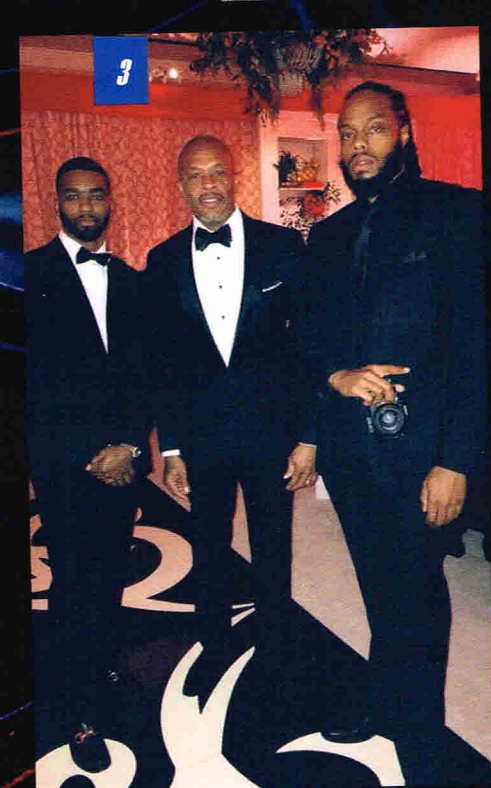
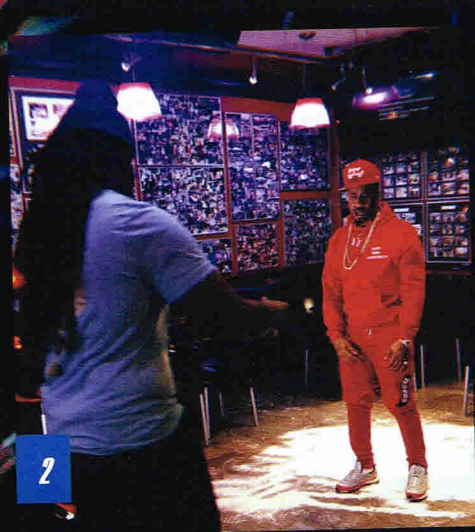
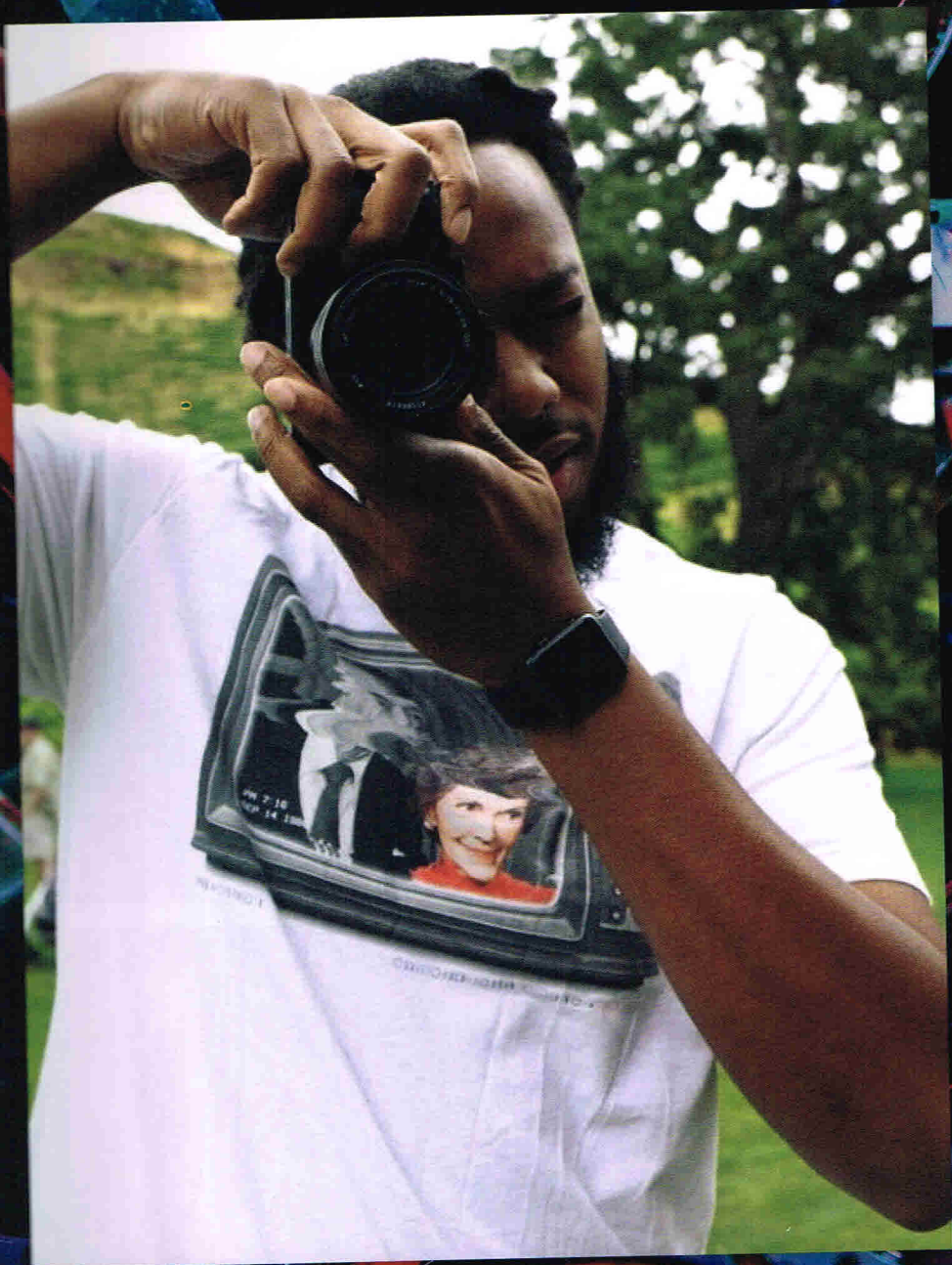


