest expression of your purpose and calling.

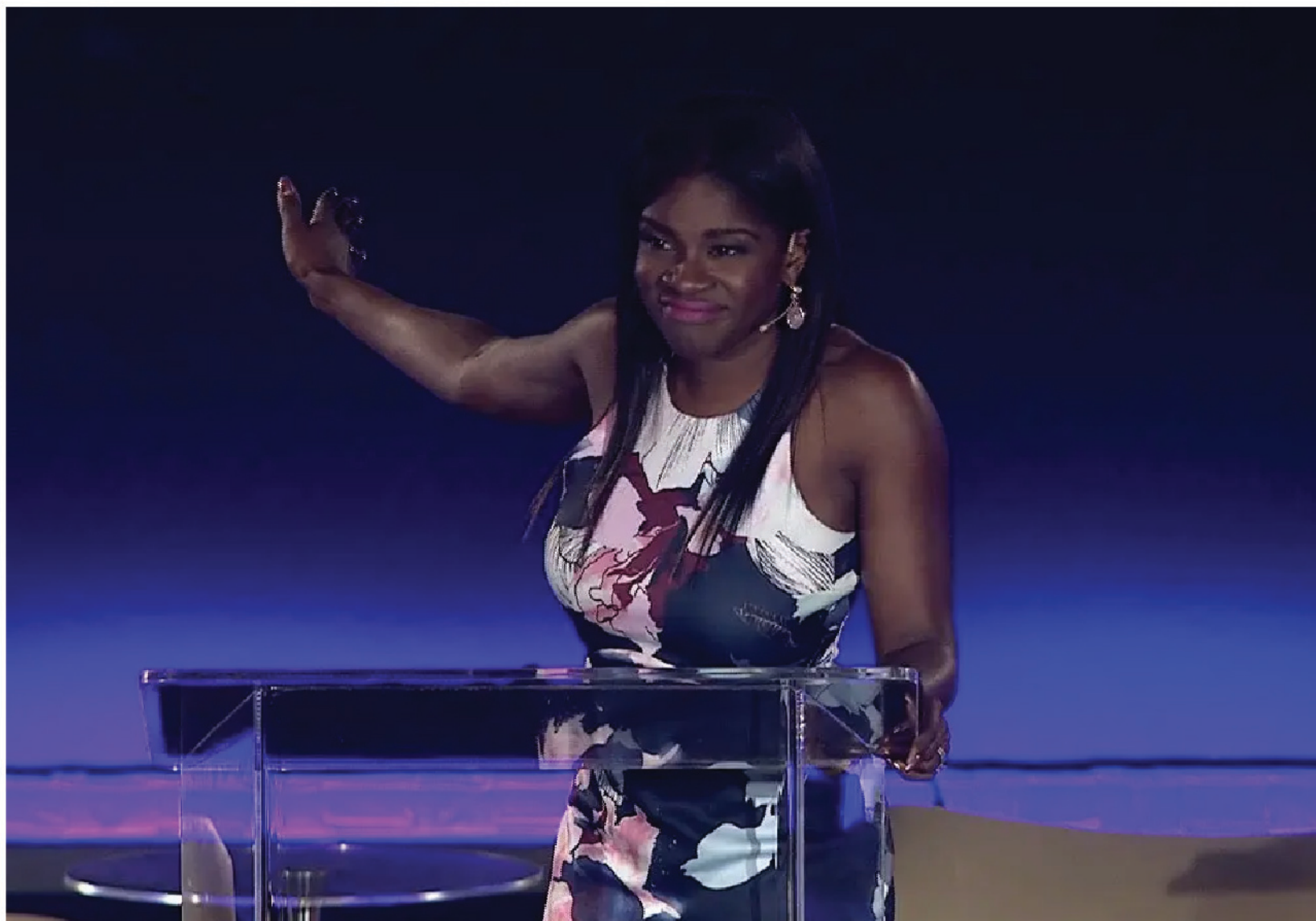
From living in poverty in her twenties to becoming a millionaire in her thirties, Edwina shares hard-won wisdom regarding unleashing your highest vision, discovering and surrendering to God's plan, strategically preparing for the life you are praying for, developing a passion for service, and making bold faith-moves in the manifestation of your "God Dream."

Through spiritual insights, practical strategies, and revelations from other celebrities and faith leaders, The World Is Waiting for You, guides readers along the incredible path of discovering and fulfilling their divine purpose, and overcoming the road blocks that often stand in the way. With a special focus on using your gifts to positively impact others, this refreshing book helps readers tap into the supernatural "God Dream" that is assigned to their lives, and unleash the faith, tenacity and confidence to make that divine vision their daily reality.

PURCHASE THE BOOK:

<https://www.theworldiswaiting.org>

SPEAKING



In addition to being an acclaimed actress, Edwina Findley Dickerson is a sought-after speaker, teacher, author, and the Co-founder of The School for Life, AbundantLifeU. With powerful stories and undeniable stage presence, Edwina Findley travels the world empowering audiences to pursue their "God Dream" with boldness, strategy, and spiritual clarity.

With warmth, humor, inspiration, and authenticity, Edwina has presented workshops, masterclasses, and keynote addresses for thousands of creatives, entrepreneurs, women, and leaders around the world. Edwina's speaking topics include women's empowerment, acting and entertainment, vision and manifestation, faith and spirituality, entrepreneurship.

