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# NICOYE BANKS AND LUCKY JOHNSON

Shining On and Off  
the Screen



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# Nicoye Banks and Lucky Johnson

## Shining On and Off the Screen

Edwin Buggage  
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

### New Orleans Natives Making their Mark in the Entertainment Industry

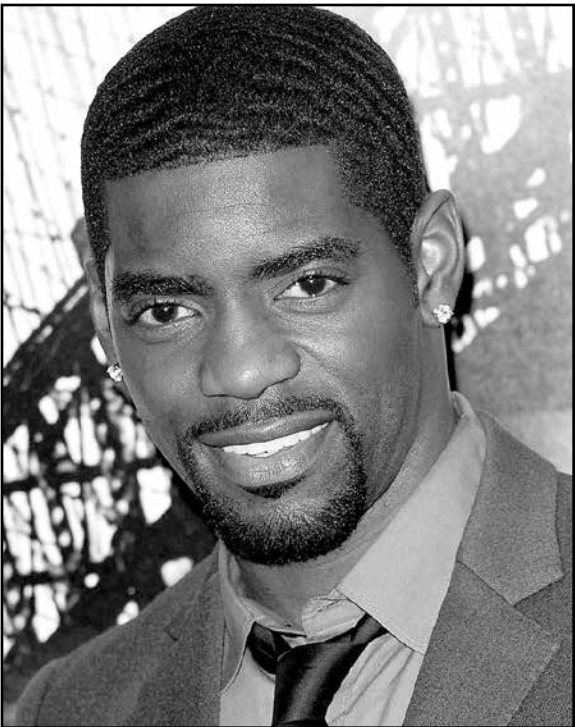
Actors Nicoye Banks and Lucky Johnson are becoming renowned figures in the world of film, stage, and television. They both continue to captivate audiences with their exceptional talent and have proven to be an inspiration beyond their achievements in the world of entertainment. Both having remarkable careers spanning decades, they have established themselves and are using their platform to make a positive impact and advocate for meaningful causes.

“I appreciate being able to do something I love and working with some of the greats in the entertainment industry, but what is most important is being able to inspire and give back to my community,” says Lucky Johnson, who in addition to acting is known for his philanthropic efforts across the city.

Both men are successful in their respective careers, becoming household names across the country and the globe. But these hometown heroes are eternally connected to New Orleans.

“I have lived in and traveled to other places, but New Orleans is what made me who I am. It is the special ingredient that connects to people, compassion, caring, and celebrating life all the time which is infectious. I am so connected to other elements of the culture, be it the Indians, Second-Line clubs, and our zest for living and resilience. These are things that keep me going in the entertainment business. And I feel proud to be from New Orleans, and always represent the best of my city,” says Nicoye Banks.

Known for their versatility and captivating performances, they have consistently pushed boundaries,



Both Lucky Johnson (L) and Nicoye Banks (R) are talented actors from New Orleans who have used their platforms to showcase the best that the city has to offer. They both are committed to inspiring the community to aspire to excellence.

captivating audiences in critically acclaimed films, captivating television series, and on stage. They have garnered critical acclaim and other significant achievements in their respective fields.

### On their latest film, “The Channel” and Staying Relevant in the Entertainment Industry

Their talents have come together in a new film called “The Channel” which is a film centering around a bank heist gone wrong, where a desperate criminal, his out-of-control brother, and a motley crew of ex-Marines must escape from New Orleans and a determined FBI Agent. Another notable talent Jaren Mitchell also appears in the film.

While they are both working actors, both feel it is important to diversify and control their own destinies.

“I have worked with some of the biggest names in the industry, (including working with his first New Orleans own Tyler Perry) but you cannot rely on simply being an actor if you want to be successful in the business,” says Johnson. “That is why I do so many other things in industry, as well as the community. These things together give my life purpose.”

### Blessed to Be a Blessing: Serving Others and Giving Back

Beyond their professional accomplishments, they have actively embraced their role as humanitarians and philanthropists, using their fame and influence to

The Channel is opening on July 14, 2023 at Canal Place and is streaming On Demand.

