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PAST EVENTS

Behind The Scenes Of The ELLE Film Club With Special Guest Kerry Washington

Nicole Avant and Tyler Perry also joined for an intimate Q&A before a special screening of The Six Triple Eight

Words by ELLE Team



In our final ELLE COLLECTIVE event of the year, we gathered at Soho House for a very special screening of *The Six Triple Eight,* before it releases on Netflix on December 20. Joining ELLE's Shannon Mahanty for a pre-film Q&A was director Tyler Perry, producer Nicole Avant and star Kerry Washington.

The Six Triple Eight is inspired by the first and only Women's Army Corps unit of colour to serve overseas in WWII. Despite facing racism and sexism - and gruelling working conditions - they were committed to serving their country with honour and distinction. Given an extraordinary mission and united in their determination, these unsung heroes delivered hope and shattered barriers.

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Kerry Washington explained how meeting some of the living members of the battalion helped her embody the role, as well as Charity Adams' memoir, *A Woman's Army*. 'I devoured it and then read again, and always had with me on set. I talked to people who knew her, including one of the

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For Washington, it was important that the audience weren't ever distracted. 'I've been lucky to play some iconic characters in my career, but it was important to us that when people watch the film, they're not thinking about anybody else. They're not thinking about Kerry Washington, they're not thinking about Olivia Pope. They're just thinking about this woman. Because these 855 women deserve that. They deserve this legacy.'



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never hear about the women, ever'. The author and activist discovered the Six Triple Eight unit when her late mother told her stories in childhood. 'She loved American history, all credit to my mom.'

On choosing Washington for the lead role, director Tyler Perry said, 'I knew Kerry was Charity when I started writing. When I write different characters and scenes, usually people will show up in my head. And I saw Kerry every time. It's true, uou see the movie and you won't have a sense of Kerry Washington, Kerry leads that way as an actor on stage. There were a lot of younger talent that that were looking up to her, and she was just being amazing and kind and generous in her knowledge and information. It was really wonderful to see that. I try to have a set where everyone is heard and seen and taken care of and appreciated and respected.'

The Six Triple Eight is in select cinemas now, and available to stream on Netflix from December 20.

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