

# Coco Elysses

Actress-Musician-Composer-Screenwriter-Doula

Coco Elysses, a modern day renaissance woman hails from Robbins, Illinois and is a producer, musician, actress, voice-over artist, screenwriter and poet. She is the second woman Chair of the 56 year old venerable AACM (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians). During their second season, she was a featured musician in the critically claimed FOX drama *Empire*.

In 2014, Coco was a semi-finalist in **Lifetime Television Unscripted Development Pipeline**. Coco's voice can be heard at the **Adler Planetarium** in the instillation, *Skywatchers of Africa*. Coco's voice can also be heard in, **Saint's Row** video game, **EverQuest II** and **Watchdogs**. In 2018 she won the **ALTA Award** for Best Original Music in a Play and the 2019 non-equity **Jeff Award** for Best Original Music in a Play for *Tilikum*, the first for an African American woman. Coco composed music and performed in **Baltimore Center Stage's** touring mobile unit in *Antigone* as Tiresias.

In 2015 Coco was a featured actress in George E. Lewis' film, *Afterword* and in the opera of the same name at **The Museum of Contemporary Art**. She was also in two exhibits, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AACM (**The Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians**) at **The DuSable Museum of African American History** and the **Museum of Contemporary Art**. She performed at the **Frankfurt, Germany Jazz Festival** with *Generation Now* of the AACM and at the **Made in Chicago Jazz Festival** in Poznan, Poland with *Voice Heard-* a collective of women musicians of the AACM. Coco was a featured actress on **Chicago PD** and a featured musician on **Chicago Med**.

She recently appeared in the Midwest premier of **Detroit 67'** at **Northlight Theatre** directed by Ron O.J. Parsons.

Coco was also a featured musician in the book, *Black Women and Music: More than The Blues*, documenting historical female musicians. Coco performed with the **Great Black Music Ensemble** of the AACM in **Pisa, Italy** for **The Insolent Noise Festival**, at **Millennium Park Chicago**, **The Chicago Blues Festival** for the *Chicago Jazz Festival*. She has also performed with **Renee Baker's Chicago Modern Orchestra Project**. She also performed with **Hypnotic Brass Ensemble**. She was a featured artist in **Taiko Legacy 8, 10 & 11** at the **Museum of Contemporary Art** with **Tatsu Aoki**, and **Tsukasa Taiko, Miyumi Project** at the **Hyde Park Jazz Festival**. Coco's poetry is featured in *99 New Poems: A Contemporary Anthology*. A few of her noted recordings were in **Chile, South America**, with *Raiza*, on their CD, *Latin Soul-EMI* and **Nicole Mitchell's Africa Rising, Skylanding-** The music of **Yoko Ono** by the **Miyumi Project**. **Raw and Alive 1 & 2- Miyumi Project 2018, The Best of Miyumi Project 2020, Resurrection Suite** with **Carlos Pride** and **Ben Lamar Gay**. Coco is a member of **AFTRA-SAG, AEA, AACM** and the **AFM**.