

# Bio

MISCHA DUFFIE is a writer, coach, inspirational speaker, and radio personality with a special gift for curating meaningful conversations. As a 33-year veteran of the human service profession with a specific expertise in human behavior, Mischa has spent more than half of her life offering individuals the necessary tools to find the reason and the courage to explore the more of life.

Mischa's professional career has involved working in the non-profit, for profit, juvenile justice, social justice, and educational sector in capacities that range from volunteer to grassroots organizer to administrator to executive management leadership roles. For 17 fruitful years, through Greatness Now®, Mischa and her team developed a reputation for providing strength-based programs and instruction that was designed to improve behavioral, emotional, and social outcomes for the over 85 corporations, educational institutions, churches, and community-based organizations they collaborated with.

As a passionate, principled, prolific writer, Mischa has published over 20 of her own books. As the owner of Morals & Values Press (MPV), Mischa serves as publisher, ghostwriter, and coach to those with a burning desire to share their story or perspective with the world. Having decided years ago to disrupt the frustration aspiring writers contend with, Mischa and her MVP team have in fact helped many writers become published authors.

A pioneering and unconventional change agent with her finger on the pulse of a growing and diverse constituency, Mischa's work has always been about going where need dictates. As a result, in 2005, she became the master mind behind *Black Love Talk*®, a Baltimore-based movement created to improve perception as well as the quality of relating between Black men and women. During its five year run, the forum welcomed more than 5,000 participants. In 2008, Mischa worked with a professional filming team to produce the inspiring DVD presentation *Serve, Learn to Serve, or Move Graciously Out of the Way*; for which she was the host and executive producer. In 2009, she was the visionary/lead organizer of the first ever Youth Empowerment Summit (a full scale conference) held inside the Baltimore City Detention Center. In 2010, she co-founded the Great Girls Project, which was a community collaboration between Greatness Now®, Towson University's Women's Center, and Baltimore City Women's Detention Center where female college students served as mentor-pen pals to incarcerated teen girls. In 2013, Mischa became the writer/architect of the groundbreaking curriculum and training model *She Ain't Angry for Nothin*®, an intervention and behavior modification program designed to identify, confront, and eradicate causal factors associated with anger and aggression in girls. The curriculum was used in over thirteen states around the nation.

Compelled to advance 30 years of making a difference in the lives of girls of color, in 2014, with the help of dedicated staff, knowledgeable instructors and a historic partnership with Morgan State University's Earl Graves School of Business, the Mischa Toland\* Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls opened as a 28-week non-traditional learning experience designed to support the social and emotional intellectual development of the next generation of innovators, world changers and entrepreneurs by confronting their fears and nurturing their ideas. Understanding the need to create a sustainable infrastructure for the Academy's valuable work, in 2015, Mischa founded GIRLS as CEOs Foundation; a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing as well as eradicating inequity by elevating excellence for girls of color through education, mentoring and philanthropy. With three years of incredible success, The Mischa Toland\* Entrepreneurial Academy for Girls served its last cohort of girls in 2017.

Mischa's body of work expanded in 2015 when she was appointed as the Director of Training & Technical Assistance for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake's Maryland Mentoring Resource Center (MMRC); an organization for which she was initially a consultant for. After just three short months, Mischa was promoted to Director of MMRC. Through this appointment, Mischa's portfolio of work included everything from budget development to supervisor staff, to assessing the needs of mentoring programs across the State of Maryland, to enforcing mentoring best practices, to training MMRC trainers. After just eleven months, Mischa resigned from this appointment as it began to clash with her calling to develop greatness in others.

Mischa attended Morgan State University where she majored in Social Work/Psychology yet she proudly acknowledges that her most effective credential remains her own incredible life that has been transformed using the same valuable practices and tools she has shared with audiences from Princeton University to the White House Council on Women & Girls. A licensed minister who lauds spirituality over religion, Mischa is the grateful recipient of many citations, certificates, and awards.

