



# Shomari Love

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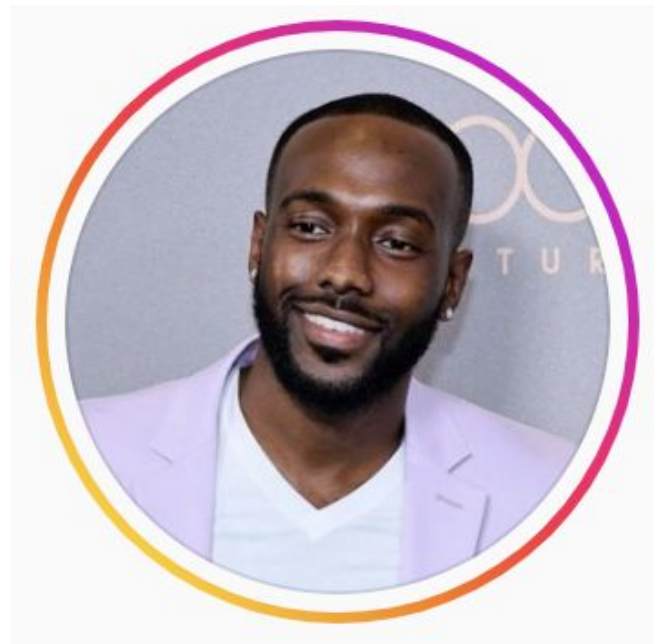
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## Shomari Love on Social Media



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# Shomari Love on the Red Carpet

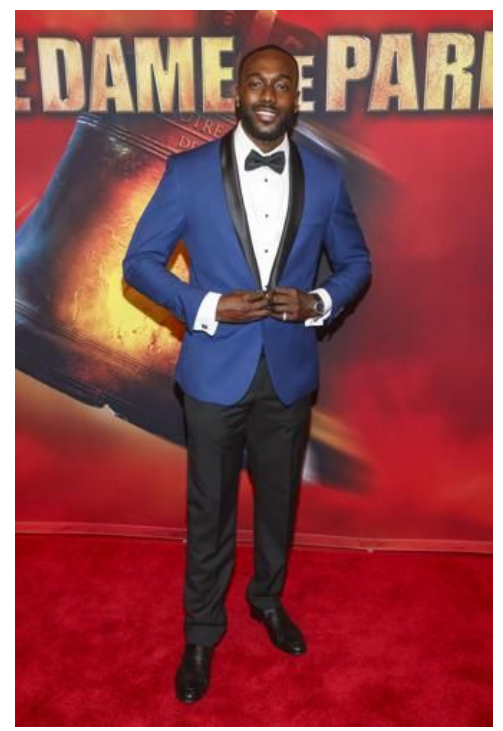
**Where the Crawdads Sing  
New York Premiere**



**Hall des Lumières Opening Night  
Party**



**Notre Dame de Paris Opening  
Night Gala**







## Queens native Shomari Love ‘Takes the Night’ in new film



There are plenty of reasons to fall in love with Queens native Shomari Love. He can be seen next on the big screen in “Take the Night.” Love’s character finds himself on the wrong side of the law in this action thriller. “Take the Night” is in theaters July 8 and On Demand and Digital on July 12.

**Watch the interview here:**

<https://pix11.com/news/morning/queens-native-shomari-love-takes-the-night-in-new-film/>



## KATU Afternoon Live | Actor Shomari Love



Actor Shomari Love talked about his latest movie, "Take the Night" which premieres tonight, July 8th in theatres.

**Watch the interview here:**

<https://katu.com/afternoon-live/special-guests/actor-shomari-love>



## Actor Shomari Love plays Shannon in the thriller 'Take the Night'



**Thriller 'TAKE THE NIGHT'**  
Currently available on Demand and Digital



Actor Shomari Love talked about his latest movie, "Take the Night" which premieres tonight, July 8th in theatres.

**Watch the interview here:**

<https://www.wsmv.com/video/2022/07/28/actor-shomari-love-plays-shannon-thriller-take-night/>





## Shomari Love on FOX 29 Philadelphia The Feed At Night



Watch the interview here:

<https://vimeo.com/730378130> (Password: ShomariTV)



## **‘The Chi’ Actor Talks Women in Media, Gun Violence & More**



Bold TV correspondent Zayna Allen sat down with “The Chi” actor Shomari Love to discuss his new role in the show and how important it is to have representation of people of color in entertainment.

