



Maurice Jamal

April 19, 2023

Maurice Jamal Obituary

Inventive, Bold, Beloved, and Brilliant

Sunset April 19, 2023

Maurice Jamal's life began on a cold winter day in Madison, Wisconsin, when he was born to adoring parents Maurice Angus Lee and Mary Kathryn Elliott Lee. Maurice's values were strongly influenced in his early childhood from his family roots in Muskogee, Oklahoma and Lexington, Kentucky.

Believe it or not, Maurice was actually a quiet baby and child. He was an avid reader at a young age, even reading his preschool teacher's mail or anything he could get his hands on. Maurice loved to explore, whether the characters in books on clowns and superheroes, the ways of insects in the dirt, or how the universe works. Maurice loved to draw, but it was around 5th grade when Maurice discovered the art of speaking. Like his favorite characters in Star Trek and Star Wars, Maurice was born to pioneer and pave untraditional passageways. He began creating his own comic book characters and stories of Black superheroes. Equipped with the magic and power of his own voice, and an inventive mind, Maurice began a decades-long life journey of creative and political expression.

Maurice's brilliance was the way he championed the rights of people who

found themselves on the margins of community and family; people like himself who struggle to find their own sense of self-acceptance and self-love. Maurice adopted family members along his life journey and now is beloved by an eclectic, diverse and beautiful community of people who love and celebrate him.

Maurice had an intimate way of connecting with others because he could see people not only for who they chose to show up as, but for all of the potential and possibility he recognized deep within their souls. Maurice was a soul whisperer, with a deeply resonant and infectious voice, sharing stories and jokes that could have you literally falling down on the ground in stitches. Maurice's antics and fun loving spirit was infectious, inspiring those around him to juice all the joy out of living.

Maurice had a gift of infusing his humor and his realness into every creative endeavor. Beginning in the Bay Area, with drama productions at St. Paul A.M.E. Church and with the African-American Shakespeare Company, Maurice first became known for his poetry, co-creating Deep Soul Poets and shedding light on the Black Gay experience through his brash brand of humor. After time at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and San Francisco State University, Maurice pursued opportunities in television, film and entertainment that led him to New York, Atlanta, GA and Los Angeles, CA.

Maurice's first break was on the feature film Spider Man and in a short period he developed a lengthy, impressive list of credits. Most notably, Maurice appeared on the Comedy Central smash hit, Chappelle's Show, both in front and behind the camera. Maurice's determination bolstered his career as an actor-writer-producer-director. Maurice was a trailblazing pioneer who created pathways for other emerging Black LGBT artists across the country. This work culminated in three notable films- Ski Trip (2004), Dirty Laundry (2006), and Friends and Lovers (The Ski Trip 2, 2008).

For Maurice, moving beyond the traditional entertainment and TV avenues was essential. He created his own distribution platform: an ambitious web and cable network called GLO TV, aimed at urban LGBT audiences. The focus was to produce digital in-house reality shows documenting the lives of transgender individuals, lesbians and people of all types living with HIV. GLO's series included Living Life and later Girl Power, a reality search show which followed lesbian films and filmmakers across the U.S. Maurice said, "I want GLO to be a place that's truly for all the LGBT community... In communities of color, we rarely see these images. Or hear these stories. And we need to. That's how we affect change, by breaking down the barriers...it's a network for us. For me it was so important to tell those stories and let our light shine."

Maurice was known for supporting Black LGBT artists, especially those who struggled to find support for their voice, their perspective, their passion and their purpose. Beyond his professional life, Maurice was a true mentor and friend who extended his love and compassion in ways that allowed those he mentored to be and feel heard, honored and held.

Maurice was a humble person, despite the accolades and acclaim that came his way, even back to his days at Berkeley High School where he served as Co-Class President from his sophomore through senior year. He was a prolific writer and speaker who could mesmerize an audience of one, or an audience of thousands. Maurice unapologetically showed up as his full authentic self with family and friends and along every step of his career. For Maurice, a true measure of success was whether or not he could ask, "How well are you taking care of yourself?" and the degree to which you could honestly tell him so, and how he could support you. For Maurice, it was about establishing a real connection that allowed you to have courageous conversations.

Maurice loved his blood and kindred family with fierce passion. Whether caring for his sisters, cousins and beloved friends through tragedy or health declines, giving advice to his niece, or cooking brunch for his Mom every Sunday and accompanying her to music events, Maurice took pride in focusing on the family's well-being in his later years. Together, Maurice and his mom shared an unconditional love that was unbreakable.