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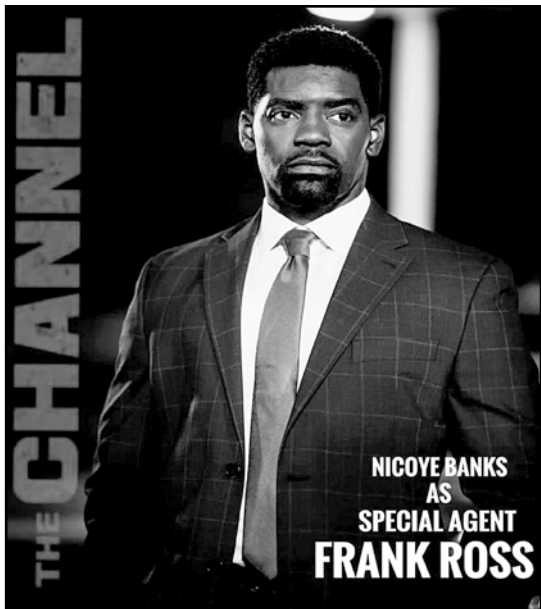
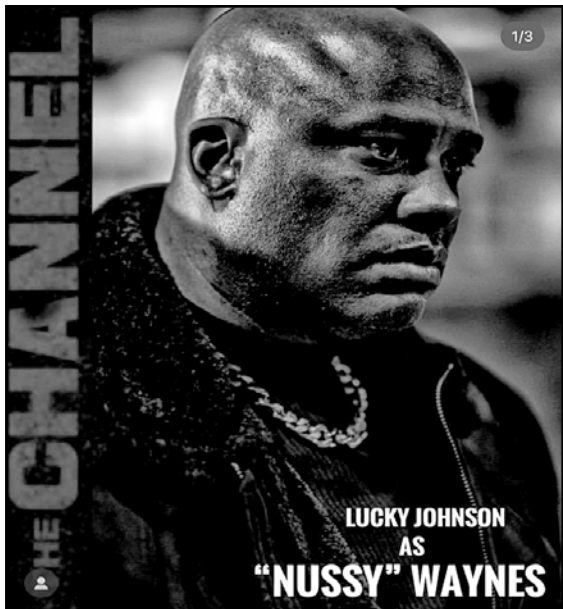
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bring attention to important social issues. Their involvement in charitable causes has made a profound impact and inspired others to join in making a difference.

Additionally, Banks and Johnson have been vocal supporters of numerous humanitarian causes, including education, poverty alleviation, and social justice. Through charitable donations, partnerships with non-profit organizations, and personal involvement in initiatives, they have ac-

tively sought to improve the lives of marginalized communities and inspire positive change.

Moreover, their impact extends beyond their philanthropy. They have consistently demonstrated a commitment to using their platform to promote inclusivity and diversity within the entertainment industry. By speaking out about representation and advocating for underrepresented voices, they have helped to pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable industry.

"I enjoy and am blessed to be a working actor, but my long-term goal is to begin working behind the scenes trying my hand at writing, producing, and directing. I feel it is important to evolve in the business and be willing to try new things to grow as an artist. Also, I feel that we as natives of New Orleans have stories to tell that can be authentic and connect with a larger audience," says Banks.

In the face of their success, they both remain grounded and humble,

understanding the importance of giving back and using their platform for the greater good. They have expressed gratitude for their fans' unwavering support and believe in the power of collective action to effect change.

#### 5-0-4 Ever

Banks and Johnson continue to represent New Orleans and inspire fans worldwide, both through their exceptional talent on screen and their unwavering dedication to mak-

ing a positive impact off-screen. As influential figures in the entertainment industry, they have set an example of how fame and success can be used to uplift others and create a better world.

With their talent, philanthropy, and advocacy, these two hometown heroes have become an emblem of inspiration, by shining their lights and reminding us of all of the potential we have to make a difference, no matter what our field of expertise is.

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# Eye Candy



**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

Fashion trends are ever-evolving, and the world of sunglasses and eye fashion is no exception. This season, the focus is on embracing the future while making a bold fashion statement. Let's explore the hottest trends in sunglasses that will surely catch everyone's attention.

Futuristic frames have taken the summer by storm, offering a unique blend of modernism and sophistication. These sunglasses feature sharp edges, geometric shapes, and bold lines, adding an avant-garde touch to any outfit. With their sleek design, they effortlessly elevate your fashion game.

For those who crave a touch of drama, oversized sunglasses are the perfect eye candy. Not only do they provide maximum protection from the sun, but they also exude glamour. Look for frames that are large and square and consider embellishments or unique lens colors to make a memorable fashion statement. These oversized shades are sure to turn heads wherever you go.

