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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Author Derek Tyler Attico-**  
**writer of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Sisko***  
**joins the team of *Moonlight and Mawazo* (a science fiction**  
**and fantasy short story competition)**  
**as a celebrity judge.**

Author Derek Tyler Attico, writer of the bestselling, critically acclaimed Star Trek *Autobiography of Benjamin Sisko* from Titan Books joins the team of *Moonlight and Mawazo* (a science fiction and fantasy short story competition) as a celebrity judge.

Derek is a speculative fiction author and an award-winning photographer. Derek has written books, essays, shorts stories, and even role-playing games. He began his writing career as a screenwriter at the age of 16. Derek has won many accolades throughout his career including the Excellence in Playwriting Award from the Dramatist Guild of America, and he is a two-time winner of the Star Trek Strange New Worlds short story contest ("Alpha & Omega," "The Dreamer and the Dream"). He has written short stories for the International Association of Media Tie-In Writers, the NASA Exoplanet Science Institute at Caltech, Thrilling Adventure Yarns, and others. His essays have appeared in ATB Publishing and Star Trek Magazine. Derek holds degrees in English and History.

*Moonlight and Mawazo* is honored to be aligned with Derek Tyler Attico as he prides himself on the same values of the contest as an advocate of the arts, human rights, and inclusion. He believes that "science fiction and fantasy is fertile soil for the imagination and the best way to entertain while delivering messages of morality and equality."

*Moonlight and Mawazo* strives to give authors of underserved communities, such as people of color, women, and the LGBTQ+ community, a chance to tell uniquely different stories with characters who look, sound, and otherwise reflect them. While the genre has blossomed in recent years, there is always room for "your story." Winners will be announced at the end of July. The 3 finalists and other winners will be published in an anthology in late Fall 2024. For more information about the contest, visit [www.moonlightandmawazo.com](http://www.moonlightandmawazo.com).

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