

## YETIDE BADAKE

Born to the first son of the first wife of a Nigerian Chief, Yetide Badaki was immersed in a rich tradition of stories and storytelling while being raised in England, Nigeria, Montreal and the United States.

After being forbidden to act, Yetide enrolled as an Environmental science major at McGill University at the young age of 16. Much to the chagrin of her traditional Nigerian parents, Yetide rebelled and continued to seek out stories and the art of storytelling. Auditioning in New York led to a scholarship in the Illinois State University graduate theatre program, a program that only accepted six students every two years and also included residency in the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. While there, Yetide was invited by Michael Halberstam of Writer's Theatre in Chicago to understudy Nina in Anton Chekhov's THE SEAGULL. This led to the opportunity to tell stories on stages ranging from SteppenWolf to Victory Gardens Theatre in such plays as WHEATLEY and the jeff nominated I HAVE BEFORE ME A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY A YOUNG LADY FROM RWANDA.

With a thirst for adventure and seeking out new stories to tell, Yetide packed up and made the actors' mecca from Chicago to Los Angeles. Paying the bills doing everything from reception to apartment management, she also managed roles on TOUCH, CRIMINAL MINDS, MASTERS OF SEX, AQUARIUS, SEQUESTERED and NCIS NEW ORLEANS.

Badaki will star as Bilquis in STARZ original series, "American Gods," the television adaptation based on the New York Times-bestselling novel "American Gods" published in 2001 by Neil Gaiman.