



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 20th-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 He was the veteran of increasingly outdated show business traditions trying to stay relevant; he frequently found himself bracketed by the bigotry of white America and the distaste of black America; he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.*

American
MASTERS

171051

CREDITS

Director: Sam Pollard

Producers: Sally Rosenthal and Michael Kantor

Executive Producer: Michael Kantor

Photo: The Estate of Altovise Davis



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