

# The HistoryMakers' Launches Its Atlanta Region With 'An Evening With Della Reese'

On Friday, June 18, at the studios of Georgia Public Broadcasting, The HistoryMakers will honor legendary singer and actress Della Reese in "An Evening with Della Reese." She will be interviewed by Lorraine Toussaint, star of Crossing Jordan and Any Day Now.

**"We are pleased to bring An Evening with Della Reese to Atlanta..."**

An Evening with Della Reese marks the launch of The HistoryMakers regional headquarters in Atlanta. An Evening with... has been a staple program in Chicago, The HistoryMakers national headquarters. The program is taped as a PBS special before a live audience. Those in attendance are taken through history into the life and achievements of these legendary entertainers. Previously, The HistoryMakers have featured Harry Belafonte, Dionne Warwick, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee and B.B. King amongst those who have shared their stories.

Della Reese's illustrious career began in the church at age 6. At 13, she was singing on the road with the great Mahalia Jackson. By 1954, Della scored her first hit single with And that Reminds Me (of You) which led to numerous appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show. In 1959, Della records her biggest hit Don't You Know which granted her a Grammy Nomination. Her success as a singer led her to numerous television engagements, including more than

twenty appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show," and by 1969, she became the first African American talk show host on television with the launch of her talk show, "Della." Reese has continued over the years to both sing and act. Reese played the role of Tess in the popular TV series Touched By An Angel. In 1987, Reese was ordained as a minister by Reverend Doctor Johnnie Colemon, and she now preaches weekly at Understanding Principles for Better Living Church in Los Angeles. In addition to her two Grammy Award nominations, Reese was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1994.

Lorraine Toussaint enjoys a stellar career on stage and television. Upon graduation from the Julliard School, she landed her first acting job, playing Lady MacBeth. After more than a decade on-stage in New York, she moved to Los Angeles and began her television career. She has a recurring role on Law & Order, appeared in Alex Haley's critically acclaimed miniseries Queen and has received three NAACP Image Awards for her role in the Lifetime Television series Any Day Now.

Serving as honorary Co Chairs for An Evening with Della Reese are Walter & Shirley Massey of Morehouse College; Richard Groves, General Manager, the Hilton Hotels and Ingrid Saunders Jones, Senior Vice President of the Coca Cola Company. Jackmont Hospitality's Brooke Jackson Edmond and Rod Edmond are serving as Event Chairs.

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bring An Evening with Della Reese to Atlanta, Julieanna L. Richardson, Executive Director of The HistoryMakers, Ms. Reese's story is rich and exciting and we are sure that the Atlanta audience will enjoy."

*The HistoryMakers is the largest national non-profit organization dedicated to recording and preserving the personal histories of well-known African-Americans as well as unsung heroes whose path-breaking achievements might otherwise go unrecognized. It is the single largest archival project of its kind in the world. Not since the recording of former slaves during the WPA Movement of the 1930s has there been a methodic and wide-scale attempt to capture the testimonies of African Americans. To date, over 700 interviews have been added to the archives.*

*For more information, please visit [www.thehistorymakers.com](http://www.thehistorymakers.com), or call 312-674-1900.*

