

LEGACY

Treatment by
International Dynasty Group



The second great migration from Blakely, Georgia to Newark, New Jersey

The story is
based loosely
on the life and
experience of
the Drinkard
family clan.

INTRO

*The Descendants
of John and Vick*

Once upon a time

Legacy is a drama web television series about the Drinkard Family clan. The Drinkard are an American Gospel singing group, most successful in the late 1950s and carved the careers of singers Cissy Houston, Dionne Warwick, Dee Warwick, Judy Clay and Whitney Houston.

Following the musical rivalries and romances of the Drinkard's and the events that shaped the music world. This lavish, original drama chronicles the life of the Drinkard's from the 50s to modern times.




Nitcolas and Delia Drinkard who had eight children - sons William Hansom Nicky and Larry, and daughters Lee), Marie, Anne and Emily "Cissy"). The Drinkard surname, although gained through a Native American ancestor, has British origins with a meaning that alludes to the running of water. Nitcolas Drinkard was born to a part Dutch, part African-American, mother Susan Bell Drinkard and a full Native American father John Drinkard Jr. He descended from a family of African-American landowners in Blakely, Georgia where three of his children were born. The Drinkards owned a substantial amount of farmland during a time when it was unusual for blacks to own large portions of land. The asset was gradually depleted as small portions of the land were sold, over time, to resolve the continued legal troubles of a close relative. In 1938, Delia Drinkard suffered a stroke and died of cerebral hemorrhage three years later. Renowned soprano Leontyne Price is a Drinkard cousin.



EPISODES 1
Old Times/Moving On






The driving inspiration behind the Drinkard Singers was factory worker Nicholas "Nitch" Drinkard, who encouraged his children to form a gospel singing group in Savannah, Georgia, around 1938. The original group comprised Emily Drinkard (later known as Cissy Houston), her sister Anne Drinkard-Moss, and her brothers Nick and Larry. Another sister, Lee Drinkard Warrick, the mother of Dee Dee and Dionne Warwick, served as the group's manager. By the early 1950s, the family had moved to New Jersey, and had added another sister, Marie Drinkard Epps, to the group. Anne Drinkard-Moss left and was replaced by Lee's adopted daughter Judy Guions, who was later known as Judy Clay. Nicholas Drinkard died of stomach cancer in 1951 when Cissy Houston was 18. Cissy went to live with her older sister Lee and her husband Mancel Warwick. The Warwicks had three children: a son, Mancel Warwick Jr. and two daughters Marie Dionne Warwick and Delia Mae (Dee Dee) Warwick.

Performing regularly in Newark, they recorded several singles. After an appearance at the 1957 Newport Jazz Festival, they recorded the first gospel album to appear on a major label, the live album A Joyful Noise, for RCA Records in 1959.

EPISODES 2

Family Matters



Born Emily Drinkard in Newark, New Jersey, to Nicholas and Delia Mae McCaskill, she was the eighth and final child. In 1955, Emily married Freddie Garland and had a son, Gary Garland, an NBA basketball player and DePaul University Athletic Hall of Famer. The Garlands divorced two years later. In 1959, she married John Russell Houston, Jr., a Newark City administrator and entertainment executive. The couple had a son, Michael Houston, who became a songwriter, and a daughter, Whitney Houston, who became a world-renowned Soul/R&B/pop singer. Emily's second marriage also ended in divorce. Aretha Franklin was an honorary aunt of Emily's daughter.

In 1963, then about to give birth to daughter Whitney Houston, Emily formed the Sweet Inspirations with Doris Troy and niece Dee Dee Warwick. Later, under contract to Atlantic Records, Sylvia Shemwell, Estelle Brown and Myrna Smith form the line-up. During the mid-1960s, the Sweet Inspirations provided backup vocals for a variety of artists, including Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, Lou Rawls, The Drifters, Dusty Springfield and Houston's niece Dionne Warwick. They appeared on Van Morrison's single Brown Eyed Girl. Houston performed the operatic soprano melody on the Aretha Franklin hit, Ain't No Way. In 1967, The Sweet Inspirations sang background vocals for The Jimi Hendrix Experience on the track "Burning of the Midnight Lamp".

