

**PAULETTE D. HARRIS**  
**DIRECTOR**

Buffalo-born has been affiliated with the African American Cultural Center (AACC) since 1988, and has served as artistic director of its Paul Robeson Theatre (PRT) since 1996. She was employed at WGRZ-TV for nineteen years where she worked in the production, programming and news departments. During her time at WGRZ-TV she was the Program Director. Throughout her time there she also worked as a camera operator, floor director, editor and provided content to the web amongst many other related broadcasting and journalism skills. In 2014 she accepted a position at the State University of New York at Buffalo as an adjunct professor. She continues to work with the College on a number of collaborative projects and more specifically creating student intern opportunities.

In 2017 she started a busy film schedule working with the Buffalo Niagara Film Commission in various capacities. In 2017 she served as the Assistant Casting Director for the Blumhouse Productions film **The Purge: The Island** Directed by Gerard McMurray known for Fruitvale Station, The Purge was released by Universal Pictures July 4, 2018. She continues to provide local film Casting for feature films, commercials, independent films etc. She is an active member of SAG-Aftra (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio) and Dramatist Guild of American.

Most noted for her work as the Coordinator for the Annual Pine Grill Jazz Reunion and as Artistic Director at the PRT she has instituted several innovative programs such as August Wilson Monologue Competition, Scratch Night at the Robeson, Performing Arts Training and film classes for children, Adult Drama Classes, Friday Night Juke Joint, and outstanding theatre productions every season. On occasion she serves as Project Manager for Get Fokus'd Productions.

She has received a number of recognitions for her directing. Some of her directing credits include *Native Son*, *Jar The Floor*, *In The Continuum*, *Steal Away*, *Birth*, *Holiday Heart*, *Souls of Black Folk*, *Revenge of A King*, *Ned's Garden*, *The Bluest Eye* (co-directed), *Emperor Jones* (co-directed), *Black Nativity*, *Branches From The Same Tree*, *How I Got Over* among many others. Her 2018 direction of the play *Skeleton Crew* was nominated for Outstanding Direction of a Play, Outstanding Production of a Play, Outstanding Actress in a Play and Outstanding Supporting Actress of a Play of which Outstanding Actress and Supporting Actress were winners.

Playwriting credits include the world premiere of *Two Weeks Until The Rest of My Life* – which traveled to Washington DC, *How I Got Over*, *Santa's Blues*, *Soul of a People: gone but not forgotten* and last seasons powerhouse production *The Sidewalk Stageplay* (Co-writer).

She currently instructs students ages 8 - 16 in Performing Arts Training and film every Saturday Morning. Ms. Harris was a founding board member of Arts Services Initiative (ASI)

of Western New York, Inc. where she was active for seven years. She has been a member of the Oishei 20 Leadership Group since 2009. She has served as a Panelist for New York State Council on the Arts, Chair of the DEC Grants for Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC), Chair DEC Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. Most recently she was selected as an inaugural member for both the Cullen Foundation Fellows Program and the Oishei Foundation Fellowship for Leaders of Color.

She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in the Arts from Empire State College. In her spare time you can find Paulette cycling around WNY, enjoying Jazz at several outdoor festivals throughout WNY, writing a screenplay and/or a stageplay. She is a Certified Spinning Instructor. She is very happy to have had an amazing opportunity to work in Theatre, Television and Film. She continues to discover other creative and innovative opportunities to produce thought provoking and transformative work that expands her artistry!