

Tamara Tunie



Tamara Tunie starred for 21 seasons as Medical Examiner Dr. Melinda Warner in Wolf Films/Universal Media Studio's top-rated series "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." She starred as Marie Van Der Veen, the matriarch and the "moral fiber" of a Native American tribe, on Sundance TV's THE RED ROAD. The role is a marked departure from the sophisticated and powerful women she is known for portraying. Ms. Tunie, also, starred in AMC's series DIETLAND and the BBC/Netflix political drama Black Earth Rising.

Ms. Tunie has had other memorable roles on television, most notably as the longstanding character Jessica Griffin on the CBS Daytime Drama "As The World Turns," for which she received two NAACP Image Award nominations and two Soap Opera Digest award nominations. She also appeared in the highly visible role of Alberta Green in Season One of the hit series "24," as well as recurring roles and guest appearances on "Almost Family," "Emergence," "Better Call Saul," "Blue Bloods," "Billions," "Alpha House," "Elementary," "Survivor's Remorse," "Zoo," "The Good Wife," "Law and Order," "Sex and the City," and "NYPD Blue," to name a handful.

In film, Ms. Tunie worked with legendary director Robert Zemeckis, opposite Denzel Washington in "FLIGHT," and has worked with several other of the most respected directors of the screen, including Taylor Hackford, Brian De Palma, Mimi Leder, Harold Becker and Oliver Stone. She had the unique opportunity to work with the legendary Al Pacino twice; she portrayed the possessed wife of a partner in his law firm in the hit film "The Devil's Advocate," and his press secretary in "City Hall." She also worked with famed director Kasi Lemmons and Samuel L. Jackson on both "Eve's Bayou" and "The Caveman's Valentine." Ms. Tunie was also featured in some wonderful "Indies," like "Irreplaceable You," "Fall to Rise," and "Bad Vegan."

She went behind the camera, producing and directing her first feature film entitled "See You in September," starring Justin Kirk and Estella Warren. Shooting on the streets of New York City, the film surrounds a woman who forms a support group for abandoned patients when all their therapists go on vacation in August and finds true love.

Ms. Tunie also directed and co-wrote the world premiere of JAZZLAND at The Harlem School of the Arts.

Carnegie Mellon University

She starred on Broadway with Denzel Washington in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and she has also shared the Broadway stage with the legendary Lena Horne in the Broadway musical "Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music." She starred in David Merrick's revival of "Oh Kay!" with Brian Stokes Mitchell. Ms. Tunie toured Europe with "Bubblin' Brown Sugar," and portrayed Helen of Troy in the New York Shakespeare Festival's production of "Troilus and Cressida" in Central Park. In addition, she played "Maggie" in the FIRST all African American production of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at Theatre Virginia in Richmond. After September 11th, she co-starred with many veterans of Broadway, including Audra Mc Donald and Lillias White, in the 20th anniversary benefit concert of "Dreamgirls."

Most recently, Ms. Tunie starred as Dorothy Brock in the re-imagined 42nd STREET at the Ordway Theater, and as Prospero in the Pittsburgh Public Theater's production of "The Tempest," making her the FIRST African American woman to play the part. Immediately following, she joined City Theater's production of "The Roommate." She also starred in Robert Shenkkan's riveting drama, "Building the Wall" Off-Broadway. She was honored with an OBIE AWARD for her performance in Danai Gurira's "Familiar," at Playwright's Horizons, and the BERKSHIRE THEATRE AWARD for originating the role of "Brenda" in the critically acclaimed drama, "American Son."

Ms. Tunie starred as Rose in "Fences" in "August Wilson's 20th Century Cycle" at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C. She starred in the Contemporary American Theatre Festival's production of Tracy Thorne's play "We Are Here." She received rave reviews for her turn in the lead role of Madame de Merteuil in "Les Liaisons Dangereuse," and Cleopatra in "Antony and Cleopatra" at the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. She also starred in "All's Well That Ends Well" at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, playing three roles, while simultaneously producing the musical "Frog Kiss," part of the New York Musical Theater Festival.

Ms. Tunie's first "role" as Broadway producer, was on the team responsible for the Tony Award-winning musical "Spring Awakening." She also produced August Wilson's Tony Award nominated "Radio Golf," and "Magic vs Bird." She produced the world premiere of FROG KISS at Virginia Stage Company in Norfolk Virginia.

She is Chair Emerita of the Board of Directors of Figure Skating in Harlem, a non-profit organization that supports academic excellence and teaches life skills to young girls in the Harlem community through the art and discipline of figure skating. She serves on the Board of Directors at Harlem Stage/The Gatehouse, and God's Love We Deliver. She, also, serves on the Advisory Board of Hearts of Gold and the Center for Military Medical Research in Pittsburgh.

In 2005, Mayor Bloomberg awarded Ms. Tunie the "Made in New York Award" from the City of New York for her support and commitment to Film, Television and Theater in Manhattan.

Ms. Tunie has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from Carnegie-Mellon University, and now serves on its Board of Trustees. She is a Pittsburgh native, but resides in Harlem.