



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**No. 23/13-14**

**September 30, 2013**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mary M. Feder, Director of College Relations  
Suffolk County Community College  
(631) 451-4256  
federmm@sunysuffolk.edu

**TONY-AWARD WINNING ACTOR, BEN VEREEN, TO GIVE MASTER CLASS  
TO THE SUFFOLK THEATRE ARTS PRODUCTION OF *HAIR***

Selden, NY – Suffolk County Community College is pleased to announce that Tony-award winning actor, Ben Vereen, will offer a two-day master class to students in Suffolk County Community College's Theatre Arts Program's production of *Hair* on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Shea Theatre of the Ammerman Campus in Selden. High school students interested in musical theatre and the college community are invited to observe the master class.

Ben Vereen shot to Broadway stardom with his starring role as Leading Player in Bob Fosse's 1972 show *Pippin*, which won Vereen a Tony Award as best actor in a musical. Ben Vereen became a famously versatile song-and-dance man, a stage star who appeared occasionally in feature films and television. His most famous roles on TV include African slave Chicken George in the miniseries *Roots* (1977), Jeff Goldblum's partner in the 1980 cop show *Tenspeed and Brownshoe* (Vereen was Tenspeed) and the grumpy police captain in *Silk Stalkings* (1991-1993). His feature films have included *Funny Lady* (1975, starring Barbra Streisand), *All That Jazz* (1979, also directed by Bob Fosse) and *Idlewild* (2006, starring Terrence Howard). In 1992, Ben Vereen was accidentally hit by a car driven by music producer David Foster in Malibu, California. The injuries seemed career-threatening, but the following year Vereen made a triumphal Broadway return in *Jelly's Last Jam*. In the 1990s, Ben Vereen guest-starred on TV's *Star Trek: The Next Generation* as the father of engineer Geordi LaForge, played by LeVar Burton. In *Roots*, Ben Vereen played the grandson of another Burton character, Kunta Kinte.

**About Suffolk County Community College**

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering affordable college tuition, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at [sunysuffolk.edu](http://sunysuffolk.edu).

###