

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Derek Ferguson

PERSON

Ferguson, Derek Talmar, 1965-

Alternative Names: Derek Ferguson;

Life Dates: April 20, 1965-

Place of Birth: Yonkers, New York, USA

Residence: Stamford, CT

Work: New York, New York

Occupations: Entertainment Chief Executive

Biographical Note

Entertainment company executive Derek Ferguson was born on April 20, 1965 in the Bronx, New York to Roberta Lewis Pieck and James Ferguson. He attended Stuyvesant High School, and, at the age of sixteen, was accepted into the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1985 with his B.S. degree in economics. Upon graduation, Ferguson was hired as an auditor and mergers and acquisitions

analyst at Coopers and Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and became a certified public accountant. In 1988, he co-founded and served as chief operating officer of Urban Profile Communications Inc., which produced the Urban Profile lifestyle magazine. In 1990, Ferguson received his M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School, where he was also vice president of the African American Student Association.

In 1991, Ferguson sold Urban Profile Communications Inc. and secured a position at Bain and Company in Boston, Massachusetts. At Bain, he became one of the first two African Americans to be promoted to manager. In 1996, he was named vice president of worldwide finance at Sony BMG Entertainment, and was then appointed vice president of finance and operations for BMG Special Products. In 1998, Ferguson was hired as Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment Group's chief financial officer, where he was responsible for business development, business planning and forecasting, and financial operations of the Bad Boy family of companies. Ferguson has since been named chief growth officer of Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment Group and reports directly to the company's chairman, Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Ferguson is a member of New York Covenant Church in New Rochelle, New York, where he is the leader of the Economic Justice ministry. Through this ministry, the Church has launched various businesses, including Cross Trainers Apparel, Covenant Building Services and Life Music. In addition, Ferguson has held bible studies for employees at Bad Boy Worldwide for a number of years.

His awards include the Maggie L. Walker Award for the African American at the Wharton School with the highest grade point average, and the Emma Higginbotham award for academic achievement and community involvement.

Ferguson is married to Regina Bullock Ferguson. They have three children; Reginald, Maya and Peri. Derek Ferguson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 5, 2014.

Related Entries

P.S. 69 The New Visions School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Cs 232 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ps 152 Evergreen School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Jhs 125 Henry Hudson [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Stuyvesant High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Pennsylvania [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A. Science/Economics

Harvard Business School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.B.A.

Bertelsmann Music Group [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199601 to 199810]

VP of Finance/CFO of BMG Special Projects

Bad Boy Entertainment/Combs Enterprises
[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199810 to ?]

CFO/CGO

Urban Profile Communications [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199005 to 199109]

Owner/CFO

Coopers & Liebern [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 198509 to 198808]

In Charge Accountant

Bain & Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 199109 to 19951231]

Manager

New York Covenant Church [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Core Member