

## Biography

### Cynthia R. Johnson

Ms. Johnson is an award-winning writer and producer with affiliations to PBS, NBC, CBS and The Smithsonian Institute. In a career that spans over twenty years, Ms. Johnson has won 9-New England EMMY Awards, 2-Gold World Medals from the International Film and Television Festival of New York, a CEBA Award from the National Association of Black Journalists and the 2003 Massachusetts Psychological Award for her contributions in broadcast and media. Cynthia's production experience has ranged from public service campaigns, documentaries, docu-dramas and live studio productions.

Ms. Johnson has written several award-winning scripts for television including the docu-drama, *Journey of Courage*, a historical look at 350 years of black presence in New England and *WGBH's Ellington's Sentimental Mood*, a celebration of Duke Ellington's 100-year-anniversary in music. *Surviving the Odds; Being Young, Black and Male in America* a multi-station, studio production, looked at the alarming numbers of incarceration among youth, while exploring ways to combat the problem. This WGBH production hosted by Harvard Law School Professor, Charles Ogletree won an EMMY. *The Making of Africans in America*, took an intimate look of the 6-part national series, highlighting the unique approach to the African-American experience by talented filmmakers.

Ms. Johnson wrote a dramatic installation on the biography of Robert Roberts, housekeeper for Massachusetts Federalist Governor, Christopher Gore. *The Trunk*, presented by Gore Place Museum has been performed for over 5K students throughout New England.

Storytelling is Ms. Johnson's first love. As a recent graduate from Grub Street's Novel Incubator, the yearlong advanced-degree program wrapped Ms. Johnson inside the craft, along with the support of like-minded people. Ms. Johnson believes stories hold the power to transform our lives, and will remain an integral part of humanity for as long as we gather around campfires, open books and stare at movie screens.