In 1969, they were hired to sing backing vocals for American singer Elvis Presley in Las Vegas on his return to live performances during July and August 1969. Presley often introduced them at shows by saying, "They really live up to their name ladies & gentleman, The Sweet Inspirations! Many of these performances can be heard on the All Shook Up and Live In Las Vegas live records. Performing with Elvis Presley was Houston's final gig with The Sweet Inspirations. As her children were growing bigger, she decided to stop touring and focus on her career as a recording artist.



EPISODES 3

Sweet Inspiration

- Marie Dionne Warrick, later Warwick, was born in Orange, New Jersey to Lee Drinkard and Mancel Warrick. Her mother was manager of the Drinkard Singers, and her father was a Pullman porter, chef, record promoter and CPA. Dionne was named after her aunt on her mother's side. She had a sister, Delia ("Dee Dee"), who died in 2008, and a brother, Mancel Jr., who was killed in an accident in 1968 at age 21. Her parents were both African American, and she also has Native American, Brazilian and Dutch ancestry. She was raised in East Orange, New Jersey and was a Girl Scout for a time. After finishing East Orange High School in 1959, Warwick pursued her passion at the Hart College of Music in West Hartford, Connecticut. She landed some work with her group singing backing vocals for recording sessions in New York City. During one session, Warwick met Burt Bacharach, who hired her to record demos featuring songs written by him and lyricist Hal David. She later landed her own record deal. The backstage encounter led to the group being asked to sing background sessions at recording studios in New York. Soon, the group were in demand in New York music circles for their background work for such artists as the Drifters, Ben E. King, Chuck Jackson, Dinah Washington, Ronnie "the Hawk" Hawkins, and Solomon Burke, among many others. Warwick remembered, in *Biography*, that after school, they would catch a bus from East Orange to the Port Authority Terminal, then take the subway to recording studios in Manhattan, perform their background gigs and be back at home in East Orange in time to do their school homework. Her background vocal work would continue while Warwick pursued her studies at Hart. In 1966, Warwick married actor and drummer William David Elliott (1934-1983); they divorced in May 1967. They reconciled and were remarried in Milan, Italy, in August 1967. On January 18, 1969, while living in East Orange, New Jersey, she gave birth to her first son, David Elliott. Bill Elliott had a role on *Bridget Loves Bernie* in 1972-73. In 1973, her second son Damon Elliott was born. On May 30, 1975, the couple separated, and Warwick was granted a divorce in December 1975 in Los Angeles. The court denied Elliott's request for \$2000 a month in support pending a community property trial, and for \$5000, when he insisted, he was making \$500 a month in comparison to Warwick making \$100,000 a month. Warwick stated "I was the breadwinner. The male ego is a fragile thing. It's hard when the woman is the breadwinner. All my life, the only man who ever took care of her financially was her father. Dionne have always taken care of herself.



EPOSIDES 4

What are friends are for....



