



# SAMMY DAVIS, Jr.

*I've gotta be me*



PBS

INTERNATIONAL

1 x 90 HD

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## CONTACT

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*Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me* is the first major film documentary to examine Davis' vast talent and his journey for identity through the shifting tides of civil rights and racial progress during 20<sup>th</sup>-century America.

Sammy Davis, Jr. had the kind of career that was indisputably legendary, so vast and multi-faceted that it was dizzying in its scope and scale. And yet, his life was complex, complicated and contradictory. Davis strove to achieve the American Dream in a time of racial prejudice and shifting political territory. He was the veteran of increasingly outdated show business traditions trying to stay relevant; he frequently found himself bracketed by the bigotry of white America and the distaste of black America; he was the most public black figure to embrace Judaism, thereby yoking his identity to another persecuted minority.

Featuring new interviews with such luminaries as Billy Crystal, Norman Lear, Jerry Lewis, Whoopi Goldberg and Kim Novak, with never-before-seen photographs from Davis' vast personal collection and excerpts from his electric performances in television, film and concert, *Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me* explores the life and art of a uniquely gifted entertainer whose trajectory blazed across the major flashpoints of American society from the Depression through the 1980s.

*I want to live, not merely survive  
And I won't give up this dream  
Of life that keeps me alive.  
I've gotta be me, I've gotta be me  
The dream that I see makes me what I am.*

*I'm Puerto Rican, Jewish, colored, and married to a white woman.  
When I move into a neighborhood, people start running in four  
ways at the same time. —Sammy Davis, Jr.*

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*American*  
**MASTERS**

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## CREDITS

*Director:* Sam Pollard

*Producers:* Sally Rosenthal and Michael Kantor

*Executive Producer:* Michael Kantor

*Photo:* The Estate of Altovise Davis



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