At the beginning of 2018, Mischa dissolved Greatness Now and Girls as CEOs Foundation, relocated to California, and rebranded as MischaInspires to capture the new direction, spirit, and chapter of her professional journey more accurately. In her new home in California, Mischa has continued to soar and inspire to the end that in 2019, she became a contributing writer for the illustrious Suite Life SoCal Magazine and in 2021, she was hand picked by the legendary broadcast journalist, Tavis Smiley, to host her own show, THE BACK STORY WITH MISCHA DUFFIE, on his radio station, KBLA Talk Radio 1580 AM. The only Black owned and operated talk radio station in Los Angeles.

Of all Mischa's accomplishments, her most valued are that of mother and best friend to her two adult sons, Kyle and James; and MaMa to her three grandchildren, Kyle Jr., Ari, and Kylie.

Get a more thorough look at Mischa's body of work by visiting [www.mischainspires.com](http://www.mischainspires.com).

## AFFILIATIONS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

### Affiliations

- former cohort member, Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies (ICJS) Entrepreneur Luncheon Series
- former faculty member, Baltimore Corps
- former member, National Speakers Association
- former member, National Council of Negro Women
- former statewide master trainer, Maryland Mentoring Partnership, later renamed Maryland Mentoring Resource Center

### Other Projects

- organizer, Commitment to Care Conference; one day conference that hosted 150 human service professionals
- founder, World Class Human Being Summit; 4-hour empowerment summit that hosted 160 women
- organizer/instructor, Transformation Journey Class, one year class that helps excavate what's no longer needed
- former television show host of *The Mischa Toland\* Show* on WBFF-2 this tv, Baltimore

### Publications

- *When We Grow*, Author Published 2020
- *The Silent Confidence Killer*, Author Published 2018
- *Everything God Does is Right*, Author Published 2013
- *Mastering the Art of Success*, Co-Author Published 2012
- *stream keepa runnin through my soul*, Author Published 2012
- *Empowered: 100 Affirmations for Aspiring Entrepreneurs*, Author Published 2012
- *In Celebration of You: Words of Affirmation for Those Living with Breast Cancer*, Author Published 2011
- *Building Youth Leaders Curriculum*, Author Published 2010
- *Serve, Learn to Serve, or Move Graciously Out of the Way*, Author Published 2010
- *Let's Pray*, Author Published 2009
- *encumbered*, Author Published 2009
- *31 Days of Inspiration for Struggling Parents*, Author Published 2009
- *Serving: 100 Affirmations for Human Service Providers*, Author Published 2009
- *Champs: 100 Affirmations for Boys & Young Men*, Author Published 2009
- *Together: 100 Affirmations for Couples*, Author Published 2009
- *Grounded: 100 Affirmations for Spiritual Folk*, Author Published 2009
- *She Ain't Angry for Nothin': Intervention & Behavior Modification Curriculum*, Author Published 2008
- *What Tough Times Taught Me*, Author Published 2007
- *30 Things He Told Me But Can't Tell You Because You Won't Listen*, Author Published 2006
- *Revolutionary Revelations*, Author Published 2005
- *Sacred: 100 Affirmations for Teen Girls*, Author Published 2004
- *Wounded Voices Unwise Choices: The Truth from Our Youth*, Author Published 2004

### Awards & Citations

- African American Board Leadership Institute 2021
- Greater Baltimore Committee LEADERship Class 2018-2019 \*\*
- Mayoral Citation 2016
- White House United State of Women Changemaker 2016
- Zeta Phi Beta Fraternity Education Award 2016
- Choo Smith Integrity in the Community Award 2016
- MBABSE Women Making a Difference Award 2016
- Community Commitment Award 2015
- Comptroller's Office Citation 2015
- Community Leader Award 2014
- Champion of Mentoring Award 2014
- Top 100 MBEs in the Mid-Atlantic Region Award 2012
- Above & Beyond Award 2011
- Woman of Power Award 2010
- Senator Citation 2009
- Mayoral Citation 2009

\* Toland is Mischa's former married name. She no longer uses it.

\*\* Chosen by the selection committee after a competitive process of vetting over 300 applicants, Mischa could not accept the prestigious honor of being in the Greater Baltimore Committee LEADERship Class because she relocated to the West Coast.