

Presenting JBlair Brown

- Publicist
- Published Writer / Author



Photo courtesy of Dionn Renee

www.jblaircommunications.com

Who is JBlair Brown?

JBlair Brown is a native Harrisburg resident and proud graduate of the Harrisburg High public school system.

For most of her upbringing, Judy, along with her parents, eight siblings, and one set of grandparents, lived in the 600 block of Maclay Street, smack dab between *Kenley's Bar* and initially *Marcus Groceries* (but soon to be *Chicken Brown's Pool Hall*). I sat on our front porch and could watch the in-laws and outlaws – and everything in between.

During the 9-5 traffic life seemed normal, even idyllic. Nighttime was a different story altogether. Not that we lived in a *bad* neighborhood (Daddy made sure of that, always). Still, when the sun went down, you knew things were different.

Frankly, none of the Browns had problems in the neighborhood because, well, my oldest brother – although a jovial fellow – was the one to watch out for. You really didn't want to get on his bad side. He was the original bad, bad, Leroy Brown. Let's just say: he ran with a "questionable" crowd.

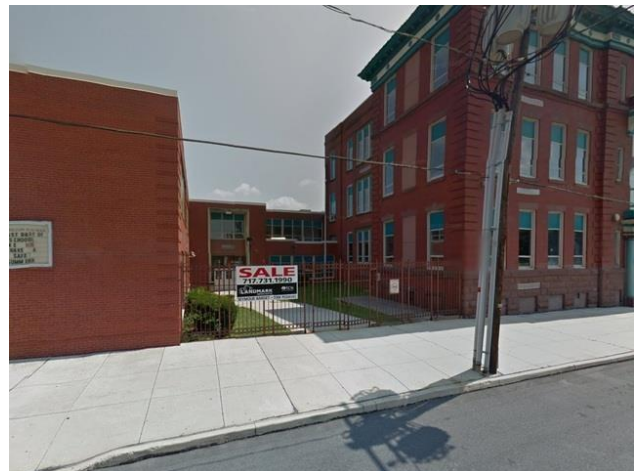


My eldest brother, Bad, Bad Leroy Brown!

Guess you can say life was grand...from my perspective, anyway (they were my pre- to teen "rose-colored glasses" years). Still, there was never a dull moment growing up on Maclay Street; it was soulful, eclectic and jumpin'!

It was like Stevie sang, "I wish those days could come back once more!" THAT was Maclay Street. Good music, good fun, and good times. And those days are what molded me to be the writer that I am today.

I owe a lot to my rich history on Maclay Street. It allowed me to attend Hamilton Elementary School, still located at Sixth and Hamilton Streets. It was here that my fourth-grade teacher, Ms. Elaine Pigeon, laughed at my first poem. That was a pivotal moment in my life. Years later I would add her name to my dedication page of my children's story, "Leroy and the Legend."



My childhood school, Hamilton Elementary School

Hamilton Elementary also introduced me to *Riverside Center for the Arts*, the very first arts school of its kind in the nation.

I just had to make it into that school! And I did! *Riverside Center for the Arts* is where I learned all about classical music, where I learned to play Chopin and Strauss. Where I learned that there was more to life than academics.

That school allowed me to see what else life had to offer outside of my six-block radius. It made a positive impact on me that resonates even today. In fact, I'd venture to say: if it wasn't for what I learned at that school during those formative years, I truly don't know where I'd be today.

EXPERIENCE

Public speaking –

2024 MAACS Conference

Topic: **Gamification in Education – Teach ‘Em Where You Reach ‘Em!**

MDSI/US Lifeline

Editor to the southeastern US region

Jan 08

BOOKS –

Two ghostwriting assignments for a nationally known motivational speaker

July 2010

- Biographical assignment, 25k words
- Children’s book, 24k words

YOU Can Become a Freelance Writer in 60 Days (eBook)

Jan 2011

Developed online instructional manual that walks the reader through the process of finding success in the freelance writing industry.

[*Leroy and the Legend*](#) children’s book

July 2016

A young child is tasked with a homework assignment. An elderly neighbor walks him through it.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES –

MDSI/US Lifeline

Jan 08

- Article printed in Repertoire, the premier journal of health care sales (2009)

Art Nouveau Magazine

Sept 08 (Issue 5)

- Interview with TV, film and Broadway personality, **Jasmine Guy**
- Interview with author, **Sloane Crosley**, *I Was Told There’d Be Cake*

Regal Magazine (Contributor)

- [Male Victims of Domestic Violence](#) (May 2009)
- The Fight for One’s Life (July 2009)
- Book review of Angela Davis’ Frederick Douglass Book (Dec 2009)
- Male Infidelity – When “Boys will be boys” (March 2010)
- [The Sudden Rise of Interracial Adoptions](#) (June 2010)
- Black Country Singers: Can They Make It? (Nov 2010)

SYM Magazine (Assistant Editor)

[June 2011 issue](#): The Good Sheppard (featured article); Harrisburg actor Michael Giovanni; and more.

[April 2012 issue](#): Danny Simmons (featured article); Dearly Departed; actor Todd Anthony; and more.

PROFILES – [IMDB professional bios for actors/filmmakers](#)

Livin' the Dream w/JBlair Brown!

In 2010, I began my first podcast, *Livin' the Dream w/JBlair Brown*. I had no idea what I was doing. I didn't even know what a podcast was. But I DID remember my advertising days and the notion of branding. (Yes, at that time, it was just a notion to me since I had never worked on branding.) But I persevered. By the end of my podcast life (in 2013), I ended up with not one, not two, but three separate podcasts – which were all rather successful.