Edwina's work has been featured in Oprah, New York Times, People, Time Magazine, Hollywood Reporter, Variety, Essence, and more. Whether she's igniting purpose, sharing her Hollywood journey, or unpacking lessons from her debut book *The World Is Waiting For You* (HarperOne, foreword by Viola Davis), Edwina brings truth, humor, and transformation to every stage. Called 'a love letter to dreamers,' Edwina's book serves as a roadmap for destiny.

Through compelling stories and actionable insights, Edwina's message lands with heart, humor, and real-world impact. If your audience is ready to be inspired —Edwina is the voice they've been waiting for.

WATCH EDWINA'S SPEAKING REEL

<https://edwinafindley.com/book-edwina-findley-to-speak/>

ANNOUNCEMENT



***The Residence* Actress Edwina Findley Shares Wisdom from Oprah Winfrey and Viola Davis in New Book — See the Cover! (Exclusive)**

[Edwina Findley](#) is so passionate about helping others live their best life, she wrote a whole book about it!

The actress — who is currently starring in Netflix's hit series [The Residence](#) — is releasing her first book, [The World Is Waiting for You](#), from Harper Collins on Sept. 9. With a foreword written by Academy Award winner [Viola Davis](#), the book is described as "a faith-full and laugh out-loud guide to manifesting your 'God Dream' and creating the life you've always wanted."

Within the book's pages, Findley, 44, shares the "spiritual and practical" wisdom she has learned from her time in Hollywood, as well as from her role as co-founder of the nonprofit organization AbundantLifeU with her husband [Kelvin Dickerson](#).

"*The World Is Waiting for You* is my love letter to dreamers," Findley tells PEOPLE in a statement. "It's a clarion call for anyone who feels a stirring in your spirit, a calling in your soul, a deep tug in your heart telling you there's more vision to manifest, more dreams to fulfill and more ways to show up in the world than you ever have before."

The *Veep* actress calls her book "a full-circle manifestation moment for me" and a tangible representation of her "saying yes to my own calling."

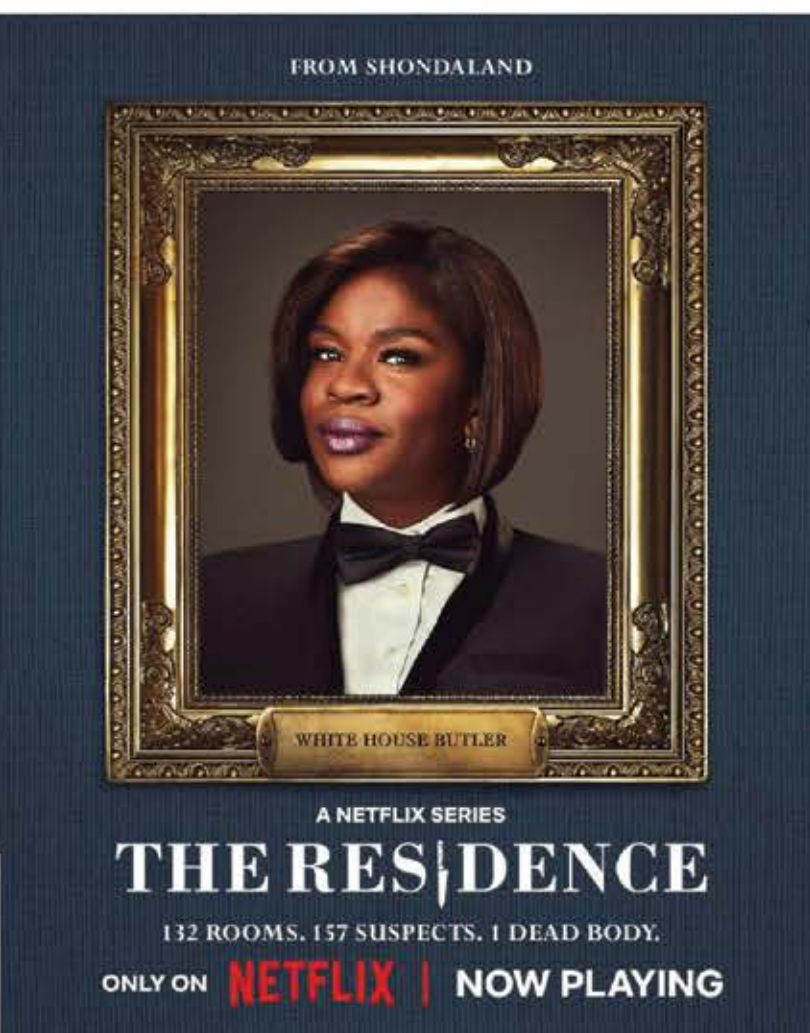
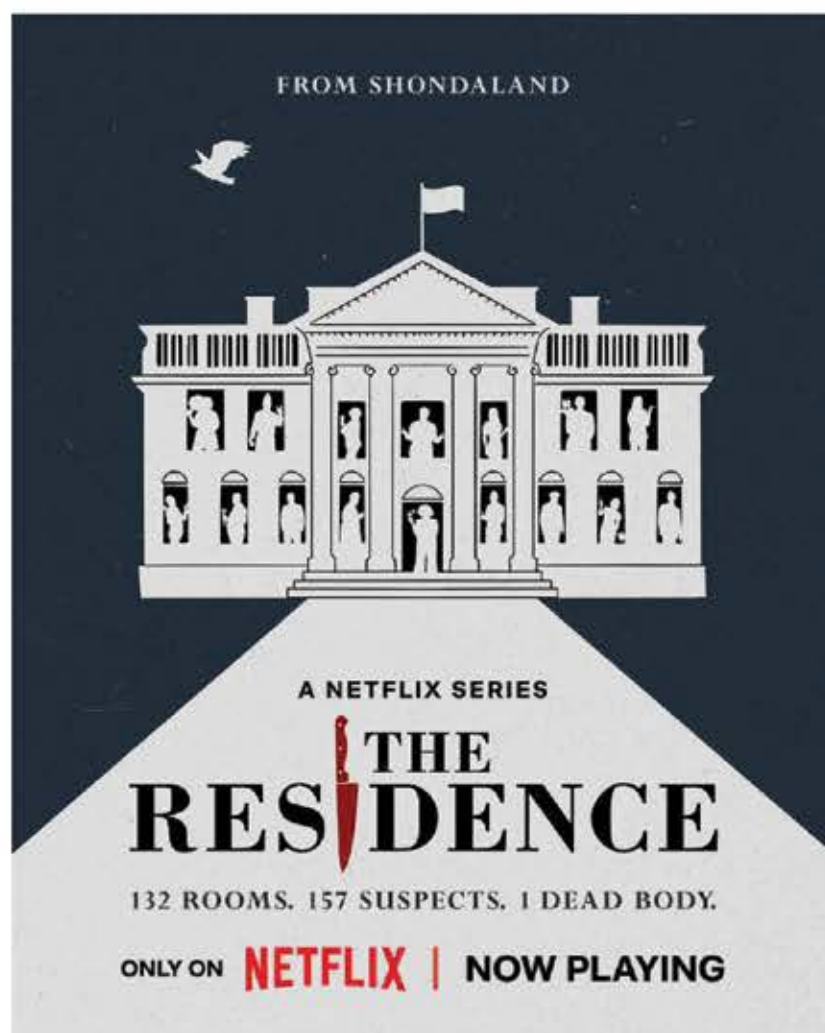
She continues, "For years, my Abundant Life team and I have led empowerment workshops around the nation, and I discovered something profound: whether I was motivating a ballroom full of millionaires or a recreation center filled with foster youth, everyone shared the same intrinsic need to feel seen, to feel loved and to feel guided by a deeper sense of purpose and direction."