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



*THE* ONLY WAY *IS* UP!

AUGUSTUS DJ SLIM GUS CLARKE '11

Augustus Clarke '11 set out to be a forensic scientist, hoping to hit the big time with a job in the FBI. But before he could go big, he knew he wanted to go small - for college.

"I ended up choosing Hilbert College because of the school's great Criminal Justice program and the small class sizes," he said. The opportunity for one-on-one time with college professors and being less than an hour away from his family in the East Side of Buffalo were big selling points.

That small college experience, and our campus community, made the Hilbert Difference for Gus. Ten years on from graduation he has hit the big time - but instead of in a forensics lab he is thriving in Los Angeles as an Emmy-nominated video director, DJ, and road manager for a national recording artist.

How did a CJ/Forensic Science major end up in such a different industry and shooting video that would air on the NFL Network?

The answer is still 'the Hilbert Difference' - including how Gus is quick to credit others who have supported him along the way.

"The relationships that I built at Hilbert pushed me down this path," Gus said. "I built such a strong foundation of friends - a lot that became family." His Hilbert family includes a long list of fellow students and staff, all of whom Gus sees as both mentors and the people starring in the memories he says make him laugh for days. To name just a few:

Malcolm "So EZ" Edwards '10 and Jonathan "DC" Minix '12 pushed

Gus to excel in DJ'ing and video production.

When Gus DJ'ed countless Hilbert events, Jason Enser (former Student Activities Director) taught him about versatility and budgets. "He is a great guy and put together some of the best events on campus with little to nothing," Gus said. "He instilled that [ethic] in me early on." Gus has DJ'ed since taking part in a high school talent show and continues to perform.

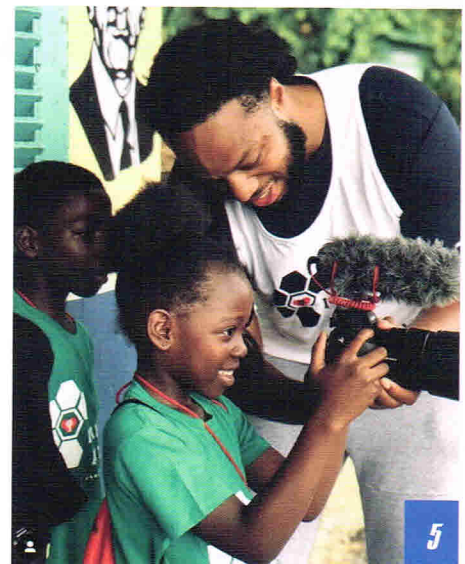
Tom Wills '12, a well-known Philadelphia-based freelance camera and steadicam operator, was Gus's suite-mate at Hilbert and a major influence on and supporter of his evolution in video. "Tom is pretty much my sensei of the video world," Gus said.