Vibrant colors have become a massive hit this summer in the world of sunglasses. From neon hues to bold pastels, there is a vast array of shades available that can instantly uplift your fashion vibe. Consider sunglasses with translucent frames or lenses in vivid reds, electric blues, or sunset oranges to infuse a vibrant pop of color into your style. Embracing these colorful shades will add a playful and energetic touch to your overall look.

Mirrored lenses are a must-have accessory for both men and women. The reflective coating on these sunglasses adds an extra layer of coolness to your appearance. Choose from a range of mirrored finishes, such as silver, gold, or even multi-



color, to create a captivating visual effect. These lenses not only protect your eyes but also make a fashion-forward statement that is sure to catch everyone's attention.

Remember, regardless of your personal style, it's essential to select eye candy that not only elevates your fashion game but also protects your eyes. With these fashionable sunglasses, all eyes will be on you, as you confidently embrace the future and make a striking fashion statement.



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Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



Tracee Dundas Fashion Editor @fashionablyyoursnola

Help Wanted

## Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.
- Compensation is competitive.
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# Governor's Race Needs Hot Sauce

Kenneth Cooper  
Think504.com

Somebody needs to say something about somebody's mama soon. Or else, this will be one of the dullest races for governor in a while. Last election we had the intrigue: Will Louisianans be dumb enough to let phony Rispone ride Trump's jockstrap all the way to the governor's mansion? And the election before that, we watched in slow motion as front-running David Vitter blew his chances because he likes prostitutes.

But what do we have now? None of the above. No intrigue. No prostitutes. Just parakeets piping the same tune. What's your thoughts on crime? Well, as a candidate, I second what the other guy who seconded what the other guy said. What about early childhood education? Ditto. Taxes? I plan to do everything the other guy said he'll do. I'll just do it better.

Even Trump has denied us of drama. Surely, he knew that the



Candidates for Governor l-r Jeff Landry (R), Shawn Wilson (D), and Stephen Waguespeak (R)

Republican candidates would probably punch a pelican for his endorsement. But what did he do? Did he concoct some type of entertainment? Did he take the opportunity to make it all about himself? Nope. Trump let us down. There was no Apprentice Style Competition held at Mar-a-Lago. No dejected candidates one by one being told "you're

fired." Instead, he just gave his endorsement to Jeff Landry. And Landry has been front running and sucking drama from the race ever since.

But wait, there's hope coming from the most unlikely of places—Shawn Wilson, a Black Democrat. Wilson has been steadily producing run-off numbers in the polls.

Yes, this is probably because he's the lone Democrat in a field with 6 Republicans. But anything can go down in a run-off. And surprisingly, the state (demographically, and on a key issue) seems to be trending in his favor.

Demographically, Wilson is poised to tap into the silent minority, i.e., Black people. The latest poll

shows that out of all the candidates Wilson has the most to gain due to so many undecided Black voters. What they could possibly be undecided about is the subject for another article. But besides those undecideds, Wilson also has a rising Black population to draw from.

The state's Black population has risen so much (up to a ) that the State's Congressional Map will soon be redrawn to add a 2nd Black district. That will most likely result in a 2nd Black U.S. Congressman from our state. We can thank the Supreme Court for that. Come the run-off, Wilson's campaign must make it known that Landry and most Republicans are against this.

They should also make it known that Louisiana is on the cusp of making history. A Wilson win would give the state its first Black governor in 150 years. So far Wilson hasn't gone all in for the Black vote. But he'll have to if he wants to

**Newsmaker, Continued  
on page 7.**

## City of New Orleans Provides Update on New Orleans Police Superintendent Search

### City of New Orleans

In March, the Cantrell Administration engaged the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to conduct a national search for the next Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). The Superintendent position holds significant importance for the community, and selecting the right candidate is vital to ensuring our residents' and visitors' safety, security and well-being.

IACP, in cooperation with the City of New Orleans, community leaders and stakeholders, worked to define the qualifications of the ideal Superintendent candidate through direct engagement with residents, job analysis, an evaluation of the policing environment and feedback from NOPD employees. To gather community input at an early stage of the process, IACP administered community surveys and conducted community meetings in each Council



District, focus group interviews and individual interviews with City Council members and stakeholders. A strong partnership between law enforcement and the community is essential for fostering trust, promoting collaboration and building a safer city.

Once the candidate profile was finalized, IACP developed a recruitment brochure that described the



position and provided an overview of the NOPD and information about the city. The recruitment brochure and associated marketing campaign were designed to elicit responses from the most qualified applicants nationwide. The application period opened June 6th and closed June 23rd. The job posting asked for applications to be sent directly to IACP.

