

# OMAR MCCLINTON

## BIOGRAPHY

Omar was born on the south side of Chicago, Illinois in the summer of 1970. He started his entertainment career when he was 13 as a local commercial and industrial film actor. He won his first award for writing from the NAACP at 16.

### EARLY YEARS

At 25 Omar wrote, produced, directed, and starred in his first independently funded film from working three jobs. This afforded him the opportunity to begin negotiations at Universal Studios to reshoot that film with a larger budget and talent attached. Soon after he arrived in Los Angeles to pursue his dream, Universal was sold and that deal fell through. Not wanting to give up, Omar worked his way up from the Universal Studios mailroom, delivering mail to the office that would have been his, and started over.

From the mailroom, Omar moved into VFX where he became a coordinator and eventually co-owner of his own VFX company. This experience afforded Omar the opportunity to join 20th Century Fox and guide projects for their successful Fox Kids lineup.

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Omar returned to his first love of production by working on various films, one-hour dramas, and tv specials for The CW, Sony, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros, Disney / ABC, and yes, Universal Studios.

Wanting to spend more time with his wife and kids, Omar moved his family back to Chicago. His years of production experience, on both big-budget tent pole projects to small low-budget non-union films proved to be a valuable asset as he continued to produce these types of projects as well as live events, and the formation of a live internet web streaming network.

In his continued endeavor to spend more time with his family, they bought a home in Florida where his son goes to college, and he produces events from his home office.

### CURRENT PROJECTS

Wanting the knowledge and information he's gathered throughout his 30+ year career to benefit Chicago and other up and coming content creators that don't have the money or resources to pursue their dreams, Omar has created his own independently financed production company, streaming service VA Viewz, and operates a yearly film festival, the Various Artists independent Film festival (VAiFF) that gifts short film production grant and educational opportunities for its submitters, from his hometown of Chicago.



## OMAR MCCLINTON

WRITER / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR /  
CEO VARIOUS ARTISTS FOUNDATION

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- Born and raised in Chicago, Il.
- Grew up in Englewood
- Studied at Lindblom Tech / Chicago State University
- 30+ years in the film industry
- Started his professional career in VFX
- Moved to producing and writing soon after he left VFX
- Has sold/ optioned 5 screenplays
- Produced big budget summer tent pole films as well as low budget non-union projects
- Divides his time between his home in Chicago and Florida
- Started his own not-for-profit company in an effort to educate and give opportunities too content creators that wouldn't normally have the resources to follow their dreams.



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[LINK TO ONLINE BIO](#)



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**FILM FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION CONTINUES ITS SIXTH YEAR.  
FILMMAKERS GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A NEW GENERATION OF  
FESTIVAL COMPETITION IN THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND OPPORTUNITY.**

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CHICAGO, IL (March 2022)

The Various Artists Foundation 501c(3) is proud to announce the continuation of the 6TH ANNUAL Various Artists independent Film Festival (VAiFF). VAiFF accepts submissions from filmmakers of all ages, ethnic groups, and backgrounds from Chicago and around the world in various categories and genres. What makes this festival unique? Previously screened films are allowed in this competition, and filmmakers have the opportunity to win a production grant to produce their new short film to premiere at next year's festival.

If that wasn't enough, there's another game-changer – NO FILM ELIGIBILITY EXPIRATION! What does this mean? Other festivals won't allow films for consideration if completed over two years ago. Not VAiFF. When Omar McClinton, Program Director of the festival, was asked about the open eligibility rules he responded "... I believe a project or the passion a filmmaker has for that project doesn't expire after the standard two-year film festival deadline for submission. As long as the filmmaker believes in their project, 2, 5, or 10 years ago, they should be allowed to submit and showcase that film. Good films don't have an expiration date."

The festival circuit hasn't changed enough to meet the dominance of the internet and social media opportunities that are largely positive and productive for filmmakers. We hope to change that.

Festival submissions continue until June 2022 with teaser trailers and promos of the submitted projects available for online 'view and voting'. The winners of the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters with the most positive online votes will square off against each other at the annual year-end LIVE screening and presentation ceremony in Chicago, Illinois.

Winners of these semi-finals are judged by some of the entertainment industry's most established and celebrated judges, with projects that have made over \$13 Billion dollars worldwide. Some of the judges have included:

- Carl Jones  
(Writer, Producer, and Director 'The Boondocks', 'Black Dynamite' and 'The Last O.G.')
- Joyce Cox  
(Producer / VFX Producer of 'The Jungle Book' (2016) 'Avatar', 'Titanic', 'Men in Black 3', 'The Dark Knight', 'X-Men 2: X-Men United')
- Chris Walas  
(Academy Award Winner 'The Fly', creature effects 'Gremlins', 'Return of the Jedi' and 'Raiders of the Lost Ark')
- Rich Koz / Svengoolie  
(Emmy Award-winning host and Chicago native)

For more information call (833)VAiFF-4U or go to [www.VAiFF.com](http://www.VAiFF.com) to submit your film.