



A Gathering of Voices: The Longwood Writers Workshop

Extended Biography

HATTIE WINSTON

Hattie Winston, acclaimed actor, singer, producer, Broadway veteran and lover of learning, continues to entertain audiences on film, television and stage in a career that has spanned more than five decades. Although her love of performing began in her hometown of Greenville, Mississippi, where she was encouraged by family members, nuns and her community, this love has nourished and supported her art all over the world.

Ms. Winston's first professional show was *The Prodigal Son*, written by Langston Hughes and directed by Vinette Carroll, at the Greenwich Mews Theatre in New York City. It was on the stage of The Greenwich Mews Theatre that Winston 'play-acted' alone when she first arrived in New York. Ironical that her first professional job would be on that very stage! Ms. Winston has shared her talents with audiences of the world-renowned Negro Ensemble Company, also in New York City, where she was one of its founding actors. The years spent at NEC afforded her the opportunity to portray a plethora of characters in innumerable plays, including *The Great MacDaddy* by Paul Carter Harrison, *Home* by Samm-Art Williams, and *Song of the Lusitanian Bogey* by Peter Weiss. 'Play-acting' led to NEC which led to Broadway, where she appeared in *Hair*, *The Me Nobody Knows*, *I Love My Wife*, *Scapino*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Tap Dance Kid*, among others. In addition, Ms. Winston has Image Award nominations, Audelco Awards, and in the same season, Obie Awards as Best Actress in both *Mother Courage* and *The Michigan*, while garnering Drama-League Awards for her roles in *To Take Arms* and *Up the Mountain*.

Although best known for co-starring with Ted Danson for six years as Margaret on the hit CBS series "Becker," Winston has enjoyed many years of television success with commercials and voice-overs, including, but not limited to "The Electric Company," "Homefront," "Rugrats," "Castle," "ER," "Nurse," "The Game," "Reed Between the Lines," "Cold Case," "Numb3rs," "Girlfriends," "Mike and Molly," and "The Soul Man."

Ms. Winston is a proud member of Smart Set, Inc., Los Angeles; Co-Chair along with Danny Glover of The Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival; and a Board member of the Los Angeles Center Theater Group (which includes the Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre), Bonnie Franklin's CCAP (Classic and Contemporary American Plays), and other charitable organizations. With her many accolades, her proudest accomplishment is that of wife of Harold Wheeler and mother of Samantha Wheeler.