



Out of the Mouths of Babes

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT OVERVIEW

Concept Summary



"Out of the Mouths of Babes" is a 30-second Domestic Violence Public Service Announcement (PSA) examining the effects of abusive adult male behavior and its impact on the thoughts and actions of male children who witness Domestic Violence.

The brainchild of Actor and Screenwriter Craig J. Harris, who through his experience as a filmmaker and commitment to community activism, *"Out of the Mouths of Babes"* attempts to address and connect with the male demographic, 18-54, responsible for perpetrating the majority of domestic abuse cases.

"Out of the Mouths of Babes" is a call to action for men to stop their physical and verbal abuse. The PSA engages men in confronting the choice to abuse while educating and seeks possibly to prevent domestic violence before it occurs.



The objective of the *"Out of the Mouths of Babes"* PSA is:

- To raise awareness of the need to reduce children's exposure to domestic violence, and;
- Domestic violence prevention by addressing men directly to examine their actions and the impact on their sons, nephews, wards, etc.

Behind the Scenes

5th District Illinois State Representative Ken Dunkin



In addition to being an Illinois State Representative, Ken Dunkin has spent his professional life, serving people as a certified social worker and domestic abuse counselor. Representative Dunkin's commitment to eradicating Domestic Violence immediately drew him to participate in the production of the PSA. Representative Dunkin delivers the underlying message in *"Out of the Mouths of Babes"* to the men in the viewing audience, reminding them of their enormous responsibility, *"End the cycle of domestic violence because your actions and words will become his."*

According to research, boys witnessing family violence are twice as likely as those who do not witness family violence to abuse their own partners and children when they grow up. (Strauss, Gelles, and Smith, *"Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence,"* in R.J. Gelles, ed., *Families*. Piscataway, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1990.)

"Out of the Mouths of Babes" Youth Apprenticeship Program

"*Out of the Mouths of Babes*" isn't just a vitally important social message. The production of the PSA was a "learning set", which employed at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth interested in careers in the visual media production industry.

Collaborating with Free Spirit Media and Chicago Vocational Career Academy Radio & TV Department, Harris created paid positions in every facet of production for the students' participation, while providing mentoring for the participants who worked alongside experienced industry professionals.



About Free Spirit Media: *Free Spirit Media collaborates with schools and organizations to provide education, access, and opportunity in media production to under-served urban youth. Through hands-on production of their own media content, participants build life skills in communication, critical and independent thinking, teamwork, and the use of technology. Believing that youth perspectives are a critical element of American culture, Free Spirit Media actively distributes student work to a range of audiences. Participants' dreams and aspirations grow, and in turn, their voices and visions benefit our society.*



About Chicago Vocational Career Academy Radio & TV Major: *Chicago Vocational Career Academy Radio & TV Major challenges the student to meet strict deadlines and minimum production standards for both radio and television. The Major's objectives is to immerse students into the real world of video production and radio station management and to heighten their level of media literacy through hands-on participation in the production of audio and video programs incorporating technological science and creative thought. Students form production companies and work individually to produce final video productions for regional and national video competitions. Additionally, students produce sporting event broadcasts, news programs, and other productions for airing on CPS cable television. Students manage the radio station airing internet web casting broadcasts, sell advertising, and other required real-world duties. Students develop their ability to communicate through writing and reading, research, analysis, problem solving and organization.*



Bios



CRAIG J. HARRIS (*Producer / Writer / Director*)

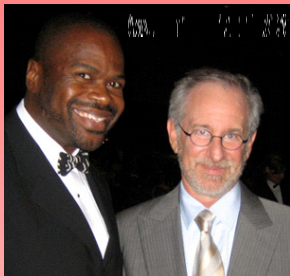
Chicago native ***Craig J. Harris*** is an award winning screenwriter and an accomplished actor.

Harris began writing with the hope of bringing diverse roles to film, television and theatre. Movies produced from Harris' scripts have garnered ***Five Emmy Awards***, a ***Telly Award***, an ***AFTRA American Scene Award*** and a ***Proctor & Gamble Dreambuilder Celebration Scribe Award***.

Critics describe Harris' nationally aired television screenplay, *Skin Complex*, a provocative, innovative and cleverly crafted story dealing with race relations, as a “*thought provoking premise*”... “*it is one of the more provocative and daring ways to deal with race issues*”... “*Skin Complex breaks the mold, working on several levels as a bit of science fiction and a search for self discovery.*”

Harris served as the head writer of the television series *Stories from the Soul*, produced by Masequa Myers and Associates in conjunction with Robert Townsend for the Black Family Channel. Additionally, Harris wrote and produced the irreverent TV sketch comedy show *Witch Doctor Bill*.

A much sought after script consultant and screenwriting instructor, Harris developed and taught the hugely successful *Harris Screenwriting Method*, in addition to performing work-for-hire assignments and script doctoring.