**Watch the interview here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf7Vg3tb2Hs&t=2s>



# VENTS

M A G A Z I N E

Host of the Month

*Shomari  
Love*

## INTERVIEWS

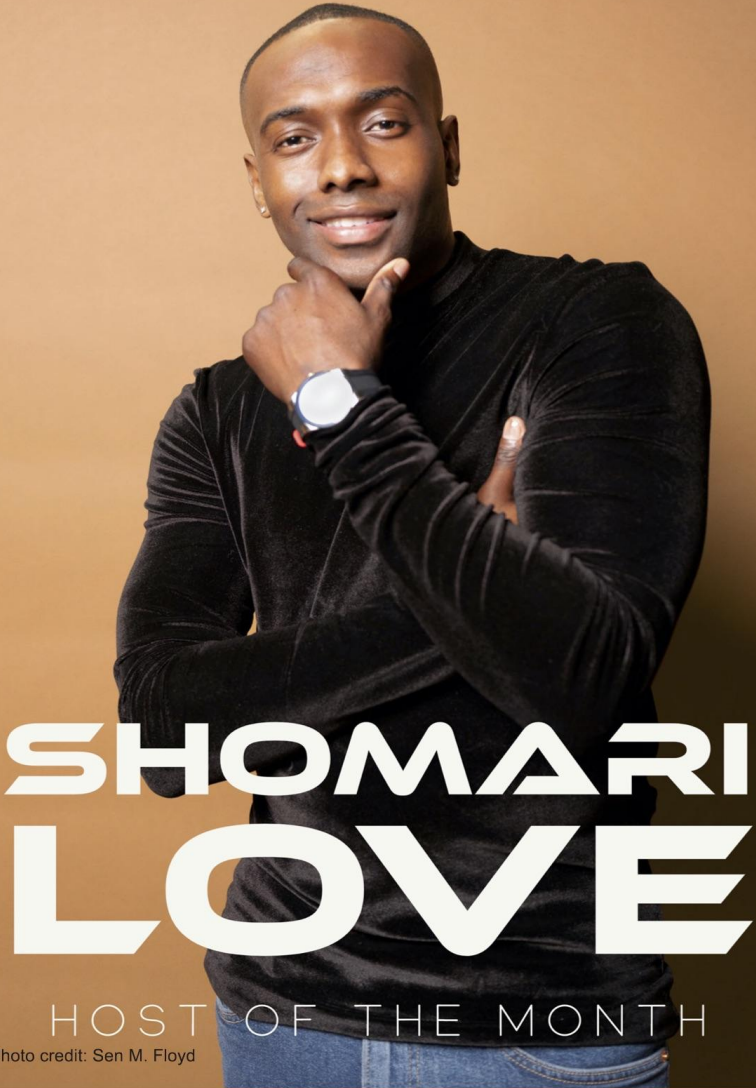
Grant Feely  
Allegra Teo  
Jayden McGinlay  
Kausar Mohammed  
Marianna Burelli  
Isadora Ortega  
Jake Fraczek  
Athena Park  
I. O. Underground  
The Handcuffs  
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# SHOMARI LOVE

HOST OF THE MONTH

Photo credit: Sen M. Floyd



**1. We're happy to be speaking today with celebrated actor Shomari Love; greetings and salutations, Shomari! Before we begin kicking the proverbial tin can down the dusty road, how has your 2022 been treating you?**

Greetings. Thanks for having me. The year has treated me well and only getting better!

**2. Congratulations on your upcoming work in the new thriller Take the Night which is set to premiere on July 8! What can you tell readers about this new film and the character of Shannon which you tackle?**

Thank you. This is an action film about two types of family, blood relatives and the ones you go through tough times with which make them family. Every character in this story is struggling with something from their past. For Shannon it was his career ending injury which became a sense of hopelessness to him. I enjoyed the task of depicting the desperation of someone who had nothing to lose.

**3. Did you know as soon as you read the script for Take the Night that this was a project you wanted to be associated with?**

For sure, a heist thriller based on a crew from Queens? I knew this was going to be fun.

**4. How are you similar to your character of Shannon? How are you different?**

We are both from Queens, NY and we both played basketball. The primary difference is that he has no real family, the closest person to him is his friend Todd (Brennan Keel Cook). He wants to do better for himself but can't seem to escape the cycle of self-pity, that's not me. Personally my outlook on situations are more optimistic. Perseverance is key.

**5. You work with such a fine ensemble of thespians in Take the Night such as Seth McTigue, Roy Huang, Brennan Keel Cook, Sam Song Li, Antonio Aaron and Grace Serrano among many others. What was it like showing up for work each day and getting to play your own considerable acting wares alongside this amazing cast?**

We had fun every day on set. Everyone brought their talent and enthusiasm day after day. It was like shooting our own little version of a Fast & Furious movie.

**6. The writer and director of Take the Night is Seth McTigue, who also acts in the film. What sort of director is Seth? Is he what some actors might refer to as "an actor's director"?**

I would describe Seth as a passionate and meticulous director. He's also a student of craft. The more he learns, the more he wants to share. When he believes in something, he's going to see it through until it's done.

**7. What do you hope audiences walk away feeling after watching Take the Night?**

I hope that the audience will be able to relate to at least one of the character's stories within the film and in doing so, be reminded of the key principle "family first."

**8. You have a recent short film entitled Pulse where you play a character called Dom. What can you tell us about this intriguing-sounding project?**

This is a story about two half-brothers Dom & Rich (Francis Mancho). I play Dom, who is street smart but has made some risky business decisions. He gets into some trouble and lures in his brother Rich to assist. Rich has a sickly daughter who needs medical care, and has to decide who to help.

**9. Along with acting, you're also a director and producer. Are these avenues within the industry that we can look forward to seeing you explore more in the future?**

Yes. I would love to have the opportunity. I have a lot of ideas that I want to explore.

**10. Are there any specific directors whom you admire?**

Antoine Fuqua, Steven Spielberg, Bill Duke, Spike Lee, and Elia Kazan.

**11. Your first credited onscreen work came as the character of Wayne in the 2016 television series Blue City. Any special memories of that freshman work?**

I remember shooting in true New York style. Literally no time to waste. There were a lot of handheld shots, and few takes to spare. I think we shot three episodes in a day at some point. As a freshman, I embraced that challenge.

