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BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Augusta Entertainers

By WAGT Staff

AUGUSTA, Ga. - As Black History month comes to an end, 26 News and the Laney Museum finishes our African American profiles with show stoppers!

Throughout the years, Augusta has become synonymous with many national and international personalities in the world of entertainment.

Thelma "Butterfly" McQueen was born in Tampa, Florida in 1911, but eventually made Augusta her home.

McQueen appeared in hundreds of movies and TV shows, but she is best remembered for her role as "Prissy" in the 1939 blockbuster "Gone with the Wind".

McQueen died in 1995.

Born in Beech Island, South Carolina, James Brown spent his early years in the Augusta area.

He became an international star with such hits as "Please, Please, Please" and the anthem, "I'm Black and I'm Proud."

Known to many as the "The Hardest Working Man in Show Business" and "The Godfather of Soul," Brown embraced the titles until his death in 2006.

Jessye Norman is one of the most respected voices in the world of opera today.

She has performed all over the world, including the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

A graduate of Lucy Craft Laney High School in Augusta, Norman currently serves as a trustee at Paine College.

Lawrence Fishburne was born in Augusta in 1961.

He started acting at age 10 and reached international stardom.

Some of his most popular films include "What's Love Got to Do with It?", "The Matrix" and "Akeelah and the Bee."

Right now, you can see Fishburne starring on "CSI, Las Vegas."

The number of actors and entertainers from the Augusta area continues to grow.

They include Shae Roundtree from the movie "Drumline", Keith Robinson from the movie "Dreamgirls" and Russell Joel

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Brown from the Broadway production of "The Lion King".

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