

# BELLE

NEW YORK  
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2015

The  
POWER  
ISSUE

HOLIDAY  
GIFTS  
FOR  
STYLISH  
WOMEN

LAMONT  
EASTER!  
HOLLYWOOD IS  
CALLING  
THE MAN  
BEHIND  
THE SUIT

50  
BILLION  
DOLLAR BOSS  
KATHEY PORTER  
SUCCESS IN  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
LEADERSHIP &

PARTY CHIC  
ALL EYES ON YOU  
HOLIDAY DRESSES  
UNDER \$50

RISE  
TO FAME  
JONELL WHITT  
ATLANTA'S HOTTEST  
PUBLICIST  
*money, power, respect*

2015  
THE YEAR  
IN FASHION

# Hollywood is Calling

By Daphne Jones-Robinson

The role of a lifetime would be creating a body of work that people will long remember.

LAMONT EASTER

Style Director Gigi McMillan  
and Kenny Flannigan.

Photographed by Jackie Hicks.

**A** is for actor. Well at least we think so, but ask Lamont Easter when he considered himself as being an actor, and he'll tell you "I'm working on it." One would think landing your very "first role" on the very successful, *House of Cards* alongside Kevin Spacey, would put one's ego straight to the top, but not Lamont. Born in Annapolis, MD, Lamont understood what it meant to stay on your toes and get ready for your next move, literally. The son of a Navy man, Lamont grew up making moves across various states, eventually settling in San Diego, CA. At a young age, he grew up a typical active teenager, heavy into various sports. He didn't realize it then, but he really had the bug for acting. "Ask anyone that knows me or any teacher from grade school on up and they'll tell you, he spent his whole life acting up!" ►

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Three piece suit, \$1,000,  
from Sarar of Tysons  
Galleria. Fur jacket, \$3,000,  
KAS Collection. Silver tie  
clip, \$45, Silver tie, \$150.



Lamont Easter wears  
KennyKAS Custom suit,  
\$1,500, Festive tie, \$150,  
Pocket Square, \$75, Silver  
cuff links, \$150, Watch, his  
own.  
All prices approximate



Photographed by Jackie  
Hicks of Fond Memories,  
Makeup Letitia Thornhill of  
LET BEAUTY, Designer KAS  
Collection, Style Directors  
Gigi McMillan, Kenny  
Flanagan

He always knew he wanted to be involved in the entertainment industry, but life just kept getting in the way. "As a youngster I actually dreamed of being the world's best studio drummer. I grew up in the church, so at fourteen I found myself playing the drums for a church choir in San Diego and recording on gospel albums. In fact, I had the opportunity to play once with the late Andre Crouch and with Danniebelle Hall. I was pretty good. I always admired the Jazz and funk drumming of Billy Cobham, Idris Muhammed and Lenny White." As he knew it, life got in the way, he was detoured into a career of electronics and computers. This path led him to living and working in Europe for several years. "I was responsible for a portion of a system that trained NATO fighter pilots. In fact I was working on the exact system depicted in the Hollywood hit movie TOP GUN starring Tom Cruise. Then eventually, I came full circle back to the DC and Virginia area where my family roots are." It wasn't until he found himself divorced, he looked around and thought, "Now what?"

A few years ago, a co-worker put the acting bug in his ear. She heard about a casting call and told him to go for it. "I showed up to a casting call for Secret Service Agents for the show. Director Carl Franklin who was directing the first two episodes of the second season, was casting for Secret Service protection for Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey's) character." A natural born actor, he didn't need much preparation, "Director Carl Franklin looked me in the eye and said "you." So I was one of the first hired for the show that Friday. Monday, those selected, were sent to training with a retired Secret Service Chief which protected Bush, Quail and Clinton." Obtaining this role, set his path to fame, landing him additional Secret Service roles on HBO's Veep and CBS's Madam Secretary.

As an actor, Lamont understands one should never get comfortable with their craft. "I'm currently studying acting with a Film maker named Stephen Mitchell, who lives in Ireland. We do one-on-one acting sessions via Skype." To expand his range of talents, Lamont has his sights on the bigger picture. "I think it would be fascinating to work with a French Director. Based upon some works I've seen, some tend to go beyond the superficial narrative and really explore the depths of the story and characters. Thus far, I've discovered that I'm best at playing men that see the five sides of any issue, and then work them all to his own advantage."

