

## Veleka Gray

Veleka Gray is a professional actress, acting coach, writer, director, and producer with credits in film, television, and Broadway. She studied with top teachers, including Bobby Lewis, founder of the Actors Studio, and Warren Robertson.

As an actress on afternoon television, she set several records. She starred in nine different roles in six soap operas, seven of which were contract roles, more than any other actor in history. And she is the only actor in soap history to play two roles on the same show at the same time that were not related in any way. Her best-remembered parts include Lyla Montgomery on "As the World Turns" and the unusual dual role of Ruby Collins and Dr. Sharon Reaves on "The Young & The Restless."

As a writer, she penned a biweekly column for "Soap Opera Digest," wrote feature articles on daytime celebrities for other fan magazines, and sold her first screenplay to Columbia Television. She recently scripted nineteen vignettes for her film "Reunion," which she produced and directed in October.

In 2000, she returned to Louisiana and began training all levels of actors to work in film through her school, The Actors Alliance. Starting last August, she returned to acting by playing the title role in "Godmother," an entry in the 2009 48 Hour Film Project. She also played Dr. Souza in "Flag of My Father," Eleanor Cameron in "Flood Streets," Crystal Mortensen in "Reunion," The Nurse in "Television2," and is slated to perform in more features in 2010.

In October, she directed both the play "Breakfast" for The People Program in New Orleans and her film "Reunion," which was shot in Covington. She was executive producer of the award-winning short film "Halfway," filmed in January and shown at the New Orleans Film Festival in October. She has several other film projects in development for 2010. She was inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Fame in 2004.