**12. What fascinates you most about acting?**

I'm fascinated by the mind's ability to manifest the words of a script into an art form. I love the process of creating a unique character and telling a story.

**13. Final – SILLY! – Question: Favorite movie about the making of movies – Living in Oblivion, Ed Wood, Hail, Caesar, Barton Fink or Swimming with Sharks?**

I haven't seen any of these yet. Which would you recommend?



# NEW YORK POST

46

nypost.com

NEW YORK POST, Tuesday, July 3, 2022



**'TOM' TIME** Steve Dildarian's droll comedy "Ten Year Old Tom" has been renewed for a second season (that's Tom with the oboe). Dildarian ("The Life & Times of Tim") created, writes, produces and directs the HBO Max series.



**'BOSS' TIME** The "Who's the Boss?" sequel is a go at Freevee, with Tony Danza and Alyssa Milano reprising their roles from the original series, which aired on ABC from 1984-1992.

## TV Tuesday

By LAUREN SARNER

**T**V no longer experiences the dog days of summer, when new shows were scarce and repeats ruled the roost. July is an especially busy month this year, with a wide variety of offerings. Here's what to watch for — from wacky comedies to tense dramas to docuseries.

### "Maggie"

In this comedy series, Maggie (Rebecca Rittenhouse, "Four Weddings and a Funeral") is a mid-thirties woman who runs a psychic operation — but she also happens to have real abilities. Her romantic life becomes complicated when she begins seeing her client's future... and it involves her.

Premiere date: July 6 on Hulu

### "Boo, Bitch"

The comedy stars Lana Condor ("To All the Boys I've Loved Before") and is helmed by Erin Ehrlich ("Crazy Ex Girlfriend") and Lauren Lungerich ("On My Block"). It revolves around a high school senior who lives under the radar but wants to be noticed. One night, she gets the chance to make her life more epic but, the next morning, she discovers that she's now a ghost. Hey, it happens.

Premiere date: July 8 on Netflix

### "Black Bird"

A psychological thriller starring Taron Egerton and Ray Liotta (in one of his final roles) and based on a true story. When Jimmy Keene (Egerton), a high school football star and the son of a cop, is convicted of drug-dealing, he's offered a choice: he can spend 10 years in prison or be transferred to a maximum-security prison for the criminally insane to befriend a suspected serial killer (Paul Walter Hauser) and find out where his victims' bodies are buried. Based on Keene's true crime memoir "In With the Devil: A Fallen Hero, A Serial Killer, and A Dangerous Bargain for Redemption."

Premiere date: July 8 on AppleTV+



July menu offers comedy, drama and more

"Boo, Bitch"

## CALENDAR REMINDER

### "Black Bird"



"Claim to Fame"

### "Claim to Fame"

Hosted by Kevin and Frankie Jonas (siblings of the more famous Nick and Joe Jonas), this reality series follows 12 celebrity relatives as they live in the same house, try to keep their identities secret,

compete in challenges for a cash prize and play "DNA detective" on each other.

Premiere date: July 11 on ABC (10 p.m.)

### "Everything's Trash"

Created by and starring Phoebe Robinson ("2 Dope Queens,"), this comedy follows Phoebe (Robinson), a Brooklyn-based 30something podcaster whose wild behavior threatens her brother's success when he launches a political campaign.

Premiere date: July 13 on Freeform (10 p.m.)

### "Five Guys a Week"

Each episode of this reality dating series show focuses on a new woman as she dates five different men over the course of a week — while they all live in her home, of course.

Premiere date: July 13 on Lifetime (10 p.m.)

### "Resident Evil"

A new sci-fi zombier offering in the popular franchise. It's 14 years after a virus caused the apocalypse, and Jade Wesker (Ella Balinska) tries to survive, while also trying to figure out what happened to her sister.

Premiere date: July 14 on Netflix

### "Victoria's Secret: Angels and Demons"

This docuseries chronicles the rise and fall of the famous lingerie empire while also examines the relationship between former CEO Les Wexner and Jeffrey Epstein.

Premiere date: July 14 on Hulu

### "Paper Girls"

A sci-fi series that sounds like part "Stranger Things," part "Yellowjackets."

It's based on a comic by Brian K. Vaughan ("Runaways") and follows four girls who get sent on an adventure through time while they're out delivering papers on the morning after Halloween in 1988. During their journey, they encounter future versions of themselves.

Premiere date: July 29 on Prime Video

**SHOMARI LOVE**  
WHAT I'M WATCHING



"I have a top three when it comes to shows I like to watch. 'Stranger Things' has amazing production values and an interesting storyline, which is important to me. I think 'Winning Time' does a great job at showcasing the lifestyle and culture of the generation that paved the way in basketball, my favorite sport. Lastly, 'Ozark' has strong actors and character development."

— Love plays Shannon in "Take The Night," in theaters July 8 and on-demand/digital July 12.

# URBAN

WE DON'T JUST WRITE ABOUT URBAN CULTURE... WE LIVE IT





# SHOMARI LOVE

Success is far from new to Take the Night star Shomari Love. The actor, director, and producer capture hearts worldwide in the film *Maya and Her Lover* and was nominated for an ABFF Award.

