



Rob Brown

Star of *Finding Forrester* and HBO's *Treme*

At the age of 16, with no acting experience and hoping only to earn \$300 to pay his phone bill, Rob Brown entered an audition for *Finding Forrester* and walked out with the lead role. Eight years later, he's one of Hollywood's hottest young stars. Brown's performance opposite Sean Connery in Gus Van Sant's *Finding Forrester* kick-started his film career. But even as his fame exploded, he never lost focus of his academic roots. In 2008, with a handful of major films already under his belt, he graduated from Amherst College with a degree in psychology.

A varsity football player, Brown has starred alongside Samuel L. Jackson in *Coach Carter*, and with Dennis Quaid in *The Express*, where he played the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy, a role that earned him an NAACP nomination for best actor, and landed him in *Vanity Fair's* 2009 Young Hollywood issue. Born in Harlem and raised in Brooklyn, Brown now stars in the HBO series *Treme*, a post-Katrina chronicle of the rebuilding of New Orleans as seen through the eyes of local musicians.

Rob Brown Speaking Topics

Equally at home in the worlds of entertainment, academia and sports, Rob Brown is a bright young man who has put in years of hard work for his "overnight success." On stage, he takes us along his extraordinary journey from Harlem to Hollywood, imparting advice for students who may themselves be where he was a decade ago -- at the crossroads of several possible career and life paths. Grounded, wise beyond his years, and radiating an unmistakable Hollywood glamor, Brown has a unique ability to connect with students and to share with them the importance of living a balanced life in every respect, no matter how humble or high-profile.