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## **DIANNE HOUSTON** an Academy Award nominated writer and director.

In 1996 Dianne Houston transformed a forgotten Harlem Renaissance short story into the Academy Award nominated short film TUESDAY MORNING RIDE, which she both wrote and directed. This nomination made Houston the first African American woman to be nominated for an Oscar in the Live Action Shorts category.

Houston was nominated for the 2017 Writer's Guild Award for her script: SURVIVING COMPTON. SURVIVING COMPTON also won the 2017 GRACIE AWARD and won the premiere night for Lifetime, reaching #1 for adult viewers.

Houston's script for New Line's TAKE THE LEAD (starring Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard, and Yaya DeCosta) earned her an NAACP Image Award nomination.

Born and raised in Washington DC, Houston left home at age 16 to work in experimental theater in New York City. Her early work and study was with such theater greats as Liz Swados, Joseph Papp, Joe Chaikin, Peter Brook, La Mama, Woody King, and Ntozake Shange. It was this diverse background that laid the foundation for her immersion into film and television.

Dianne Houston is known for her unique skills as a storyteller, director, and as a builder of memorable characters. She has developed film and television projects for SHOWTIME NBC, HBO, ABC, CBS, FOX, A&E, TRIBECA FILMS, PARTICIPANT FILMS, UNIVERSAL, SONY, PARAMOUNT, and HARPO Productions.

Houston recently directed the cable pic **MICHAEL JACKSON: SEARCHING FOR NEVERLAND**, wrote an episode of ABC'S miniseries **WHEN WE RISE** with Dustin Lance Black, and has written, directed, and produced for Season Four of the prime time series: **EMPIRE**.

Other TV writing/directing credits include: THE EDUCATION OF MAX BREWSTER; CITY OF ANGELS; BREWSTER PLACE; RUNAWAY ISLAND; CROSSING JORDAN; NYPD BLUE; PRESIDIO MED; SOUL FOOD; CITY OF ANGELS; and STRONG MEDICINE.