

2010 Out & Equal Workplace Summit

October 5–8 in Los Angeles



Plenary II

Thursday, October 7

8:30 – 10:30am



Sheryl Lee Ralph

Sheryl Lee Ralph's exceptional abilities extend from TV and concert halls to feature films and the Broadway stage. Ms. Ralph was nominated for a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award for creating the role of Deena Jones in the landmark Broadway musical, "Dreamgirls." She has starred in feature films such as *The Distinguished Gentleman*, *The Mighty Quinn*, *Mistress*, and *Sister Act 2*, and won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *To Sleep with Anger*. Additionally, she has found immense popularity on TV, starring in hits such as *It's a Living*,

Designing Women and *Moesha*, and breaking new ground through her role as Claire, a post-operative transsexual, in the SHOWTIME series, *BarberShop*.

Ms. Ralph is the creator/producer of DIVAS Simply Singing! After seventeen years of commitment, it has become one of the most important AIDS fundraisers in Hollywood, headlining such talent as Chaka Khan, Brenda Russell, Oleta Adams, Roberta Flack, Raven Symone, Melissa Manchester, Dianne Reeves, The PussyCat Dolls, and Stacey "Fergie" Ferguson. Ms. Ralph is also the founder and creator of the Jamerican Film Festival. Her award winning film short, *Secrets*, screens to private audiences around the world.

Ms. Ralph is an AIDS advocate and celebrity spokesperson for The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS.