

March 4, 2021

ACTRESS MARSAI MARTIN 'NEXT' GUEST HOST OF PRIMETIME NEWSMAGAZINE 'SOUL OF A NATION' WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AND INTERVIEW FROM H.E.R.

New Episode Spotighting the Next Generation of Black Artists, Leaders and Community Activists Airs Tuesday, March 9 (10:00-11:00 P.M. EST), on ABC



Clockwise from top left: Marsai Martin (credit: ABC/Nick Agro), H.E.R (credit: ABC/Lorenzo Bevilaqua), Patrisse Cullors, Chi Ossé, Tianna Arata, Sunny Hostin (credit: ABC/Nick Agro)

Marsai Martin, actress and executive producer of 2019 film “Little,” guest hosts the second episode of primetime newsmagazine “Soul of a Nation.” This episode features the next generation of Black Americans and their unique ability to trailblaze, innovate and live on the cutting edge no matter what they have to overcome. Martin, ABC News’ **Adrienne Bankert**, **Sunny Hostin**, **Zachary Kiesch** and **Janai Norman** lead the hour which follows TikTok influencers as they navigate the popular social media app, unpack the importance of Afrofuturism, detail the history of sneaker culture and explore the story of **Miss Lucille Burden Osborne**, a woman who grew up with relatives who had been enslaved. The episode concludes with a musical performance by singer **H.E.R.**

The second episode of this historic six-episode series will air **Tuesday, March 9** (10:00-11:00 p.m. EST), on **ABC**. Episodes can also be viewed the next day on demand and on [Hulu](https://www.hulu.com).

The second episode of “Soul of a Nation” includes the following stories and conversations:

- Young Black content creators have made their voices heard on the wildly popular social media platform TikTok, despite accusations that it has become a vehicle for misappropriation and questionable practices. Norman speaks with influencers **Jalaiah Harmon** (Atlanta) and **Taylor Cassidy** (St. Louis, Missouri) as they take viewers behind the scenes of their viral videos and the business that is their brand.
- What do fantasy, technology, fashion and activism have to do with survival for the Black community? Everything, according to Afrofuturists. Bankert’s report will unpack Afrofuturism as a philosophy, aesthetic, genre and tool for social change with examples ranging from Black Panther to Sun Ra and a STEM educator who wants to inspire the next generation to solve the world’s biggest challenges. She speaks with **Ruth E. Carter**, **Ytasha Womack** and **Justin Shaifer** at Atlanta’s SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film, Chicago’s Adler Planetarium and New York’s Spyscape, respectively.
- Actor **Sterling K. Brown** narrates the story of 95-year-old Miss Lucille Burden Osborne, the great-granddaughter of Charles McGruder – her enslaved ancestor who was deployed to neighboring plantations as a breeder and created a homestead for his many children after emancipation. Osborne takes viewers on a journey through her family’s complicated past to the future they are now building, thanks to their ancestor.
- Hostin moderates a provocative recurring conversation called “In the Kitchen,” where each week a group of talkers and thinkers join her for a candid discussion on current events and the theme of the week. This episode features **Tianna Arata**, **Chi Ossé** and **Patrisse Cullors**, one of the founders of Black Lives Matter.
- ESPN’s The Undefeated explores sneaker culture in the Black community. From commercials to music videos, kicks have come a long way from the basketball court to the cover of Vogue. The piece not only explores the past but where the trends are going for the next generation. Viewers will hear from rapper/actress **Saweetie**, comedian/actor **Deon Cole**, Black Lives Matter activist **Janaya Future Khan**, athlete **Mo’ne Davis**, Superbowl winning quarterback **Tyrod Taylor**, YouTube influencers **PrettyBoyFredo** and **Lexi Vee**, hip-hop historian and author **Wes Jackson**, and The Undefeated’s **Domonique Foxworth**, **Soraya McDonald** and **Justin Tinsley**.
- Kiesch sits down with H.E.R. to discuss her music and songwriting process. To close out the show, H.E.R performs “Fight For You” from Warner Bros. Pictures’ film “Judas and the Black Messiah.”

“Soul of a Nation,” the first broadcast network newsmagazine that aims to put Black life in America front and center, will present viewers with a unique window into authentic realities of Black life and dive deeper into this critical moment of racial reckoning. It will travel across the country, unpacking issues critical to Black Americans through intimate storytelling, and bridge the past, present and future through a variety of voices and experiences from athletes, entertainers, performers and screenwriters. Each episode will explore a specific theme, including spirituality, Black joy, activism in sports and the racial reckoning that erupted after George Floyd’s death, and familiar faces – performers, activists, scholars and clergy – will gather for an entertaining and provocative conversation “in the kitchen” about current events. A special performance featuring some of the nation’s greatest musicians or spoken-word artists will close out each show.

“Soul of a Nation” is executive produced by Eric Johnson and Robe Imbriano, and Chantre Camack serves as executive editorial producer. James Adolphus is series director, and Marie Nelson is the series creator and senior vice president of Integrated Content Strategy at ABC News.

“Soul of a Nation” is the latest original programming from ABC News which has a renewed focus on telling diverse stories across the news division. Previous programming includes the No. 1-rated “Juneteenth: A Celebration of Overcoming,” three-day division-wide series “Pandemic – A Nation Divided” on the disparity in race and class amid the pandemic, “America in Pain: What Comes Next?” on the protests and outrage across the country in response to the killing of George Floyd and police brutality and systemic racism against Black Americans, the monthlong reporting series “Turning Point” and pre-election special “America’s Future: The Power of the Latino Vote.”

LINK: <https://bit.ly/38aXfWr>

TWEET: <https://hrefshare.com/5a3875>

TEASER: <https://abcn.ws/2NQIEJ6>

DOWNLOADABLE IMAGES: <https://bit.ly/3c3biOW>

**For additional images please go to DGE’s press site: <https://bit.ly/3rhmaPH>*

ABC News Media Relations

Curt Villarosa

(646) 659-4127

curt.j.villarosa@abc.com

Elizabeth Hecht

(203) 447-9256

elizabeth.g.hecht@abc.com

Follow “Soul of a Nation” (#SoulOfANation) on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information, follow ABC News PR on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

-- ABC --