

## Keynote Speaker: Danny Glover

Acclaimed Film Actor, Director and Producer, Activist, Humanitarian

Danny Glover is an award-winning actor, producer and humanitarian with a performance career that spans more than 30 years. Glover's creativity, artistic talent, and social consciousness have positively influenced popular culture and have distinguished him as an accomplished actor of stage and screen. From the blockbuster Lethal Weapon franchise in film, to hit television shows such as ER, Glover has portrayed a myriad of popular roles and has distinguished himself as one of his generation's most consummate actors. Glover's performances in such classic motion pictures as *The Color Purple*, *Witness*, and *Places in the Heart*, have not only showcased his talent and versatility but have also brought him critical and audience acclaim.

Honored with awards from the NAACP, BET and SAG, Glover has also received several Emmy nominations including for the lead role in the HBO movie *Mandela*, the acclaimed miniseries *Lonesome Dove* and the television movie *Freedom Song*. He also received a Daytime Emmy nomination for outstanding directing of a special for Showtime's *Just a Dream*, about a young boy's coming of age.

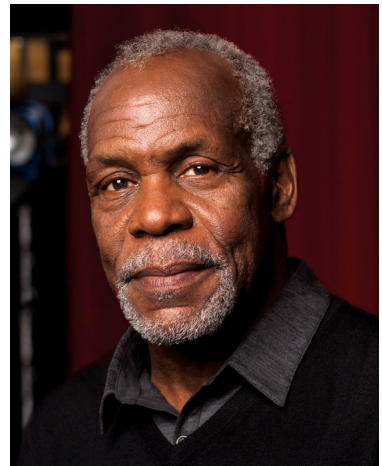
Glover overcame a struggle with dyslexia by building his confidence and excelling in mathematics as a young man. He studied economics at San Francisco State University, where he joined the Black Students Union, a group that was pivotal in establishing the country's first college of ethnic studies and creating intersections between the campus and the community.

It was his time as a college student that ignited his passion for social justice causes. As his success and notoriety grew as an actor, so too did his social and philanthropic efforts. Off-screen, Glover has gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts. A staunch advocate for human rights, Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program, focusing on issues of poverty, disease and economic development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. He currently serves as an UNICEF Ambassador. His political activities range from raising awareness about the AIDS crisis in Africa to literacy and the well-being of African-Americans and of impoverished communities in the United States.

In 2005, Glover co-founded Louverture Films dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. The New York based company has a slate of progressive features and documentaries including *Trouble the Water*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, *Africa Unite*, award winning feature *Bamako*, and most recent projects *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, and *The Disappearance of McKinley Nolan*.

Glover is also a sought after public speaker, delivering inspiring addresses and moving performances on social justice, diversity, activism and global citizenship to audiences of various sizes at college campuses, business conventions and annual conferences. Drawing from expertise, Glover is able to contextualize contemporary issues, and offer practical wisdom to new generations on building peace, unity and democracy across racial, ethnic, and gender lines.

In recognition of his lifetime dedication to public service, Glover has been awarded several Lifetime Achievement and Humanitarian Awards. He was also the recipient of the 2002 Marian Anderson Award, which honors critically acclaimed artists who have impacted society in a positive way, either through their work or their support for an important cause. Glover is on the leadership team of the Vanguard Public Foundation in San Francisco. He is chairman of the board of TransAfrica Forum, an African-American lobbying organization for Africa and the Caribbean. Glover is also a devoted father and grandfather.



Danny Glover

# Fifty-Fourth Annual Commencement



ST. CROIX  
Friday, the Eighteenth of May  
Two Thousand and Eighteen  
Half after One O'clock in the Afternoon  
Albert A. Sheen Campus  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

ST. THOMAS  
Thursday, the Seventeenth of May  
Two Thousand and Eighteen  
Half after One O'clock in the Afternoon  
UVI Sports and Fitness Center  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands