

Beverly Johnson is the first African-American supermodel, as well as an actress, author, activist, businesswoman and TV personality. She was the first Black model to appear on the cover of U.S. *Vogue* magazine in August 1974. A year later, she became the first Black woman to appear on the cover of the French edition of *Elle* magazine. Her beautiful face has graced over 500 magazine covers. Before modeling, Johnson aspired to become a lawyer. She was studying criminal justice at Northeastern University when she entered the fashion industry.

In 2006, Johnson was honored at Oprah Winfrey's Legends Ball along with Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Tina Turner and other female African Americans in entertainment, civil rights, and the arts. Named by one of the 20th Century's most influential people in fashion by the New York Times, she changed the beauty ideal in modeling. As of 1975, every major American fashion couturier began using African American models. The National Portrait Gallery in Washington,

D.C. has a portrait of her on display as part of its "The Black List" exhibition, featuring photographs of 50 iconic African Americans.

Johnson authored the book Beverly Johnson's Guide to a Life of Health and Beauty. In 2008, she shared that she suffered from anorexia and bulimia during her fashion career. Beverly Johnson has a niece with Downs Syndrome and is a spokesperson for the Global Downs Syndrome Foundation.

Recently, Johnson launched a new beauty line — Model Logic by Beverly Johnson — which includes hair care products and Beverly Johnson Ponytails. It is available at Target stores nationwide. For more information on her beauty line, of hair care, skin care, bath and body products, visit please visit www.beverlyjohnson.com .

Johnson is the mother of successful plus-size model, Anansa Sims Patterson. Her complex relationship with Anansa is explored in the new docu-series *Beverly's Full House* which debuted on OWN (the Oprah Winfrey Network) on March 31st 2012.

An avid golfer, Beverly can be found unwinding on the golf course when not working on or off camera. She lives in Rancho Mirage, California with her two collies Flame and Hollywood. Here, she talks about all of the above, plus her recent performance as Brenda in Tyler Perry's *Good Deeds*
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Kam Williams: Hi Beverly [Johnson], thanks for the interview. I'm honored to have this opportunity to speak with you. We're the same age, so I've followed your entire career right from your meteoric rise.

Beverly Johnson: Thanks, Kam [Williams]. Where did you grow up?

KW: St. Albans. Have you ever heard of it?

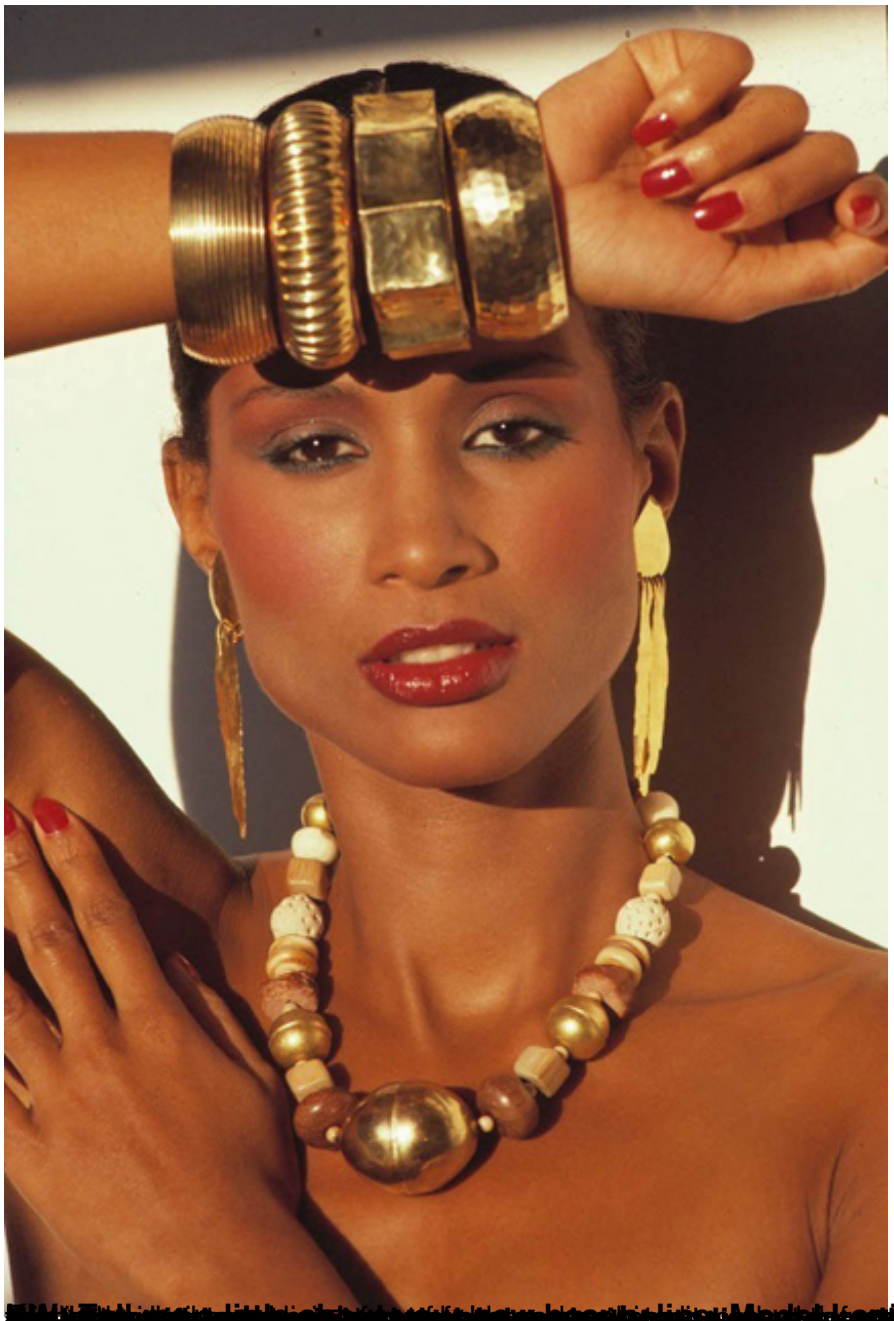
BJ: Are you kidding? I lived with my aunt in St. Albans when I first moved to New York City. Wow! We were neighbors! It's sad that so many special communities like St. Albans and Baldwin Hills are really disappearing.

