

JAY ELLIS



Sumpter, SC native, Jay Ellis is a LA-based award-winning actor, writer, director, and producer. Best known for his role as ‘Lawrence’ on HBO’s critically-acclaimed, Golden Globe-nominated and Peabody winning series *Insecure*, created by Issa Rae and Larry Wilmore. He is also best known as ‘Lt. Reuben Fitch’ in Oscar-winning, box-office hit *Top Gun: Maverick* alongside Tom Cruise.

Ellis most recently stars in Netflix top-ten comedy series *Running Point* opposite Kate Hudson and in Lionsgate’s *Freaky Tales*. Demonstrating his range, Ellis heads to New York this summer to star in John Legend-produced Off-Broadway play *Duke & Roya*.

In addition to appearing on screen, Ellis co-founded his own production company Black Bar Mitzvah to invest in diverse storytellers and bridge the gap between creators and decision-makers in Hollywood. Through his company, he has been instrumental in TV and film projects at Hulu, BET, AMC, Viacom, FX, HBO, MRC, Netflix, Sony, Escape Artists, Endeavor Content, and Amazon. Their feature *Black Box*, also produced by Blumhouse, premiered on Amazon and became its 6th most streamed film of 2020.

Ellis’ big break landed as Bryce "Blueprint" Westbrook on the hit BET series *The Game* but soon showcased his mastery behind the camera in a Season 4 directorial debut of *Insecure*. Jay also directed an episode of the HBO Max series *Rap Sh*t*. Previously, Jay appeared opposite Rose Byrne and Cate Blanchett on the FX/ Hulu limited series *Mrs. America* and also starred in the Sony thriller *Escape Room*, Amazon Prime romantic comedy, *Somebody I Used to Know* and more.

Ellis recently retraced his childhood in his debut book, *Did Everyone Have An Imaginary Friend (or Just Me)?* which explores how creativity, imagination and play can help navigate life’s challenges.

A 2018 NAACP Image Award winner for “Outstanding Supporting Actor” in a Comedy Series, Jay has served the community as a board member of AmfAR, the foundation for AIDS research, a National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Spokesman, and a proud speaker at The Obama administration’s final My Brother’s Keeper summit at The White House.