Maurice leaves to remember him: mother Mary K. Lee; father Maurice A. Lee (Hermine); siblings Diana M. Lee (George W. McIntosh, Jr.), Andrea V. Lee, Arlette Gentles, Peter Gentles (Kimberly), Delano Gentles (Jennifer Kummerow); niece Ammar Lee-Fowler; and a host of family and friends. Maurice lived a full life and departed this earth on April 19, 2023 to "boldly go where no man has gone before." As Maurice completes his journey to join the ancestors, may his bright light shine forever in our hearts.

Previous Events

The Celebration of Life Memorial Event

MAY 6. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Geoffreys Inner Circle
410 14th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Spaces will be limited so please kindly RSVP at the link provided on the Eventbrite. There is no cost to attend this event but the venue is selling Soul Food Dinner Plates. Dinner must be pre-paid. DONATION https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=T4GR6NDPA6CTS Please continue to share your condolences, memories, and photos with us [here!](#)

Tribute Wall

MY

“ *ChatCovid was the end of him.*

mishayo yayo - January 17 at 01:39 AM

LP

“ *I just found out that Maurice Jamal has passed, and I was truly saddened to hear the news. I had the chance to spend a couple of days on the set of one of his films, and I'll never forget the experience. What struck me most was how humble he was—I didn't even realize he was the producer until someone pointed it out. He carried himself with quiet confidence, kindness, and grace. Maurice made everyone around him feel welcome. His presence left a lasting impression on me.*

Lesa Pate - April 20, 2025 at 04:01 PM

LW

“ *I had no idea he passed away. He was amazingly talented and loved by many. His legacy will continue.*

Loi M Wade - March 11, 2025 at 07:44 AM

HT

“ *He was fired for stealing gift cards.*

Hot topic - February 15, 2025 at 07:49 PM

LW

Fired from where??

Loi M Wade - March 11, 2025 at 07:50 AM

PR

“ *I had to treat him for HIV related schizophrenia and depression.*

Phil rat - February 15, 2025 at 07:37 PM

LW

And you're breaking HIPAA laws??

Loi M Wade - March 11, 2025 at 07:51 AM

MI

“ *He had a hellatious meth habit.*

mishayo - February 15, 2025 at 07:31 PM

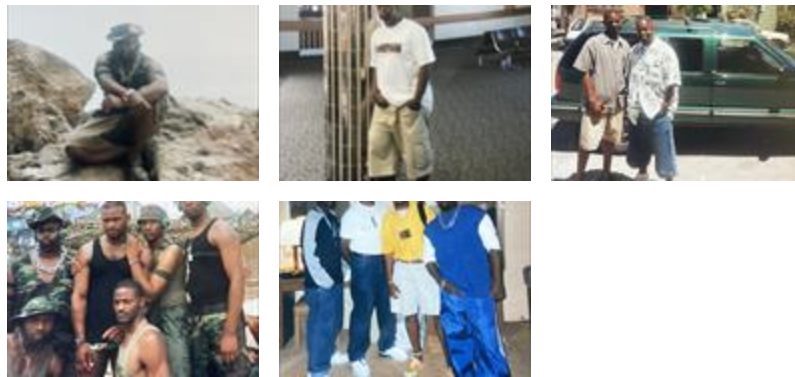
WN

“ *Goopie poopie loopie at orange county health care agency.*

Wicca for niggers - February 15, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ I met Maurice when I was in college. He wore sweaters like Carlton on Fresh Prince and sometimes did the dance. He made me laugh and smile and feel creative. He encouraged me to live life with risk and spontaneity ...and to not worry about the details. I watched him create magic from words, argue with colors, and perform with chains. He was bold, charming, and magnetic. He lived his dreams with confidence and spoke fantasy into existence. He moved with purpose. He gave the inanimate meaning. I will always remember the fabric, the candles and the empty frames. Thank you for so many memories. Rest in Peace. -Keith

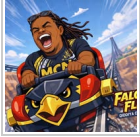


Keith Thompson - May 06, 2023 at 12:58 PM

TM

“ Maurice was extended family to me. I never saw him without his warm beautiful smile and extended hand for a hug and a kiss. We shared laughter and love, family and friendship. I keep him and his family close to my heart and call his name in prayer. May Allah forgive him and grant him Paradise.

titilayo makini - May 05, 2023 at 06:30 PM



“ Though it’s clear our orbits were nearby early in life, they did not actually intersect until about 18 years ago. Maurice was always encouraging, supportive, and inspiring. Our conversations (especially the laughs) will forever remain some of the most treasured of my lifetime. Whether we were at star studded event, or in the intimacy of his kitchen, Maurice was always a beacon of light. Now an ancestor we will always say your name. Love you Mo.