"When readers turn the pages of this book, my desire is for them to receive a profound revelation of their infinite worth and value, and to be inspired and encouraged to step into their power, shine their light, and soar into the infinite possibilities awaiting them," Findley shares.

The author promises her book "is filled with miraculous stories, strategic roadmaps and spiritual and practical wisdom I've received from such global icons as Viola Davis, [Oprah Winfrey](#) and [Tyler Perry](#) — generous souls who have poured into me what I now hope to pour into the lives and hearts of others."



PROJECTS



WATCH EDWINA'S PERFORMANCE:

<https://edwinafindley.com/fyc/>

CASTING NEWS

DEADLINE



'THE RESIDENCE': ANDRE BRAUGHER, SUSAN KELECHI WATSON & EDWINA FINDLEY AMONG 11 CAST IN NETFLIX'S SHONDALAND SERIES

Shondaland and Netflix have assembled a formidable ensemble cast for murder-mystery drama *The Residence*. Joining previously announced lead Uzo Aduba are Emmy winner **Andre Braugher** (*She Said*), *This Is Us* star **Susan Kelechi Watson** in her first role since the end of the acclaimed NBC series, **Ken Marino**, who currently reprising his role in Starz's *Party Down* revival, **Jason Lee** (*My Name Is Earl*), **Bronson Pinchot** (*Our Flag Means Death*), **Isiah Whitlock Jr.** (*Your Honor*), **Edwina Findley** (*The Power*), **Molly Griggs** (*Dr. Death*), **Al Mitchell** (*Stranger Things*), **Dan Perrault** (*Strays*) and **Mary Wiseman** (*Star Trek: Discovery*).

Using Kate Andersen Brower's book *The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House* as a jumping off point, the eight-episode series, from writer Paul William Davies, is described as "a screwball whodunnit set in the upstairs, downstairs, and back stairs of the White House, among the eclectic staff of the world's most famous mansion." Its premise: 132 rooms. 157 suspects. One dead body. One wildly eccentric detective (Aduba). One disastrous State Dinner.

Watson portrays Jasmine Haney, a young and rising White House Assistant Usher.

Lee is Tripp Morgan, President Perry Morgan's younger brother and a bit of a screw-up.

Marino plays Harry Hollinger, President Perry Morgan's oldest friend, closest advisor, and most trusted confidante.

Findley portrays Sheila Cannon, White House Butler.

Griggs plays Lilly Schumacher, President Morgan's Social Secretary.

Mitchell portrays Rollie Bridgewater, Head Butler/Maitre d'.

Perrault plays Colin Trask, Head of the Presidential Detail for the Secret Service.

Pinchot is Didier Gotthard, White House Executive Pastry Chef.

Whitlock Jr. portrays Larry Dokes, Chief of Police, Metropolitan Police Department.

Wiseman is Marvella, White House Executive Chef.

Liza Johnson (*The Last of Us*, *The Diplomat*) directs the first four episodes of the series. Davies, who serves as showrunner, executive produces with Shondaland's Shonda Rhimes and Betsy Beers.

Braugher is repped by WME, Viewpoint and attorney Keith Klevan; Watson by UTA, Authentic Talent & Literary Management and Jackoway Austen Tyerman; Marino by UTA, Artists First and Jackoway Austen Tyerman; Wiseman by Gersh and Lighthouse Management & Media; Lee by Hansen Jacobson Teller; Pinchot by Artists & Representatives and Bohemia Group; Whitlock by Innovative Artists, Liebman Entertainment and Schreck Rose Dapello; Findley by More/Medavoy Management; Griggs by Paradigm and Perennial Entertainment; Mitchell with the Jana VanDyke Agency and CSP Management; Perrault with UTA, Brillstein Entertainment Partners and Jackoway Austen Tyerman.

THE BUZZ: THE RESIDENCE



"A hilarious, eclectic and often bizarre murder mystery."

"The comedic tone and standouts like White House Butler Sheila Cannon (Edwina Findley) are a constant reminder that this show is in no way taking itself seriously."



"... a chatty butler (Edwina Findley, very funny)."



"Edwina Findley steals scene after scene as Sheila Cannon, a festive, boundary-stomping White House butler."



"The Residence is fun, frothy and full of intrigue."



"Netflix's The Residence contains praiseworthy performances, a smart and tight script, and a comedic tone that will entertain all audiences."

"Edwina Findley's Sheila Cannon (the alcoholic butler) steals the show with her physical comedy and amusing personality."



"The Residence is a gorgeous, gleeful romp that allows all of the many players in the cast to shine."



"The Residence's hefty ensemble cast makes the show's world feel that much more defined and lived-in."

"Between the more tender moments and some absolutely excellent line deliveries from Edwina Findley and more, The Residence fully asserts itself as a welcome and bold addition to the murder mystery canon on streaming."



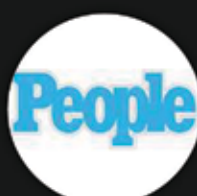
"The Residence is actually pretty fun."



"A unique central character and golden ensemble cast."



"The new mystery series set at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is a charming, quirky whodunit that wears its old-school influences on its sleeve."



"The Residence is fun, breathless and entertaining."

"The show is all but stolen by Edwina Findley as White House butler Sheila Cannon, who doesn't mind helping herself to entire bottles of vodka. Her boozy, blustering sarcasm should be entered into evidence as a blunt instrument."



"The show is a good old-fashioned whodunit with lots of suspects and a quirky detective."

"Sleeper Star: Edwina Findley as a butler"



"Edwina Findley brings sassy energy as Sheila Cannon, a bombastic butler whose personality clashes with almost everybody."



"Edwina Findley's tuxedoed, Jackman and vodka-fixated butler Sheila is by far the funniest suspect."



"The talent on screen is undeniable."

"Sheila Cannon (Edwina Findley), a lively butler sure to become a fan favorite character, is one of the funniest of the bunch."



The Washington Post



Arts & Entertainments

How did Edwina Findley get that delicious 'Residence' role? Strap in for a journey.

In the White House whodunit, her character Sheila has a wild story to tell. So does she.

"You want to know what happened?" Sheila asks the detective (played by a delightful Uzo Aduba) investigating the "suicide" of her boss. "I'll tell you what happened. Here's what happened," she adds again before launching into the most round-robin explanation ever in episode 4, "The Last of Sheila." As one of a dozen suspects in the suspicious death of the White House chief usher, Sheila is comic relief with a conscience.

She is also one of Findley's most personal — and hilarious — characters to date.

This is where the 44-year-old Findley — a veteran actress whose face you'll recognize from "Treme," "Veep" and "If Loving You Is Wrong" — and her latest role collide. In Findley's hands, Sheila is both riotous and rich. "She wants to manifest her dreams, and I understand that," says Findley, who knows a lot about manifestation. She's been doing it since she was a 16-year-old student at Washington's Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Also like Sheila, Findley can tell a story from 15 different angles. But all of her versions will be the truth.

"So here's what happened ..." When Findley utters those four words, strap in. The tale that follows will require keeping track of clues, connecting the dots and trusting the divine. It will be eye-narrowing and low-key unbelievable. But the pay off? *Whew.* (We'll get there.)

"I know it's a long way to answer your question," says Findley over lobster pasta at Georgetown's Cafe Milano after a head-shaking, nearly 30-minute story about when Hollywood finally clicked for her. After many stops and starts — Ellington, the Shakespeare Theatre Company, "The Wire," the Old Testament, a souvenir shop, Viola Davis — we still haven't gotten to that big Aha! "OK OK, see now you're taking me to all these other stories." Classic Sheila.

It's a monologue that would be right at home in "The Residence," which weaves together the complicated threads of a mysterious death at the White House over the course of eight meaty episodes. On the show, assistant usher Jasmine Haney (played by Susan Kelechi Watson) explains the necessity of twists and turns: "If you want to understand this, you have to go back ..."

shondaland



‘The Residence’ Scene-Stealer Edwina Findley on Her Perfect D.C. Accent, Her Character’s Deeper Meaning, and Her Family Ties to the White House

Like most people growing up in Washington, D.C., Edwina Findley saw the White House a lot. She had a special kind of reverence for the presidential palace, however, in part because of her connection to it.

“My grandmother worked at the White House,” says Findley, whose grandmother worked in an executive wing for 12 years in a hospitality role that had her sending cards and correspondence to select individuals. “She would bring home all these different White House ornaments and decorations and coins, then during Christmas time, we’d always receive Christmas cards from the White House. My mother’s house in northeast D.C. was filled with pictures of her and my grandfather with different presidents. So, growing up, there was so much pride.”

Findley’s connection to D.C. is quickly evident to anyone who watches Shondaland’s new hit Netflix series *The Residence* and has a savvy enough ear to recognize her pitch-perfect D.C. accent. As with all regional twangs and lilts, the “DMV” (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) accent is so highly specific that people without ties to the area might not be able to pinpoint it. But when Findley really gets going as Sheila Cannon — the hilarious White House butler who is typically full of vodka on the job — as she does in Sheila’s breakout episode, “The Last of Sheila,” the trained ear knows right away: This is a D.C. chick through and through.

