

ELIJAH ROCK

Biography



Elijah Rock has a busy fall with projects in FILM, TELEVISION and MUSIC. He co-stars in the comedy *THREE BLIND SAINTS* with veteran stars Irma P. Hall and Barry Corbin. It hits theatres nationwide in Nov. Also on Oct. 2nd, Elijah can be seen on BET in the film 'Burned,' as apart of BET's prestigious "Lens on Talent" film series. This past summer, Elijah headlined the popular KJAZZ (88.1) Hollywood and Highland Summer Concert Series with his jazz ensemble 'The Downtown Project' for the second year, in addition to headlining the UCLA Summer Sunset Concert Series.

In addition to *THREE BLIND SAINTS*, Elijah has played lead roles in films, including *THE PERFECT HUSBAND*, *THE WILDERNESS*, *CRENSHAW NIGHTS*, *SWITCHING SIDES* and *THE FAMILY WILL*, a short film which he also co-wrote and produced. *THE FAMILY WILL* was recently screened at the Urbanworld Film Festival in New York City. *BURNED* also debuted at Urbanworld.

Elijah made his television debut on "The Jay Leno Show," one of longest running late-night talk shows in history. He was a regular guest playing "Obama" as well as starring in other comedic skits. Additional television credits include singing backup for the Grammy-nominated rock band OKGO on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." While living in New York, he co-created the pilot for the comedy- reality series "The Perpetrators" which was initially represented by John Rosen at WME.

The stage has been the foundation for Elijah's career. He studied drama, improvisational and sketch comedy in his native Cleveland at the Karamu House Theatre - the oldest long-running African American theatre in the country. In New York, Elijah studied with renowned acting coach Susan Batson.

He has played roles in several shows whose original productions won numerous Tony Awards. He played the iconic lead role of 'Coalhouse Walker Jr,' in the multi-award winning musical "Ragtime," and 'Adrian' in "Smokey Joe's Cafe." Other notable theatrical credits include the musicals "Baby It's You," "Sophisticated Ladies" and "Jacques Brel." Plays include "Fences," "Jitney," "Vaudeville" (a play with music) and "To Be Young Gifted and Black."

Elijah is also a professional tap dancer/hoofer, classically trained vocalist and recording artist. Not only has he toured the world as a soloist with the Los Angeles Jubilee Singers, after several years in New York he returned to Los Angeles, with all of the stage tools that contribute to his unique singing style. He released his debut Funk/R&B album "The Preacher of Love Vol. 1." His latest recording is a re-make of Cab Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher" with his group, The Downtown Project. This fall, Elijah will begin recording his debut solo jazz record.

As a youth, Elijah studied voice at the world-renowned Interlochen Arts Camp. He also toured Europe at the tender age of 13 with the Cleveland Singing Angels. While he was still in high school he had the honor of being one of the first vocalists to be accepted by the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) Young Artist Program, which led him to his career in New York and beyond.

A great fan and student of opera, Elijah was recently awarded a full scholarship to attend the vocal/opera program at UCLA where he is currently studying voice with internationally known baritone Vladimir Chernov.

