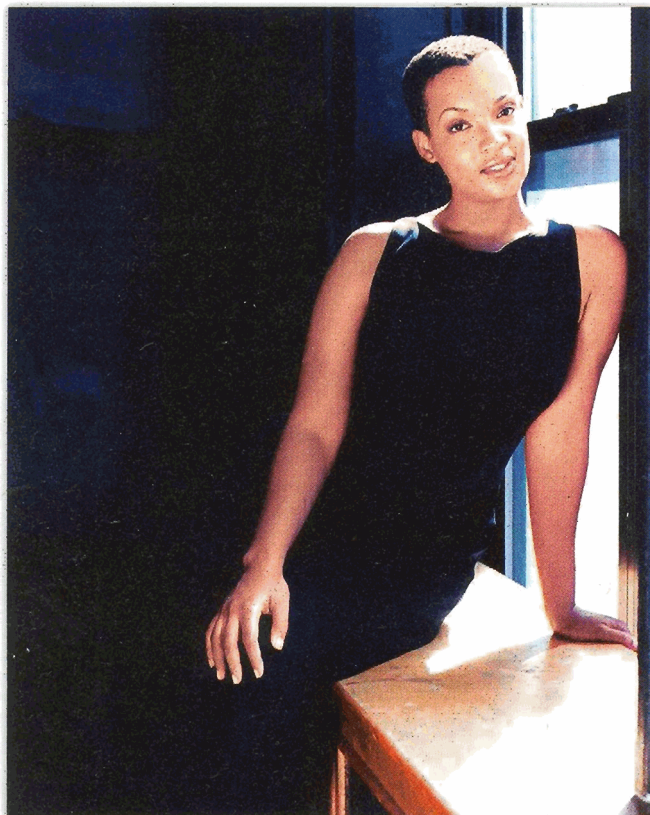


contributors



REGINA R. ROBERTSON

BACKGROUND: Our West Coast editor has been penning cover stories for *ESSENCE* since January 2006, when she tackled Angela Bassett, Queen Latifah and Gabrielle Union. A former entertainment marketing guru, Robertson has maintained a long-standing interest in the written word. "I've wanted to work for a magazine since I was 6 years old," she confesses.

ASSIGNMENT: Robertson moderated a discussion on love and loyalty between hotshot Hollywood couple Jada Pinkett Smith and her husband, Will, for our cover feature, "The Story of Us" (page 136). "They complete each other's sentences like people who talk often and have a real connection," she observes.

WHAT'S NEXT: Robertson is researching her first book project and keeping an eye out for the next big story.

MARKUS KLINKO AND INDRANI

BACKGROUND: Since this dynamic duo joined forces 14 years ago, they've captured iconic images of Mary J. Blige, Beyoncé and Mariah Carey.

ASSIGNMENT: The team headed to Charleston, South Carolina, to photograph the Smiths for "The Story of Us."

WHAT'S NEXT: Prepping for photo exhibitions in New York City, L.A. and Florence, Italy.



DENENE MILLNER

BACKGROUND: She's a contributing columnist at *Parenting* and an author. She and Mitzi Miller recently published *If Only You Knew* (Point), the second in their *Hotlanta* teen series.

ASSIGNMENT: Millner tracked down the most fun places for family holiday travel in "Getaways Are the Best Gifts" (page 102). "New York is gorgeous during Christmastime," says the Big Apple native, who currently resides in Atlanta.

WHAT'S NEXT: She just finished *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man* (Amistad) with Steve Harvey, in stores early 2009. □