

Mara Brock Akil (J92)



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Judy Blume Netflix series: 'I don't think we've seen that perspective on Black family

Showrunner Mara Brock Akil (BSJ96) talks career successes and life lessons with Dean E. Patrick Johnson

She's not just writing television—she's writing our truths.

The legendary Mara Brock Akil is a creative visionary whose stories have shaped the culture and reflected the multifaceted lives of Black women with grace, humor, and depth. From *Girlfriends* and *The Game* to *Being Mary Jane*. Mara has built entire worlds that honor the ambition, heartbreak, sisterhood, and complexity of our lived experiences.

From Rejection to Recognition: Mara Brock Akil on the Thank-You Note That Changed Her Career

Mara Brock Akil (BSJ92) was inducted into the Medill Hall of Achievement in 2017.

Brock Akil is the CEO at story27 productions and the writer, creator and producer of several hit television series including “*Being Mary Jane*,” starring Gabrielle Union; “*Girlfriends*,” which ran for eight years on UPN and The CW; and the “*Girlfriends*” spinoff “*The Game*,” which finished its history-making run with 147 episodes and nine seasons on The CW and BET. She is credited with adding an authentic African-American female voice to television offerings. Brock Akil has been a consulting producer for ABC’s sitcom “*Cougar Town*,” supervising producer and writer on “*The Jamie Foxx Show*” and writer on “*Moesha*.”

Brock Akil and her husband Salim run Akil Productions. She wrote and co-produced and he directed the movie “*Sparkle*,” which featured Whitney Houston in her final big screen performance. In 2018, she produced “*Black Lightning*” for The CW and created “*Love Is* ” for Oprah Winfrey Network.

Medill Hall of Achievement: Mara Brock Akil (BSJ92)