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COLLECTOR'S EDITION

# ESSENCE

## MAKE MORE MONEY

6 Easy Ways to Get Paid

## Walk Off the Weight

How One Sister Lost 92 lbs

**DON CHEADLE**  
Why He's the Greatest Actor of Our Generation

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Black-on-Black Crime**  
PLUS: Bill Cosby on Stopping the Violence

# The Hollywood Issue

A Celebration of Our Excellence

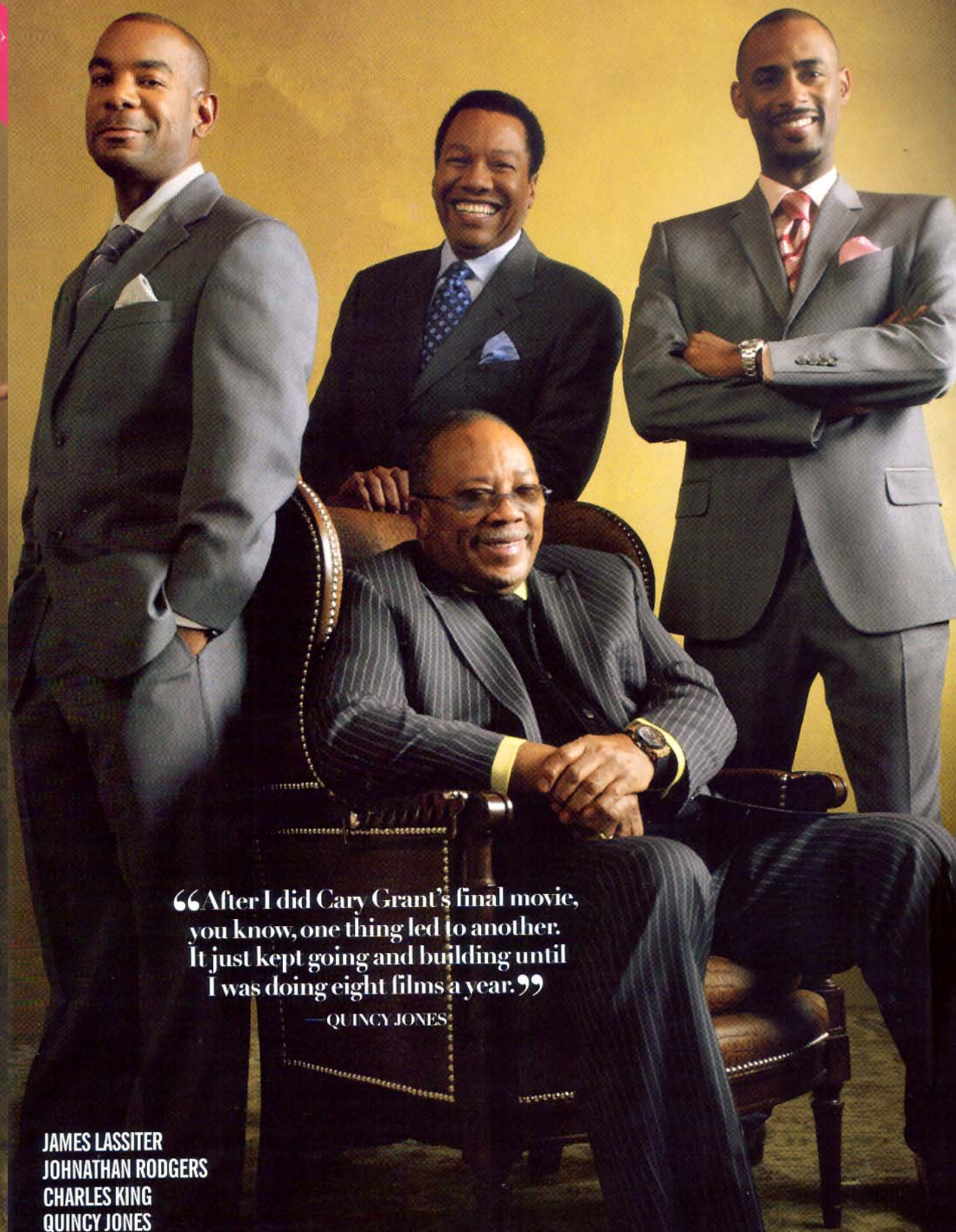
STARRING WILL SMITH, RUBY DEE, DENZEL WASHINGTON, SIDNEY POITIER, HALLE BERRY, KERRY WASHINGTON, TYLER PERRY, JENNIFER HUDSON, JADA PINKETT SMITH AND MORE! 



