



Adilah (Lovey) Barnes Class of 2016

Adilah (Lovey) Barnes graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1968 and was one of three valedictorians in her class. She was a member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF), on the Honor Roll and a member of the National Honor Society. Lovey was Senior Class Secretary, Soroptimist Girl-of-the-Month, Editor of the Tiger Tales school newspaper, and won area competitions in the Lions Club Public Speaking contests, where she just missed going to the state competition by one level.

During three summers while at OHS, she participated in Project Upward Bound (PUB) at Chico State University, and it was there that she performed in her very first play, "The Ugly Duckling." It was also at PUB that she met her mentor-to-be, Dr. J. Herman Blake and from that experience, decided to enroll at University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC).

Adilah earned her B.A. degree in Theatre Arts from UCSC in 1972, and in her sophomore year, was an exchange student at Tougaloo College, a private African American College in Tougaloo, MS. As a junior, she spent one semester at the private Fine Arts school, Emerson College, in Boston. For her senior project, she directed a solo show at UCSC.

Following her years at UCSC, Adilah continued on a highly successful 50-year career as an actor, bestselling author, producer, teacher, and internet talk show host. On television, she is best known for her five year recurring role as "Anne Marie" on the top-rated ABC show, "Roseanne." She has guest-starred on numerous shows including "The Middle," "Body of Proof," "Harry's Law," and "Prime Suspect." She played opposite Oscar winning-actor Hillary Swank on HBO's "Iron Jawed Angels." In film, she played opposite two Academy Award winners, Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich" and Sandra Bullock in "Murder by Numbers."

It was on stage that Adilah found her true love, and an amazing level of success. She toured in her own one-woman play, **I Am That I Am: Woman, Black**, a historical journey into the lives of seven renowned women, among them Harriet Tubman and Maya Angelou. The play has toured since 1990 on three continents and in 40 states, with performances at colleges, universities, festivals, museums, galleries, juvenile halls, city facilities and private gatherings. In 1996, Adilah returned home and performed in her solo play to a sold out house at the State Theatre in downtown Oroville

In 2007, Adilah founded The Writers Well, an international literary writers retreat for women in Sharpburg, GA. Here, writers who have come as far away as Ghana and Puerto Rico have written from genres that include screenplays, memoirs, solo shows, poetry, children's pictorial books, and academic writings. Her bestselling book, **On My Own Terms: One Actor's Journey**, published in 2008, was named #3 in 2009 by Essence Magazine behind President Obama's two books. She returned to Oroville in 2009 for a well-attended book signing at the State Theatre.

Adilah taught at the American Conservatory Theatre and the San Francisco School of Dramatic Arts, the Maria Gibbs' Crossroads Arts Academy in Los Angeles, and in 1993, co-founded the Los Angeles (LA) Women's Theatre Festival that has produced well over 500 solo artists from around the globe and served over 3,000 youth in regular and after-school programs in the LA Unified School District.

Throughout her career, honors and awards have come in abundance to Adilah and are far too numerous to list. One special award came to her in 2006 when she won the Women in Theatre Award in Los Angeles, and another in 2010 with the establishment of the 1st Annual Adilah Barnes Arts and Literary Achievement Scholarship for inner-city students in Minneapolis, MN. Also in 2010, she was named one of the 50 most influential alumni of UC Santa Cruz.

Community service has always been part of Adilah's life as she served seven years on the UCSC Alumni Board, returns to UCSC to participate in the annual multi-cultural conference, co-founded Circle of Sisters, A Reading Circle, and in 1996 returned to Oroville to perform her play as well as visit local schools to speak to students. She was also honored by being presented with the Oroville Martin Luther King Day Award and the Key to the City.

Adilah makes her home in North Hollywood, California.