

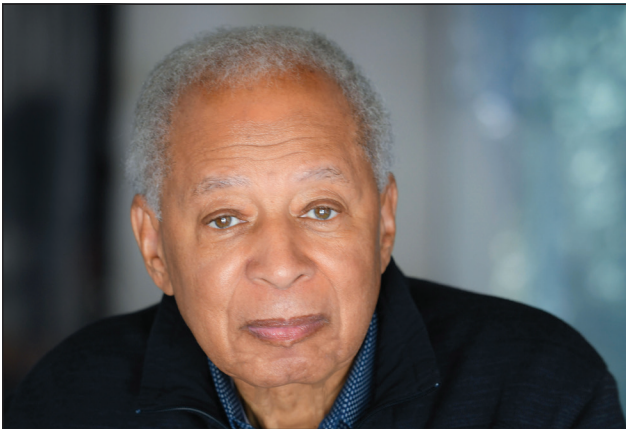
Chas. Floyd Johnson: Producer, Performer, and Trailblazer in Hollywood

BY C. MICHAEL BOOTH

With over five decades of experience in film and television, Charles Floyd Johnson—professionally known as Chas. Floyd Johnson—has built an influential career in entertainment. A triple threat as an actor, writer, and Emmy-winning producer, Johnson’s name is attached to legendary programs such as *The Rockford Files*, *Quantum Leap*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Kojak*, *JAG*, *Red Tails*, and *NCIS*. His production work on *NCIS* spans 22 seasons.

Born in Camden, New Jersey, and raised in Middleton, Delaware, Johnson’s early life was shaped by the rhythms of a segregated America. His parents owned a local soda shop where Black families gathered to watch television and boxing on a small black-and-white screen—a communal space that ignited his love for performance. He also frequented the segregated Everett Theatre, where he first saw Sidney Poitier in *Carmen Jones*, a performance that left a lasting impression.

While his passion for acting was evident early



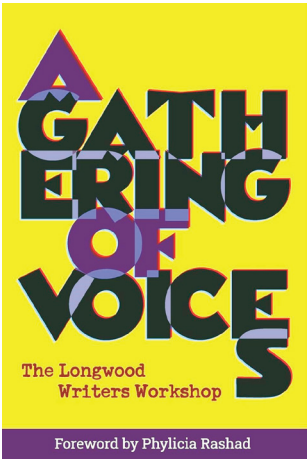
on, Johnson’s parents urged him to pursue a more stable career. He graduated from The Stony Brook School and went on to earn both his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University. He served in the Army during the Vietnam era, stationed stateside at Fort Dix, and later worked for three years as an attorney advisor in the U.S. Copyright Office.

But at 28, Johnson had a pivotal realization: “I didn’t want to wake up at 30 doing something I wasn’t passionate about.” He left his government post—turning down a prestigious UNESCO assignment in Paris—to chase his dream in Los Angeles.

Once in L.A., he began his acting classes, but the realities of living

expenses pushed him to seek work. Through a connection, he secured an interview for a mailroom job at Universal Studios. Initially deemed “overqualified” due to his law degree, Johnson persisted and was hired. Within days, he was promoted to business affairs, launching his behind-the-scenes career in Hollywood.

As Johnson climbed the ladder, he came to understand the business of entertainment as deeply as the craft itself. “A producer wears many hats—casting, budgeting, scouting locations, even editing. It’s an art and a business,” he explains. His dual expertise in law and production made him uniquely effective, helping bridge creativity and structure.



He encourages aspiring creatives to stay committed to the work. “Writers should write every day—and be

open to re-writing,” he advises. On the topic of artificial intelligence in storytelling, Johnson is cautious. “AI can help spark ideas, but relying on it too heavily could hurt the craft. We still don’t know what the legal ramifications will be.”

Johnson’s remarkable life and career are chronicled in the anthology *A Gathering of Voices*, a collaborative memoir born out of the Longwood Writers Workshop. Actor and writer Denise Nicholas spearheaded the project,

bringing together five contributors—including Johnson—who share their personal and professional journeys across various industries.

Initially conceived as individual memoirs, the collection grew into a rich tapestry of experience and insight. *A Gathering of Voices* is available now at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and BookBaby Bookshop. Readers can also learn more at www.longwoodwritersworkshop.com.

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OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

Democratic, Republican, Conservative, and Working Families Party Primaries are to be held in the County of Erie on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

DEMOCRATIC CONTESTS

Mayor	City of Buffalo
Councilmember - 4th Ward	City of Tonawanda
City Judge	City of Tonawanda
Town Clerk	Town of Hamburg
Town Justice	Town of Hamburg

REPUBLICAN CONTESTS

City Judge	City of Tonawanda
Supervisor	Town of Alden
Supervisor	Town of Amherst
Town Justice	Town of Amherst
Supervisor	Town of Elma
Councilmember	Town of Elma
Supervisor	Town of Hamburg
Superintendent of Highways	Town of Hamburg
Town Justice	Town of Hamburg
Councilmember	Town of North Collins
Supervisor	Town of Orchard Park
Town Justice	Town of West Seneca

CONSERVATIVE CONTESTS

Councilmember - 1st Ward	City of Tonawanda
Councilmember - 3rd Ward	City of Tonawanda
City Judge	City of Tonawanda
Town Justice	Town of Amherst
Councilmember	Town of Grand Island
Town Justice	Town of Hamburg
Superintendent of Highways	Town of Newstead
Town Justice	Town of West Seneca

WORKING FAMILIES CONTESTS

Town Justice	Town of Hamburg
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All Polling Locations in the above Cities and Towns will be open for voting from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Candidate names and polling locations are available at (716) 858-8891 or elections.erie.gov.

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