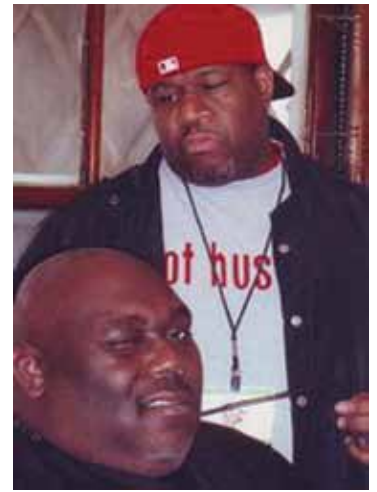


Behind the Scenes with Barber/Groomer JayBee

Do you remember Robert Townsend's cut or Faizon Love's in the 2008 movie "Of Boys & Men"? What about "Transformers 3" starring Shia Labeouf and Tyrese Gibson? Did you notice R. Kelly's clean lines from his 2009 Untitled album? The classic or edgy style these entertainers portray through their acting or music can also be seen in the way they move, dress...and of course, their hair style. Often unrecognized and under-appreciated, these onset groomers have the serious task of setting the stage for an artist to be perceived and represented in his or her intended manner. John "JayBee" Bivins is one of these onset style experts. Not only did he work on the celebrities mentioned above, but a host of others as well, including Wesley Snipes in "Brooklyn's Finest" promo tour, Greg Mathis of the Judge Mathis Show, and various comedians on a Def Comedy Jam tour. How did he get here and what is it like? BOM spoke with JayBee to find out.



JayBee and FAIZON LOVE

How and when did you get started as a barber? Why did you want to become a barber?

I got started cutting at the ripe age of 12 after my dad brought home (Chicago) a pair of clippers from work. He worked in the hair care sales/promo industry. Then I embraced the gift of cutting by later on going to barber school to be a professional and maximize my gift and honor God with my talent. I chose to be a barber because I had a special gift and the passion I felt when cutting was undeniably my "calling"!

What type of training have you had?

I went to and graduated from an amazing barber college called Silk N Classy Barber College in Dolton, IL where I've resided for 29 years. Owned and operated by Mr. And Mrs. Kenneth and Toni Williams. They are a blessing to the industry.

How do you continue your training?

I continue my training by attending "hands-on seminars" and collaborating with my peers in the industry.

What types of awards have you won?

My most recent award was the 2009 Gillette Men of Style Award. I was chosen as one of the top barbers in the industry alongside of President Barack Obama's barber and a few others that have made a positive impact in the industry. I have won four awards with Proud Lady Beauty Show, a medal at Bronner Bros Barber Competition along with numerous student awards. I came into the industry with a winning attitude and have kept the bar high every since!

How much time do you spend on the road?

I no longer work in a shop or salon. I owned and operated Supreme Kutz Family Hair Care Salon in Calumet City, IL from 2001 to 2009. I decided to close my shop in December 2009 to work full time onset for television, film, video, print, theatre, and private celeb services only. I've been on the road over 100 odd days this year alone. I've worked in a different city 11 out of 11 months in 2010 and that's 1/3rd of my year. I'm so grateful to be in this amazing position to work with great people.

Tell me about the first time you worked with a celebrity. Who was it and when?

The first time I worked with a celeb was in 1998 and it was some of my clients/friends that I cut in the shop and at locations before they flew out because they didn't have a budget to fly me with them. They were on BET Comic View. I also had a high school client that I worked with that was the No. 1

I CAME INTO THE INDUSTRY WITH A
WINNING ATTITUDE
AND HAVE KEPT THE BAR HIGH EVER SINCE!



ROBERT TOWNSEND



SEAN PATRICK THOMAS



JOHNNY GIL



JUDGE MATHIS



[R. Kelly is] very professional and passionate about music and the work that goes into his projects.

lottery pick for the Chicago Bulls, Eddie Curry currently with the New York Knicks. It is/was so amazing to see my work on the big screen that early in my career. Seeing my work and the places I work is what drives me to continue to strive to work with the best. I never thought it would open my career to this magnitude.

How did you become R. Kelly's barber?

I worked on a film in Chicago called "Of Boys and Men" starring Robert Townsend, Angela Basset, and Faizon Love in 2007 with a woman name Big Mama (Victoria King). She was department head for hair and makeup for the film and also in charge of staffing R. Kelly's projects with hair-makeup and models, which I had no idea. She liked my work and professionalism so she referred me to Mr. Kelly's publicist at that time Regina Daniels. It's a great experience to work with Mr. Kelly. He's very professional and passionate about music and the work that goes into his projects. I don't just limit my career to one certain individual and would never turn down another client that wanted to work with me at any given time. Working with Mr. Kelly has been a super great experience for my career, however I don't just work with him alone. Just as he doesn't work with just one artist (he has done collabs with just about everyone) his entire career. I learned to do the same with my career as do other celebrity barbers!

Who has been your favorite celebrity to work with and why?

I like all the celebs I work with. I've worked with the best! Faizon Love is as funny and fun as it gets! Robert Townsend is a genius in the game; he wears many hats. Judge Mathis was so fun to hang out; he invited me to his home for dinner on numerous occasions with him and his family. Wesley Snipes in awe! All I could think about was "New Jack City" and Nino Brown! It was an amazing experience to work with him and Director Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day") during Red Carpet Week of the film "Brooklyn's Finest." I also had a childhood dream come true in working with the 2007 NFC Champion Chicago Bears where I was the official lockerroom barber. I went on to go to the Super Bowl with them. I cut the teams hair until 1:00am the night before the Bears/Colts Super Bowl in Miami! I will always cherish that experience.

What is your favorite type of barbering job to take on?

My favorite type of barbering job that I like and only take on is working on-set of t.v., film, video, print, or theatre projects and private celebrity service visits. I also participate in community service projects during back to school. All the barbers in the community come back to give free haircuts at Silk N Classy Barber College. Over 500 cuts are given away and I've participated in this every year since 1999.

What makes you different from other barbers?

I believe the "Total Package" of great work/work ethic, reliable, mature, focused, dedicated and leadership skills have set me apart from some barbers.

What plans do you have for your future career?

My plans for the future are to continue in the vein of mentoring/educating up-and-coming barbers all over the world. I'm known in the industry as "Big Bro"! I get calls and emails all the time from barbers that get their first celeb or are maybe having shop problems. I also plan to continue to build my "glam squads" city by city. I have teams in Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Dallas, and Nashville. I provide onset hair-makeup staffing for production projects. BOH



R. Kelly