“I didn’t do my own voice,” she tells Shondaland with a chuckle. “But it’s interesting because when I left D.C. and moved to New York for drama school at NYU, my voice and speech teacher kept saying, ‘You sound like you’re from down South, you know?’ And I’m like, ‘What are you talking about? I’m from four hours away!’ I didn’t know growing up in Washington that there was an accent! And I think because there’s gradations of the accent, you don’t always know that you fit somewhere on this continuum. But [her accent] was very intentional for me.”

Sheila is no doubt poised to become an instant fan fave in *The Residence*, as she is, on the surface anyway, perhaps the least polished professional of the White House staff. She drinks on the job, she smokes, she curses, she gossips about higher-ups, and she even has the audacity to chitchat with dignitaries and celebs when she should be quiet while working. Sheila is, in a way, a character familiar to a lot of us, and for some, a person looked at with disdain. She’s competent, sure, but is “doing too much” or is a bit too sassy, a bit too — let’s just say it — Black. But thanks to the thoughtful, nuanced writing from Paul William Davies and the brilliant performance from Findley, Sheila transcends stereotypes to become a layered, whole person who conveys so much more than we see. And while Findley is from D.C. and certainly knows a Sheila or two, she didn’t rely on personal experience to inform her role but instead dove deep into Sheila’s psyche as part of her intense preparation in order to make a statement about this person’s humanity.

“Sheila is a very gregarious and outgoing and fun-loving character,” Findley says, “but it was important for me to find her vulnerability and really tap into that too. What is underneath her? What is motivating her, what’s driving her? When she’s behind closed doors, not around anyone, when she’s by herself, who is she?”



The High Prophecy Of Edwina Findley Dickerson

Edwina Findley Dickerson doesn't seem like the type to raise her voice often—but when she speaks, you lean in. Maybe it's the quiet conviction she carries or the lyrical cadence honed from years onscreen. So that's why, instead of allowing me to launch straight into my interview questions, she prophesied over me first.

"There's such a presence on you," she begins. "Obviously, we've never met each other before, but I'm actually feeling a little emotional because I feel like you have such a calling on your life. Yeah. You are special, and you are called, and God has made your plans for you."

So, yes—that's the kind of person she is.

No wonder that after more than two decades of playing the soulful sister, the long-suffering wife, the complicated best friend, Findley Dickerson has never not worked. Now, she is a breakout star—and the moment feels nothing short of divine.

In Netflix's *The Residence*, Shondaland's latest murder-mystery drama, Findley Dickerson plays Sheila Cannon, the White House butler with secrets layered deeper than the building's foundation. It's a meaty, career-shifting role that has already set the internet ablaze. But for the actress, it's just the fruit of years of consistent, often unsung labor.

"This role didn't just fall into my lap," Findley Dickerson told BET. "I came with 100 pages of character research, breakdowns, timelines—I even attended open AA meetings to better understand Sheila's emotional reality. I wanted to embody her fully."

Although the role didn't fall into her lap, it did magically appear on her desk. It all started when she created a social media post for April Fool's Day in 2022 with an image of her superimposed on a poster of Bridgerton.

She didn't realize it at that time, but she was manifesting her next big step.

"A few months later, *The Residence* script came across my desk, specifically for the role Sheila. And I'm like, 'wait a minute, who wrote this? What is this? I must play her.'"

It was like kismet, because Findley Dickerson had been working on a series called *Chocolate City* that centered Washington DC's Black voices. Sheila, one of the most multidimensional depicted on *The Residence*, was written to be an inner-city Washington DC-native that dreamt of a bigger life—one that she eventually manifested. For Findley Dickerson, art truly imitated life.

Destiny, Delayed But Never Denied

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Findley Dickerson knew early on that storytelling was her ministry. After studying musical theater at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and graduating from NYU's Tisch School, she roomed with none other than Viola Davis—proof that the path was ordained from the start.

Her breakout role as Tosha Mitchell in *The Wire* introduced audiences to her raw talent, but even then, Hollywood didn't quite know what to do with someone like Edwina. Too soulful for sitcoms. Too nuanced for typecasting.

"I always felt like I was being seen, but not fully recognized," she says. "But I knew my purpose wasn't about fame. It was about impact."

Roles in *Treme*, *If Loving You Is Wrong*, and Aya DuVernay's *Middle of Nowhere* followed, each one showcasing her emotional range and quiet intensity. But it wasn't until *The Residence* that the machine finally caught up to her magic.

Since the show's premiere, viewers have gravitated toward the character, citing Sheila's funny quips for TikTok memes and driving movie reviews, heralding her as the comedic relief in the whodunnit.

EDWINA FINDLEY ON FAITH, TALENT & THE POWER TO MANIFEST

Some people walk into a room and command attention—not with ego, but with energy. Edwina Findley is one of them. She makes you believe in faith, in possibility, in the power of perseverance. Whether holding her own alongside Uzo Aduba in Netflix's *The Residence*, delivering a gut-wrenching performance in an indie drama, or pouring her wisdom into her debut book, *The World Is Waiting for You*, Edwina's presence is undeniable.

Her journey proves that talent, grit, and faith can take you anywhere. She first caught our attention as 'Tosha Mitchell' in *The Wire*, brought quiet strength to Ava DuVernay's *Middle of Nowhere*, and then showed us she could make us laugh as quickly as she could move us in *Veep* and *Get Hard*. Now, she's set to captivate audiences again as Sheila Cannon, the quick-witted, no-nonsense White House butler at the heart of Netflix's upcoming murder mystery *The Residence*, executive-produced by Shonda Rhimes. But for Edwina, acting is just one piece of the puzzle.