Thirty-three candidates applied for the Superintendent position. Following a thorough evaluation by IACP, including resume review, internet screening and a virtual structured interview, six candidates were recommended by IACP to be considered as semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will participate in a two-day Assessment Center on July 20th & 21st in New Orleans. The

Assessment Center will allow IACP to evaluate the semi-finalists based on essential competencies required for effective police agency leadership. City public safety personnel and external stakeholders will participate in the interview process at the Assessment Center to contribute a local perspective.

After the conclusion of the Assessment Center, IACP will assess each candidate's performance throughout the evaluation process and recommend candidates to be considered as finalists. Each finalist will interview with Mayor Cantrell and other senior members of the administration. Once a candidate has been selected, the appointee will appear before the City Council for the confirmation process.

The Cantrell Administration appreciates the IACP and all those that provided vital feedback in the process of the search for the City's next Superintendent, and we look forward to concluding the search in the coming weeks.



# Harper's Bid for the Democratic Nomination Sets him on a Direct Collision Course with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Hill Harper, the well-known actor recognized for his roles in hit television shows such as "CSI: NY" and "The Good Doctor," has declared his candidacy for Michigan's vacant U.S. Senate seat.

Harper's bid for the Democratic nomination sets him on a direct collision course with U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin.

With Harper's entry into the race, he becomes the sixth Democratic contender vying for the seat left open by retiring Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

A four-term senator, Stabenow announced her decision not to seek re-election in 2024, adding to the significance of the battleground state's upcoming election.

Although born in Iowa, Harper has established strong ties to Michigan. He owns a residence in Detroit and made a notable investment in the city's business landscape by purchasing Roasting Plant Coffee in 2017.

Before pursuing an acting career, Harper attended Brown University and Harvard Law School.

His extensive acting portfolio includes a nine-season run on the CBS show "CSI: NY" and a current role on ABC's "The Good Doctor."

Harper's involvement in public service extends beyond the entertainment industry. In 2012, President Barack Obama appointed Harper to his cancer panel because



Hill Harper

of his personal experience as a cancer survivor.

Harper's background as a small-business owner, union member, and activist positions him as a unique candidate who emphasizes his status as a non-career politician.

He declared that his campaign would be "powered by the people, for the people," hoping that this trait would give him an advantage in Congress.

In an interview with The Associated Press leading up to his

announcement, Harper stressed the importance of representing the people rather than focusing on party lines.

He said he believed Michigan residents desired an independent voice in the U.S. Senate.

Harper faces the daunting challenge of catching up to Slotkin's impressive fundraising efforts and established campaign.

Slotkin, who has garnered endorsements from fellow U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, has raised \$5.8 mil-

lion in just over four months, with \$3.6 million remaining unspent.

Initially, many prominent Democratic candidates considering a Senate run chose not to compete after Slotkin's announcement in February.

However, in recent months, the field of Democratic candidates has expanded.

State Board of Education member Pamela Pugh, former Detroit State Rep. Leslie Love, businessman Nasser Beydoun, and Attorney Zack Burns have all thrown their hats into the ring.

Michigan holds significant importance for the Democratic Party, as the state represents a must-win for maintaining control of the Senate.

Democrats anticipate tough races in other battleground states like Ohio, West Virginia, Montana, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.

In the 2020 election, Republican John James narrowly lost to incumbent Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, who now serves as a U.S. Representative.

While two GOP candidates, including State Board of Education member Nikki Snyder, have declared their intentions to run, Republicans have yet to field a high-profile contender for the seat.

Notable figures like former U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer are reportedly considering bids.

Republicans have been successful in only one of Michigan's last 15 Senate races, securing an open seat victory in 1994.

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get the undecideds and those who typically stay home to cast a ballot.

The abortion issue also gives Wilson an edge. Current polls show the state has flipped from pro-life to pro-choice in just 4 years. That leaves Landry behind the times. And while Wilson has identified as pro-life personally, he's said that policy-wise he'd lean pro-choice.

This stance could allow him to tap into another demographic—

White women. Yes, the same White women who tend not to vote for Black candidates. But 4 years ago, these same White women weren't for abortion. So, who knows.

There you have it though. Drama. We're on the cusp of it. 3 months from a potential run-off with a chance to move forward and make history or take another step backward. Don't blow it, as usual, Louisiana.

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