



**UK Celebrity-Activist Jenni Steele,
Comedian TuRae Gordon, and Actress Alice Wills
Co-Host the First Philadelphia Independent Film Awards**
*Awards Ceremony to be Held on May 22, 2016, 6 pm
at International House in Philadelphia*

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Philadelphia, PA (April 18, 2016) – UK celebrity-activist [Jenni Steele](#) has joined the line-up of hosts for the first ever Philadelphia Independent Film Awards, presenting one of the awards and co-hosting the event from the red carpet. The British broadcast journalist and entertainment correspondent is the national ambassador for [Domestic Violence UK](#), a non-profit organization that helps combat domestic violence and emotional abuse.

Steele is the creator, producer and host of the UK radio program "[Keeping It Real with Jenni Steele](#)" which airs internationally and includes the segment "Keeping it Real Inspirational" which spotlights male and female inspirations in the community. She also created, produces and hosts the weekly magazine lifestyle series "Keeping It Real Lifestyle" which covers film, red carpet events, award shows, fashion and luxury brands. "Steele Got It," which she also hosts, airs on Juice radio in the UK.

In 2015, she was named the Face of Izelia HeadWraps for the [IZELIA](#) label. In 2014, she was nominated one of the Top 8 Inspirational Women of Colour in media in the UK. Previously in 2013 she was nominated one of the Top 12 Influential Women of Colour in media in the UK. In 2012, she was nominated for the Women Awards in 2012, for her domestic violence awareness programs for teens.

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The overall awards ceremony will be hosted by comedian [TuRae Gordon](#) and actress Alice Wills. Gordon is the host, producer and creator of the live standup comedy show "[Soul Comedy](#)" which plays Wednesdays at blues and soul food restaurant [Warmdaddy's](#) in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia native has performed on BET's "Comic View" as well as opened for perennially popular "Queen of Comedy" Sommore.

Actress and Philadelphia native [Alice Wills](#) has starred in several films including "Luv Don't Live Here Anymore," "Baby Steps" and "Beyond the Lens." Her TV appearances include appearing as a recurring inmate in "Orange is the New Black" and as a recurring dancer in "The Get Down." She resides in Brooklyn, NY.

The inaugural Philadelphia Independent Film Awards will be held on May 22, 2016 at International House, 3701 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, PA. The event starts at 6 pm with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres catered by D&D Catering and distribution of swag bags. The awards presentation begins at 7 pm. Entertainment will be provided by the John Martin Project. Tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite at <https://goo.gl/AB2hDa>. (Note: Tickets will NOT be available at the door.) **For press inquiries contact: Karen Waller-Martin at 215 802-0907 or karenwallermartin@yahoo.com.**

Awards will be granted for best actor and actress in lead and supporting roles as well as best picture, director, cinematographer, screenplay, score, documentary and student film. Winners will receive the Philadelphia Independent Films Award. Nominees were selected from more than 200 films submitted from independent filmmakers around the world, including the United States, Italy, Ireland, France, Austria, India, Norway, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Turkey, and Spain.

The awards founder is Philadelphia native Floyd Marshall. Marshall, through his production company [Gazelle Films LLC](#), has written and produced several films including film shorts "Compromised," "Child of God" and "3 Women," as well as the feature length film "Love & Litigation." Marshall says the recognition the Philadelphia Independent Film Awards provide is long overdue.

"We want to reward and acknowledge the hard work by independent filmmakers that oftentimes gets overlooked," Marshall said. "This awards ceremony validates those efforts and future ones."

Marshall's frequent collaborator, awards director and film director Angelique Marshall (no relation) and assistant awards director and actor Keyon Smith are co-organizers of the event. Head of [LIQUE Productions](#), Angelique directed "Compromised," "Love & Litigation," "Child of God," and "3 Women." She also directed the stage plays "The Conversation" and its sequel, "The Rebuttal," both written by Floyd Marshall. In 2014, Angelique directed the play "What If Heaven Was Black?" written by Jonathan Damon. She has also been an assistant assignment editor with the "Good Day Morning Show" for FOX Philadelphia.

Floyd and Angelique's film productions have been screened at several film festivals. "A Child of God" competed in the [Serile Filmului Gay Film Festival](#) in Romania and the

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[Novella Film Showcase](#) in Chicago. It was also the runner-up for Audience Choice Award at the [Reelblack Night of Shorts](#) film festival in Philadelphia. It has been viewed 1574 times on YouTube. The film short "Compromised" competed in the online [Toff Film Festival](#) and [Los Angeles CineFest](#). Their film short "3 Women" won the Silver Award at the [Philadelphia Film Festival](#).

[Keyon Smith](#) brought a blistering intensity to his starring role as Aaron in the gritty revenge saga "Compromised." His additional film credits include "National Treasure" and "The Next Three Days." His TV series credits include appearances on "Hack" and "Cold Case." Keyon is also a screenwriter-producer and founder of Concrete Productions.

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