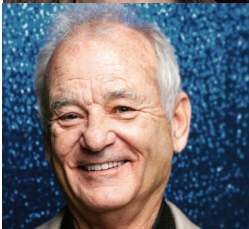




"When they called my name, I had this feeling I could hear half of America going, 'Oh no. Come on... Her, again?' You know. But, whatever."
— Meryl Streep



"Did I really earn this, or did I just wear you all down?"
— Sandra Bullock



"There are so many people trying to take credit for this I wouldn't know where to begin."
— Bill Murray



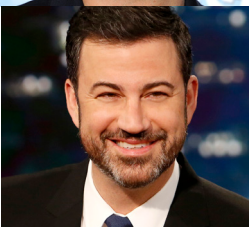
"God bless that potential we all have for making anything possible if we think we deserve it. I deserve this."
— Shirley MacLaine



"The Oscar sits on some shelf above my desk. If there was an earthquake, I could actually be killed by my own Academy Award."
— Helen Hunt



"Our next presenters are Hollywood royalty, going back to the 1970s and '80s. They remember when Hollywood was nothing but cocaine trees as far as the eye can see."
— Seth MacFarlane, introducing Jane Fonda and Michael Douglas



"We will remember this year as the year men screwed up so badly, that women started dating fish."
— Jimmy Kimmel (movie, The Shape of Water)



"To be honest I don't have a speech prepared. I never win these things. This isn't an Oscar, but I guess it's a start. Thank You."
— Leonardo DiCaprio (his Golden Globe win)



"And now, like a supermodels's vagina, let's all give a warm welcome to Leonardo DiCaprio."
— Tina Fey & Amy Poehler

Hotter Than Ever

Vivica A. Fox

Interview by Allison Kugel



She'd say, "Vivica, you've got to stay ready. You've got to take care of yourself." Who inspired me? Diana Ross and Pam Grier."

Kugel: Social media feuds and clap back culture; do you respond, or not?

"I didn't become famous being controversial. If someone is seeking attention, I block them. I'll clap back to set the record straight. There's an old saying, "If you ain't got nothing nice to say, don't say nothing at all."

Kugel: What age did you learn to say, NO? "Around fifty, I looked at my relationships and asked myself if they were reciprocal. I had a tendency to give and give, and I took off my Captain Save-A-Ho cape. We all talk to friends to vent about things, but talking to someone who is constantly negative... I cut ties with a couple of friends. I call it the season of shedding. There's nothing wrong with making good choices."

Kugel: Define glamour. "A goddess who radiates confidence; who seizes her moment and isn't afraid to go for it. I believe beauty radiates from within. You meet a woman and she radiates confidence, kindness to others. To me that's truly beautiful."

Kugel: Most of us have misconceptions about how others achieve and maintain success. "As for myself, people don't realize for the last couple of years I slept on planes; sometimes I didn't sleep at all. I was taking meetings, going through changes of life, but I never let it slow me down. I planted a lot of seeds over that time, and now I am seeing them blossom. In my book, I say, "Don't let anyone outwork you." It takes a long time to build a career, and having a career means being able to go through different stages and chapters. I went from being a hot ingénue chick, to building my brand, and now producing and directing."

Kugel: When it comes to role casting how do you feel about the changes happening in Hollywood? "I always want to be seen as a talented African American actress, because that's who I am. I feel that what's going on in Hollywood right now is that the glass ceiling has been busted wide open. It's been a long time coming, with the success of Black Panther, with the success of television shows like Scandal and Empire and How to Get Away with Murder; with Oprah having her own network. It's about damn time." ■

Kugel: Your book is part memoir, part motivational. Tell me about your mentor. "My mentor is a good friend and my first acting coach, Sheila Wills. I'm godmother to her two daughters. I met Sheila while doing, Generations. She took me under her wing and worked with me for auditions. I'd go and nail them. I attribute my success to her.

Allison Kugel is a syndicated entertainment and a pop culture journalist. She is the author of, Journaling Fame: A memoir of a life unhinged and on the record. Follow her on Instagram @theallisonkugel visit AllisonKugel.com

Kind, courageous and extremely candid, Ms. Vivica A. Fox proves that as Hollywood careers go, second acts are often the sweetest. This multi-hyphenate actress, director, entrepreneur and author of, Every Day I'm Hustling, (a memoir with a fitting title) enjoys work, and has no plans to slow down. Born on the outskirts of Indianapolis and one of four siblings raised by a divorced mother who worked overtime to provide for her children, Vivica's childhood was hectic but loving, providing fertile ground for her to aspire for grander things in life. After high school, Vivica made her way to California to attend college while seeking opportunities to model. She worked her way through sitcoms, soap operas, and in 1996, got a breakthrough role opposite Will Smith in the blockbuster, Independence Day. A string of fan favorites followed. In 2016, she joined the cast of the hit series, Empire, playing the suburbanite Candace, Cookie Lyon's (Taraji P. Henson) older sister and character foil. Vivica's career has kept her on the move for nearly three decades.

Kugel: Do you have any downtime? "When I hit the red carpet I'm ready to slay the game I'm Vivica Fox. When I'm with my family, hanging out with my godchildren, having 'Me Time' —no makeup, baseball cap, chilling and blending in; the older I've gotten the more I prefer it. What I love about being with my godchildren... they like hanging with me. Not the drama or glamour... they just want me."

Kugel: Your father was a school administrator; your mother worked for a pharmaceutical company—no ties to entertainment. What gave you a spark to become an actress? "My late aunt Madame King introduced me to fashion and modeling. She owned a beauty salon and was the first to cut my hair and put me on a runway. I was bitten by the bug at thirteen. I went to see Michael Jackson and Diana Ross in concert. I'd never seen African Americans so fabulous. I was like, 'That's where I'm going! I want to do that.' I decided during my senior year in high school, but had to trick my mama (laughs). I told her I was going to college in California... I did, but I also would sneak off to modeling agencies. I had a girlfriend who was an actress, and I used to read lines with her. She would say to me, "You're pretty good at this, you should try it."

Kugel: Your book is part memoir, part motivational. Tell me about your mentor. "My mentor is a good friend and my first acting coach, Sheila Wills. I'm godmother to her two daughters. I met Sheila while doing, Generations. She took me under her wing and worked with me for auditions. I'd go and nail them. I attribute my success to her.