

RANDOLPH COLLEGE

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Celebration



A CONVERSATION WITH  
**ERIKA ALEXANDER**

**Monday, January 27, 2025**  
5 p.m., Smith Hall Theatre  
Smith Memorial Building

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

- Welcome:** Sue Ott Rowlands  
Randolph College President
- Land Acknowledgement:** Cameron Goulde '27
- Greetings:** Sterling Wilder  
Lynchburg City Council Member  
Executive Director of the Jubilee  
Family Development Center
- Introduction of Speakers:** Sue Ott Rowlands
- Visiting Speaker:** Erika Alexander
- Conversation Led By:** Charles E. Gibson III  
Chief Diversity Officer  
(An audience Q & A will follow.)
- Closing Remarks:** Sue Ott Rowlands
- Celebration Song:**  
"Lift Every Voice and Sing" \*      Randolph College Gospel Choir

**\*Please stand as you are able**

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.  
Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the day that hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place on which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the  
slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.  
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand, True to our God,  
True to our native land...

# ERIKA ALEXANDER

Erika Alexander is an actress, trailblazing activist, entrepreneur, creator, producer, director and one of the country's boldest, most daring, and powerful voices. Recognizing the power of storytelling, Erika believes that though content must be entertaining, stories have tremendous capacity to create impact and meaningful social change. As co-founder of Color Farm Media, she is on a mission to bring greater equity, inclusion, and diverse representation to both media and electoral politics.

Erika is beloved for her iconic acting roles including:

- Maxine Shaw (*Living Single*, garnering two NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress/Comedy Series)
- Detective Latoya (*Get Out*)
- Cousin Pam (*The Cosby Show*)
- Perenna (*Black Lightning*)
- Linda Diggs (*Wutang: An American Saga*)
- Barb Ballard (*Run the World*; nominated for NAACP Best Guest Actor)
- Meredith Lockhart (*Swimming With Sharks*)
- Abby Keegan (*Shining Girls*, the critically-acclaimed Apple+ series with Elisabeth Moss)
- Miss Carmen (*Earth Mama*, which premiered at Sundance 2023)

Erika has recently stepped boldly into the arena of film directing, with her debut film *The Big Payback*, co-directed with Whitney Dow. The film debuted at Tribeca Festival and premiered on PBS on MLK Day 2023. The documentary chronicles the story of the first reparations bill for African Americans in U.S. history.

She is also creator/writer/producer of 2022 Audible Original's Best True Crime Series and DuPont Columbia award-nominee, *Finding Tamika*, and producer of the three-time, Emmy-nominated Best Documentary and winner, NAACP Best Documentary, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*.

Her upcoming projects include *The Untitled Novelist project*, directed by Cord Jefferson; with Jeffrey Wright, Tracy Ross, Sterling K. Williams and Issa Rae.

A critical thought leader on racial and gender equity and leadership, she serves as a board member for One Fair Wage and is highly involved with social and racial justice organizations including The Poor People's Campaign, Color of Change, NAACP, UNCF, among others.



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