**Can you describe what influenced you to pursue a career as an actor?**

I have always had a love for the arts. The most recent inspiration was when I felt I wasn't using my talents to the best of my ability. It is a feeling as an artist when you know that you can be more significant, and I felt that way. So, I decided to join a different career path. I remember watching shows and movies, and I thought I could do this, and it was worth a shot.

**Who has played a meaningful role in getting where you are now?**

My Grandmother has been an immense support for me. When it came to auditions, she always cheered me on. She necessarily wasn't there in the meetings or anything, but she is always there for me to see me succeed.

**Tell us about some of the struggles you faced along the way.**

It was challenging in the beginning; it was never easy. Being in New York, you

don't know anyone in the business. I found myself having to travel to Atlanta to work on sets. Learning and experiencing the sets helped me gain knowledge on the industry. It was a struggle for me to present myself as a professional actor. The problems I faced allowed me to appreciate and have humility for the craft.

**Can you describe your first life-changing experience on a set?**

It depends on how I look at it in terms of eye-opening and changing my perception on life. It would have to be being the drummer on *Black Panther*. It was my first-time on seeing a setup to that scale. I'd say *Take the Night* was eye-opening for me in terms of personal growth. It was my first feature film, and working in L A, which was utterly different from working in New York and Atlanta.

**How has being a part of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity prepared you for this journey?**

Ultimately my fraternity instilled in me to



# “THE PROBLEMS I FACED ALLOWED ME TO APPRECIATE AND HAVE HUMILITY FOR THE CRAFT.”

have perseverance. Perseverance is one of the crucial things that I rely on, which is essential in this industry. You can get a thousand no's but having the ability never to quit and to persevere is one of the things that I learned and my fraternity taught me.

## **What do you feel is more important for an actor, talent, or training?**

Hands down training, a lot of people are talented but without the proper training, you don't know how to work with others. Your talent may be limited to one particular skill set whereas trained actors are able to adapt to their characters and the storyline.

## **Can you explain the steps you took to understand Kaseem from Maya and her Lover?**

Kaseem from Maya and her Lover is a troubled young man who has traumatizing past. I used people in my life with whom I had crossed paths to contribute to my character. First, I did some work on his backstory. Then, I fleshed out all the moments he might've had as a child that made him who he is now. That allowed me to portray his message.

## **Would you say that you and your costar Ashanti J'Aria had a natural chemistry with each other?**

I think that Ashanti and I did have one; she is from New York, so we were able

to connect on that level. Also, working on independent projects, you spend a lot of time together. So, we could be in a more personalized setting with the crew. And that allowed us to build natural chemistry with each other.

## **How does it feel it be a part of a film that was nominated for the fan favorite award for the American Black Film Festival? Flim Festival?**

That was one of my best moments because I had gone down to ABFF when I first started. I couldn't even go to the festival. ABFF was sold out, and I was disappointed. Nevertheless, I believed that one day I would achieve being a part of the festival. I did the work, and years later, I was not only in the festival but also got a nomination.

## **What is your next goal in your career and how are you going to achieve it?**

The goal and the process of achieving it are two different things. I would love to work on another feature film, possibly sci-fi. Also work with amazing actors such as Leonardo Dicaprio, Denzel Washington, and Viola Davis; they're my inspirations, and hopefully work as a series regular on a tv show. In terms of accomplishing, I will continue training my instrument and learn more about my craft.

