

# The World's Oldest Profession Revisited in Independent Feature Film

**Memphis, TN** - Tricks, an urban drama about the lives of five prostitutes and their enterprising madam makes it debut on DVD this summer.

Tricks tells the story of Donna, the owner of an upscale massage parlor, Healing Touch Massage, is unexpectedly visited by a corrupt cop from her past, who threatens to her expose the true nature of her business. In order to keep her business and her girl's safe, she has to pay him off, and now has the trial of having to raise over \$200,000 in six weeks.

Donna immediately plans an event that is sure to raise the money to help keep her business and employees under the radar, however, during those weeks, each of the women at Healing Touch are confronted with a series of obstacles challenging their line of work and their lives.

Tricks is the debut feature film of DeAara Lewis, produced by Drama Queen Entertainment in association with Pittsstop Productions. DeAara's previous effort, The Forgotten Ones, a short dramatic film premiered at Media Co-Op to a sold out audience and also received an honorable mention at the Women of Color Film Festival in New York City.

"I didn't want to do a story about women trying to get out of the lifestyle," says DeAara, "That was too predictable. Instead, I wanted to show the constant struggles they each deal with while earning a living in a business that's so controversial."

DeAara got the idea for the film while working at the CBS affiliate WREG-TV. While at work, she saw a story about a woman who had been arrested on charges of prostitution. She immediately started to think about why this woman chose this particular path and the stigma that is so often associated with it.

During those following weeks, DeAara did extensive research on the history of prostitution and also spoke to women whom she personally knew who once lived that life. She says she was shocked to learn that this lifestyle did not always have a negative connotation – these women, also known as courtesans, were held in high regards in some parts of the world.

"And that's the angle I wanted to take it," DeAara admits, "Veronica Franco nor Nell Gwynne had to defend their lifestyles on a daily basis, but they still had other demons to deal with. And the fact that they had these other problems and just happen to be working girls, made their stories all the more interesting. And I wanted to approach Tricks from that angle."

**Contact:**  
**DeAara Lewis**  
**Lewisgroup1212@gmail.com**  
**(901)235-2067**