



A successful actress, **Robin Givens** long oscillated between a glamorous movie star life and the domestic abuse she suffered at home. Today, she speaks out about the abuse she suffered, urging men, women, and the African American community to educate themselves about domestic violence.

Robin Givens began her acting career with an appearance on The Cosby Show. The following year, she landed her breakthrough role as "Darlene Merriman" on the hit ABC series Head of the Class (1986-1991). During that time she co-starred with Oprah Winfrey in the miniseries The Women of Brewster Place (1989). Givens then starred in several back-to-back movies including the critically acclaimed A Rage in Harlem (1991) with Forest Whitaker, Danny Glover, and Gregory Hines under the direction of Bill Duke; Boomerang, opposite Eddie Murphy in 1992; Foreign Student (1992); and Blankman, with Damon Wayans and David Alan Grier (1994).

In 1995, Givens was listed among Empire magazine's "100 Sexiest Stars in Film History." She has worked with Tyler Perry on The Family That Preys Together (1998) and the TBS series Tyler Perry's House of Payne, and has had a recurring role on USA Network's Burn Notice. Most recently, Givens guest-starred on the hit series Chuck, the CW's Nikita, Lifetime's Drop Dead Diva, and BET's Reed Between the Lines with Malcolm Jamal Warner. She also starred in the Fox pilot series Tagged in 2011.

Givens has worked extensively on stage including a successful stint on Broadway in the leading role of "Roxie Hart" in the Broadway production of "Chicago" (2006), and has performed in the Off-Broadway production of "The Vagina Monologues" (2006). She recently garnered rave reviews for her starring role in the acclaimed production of "Blues for ...

## Robin Givens

### Speech Topics

- Personal Growth
- Inspiration
- Domestic Violence
- Celebrity

