

**CONTACT:**  
Peppermint Candy  
(732) 513-1264  
www.thepeppermintbiz.com



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Carmen Rubin, Children’s Author, Animator and Producer Provides An Official Statement Regarding the “Bill Cosby” Scandal**

*Carmen Rubin is currently accepting interviews regarding the impact of removing Cosby’s shows from National TV*

**New York, NY - December 3, 2014** - In light of the recent allegations against Bill Cosby, he remains one of the most influential figures in the black community of all time. Cosby is a history-making entertainer whose successes represent racial progress within the entertainment industry. He’s received an NAACP Image Award, The Kennedy Center’s Mark Twain Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and has been dubbed “the greatest comedian to ever live” by Comedian, Chris Rock. Cosby brought the stories of black city kids to television with “Fat Albert” and he was a staple on public television with the “Picture Pages” segments on PBS. Thirty years ago this fall, The Cosby Show debuted on NBC. Since the recent allegations, nearly all remnants of Cosby vanished from the airwaves as TV Land pulled all of The Cosby Show reruns from its schedule and NBC scraped Cosby’s upcoming sitcom that it was developing with him. Cosby provided the nation with an inspirational vision of a loving, successful, upper-middle-class black family. So what does this mean for a new generation of African American children?

In an official statement, female author, animator, producer and founder of Peppermint Candy Entertainment, Carmen Rubin, gives her view on what this means for African American communities across the nation.

*“Every day after school, I walked to my empty home in Salt Lake City, Utah, waiting patiently for my brother to arrive so that we could lock the door. We were African-American latchkey kids, being raised by a single father who was rarely there and who left me to handle most of his parental responsibilities. Not long after we were settled in, we turned on the TV to watch The Cosby Show and that’s where the magic of Cliff and Clair Huxtable would begin to happen. The sitcom would warm the coldness of my own realities and the impact on me as a viewer was colossal. The Huxtables would enter my home educating me on history, culture, music, family, and more importantly, self. They were raising children like me, who were parentless; humoring, engaging, and entertaining us. For most, the Cosby show was a guide to the misguided, a fortune for the unfortunate and voice to the voiceless. It showed us what we could attain.*

*What concerns me about removing shows like The Cosby Show and his animated television show, Fat Albert, is that it once again feels like another tactic for networks who do not understand that for what ever allegations Mr. Cosby is facing in his personal life, Cliff Huxtable and his family showed many viewers a different way of looking at black families, relationships, and their own lives. The wholesome portrayal of Cliff and Clair was the only model some children (and parents) had, and they represented what most*

*African-American children wanted their family to be like. I am still entertained by each episode. Even now as a mother, I can relate. I don't feel that taking these shows off the air impacts Mr. Cosby's life alone. It impacts viewers, jobs, hopes, and perhaps even dreams. I ask who is really hurting in this scenario?*

*As an African-American writer of children's books and TV, I understand the struggle to get our voices heard. I represent a small group of women who are warring through the apartheid of the children's book and animation marketplace, wondering where wholesome books and television have gone and who's going to help fight to keep it in front of our colorful children. We promote negative depictions of black women and get sucked into the unreality of reality shows. Children now seek to become housewives who do not have husbands and strive to be men who play sports or become rappers for its perks. Do we remove sports on TV because of the actions of the players off of the field?*

*What I am saying is that children have turned their attention to less positive TV programming, literacy remains a problem in African-American communities, and the role of family has taken on an entirely new meaning. Again, I ask, who is this really hurting? Whether or not Mr. Cosby is guilty of any of the allegations in his personal life, I believe that they should be dealt with personally and away from the spotlight. However, his character Cliff Huxtable made a profound difference in the lives of African-American youth and families. I should know, I was there every episode."*

Ms. Rubin is currently accepting media interviews regarding the familial impact of this and other social issues. For booking, contact Peppermint Candy Entertainment at (732) 513-1264.

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#### **ABOUT CARMEN RUBIN**

Nationally recognized author and inspirational speaker, Carmen Rubin, is the President of Peppermint Candy Entertainment. She is also the founder of the Community Refuge Education Center -- a non-profit youth organization as well as a proud supporter of NBA player Dwayne Wade's Wade's World Foundation, which gives "every child a shot at reading". With her work having been recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama, and featured on media outlets including 'The Chew' and 'Spotlight New Jersey', Carmen has become one of the most sought after children's lecturers nationwide.

#### **ABOUT PEPPERMINT CANDY ENTERTAINMENT**

Peppermint Candy Entertainment is the first name in niche publishing, production and entertainment for children, youth, and adults. Specializing in customized content for the multicultural community, Peppermint Candy Entertainment offers animation (cartoon and live action), apps (smartphone and tablet), author visits (schools, clubs, bookstores), books (print and electronic), interviews (television and radio), screenwriting (television, film, online), publishing (print books and ebooks), and production (television, film, online).