

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with T'Keyah Crystal Keymah

PERSON

Keymah, T'Kenyan

**Alternative Names:** T'Keyah Crystal Keymah;

**Life Dates:** October 13, 1962-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Chicago, IL

**Work:** North Hollywood, CA

**Occupations:** Actress

## Biographical Note

Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymah was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 13, 1962. By the age of three, Keymah was singing and dancing, and in high school she joined the Mary Wong Comedy Group. After high school, Keymah attended Florida A & M University's School of Business and Industry.

While attending Florida A & M, Keymah began teaching theater, dance, and pantomime. Upon graduation, she returned to her native Chicago, where she worked as a substitute teacher while performing at some of the city's most renowned theaters, including ETA and the Goodman. Keymah first broke onto the television scene with a role on Quantum Leap in 1989; the following year, she joined the cast of In Living Color. During Keymah's five years with In Living Color, she was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and a Soul Train Comedy Award. Over the next several years, Keymah was a cast member in a number of other television shows, including On Our Own, Waynehead, The Show, and, most notably, as Bill Cosby's daughter on Cosby. Keymah also had roles on Roc, The Commish, and The John Larroquette Show, as well as doing voice-over work on Batman Beyond and Pinky and the Brain. Keymah also made several movie appearances, including Jackie Brown and The Gilded Six Bit.

Keymah went on to do a variety show, T'Keyah Live!...Mostly: A True Variety Show, which received rave reviews; she also appeared on the Disney Channel's highly rated program, That's So Raven. Keymah produced the acclaimed short film Circle of Pain and was the executive producer of One Last Time.

In addition to her acting and producing, Keymah is the author of Natural Woman /

Natural Hair: Hairstyles and Hairstories From the Front; she also co-hosted the national ACT-SO awards, and the Orange and Aloha Bowl parades. Keymáh's alma mater, Florida A & M, has given her their second highest honor, the Meritorious Award; she is also listed among their 100 most influential FAMUans of the Century.

## Related Entries

**Saint Sabina Academy** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Academy of Our Lady** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]