



Eric Bailey: The Story of a Vision

The vision that you glorify in your mind, the ideal that you enthrone in your heart - this you will build your life by, and this you will become. – James Allen

On the rainy evening of November 26, 1960 in South Central Los Angeles, Eric Bailey came into the world. His story, one of success against overwhelming odds, was just beginning.

At birth Eric was identified as having Osgood-Schlatter's disease, a congenital deformity of the knee joint. Unwilling and unable to handle the responsibility of caring for a disabled newborn, Eric's biological parents gave him up for adoption.

Growing up in South Central L.A. Eric was forced to confront the significant barriers around him. Abject poverty, crime, drug abuse, inadequate medical care, a flawed educational system, and negative peer influence were problems he routinely faced. Many told him of an inevitable fate: gang violence, drug addiction, prison or death. The message was simple – *You are destined to be an uneducated, disabled black man who will never amount to anything.*

They were wrong.

Eric, even from an early age, had an innate visionary ability. Supported by his adoptive parents he began to craft

a vision for himself far exceeding the minimal expectations foisted upon him. His parents constantly reminded him that, "Life stops when *you* stop!"

He realized that true vision meant transforming your perspective on the challenges in your life. He refused to let his challenges become barriers. They were going to be lessons to learn from. Weights to train with. Not something to keep him down. Something to make him stronger.

In spite of his knee disease, which doctors said would rule out any athletic endeavors in life, Eric was determined to play basketball. He made his high school team and would train for up to 35 hours a week. His diligence was rewarded and by the time he graduated he had earned numerous awards, including Player of the Year, All CIF (California Interscholastic Federation), All City and Most Valuable Player.

In class, however, Eric struggled. Initial rejection by all of the colleges he applied to was something he took in stride. Undeterred, Eric went to a junior college to improve his grades and ended up with a scholarship to Boise State University.

Though passed over in the NBA draft he was determined to play pro basketball and headed off to Australia



Eric Bailey



for a career in the NBL. Eric went on to a successful pro career, playing for over a decade with the Hobart Devils, Melbourne Tigers, Gippsland Lakers, Gold Coast Rollers, and Southern District Spartans.

After retiring from his basketball career Eric went on to have a successful career as a top salesman with a number of companies. He has organized children's charity events and hosted celebrity basketball tournaments alongside the likes of ex-NBA phenomenon Michael Jordan and movie star Jamie Foxx. Eric also hosted an on-air radio show for 3 years and wrote a weekly newspaper column on the topics of health and motivation.

Ultimately, a desire to share his life experience and insights into the importance of vision led Eric to begin his career as a professional speaker. Since 1996 he has spoken to over 1.5 million people around the world on how achieve personal and organizational excellence.

Eric continues to inspire audiences around the world with his story and the incredible power of vision.





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Testimonials



Your ability to vary your content, and captivate the audience with your personality, energy, and passion is truly remarkable. As the ex-president of the International Association of Speakers Bureaus and the founder and past owner of FIVE STAR Star Speakers & Trainers and someone with over 20 years of experience in the speaking industry, I know for sure that you have what it takes to make a big impact and to make meetings memorable. I will be recommending you a lot.

Nancy Lauterbach
Founder
FIVE STAR Speakers & Trainers

Although you are a big guy and obviously have a big heart, your message highlighted the importance of value in the little things.

When you walked on to the stage and I saw your tall frame I said WOW this will be big. When you finished I still said WOW but it was because you evoked emotion and humor in one of the smallest words in our industry! That word is 'WE'!

Rick Jobson
Managing Director
Kings Jewelers Pty Ltd

You could have heard a pin drop while he was talking and by the end the room was buzzing.

Wayne Armstrong
Managing Director
The Executive Alliance



Action is what Eric believes in and the clear message that he sends in his motivational speeches.

Dhruva Trivedy
Owner
PERCON

What was particularly pleasing was the way you wove in your own personal story to show all our leaders that we all have the power to succeed if we can take personal responsibility for our words, actions and choices. You could feel the level of self-belief among our participants rising as each minute went by.

The primary message we all took out of your presentation was that we all have the ability to succeed within us. Believing in your ability and taking the responsibility to step up to play in the big league and succeed are the factors which determine whether others will follow us as leaders. You made those points articulately and passionately.

Thank you so much for your presentation. I have had so much positive feedback from the participants.

