

# Jamie Foster Brown

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Jamie Foster Brown is the publisher and sole owner of **Sister 2 Sister** magazine. She, like many pioneers who have broken new ground, has won numerous accolades as a trailblazer in the entertainment industry. Her talent, tenacity and toughness have made her one of the most prominent African-American women in entertainment journalism and her monthly publication a staple for entertainment industry insiders.

Since launching in September 1988, **Sister 2 Sister** magazine has grown exponentially. In the second half of 2000, the Audit Bureau of Circulation rated **Sister 2 Sister** as the seventeenth fastest growing magazine in the nation with a 27% growth. Ms. Brown has significantly influenced not only the entertainment industry itself, but also the entertainment audience. She has proven herself to be more than just another female journalist with quick wit. Her open moral outrage over the excessive violence in gangsta rap lyrics and its increasing negative influence on young people served as the catalyst that began the dialogue between members of the African-American leadership and music industry moguls.

Because of her high visibility in the entertainment world, the 15-year veteran is frequently quoted by major news organizations. Newsweek magazine, lauding Ms. Brown's influence, recently listed her among the nation's top "buzzmakers" along with such notables as talk show hostesses Oprah Winfrey and Rosie O'Donnell. Newsweek said Ms. Brown's "...opinionated takes on just who's hot and who's not fill the pages of **Sister 2 Sister**, and aspiring players quickly learn better than to cross her. Who's listening: Most of Black Hollywood."

As an extension of her magazine, Ms. Brown founded the syndicated radio show, "The Sister 2 Sister Celebrity Update," which aired on 46 radio stations including the BBC in London, and reached over a million listeners. Similar in content to her popular "Meow" column in **Sister 2 Sister** magazine, her radio show was structured in a unique format wherein she passed on "the scoop" about celebrities during the course of a telephone conversation with an insatiably curious girlfriend. Today, Jamie regularly reports entertainment news on nationally syndicated radio shows across the country, including the "Russ Parr Morning Show," and the "Doug Banks Morning Show."

Simon & Schuster released Ms. Brown's first book, **Betty Shabazz: A Sisterfriends' Tribute in Words and Pictures**. In the book, Ms. Brown amassed some of America's most prominent women, including Dr. Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem, Whitney Houston, Myrlie Evers-Williams and Dr. Dorothy Height, who in their very personal essays commemorate the life and accomplishments of the late Dr. Shabazz.

Ms. Brown has also made the crossover from pop to politics. She was recently selected to speak at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Institute of Politics as its keynote speaker on the effect of popular music on the American culture. Also, US Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL,) recently entered her in the Congressional Record as "one of the most accomplished and respected women in the field of enter-



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tainment journalism." The tribute continued. "She publishes her own magazine, is heard on radio stations around the United States and England, and makes numerous television appearances each month. Jamie Foster Brown's success is a testament to her talent and determination." Those characteristics were also cited among the reasons why the mayor of Washington, DC, issued a proclamation officially naming August 18, 1998 "Jamie Foster Brown Day" in the nation's capital.

Having appeared on national television outlets such as, "48 Hours," "The Leeza Show," "Sally Jessy Raphael," "Entertainment Tonight," "The Maury Povich Show," CNN, and BET, Ms. Brown is held in the highest esteem by her peers in recognition of her work. She has received honors at the Midwest Radio & Music Association for her lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others through her work. The Support Network also honored her for her contribution in educating young people through her magazine and radio network. She also received the Anheuser Busch Eagle Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award for Outstanding African-American Women in the '90s and the IMPACT Super Summit Award, which is one of the most prestigious music industry awards in the country.

Ms. Brown's career in the entertainment business began in 1979 when she founded the Washington Theater Group (an entertainment service group focusing on theater group sales.) Later, she worked for Black Entertainment Television (BET) as an advertising secretary to BET's founder, Robert Johnson, and was subsequently promoted to producer for their flagship shows, "Video Soul" and "Video LP."

Ms. Brown is a graduate of the University of Stockholm in Stockholm, Sweden. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, she currently lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, Dr. Lorenzo Brown, who is an economist and the Managing Editor of **Sister 2 Sister** magazine, and their two sons, Randall and Russell, who also work for **Sister 2 Sister**.

