

Dr. Njoki McElroy

Storyteller, Author, Scholar



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Contact:

Marian McElroy

224-733-9933

marianfmcelroy@yahoo.com

**DALLAS ARTISTS COLLABORATE ON DOCUMENTARY
“THE QUEEN PROFESSOR HOLDS COURT”**

Storyteller, author, and former SMU professor Dr. Njoki McElroy collaborated with Dallas filmmaker Christian Vasquez on a new documentary entitled “The Queen Professor Holds Court.” In the film, Njoki McElroy and former student Donta McGilvery meet at the building on SMU’s campus where in 2012 McGilvery was the student director for Dr. McElroy’s class “The Performance of African American Literature.” Njoki McElroy originated the path breaking class at Northwestern University in 1970 where she received her Ph.D.

In over 50 years of teaching, first at Northwestern and then at SMU, Njoki McElroy has influenced students who have gone on to success in academia, Hollywood and Broadway. Donta McGilvery credits Dr. McElroy in overcoming the naysayers and receiving his Ph.D., recently in Theatre from Arizona State University with an emphasis on Youth and Community, becoming the first African American male to do so. The Dallas natives discuss what it was like to grow up in Dallas albeit in different generations, and to navigate the academic and performance world while Black.

One of Dr. McElroy’s students at SMU bestowed the honorific “Queen Professor” because of her academic mien and elegant manner. The title fit like a glove. The documentary looks back at Dr. McElroy’s storied career, and features performances from Dr. McElroy, Donta McGilvery and Michael Counter, a doctoral candidate at SMU and a student in Dr. McElroy’s 2012 class. A special performance by Dr. McElroy and a Q and A will follow the film.

The documentary is produced by Marian McElroy

The documentary will be shown on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 3 p.m., at the Highland Hills Branch Library, 6200 Bonnie View Road, Dallas

The documentary “The Queen Professor Holds Court” is supported in part by the City of Dallas, Office of Arts and Culture

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