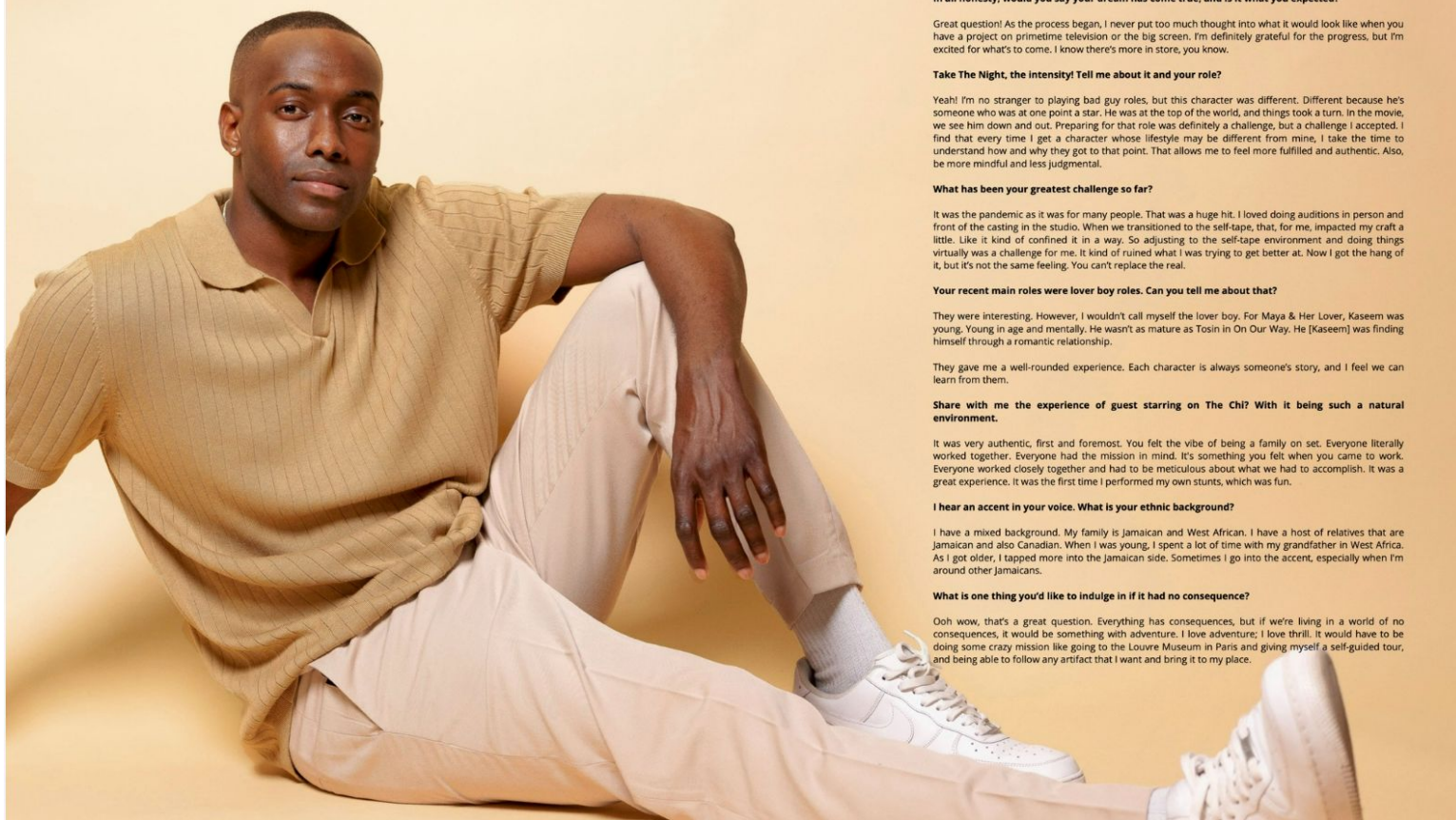
**DEAHANI**



# THE OFFICIAL BLACK MAGAZINE

## I'm Excited For What's To Come; I Know There's More!

Written by: NaShaye Jackson



*Shamar Love is the black king we know was out there but had not discovered yet. Being a relatively new face to the industry, he's made a headstrong entrance—guest appearing in mainstream series like *The Chi*, *Black Lightning*, and *New Amsterdam*. Love also appeared in movies such as *On Our Way*, *Maya and Her Lover*, and *Pulse*. But his most exciting film yet is *Take The Night*. An edge-sitting thriller that fans are waiting to see. *Take The Night* premiered on July 8th.*

**In all honesty, would you say your dream has come true, and is it what you expected?**

Great question! As the process began, I never put too much thought into what it would look like when you have a project on primetime television or the big screen. I'm definitely grateful for the progress, but I'm excited for what's to come. I know there's more in store, you know.

**Take *The Night*, the intensity! Tell me about it and your role?**

Yeah! I'm no stranger to playing bad guy roles, but this character was different. Different because he's someone who was at one point a star. He was at the top of the world, and things took a turn. In the movie, we see him down and out. Preparing for that role was definitely a challenge, but a challenge I accepted. I find that every time I get a character whose lifestyle may be different from mine, I take the time to understand how and why they got to that point. That allows me to feel more fulfilled and authentic. Also, be more mindful and less judgmental.

**What has been your greatest challenge so far?**

It was the pandemic as it was for many people. That was a huge hit. I loved doing auditions in person and front of the casting in the studio. When we transitioned to the self-tape, that, for me, impacted my craft a little. Like it kind of confined it in a way. So adjusting to the self-tape environment and doing things virtually was a challenge for me. It kind of ruined what I was trying to get better at. Now I got the hang of it, but it's not the same feeling. You can't replace the real.

**Your recent main roles were lover boy roles. Can you tell me about that?**

They were interesting. However, I wouldn't call myself the lover boy. For *Maya & Her Lover*, Kaseem was young. Young in age and mentally. He wasn't as mature as Tosin in *On Our Way*. He [Kaseem] was finding himself through a romantic relationship.

They gave me a well-rounded experience. Each character is always someone's story, and I feel we can learn from them.

**Share with me the experience of guest starring on *The Chi*? With it being such a natural environment.**

It was very authentic, first and foremost. You felt the vibe of being a family on set. Everyone literally worked together. Everyone had the mission in mind. It's something you felt when you came to work. Everyone worked closely together and had to be meticulous about what we had to accomplish. It was a great experience. It was the first time I performed my own stunts, which was fun.

**I hear an accent in your voice. What is your ethnic background?**

I have a mixed background. My family is Jamaican and West African. I have a host of relatives that are Jamaican and also Canadian. When I was young, I spent a lot of time with my grandfather in West Africa. As I got older, I tapped more into the Jamaican side. Sometimes I go into the accent, especially when I'm around other Jamaicans.

**What is one thing you'd like to indulge in if it had no consequence?**

Ooh wow, that's a great question. Everything has consequences, but if we're living in a world of no consequences, it would be something with adventure. I love adventure. I love thrill. It would have to be doing some crazy mission like going to the Louvre Museum in Paris and giving myself a self-guided tour, and being able to follow any artifact that I want and bring it to my place.



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## Rising Star Shomari Love On The Five Things You Need To Shine In The Entertainment Industry



As a part of my series about pop culture's rising stars, I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing Shomari Love.