Harris has numerous Film and TV acting credits including *The Unborn*, *Eagle Eye*, *Fred Claus*, *Let's Go to Prison*, *Barbershop 2*, *PrisonBreak* and *Early Edition*. Harris has studied and performed on the stages of the Second City Theater, ImprovOlympic, Victory Gardens Theater and ETA Theater in Chicago.

Harris also has voiced numerous commercials and video games for well known clients including Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Allstate, Kellogg's, KFC, Proctor & Gamble, OnStar, US Bank and Western Union, may be best known as the character voice of Lt. Jackson “Jax” Briggs in Midway Games' Mortal Kombat video game series.

Harris is an active member of the Screen Actors Guild, The American Federation on Television and Radio Artists, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Illinois Production Alliance.

SHARON KING (*Co-Producer*)

Sharon King was born, raised and educated in the State of Illinois. Her entrepreneurial drive was inspired by the self-employment example of her father. As a student at Columbia College, she began her career in production as an intern at Harpo Productions, Inc.-*The Oprah Winfrey Show*.



With a definite eye for talent, Sharon extends her search to the streets as well as the obvious sources for those with potential and raw talent in addition to seeing the dedicated professionals. A wealth of casting experience and a desire to bridge the gap between talent and production has led Sharon to her latest professional role of Producer.

While Sharon penetrated the industry as an Extras Casting Associate, she quickly ascended the ladder to Casting Director and Producer. In 1987, she started working as an Extras Casting Associate on feature films and series productions such as “*Another Cup of Coffee*” “*The Babe*” and “*Brewster Place*”. As a Casting Associate, she worked with other Casting Directors on feature films and pilot presentations that include: “*What’s Love Got to Do With It*”, “*The Five Heartbeats*”, “*Meteor Man*” and “*Moe’s World*”.



Her Casting Director/Extras Casting Director credits are extensive. They include music videos, short films, feature films, and commercials. Most notably, “*Nothing Like the Holidays*”, “*Scenes for the Soul*”, “*Soul Food*”, “*Light It Up*”, “*Love Relations*”, “*Barbershop & Barbershop 2*”, “*Roll Bounce*”, “*Of Boys and Men*”, “*Witless Protection*”, “*Elektra*”, “*Fat Albert*”, “*Spider Man II*”, “*Normal*”, “*Proof*”, “*Ice Harvest*”, “*The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*”, Ron Isley / R Kelly “*What Would You Do*”, and the “*Illinois Lottery*”.

Add Producer to her film contributions. Executive producing “*(Mis) Leading Man*”, a short film shot in Chicago, she is utilizing local talent and resources. Sharon enjoys this realm of filmmaking as it affords her the chance to assist in securing financing, employ crew and collaborate in the decision making process from start to finish.

She is an active member on various boards including The Governor's Visual Media Task Force, the Illinois Production Alliance –Diversity Committee Chair, Chicago International Film Festival – Black Perspectives Committee.

Sharon is dedicated to producing and developing more feature films and television projects in Illinois while striving to unite the visual media community.

KHALID SCOTT (On-Set Social Worker / *Consultant*)

Khalid B. Scott, MSW, LCM, QMHP is a 16 year Clinical manager and Social Worker, who has provided mental health therapy to IDCFS affiliated clients to include foster and biological family members for over 9 years. Khalid is also a contractual trainer for CASA Cook County Juvenile Courts and contractual lecturer at DePaul University (MSW program-Lincoln Park campus).

Khalid, has an eclectic approach to therapy which includes components of cognitive/behavioral treatment, crisis intervention, brief task-centered and self empowerment skill building. Khalid has the genuine and consistent mindset that one can heal themselves with the right guidance and interventions.



Khalid in his spare time mentors youth (ages 5 to 20), provides social work trainings/workshops and is a motivational speaker. Khalid has served 9-1/2 years combined in both the US Army and Illinois Army National Guard. Khalid has won numerous awards that include 7 military service awards, as well as Mentor of the Year (1998 and 2005) from the Bashir Foundation, Citizen of the Year (2006) from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tasc Inc. Employee of the Year 2006 and Chicago State University Leadership Award. Khalid has multiple memberships that include, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Chicago chapters of the Urban League (Metro Board) and NAACP, Black Alumni Associations (CVS, UIC and CSU), National Associations of Black Social Workers, CPS Real Men Read, National Association of Social Workers and Kindness Care and Compassion Board member.

Additional Notes



Thoughtful consideration was given to the welfare of the boys who participated in the making of *“Out of the Mouths of Babes”*.

Paramount to creating a message that would resonate with the target demographic was the concern for the children. In addition to the exhaustive research to ensure the safety of the children, Khalid B. Scott, MSW, LCM, QMHP, who is a 16-year Clinical Manager and Social Worker, served as on-set social worker/counselor and as a script consultant to maintain the message’s integrity.

Special Thanks

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