



THE UNKOWNS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL - This story is the second part of looking at local and national art history created by the famed Florida Highwaymen. This highwaymen's movement in art began in the 1950's with Alfred Hair; he was the nucleus of a group of nine artists (Harold Newton, Alfred Hair, Roy McLendon, James Gibson, Livingston Roberts, Mary Ann Carroll, Sam Newton, Willie Daniels, and Al Black) that came together for the betterment of their lives. Hair studied art with A.E. "Bean" Backus a known landscape painter in Fort Pierce, Fla. This is of note because the Black artists during the 1950's had to abide by Jim Crow laws and these laws did not allow them to showcase their work in galleries and museums, let alone go to art school to be formally taught.

The group later grew to a unit of 25 men and one woman. The highwaymen could see that by working as artists they could make more money from painting than working in the orange groves or packing houses. Why work all day long for five dollars when a painting could get 25 or 30 dollars for 30 to 45 minutes of labor? That would be equal to a week's worth of wages or more of manual labor from the sale of one painting.



Genji Jacques

The making of the movie for the famed artists known as the Highwaymen continued this April. The upcoming film, *The Unknown's - Talent is Color Blind*, has allowed Floridian businesses and actors to participate in the creation of the film's trailer. Four locations aided the producers vision for the trailer; Trio Club - Fort Lauderdale, Lighthouse Church of God in Christ - Fort Lauderdale, Spykes Grove - Davie and a sunrise scene at Dania Beach Pier. Private owners of vintage cars were able to rent out their cars to be a part of the trailer. One owner said a knock came to her door to ask if her husband's car could be available for the shoot. They ended up with several cars on the set for various scenes.

The location of a film's production is significant because it has economic impact to its physical location. The community gains a boost in jobs and tourism such as lodging and restaurants for the crew and the cast. Typically it will also boost trades such as carpentry, electricians and set builders. In addition to the cast, extras are often needed and get paid a daily rate for their appearances. Most states will match funding for films to ensure that these economic impacts are realized.

Three local actors will continue on with roles in the film. Eric Jackson and Genji Jacques portray the leader of the highwaymen Alfred Hair. Eric Jackson portrays Hair



Eric Jackson

as a young man picking oranges in the groves and praying for an answer to how to have more in life. Jackson is a part of a gospel/inspirational music group called "We are Young" which is composed of four members, and what makes it special is that they're all family. Jackson is also attending Broward College, working towards a master's degree in health science to later have a career in physical therapy.

Sandra Justice portrays Hair's girlfriend. Justice is no stranger to film production; she is an award winning actress and producer. Justice began her acting career on the set of the 2005 film, *Miami Vice*, in a feature role with Jamie Foxx and Colin Farrell.

Genji Jacques portrays Hair as an adult. He is the founder of Godz Sun Productions. He has starred in independent films and stage plays such as *Wind of Desire*, *Hard Times*, *Mary Jane*, *Hostage*, *Cloud 9* and *My Girl*. He is a member of The Faith Center Ministries in Sunrise, Florida, and is currently pursuing a master's in ministry at the University of Fort Lauderdale

The film goes into full production later in the year in Savannah, Ga. The state of Georgia was able to match film points for critical funding that was not able to be obtained locally here in Florida.



SANDRA JUSTICE

Learn about the film and the Highwaymen visit www.theunknownsmovietalentiscolorblind.com www.floridahighwaymenpaintings.com

ART ON HIV/AIDS

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping eradicate this epidemic that is affecting our community.

Broward County has the second highest new infection rates of HIV in the state of Florida.



From the Broward County Dept. of Health

Florida
A total of 109,969 persons are living with a diagnosis of HIV Infection in Florida through 2014
Blacks accounted for:
47% (n=51,496) of total
38% of adult men and 68% of adult women
79% of the pediatric cases
27% of MSM (men who have sex with men)
52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)
72% of heterosexuals
57% of AIDS case deaths in 2014
According to Florida's 2014 Population Estimates
15% of Florida's population is black

United States
CDC estimates a total of 933,941 persons living with a diagnosis of HIV infection through 2013
Blacks accounted for:
43% (n=398,645) of total
37% of adult men and 61% of adult women
65% of pediatric cases
31% of MSM (men who have sex with men)
52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)
64% of heterosexuals
47% of deaths with HIV infections in 2013
According to the 2013 US population Estimates,
12% of the US population is black.