My first guest on *Livin' the Dream...* was a man whose biography I had ghostwritten (he's given me permission to publicize that fact). His book was about the 28 years he had spent in prison for a homicide he had committed. He had completely changed his life and wanted his book to serve as a cautionary tale for others.

The next two months I spent interviewing writers and others from the writing industry. Great interest for me, but it didn't pack the punch I was looking for. I knew if I wanted to build my brand, I was going to have to change my focus. So I did.

By month three, I had determined that the jazz community would be a good fit. I am a lover of jazz and was doing freelance work for a jazz organization at the time, so I knew getting artists wouldn't be a problem.

My brand still wasn't jumping off like I wanted, so...again, I changed focus after another two months or so. I began to think of my audience and not my own interests (there's a thought!). Through a series of questions and answers, I was able to figure that there was an industry that was not privy to the attention it deserved: the independent film industry. That's when I finally hit proverbial pay dirt!

By this time, I started representing several local talents and my reputation for garnering publicity for my team was spreading. It was great. Still, I needed a little more from my podcast. I needed a eureka moment.

That moment came as I watched a popular TV show, which featured the ultra-talented Harry Lennix. *Could I possibly get him on my show?* Then I remembered a conversation I had with my big brother years before. I had just bought my very first car and he asked to run it around the block.

Me: Why do you ask questions when you KNOW the answer will be NO?

Him: Yeah, you're probably going to say 'no,' but you might surprise me with a 'yes.' But here's the thing: all you can do is say no.

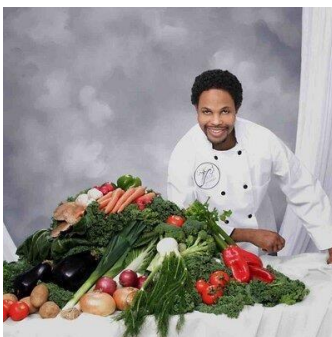
I still remember that very moment he taught me that life lesson. I applied that philosophy to my show and thought, *All they can do is say no!* Then I did what anyone should do when they need to find someone...I asked Google.

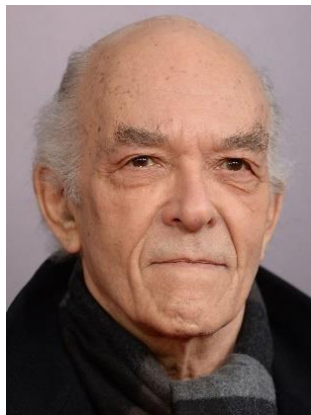
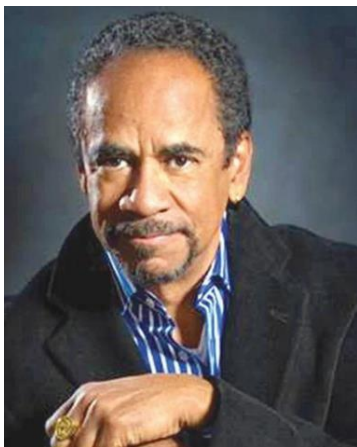


*Harry Lennix, my first big name on the podcast
"Livin' the Dream w/J Blair Brown"*

I remember Googling "Harry Lennix management team," and a number came up for a NY office. *Can it really be that simple?* I thought. YES, it was! I sent an email explaining who I was and the purpose of my podcast. Long story short, I soon received an email stating that Harry Lennix would love to be featured on my podcast. And that put a whole new spin on my program. I began to build my brand and, as a result, today have been downloaded several hundred thousand times and that's when I began to truly build my brand.

Look Who Was Talkin' and Livin' the Dream w/JBlair Brown!





JBlair Communications

JBlair Communications is a PR and marketing boutique out of Harrisburg, PA. With her background in arts and entertainment (she has performed in more than 100 stage performances, and in independent films and videos), and with her tenure at two of the area's most prominent advertisement agencies, JBlair Brown completely immersed herself in the PR and marketing industries.

Her clients have been seen or heard through various articles and media interviews (TV, radio, journals, magazines, and podcasts). She is a children's book author and published freelance writer whose articles have appeared on entertainment sites, and in newspapers and health care journals across the country.


Publicity for past/current clients include:



Hamilton Street web series, [The Burg](#); [SYM Magazine](#); [PennLive](#); Times Square billboard

Award-winning director, actor, and writer Koran Dunbar, [The Record Herald](#); [Echo-Pilot](#)



 Actor/director Michael Giovanni brought Harrisburg's first web series to the Central PA area, which became a huge hit. Hear two of his interviews here: [Podcast interview](#) and [WTF](#).

10-year-old Hershey actor Rory Odgen: [WTF](#)

Philly actor [Tiffany E. Green](#) shared the screen with some of the greats in cinema, such as Robert DeNiro and Bradley Cooper in Silver Linings Playbook. [Read her international blog interview here!](#)

[Philly Vegan Chef KESS](#) – Assisted in the development and broadcasting of Chef KESS' new TV show, "[Vegan Chef KESS and the GreenSquad](#)," which has aired on several channels since January 2023.



[International fine artist Dionn Renee](#) – Garnered publicity and booked for several interviews during her outstanding achievement for the film, "The Woman King"!



[June Brown MHS](#) is a certified motivational speaker and life coach from the east coast USA. A graduate of Lincoln University in Philadelphia, June has made a name for herself with both corporate and non-profit organizations, as well as individual clients looking for effective coaching in managing their lives.



[This Caribbean trio](#) was determined to bring their Caribbean sauces to the local Harrisburg, PA community. Today they're breaking records in the condiment industry!