Others Gus considers part of his Hilbert family were steady, present, supporters who helped him grow and succeed as a person.

"The energy that Mich (Michelle Sojda, former Director of Academic Affairs) and Denise (Denise Harris, former Director of Career Development) had at all times was unmatched," Gus said. He remembers both women always making themselves available, especially when he had questions about math or post-graduation plans.

"Jonathan Minix and I would bug Mich all the time about math tutoring and she always welcomed us with open arms, even when she had other things to tend to," he said.

The late Cheyenne Jumanah, another mentor who served as the Director of Multicultural Affairs



while Gus was a student, helped him navigate college life inside and outside the classroom.

"She was my college mom. This woman was heaven-sent. Now that I am older and wiser, I understand that her purpose in this world was far beyond what anyone can wrap their minds around. A lot of people take things like that for granted, but the individuals whose lives she touched are fully aware of her impact," he said.

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1. *Jessus Khyrsis video shoot with Conway the Machine*
  2. *Benny the Butcher at the video shoot for Rubber Bands & Weights at LaNovas*
  3. *Dez Billups, Dr. Dre, and Slim Gus*
  4. *Pinto Ron, Zander, Slim Gus, Diggs filming "We Are Bills Mafia" Part 1*
  5. *Kids of Trelawny Jamaica As One Charity Camp*



He even credits classmate Ronald "Diggs" Dussett '09 with saving his life. It was Ron's invitation to serve as a groomsman in his wedding that spurred Gus to a 100+ lb. weight loss in the year leading up to the nuptials. His journey to better health garnered him the nickname 'Slim Gus,' and his program the hashtag #ParkAndWalk716, documenting his 6 miles a day/6 days a week walks through all kinds of Buffalo weather.

All these members of Gus's Hilbert family and the experiences he had with them helped lead him to where he is today. That, and what he calls countless solo missions to use the DMAC video editing lab.

Fast-forward to Gus making a leap in moving to Los Angeles for a position as Video Director at his brother's restaurant, Comfort LA.

"My friend Diggs and I drove 37 hours to LA in my pickup truck with a trailer hitched. We only stopped for gas and bathroom breaks," Gus said. "Saying goodbye to my mother and little brother in the house that I grew up in literally brought me to tears. I was thinking, 'Damn, I won't be able to drive 10 minutes to visit them anymore.'"

Being out West set him up for the break of a lifetime.

A friend connected Gus with Las Vegas Raider Darren Waller at a summer workout. Later, he was invited to film a music video for Darren involving sequences shot at the top of a mountain.

"This was by far my wildest shoot. We climbed this insane mountain without any climbing gear to capture maybe 25 seconds of footage to close out the video," Gus said.

That footage was used in Julian Gooden's NFL 360 piece "The Other Side," featuring Waller and his comeback story.

"I can't think of any director that has had their music video footage used to elevate a powerful story, on a national level," Gus said. "I have to thank Julian Gooden for that opportunity."

After the Waller piece, the NFL called on Gus again - this time to direct two 'Bills Mafia' features when the team had a shot at a Superbowl run. "I was honored to work on this project for my hometown team and I accepted this opportunity with no hesitation," Gus said. He rearranged his schedule and assembled his own team, including Ronald Dussett. The two videos, WE ARE BILLS MAFIA and WE ARE BILLS MAFIA PT. 2,

are a love note to the city and the football team's fans.

What's next for Slim Gus? More projects for the NFL, several music videos for recording artist Jimmy Hustle, and promotional videos for a new branded beverage. He has also taken up film photography to train his eye by leveraging the medium's shot limitation. All while juggling the day-to-day contacts as Road Manager for national recording artist Marsha Ambrosius.

Gus is busy making it big, but he has time to give this advice to Hilbert students: "Never let up, stay consistent, and trust your gut. Make magic with the tools and skills you have. The only way is up! #OneDream."

Follow Slim Gus on Instagram and YouTube: @iamslimgus

Watch his NFL Bills Mafia features by searching "We Are Bills Mafia" on YouTube.

Watch the Darren Waller NFL 360 feature by searching "Darren Waller: The Other Side."

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6. Dez, Nyla, Marsh Ambrosius, Slim Gus

7. Slim Gus, Ian Orlando, Mariah Robinson, and Diggs