

# Sheila Marie Norman Director / Writer



## Biography

Sheila Marie Norman, the Writer and Director of the film Reunion, is the Vice President of Entertainment for Norman & Norman, Inc. Sheila is an actress, writer, producer and director for stage and screen. While she has been acting most of her life, Sheila began her writing career in 1997 as a screenwriter, subsequently expanding her repertoire to include stage plays as well. Graduate of the Hollywood Film Institute, Sheila also earned her Bachelor's in Business Marketing from the University of Southern California. She worked with the Equal Opportunity Film Institute, a non-profit organization that produced independent projects and conducted film industry seminars and workshops for the community surrounding USC. Sheila is a member of Women in Film and currently working on numerous projects in various stages of development.

## Statement

Spawned by a mid-life crisis, it feels extremely rewarding to seize an opportunity to complete my first film. My writing and directorial debut represents a major personal turning point. I used to think I just belonged to the back room of corporate America, but now I appreciate the importance of adding my voice to the film community. There is a short supply in the way of older black women filmmakers, which makes Reunion a uniquely important contribution.

A simple story, told well, with people who look like me, Reunion overflows with a sense of family. Creatively, this was an important goal. Family oriented even behind the scenes, I enjoyed collaborating with a number of family members. For instance my brother Jerry, the Executive Producer, is the kind of person who doesn't like to talk...he likes to make things happen. He said he believed in me and he put his money where is mouth is. From idea to execution, we worked together in a self-taught approach, applying business skills to the art of filmmaking.

As the cast and crew grew into a cohesive unit, like an extended family on set, I watched my artistic vision unfold as the project came alive. I had always had an interest in the arts and now I had taken my shot. With wonder and humility, I enjoyed every moment making this film and the lessons I gained in the process...about filmmaking, about life and most of all, about family.