



# Aunjanue Ellis

**Actress and Activist**

**President & CEO, Miss Myrtis Films**

**Co-Founder, Take it Down America**



Aunjanue Ellis is currently starring in “Quantico” the ABC series. Playing the role of Miranda Shaw she is a tough leader with a soft heart who trains and guides her hot young recruits. 2015 was a huge year in the incredible career of Ms. Ellis. She was nominated for Television Critics’ Choice Award, NAACP Image Award, Satellite Award and Black Reel Nominations for Best Actress in a Movie or Limited Series for her work in the epic BET adaptation of Lawrence Hill’s acclaimed bestselling novel, “The Book of Negroes.” She portrays Aminata Dialo, a woman who experiences and eventually overcomes the full spectrum of slavery and racism in North America, beginning with her capture in the mid-18th century as a young girl from Mali.

Ellis will soon be seen alongside Nate Parker, Aja Naomi King, Armie Hammer, Jackie Earle Haley and Gabrielle Union in the Sundance sensation, “The Birth of a

Nation” which won the Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. Ellis’ extensive filmography includes Tate Taylor’s “The Help,” in which she played Yule Mae Davis, the maid arrested for allegedly stealing a ring. Ellis and her cast mates went on to win a SAG award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture.

In Taylor’s James Brown biopic “Get On Up,” Ellis portrayed Vicki Anderson, acknowledged by Brown in his autobiography as probably the best singer he ever witnessed. For her performance as Mary Ann Fisher, one of the first singers who became professionally and personally involved with Ray Charles in “Ray,” Ellis shared a SAG Award nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture. In 2009, Tony Scott directed Ellis opposite Denzel Washington’s train dispatcher in “The Taking of Pelham 123.” She also played the daughter of a paranoid schizophrenic (Samuel Jackson) in the mystery-drama “The Caveman’s Valentine” directed by Kasi Lemmons and co-starred in the action comedy “Undercover Brother.” Early in her career, Ellis received a NAACP Image Award nomination for her performance as a medical student in George Tillman, Jr.’s “Men of Honor,” with Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert DeNiro.



**NYU**

Reynolds Program in  
Social Entrepreneurship

**Though she was born in San Francisco, Ellis claims the small Mississippi town of Macomb as her home. Brought up in a Baptist church where she performed recitations and skirts, it was not until she was a student at Tougaloo College that Ellis would first find herself on stage. It was her discovery of theater that led her to transfer to Brown University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies, while also training as an actor under Jim Barnhill. She went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Ellis is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a service sorority that honored her with the 2010 Rising Star Award. She is also the president and CEO of Miss Myrtis Films and a founder member of the Mississippi Human Right Collective. These are two great organizations that have strived to abolish racist southern symbols from Mississippi and other surrounding states through education, advocacy, and short documentaries.**

**Ms. Ellis is the proud aunt of Maeson J. Barnes and Erin. D.B. Barnes and has been in a loving relationship with her life partner of 5 years Stan Jones.**