



## TONYA WILLIAMS TO BE INDUCTED INTO CANADA'S WALK OF FAME IN 2025

November 21, 2024

Last night, at a Canada's Walk of Fame Celebration Event, Canadian trailblazer **Tonya Williams** was revealed among the first round of inductees for 2025. She will be celebrated alongside additional inductees and honourees during the 2025 Canada's Walk of Fame Awards Show and Gala Celebration on Saturday, **June 14, 2025**, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, marking a historic moment in her illustrious career.

As 2025 approaches, **Tonya Williams** will celebrate two remarkable milestones: 50 years of groundbreaking contributions to the screen industry and 25 years as the visionary Executive Director of **Reelworld Screen Institute**, which includes **Reelworld Film Festival+Summit**, **Reelworld Foundation**, and **AccessReelworld.ca**. Her dual legacy as an actress and an industry leader has left an indelible mark on Canadian and international entertainment.

*"I am so many things right now—stunned, honoured, and absolutely humbled," said **Tonya Williams**. "I have been blessed in so many ways. Just having the opportunity to make an impact not only in Canada but internationally through my work has always been my greatest reward. But to have my name engraved like this, as part of Canada's legacy, is a dream I never imagined. I am thrilled."*

Arriving in Canada from London, England at just 12 years old, Williams began her career in the Canadian screen industry at 16, quickly becoming a household name. She gained recognition through Canadian classics such as ***Check It Out***, ***Polka Dot Door***, ***St. Legal***, and ***Seeing Things*** before making her mark in Hollywood. In 1987, she joined the iconic soap opera ***The Young & The Restless***, where she starred for 19 years (1990–2009), earning two **Emmy** nominations and two **NAACP Image Awards**. In 2000, Williams founded the **Reelworld Film Festival**, a platform dedicated to providing hope, opportunity, and access for Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the Canadian screen industry. Since its inception, Reelworld has launched the careers of thousands from underserved communities, cementing its place as a transformative force in the industry.

*"I feel like I've lived two successful lives," **Tonya Williams** reflected. "One where I achieved my dreams as an actress, and one where I used that success to create something larger than myself—Reelworld."*



*"Tonya Williams is a shining example of excellence, resilience, and dedication. Her extraordinary career as an actress and her pioneering work with Reelworld have broken barriers, created opportunities, and inspired so many in Canada and beyond," said **Canada's Walk of Fame** CEO **Jeffrey Latimer**. "Tonya's contributions to the screen industry and her unwavering commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion make her a truly deserving inductee into Canada's Walk of Fame."*

The 2025 **Canada's Walk of Fame** Annual Awards Show and Gala Celebration ceremony will take place on Saturday, **June 14, 2025, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre**, celebrating **Tonya Williams** and other remarkable Inductees and Honourees.

#### **About Canada's Walk of Fame**

Canada's Walk of Fame is an award-winning national not-for-profit charitable organization that inspires Canadians by proudly shining a light on the journeys of Canada's most extraordinary achievers. Canada's Walk of Fame recognizes the significant impact of Canadian accomplishments and provides the foremost national platform to celebrate achievement in the fields of Arts & Entertainment, Sports & Athletics, Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy, Humanitarianism, and Science, Technology & Innovation. Current honours and programs include the Allan Slaight Music Impact Honour, the RBC Emerging Musician Program, NBCUniversal and Seeing Red Media Future Storytellers program, the Community Hero and National Hero Programs, the Hometown Stars initiative, including charitable donations to our Inductees' causes, and the nationally televised broadcast designated by the CRTC as a program of national interest. Canada's Walk of Fame has over 230 inductions to date, with stars having a permanent place of tribute on the streets of Toronto's Entertainment District. For a complete list of Inductees and Honourees along with more information on Canada's Walk of Fame, visit: [www.canadaswalkoffame.com](http://www.canadaswalkoffame.com)

Canada's Walk of Fame was established in 1998 by founders Bill Ballard, Dusty Cohl and Peter Soumalias, with Dianne Schwalm and in partnership with Gary Slaight.

Canada's Walk of Fame is a registered charity. Charitable Registration Number 889896924RR0001.