

Black Lightning 1977-1978: Om Krishna Uprety - The Hero We Didn't Know We Needed

In the annals of television history, few shows have had the cultural impact and significance of *Black Lightning*. Premiering on NBC in 1977, *Black Lightning* was the first live-action superhero television series to feature an African American lead character. The show starred Om Krishna Uprety as Jefferson Pierce, a high school principal by day and a costumed crime-fighter by night. *Black Lightning* was a groundbreaking series that not only entertained audiences but also challenged stereotypes and paved the way for greater representation of African Americans in the media.



Black Lightning (1977-1978) #1 by Om Krishna Uprety

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 18 pages

Lending : Enabled



The Creation of Black Lightning

Black Lightning was created by Tony Isabella and Trevor Von Eeden. Isabella was a writer who had previously worked on the popular comic book series *Black Panther*. He wanted to create a superhero who was both relatable and aspirational to African American audiences. Von Eeden was a talented artist who brought Black Lightning's iconic costume to life.

The character of Jefferson Pierce was inspired by several real-life figures, including Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali. Pierce is a strong, intelligent, and principled man who is committed to using his powers for good. He is also a loving father and husband.

The Show's Premise

Black Lightning follows Jefferson Pierce as he balances his life as a high school principal and a superhero. The show explores themes of racism, social injustice, and the importance of community. Pierce often uses his powers to fight against corrupt politicians, criminals, and other forces that threaten his neighborhood.

The show also features a cast of supporting characters, including Pierce's wife, Lynn Stewart, his daughters, Jennifer and Anissa, and his best friend, Peter Gambi. These characters provide Pierce with support and guidance as he navigates the challenges of his dual life.

The Impact of Black Lightning

Black Lightning was a groundbreaking series that had a profound impact on television. The show was a ratings success and helped to pave the way for greater representation of African Americans in the media. *Black Lightning* also inspired a new generation of African American superheroes, including Luke Cage and Black Panther.

The show's legacy is still felt today. In 2018, a new *Black Lightning* television series premiered on The CW. The new series is a modern reimagining of the original show and features a new cast of characters.

However, the new series shares the same spirit of the original show and continues to explore important themes of race, identity, and justice.

Om Krishna Uprety: The Man Behind the Mask

Om Krishna Uprety was born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1945. He moved to the United States in the 1960s and began his acting career in the early 1970s. Uprety was initially hesitant to take on the role of Black Lightning, but he eventually agreed after meeting with Isabella and Von Eeden.

Uprety's performance as Black Lightning is iconic. He brings a sense of dignity, strength, and intelligence to the role. Uprety's portrayal of Black Lightning helped to make the character a role model for African Americans of all ages.

Black Lightning is a groundbreaking television series that has had a lasting impact on popular culture. The show was a ratings success and helped to pave the way for greater representation of African Americans in the media. Black Lightning is also an important cultural artifact that reflects the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in the United States.

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Black Lightning is a show that is still relevant today. The show's themes of racism, social injustice, and the importance of community are still being debated today. *Black Lightning* is a reminder that we must continue to fight for a more just and equitable society.



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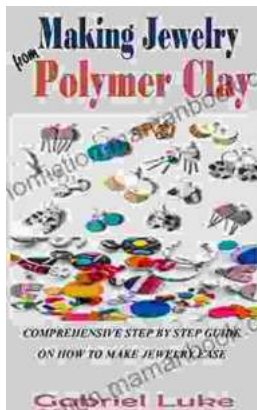
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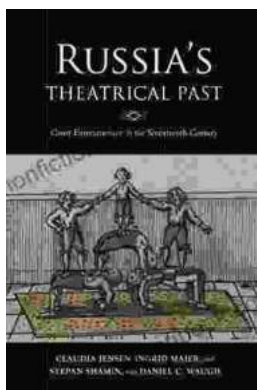
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