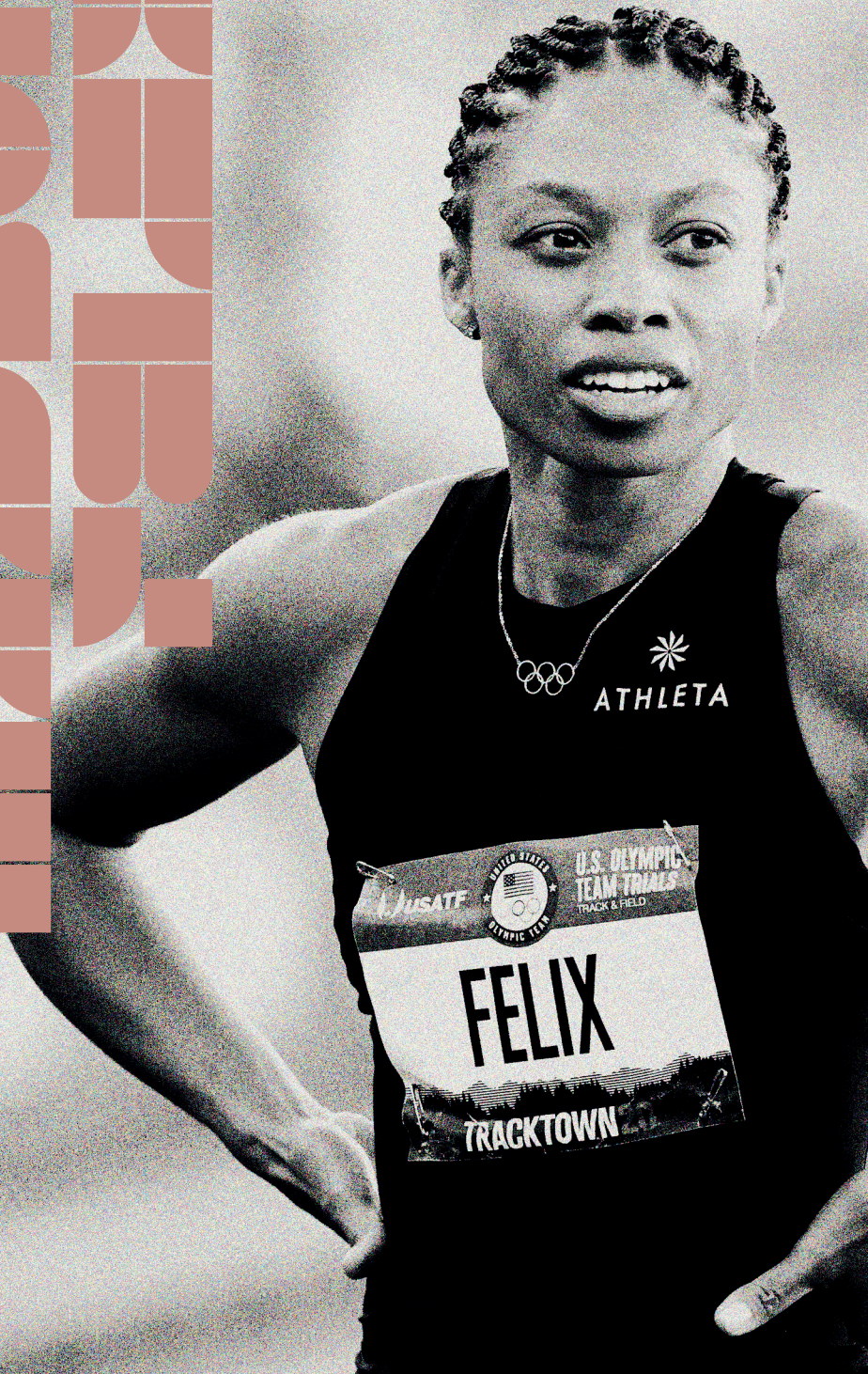


BEHIND  
THE  
SCENES  
SALUTE  
OUR  
MEMBERS

# 2016 USA TRACK & FIELD



"This season I`m running for women. I`m running for a better future for my daughter. I`m running for you."