Shomari Love is an actor, artist and percussionist. A native New Yorker, he grew up in Laurelton, Queens where his talent and passion for performing were evident at a young age. His notable TV/Film credits include *The Chi*, *Black Lightning*, *The Inheritance*, and *Maya and Her Lover* which was nominated for the 2021 American Black Film Festival Jury Award. Love has also wrapped production on *On Our Way*, where he plays Jordana Brewster's love interest. He will next be seen as one of the lead characters, Shannon, in the film *Take The Night*. The story follows a resentful brother who organizes a prank kidnapping, but unwittingly hires career criminals who have plans of their own. Shannon is a former basketball star who is sidelined by a career-ending injury that leaves him without a job to support himself. When one of his oldest friends offers him an opportunity to change his financial circumstances by participating in the kidnapping plot, he jumps at the chance. It is set to hit theaters in select cities on July 8th and will be available on demand/digital on July 12th.

Love earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hall University and is a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. He trains at the Anthony Abeson Acting Conservatory in New York City.

**Thank you so much for joining us in this interview series! Can you tell us the story of how you grew up?**

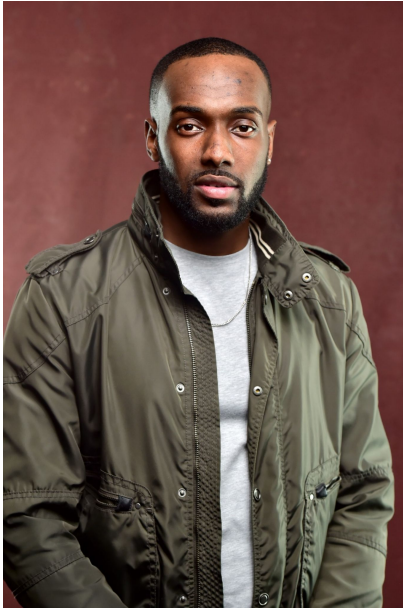
Thanks for having me. I grew up in Queens, NY. My mother and grandmother made a lot of sacrifices to raise my younger brother and me. I really come from generations of dreamers. Far back as I could remember, we always dreamed of doing things only imaginations could fathom. Like most kids, I thought I wanted to be in the NBA, so I played basketball and other sports, but that's not where my talents were. I was always creative, so I tried to channel that energy through music and the arts. I had the opportunity to attend some good schools. However, I've always been a rebel, so my challenge was staying out of trouble long enough to show my teachers I was smart.

**Can you share a story with us about what brought you to this specific career path?**

I was sitting behind a desk and realized I wasn't putting my talents to use. I knew pursuing acting would be one of the biggest challenges I'd face, but I also knew starting from the bottom that the only force that would stop me is me.

I've always looked up to Denzel, DiCaprio, Wesley, Martin, and the late Sidney Poitier. But once I saw this TV series about a kid from Queens that chased a wild dream and became a movie star, I told myself I might not become a movie star, but I'm from Queens too so I got to give it a shot.





**Can you tell us the most interesting story that happened to you since you began your career?**

I had the opportunity to work as a Jabari Drummer in the first Black Panther movie. The way they created that world is mind-blowing. On top of that, it was the first time I'd worked on set with so many successful artists. It was interesting how humble and down-to-earth the cast and crew were, despite their success. Every day was like a celebration. The joy I saw in the eyes of Ms. Basset, Forest Whitaker and the late Chadwick Bozeman renewed my enthusiasm and joy for the craft.

**Can you share a story about the funniest mistake you made when you were first starting? Can you tell us what lesson you learned from that?**

I was caring too much about the wrong things. I remember a time when I was concerned about who I'd be working with or where the project would end up. I went out of my way to make an impression, only to find out the project got pulled. I learned quickly that none of that matters. The actor's only prerogatives should be the character and the story. Show up on time, be prepared and have fun. What happens after you've done your work is out of your control.

**What are some of the most interesting or exciting projects you are working on now?**

I just wrapped a recurring role on a drama series. It was definitely a thrill to shoot. Plus, it's always exciting to play a character from a different place; the props and stunts on set make it fun too! I'll also be shooting my first sci-fi feature film soon. I can't wait for that!

**You have been blessed with success in a career path that can be challenging. Do you have any words of advice for others who may want to embark on this career path, but seem daunted by the prospect of failure?**

Start now, don't wait. Read stage plays and give your imagination permission to create the world from the text. Most importantly have fun. We did it involuntarily as children, don't let anything take that away. If you feel it's already gone, go find it! If you're afraid, do it anyway. Just don't quit!

**We are very interested in diversity in the entertainment industry. Can you share three reasons with our readers why you think it's important to have diversity represented in film and television? How can that potentially affect our culture?**

Love this question. Diversity matters, especially for the youth. They are the future. Growing up, I didn't see many black superheroes or movie stars on the screen. Naturally, you wonder if you could ever be one. If you are only exposed to one thing, it's difficult to expand your palate and appreciate different things. I think diversity gives culture the boost of creativity and hope it needs.

**What are your "5 things I wish someone told me when I first started" and why? Please share a story or example for each.**

If you don't know something, ask as many questions as you can. Despite how accomplished someone appears to be, we are all constantly learning.

Save more! If you have a consistent income stream keep it. You never know what's next. I remember making the reckless decision to depart from my full-time job because I thought I needed to be fully available for an opportunity that hadn't yet presented itself.