This fall, she steps into a new role: author. With a foreword by Viola Davis, *The World Is Waiting for You* is more than just a book—it's a declaration, a call to action for anyone who has ever felt their dreams were just out of reach. It's about faith, manifestation, and trusting that the vision placed inside you isn't just possible—it's inevitable if you're willing to do the work.

As she juggles Hollywood, authorship, motherhood, and her passion for uplifting others through her nonprofit, Ebby Magazine sat down with Edwina to talk about divine timing, career longevity, and creating a life of purpose.

The Residence is already generating significant buzz. What drew you to the role of Sheila Cannon, and how did you make her your own?

I was head over heels in love with Miss Sheila Cannon as soon as I read the audition sides. I immediately heard her voice and caught a vision of her cadence, language, and rhythm. I was so fascinated by how she was weaving these fantastical stories and tales together. And with me being born in Washington, D.C., she was so magnetic. I felt like I knew her and could place the exact quadrant of D.C. that she was from. I started envisioning a whole backstory for her. I started hearing an accent and a vocal placement and seeing mannerisms for her. The way that she jumped out at me from the page was very exciting to me as an artist and really got my juices flowing as far as how to make her a three-dimensional human being that people would love.

As far as making her my own, I went through a pretty extensive process. Digging deeper into her story, there were certain clues that I got from the material. Sheila has a really beautiful monologue about her working her way up from the Waffle House to the White House and how it was always her dream to work in the White House. And as an actress, those words gave me a way into her heart and vulnerability, which was an essential piece in crafting the reality of who she is, flaws and all. I literally created more than a hundred pages around Sheila Cannon, starting with researching her name. What does her name mean? It means "blind one" but also "heavenly light." And so it was interesting to me, her being this bright kind of incandescent light while also experiencing elements of blindness as well, and her precarious relationship with the truth! It was great exploring that dichotomy. I started going to AA meetings, as Sheila is a very highly functioning alcoholic. Sheila does a lot of things while being drunk. So, as someone who doesn't drink, tapping into how Sheila moves through the world was really important to me. And to really tap into what motivates Sheila, what drives her, and what her dream is. And that's where I found a real common ground with Sheila and myself. I feel like we have very similar dreams. I think that we just move through the world in a different way and approach it by different means.





The Dish On The Residence Star Edwina Findley

You've played everyone from a White House butler to Kevin Hart's wife. What's one role you still want to play?

A biopic. I am infatuated with historical research and stories about real people, and I try to approach all of my roles with that level of honesty.

The Residence is set in the White House—if you could have dinner with any real-life First Lady, past or present, who would it be?

That First Lady would be none other than the Queen, Michelle Obama.

The last show you binged?

Only *Murders in the Building* and loved it.

Your favorite hangout when you return home?

No DC trip is complete without a trip to Busboys and Poets (@busboysandpoets).

Your guilty pleasure movie?

Set It Off is a film that I could watch every year into eternity.

Your debut book, *The World Is Waiting For You* (HarperOne) comes out this fall. Describe it in four words.

Aspiration, star power and manifestation.

What's your secret to balancing it all?

In my book, I share how to create a time map, where you identify your top roles and goals in life and [make] different percentages of time to assign to these areas. So, imagine your life as a complete 100%—you must decide how to distribute your time across the various roles, functions and goals that matter to you.

Viola Davis wrote your book's foreword. If you had to sum up what she means to you in three words, what would they be?

Nurturing, love and power.



Edwina Findley's 'The Residence' Preparation Included 100 Pages of Research, AA Meetings and More (Exclusive)

Edwina Findley didn't cut corners when it came to her role on *The Residence*.

During an exclusive interview with *Us Weekly*, Findley, 44, explained how [she went track of the show's](#) flashback scenes, alternative moments and different timelines for her character, Sheila.

"That was extremely complicated to do. That took an incredible amount of technique for me. Literally, I created over 100 pages of research of preparation specifically for Sheila," Findley recalled. "Then there was probably another 20 pages or maybe 30 of just untangling the timelines and what happens when and in what version."

Having "[multiple versions of the story](#)" meant Findley had to be one top of each one.

"It's untangling what part of this is the truth and what part of this is a lie. Then what are the alternate endings of these various stories? So that definitely was a marathon for me as an actor to put it all together," she shared. "I started going to AA meetings. I started reading the whole big book of AA. I started watching documentaries — and it was very important to me to get it right."

Findley specifically pointed out the way Sheila's alcohol consumption played out on screen, adding, "If she had one sip at 9 p.m. and then a whole bottle at 3 a.m. then what's happening in her body? What's happening in her mind? What is she seeing? What is she hearing? How is it affecting her relationship with the truth? That's already a tenuous relationship to begin with."

Inspired by *The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House* by Kate Andersen Brower, the [eight-part Netflix series](#) premiered in March and followed renowned detective Cordelia Cupp (Uzo Aduba) as she was tasked with finding out who was responsible for the Chief Usher A.B. Wynter's (Giancarlo Esposito) death at the White House.

Findley's character, Sheila, [was one of the suspects](#) but was ultimately exonerated. The major evidence that stacked up against Sheila was her dependency on alcohol.

"That was extremely important for me because as an actor [to portray properly], it's really your job to take your character's side. It's your job to represent your character with authenticity and truth and compassion," the actress told *Us*. "It was extremely important to create a multidimensional and authentic human being. And a part of that was leaning into creating a backstory around that. So I loved that the show created these beautiful vulnerable monologues for her. You see the big Sheila and you see her being the star of her own story."

