



Stanley Bennett Clay Lifetime Achievement Award



Stanley Bennett Clay has always been a trailblazer. As one of the first openly gay Black screen actors working in Hollywood, Mr. Clay has always lived his truth, openly and unabashedly. Beginning his career as a teenager in the late 1960's, Mr. Clay guest-starred in such series as "Room 222," "Good Times," "Police Story" and "Cheers," to name a few. For five years he was seen on "Soul Train" as the young man receiving hair-grooming advice from Frederic Douglass in the classic Afro-Sheen commercial. Starring in the TV movie "Minstrel Man" turned him into an instant matinee idol, causing his handlers to advise him to hide his sexuality from the general public. He refused, gave up his onscreen acting career, pursued writing and acted primarily on stage where he won the NAACP Best Actor Image Award for his performance in "Anna Lucasta" and was nominated for the same award for his performance in "Zooman and the Sign."

Mr. Clay went on to write, direct and co-produce his first full-length play "Ritual." It earned him 3 NAACP Theatre Awards, 3 Drama-Logue Awards, was an L.A. Times Critics' Choice and a L.A. Weekly Pick-of-the-Week. He went on to write and direct the film version which won the Pan African Film Festival Jury Award. Moving to New York in 2010, Mr. Clay directed the world premiere of "B-Boy Blues*The Play" (earning him an Artistic Expression Esteem Award), the Off-Broadway production of his play "Armstrong's Kid" and the Off-Broadway revival of "Ritual." He also wrote and directed the documentary "You Are Not Alone," an examination of depression among black gay men. It was awarded the Best Documentary Award at Detroit's Hotter Than July Film Festival.

The author of 6 novels, Mr. Clay published SBC magazine for ten years (1991-2001), at the time the most widely distributed monthly for the Black LGBT community. He also served as Board Vice President of The Minority AIDS Project and has been an outspoken advocate for Black Gay Rights and Visibility for decades.

He is the recipient of the NYC Hotep Best Gay Novel Award, Genre Magazine's Life Guard Award, The National Black Writers' Founder's Award, the first Black Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance Award, the 2008 Oakland Black Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, Blatino Oasis 2010 Award for Literature, and the Indianapolis Black Pride/Brothers United Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature.

Better Brothers Los Angeles and The DIVA Foundation are proud to present Stanley Bennett Clay with the inaugural "**Lifetime Achievement**" Truth Award.