

“Don’t give up. The idea of not doing something because you’re black... when we reinforce it to ourselves, that is repugnant. When other people of color tell you, you can’t do something because you’re a person of color, that is repugnant and you should walk away from them even if they’re related to you.”



Executive Producer of “Power” Curtis Jackson (50 Cent) and Courtney A. Kemp

of them presently at the top and she’s committed to mentoring others to close the gap “I want to make more showrunners who are like me.”

She went on to explain that there is room for a lot more women, and in particular, women of color in the television business and that people need to prepare themselves and begin to fill in the empty spaces “Coming up in the business, a lot of time I would be the only woman. A lot of times they would hire a whole writing staff and they would go “Man! We need a woman!” A lot

of times I would be the only woman and a person of color and people would hire me because I was both...”

Courtney A. Kemp got to the students. Sitting amongst them and hearing what they had to say, their response to her words and the vibes coming off them, I could tell she really got to them and they were inspired by her person, her achievements, advice and encouragement.

I had a personal taste of her ability to relate with her audience on a personal level. On hearing my accent when I started asking her a

question, she smilingly asked where I was from and when I responded I was from Nigeria, she went on to inform me she’d figured as much because her ex-husband is a Ghanaian who was raised in Nigeria and so, she was familiar with Nigerians. That kind of made me feel she could relate to my question on the ways members of the minority group would try to discourage others from attempting to get into a field they felt is impenetrable for people of color. Her response was quite simply, inspiring, and it resonated with me

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