

Academy Award nominated and Golden Globe winning actor, writer and producer Taraji P. Henson quickly rose to fame after her breakout performance in the critically acclaimed film *HUSTLE & FLOW*, which earned her and cast a Screen Actors Guild nomination as well as winning her at BET award for Best Actress.

Henson currently stars as Cookie Lyon in Fox's hit musical drama "Empire," which has earned her three Emmy nominations, a Golden Globe Award, a Critic's Choice Award and three BET Awards. Prior to "Empire," Henson had recurring roles on "Person of Interest," "Boston Legal" and "The Division."

In 2017, Henson portrayed NASA mathematician Katherine G. Johnson in the Academy Award-nominated film *HIDDEN FIGURES*. Henson and her cast received a Screen Actors Guild Award for "Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture" for the film. Other credits include Tyler Perry's *ACRIMONY*, *PROUD MARY*, *THINK LIKE A MAN* with Kevin Hart, *THINK LIKE A MAN TOO*, *TALK TO ME* opposite Don Cheadle, *SMOKIN' ACES* with Ben Affleck and Alicia Keys, Tyler Perry's *THE FAMILY THAT PREYS*, *HURRICANE SEASON* opposite Forest Whitaker, *NO GOOD DEED* starring opposite Idris Elba, which opened #1 in the box office, *LARRY CROWNE* with Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts, *TAKEN FROM ME* and *THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON* with Brad Pitt, for which she earned an Academy Award nomination for "Best Supporting Actress." Most recently, Henson loaned her voice alongside Sarah Silverman, John C. Reilly and Gal Gadot in Disney's *RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET: WRECK IT RALPH 2*. Next up, she will star in Paramount's *WHAT MEN WANT* from director Adam Shankman.

In October 2016, Henson released her New York Times bestselling novel "Around The Way Girl," a memoir about her family and friends, her determination to make it to Hollywood and the importance of living your own truth. In "Around The Way Girl," she reminisces on the world-class theater arts education she received at Howard University, and how she chipped away at Hollywood's resistance to give women, especially women of color, rich and significant roles. With her iconic humor and honesty, Henson shares the struggles and disappointments of an actor's journey and shows audiences that she is ever authentic.

In Fall of 2018, Taraji will launch the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation in honor of her late father. The organization will provide scholarships to African-American students majoring in mental health, offer mental health services to youth in urban schools and work to lower the recidivism rates of African-American men and women.

A Washington, D.C. native, Henson currently resides in Chicago.