

Dress stress

The stars go all out on their red carpet gowns, but some go too far.

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AP PHOTO

Musician Alicia Keys appears on stage during MTV's "Total Request Live" on Wednesday in New York. Keys has started a production company with her manager.

TV, film call to hip-hop singer

Production company new focus for Keys

By LYNN ELBER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

After conquering the world of music, Alicia Keys is expanding into movie and television production.

Keys, 24, and her longtime manager, Jeff Robinson, said they have formed a company whose first project will be a UPN series inspired by Keys' experiences as a biracial youngster growing up in New York.

"A lot of times I watch TV and I watch film, and there's so many things I'd love to talk about that I feel don't get the opportunity to be shown," Keys said. "Sometimes things become very stereotypical and one-sided, and I feel like it's such a colorful world."

Their company, New York-based Big Pita, Lil' Pita, will provide "the opportunity to expose that array," Keys said during a phone call.

She's also intent on developing projects that give women their due, she added.

"I was mostly raised by very strong women, and I consider myself one as well. So I'd like to see things explore that and see that strength shine," she said.

Keys, a singer, songwriter and musician, was born to a white mother and black father. Her parents split when she was 2, and she was raised in the Hell's Kitchen area of New York by her mom, Terri Augello.

The new company's eye-catching name has a special meaning for Keys and Robinson, who have worked together for more than a decade: "Pita stands for pain in the (butt)," Keys said. "That's what he and I both are, so watch out."

Keys said films will be the most thrilling aspect of her production company's work.

"One of the great parts of being able to produce your own movie is to come up with a story that you find interesting," she said. "You don't have to wait for someone to tell you what they think" you should do, she said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com

Bart Voigt of Indianapolis tries duckpin bowling for the first time at the Fountain Square Theatre Building in Indianapolis. "I think it's harder," Voigt said, comparing the

game to 10-pin bowling. An officially sanctioned perfect score has never been recorded for duckpin bowling, which uses smaller balls and pins than the regular game.



Regan Montgomery, 6, daughter of Tina and Rob Montgomery of Indianapolis, watches her bowling ball as it heads toward the end of the duckpin lane at the Fountain Square Theatre Building. The historic structure is near downtown in Indianapolis.

Families game for retro bowling

Renovated building gives momentum to duckpin alleys

By ANNETTE JONES
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It's Friday night in the Fountain Square area of Indianapolis, and the duckpin bowling lanes are beginning to fill up.

The Thompsons of Greenwood are bowling with family and friends on the fourth floor of the Fountain Square Theatre Building.

The outing is a birthday party for Paul Thompson, who was bowling with his wife, Lora, and daughter, Mina, 2.

"We've been here lots of time," said another member of the party, Fern Thompson, Paul's mother.

Duckpin bowling uses smaller balls and pins than regular bowling, making it appealing to families with children. The game has been thriving in Indianapolis since the late 1990s, when lanes opened after the renovation of the Fountain Square building.

"We've been surprised at the success we've had here," says Linton Calvert, who owns the building at Shelby and Prospect streets with his wife, Fern.

Along with a theater, a 1950s-style diner, independent shops and an inn, the Fountain Square

LANDMARK RESTORED

Linton and Fern Calvert bought the Fountain Square Theatre Building in 1993 and have completely renovated it.

"We brought it back to life," Linton Calvert says.

At one time or another the building has been home to a vaudeville and motion-picture theater, a Woolworth's diner and a thrift shop. Now it is a center for entertainment and dining on the near southeast side of downtown Indianapolis.

Three blocks from Interstate 65, the Fountain Square Theatre Building houses shops, galleries, studios and restaurants.

Last year the area around the region's landmark fountain was named one of six cultural districts in Indianapolis. Fountain Square also has received a grant for \$500,000, with the leverage to raise the sum to \$1 million in matching funds.

The money will be divided out for installing new street lights, converting a parking lot into a park and creating a pedestrian-friendly area around the fountain.

— Annette Jones

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IF YOU GO

Duckpin bowling alleys

Where: Fountain Square Theatre Building, 1105 Prospect St., Indianapolis

When: 11 a.m. until the last reservation Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday

Cost: \$25 per hour per lane for up to five people; shoe rental is free.

How to get there: Take Inter-

state 65 North to the Prospect/Morris Street exit (110A). Turn right onto Morris Street. Turn left at Shelby Street. The building is on the corner.

Of note: Smoking is not allowed in the duckpin alleys.

Reservations: Recommended; call 686-6006 or 685-1955.

Information: www.fountain-squareindy.com

'Glory Road' actor recruited real revolutionary coach for basketball film

Actor's research of movie character included chats

By BARBARA VANCHERI
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Every now and then, Josh Lucas had to contradict Don Haskins about his own life.

"He and I would kind of disagree about his life. He'd be like, 'I never wore a tie, and I always wore cowboy boots,'" Lucas said. "Once you won the national championship, that's true, but up to that point" that wasn't the case.

"Come to my trailer," Lucas would suggest.

And there, in the cocoon Lucas had created, he could point to the photographic evidence. He had hundreds of pictures of Coach Haskins, his basketball players from a small Texas university and information about key events from the 1960s hanging in his trailer on the set of "Glory Road."



SCRIPPS HOWARD PHOTO

Josh Lucas, center, stars as Don Haskins in the movie "Glory Road." Haskins, a legendary coach, worked to end discrimination in basketball by including black players in his starting lineup.

The movie chronicles how Haskins revolutionized basketball and race relations in America by recruiting and showcasing black players.

Many moviegoers are unfamiliar with the story or unaware that segregation

existed on the college court for so long. Charles Barkley, for one, had tears in his eyes after he saw the film and told Lucas, "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Children have turned to their mothers after watching the Disney production

and asked, "That's what it was like?" Pat Riley, who played against Haskins' team in the landmark 1966 NCAA championship game, has shown the film to the Miami Heat as a motivational tool.

Riley, who doubled as technical adviser, appears in clips that accompany the movie's end credits.

So does the real Haskins, who had some advice for Lucas early on: "You better start drinking beer, son."

That's because Lucas was thin and in athletic shape and he needed to gain weight or, at least, a belly. He ended up putting on 43 pounds.

"I knew I needed to get up there and then I got into it, even to the point that Haskins was angry at me toward the end because he said I was going to make him look fat," he said.

Lucas, 34, never approaches fat, but he did try to copy Haskins' physicality, his tics such as balling up his program in his hand, calling timeout in a weird way and stalking the sidelines, feeling the intensity of every point notched for or against his team.

Haskins spent roughly 10 days on the set and shot a cameo as a gas-station attendant (he's listed way down in the credits after "Racist Kid," "Kentucky Player" and "Juarez Bartender").

He was bored out of his mind, telling the actor, "I don't know how you do this," given the slow pace of filming.

The real-life coach retired in 1999 with an overall record of 719-353. The movie compresses the amount of time it took Haskins to assemble and mold his team, but it doesn't take liberties with his ability to charm the mothers of potential players or, if necessary, bring them to campus to ride herd over their sons' studies.

Although the movie shows Haskins' wife, Mary, upset after receiving a racist screed, it doesn't dramatize the hundreds of letters the family received.

"Haskins had horrible violence threatened against his children," Lucas said. "One of the things I have such incredible respect for is his strength and moral fortitude," when people were threatening to kill his baby, all because he allowed black players on the court.