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KITS Film Awards Illuminates Unique Films Created by L.A.'s Youngest Filmmakers

*Kids In The Spotlight's Annual Event Marks Major Accomplishments of Youth
Impacted by Foster Care in Los Angeles and Beyond*

LOS ANGELES – Local non-profit Kids In The Spotlight (KITS) presents host Wendy Raquel Robinson and some of Hollywood's brightest stars as they help shine the spotlight on L.A.'s youngest filmmakers at its thirteenth annual movie premiere and awards ceremony – the KITS Film Awards – at the iconic Paramount Pictures Studios on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

The KITS Film Awards is part movie premiere, part awards show, and honors the outstanding achievement of youth filmmakers living in and around the Los Angeles County area. These youth and young adult filmmakers, many of whom have been impacted by foster care, have mastered telling their stories their way. Their ambitious short films were created in just 10 short weeks through KITS' Script-to-Screen program.

Best known for its flagship program, Kids In The Spotlight serves opportunity youth ages 12-24. Participating youth write, cast, and star in their original short films, which are directed and produced by industry professionals. This nationally acclaimed program serves some of the 38,000-youth living in the Los Angeles County foster care system. Script-to-Screen curriculum engages teaching artists to lead classes in screenwriting, acting, casting, and editing, helping foster youth heal and grow from trauma through the power of storytelling and filmmaking.

Industry celebrities and influencers from film and television will attend and present to support these emerging artists. Among this year's list of celebrity presenters is KITS Ambassador Ty Burrell, Salli Richardson-Whitfield, YouTube star Zach King, Renée Lawless, Christine Devine, Robin Winston, Avery Pohl, the Fashion Fairy Godmother Kara Saun, and Tajh Bellow, who co-stars in this year's KITS National Short Screenplay Competition winning film, "Speak."



After presenting Best Film last year, returning presenter James Pickens, Jr. said, “I remember seeing Tige drive a KITS van at church, and she had reached out to me on some occasions to be a part of this. I have to say I didn’t know what I was missing. This was an incredible, incredible afternoon. You have a big fan in me from here on out.”

KITS Founder and CEO, Tige Charity, said, “The KITS Film Awards is not merely an event; it’s a testament to the unwavering belief in the potential of our young people and the power of storytelling and community. Your steadfast support fuels our mission, enabling us to create a haven where the dreams of our youth can flourish.”

Kids In The Spotlight will also present two special awards to invaluable community members. The Gary Burrell Humanitarian Award pays tribute to Gary Burrell for exemplifying the spirit of KITS through selfless service and advocacy. This year’s honoree is State Senator Caroline Menjivar, whose advocacy and policy work exemplifies the spirit of the award through her unwavering dedication to the betterment of the lives of vulnerable youth and the community at large. The Jordan Award pays tribute to Alicia Jordan Mallory for dedication to raising foster care awareness through the arts. This year’s honoree is Randal Wells, founder of Foster Tales Podcast, who uses his lived experience in foster care to provide a platform for other foster impacted youth to heal through sharing their stories.

The 2023 KITS Film Awards will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2023, 3:00 PM, at Paramount Pictures Studios, 5555 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles CA. The event is made possible in part by 2023 Gold Sponsors: The Canet Foundation, Music Is Unity, and U.S. Bank. For more information, visit <https://www.kitsinc.org/kits-film-awards>

To learn more about Kids In The Spotlight, please email press@kitsinc.org

About Kids In The Spotlight (KITS)

Founded in 2009, KITS is a Los Angeles County-based organization that helps foster youth heal and grow from trauma through the power of storytelling and filmmaking. In the KITS flagship Script-to-Screen program, foster youth ages 12-24 write, cast, and star in their own short films, telling their stories their way. KITS envisions a pipeline of Black and Brown leaders in positions of decision-making power. By building the pipeline, KITS pursues the restoration of economic stability and generational wealth for Black and Brown youth. Learn more at <https://kitsinc.org>

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