

# STAR STYLE

ON THE RED CARPET AT AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL, PINK TOOK CENTER STAGE



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**GLAM CREW:** Satin straps glisten on bodice of Rosario Dawson's floor-length gown, left. Tracee Ellis Ross, a co-host, top right, favors a blend of pastels. Tonya and Spike Lee, bottom right, are in the (different shades of) pink.

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The American Black Film Festival, among South Florida's marquee events, delivered great film and fashion — despite the smothering heat, among the great enemies of style.

A-listers glammed up for the festival's grand award show event, reconciling fabulousness with the heat and humidity. Translation: strappy stilettos, spaghetti straps and short, flirty hemlines.

"The heat is brutal. You start off conservative and end up in a thong," joked actress Kristen Baker, who is married to Bill Bellamy.

Pink continued its status as the new black, appearing on the red carpet in hues from fuschia to blush. It was among the trilogy of pastels that draped actress Tracee Ellis Ross, who co-hosted the show.

Ross admitted the South Florida heat played a role in her choice: "I love all this heat. It's exciting and wild. The energy is just amazing. This dress is very Miami."

Even Spike Lee bought into the pink craze. The filmmaker, who was among the honorees, chose a brilliant pink and chocolate silk shirt and a matching mesh derby. His wife, Tonya, opted for pink's dark side: a fuschia halterneck (paired with a black — the real version — pencil skirt). Bellamy wore white linen pants and a white shirt with a hint of pink woven along the front: "This is definitely Miami style," he says. "Anything over cotton and you would just die in this heat."

Others braved the heat and stuck to conventional suits and formal dresses.

Honoree Rosario Dawson was stunning in a navy pleated floor-length gown, with satin straps along the bodice. F. Gary Gray, who directed *The Italian Job*, wore a navy Hugo Boss suit, as did ABFF founder Jeff Friday. His wife, Nicole, wore a frothy white chiffon dress by designer Nicole Miller. And Angela Bassett was classic, vintage Hollywood in a champagne and black silk dress adorned with a silver bugle-beaded appliqué.