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Yaybooyay: Black Women On Television In 2013

December 22, 2013 by [Keidra](#) [1 Comment](#)



I don't watch *American Horror Story: Coven* for a number of reasons (no cable, *Nashville* is on at the same time, and I hate everything that Ryan Murphy has ever done) So I asked Faith Pennick and Dena Saper to share their thoughts on the show:

Faith – *American Horror Story: Coven* is about 75% done, and I give the sistahs of the show a grade of B. Angela Bassett reminds us all that she is one of the best actors working today. As Marie Laveau, Bassett is radiant as she unleashes rage and vindictiveness towards both Madame LaLaurie (Kathy Bates) for wrongfully imprisoning her lover nearly two centuries ago, and Fiona (Jessica Lange) for Fiona's belief that she's H.W.I.C.: Head Witch in Charge. Also, Marie's not-so-subtle dig at Fiona in one episode for not aging as gracefully as she did was a funny tickle (translation: "Black don't CRACK!" Signed, Ryan Murphy). I also enjoy watching Queenie, a walking voodoo doll played by Precious star Gabourey Sidibe. But Queenie sometimes feels one-dimensional: a typical "sassy, urban Black girl" with biting comebacks. Also, while nearly all of the white characters have sexual relations with actual humans, the erotic encounters of both Marie and Queenie are relegated to Marie's true love, now a minotaur. What? Queenie doesn't get to hook up with FRANKENBOYFRIEND?! However, I do give AHS:Coven props for exposing viewers to a historical fact of which even I was ignorant—that it wasn't just white women who were persecuted during the Salem Witch Trials.

Dena - Not much in this world is black and white, but season 3 of American Horror Story: Coven comes pretty close. One of the central conflicts in the series involves a coven of witches based in New Orleans, headed by Supreme Fiona Goode (played by Jessica Lange) and her daughter Cordelia (played by Sarah Paulson), and their relationship with a Voodoo congregation led by High Priestess Marie Laveau (played by Angela Bassett). While Fiona is the Supreme, Cordelia runs a boarding school for young witches. The young witches are beautifully dressed, wear their hair long and straight, and are all white. Well, all but one young witch.

Queenie (played by Gabourey Sidibe) is the sole African American member of the coven and student at Cordelia Goode's school. Her classmates dress in sleek black and white outfits, while Queenie's wardrobe is more colorful and casual. It's hard not to notice that Queenie's

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