

Angela Burt-Murray

Angela Burt-Murray is editor-in-chief of ESSENCE, the premier lifestyle, fashion and beauty magazine for African-American women.

As steward of ESSENCE's editorial content, Burt-Murray aims to celebrate, inspire, entertain and empower the brand's audience – which encompasses 8.5 million readers of the monthly magazine. With a circulation of 1,050,000, ESSENCE magazine is the largest women's niche publication. In addition, essence.com is the largest and fastest growing African-American magazine website; providing fresh daily content and breaking celebrity news, which has resulted in explosive growth to over 10 million page views each month.

Since taking the helm in 2005, Burt-Murray has updated the magazine's look to a vibrant and modern design, and created new sections to reach a younger, more affluent audience. Under her leadership, not only has the total ESSENCE audience grown by 8% (based on 2006 MRI data) but the median age of the ESSENCE reader has decreased, while the household income has increased – positioning the book strongly to its target advertisers.

At the same time, ESSENCE has been recognized for its compelling editorial content – including extensive coverage of the effects of Katrina in the Gulf Coast, a poignant photo essay on AIDS in the African-American community, as well as comprehensive coverage of politics including exclusive interviews with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Burt-Murray most recently served as executive editor of TEEN PEOPLE, where she conceived some of TEEN PEOPLE's premier franchises Young Hollywood and The Teen People Annual Sex Survey. Prior to TEEN PEOPLE, Burt-Murray was executive editor at Honey magazine from 2001 to 2003, beauty director at TEEN PEOPLE in 2001, and the fashion and beauty features editor for ESSENCE from 1998 to 2001. Her work has also appeared in Working Mother, Parenting, Heart & Soul, Atlanta CityMag and Black Elegance.

Burt-Murray is the co-author of the critically acclaimed humor book, The Angry Black Woman's Guide to Life (Dutton), and the novel, The Vow (HarperCollins/Amistad). Burt-Murray was featured as one of the "40 Under 40" by Crain's New York Business. She has also appeared on Access Hollywood, BET, CNBC, CNN, Entertainment Tonight, Good Morning America, MSNBC, and The Today Show, to name a few.

Burt-Murray is also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, and sits on the boards of Safe Horizons, the nation's leading domestic violence assistance organization; The Overseas Press Club; the American Society of Magazine Editors; and the South Orange Performing Arts Center. A graduate of Hampton University, Burt-Murray holds a B.S. in finance and resides in New Jersey with her husband and their two children.

Past College Dates:

- Bennett College
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Columbia College
- CUNY – Medgar Evers College
- Hampton University
- Harvard University
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- Spelman College

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