**How do you mentally prepare yourself for each role/character you portray?** Now that I have moved into lead roles in independent films and web series I simply start from the premise that I want every character to be interesting, memorable, and someone you didn't quite expect to see.

**Hollywood is calling: What would you consider to be the role of a lifetime?** For me the role of a lifetime would be creating a body of work that people will long remember, it's not just one role, but a collection of work that became important to people in their lives. A body of work that had meaning in the lives of people that go and see those performances.

**Any favorite movies?** I love all of Quentin Tarantino's work. I grew up loving his movies such as *Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Jackie Brown*, *Natural Born Killers*, and *Inglorious Bastards*. He just keeps getting better and better. I also love the work of Steven Soderbergh. "*Oceans Eleven*, *Twelve*, and *Thirteen*," as well as *Traffic*. Others that come to mind are, Pierre Bagley's "*From The Rough*" with Taraji P. Henson, and Michael Clarke Duncan and of course all the productions directed by James Farley, David Fincher and Carl Franklin, who I have had the pleasure to work with over my seasons on *House of Cards*. The work of all these Directors, and their films and productions are some of my favorites. **Give us some insight**

**on how you select particular roles you want to be a part of.** I think when you first start off as an actor you are really excited about being on the big screen, you just want to get your feet wet and really learn your craft. Now that I have a couple of films under my belt, I have the liberty of deciding which roles I want to go after. I'm known for being the Secret Service guy, which is how I got my start, but I would like to expand and play various characters as well. **Speaking of expanding your horizon, are there any new projects you are working on that you can talk about?** I'm very fortunate to have a number of projects that are in the works. When one closes, another opportunity seems to open up, if one falls off, it tends to get replaced pretty quickly. So there is always a full pipeline. **Any personal ambitions yet unattained? Directing? Producing? Writing?** I'm already making behind the scene deals and starting to take on the roles of Creative Director and producing, which is really exciting. I think that will continue to be an additional natural fit for me. **So you're not just the man behind in suit; you are an actor but you're also a family man. Tell us about that.** Yes, I have two wonderful and talented adult daughters that I am extremely proud of! I just experienced another one of those magical moments! Ha, Amazing! I was just recently in San Diego visiting my little Granddaughter and she was afraid to walk on the beach in the sand barefoot for the first time. After a little coaxing, I was able to convince her into taking her first steps barefoot in the sand. She loved it. She didn't want to leave. Now that's grandpa magic!

**What do you do when you are not behind the camera? Any favorite downtime activities?** Doing philanthropic work. I have a 501c charity organization called, *AutismFYL.org*, advocating for those dealing with Autism. Also I work with, *Stillbarve.org*, who support children and the families of children battling cancer. Outside of that, any other downtime I would like to squeeze in would be to travel. I like being able to hang out on the beach, go skiing, fishing, and don't forget bike riding. I am an avid chef so I love making magic in the kitchen and let's not forget dancing. I could go on and on... **You have a swag personal style about you. Tell us about what defines your personal style.** I simply like a tailored style of clothes that I can feel comfortable in. It also depends on the mood and the event that I'm attending. But as far as personal style, I just like what works for me and what I've done so far, it seems to work. Preparing for this photoshoot, I think the style collaboration with stylist Gigi McMillan of Kamisol Style Consultancy and Kenny Flannigan of KAS Custom Collection got it right. I thank them for making the magic happen. **Where do you see yourself in five years?** On an Airliner, somewhere halfway over the Atlantic Ocean, coming from or going to someplace amazing.

As Lamont Easter, the man behind the suit, continues to climb the Hollywood walk of fame, he understands what it means to be and remain humble. We all know in life, what has been given can easily be taken away. I asked Lamont if there was one thing he wanted his readers to know about him and his true character, what would that be? Here is his final response. "I truly believe that no matter what level of aesthetics, fortune or fame a person can achieve, none of it can possibly compare with the joy in your soul when you can make a positive impact upon someone's life in a meaningful way, especially the young. This is what the journey of life is really all about."

As we all know, HOLLYWOOD IS CALLING, so be sure to follow Lamont Easter on his journey as he continues to make moves in this industry. *Lamonteaster.com*



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Galleria. KAS Collection.  
Silver tie clip, \$45, Silver tie,  
\$150, Pocket Square, \$75.  
All prices approximate.