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# TNT Taps Tony Award Winner Anika Noni Rose to Star and Co-Executive Produce Pilot for *Beast Mode* (wt)

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Tina Mabry to Serve as Director

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Turner's **TNT** has set **Anika Noni Rose** (*The Quad*, *Power*) in the lead role of Marsha Blackstone in the pilot, **Beast Mode** (working title).

Inspired by the life of legendary boxing trainer **Ann Wolfe**, *Beast Mode* is written and executive produced by **David Schneiderman** and produced by Ann Wolfe and **MACRO** in association with **Studio T**, with executive producers **Stefanie Huie** (*Triangle*) and MACRO's **Charles D. King** (*Mudbound*), **Kim Roth** (*Inside Man*) and **Poppy Hanks** (*Fences*). Rose will also serve as a co-executive producer. **Tina Mabry** (*Pose*) is attached to direct.

Pulling herself and her two daughters up from poverty, abuse, homelessness, and criminality, Marsha Blackstone reached the pinnacle of boxing as a fighter and has become equally as successful a trainer known for unconventional methods and a fiercely combative style. Driven by the belief that any step backward is a slippery slope to her former life, when the boxer Marsha trained to a world title fires her, this complex and inspiring woman is determined to find a new fighter to eclipse the one she lost, but her emotional baggage and militant style could be her undoing in her professional and personal life, especially with her two grown daughters, and a new baby on the way.

Rose is an entertainment triple threat, appearing in film and television and on Broadway. She recently finished filming the feature *Body Cam* and was last seen on the big screen in *Assassination Nation*, which had its debut at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Additionally, she appeared in the film *Everything, Everything* and voiced the role of 'Princess Tiana' in *The Princess and the Frog* - becoming the first African-American Disney princess and the youngest person inducted into the Disney Hall of

Fame. Other film credits include *Dreamgirls*, *For Colored Girls* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*. On Television, she recently appeared in *The Quad*, starred in the Emmy Award-nominated *Roots* as 'Kizzy' and was a fan favorite as 'Jukebox' in *Power*. Additional Television credits include *The No. 1 Ladies Detective* as well as *The Good Wife* and *Private Practice*. Finally, on stage, she received the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance in *Caroline, or Change*, and she received a Tony Nomination for Best Featured Actress for her work in *A Raisin In the Sun* alongside Denzel Washington. This past summer she starred in the title role of 'Carmen Jones' in John Doyle's production at the Classic Stage Company.

Tina Mabry is a writer, director, and producer for television and film. She is currently a writer and producer for the upcoming series, *Proven Innocent*. She was a co-producer, writer, and director for season two of *Queen of the South*. Mabry was also a producer, writer, and director on *Queen Sugar* created by Ava DuVernay and Oprah Winfrey. She produced and directed *Melody 1963: Love has to Win*, an American Girl special for Amazon Kids. The special earned her a DGA Award and a NAACP Award. Mabry's other television directing credits include *Dear White People*, *The Mayor*, *Insecure*, *Pose* and *Power*. In film, Mabry began her career co-writing the feature screenplay *Itty Bitty Titty Committee* and went on to write and direct her first feature film, *Mississippi Damned*.

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## About TNT

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