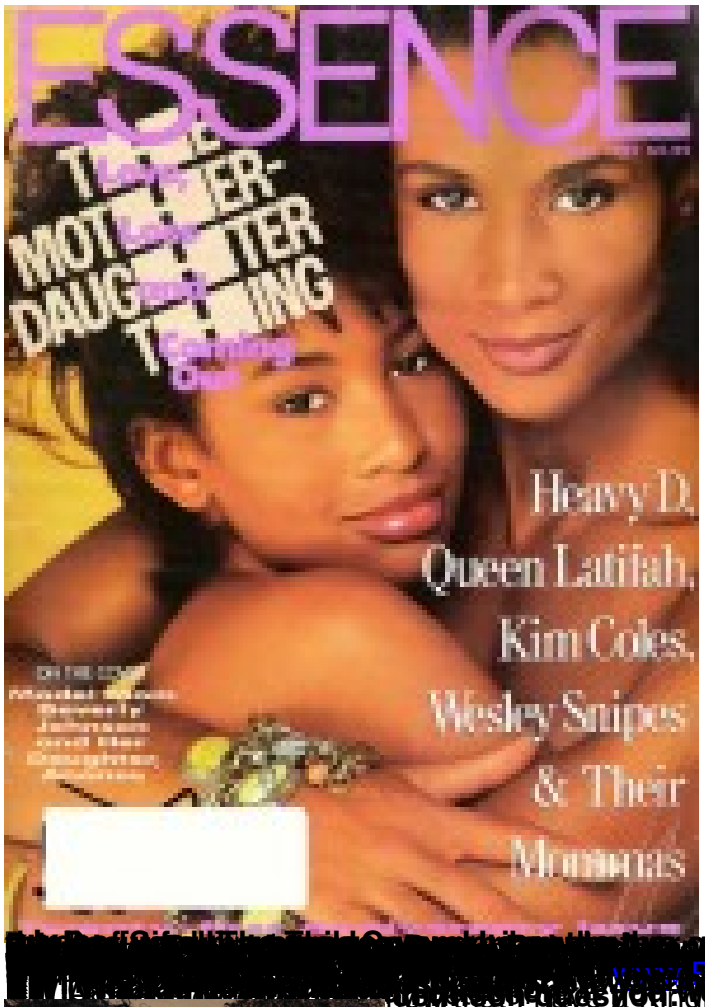
KW: Tell me a little about your new TV series, "Beverly's Full House."

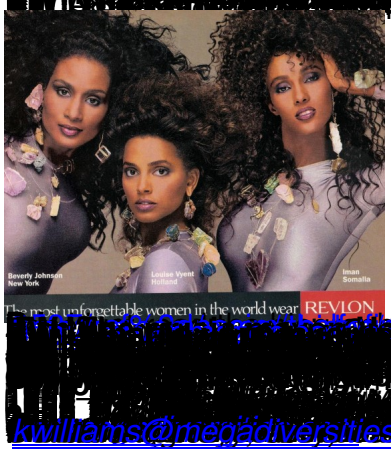
BJ: I went up to Oprah [Winfrey] and told her I had some shows I wanted to pitch to her. I had no idea she was going to like the reality series. It's a constructive show about mother and daughter relationships. In addition, the cameras follow me around while I'm building my company. We're not going to have any buffoonery. You've got the wrong family, if that's what you're looking for. Oprah [Winfrey] has a certain integrity about herself and she knows what image she wants for her network. So, I felt very comfortable working with her. The show has lots of laughs and a few tears, and I do know that people will take a lot away from the show

KW: When I interviewed Gabrielle Union about Tyler Perry's *Good Deeds* recently, she told me how flattered she was to have you play her mother in the film.

BJ: I adore Gabrielle Union. She reminds me of my daughter so much. She's smart… she's articulate…she's nice… she has a really sweet soul… she's ambitious... I just adore her. I really do. And Tyler Perry is another person I admire. I'm not an actress, but if he calls, you go. Making that movie was a lot of fun.




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