

BIO – Sheryl Lee Ralph

Sheryl Lee Ralph is a multifaceted artiste that sparkles in every facet of her artistic life. She most recently starred in the new CBS series *FAM* and has just launched a brand-new podcast, "Diva Defined," where she talks to other powerful women making moves in their various life and career paths. Sheryl and her guests are inspiring people each week with this incredible new project.

Ms. Ralph began her career on the silver screen in the film *A Piece of the Action* as Barbara Hanley with Sydney Poitier and Bill Cosby. She went on to star as Denzel Washington's wife in *The Mighty Quinn* filmed in Jamaica. She has also starred as Robert De Niro's mistress in *Mistress*. Sheryl Lee won the Independent Spirit Award for her role as Linda in *To Sleep With Anger* with Danny Glover. She and Whoopi Goldberg shared the screen with Lauryn Hill in *Sister Act 2* and with Morgan Freeman in *Just Getting Started*.

On the Broadway stage, Miss Ralph was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actress in a ground-breaking musical *Dreamgirls* for her role as Deena Jones. In 2017 Sheryl made Theatre history becoming the very first African-American female to play the role of Madame Morrible in the Broadway musical, *Wicked*.

Sheryl's television credits are numerous. She is known for playing Ginger St. James on *It's a Living*, Etienne Toussaint-Bouvier on *Designing Women*, and beloved for her role as Dee Mitchell on *Moesha* (for which she was voted one of TV's Favorite Moms). She made TV history playing the first Black transsexual, Claire on the Showtime series, *Barbershop*. She can be seen now on Showtime's drama, *Ray Donovan*.

Be sure to tune in to see her recurring on the reboot of *Mcgyver* as Mama Colton and keep an eye out for her in the new Universal Pictures film from Will Packer, called "The Photograph" where she'll be seen alongside Issa Rae.

Sheryl Lee's book *Redefining Diva* made her a best-selling Amazon author. 1984, Ralph released her only album "In the Evening," where the title track hit #6 on the Billboard charts the same year.

Ralph produces an annual benefit concert, *Divas Simply Singing*, which raises awareness for HIV/AIDS and other life threatening diseases. This year will mark the 29th year of the event. Her love for spreading health awareness education touches the lives of many, year in and year out. This year's benefit will be held on December 1, 2019 at the Taglyan Cultural Center in Hollywood.

Ralph is the proud mother to children, Etienne and Ivy (named after her mother, iconic Jamaican designer, Ivy Ralph O.D.) and wife to Senator Vincent Hughes of Pennsylvania.

In July 2004, Ralph was inducted as an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ralph has been awarded Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from Tougaloo College and Huston Tillotson Univeristy for her dedication to humanity and raising health and HIV awareness.