Allyson Felix is a five-time Olympian born on the 18th of November 1985. As an eminent five-time Olympian, she has achieved a total of eleven medals in the Olympic Games (which seven of them are gold) and an exceptional record of 20 medals in the World Athletics Championships. She is a five-time recipient of the Jesse Owens Award and was awarded the IAAF Female Athlete of the Year in 2012.

She was also named to Time`s Most Influential People of 2020, exemplifying her monumental success in the field of sports. At the age of 36, she became the most decorated American Olympic athlete in track and field history.

In November 2018, Felix experienced "the two most terrifying days of my life" as she described. She was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia during her pregnancy, which is a life-threatening medical condition for both the mother and foetus. At 32 weeks, she gave birth to her daughter Camryn by emergency caesarean. This traumatising, near-death experience has engendered her urge to examine the high maternity mortality rate among Black women, which she brought to action by addressing the House Committee on Ways and Means in the US Congress. In the US, Black women are four times more likely to die during labour and twice as likely to suffer complications. Felix raises awareness on this issue surrounding the vulnerability of Black pregnant women in hopes of saving more lives and fully educating others on this undiscussed yet critical matter.



# UP ↓ C ↓ K ↓ K

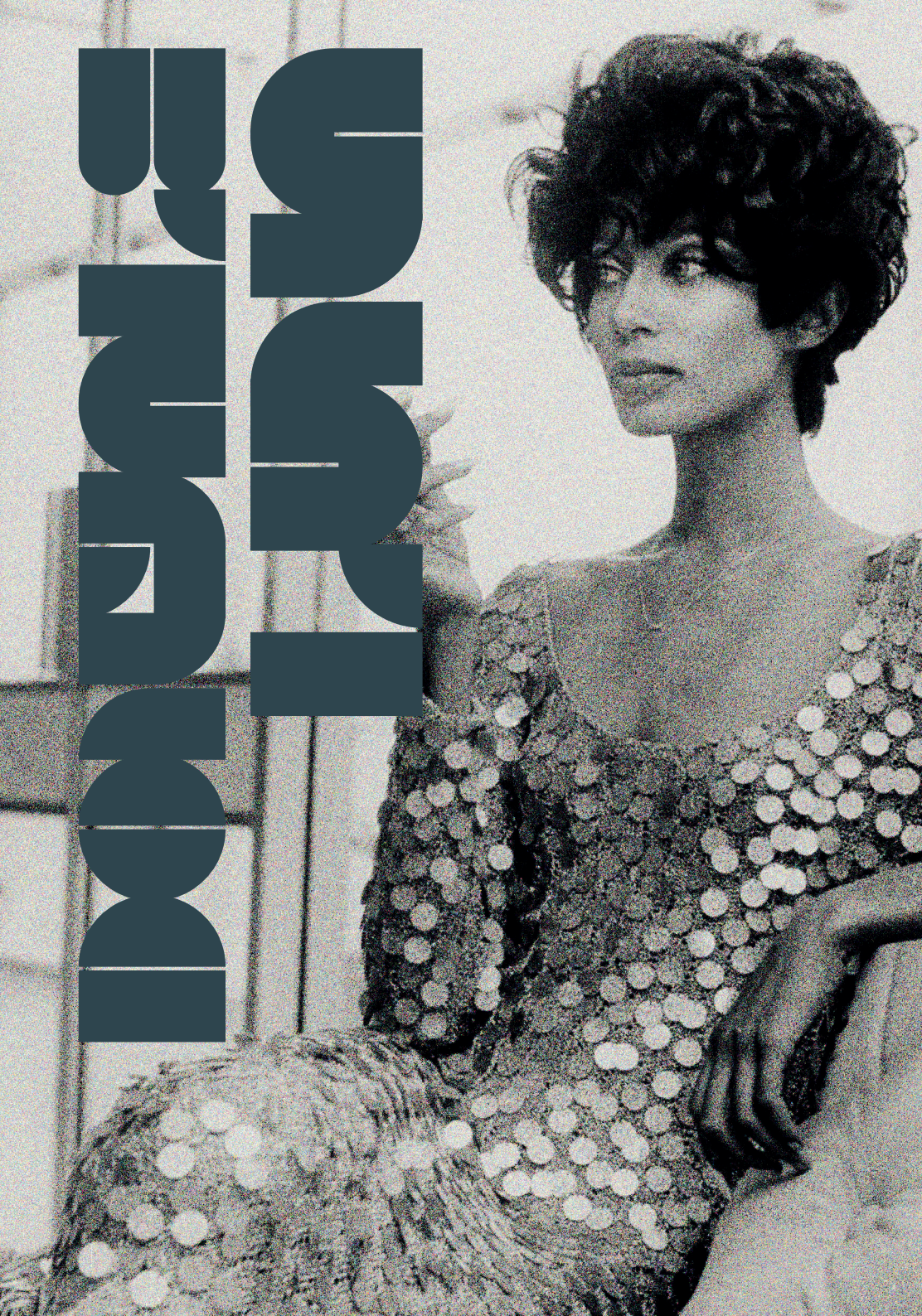
Jessica Andrea Watkins - American NASA astronaut, geologist, aquanaut and former international rugby player: her talents are unbound. At just 34 years old, Watkins became the first Black woman to complete an International Space Station long-term mission, spending a huge 170 days in space. She contributed 6 months of commitment to science, innovation and discovery, helping to prepare budding explorers for future space missions. By becoming the first Black woman to participate in such mission, she inspired passion amongst society and shone light on the endless opportunities that women across the globe are finally able to access.

