



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 'ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK' STAR BREAKS OUT AS HOST OF 'AFROPOP' SEASON 11

Danielle Brooks to host acclaimed public television series, premiering  
at 8 p.m. ET/10 p.m. PT on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, on WORLD Channel

NEW YORK (December 17, 2018)—Award-winning actress Danielle Brooks, star of Netflix's blockbuster series *Orange Is the New Black*, has been named host of the eleventh season of the public television series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. Brooks will help guide audiences as they journey through *AfroPoP*'s new slate of documentary and short stories on contemporary life, art and culture in the African Diaspora. Season 11 of the series, which highlights diverse issues including social justice, politics, LGBTQ identity, fashion and violence against women, **premieres at 8 p.m. ET/10 p.m. PT on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, on the WORLD Channel**, with a new episode airing each Monday through February 18. *AfroPoP* is produced by Black Public Media (BPM) and co-presented by American Public Television (APT).

"From Africa to America and back again, *AfroPoP* once again fulfills its commitment to bring engaging and thought-provoking stories about the African Diaspora to U.S. audiences," said co-executive producer and BPM executive director Leslie Fields-Cruz.

The trailblazing series will be distributed to public television stations across the U.S. in February.

Lauded for her breakout role as Taystee on *Orange Is the New Black*, Brooks has also garnered praise on the stage, earning a Tony award nomination for her performance as Sofia in the Broadway production of *The Color Purple*. A Juilliard-trained performer, Brooks has also appeared in the HBO series *Girls* and *High Maintenance* and on *Master of None* (Netflix). She joins an esteemed list of entertainers who have emceed previous seasons of *AfroPoP* including Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Wyatt Cenac, Gabourey Sidibe, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta, Jussie Smollett, Nikki Beharie and Nicholas L. Ashe.

"We are thrilled to have another compelling and dynamic season of *AfroPoP* to share with public television audiences nationwide," stated APT Director Business Development & International Sales Thomas Davison. "Now in its eleventh season, *AfroPoP* has firmly established itself on station schedules across the country."

"We're excited to be bringing the eleventh season of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* to WORLD Channel viewers across the country," said WORLD Channel Executive Producer Chris Hastings. "*AfroPoP* continues to share socially impactful stories from across the African diaspora and address issues of identity, politics and social justice. These are important, timely stories, and WORLD Channel is proud to be the public media destination for this important powerful series, and to help drive informative discussions in communities everywhere."

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Episodes of *AfroPoP* 11 include:

Season opener ***Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba!*** (January 21) is director Mika Kaurismäki's mesmerizing examination of the life of the iconic South African singer and activist. Through archival performance footage and interviews with those who knew her best and with Makeba herself, the film presents an in-depth look at the life and music of the woman whose artistry and activism became synonymous with the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Dieudo Hamadi's ***Mama Colonel*** (January 28), winner of the Independent Jury Prize at the Berlinale Forum, takes audiences to the Democratic Republic of Congo as it follows Honorine Munyole, known as "Mama Colonel," as she leads a special police force charged with addressing violence against children and women in a country struggling to heal the wounds of war.

Piotr Cieplak's ***The Faces We Lost*** (February 4) introduces nine Rwandans and their efforts to use photographs to help keep alive memories of loved ones lost during the 1994 genocide in that nation. Through the stories of survivors, relatives of victims and archivists, viewers come to see how photographs become avatars of the deceased and create tangible links to the past for future generations. April 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the genocide.

The stirring documentary ***While I Breathe, I Hope*** (February 11) by Emily Harrold follows the against-all-odds 2014 campaign of Bakari Sellers, a young Black Democrat running for lieutenant governor of South Carolina. From his time on the campaign trail to the devastation of the 2015 Charleston shootings to his role as a CNN pundit, the film explores Sellers' unending commitment to his home state and its future in a new America.

The season ends with an eclectic **shorts program** (February 18) featuring the animated documentary ***black enuf\**** by Carrie Hawks, the story of a "queer oddball" on a quest for acceptance and self-love while exploring expanding ideas of black identity; ***Swimmin' Lesson***, director Shahari Moore's poetic and moving tale of one young father's recollection of his son's fate during Hurricane Katrina; and Stacey Holman's ***Dressed Like Kings***, an insightful look at the South African pageant where men compete in formal wear for the title of the best and freshest dresser.

Angela Tucker is co-executive producer of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, and Duana Butler serves as series producer and director. *AfroPoP* is produced with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on *AfroPoP* and other programming from BPM, visit [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org). For viewing information, check local listings or [www.APTonline.org](http://www.APTonline.org).

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## ABOUT THE HOST



**Danielle Brooks** is best known for her role as Tasha “Taystee” Jefferson in the Netflix Emmy-nominated series, *Orange Is the New Black*. For her performance, Brooks was nominated for a NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series. She was the recipient of the Young Hollywood Award for Breakthrough Actress and has received the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series for *Orange Is the New Black* three years in a row.

Brooks made her Broadway debut in the Tony-winning revival of *The Color Purple*. For her performance, she was nominated for a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award; she received a Grammy Award as well as a Theatre World Award for Significant Broadway Debut. Her recent work includes a leading role in the feature film *Clemency*, opposite Alfre Woodard, Wendell Pierce and Aldis Hodge that will premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival; a leading role in the independent feature *All The Little Things We Kill*; and a lead role in the feature *Sadie*, opposite Melanie Lynskey. She will also lend her talents to the upcoming TBS primetime animated series

*Close Enough* and will begin work on a leading role in the film *Desperados* for Netflix and Good Universe that will film in the Spring of 2019.

A champion of body inclusivity, Brooks has been the face of Christian Siriano and Lane Bryant, and has designed her own plus size clothing line. She is currently in the studio working on her debut EP.

Brooks is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of The Juilliard School.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

### BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA:

**Black Public Media (BPM)**, formerly the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. BPM provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of Black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, BPM produces the *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator + Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important Black serial and interactive content.

## AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION:

**American Public Television (APT)** is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and one-fourth of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Cook's Country*, *AfroPoP*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Chris Kimball's Milk Street Television*, *Front and Center*, *Doc Martin*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Midsomer Murders*, *A Place to Call Home*, *Lidia's Kitchen*, *New Orleans Cooking With Kevin Belton*, *Simply Ming*, and *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create®TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD™, public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

## WORLD CHANNEL:

**WORLD Channel** tells stories that humanize complex issues. WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and fact-based informational programming that helps us understand conflicts, movements and cultures that may be distinct from our own. WORLD's original content offers a national platform to makers examining issues too often ignored by mainstream media. These emerging and master filmmakers spotlight a diversity of voices, telling stories not heard elsewhere. WORLD has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award and numerous national honors—including an RTNDA Kaleidoscope Award, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie and an Asian American Journalists Award. Carried by 154 partner stations in markets representing almost 64% of US TV households, WORLD can also be experienced via [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org) and social media platforms.

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