

## Actor Tray Chaney motivates aspiring young actors at Waldorf West library

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On Jun. 28 actor Tray Chaney and Shaida Reed, 21, a Brandywine resident and student at Howard University, read a monologue from a new movie that Chaney is currently shooting, during his acting workshop at Waldorf West Library.

STAFF PHOTOS By TIFFANY WATSON On June 28 actor Tray Chaney and Shaida Reed, 21, a Brandywine resident and student at Howard University, read a monologue from a new movie that Chaney is currently shooting, during his acting workshop at Waldorf West Library.

Not everyone was made for the big screen, but there's no need to be discouraged, according to actor Tray Chaney from the HBO series "The Wire." Casting managers are always looking for the next big thing.

On June 28, the future actors of Charles County were shown different ways that they can jump start their acting career during an acting workshop at the Waldorf West Library. Chaney said that being in the movie industry requires a lot of hard work, dedication and confidence. Years after receiving his own big break in the acting industry, he decided to give some real life tips to the future actors in the Charles County region.

"Many people always ask me how to get into the business, so while sharing my own personal experiences of how I came into the entertainment business, I just wanted to inspire and motivate them to follow their dreams," Chaney said. "I want them to take the inspiration that I shared and make it their own."

Actor, author and artist, Chaney is currently on Bounce TV's "Saints and Sinners" and is best known for his role as "Poot" on HBO's original series, "The Wire." He began his career as a performer at the early age of 4 years old with influence from artists such as Big Daddy Kane and Rakim. As he grew older he entered into the music world as a writer, producer and rapper, focusing on issues in today's society. He wrote and released his first song entitled "Fatherhood" which featured on BET's 106 & Park and also released a public service educational video, created in collaboration with the Maryland State Education Association, called "Radical Readers."

"It creates a sense of excitement to have a celebrity in the building," said Sarah Guy, Charles County Public Library program coordinator. "We have been trying to do more activities for young adults and the fact that Tray Chaney is local and he's making a name for himself in Hollywood, it gives them inspiration to do the exact same thing. He is one of the most genuine people that I have ever met and he showed our young adults that they can be the next actor who's on the equivalent of "The Wire." Their local flavor is going to impact how they present themselves and they could be the next Tray Chaney."

Chaney gave an insider's look at the entertainment industry by discussing the do's and don't's of auditioning, as well as monologue and acting tips for young and old, ages 12 and up. The workshop was from 6-8 p.m. with Chaney covering other interesting topics such as grooming and always looking your best for casting agents, acting techniques such as showing emotion and feelings, audition techniques to prepare for a wanted role, dealing with rejection and finding an agent.

Chaney spoke about being discovered by casting manager Linda Townsend and his audition for "The Wire" in Baltimore. Although he did not receive the part that he auditioned for, his confidence still landed him a major role that forever changed his acting career.

"Now the show is in syndication over in London with a huge fan base all over the country," he said.

Chaney gave the young actors additional tips about how to put emotion into various scenes. He explained that directors want to see actors' real, raw emotion in every scene, because the acting technique is mainly about focus and preparation. He also taught the young actors how to read a monologue. Then the young actors were able to demonstrate their own acting chops by using a manuscript from Chaney's new movie that he is currently shooting.

"I thought the workshop was very interesting and exciting," said Jasmine Jackson, 16, a Waldorf resident and student at Bishop McNamara High School. "Learning about the business was very fun and very informative. I enjoyed listening to him talk about his roles that portrayed different stereotypes and his limits with potential roles. I also like that he didn't tell us to take as many roles as possible and get as much money as we can because that's not what it's about. You can tell that he's really in the business for the right reasons and that really resonated with me."



“I like that he was very down to earth, he was personal in his approach and he taught us what to do in an audition room,” said Shaida Reed, 21, a Brandywine resident and student at Howard University. “I would like to get into television production and become a screenwriter so this taught me a lot about the entertainment industry. I like what he said about always being prepared to audition for a specific role by wearing the right attire, as well as making sure you are well presented on social media and at events, in order to make a good impression.”

Although a few of the participants were amateurs, Chaney said they knocked the monologue right out of the park and it brought back many memories of when he first began acting.

“Some of these tips I told them today may not have been told to me when I was younger, but they are some of the things I had to encounter in this business and I needed to know the proper way of handling it,” Chaney said. “People give up too easy but you have to deal with rejection in this industry. This is a hustle and grind that you have to stay at it in order to achieve your dreams and goals.”

On July 9, Chaney will be hosting a music industry workshop at 2 p.m. for young adults interested jumpstarting their music career.

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