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## **Creative Power & the Business of Black Music: A Free Community Conversation**

Inspired by *DREAMGIRLS*, Coming to Shea's 710 Theatre in September, Panel Discussion Spotlights the Creative and Economic Power of Black Artistry

Shea's Performing Arts Center and AnsariSaxon Productions invite the community to a panel discussion on **August 30** titled: **Creative Power & the Business of Black Music**. The event celebrating the artistry, entrepreneurship, and cultural impact of Black music is inspired by the story behind the musical ***DREAMGIRLS***, part of the 2025-26 Frey Electric Season, set to take the Shea's 710 Theatre stage September 10 – 28, 2025.

### **Event Details:**

**What:** Creative Power & the Business of Black Music – Free Public Panel Discussion in Celebration of the upcoming musical ***DREAMGIRLS***

**Who:** Panelists include:

- **Naila Ansari Catilo:** Award-winning director, choreographer, and producer; professor at SUNY Buffalo State University in Theater and Africana Studies; Co-Founder of AnsariSaxon Productions
- **Yayi Dia:** Chair of Buffalo Fashion Runway; Staff Assistant at the University at Buffalo's Intercultural Diversity Center
- **Shantelle Patton:** Founder of Buffalo's Minority Business Directory "That Brown Bag"
- **Yuki Numata Resnick:** An accomplished violin soloist and a Grammy Award-winning musician; Director of Arts and Culture at the Community Foundation

- **Karen Saxon:** Music educator, accomplished musician, professional vocalist, and Co-Founder of AnsariSaxon Productions
- **Ron Walker:** Owner of Three 2 Go Music Publishing and RW Music Video Production; lead guitarist for *The Exotics*, inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame class of 2011

**When:** Saturday, August 30, 2025

5:00PM Doors Open, Informational Tables, Cash Bar with Specialty Cocktails/Mocktails

6:00PM Panel Discussion

**Where:** Shea's Smith Theater, 658 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

**Cost:** Free and open to the public

**RSVP:** [bit.ly/dreamgirlspanel](http://bit.ly/dreamgirlspanel)

Moderated by media personality **Mercedes Wilson**, this dynamic conversation will bring together artists, industry professionals, and creative entrepreneurs to explore how Black creators can protect their work, leverage copyright and branding, and build sustainable careers in today's music and entertainment industry. Panelists will also discuss the powerful role of the arts as a driver of both cultural expression and economic vitality.

The event is free of charge, but seating is limited. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to visit tables featuring local business, secure seating, and enjoy an engaging evening of ideas, networking, and community connection.

**DREAMGIRLS** is coproduced by Shea's Performing Arts Center and AnsariSaxon Productions. **DREAMGIRLS** sponsors include KeyBank, Wegmans, Moog Inc, Buffalo Urban League, YWCA, For Our Daughters, and African Cultural Center of Buffalo Inc. Tickets to **DREAMGIRLS** can be purchased through the Shea's Box Office at 650 Main Street in Buffalo or online at [www.sheas.org/performances/dreamgirls](http://www.sheas.org/performances/dreamgirls).

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