## Live Long, Be Happy, Feel Great

The Simple Health Makeover That Can Save Your Life

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“After I did Cary Grant’s final movie, you know, one thing led to another. It just kept going and building until I was doing eight films a year.”

—QUINCY JONES

JAMES LASSITER  
JOHNATHAN RODGERS  
CHARLES KING  
QUINCY JONES

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STARRING JENNIFER HUDSON, RUBY DEE,  
KERRY WASHINGTON, PAULA PATTON, WILL SMITH,  
HALLE BERRY, DENZEL WASHINGTON, SIDNEY POITIER,

JADA PINKETT SMITH, TYLER PERRY, DON CHEADLE AND MORE!

open cover

“Ruby Dee is one of our  
sheroes. She’s the reason  
I want to pause and  
be thoughtful about  
my choices.”  
—KERRY WASHINGTON

MARVET BRITTO  
TRACEY EDMONDS  
KASI LEMMONS  
SUZANNE DE PASSE  
ANDREA NELSON MEIGS



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BLACK  
HOLLYWOOD  
A CELEBRATION  
OF OUR EXCELLENCE

**HOLLYWOOD FIRST:** She scored box office gold with her 2001 debut, *Save the Last Dance*. But Washington, who thrives on building a diverse résumé, recently took a detour for *Life Is Hot in Cracktown*, in which she plays a transgender drug addict prostitute. "Yeah, it's not a romantic comedy," says Washington, joking.

**UP NEXT:** Following *The Last King of Scotland* and last summer's *4: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, Kerry will appear in the Will Smith-produced *Lakeview Terrace* with Samuel L. Jackson.

**ON PICKING THE RIGHT PARTS:** "I gravitate toward work that speaks to me, that I respect and that I enjoy on the page because there's a higher likelihood that I'll enjoy it in the world," she says. "To me, that includes a film like *Ray* and a film like *Little Man*. I try to do things that will make me grow and things I'll feel good standing behind. The question for me is always, *Is there real humanity there?* I never want to play a stereotype."

—R.R.R.

**THE RISK TAKER >**

Kerry Washington picks her roles without fear

Kerry Washington was photographed exclusively for *ESSENCE* by Jim Wright, December 13, 2007, in Hollywood.

For clothing details, see *Where to Buy*.

BLACK  
HOLLYWOOD  
A CELEBRATION  
OF OUR EXCELLENCE

THE INGENUE >

As one of Hollywood's newest faces, Paula Patton shines

**HOLLYWOOD FIRST:** A year before Patton stole André "3000" Benjamin's heart in *Idlewild*, this filmmaker turned actress played "the girl at the bar" who gets propositioned by Will Smith in the romantic comedy *Hitch*.

**NEXT UP:** Following in the footsteps of her mother, an educator for nearly 30 years, Patton—who is married to crooner Robin Thicke—will portray a teacher who helps an abused, illiterate teen find her way in the upcoming film adaptation of the Sapphire novel *Push*.

**ON CHANGING THE INDUSTRY:** "If I can open the door for more Black actors and actresses to make this film industry a little bit more color-blind, that's really my goal in this business. I want people to learn from one another, have more compassion for one another, and tell human stories with actors of all ethnicities—not the homogeneous way it is right now."  
—R.R.R.

Paula Patton was photographed exclusively for *ESSENCE* by Jim Wright, December 13, 2007, in Hollywood.

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BLACK  
HOLLYWOOD  
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**THE MASTERMIND: JAMES LASSITER**

Partner, Overbrook Entertainment

**CLAIM TO FAME:** In the decade since he produced the *Boozy Call* sound track, Lassiter—alongside his Oscar-nominated business partner, Will Smith—has built a blockbuster business. The dynamic duo are producing Will's summer film *Hancock* and the small-screen version of *Hitch*. But, for Lassiter, getting films made takes more than attaching the world's most bankable star to them. "People look at the movie business as glamorous, but it's about timing and patience," he says. "It takes three to five years to get a project going, so you have to stick to it. I might concede, temporarily, but I never give up." —R.R.R.



**THE POWER BROKERS >**

When it comes to building talent and producing film and TV, these men lead the way

GROOMING: TONYA COYNE AND EMILY FARRELL/LOUISIANA; HAIR: JONNEAU; MAKEUP: VON CHRISTMAS/KRUEE; ARTISTS: JET DESIGNER, DARREN RANDELL, SEANIST PHEAS, ANAHIT ZAPKOVA