

# Executive Producer Dream Hampton Talks “Surviving R. Kelly”

By **Stacy M. Brown** | NPA Newswire Correspondent

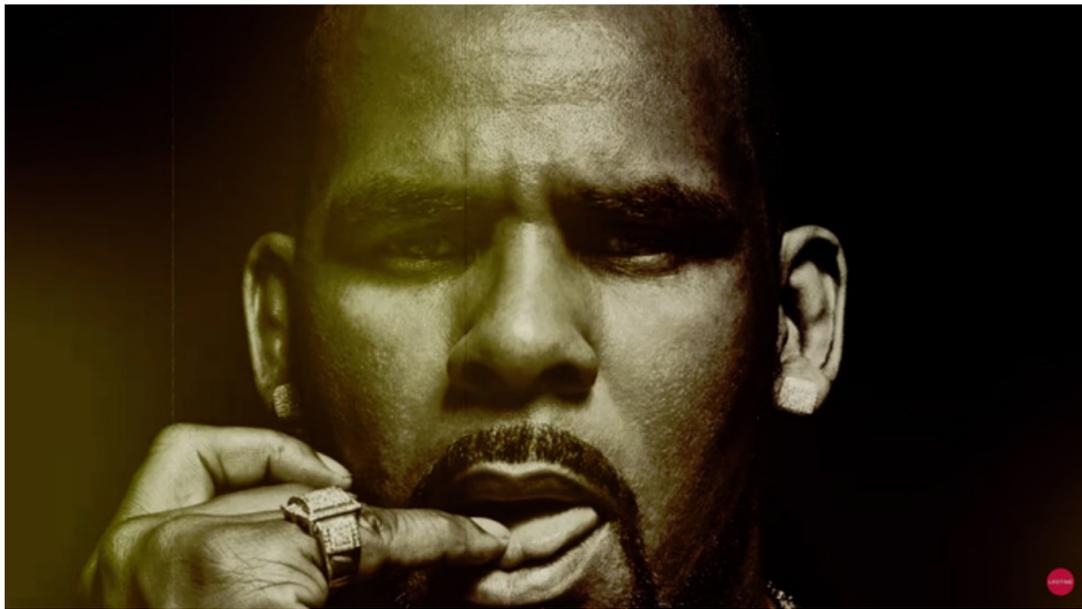
(NNPA) - For Dream Hampton, who served as executive producer of the much-talked about “Surviving R. Kelly” documentary, the explosive revelations in the film were just the tip of the iceberg.

Hampton said there were many things she couldn't talk about and will never discuss because it's “so dark and sad and traumatic.”

That's saying quite a bit as the three-part Lifetime Television series not only has social media and the general public aghast but has celebrities like John Legend and Chance the Rapper expressing remorse for ever working with Kelly.

“Maybe he could've gotten help when he was 30, or you know, 29 when the Aaliyah stuff broke,” Hampton said in an extensive interview on The Karen Hunter Show on Sirius XM Radio.

Aaliyah was largely left out of the documentary, but Hampton said she didn't want to devote an entire episode



Dream Hampton served as executive producer for the upcoming Lifetime series ‘Surviving R. Kelly.’ (Screen capture: Source YouTube/Lifetime)

on the late songstress.

“For me, she's actually his type,” Hampton told Hunter. “You know, what he targets are very regular, and you know, your audience understands this, like brown-skin black girls. You know, like he, we can talk about publicly, oh, that he targets black girls who aren't famous. No, he has a very specific type, you know.”

Surviving R. Kelly — which aired on Lifetime from Thursday, Jan. 3 to Saturday, Jan. 5 — featured wide-ranging interviews with Kelly's family members, former friends and colleagues, but most notably, women who claim that for decades, the hit-making singer and producer used his power and influence to sexually and physically abuse women

and young girls.

PEOPLE Magazine editors said they reached out to Kelly's representatives who offered a “no comment” about the series.

In 2002, Kelly, a Chicago native, was indicted after a video surfaced allegedly showing a man engaged in sex acts with a woman who some witnesses testified was 14 at the time of the

recording. Both Kelly and the woman denied that the video was of them, and Kelly was never charged with assault. In 2008, Kelly was found not guilty on 21 counts of child pornography.

Several published reports said Kelly intends to counteract the documentary with lawsuits and the creation of a Facebook page to “ex-

pose the lies.” However, Hampton said there was plenty of truth attached to the story and much more remains untold.

“When I went into this project, I was clear that he was a predator and that he targeted young and vulnerable girls. I don't think I knew he was an abuser, and I don't mean to sound naive, but I just didn't think physical abuse was a part of his repertoire,” Hampton said.

“I certainly didn't know I would have to listen to a woman after woman talking about being denied food and movement. I mean, we about to get into a couple of episodes where you're going to hear testimony of girls talking about having, you know, they couldn't leave the room unless he told them to and all of them didn't have bathrooms in the room. So, they used slop buckets. His runners would put slop buckets in the room. So, I don't think I was prepared for his sadism.”

## Jordan Peele's ‘Us’ to Premiere as Opening Film at SXSW

By **JAKE COYLE** | AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jordan Peele's “Us,” his anticipated follow-up to “Get Out,” will make its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival.

SXSW announced Tuesday that “Us” will open the 26th edition of the Austin, Texas, festival on March 8. Like Peele's “Get Out,” “Us” is a socially minded horror thriller.

The film stars Lupita Nyong'o as a woman returning to her beachside childhood home with her husband and two children. On the vacation, an unresolved trauma from her past is unearthed leading to an eerie confrontation for the family with doppelgangers of themselves.

“Us” will be released March 22 by Universal Pictures. Peele also produces along with Jason Blum of Blumhouse Productions. Co-stars include Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss and Tim Heidecker.

SXSW runs March 8-17.



Jordan Peele's Us horror film starring Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows a scene from Jordan Peele's upcoming film, “Us,” which will make its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival. (Claudette Barius/Universal Pictures via AP)

## UT Austin Black Student-Athlete Summit

By **John Harris Jr.** | Villager Columnist

(VILLAGER NEWS) - The University of Texas hosts its fifth annual Black Student-Athlete Summit Jan. 9-11 at the AT&T Conference Center. The three-day event details issues facing black athletes on college campuses and is hosted by the African-American Male Research Initiative in UT's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

This year's conference is titled, “The Awakening of the Black Student-Athlete” and will include sessions addressing mental health, best practices in coaching and academic achievement. About 350 people are registered,

including coaches, athletic directors, administrators, athletes, professors and NCAA representatives.

Keynote speakers include John Brown, a two-time Mr. Universe and three-time Mr. World. Brown's oldest son plays for the NFL's Green Bay Packers, his middle son is the top receiver at Sanford and his youngest son is a star receiver at USC. All three sons received full college scholarships. Other speakers include Prairie View professor Dr. Akilah R. Carter-Francique, a leading scholar in the representation of Black women in sports. The summit con-

cludes Friday with the workshop, “Race, Major College Sports, and American Higher Education: Toward a Modern Definition of Slavery.”

Last year's summit featured four-time Olympic gold medalist and UT track standout Sanya Richards-Ross.

Leonard Moore, UT's vice president for diversity and community engagement and a history professor, said the summit's mission is to address the unique challenges faced by black student-athletes and the issue of race in college athletics. Moore expects this year's event to produce its largest turnout ever.

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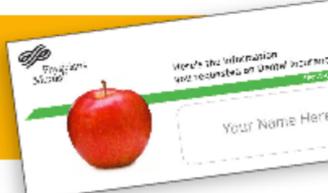


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