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### CHARLAMAGNE THA GOD

**BIOGRAPHY**

Growing up “Lenard McKelvey” in the small town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina,

“Charlamagne Tha God” was once just another kid dreaming of a better life, yet inevitably falling prey to the dangerously glamorized street life. By the time he was 18, the precocious teen, who was no stranger to a few good books by way of his mother, a school teacher, slowed down his rebellious ways and stumbled upon his love for radio during an internship in his town. In just a few years, Charlamagne would be recognized as one of the best voices in South Carolina by the

late 90s.

While on the air in Columbia, S.C., Charlamagne drew attention to the local show he hosted on Hot103.9 (WHXT-FM) by distributing his controversial interviews and skits online. His irreverent, “shock jock” interview style, inspired by the likes of everyone from Larry King to Bill O’Reilly to Arsenio Hall, got the attention of then radio personality Wendy Williams, who would quickly take Charlamagne under her wing as an apprentice.

Williams would rebroadcast Charlamagne’s interviews on her popular, syndicated radio

show, *The Wendy Williams Experience*. He later joined the program as co-host. Working alongside Williams not only introduced Charlamagne to a new audience, but it also helped

strengthen the voice that has defined his career – a voice he now uses to reach audiences in all

mediums – from syndicated radio, to television, to print, to digital and new-media.

Charlamagne, a Radio Hall of Fame inductee, currently stars in the hugely popular morning radio show, *The Breakfast Club*,which is syndicated by Premiere Networks on nearly 100 Hip Hop and R&B stations across the nation. Charlamagne hosts “The World's Most Dangerous Morning Show” out of iHeartMedia’s Power 105 in New York City alongside DJ Envy and Jess Hilarious, and it’s widely regarded as the most informative and entertaining top-rated Hip Hop morning show today.

Each morning between the hours of 6 and 10 a.m., fans of *The Breakfast Club* tune in to hear

the unrivaled interviews and conversations with celebrities and hip-hop artists,

entertainment news, fresh music mixes, along with their signature blend of honesty and humor. It

can also be heard on iHeartRadio and highlights are available on the program’s YouTube channel, which has more than 5.4 million subscribers and more than 3 billion total views. *Weekends with the Breakfast Club* features the 20 hottest songs on the charts, in addition to DJ Envy, Charlamagne and Jess Hilarious’ signature interviews with megastars and hip-hop icons. The program currently airs on more than 100 stations nationwide.

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Charlamagne also hosts the widely-acclaimed *Brilliant Idiots* podcastalongside MTV’s Andrew Schultz, where the duo discusses their reaction to both world and pop culture news. The success of the show opened the door for a “Brilliant” tour in which Charlamagne and Shultz traveled to different cities around the world for live, on-stage tapings.

In September 2020, Charlamagne and iHeartMedia announced a historic joint podcast publishing venture, [The Black Effect Podcast Network](https://www.iheartmedia.com/press/iheartmedia-americas-leading-podcast-publisher-and-radio-hall-famer-charlamagne-tha-god). It’s the world’s largest podcast publisher dedicated to Black listeners, bringing together the most influential and trusted voices in Black culture for stimulating conversations around social justice, pop culture, sports, mental health, news, comedy, and more.

Soon after in December 2020, Charlamagne renewed and extended his deal with iHeartMedia, which named him Senior Creative Officer of Culture Content and Programming. In that role, Charlamagne is charged with discovering and curating new talent and programming for radio and podcasts and developing productions and community initiatives. It was also announced that Charlamagne will develop a show where he will lead exclusive one-on-one interviews with some of the most notable artist, athletes, and voices in our society. The conversations air across various iHeartRadio stations, podcasts and other digital platforms.

In April 2017, “hip-hop’s Howard Stern” (Rolling Stone) shared his unlikely success story in his first book: *Black Privilege: Opportunity Comes to Those Who Create It*. Published by Touchstone, an imprint of Simon & Shuster Inc., *Black Privilege* features Charlamagne’s comic, often controversial, and always brutally honest insights on how living an authentic life is the quickest path to success. The New York Times Best-selling author released his second book in October 2018, *Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks on Me.* Charlamagne shares his blueprint for breaking free from fear and anxiety in the global best-seller, which propelled him to become one of the world’s leading voices in the mental health discussion.In November 2020, he announced the launch of Black Privilege Publishing, his new partnership imprint from Atria Books at Simon & Schuster that aligns with his mission to bring crucial, culturally-relevant content to the marketplace from emerging and renowned Black voices around the world.

Charlamagne’s production company, CTHAGOD World Productions, discovers and advocates for original, emerging talent who resonate with popular culture long before they become mainstream. He developed a half-hour talk show for Comedy Central, *The God’s Honest Truth with Charlamagne Tha God*, which premiered in September 2021 and listed Stephen Colbert among its executive producers. The program returned for a second season in the summer of 2022, and was rebranded at *Hell of a Week with Charlamagne Tha God*. Charlamagne previously hosted and starred in MTV2’s popular late-night talk show *Uncommon Sense with Charlamagne,* which evolved from 2014’s *Charlamagne and Friends.* He was also a lead cast member in MTV2’s *Guy Code* and *Guy Court*,a spin-off of the former.

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As a keynote speaker and humanitarian, Charlamagne presented a $250,000 scholarship award to the South Carolina State University Alumni Association for student scholarships that will provide funds for African-American women who major in English or communications. The university conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Charlamagne at its Spring Commencement ceremony in May 2021.

Charlamagne may be widely and worldly acclaimed these days, but the family man is still

a southern and hospitable charmer from a small town in South Carolina. And so long as he is

breathing, he will never forget where is from, and that he beat the odds to become:

Charlamagne Tha God.

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