

Baron Jay Littleton Jr. is more than an actor, entrepreneur, or filmmaker, he's a philanthropist. Littleton is excited to talk about his Summer Arts Filmmaker Internship Program for inner-city students that will launch this summer through the "Baron Jay Foundation," and share the steps he took to get his latest independent film "The Condo," to the big screen.

A walk down memory lane one afternoon inspired Littleton to create the Summer Arts Filmmaker Internship Program (SAFIP), a job training program that will teach high school students in Los Angeles from low- and moderate-income families about film production.

"One afternoon, I came across an award I earned from the Detroit Summer Video Workshop, Littleton reminisces. "This program taught me about producing documentaries and helped me to submit my film to film festivals. This led to other opportunities in the entertainment business.

A little voice in my head told me that I could provide the same opportunity."

The SAFIP job training program will give students a chance to work with professionals from the entertainment industry. They will learn to develop, write, produce and submit a sitcom to be aired on a national cable network.

"This program is designed for students who may otherwise have no exposure to the entertainment industry. There are so many youth who have been stifled by the lack of opportunity, even though it's right in their backyards. We must keep the life cycle going. If we stop giving, we stop living," Littleton confesses.

The SAFIP has partnered with Mayor Eric Garcetti's program Hire L.A.'s Youth to elevate student's community and quality of life through art and cultural diversity. The program will provide opportunities after graduation and encourage the students to return and become mentors and graduates of the program will even be considered for positions on his slate of films.

Baron Jay Foundation Summer Arts Filmmaker Internship Program joins President Barack Obama and SAG-AFTRA in A Call to Arts, to mentor young people pursuing careers in cinematic arts. Baron Jay Foundation's twelve week Summer Arts Filmmaker Internship Program and its 40-member team has joined President Barack Obama and SAG-AFTRA in A Call to Arts: The One Million Mentor Hours Pledge, to reach out to young people pursuing careers in the cinematic arts. This national effort aims to generate more than a million hours of mentoring over the next three years.

Students will job shadow a variety of professional entertainment industry teachers and administrators, on the set of a television sitcom entitled "MI CASA MI CASA" written by Kantz,



# FILMMAKER BARON JAY LITTLETON JR. *HELPS INNER-CITY KIDS GET INTO THE MOVIE BUSINESS*



Candance Green and Chris Moore from Tyler Perry's "HOUSE OF PAYNE" and "MEET THE BROWNS." Actor/Director Kent Faulcon, series regular "Tyler Perry's For Better or Worse" and SELMA, is on board to direct the multi-episode project. Faulcon says, "I'm always excited about the process. Having worked with such great directors like Tyler Perry, Spielberg, Sonnenfeld, and so many great others that have influenced me, I look forward to helping bring this new voice and perspective to television entertainment. And to do this while at the same time broadening the horizons of some well deserving youth, I really couldn't ask for a more rewarding situation."

"MI CASA MI CASA" is about an African American couple, Metro Train Driver, and ultra conservative George Mayweather and his elementary school wife, Gladys Mayweather lives are turned upside down

when their daughter Kimberly returns to the nest with her very liberal "Mexican" husband, Ramone Cervantes. Stanley and Ramone clash about politics, race, social agendas and Government. The two can't agree on anything, and Stanley's peaceful abode is about to get a little Latin spice!

Littleton commented that President Obama's daughter Malia Obama is interested in filmmaking and had the golden summer

job opportunity to work on Halle Berry's show "EXTANT" on CBS, produced by prominent Obama donor Steven Spielberg. Obama helped with computer shop alignments and assisted crew by blocking people from walking through scenes during shooting. The director also let her slate a take.

Obama commented on her first job: "My first time. This is a big deal."

Littleton hopes his summer program will similarly inspire L.A. students. "When students, parents and teachers hear about our program, they get very excited and asked how much it costs, and I tell them it's free. They can't believe it. Summer programs at USC, New York Film Academy, LA Film School and others are very expensive. The demographics we serve can't afford that cost, nor do they have insider relationships such as Malia Obama's."

Getting to this point in his career didn't come easy for Littleton, but, if it wasn't for the help of a program like the Detroit Video Workshop, Littleton admits that he may not have figured it out on his own. Soon, Littleton found himself starring in numerous television shows and commercial and living the Hollywood dream. He gained a lot of insight while executive producing the award-winning suspense thriller, "Safe House."

Armed with an amazing team, and with distribution options, Littleton is looking forward to the release of his newest comedy "The Condo," about four married friends who secretly buy a bachelor pad. Being an independent producer comes with its highs and lows, but, he knew early on that he had to think outside the box. So, he came up with a slightly unconventional way of financing his films and it worked.

"We're (actors) usually waiting for someone to give us work. So, I thought why not invest in ourselves? We can take the capital we'd spend on classes for two months and instead invest it in a film we believe in and use the project to leverage future work." says Littleton

Wearing so many hats can be tasking, but, the upside is that you can run your ship the way you want. He prides himself in trusting his team and not being a micro-manager. The outcome always overrides anything else and the feeling of accomplishment when the final project has wrapped is priceless.

"We are currently working on our next film "Deadly Reunion," be on the lookout for "The Condo," in theatres and on Netflix in 2016," says Littleton. "We will recruit our first students into the SAFIP program this summer; so, tell everyone you know about it."

I also learned that Mr. Baron Littleton was married on the "Price is Right" on CBS by Drew Carey on March 31, 2015 to Tamani and they won the showcase. You can see Baron this summer on "America's Got Talent" Season 10 on NBC on Tuesdays with his group "Chippin Doubles."

For more information please go to [www.baronjayfoundation.org](http://www.baronjayfoundation.org)

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