

## The successful actress is also a well-rounded filmmaking professional.

Then production began on Steve McQueen's 12

Years a Slave in 2012, few could have predicted the success it would eventually achieve. This certainly was the case for one of its lead actresses, Kelsey Scott (MFA in Production, 1999), who played the role of Anne Northup in the film.

Scott originally auditioned for a smaller role on 12 Years, but was soon called back and cast for a larger role on the production, the wife of Solomon Northup, played by Chiwetel Ejiofor. The role allowed her to work with some of the biggest names in film, including Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, and Quvenzhané Wallis, who played her daughter in the film.

The success of 12 Years is now well known, but the film is only one of the many productions in which Scott has performed over the course of her career. She started in the industry while in high school on the Robert Guillaume Show and has since played characters on primetime programs such as Grey's Anatomy, True Detective, House M.D., NCIS, and Army Wives.

In addition to her acting accolades, Scott is well versed

in the process behind the camera. As an actress on an independent film while she was in college at Florida A & M University, she found herself enraptured by the production process. "Why weren't the sound and picture running together? Why is that person writing everything down? My interest was piqued," says Scott.

After completing her undergraduate degree, Scott enrolled in the Florida State MFA program in film production. Having acted since childhood, she knew a lot about theater and television, but little about the filmmaking process. "I left FSU feeling more informed artistically, having a working knowledge of each of the elements of filmmaking," says Scott. "I still use everything I learned. I don't have to hire an editor to edit my reels, I do it myself; I record voiceovers in my own office."

"A comprehensive filmmaking education is beneficial to the independent media," says Scott. "For example, editors tend to make good directors because they have a more rounded knowledge of the process. Actors know how to write dialogue in a screenplay, what to say and what doesn't need to be said but communicated by the actors."

After graduating in 1999, she moved to Los Angeles and worked as an assistant for studio executives. As time passed, she decided to refocus her attention on screenwriting, took a break, and wrote *Motives*, a career-changing feature film that starred Vivica A. Fox and Shemar Moore. She also wrote its sequel, *Motives 2*.

Scott still has a passion for screenwriting and the production process, but acting is her first love. As a result of the success of *12 Years*, Scott has a number of projects on the horizon. "My career has always been a gracefully slow burn," says Scott, "but *12 Years a Slave* has definitely opened doors."

To learn more about Scott's accomplishments, as well as upcoming projects, visit her website at **www.kelseyscott. com**.

