



## KAI PAYNTER

Kai Paynter was born in Ontario, Canada, into a South African family of African and Israeli heritage. She is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, MFA Acting program and also Purdue University. Kai studied alongside Grace Byers, Kara Song Wang, Sepideh Moafi and at Purdue University, graduates included John Lovitz and Sir Bill Duke. She started her performing career as a singer, travelling internationally, as a featured soloist with Purdue Musical Organization.

Following graduation from the MFA program, under artistic direction from world renowned theatre legend Robert Cohen, Kai relocated to Los Angeles. Kai is currently based in Sydney and is a local in Los Angeles.

Kai was recently featured in the US Airways Inflight Magazine for her role as Abigail in *The Crucible*, where the magazine recognized her alma mater as being the #1 “training institution for young creative talent”. She recently appeared on CBS’s Criminal Minds opposite Joe Mantegna.

Kai’s first main stage theatre role was the principal role of Ruby in *Seven Guitars*. This led to other stage roles including a Neil Labute debut of *The Furies* and Sophie in *Ruined* for director, Kent Thompson. She is no stranger to the commercial world and has been featured on several campaigns including Apple and Boost Mobile. She is especially adept with accents & dialects, not limited to all regional American dialects, British, African and Islander accents.

As a writer/director, Kai is currently pitching a pilot in LA, making rounds in the entertainment circuit. Together with husband, Kirk Carrington-Hastings, they formed BearTiger Productions where they produce and develop music, film, theatre, television, radio, and digital content.