Findley continued: "And in the privacy of her own mind, she thinks she is the heir apparent to the First lady. But she's struggling because there are protocols and there's a way that you're supposed to do things in the White House. Obviously she butts up against all of that because a part of her spirit is trying to be free."

While [reflecting on the role](#), Findley called the opportunity a "full circle manifestation moment" after her own connection to the White House.

Edwina Findley: Sheen Magazine Exclusive Interview



Edwina Findley Dickerson is an award-winning film, television, and theatre actress praised by critics as "a marvel to watch." She made her prime-time debut as 'Tosha Mitchell' on HBO's hit TV series *The Wire*, followed by roles in such popular shows as *Fear The Walking Dead*, *Veep*, *Black Lightning*, *If Loving You Is Wrong*, *Chicago Med*, HBO's *Treme*, and *Shots Fired*, from *The Woman King* directors Gina Prince Bythewood and Reggie Bythewood.

Edwina can now be seen opposite Oscar-nominee Toni Collette in Amazon's global thriller, *The Power*, and is currently filming Shonda Rhimes' highly-anticipated Netflix series *The Residence*, set in the White House. We were able to dive deeper into her faith, how she juggles life, and the most fulfilling role she has ever played.

How has *The Residence* been?

"Yes, it has been a dream! My grandmother worked in the White House, and I have always been passionate about telling stories that reflect the actual culture of Washington that exists outside the 2-mile radius of the White House and the monuments. There are real people who live and work in D.C., and I was one of them. I was developing my own show called 'Chocolate City' that is based in D.C., and suddenly I got the script for *The Residence*, and what really drew me to it was it was not reflecting the politicians but those who served in the house. It showed the lives of the maids, the butlers, the housekeepers, the cooks; people who were living real lives. I felt like I knew Sheila, I heard her voice, her accent, her delivery, and I suddenly had a vision, and I felt it was valuable to embody her and bring her to the forefront."

Tell us about your book. Where was the inspiration with that?

"It's interesting. Growing up in Washington D.C., there are so many different people who come from different backgrounds and walks of life who may or may not understand that they have a real calling on their lives. They have something that the world needs and deserves. Sometimes we don't have the confidence to step out on faith and know that there is a world out there waiting on our gifts and talent. This book is really my love letter to dreamers, a call for anyone who feels in their spirit that there is more life to manifest and more gifts to give. Anyone ready to go to the next level, both practically and spiritually, to manifest the God dream that's already been made for them, this book is that journey. This book will hold your hand and go step by step with you and share with you a lot of behind-the-scenes wisdom from heavy hitters in the industry, such as Tyler Perry, Oprah Winfrey, and Viola Davis."

What does faith look like to you?

"A lot of us are familiar with the scripture '*Faith is the substance of the things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.*' To me, that means faith is the rock. Some people say, *I'll believe it when I see it*, but I say *I see it, therefore, I believe it*. I know that it is possible because I see it in my spirit first. Sometimes I have stepped into places and said to myself, why does this place seem so familiar to me? On 9/9/11, I stepped into the OWN Network, I walked into the lobby, and suddenly had this spiritual experience, so I asked someone to take my picture in front of the OWN sign. She took the picture, I posted it to Facebook with the scripture Joshua 1:3, which was an act of faith. Three years later I find myself in that exact network, in that exact spot where I took that picture but this time I had a makeup artist a hair stylist and a wardrobe stylist with a mic in my hand and it all has to do with press for our new show *If Loving You Is Wrong*."

PRESS: ON CAMERA



**EDWINA FINDLEY
TALKS NEW BOOK AND
HOW SHE PREPARED
FOR HER ROLE IN 'THE
RESIDENCE'**

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RESIDENCE' TALKS
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RESIDENCE, REVEALS
DC UPBRINGING AS KEY
TO HER NETFLIX ROLE**

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ON NEW SHOW
"THE RESIDENCE",
SHONDALAND, TYLER
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RESIDENCE**

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THE RESIDENCE**

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FINDLEY IS
ELECTRIFYING IN
SCI-FI SERIES 'THE
POWER'**

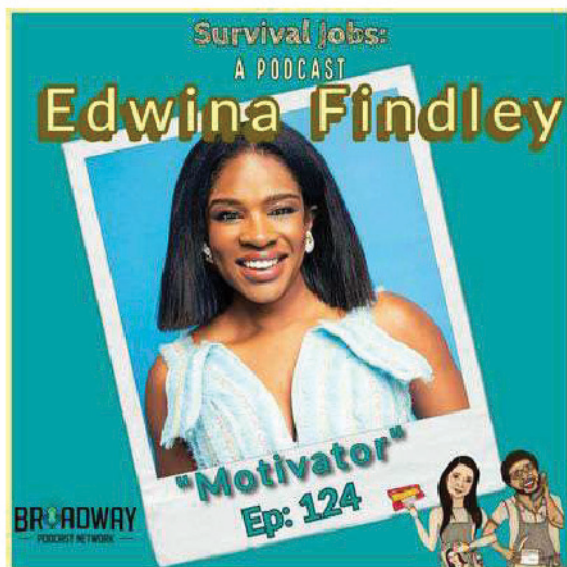
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MANIFESTS HER
DREAMS AND
EMPOWERS YOUNG
ADULTS**

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PODCASTS



Survival Jobs: A Podcast Episode 124 | Edwina Findley: "Motivator"

Your favorite podcast hosts Jason A. Coombs and Samantha Tuozzolo, are back with another can't miss episode of "Survival Jobs", featuring Edwina Findley, the exceptionally talented, hilarious, actress who has been in our favorite films and television shows including *The Wire*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Fear the Walking Dead*, *The Power*, *Get Hard*, *If Loving You Is Wrong*, *Insidious 2* and so many more, over the last 20+ years! Edwina can currently be seen lighting up the screen as Sheila in Netflix's new hit series *The Residence*, starring Uzo Aduba and produced by none other than Shondaland.

