

Ameer Baraka

Ameer Baraka: From Adversity to Advocacy and Global Inspiration Ameer Baraka is an award-winning, Daytime Emmy-nominated actor, celebrated author, dyslexia advocate, youth mentor, and prison coach. Born into humble beginnings in New Orleans, Louisiana, Ameer's early life was marked by challenges, leading him in and out of the prison system as a youth. Diagnosed with dyslexia in his mid-twenties while incarcerated, Ameer overcame illiteracy and discovered the transformative power of education—a pivotal experience that shaped his mission to uplift and inspire others. Ameer has forged a successful acting career, currently on BET's hit show ZATIMA, where he plays the compelling role of Jeremiah. His credits include starring in productions such as American Horror Story: Coven, Tales of the Walking Dead, and A House Divided. He has shared the screen with Hollywood legends such as Angela Bassett, Kathy Bates, Eddie Griffin, and Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker, earning a reputation for delivering captivating performances. His journey from hardship to stardom is as inspiring as the roles he portrays. Beyond the screen, Ameer Baraka has dedicated his life to empowering at-risk youth, especially those in underserved communities. Through mentorship programs, he guides young people away from crime and toward education, while also working with incarcerated youth to teach life skills and instill hope for a better future.

Ameer's advocacy has reached national and international platforms. He testified before the U.S. Senate, sharing his powerful story to raise awareness about dyslexia and its societal impact. Additionally, he has spoken at Harvard University, inspiring audiences with his journey of redemption, resilience, and the transformative power of literacy. His work and story have been featured in numerous prominent publications, including Forbes, where his advocacy for dyslexia awareness and community support was spotlighted. His life has also been covered by outlets like ABC News and BET, amplifying his voice as a leader and changemaker. His appearance on Oprah Winfrey's Blackboard Wars further highlighted his dedication to improving education and opportunities for youth in New Orleans.

Ameer's mission goes beyond mentorship. He collaborates with law enforcement agencies, providing racial bias training to help officers address implicit prejudices, and travels globally to speak at universities, corporations, and youth organizations. His unwavering commitment to education and empowerment continues to inspire change and uplift communities. Ameer Baraka's life is a testament to the power of perseverance, education, and faith. From the Louisiana State Penitentiary to testifying before Congress to addressing future leaders at Harvard, his story serves as a beacon of hope, proving that no obstacle is too great to overcome. Whether on screen, in classrooms, or on global stages,

Ameer's message is clear: with determination and support, anyone can transform their life and the lives of others.

Title: Defeating Dyslexia Description: The connection between dyslexia and prison and how the prison industry benefits from illiteracy.

Learning Outcomes

- 1.) Attendees will understand the insufficient screening for dyslexia and reading disorders, and the shortage of teachers that are equipped and skilled in the science of reading.
- 2.) Attendees will understand the impact that illiteracy has on school dropout, crime, and poverty.
- 3.) Attendees will explore solutions to successfully addressing illiteracy and its negative impacts through bipartisan programming to increase early screening and service provision in underserved populations.
 - a.) bipartisan issue.
 - b.) early screening.
 - c.) plans for those who are found to have issues (no child left behind).

Also, Ameer would be delighted in sitting on a panel and is comfortable with being asked any related questions.