

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Dave Chappelle in black ink, written in a cursive script.

Dave Chappelle is an internationally recognized stand-up comedian, actor and Mark Twain Prize recipient whose trademark wit, sharp irreverent social commentary and no-holds-barred comedy make him one of the most iconic comedians of his generation. When exploring race, popular culture, sex, drugs, politics or fame, Chappelle is clever enough to notice the lines he's crossing, just so he can push the boundaries even further.

Chappelle could always make people laugh. Realizing the power of his natural talent, he set some ambitious goals for his art. As a 14-year-old student at Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Chappelle crafted his stand-up comedy act out of the realities of his life growing up Black in the nation's capital. Racism and racial division became his main targets, and he approached them with an outrageous irreverence that often shocked his audiences into laughter. Though Chappelle's approach has earned him as much criticism as success, he refuses to tone down his style or dilute his point of view in order to make his comedy "more acceptable." As a result, he has gained fame and success on his own terms, and has become especially popular with young audiences who appreciate his sly social commentary and aggressively smart and satiric humor.

Shortly after graduation, he moved to New York City, where he was quickly regarded as a major young talent. At 19 years old, Chappelle made his film debut in "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." He went on to appear in television and films, including "Undercover Brother," "Buddies," "The Nutty Professor," "You've Got Mail," and the cult flick "Half Baked," which he also wrote. In 2000, Chappelle recorded his first hour-long special, "Dave Chappelle: Killin' Them Softly," for HBO, and in 2004, he released his second comedy special, "Dave Chappelle: For What It's Worth," on Showtime. More recent feature film credits include Spike Lee's 2015 "Chi-Raq" and Bradley Cooper's 2018 award-winning remake of "A Star is Born."

Chappelle was the mastermind behind the 2003 sketch comedy hit, "The Chappelle Show," a hybrid of stand-up, surreal sketches, and musical performances. The show, one

of the highest rated programs on Comedy Central, made “Chappelle” a household name. It earned three Emmy nominations and went on to become the best-selling TV show in DVD history. After completing two seasons of “Chappelle’s Show,” Chappelle returned to his stand-up roots.

Chappelle’s work has earned him more than 30 nominations and awards in television and film for projects that include his groundbreaking sketch comedy television series *Chappelle’s Show*, comedy specials, and guest appearances on *Saturday Night Live*. Chappelle has received five Emmy awards, including three for his Netflix comedy specials *Sticks & Stones* (2020) and *Equanimity & The Bird Revelation* (2018) and two for hosting *Saturday Night Live* (2017 and 2021). Chappelle has won five Grammy Awards for Best Comedy Album (2018-2020, 2023 and 2024) and Best Spoken Word Album in 2022. Dave Chappelle collaborated with Talib Kweli and yasiin bey to host *The Midnight Miracle*, a thought-provoking podcast that uniquely blends the salon and variety show traditions while providing a glimpse into the inner lives of the hosts.

In response to COVID, Chappelle and his production company, Pilot Boy Productions, produced their first independent documentary. The untitled film premiered at Sundance and screened in an unprecedented 11-city arena tour. Fueled by the murder of George Floyd, shut-in by the closures of businesses due to the pandemic, and unable to perform around the country, Chappelle collaborated with Oscar and Emmy-winning filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar to chronicle his experimental, socially-distanced live comedy performed live from his neighbor’s cornfield in Ohio. The result? Eleven million dollars in economic and comic relief for the local community, and a model of courage not just for his community but for the entire live entertainment industry.

In a career spanning over three decades, Dave Chappelle has proven himself to be more than just a comedian; he is a provocateur, a philosopher, and a true artist. His willingness to challenge conventions and push boundaries has earned him the admiration and respect of audiences around the world, ensuring that his influence will continue to be felt for generations to come.

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