

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Daymond John

PERSON

John, Daymond

Alternative Names: Daymond John;

Life Dates: February 23, 1969-

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Fashion Designer

Biographical Note

Hip-hop fashion designer Daymond John, founder and CEO of clothing label FUBU, was born in Brooklyn, New York, of Caribbean parents. Growing up in Queens, New York, John's entrepreneurial talents were exhibited at an early age; he sold everything from pencils to reconditioned cars.

Upon graduating from high school, John worked as a waiter at Red Lobster before getting his start in the clothing industry. In 1992, from his mother's basement

in Queens, John began making hats to sell at concerts and neighborhood festivals. Encouraged by his early success, John recruited his childhood friends, Alexander Martin, Carl Brown, and Keith Perrin, to work with him; they began sewing tie-top hats. John set up shop at his mother's house, taking out a \$100,000 mortgage. This was the beginning of FUBU, an acronym for For Us, By Us. FUBU's collection later expanded to include hockey jerseys, t-shirts, and baseball caps, all embroidered with the FUBU label.

With early support from John's friend, entertainer LL Cool J, FUBU quickly became one of the leading urban clothing lines, setting fashion trends for young African Americans. However, FUBU's popularity soon extended beyond the inner city, from suburban malls in the Midwest to Russian Internet sites, making it a true international powerhouse.

In 1997, John created the FUBU Foundation, which raised \$1 million annually. Building on the success of FUBU The Collection, John expanded his business empire with the launch in 2000 of FUBU Entertainment. FUBU sportswear also gained a sizable following of professional athletes. It was FUBU Sportswear that sponsored Nienhouse Motorsports for the 1999 Indianapolis 500. In 2002, FUBU began outfitting the Harlem Globetrotters. John also launched y2g.com as a Web portal to target the untapped market of African Americans on the Internet.

Related Entries

St. Gerard Catholic School [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

Bayside High [STUDENTOF]

[\[from ? to ?\]](#)

HS diploma

I.S. 238 Susan B. Anthony Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

First Boston Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1985 to 1988]

Messenger

Queens Van Plan [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1993]

Driver

Red Lobster [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1995]

Waiter

FUBU [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to ?]

CEO