

# T'Keyah Crystal Keymáh

(pronounced Ta-Kee-ah Kristle Kee-Mah)

Performer, writer, producer, director, **T'KEYAH CRYSTAL KEYMÁH** is her name personified: a prism of energy and vision, known world wide for her acclaimed work on TV's *In Living Color*, where she created endless impressions and characters; *Cosby*, as Bill Cosby's daughter, Erica Lucas; and *That's So Raven*, as Raven's mom, Tonya Baxter. Keymáh voiced Bumblebee on *Teen Titans* and Trixie's mom on *American Dragon*. Stage credits include *Love Letters* (w/ David Alan Grier), her critically acclaimed one-woman show, *Some of My Best Friends: A Collection of Characters*, the Moscow production of John Henry Redwood's drama, *The Old Settler*, August Wilson's *Piano Lesson* and *T'Keyah Live! ...Mostly: A True Variety Show*. Her film work includes *Tales From the Hood*, *Jackie Brown* and *The Gilded Six Bit*. Behind the camera, Keymáh produced the films *One Last Time* and *Circle of Pain*, directed an episode of *That's So Raven*, produced and directed three of her own plays and produced Margaret Laurena Kemp's, *Creative Instructions*.

After co-writing and directing Keisha Nicole's show, *S.I.S.T.A.*, she signed on to produce and direct Marcia L. Sinclair's screenplay, *Lemon Tea*. She is currently working on the screenplay for her celebrated stage show, *Some of My Best Friends* and has already enlisted her long-time friend Orbert Davis, founder of the **Chicago Jazz Philharmonic** to compose the soundtrack and original music for the film.

Keymáh was raised on the south side of Chicago by her grandparents and great grandmother. From age three she sang, danced and recited original poems and stories. She wrote her first play and her first song in elementary school. In high school, she performed with the **Mary Wong Comedy Group**, and produced and directed variety shows. She attended Florida A & M University (FAMU) on a business scholarship, but switched gears and graduated with a theater degree. After college Keymáh served four years as a substitute teacher in Chicago. She has also taught theater, dance and pantomime and currently coaches aspiring actors.

Keymáh has performed on countless stages on three continents. She is the author of *Natural Woman / Natural Hair*. She uses her website, [www.tkeyah.com](http://www.tkeyah.com) as a venue to share vital community information and as a resource for Black businesses, is an active member of the Century City Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and a board member for National Association of Brother's & Sister's In & Out. The many other charitable organizations she supports include The Keymáh Cultural Fund. She has established scholarships at Florida A&M University and Meharry Medical College. A civic and environmental activist, Keymáh has been a vegetarian for more than twenty years. Her honors include: The HistoryMakers® (2004), The Chicago African American History Makers® (2004), Who's Who Among Black Americans (1991-present), Florida A & M University Millennium Award (100 Most Influential FAMUans of the Century, 2000), Various performing, filmmaking and civic awards (1985-present), Miss Black Illinois and 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up to Miss Black America (1985-86) and National Ms. Black & Gold for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (1984).

For more info on **T'Keyah Crystal Keymáh** visit [www.tkeyah.com](http://www.tkeyah.com)