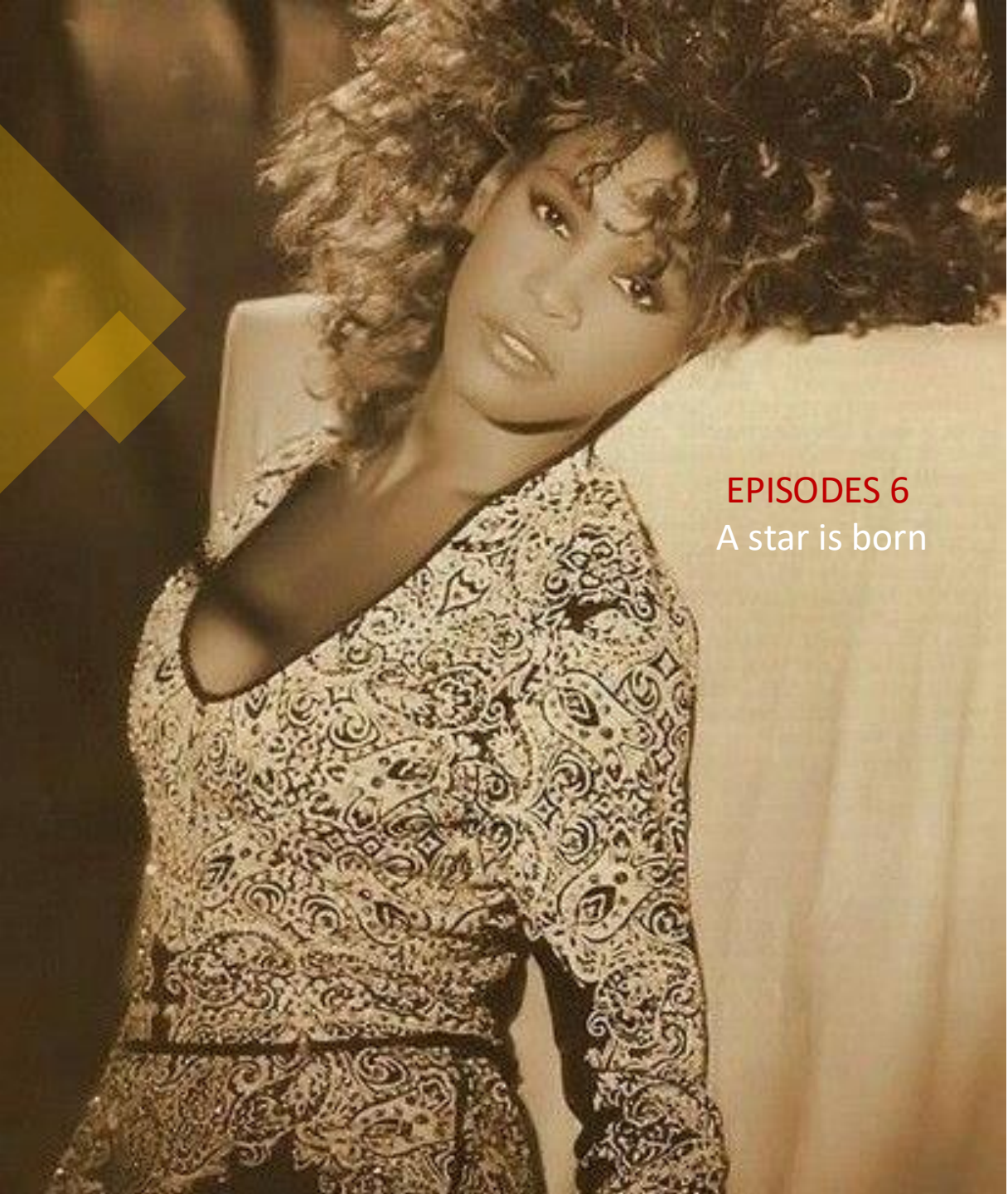
Delia Juanita Warrick known as Dee Dee Warwick, was born in Newark, New Jersey, she was the sister of Dionne Warwick, the niece of Cissy Houston, and the first cousin of Whitney Houston. Warwick had several hits on the soul and R&B charts in the 1960s and 70s, including "Foolish Fool," "She Didn't Know (She Kept on Talking)" and a version of "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me" that was later covered by Diana Ross and The Supremes. Warwick also was a two-time Grammy Award nominee and sang backup for Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, and others before starting her solo career.

Judith Grace Guions, began singing in church. After moving to Brooklyn in the early 1950s, she was taken in by Lee Drinkard Warrick of Singers. From the age of 14, she became a regular performer with the family gospel group, which had originally been formed in Savannah, Georgia around 1938, and which also at times included Lee Warrick's sister, Emily (later known as Cissy Houston), and daughters Dionne and Delia (later better known as Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick). In 1967, Jerry Wexler of Atlantic Records teamed her up with white singer-songwriter Billy Vera to make the United States' first racially integrated duo, and The Sweet Inspirations, to record "Storybook Children". The record made No. 20 on the US R&B chart and No. 54 pop. It was seen as the first interracial duo recording for a major label.

