

Black fest to fete Wayans

By AJ MARECHAL

The Miami-based American Black Film Festival will honor Keenen Ivory Wayans with its Entertainment Icon Award and present grand prizes to Tiffany D. Hobbs and Shaun McKinney in the fest's annual Star Project competition.



Wayans

ABFF founder Jeff Friday called Wayans "a trailblazer." Past recipients of the festival's highest distinction include Morgan Freeman, Spike Lee and Halle Berry.

Hobbs and McKinney will be

flown to Miami for this year's fest, and one will be given a walk-on role on "Days of Our Lives." The ABFF Star Project, founded in 2009, serves as a platform to discover actors.

ABFF, now in its 15th year and sponsored by HBO, will also include a master class series, featuring workshops taught by scribe Michael Elliot, helmer-actor Bill Duke and producer-thesp Robert Townsend.

Fest kicks off July 6 with the world preem of Townsend's "In the Hive" and runs through July 9.

