



THE FUND-RAISER MALAAK COMPTON-ROCK

In 2006 Compton-Rock was introduced to a disease she had never heard of before. Her friend Nancy Block-Zenna was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. This aggressive form of the illness disproportionately affects Black women and doesn't respond to many current drug therapies. Weak from the cancer that had spread to her back, Block-Zenna lay on the floor of Compton-Rock's New Jersey home one afternoon while her friends tried to figure out how to help her—and others—fight the disease. Their solution: launching the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation. If there's one thing Compton-Rock knows, it's how to transform celebrity star power into a driving force for change. An experienced fund-raiser and consultant in the nonprofit world, she has worked for UNICEF and collaborates with the Salvation Army. Compton-Rock offered up her home (which she shares with her husband, comedian Chris Rock, and their two daughters) to host a high-end charity auction. She put everything on the block, from *Saturday Night Live* tickets to a weekend in the Hamptons to courtside New Jersey Nets tickets. The two-hour event raised \$230,000. With a portion of the capital, the organization funded the 2007 Triple Negative Breast Cancer Symposium in partnership with the renowned Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation. "If you have breast cancer, find out if you're triple negative," says Compton-Rock. "And if your doctor doesn't know what you're talking about, move on."

GET INVOLVED IN HER CAUSE For more about triple negative breast cancer and the fight to halt it, log on to Tnbcfoundation.org or visit Compton-Rock's Web site, Angelrockproject.com.

—LYNYA FLOYD ▷

Malaak Compton-Rock was photographed exclusively for *ESSENCE* by Hassan Kinley, February 15, 2008, in New York City.