

Biography of Cheryl Nembhard



Cheryl Nembhard is a formidable force in the Arts & Media community and for many years now has been a long-standing Advocate against Social Injustice in the City of Toronto. Through her work, Cheryl continues to define the title 'Arts Advocate' as she has dedicated her life to using her incredible talents in Theatre & Film to tackle some of the toughest topics we as a society are facing today.

Her impact is felt far beyond the stage as she has dedicated most of her life to community service and helping those in need. For over a decade, Cheryl has been involved in the rehabilitation of troubled youth, former gang members, ex- drug addicts, rape victims and teenage mothers. Cheryl has focused her life to working and establishing creative spaces for them to discover themselves and find healing.

Cheryl's ability to gage the pulse of the City and respond artistically has always been something that has set her apart. In 2016, her artistic work and social engagement was unparalleled with her two latest films 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' & 'Truth'; short films on Depression & Cutting and Sex Trafficking in Toronto.

She recently won the **Award of Excellence Humanitarian** award in Toronto as well as the **Pioneer for 2016** award recognizing her work with Youth & the Arts; and was recently featured by CBC Toronto as one of **150 Black Women who have made a place in Canadian History**. In April, she will be awarded the **2017 BBPA Harry Jerome Social Advocacy award**, which is the highest national award level for African Canadians.

In 2010 Cheryl and her husband founded Exousia Media Group (EMG), an international award winning multimedia company utilizing theatre, film & television to address hard hitting social issues.

In 2011, she launched EMG Education, a Not for Profit Arts Education company whose mandate of 'empowering & motivating generations' has allowed them to perform to over 70,000 students across Ontario in the past 7 years.

Through her organization, she has also developed & hosted her own low income Summer Arts Camps to children in the North York community for the past 4 years. She travelled with a small team to Uganda & Kenya for 4 weeks in 2012 to work in the rehabilitation & restoration of rescued female child soldiers; toured 'The Ultimate Sacrifice' in the UK (London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Brixton, Manchester); worked with the homeless & addicted in various hostels and shelters; and worked in partnership with Roy McMurtry Youth Detention Centre as a Keynote Speaker in their Outreach program.

Cheryl & Exousia Media Group were recently recognized with an incredible **17 Film Festival nominations & 5 Awards** for their first Short Film 'The Son' including: Best Short Film, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Production Design & Making a Difference Award from Festivals across the US & Canada.