Remain a student of the craft. This will keep your love for it pure. Always ask the question, why? Always want to learn more. After I booked my first few TV roles, I had this false sense of accomplishment that had me thinking I knew what I needed to know. It's a cycle that has since broken, but I wish someone had told me in the beginning, "you don't know anything."

Celebrate the small wins, but don't allow them to distract you from the mission. It's easy to get distracted, especially when you get that first check from a day's work on network television. As an amateur, you immediately start to think of all the things you can spend it on. I wish someone would have told me to stay focused on the mission and immediately reinvest those earnings into my craft.

Read/watch stage plays. The day I picked up my first play as an actor changed my entire perspective on the craft. My coach is very old school and learned in the theatre. He shared his enthusiasm for the craft with me by encouraging me to read a list of plays. My appreciation for the craft multiplied and my ability to create/make interesting choices grew from that point. Plays help strengthen your mind's eye.

**Which tips would you recommend to your colleagues in your industry to help them to thrive and not “burn out”?**

Travel! I call it “wrap and reset.” After you finish a project go to a place you've never been. Try a food you've never tried, learn about a different culture and go on that adventure.

**You are a person of enormous influence. If you could inspire a movement that would bring the most amount of good to the most amount of people, what would that be? You never know what your idea can trigger.**

I would inspire a non-profit initiative that supports youth arts, the movement to also focus on financial literacy and create a free space for youth to develop their craft. By the time they become professionals and start earning, they'll already know how to manage money.

**None of us are able to achieve success without some help along the way. Is there a particular person who you are grateful for who helped get you to where you are? Can you share a story about that?**

My fraternity brother and prophete Jeremy Sample. I went to him when I first started and had no idea how this acting world worked. He encouraged me to take acting classes and learn more about the business side of entertainment. I knew he was a bridge builder and would guide me. I still use his advice to this day.

**Can you please give us your favorite “Life Lesson Quote”? Can you share how that was relevant to you in your life?**

“See it through.” These few words epitomize perseverance, which is major for me. I've faced challenges and obstacles throughout my life that others doubted I could overcome. I continued to persevere and see it through.

**Is there a person in the world, or in the US whom you would love to have a private breakfast or lunch with, and why? He or she might just see this, especially if we tag them!**

Charles King. He's a mogul in the making. If I had to choose a person to learn how to architect beautiful projects that serve a greater purpose, it's him.

**How can our readers follow you online?**

Instagram: @ShomariLove

**Read the interview here:**

<https://medium.com/authority-magazine/rising-star-shomari-love-on-the-five-things-you-need-to-shine-in-the-entertainment-industry-5e335d20e463>

# BRONZE

## Rising Star Shomari Love On The Five Things You Need To Shine In The Entertainment Industry



When it comes to acting, the sky's the limit for Shomari Love. Having appeared in several television shows including the Emmy-nominated series *The Chi* and *Black Lightning*, Love is no stranger to the world of film. His first lead role was in *Maya and her Lover*, which was nominated for the 2021 American Black Film Festival Jury Award. He also starred in the short film *Pulse* which he also directed and executive produced.

Love can currently be seen in the film *Take the Night* where he plays Shannon, a former basketball star whose career ended early due to an injury. He's down on his luck and in an attempt to change his life circumstances finds himself involved in a chain of events with serious consequences. We caught up with the rising star to chat about how he prepared for his role in the film, what acting means to him, advice he gives to up and coming creatives plus more.

**Q: Talk about your role in the film *Take the Night*.**

**A:** In the film, I play the role of Shannon. It was fun, mainly because I got to embrace his appetite for a thrill, which was suppressed by his traumatic past and current living situation.

**Q: What was the audition process like for the film?**

**A:** The audition process was completely virtual. It was done via self-tape and Zoom call-back sessions.



**Q: How was your preparation as far as remembering the lines and being fully in actor mode in every phase of the film?**

**A:** I read the script several times and did extra work to better understand the character's story. Although we shot out of order, I was able to identify how Shannon felt at any point of the story and memorize those scenes for that day.

**Q: What do you love about the character you play?**

**A:** I love that Shannon still holds on to what's left of his pride, despite how everyone around him treats him. He believes in himself.

**Q: What do you think readers should know about this film?**

**A:** This isn't your typical heist film. Although there are some cool action moments, the film is a story about family and overcoming personal obstacles.

**Q: What does acting mean to you?**

**A:** Acting is being truly alive. This is a liberation in the process of telling the stories of others. As adults, it's the only opportunity we get to truly play and remove all limits on our imaginations.

**Q: Where do you see yourself going with acting within the next one to two years?**

**A:** I see myself working as a regular on a series and leading in several feature films. God willing.

**Q: What do you love about being a part of The Chi and any of your other roles in acting?**

**A:** The Chi presented me with the opportunity to be a part of an authentic/raw story. I always appreciate those opportunities. Even with my character, Bilal. Although he was very controversial and ruthless, he was a troubled soul that needed to be understood.

**Q: What can you share next about your future plans with acting?**

**A:** I'll be recurring on a drama series later this year. Also, I'll be appearing opposite Jordana Brewster in a feature film.

