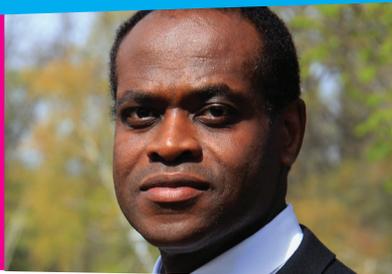


BARBADOS CHARITY BALL AWARD RECIPIENT ERNESTO GRIFFITH



Ernesto Griffith was born in Surrey, England to Barbadians, Rev. Everett and Daisy Griffith. The younger of two boys, he grew up in London, England and moved to Brandon, Manitoba, Canada with his family when he was 11. Ernesto Graduated from Brandon University with a B.A. in Psychology, with minors in Sociology and Theatre.

While at Brandon University, Ernesto formed Brandon's first rap group, "Deep Six," which performed at many local events. In Winnipeg, he and a friend were discovered by a talent scout and were immediately hired as hip hop dancers and performed weekly shows at various Winnipeg Venues. He taught hip hop dancing for a number of years.

Ernesto started writing comedy when he was 13 years of age. He began performing stand up after graduating from university and quickly won Manitoba's Search for the Funniest New Comedian at Yuk Yuk's in Winnipeg. He was a founding member of the highly successful Full Frontal Improv comedy troupe which garnered two 5 star reviews from the Winnipeg Free Press two years in a row.

His acting career began 15 years ago when he attended an open casting call for the television series *The Adventures of Shirley Holmes* where he was cast in the role of Axel. He was also cast as Major Bikunda, an African general in the same series shortly after. He also played the role of Pributi Chima, the United Nations Secretary General, in the T.V. series "V." Based in Winnipeg, he quickly became a favourite of casting directors and has worked with veteran actors such as Diane Keaton (*On Thin Ice*), Danny Aiello (*Zeyda and the Hitman*) and Kevin Pollak. Ernesto has worked in over 40 U.S. & Canadian television series & films such as *Men with Brooms* (T.V. series), *The Capture of the Green River Killer* (T.V. mini-series), and *Cashing In* (T.V. Series.). Ernesto is also a theatre actor and has played various roles including the role of Jimi Hendrix in the play *Mythmaker's* and even played a white supremacist (with the help of makeup).

Ernesto is also a talented singer/songwriter and performed with a number of Winnipeg bands. He wrote the theme music for his film "Billy." He also worked as a model in print ads.

The president of Winesto Films Inc., Ernesto continues to write, produce, direct and act in stories that depict life from a Black perspective. He is now working on a documentary on Billy Beal which he has written and will produce and direct; and a documentary on the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

He has worked as a social worker and has been an investigator for the Province of Manitoba for the past 14 years. Ernesto was profiled in the biographical dictionary "Some Barbadian Canadians", published in 2010.

