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Kayona Ebony Brown gives DC a leading role in new series

Award winning filmmaker releases music-centered novella series set in the Nation's Capitol

WASHINGTON, DC, March 28, 2017 – Washington, DC-based multi-hyphenate artist, <u>Kayona</u> <u>Ebony Brown</u>, is building off the success of her award-winning short film, <u>Of Music and Men</u>, with the release of the novella series on April 13th.

The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Washington City Paper all say that Washington, DC is the gayest place in America because it's the city with the highest number of same-sex relationships, but the lowest (straight) marriage rate in the country.

Kayona used this fact to give DC a staring role in her project, *Of Music and Men*. With this, she has the perfect hook to go along with the episodic story she's telling, which mirrors her own life as a straight, single, millennial business owner with none of the prerequisites for success.

<u>Of Music and Men</u> is the story of "Kenya Shaw," a chronically single, young entrepreneur struggling to build an indie record label, while navigating the country's worst city for bachelorettes: Washington, DC. No money, no support, no connections, not to mention, she's in the "wrong town" for this kind of thing, right?

"DC is so unapologetically liberal and artsy and diverse, yet it's known for making laws," says Kayona. "I'm showing how vulnerable and endearing DC is—a side of the city that will undoubtedly shock most of the country."



Kayona developed *Of Music and Men* with plans for it to be among elite company—*Sex and the City, The Walking Dead*, and *Game of Thrones* are all prime examples of successful multimedia franchises. Kayona introduced these characters in her debut novel, *Tenth Letter*, and first presented the story via her short film, which garnered international recognition through numerous film festivals for the burgeoning writer/director.

<u>The 12-part novella series</u> is the literary interpretation of the first season of the forthcoming half-hour scripted series. The novella series launches THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH via <u>ofmusicandmen.com</u>, and subsequently on the second Thursday of every month until its finale.







"I've published one book before," says Kayona, "but putting out 12 books—one every month—is a tall task. However, this is a wonderfully inspiring and socially relevant journey that I desperately want the world to have, and I believe this will only make the TV show that much more intriguing! This is just the beginning."

The title is inspired by a stanza in the famous Robert Burns poem, *To a Mouse*: "The best laid schemes **of mice and men** often go awry, And leave us nothing but grief and pain, For promised joy!" Kayona asks, "Can't the same be true of music and men?"

Episodes are FREE, but readers are encouraged to tip or become a subscriber for the amount of their choice to support the independent publication.

To read an extended excerpt from the pilot episode, go to ofmusicandmen.com

For further information, email media@kayonaebonybrown.com.

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About Of Music and Men

Of Music and Men is a multi-media franchise that includes music and literature projects, as well as the forthcoming scripted half-hour drama/comedy program that explores issues related to women, millennials, entrepreneurs, music business (specifically indie music), dating/relationships, and the Black experience in America.

About Kayona Ebony Brown

Kayona Ebony Brown is a multi-hyphenate artist, who began her journey with a desire to tell good stories. After publishing her first novel, <u>Tenth Letter</u>, other projects were presented that offered her creative experiences that would eventually lead to her selection by **HBO** as a production trainee for their Emmy Award-winning program, VEEP. Subsequently, Brown was chosen as one of 12 filmmakers to direct a short music film for a **PBS** program, Live @ 930. She is currently a quarter-finalist for the prestigious **ScreenCraft Fellowship** for her pilot screenplay, *Of Music & Men*. Kayona currently lives in her native Washington, DC where she's diligently building her media and entertainment empire.

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