This icon earned a Bachelor of Science in Geological and Environmental Sciences from Stanford University and a Doctorate in Geology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Not only is she a science enthusiast, but she also competed in the 2009 Rugby World Cup Sevens and contributed largely to its 3rd place finish. Through her array of skills and interests, she challenged both the racial and gender stereotypes that shape our society - breaking the barrier of personal doubt implanted in the minds of unknowing young girls.

For this reason, Watkins ties perfectly into this year's theme, 'Saluting our Sisters', emphasising the vital role that Black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities across the globe. By highlighting the impacts they have made on our everyday lives, we aim to recognise their sacrifices and amplify their voices to be heard by all. Black female role models not only inspire young Black women to reach and achieve their highest potential, but they also remind these influenceable young girls that they are capable of thriving and succeeding in whatever career path they pursue, showcasing the sheer importance of celebrating Black History Month.

# FRS ST MI



Peggy Ann Freeman, known professionally as Donyale Luna, was an American model and actress who is utterly worth of 'idol' status. Generally cited as 'the first black supermodel', she was the first African American model to appear on the cover of the British edition of Vogue, in March 1966.

She appeared in several underground films, including the screentests of Andy Warhol. She also appeared in mainstream Hollywood and world cinema.

In 1964, working as a model for Paco Rabanne, Luna saw American journalists spitting in the face of Rabanne as his fashion show used exclusively black models. Throughout her career, she faced many racial prejudices, including designers refusing to dress her, and she was dropped by various companies due to the backlash they faced. David McCabe – the photographer who discovered her – later said he believed that "the magazine world really wasn't ready for photographing beautiful black women."

In 1966, American Vogue named Donyale Luna 'The Model of the Year', making her an internationally recognised supermodel. In the same year, she was described in Jet magazine as "the most photographed girl of 1966". Luna continued to dominate the high fashion industry until her passing in 1979.

Until Luna, any black person who appeared in a fashion show had simply been placed into the background like some form of prop. Her breakthrough into high fashion and glossy magazines proved the possibility of a career for black models, which no doubt boosted the morale of the black community. As the 'first black supermodel', she profoundly changed the industry, for the better.