Steve Eltis
Executive Manager – Human Resources & Organisational Development
Queensland Teachers' Credit Union Ltd

I have found Eric to be positive, trustworthy, motivating, inspiring, well prepared, and a visionary! He sees more than what's expected! And that's great in our industry.

Claire DiMattina
Managing Director
NBA International Australasia

Eric's energy, passion, and story is awe-inspiring! As a fellow professional speaker, Eric is a guy who can make an impact with an audience through his electrifying, authentic and powerful presentation. He knows exactly how to combine substance, style and entertainment-keeping the audience fully engaged. After hearing Eric, I had a new sense of urgency to take immediate action to reach my life goals!

Mitzi Dulan, RD, CSSD
Media Spokesperson, Author, Speaker
www.nutritionexpert.com

I don't think that I have ever seen an auditorium of 500 delegates so moved and I have attended over 20 years of corporate conferences. The audience was on their feet, some people with tears in their eyes at the conclusion of Eric's dynamic and moving presentation.

Suzane Emanuele
Director
Watermark Real Estate Xchange Pty Ltd

Over ninety five percent of our attendees rated Eric as either 'Exceptional' or 'Very Good' and all stated they would like to have him back to speak. Eric has a powerful message and is energetic in his style.

Wayne Stephens
President, New South Wales
AMP
&
Mathew Gale
NSW Chair
MDRT



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Two minutes into Eric's presentation I could tell by the delegates' body language that he had them hooked. Eric has a way of reaching his audience by injecting humour as well as tailoring his presentation to fit the needs of delegates. The content, delivery and conviction in his message provided the personal inspiration we needed to be successful in all aspects of our lives.

If you're looking for an innovative program and want to take teachers and students to the next level of being an effective individual, we highly recommend Eric Bailey who will win over his audience with a humorous and motivational presentation. Words can't begin to express our gratitude for all Eric did to make our final conference session a big success.

Eric lives and breathes his vision to motivate others to be the best they can be. As a keynote presenter at our beginning teachers' conference he took us on a journey which brought laughter and tears. He crafted his presentation to remind us of our purpose to make a difference in the lives of our students. Eric's inspiration brought to life the connection between how we can inspire students to achieve their best and the personal satisfaction this brings.

Amanda Wicks

President

Beginning and Establishing Teachers' Association

The audience instantly connected with his passion, attitude and focus. Not only did he connect on a professional and personal level, his research of our industry showed true professionalism and dedication.

Phillip Aris

CEO

Total Financial Solutions



He delivered in excess of anything I could have wished for. He worked with us and gave so much of himself that each staff member and executive leader walked away feeling positive and touched that this man could share such personal reflection in such a motivational way. Even our most negative staff member turned the corner. That says something about the skills, tools, and ability of this man to effect change from the bottom up!

Susan Paterson
Director
Suncorp Financial Services

If you want to raise the energy levels of your conference. If you want to finish with a bang. If you want your delegates to walk out feeling pumped, excited and refreshed then Eric Bailey is for you. I have seen Eric a couple of times and his energy, dedication and commitment to his speeches has a impact that people will never forget.

Richard Klipin
CEO
Association of Financial Advisers
Asia Pacific

You came through and made each one of us stand up and cheer...

I looked around the room a couple of times as you were presenting and I don't think anyone left their eyes off of you.

Gregory Ufken
Director
Donaldson Company

I felt your discussion was charged with emotion and a real life experience that can be learned from an utilized within any industry as the message was about team work and how each of us are an integral part of that team. I sat eagerly awaiting each word as your story unfolded, envisioning each step vividly in my mind as you painted the picture. I honestly felt that there was no way that our opening presenter could be topped just a short two days prior. However, your inspiration and energy provided for a send off that had me excited about what I could bring to my team and how I needed to approach my fellow team members and managers (coaches).

Michael Kohler
National Parts Manager
Takeuchi

Eric had a vision that was perfectly aligned to what we experience each and every day. WOW! His ability to engage his audience was infectious and powerful beyond my expectations. I saw grown men cry when Eric relayed his very personal story of birth and setbacks. What makes Eric so unique and effective? He is real! He researched our industry thoroughly and interpreted it brilliantly. His balance of wit, humor and pathos left our team wanting more.

Three words which would sum up his presentation would be 'Entertaining', 'Enlightening', and 'Empowering'. If you are considering engaging the services of 'one of the very best' you won't be disappointed!

Lenore Sieber
RE/MAX Vision Real Estate
Convenor Australasian Convention