**Q: What advice can you give to black and brown acting students and those within the creative arts to do now to prepare themselves to follow their dreams like you are?**

**A:** The best advice I can give is to start now. Study the craft and learn from the actors who've committed all their time and energy to this craft. Read stage plays, especially by August Wilson. Everyone may not believe in you or support your dream. Make sure your reason for pursuing it is solid. That will help you persevere.

**Read the interview here:**

<https://www.bronzemagonline.com/a-chat-with-rising-actor-take-the-night-star-shomari-love/>

# Shomari Love Stars in New Crime Thriller Take the Night



On July 8, *Take the Night*, a brand new crime thriller feature film, premiered starring Shomari Love. *Take the Night* is the story of a prank kidnapping gone horrifically wrong. Love portrays Shannon, whose career in basketball ended abruptly after an injury. When Shannon is struggling to make a living in a new career, an old friend reaches out with a lucrative yet criminal opportunity: a “fake” kidnapping.

Before taking on the role of Shannon, Shomari Love worked incredibly hard to get to where he is today. After graduating from Seton Hall University, Shomari Love began working in corporate America. Despite his professional success, Love felt he was still “wasting talent.” Shortly after this realization, Love started pursuing a career in acting. Regarding this abrupt career transition, Love told ENSPIRE it “was inspired by the thrill of the unknown. I wanted to challenge myself and take a leap of faith.” He took acting classes, traveled to gigs, marketed himself, and worked tirelessly. And all his hard work has paid off.

Today, Shomari Love is known for his work not only as an actor but also as an artist, director, and producer. Love has starred in TV shows such as Showtime’s *The Chi* (2018–), CW’s *Black Lightning* (2017–2021), and in feature films including *Maya and Her Lover* (2021). He is an actor, director, and producer of the short film *Pulse*, which received an Honorable Mention for Best Film of the Festival at the Spring 2022 Couch Film Festival. Now, *Take the Night* is the latest film project Love can add to his expansive portfolio.



Shomari Love's approach to preparing for characters has helped him succeed in roles across widely different genres. While he has acted in thrillers, romantic comedies, dramas, and more, Love is excited to keep expanding his diverse repertoire. "Hopefully, Sci-Fi is up next for me!" he commented.

Shomari Love's journey from corporate America into his successful entertainment career is inspiring for all who dream of reaching their potential. To anyone who may feel that their talent is being wasted, Love offers a simple, straightforward remedy: "Don't waste any time. Take the risk. Do the work!"

Additionally, a quote by Nelson Mandela is central to Love's perseverance. The quote? "It always seems impossible until it is done." ENSPIRE asked Shomari Love about what significance this phrase had to him. "To me, it means belief in self. Many didn't believe me becoming a professional actor was something that could be done," he confides. "That's what makes this quote resonate so well with me. Most of the times someone has told me I couldn't do something, I did it. Because I believed in myself.

After watching *Take the Night*, you can look forward to Shomari Love's next upcoming role! He'll be starring opposite Jordana Brewster in the feature film *On Our Way*. Love also told ENSPIRE that he'll "be acting in a drama series later in the year." You can follow Shomari Love on Instagram @shomarilove to keep up with all his latest projects!

Be sure to watch Shomari Love as Shannon in *Take the Night* in theaters or online via Vudu, Amazon Prime, or Apple TV+.

In an exclusive interview with ENSPIRE, Shomari Love described his experience on set. *Take the Night* is director Seth McTigue's first feature film. However, what makes this debut film even more unique is that McTigue stars alongside Love as one of the criminal kidnappers. Love said he enjoyed working with McTigue on set. "It's not often you get to work on features that have the director involved in so many capacities. Overall, it was a good experience. Seth brought a different level of enthusiasm and attention to detail to the project, which ultimately helped us all meet our goals. Most of all, we had fun."

Not only did Love have fun on set but he also had fun playing Shannon. He shared his favorite part of the role was "the work that went into preparing for this character. The more I got into Shannon's backstory and circumstances, the less restricted I felt with choices I made for him." Love's preparation and character choices bring Shannon to life on the big screen.

**Read the interview here:**

<https://enspiremag.com/2022/07/shomari-love-stars-in-new-crime-thriller-take-the-night/>



# Podcasts

## EW's What to Watch



Listen to the segment beginning  
at 9:54 here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-to-watch/id1455304425?i=1000569250981>

## The Man Cave Chronicles



Listen to the podcast here:

<https://www.themccpodcast.com/episode/shomari-love-talks-about-his-latest-film-take-the-night>

## The Entertainment Zone



Listen to the podcast here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/78-01-shomari-love-interview/id1524333914?i=1000578442812>

## Too Opinionated



Watch the podcast here:

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

## Thanks For Coming In



Listen to the podcast here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/shomari-love/id1513632362?i=1000566621738>

## The TV Dudes



Listen to the podcast here:

<https://thetvdudes.libsyn.com/shomari-love-take-the-night-the-tv-dude-s-interview>

# Additional Podcasts

## FaceTime with Todd Wharton



Watch the interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK0kCUt1TGk>

## One on One with Courtney Starks



Watch the interview here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ADO8jMpxcs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ADO8jMpxcs)

## The Mike Wagner Show



Watch the interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHB-ESKTeWE>

## Spoiler Country



Listen to the podcast here:

<https://scpod.net/shomari-love-actor-producer-writer/>

## The Yo Show



Watch the interview beginning at 1:18:00 here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-qE\\_GRFbs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-qE_GRFbs)