

Tanjareen Martin
Tough, Foxy and Fun
By Rych McCain/ feedbackrych@sbcglobal.net
Photos by Jordin Althaus

She's tall, gorgeous, talented and can physically swing a mean punch in a boxing ring. We are talking about actress Tanjareen Martin. Having been born and reared in Inglewood, California, Martin caught the acting bug early at age six when she played a gingerbread man in her school's production of "Hansel & Gretel." While growing up, Martin honed her acting chops on stage in theatres in and round Inglewood. She has always been a natural "social butterfly" in that she was escorted to her Junior High School Prom by film director Rick F. Famuyiwa and was crowned Homecoming Queen at California State University at Northridge, CA., where she pledged to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and graduated with a B.A. Degree in TV/Film Production and Management. Martin is a member of The Vegan Vixens which is a female modeling troop of animal rights activists.

Immediately after graduation, Martin became an intern at Paramount Pictures working as a talent coordinator for The Leeza Gibbons Show. She was asked to model five bikinis on Leeza and received her SAG card. After moving around the Paramount lot to a couple other shows, Martin broke into acting booking roles on "NYPD Blue," "The Steve Harvey show," "Girlfriends," "Strong Medicine," and even the daytime soap "Days of Our Lives," to mention some as well as films including "Johnson Family Vacation" and "Halloween House Party."

This year Martin was in two movies i.e., "Miss March" and "White People's Problems." She co-starred and co-produced the movie "Love For Sale" witch aired on BET recently and is now available on DVD. As mentioned at the top of this feature, Martin was known as "The Sting Machine" while boxing for the TV Show "Perfect 10 Model Boxing" and won her matches convincingly. How did she get into boxing? Martin laughs, "They paid me to train to learn how to box and they paid me to fight. And after the season was over, the

network that it was on HB Net didn't pick it up for the next season but I kept on fighting for another show and now I know how to beat people up." Martin said that she has even been challenged to wrestle but wrestling is something she doesn't do.

Is Martin an actor who is more involved with making projects happen via producing etc., as opposed to sticking with the traditional route of her agent sending her out on call? She responds, "I can't say I'm more into the producer part. I've only produced one feature so far and maybe two or three shorts. But I've gotten way more credits in front of the camera but I have a degree behind the camera. So I think I'm just pretty much a by any means necessary type of person and from here on out, anything that I do I will definitely have something to do with the production side of it."