

LAPALME

MAGAZINE

ANTHONY
ANDERSON

MORE THAN
ENOUGH

THE SPRING ISSUE





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Tucked in the heart of West Hollywood, Le Parc Suite Hotel is a chic, stylish retreat steps from the glamorous shopping, dining and music scenes of Los Angeles. This intimate, all-suite boutique hotel invites you to relax with the comforts of home in one of its 154 spacious suites or escape to tranquility on its newly enhanced Skydeck, a rooftop oasis with private cabanas, a heated pool and alfresco dining. Experience West Hollywood the way you were meant to at Le Parc Suite Hotel.



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A full-page photograph of actor Anthony Anderson sitting on a white wooden bench on a tennis court. He is wearing a white cable-knit cardigan with patterned trim on the collar and cuffs, white trousers, and black sneakers with gold accents. He is holding a yellow and black tennis racket in his right hand. A yellow tennis ball is suspended in the air to his left. Another tennis racket with a ball on it lies on the green court surface in the foreground. The background shows a red tennis court surface and a dark blue fence.

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Though laughter and challenging the thoughts of the status quo, Anthony Anderson is bringing the light to many around the world in darkness and despair.

LAPALME ~ SPRING BOOK



LIFE & LAUGHS IN L.A.

Anthony Anderson might be best known as a comic actor, game show host, and generally hilarious in movie comedies - and especially on the award-winning *black-ish* - but the 48-year-old star is more serious than you'd expect. Especially about inspiring people and painting positive portraits of educated and loving black families, in a world of stereotypes that perpetuate a negative cycle.

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“Six years ago, when I sat down with (*black-ish* showrunner) Kenya Bariss and talked about the landscape of television, we were looking at what was missing. We’re both big Normal Lear fans: *All in the Family*, *Family Matters*, *The Jeffersons*. I had a friend in Compton who was a real-life *Cosby* kid – his mother was a judge, and his father was a doctor. People said that show wasn’t reality – but I knew it was because I knew those people: educated black people in successful relationships. Those are the type of shows we wanted to do for our generation. On *black-ish*, we show three generations, so we get three different points of view.”

black-ish has thrived for five seasons now, and accomplished what its creators set out to do: reset the image of black people not just on TV, but around the world. “I was in Europe and Africa last summer,” says Anderson. “It was amazing to see the effect the show has globally. I think we’re really inspiring people, which was the goal all along. We’re perpetuating love and strength and harmony.” Anderson and his wife of twenty years Alvina have raised their two kids that way.

Anderson himself grew up in Compton, the oldest of four kids – his mother an aspiring actress at Compton Community College when at age 17, she gave it up to work to raise him and eventually, his siblings. Now he’s able to give back to “Mama Doris,” as she’s known – who finally got her wish to be a star realized when she appeared with Anthony on *Celebrity Family Feud* in 2015, and now on *To Tell the Truth*. “My mother’s lived vicariously through me for years,” he laughs. “Now she sees that my career is finally affording her the opportunities that she gave me, it’s come happily full circle.”

It was at age nine when he saw his mother rehearsing a production of *A Raisin in the Sun* that the acting bug first bit. Anderson attended Howard University as a theater major, attending in the same period as the Wayans Brothers, Puffy and Taraji P. Henson. “I learned then,” he says, “to surround yourself with people who are not just going to support you – but who are also smarter than you, richer than you – so you can learn.”



Printed polo by Valentino,
Giorgio Armani jeans,
Givenchy red velvet sneakers
and a Audemier Piquet watch.



Bomber jacket and jeans by Ralph Lauren
with white tee shirt by Calvin Klein
Red sneakers by Fendi

His big break came twenty-two years ago when he landed a role on the Saturday morning teen sitcom *Hang Time* on NBC. “All it takes is one yes,” he says. “There are a thousand people for one role, and I always tell young actors that. But you start sleeping at night when you finally figure out: you get the role that was meant for you.”

He’s got a variety of skills because Anderson’s had multiple roles meant for him: in movie dramas like *The Departed* and *Transformers*, comedies like *Barbershop: The Next Cut*. But his biggest roles have come from television, where he’s both hosted ABC’s game show *To Tell The Truth* for two years, starred in *Law and Order* and *Black-ish* – and will next be seen on a movie-length Netflix drama called *Beats* this year, which he calls *Good Will Hunting* meets *Hustle and Flow*.

“I play a Chicago former music producer who helps a young recluse return to school and discovers his talents. Then I rediscover my own. It’s important to tell positive stories about our urban cities,” he says. “There’s a tragedy in places like Chicago all the time. For those people, what people like me can do on TV is be the light in the darkness and despair. Television can be a great medium for the inspiration I like to come back and share with these people. I knew I had a gift when I was a kid – just a kid from Compton - and I always knew I could give back. It’s about never listening to ‘no,’ never giving in to the idea that you’re not handsome or pretty enough. You have to strive to do the opposite of that and be bigger than the situation you’re in.”

“You are enough,” says the man who’s proved he’s way more than enough.



Navy cardigan by Polo Ralph Lauren
trousers by Brunello Cucinelli with a
white tee shirt by Theory