## Mary Seacole was a businesswoman, world traveller, popular author, and heroine of the Crimean War.

Born over 200 years ago in Jamaica Mary was a keen student from early childhood. She practised medicine on her doll, dogs and cats, and on herself. By 1818, aged 12, Mary helped run the boarding house, where many of the guests were sick or injured soldiers. Three years later, she travelled to England with relatives and stayed for about a year. It was an opportunity to acquire knowledge about modern European medicine which supplemented her training in traditional Caribbean techniques.

When she heard about British soldiers being injured in the Crimean war, she wanted to help. But despite all her experience, she was not allowed. This was part of the discrimination Mary experienced through her life, for being a Black woman. She didn't let this stop her and went to Crimea by herself. She set up a hotel where she treated the injured and shared food and medicine. After her death, her work was largely forgotten, but thanks to modern campaigners she is now considered a brave heroine of the war. She nursed sick soldiers so kindly that they called her 'Mother Seacole'.

When the war ended, Mary went back to Britain with extraordinarily little money. Soldiers wrote letters to newspapers, praising what she had done. All those who admired her came to her aid, whether it was soldiers, generals or members of the Royal family. In 1857 a fund-raising gala was held for her over four nights on the banks of the river Thames where over 80,000 people attended. That same year she published her autobiography, *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands*, which became an instant bestseller.

Mary broke social rules and prejudices to travel the world, run businesses and help those in need – even in the most dangerous places. Mary Seacole is a significant role model. Her values of good citizenship, entrepreneurship and achievement, as she remains one of history's greatest figures, hold true today.

# THE S E R I E S



Naomi Campbell is known for beginning her career at the age of 15 and being the first black model to appear in the industry dominated by white beauty standards she has expressed the importance of inclusivity and representation used her platform to address racism and gender inequality. She has been a prominent figure in the fashion industry for 30+ years. She became famous in the industry in the 1990s.

She is also known for the appearance on tv series like the face and empire and her scrapes with law. She began to work with Nelson Mandela in 1993. He named her "Honorary Granddaughter" for the endless activism. Campbell is also responsible for wide-ranging fundraising and charity work in South Africa and across the globe. Throughout her career, Campbell has become a supermodel icon, influencer, social justice, advocate, editor and entertainer.

# BRITISH SINGER



The up-and-coming Artists of 2023 is Yola carter also known as Yola. She is an English singer, songwriter, and musician. She is highly known for the album walk through fire which she released in 2019, the album was such a success that it received critical acclaim as well as earning her four grammy nominations, which included one for the best new artist. Later in the career she released a follow up, 'stand for myself' which received similar acclaim and 2 more grammy nominations. She also decided to make a stand, and made an acting debut for herself in 2022, portraying 'godmother of rock n roll' sister Rosetta Tharpe in Baz Luhrmann biopic Elvis.

Yola first gained notice as a member of the Bristol band phantom limb, she was a member from 2005 to 2012 using the name of Yolanda Quartey, the band released two albums. Yola occasionally performed as a guest vocalist and songwriter for the British musical acts like sub focus, massive attack etc. She decided on starting a solo career after the death of her mother in 2013. She released her first solo ep, orphan offering in 2016. Her first album walk through fire was released on dan Auerbach easy eye sound label too much acclaim. In 2019, Yola left a mark at the Newport folk festival with rolling stone proclaiming 'Yola became the single most sought-after voice at this year's festival.' The walk-through fire album was nominated for three nominations at the Grammy awards in 2020, Which shows her solo career was highly successing.

Due to the albums tremendous success Yola was invited to a lot of different interviews including the tonight show and Jimmy Kimmel live! Yola started performing at several charitable and public awareness initiatives, this included "Twitch Aid" alongside the world's biggest artists like john legend. In 2022, Yola was nominated for her 7th grammy award when her performance in the Elvis movie soundtrack was nominated. She performed at the 2022 American music awards on 20th November 2022.

Yola is a great Inspiration to young people as she shows that you can achieve anything if you work hard and have great aspirations. She is relatable to a lot of her fans, and which allows people to connect with her music.

BHAI  
GONTS  
SALVING  
OUR  
SISTERS