

Rev. David Jefferson Jr, M.Div

It is a rare and significant occasion when an actor expands his horizons by starting his own production company with the intentions of producing quality work to make an impact on society. Actor/Producer/Director/Writer/Entertainer, Motivational Speaker, Reverend Dr. David Jefferson Jr., is without a doubt among this very select group of individuals. The roots of his talent stem from his experience as a professional model at a very young age, but reach way beyond those parameters to performing in feature films, television and theater. David has become one of today's most extraordinary accomplished and unique talents.

Early on he was recognized to be an avid reader and an inquisitive young man with a gift of oratorical expression. Upon graduating from Morris Catholic High School, David entered the prestigious Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia pursuing a degree in Pre-Law. Approaching his sophomore year, David made the decision to primarily focus on the craft emerging from within and changed his major from Pre-law to Drama. David is a proud cum-laude graduate of Morehouse College, where he received the Bachelor of Arts degree.

David's real education in the business would come by meeting the honorable Percy Ellis Sutton, Chairman Emeritus of Inner City Broadcasting who became his mentor. He provided an internship for David at the legendary 107.5 WBLS in New York; N.Y. where David would hone his skills in radio production. He went on to work "*Showtime at the Apollo*" as a talent coordinator. David's extraordinary energy and commitment to learning would be beneficial when he received the opportunity to work behind the scenes in the broadcasting and production business.

In the spring of 2000, David had already appeared in two major motion pictures "*Black and White*" and the mega blockbuster film Disney's, "*Remember the Titans*", starring Academy Award winner Denzel Washington. David's appearance in the film was noted in The October 9, 2000 Film Review in The New York Times. He has also appeared on HBO's hit show "*Sex and the City*" and Fox's "*Americas Most Wanted*" and several television commercials. David received accolades for his work with the film "*Brown Sugar*" from Director Rick Famuyiwa as well as "*Anything Else*", directed by Woodie Allen.

Not only have David's talents in the motion picture industry become nationally acknowledged, he now has embarked on other ventures to solidify a stronghold in the ever changing business. In the summer of 2002 David would create DJJ Productions and Communications (DJJ P&C) LLC, a multi-faceted production company with the mission to "Bridge the Gap Between Education Sports and Entertainment" On October 12, 2002 the company launched its first event, the *1st Annual DJJ Celebrity Basketball Game Benefit*, attracting notable celebrities and athletes to help emphasize the importance of education and its role in the success of any career, especially sports and entertainment. The long-term goals of the DJJ Productions are to produce and direct documentaries, short and feature films along with film production for media related purposes.

David has already penned his first film "*Black Nor White*", shot summer 2004. David would also produce/direct/star in, "*A Raisin in the Sun*", where it received accolades for its run at the Mary Burch Theater in Newark, New Jersey. As a professor of Drama and executive director of the Mary Burch Theater, David began his career in education. Following his apprenticeship with Dr. Zachary Yamba as his Chief of Staff, David focused on bettering himself in the entertainment business. His apprenticeship with Spike Lee on the feature film, "*Inside Man*", starring Denzel Washington continued to ground his professional rearing. His craft has allowed him to work abroad in countries such as Italy, Turkey and Greece to name a few.

During advanced study at the Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film & Television Tisch School of the Arts at the New York University, David acknowledged his calling to the ministry. Rev. Jefferson currently serves as the Youth Pastor and Executive Director of Youth and Young Adult Services at the historical Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey where his father Dr. David Jefferson Sr., Esq. resides as Senior Pastor. David is a dynamic ministerial motivational speaker and radio producer and host, his contributions have been duly noted by his mentors Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton, Pastor Calvin Butts,

Dr. Charles E. Booth and his father Dr. David Jefferson Sr. Esq. During his tenure, he has created the “*Defend Newark Campaign*” which speaks to the violence among young people and the elderly alike in Newark

In 2016, he served as Summer Intern at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas under Rev. Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff. In addition to his work with Dr. Jerry Carter Jr and Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown, New Jersey.

David has held on to his vow and lineage responsibility of giving back to the community that has supported him throughout his career. David has Co-Founded *Dreams4Youth*, a non-profit organization created to provide educational programs and initiatives for inner-city youths, along with providing scholarships and financial assistance to further the cause for creating educational opportunities for youth. In 2011 Congressman Donald Payne recognized Dreams4Youth’s “School’s in Session Tour” for their exemplary programming.

In 2015 David served as Newark’s founding director for President Barack Obama and the White Houses’ “My Brother’s Keeper Community Challenge” for the City of Newark, under the leadership of Mayor Ras J. Baraka. The initiative helped to further improve the lives of young African American and Hispanic Men in the City of Newark, New Jersey. President Barack Obama highlighted Newark’s participation and David’s leadership in the 2016 My Brother’s Keeper National Report. One of David’s major achievement is ensuring that young men met and worked with President Obama. As a result of the issues observed from the community challenge pertaining to all youth, David created the “Ready Set Grow Academy” curriculum. This original curriculum helps to improve the academic outcomes of high potential, at risk students by fusing mentorship and scholarship. This program was successfully completed as a pilot in the Hillside School District in Hillside, New Jersey in 2016-2017. The curriculum is now being highly sought across the country, establishing David as a creative curriculum educator focused on shortening the achievement gap for disengaged students.

From 2018-2019 he led the D4Y in partnership with the City of Newark’s Water And Sewer Department. Creating the Newark Watershed Science and Leadership Academy. Designed to empower young people in the areas of science and leadership along with educating them on the water infrastructure in the City of Newark. The Dreams4Youth also partnered with The Newark Mentoring Movement. This program aided in creating global ambassadors by sending 12 young men to Belfast, Ireland on a global ambassador trip. Currently the program is positioned to serve school districts in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Georgia and New York.

David career continues on the road of tireless and indomitable creativity with his role as a highly sought after motivational speaker. Constantly in demand, his compelling stories and inspirational messages offer gems of wisdom about life, pursuit of dreams, aspirations and inciting action to accomplish one’s goals. He has built a foundation to inspire, create and share his experiences in various industries. David's ability to continue to motivationally speak, perform in motion pictures, produce events and productions will continue to impress and secure a place in the heart of his fans and society.

He received the Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary located in Princeton, New Jersey where he graduated with honors. He holds the prestigious Black Church Studies certificate from Princeton Theological Seminary and is also a “Cleophus J. LaRue Homiletical Scholar”. David is a recipient of the prestigious “Kenyon J. Wildrick Award for Excellence in Homiletics” an award bestowed upon Princeton Seminary’s most gifted in the art of homiletic sciences. He is currently pursuing the Doctor of Education at the College of Saint Elizabeth. David is also a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. Rev. Jefferson was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Motivation, Honoris Causa, from the Los Angeles Development Church & Institute. He also holds an honorary doctorate of Education from the Metropolitan Baptist Church Education Department.

Referenced as a polymath, Rev. David Jefferson Jr. is the son of Pastor Dr. David Jefferson Sr. Esq and First Lady Min. Mrs. Linda Mouton Jefferson. In 2000 he married his college sweetheart, Dr. Joni Jefferson, a Spelman College graduate. They are the proud parents of three children, Naiya Kimberly, a Spelman Student, Ryann-Simone and David Jefferson III.