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EPISODES 5
Next in line





EPISODES 6

A star is born

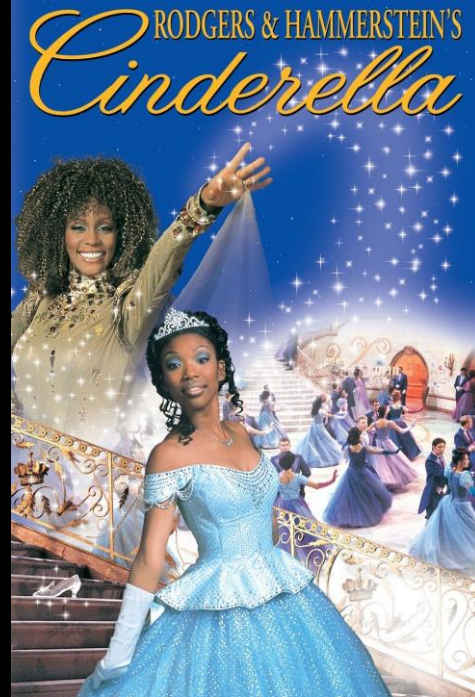
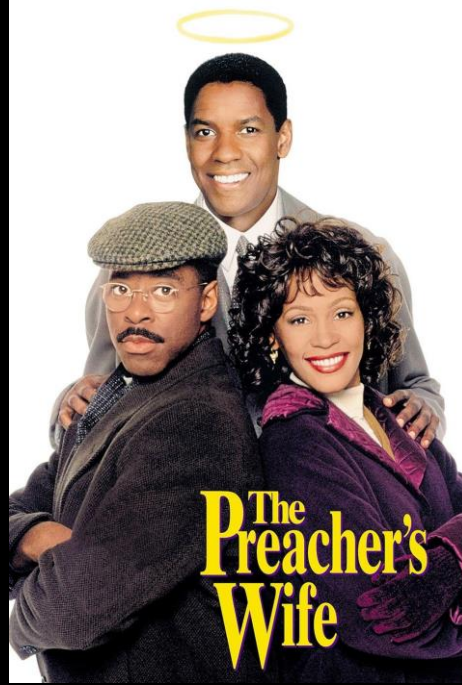
- Whitney Elizabeth Houston an American singer and actress. Whitney Elizabeth Houston was born on August 9, 1963, in what was then a middle-income neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey. She was the daughter of Army serviceman and entertainment executive John Russell Houston, Jr. and gospel singer Emily "Cissy" (Drinkard) Houston. Her elder brother Michael is a singer, and her elder half-brother is former basketball player Gary Garland Houston began singing in church as a child and became a background vocalist while in high school. With the guidance of Arista Records chairman Clive Davis, she signed to the label at age 19 She was cited as the most awarded female artist of all time by Guinness World Records and is one of the best-selling recording artists of all time, with estimated sales of over 200 million records worldwide. Houston released seven studio albums and two soundtrack albums, all of which have been certified diamond, multi-platinum, platinum, or gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Her crossover appeal on the popular music charts as well as her prominence on MTV influenced several African-American female artists.



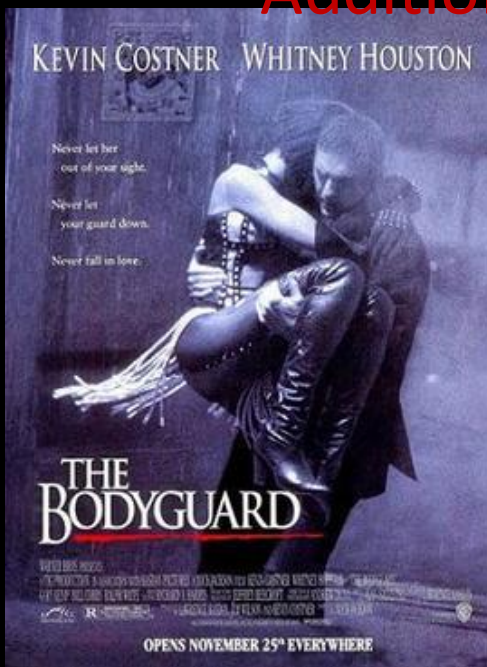


The Next Generation
New Season





Additional Cinematography Examples





THANK YOU

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