In this heartfelt and empowering conversation, Edwina opens up about how she manifested this dream role on April Fool's Day 2022—yes, really! She shares what it's like to act opposite Uzo Aduba, one of her longtime friends from the vibrant New York City theater scene, and why *The Residence* should be on everyone's must-watch list.

The episode is packed with gems, including a fun game of Shondaland Trivia and a moment fans have been waiting for—Edwina finally clears up that lingering Wikipedia rumor about her being roommates with the legendary Viola Davis. She also gives listeners a sneak peek into her upcoming, highly anticipated book, *The World Is Waiting For You*, a guide to living boldly and manifesting your wildest dreams which is available for pre-order now wherever books are sold.

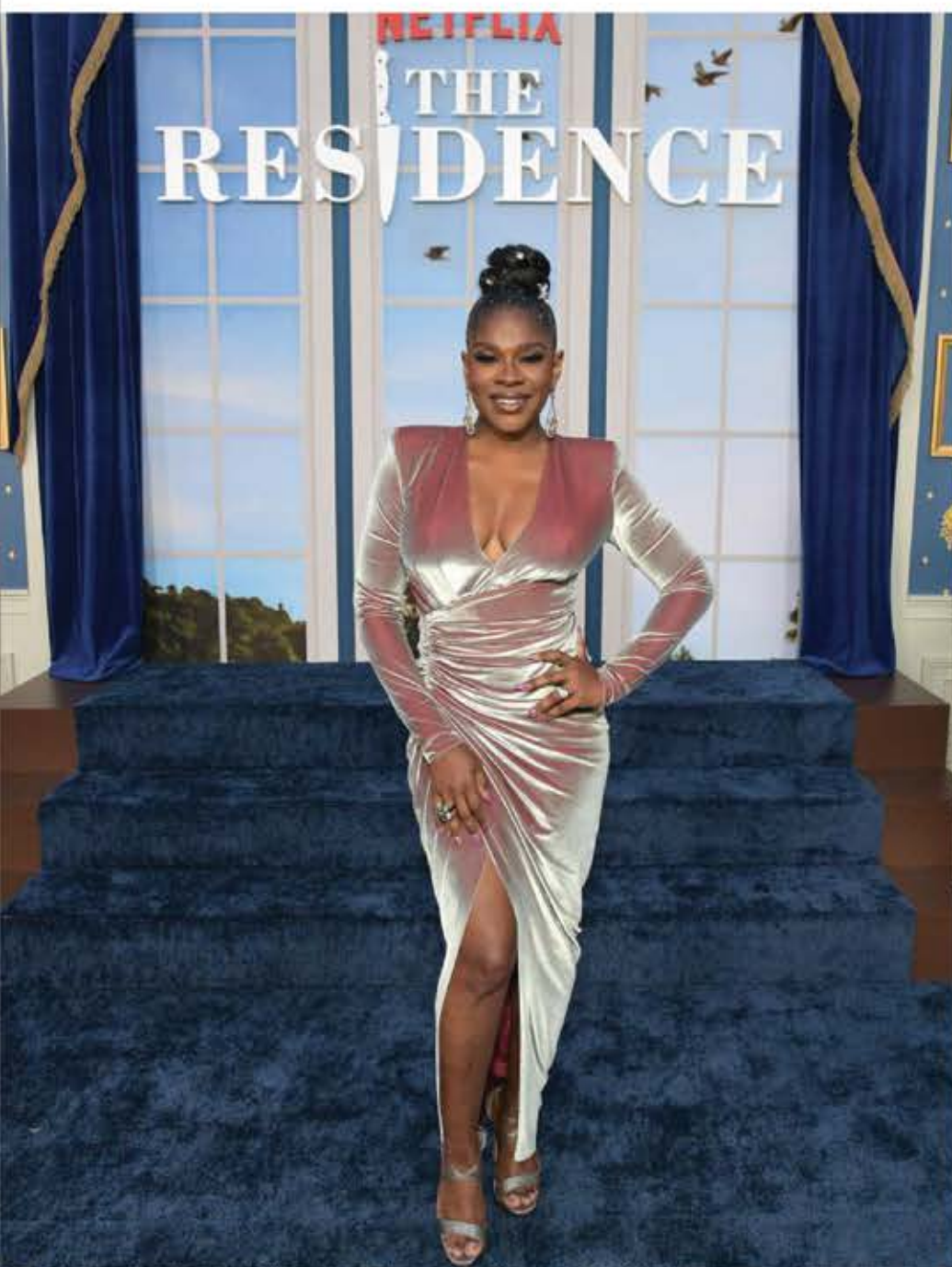
<https://broadwaypodcastnetwork.com/podcasts/survival-jobs-a-podcast/episode-124-edwina-findley-motivator/127#About>



The Residence's Edwina Findley Talks Sheila's Love of Big Show, Darkest Moments, Loving Hugh Jackman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDppoLGJLOg>

EVENTS: "THE RESIDENCE" PREMIERE



EVENTS: HEY QUEEN DINNER



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