Lonnell Williams - May 05, 2023 at 02:12 PM

MR

“ I met Maurice at Laney College in Oakland. We were in scriptwriting class and quickly became friends. Maurice & Luenell later performed in a play entitled "YOUR ARMS ARE TO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD" in San Francisco- opening night honouring my 5 year salon anniversary. Maurice was a kind man and he never shocked me with all his talents, what was shocking... the way he moved, quiet, humble and never bragging. When others were saying or doing the most, he was like a gentle giant, making moves without the noise. My condolences to his parents and siblings. Let me say this: In a world where there is enough to be made by everyone attempting to get paid, there are those who show you- Maurice showed you without a bullhorn or bully type personality. Your parents raised you to respect certain situations and I applaud them. Well Done- your friend Mychaeltodd



Mychaeltodd Robinson-Hokerk - May 04, 2023 at 07:37 PM

CJ

“ The first time I met Maurice was in Comics n Comix in Berkeley.. both reaching for the same Batman comic... we laughed after doing the " no you take it" for about 3 minutes. A year later we were at BHS in the same algebra 1 class and our friendship was off to the race. He was always a great person to talk and laugh with. 10 years ago I told him how much my late wife enjoyed his movie DIRTY LAUNDRY and that she was wearing the VHS tape out.. two weeks later he showed up to my house with the DVD version of the movie and hung out and watched it with her.... he is always my brother

Corey J. Johnson - May 03, 2023 at 01:05 PM

LG

“ Maurice and I have been friends since we were 9 years old. He was an incredibly vibrant, loving, sparkle of a human.

We were friends as small children, as preteens, as teenagers, as young adults fresh out of college, and as ‘grownups’. We orbited in and out of each other’s lives, but no matter how much time passed, it was always as if no time had passed at all.

He was a shooting star, and always knew it. We all knew he was destined for greatness. He was our class president, our inspiration, our boo. Maurice touched so many lives and hearts. Most of all, he was a great person with a huge heart of gold. The world is a bit dimmer without him in it. Love you Maurice, always. ❤️💕❤️💕❤️

Lael Giebel - May 03, 2023 at 06:18 AM

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Lael Giebel - May 03, 2023 at 06:17 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Movie Sr. - April 30, 2023 at 09:34 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Novie Sr. - April 30, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ My heart is sad 💔 and I'm praying for all of the people who my brother have touched in his life time from state to state and every event we went to 😔 RIP maurice Jamal Aka “ MO MO” You are going to be truly missed and last week when I would get a birthday call from you every year, the call never came so as your big brother I called all 15 of your numbers (side joke) rest well lil brother you have grain your wings 🙏🙏🙏 mamma Rose wanted to come and visit you so bad in California 😊 now ya can watch over me together. Brotherly Love Forever 🤝🤝

Novie Sr. - April 30, 2023 at 09:30 AM

JL

“ Maurice- he always encouraged me back in high school when he was excelling and I... wasn't lol. He was a sparkling light amongst us. He always seemed like he was waiting for the rest of us humans to catch up... I remember at our 35th reunion last August, Maurice, Duru, Michael and I were talking- Mike was telling us how he was starting to get recognized in public from the social media posts he was doing at work- Duru and I were half teasing him, half encouraging him and I was checking out Maurice who seemed only a little engaged in the convo. Suddenly he took a deep breath and in like 90 seconds laid out a complete strategy and step by step marketing plan for Mike to capture the momentum and monetize his social media efforts. Then he kind of floated over to another group. I mean it was brilliant- and left me gaping with nothing to say but, "uh yeah Mike, I think that should work bro." Maurice, man...he was one of a kind. Rest well my brother. You will always be remembered with honor and love.

James LeBlanc - April 30, 2023 at 06:43 AM



“ So very sorry to hear the news. Maurice was always a bright light. Positive energy. He lit up a room and was always positive and excited to see you. He will be missed. Marcus Guerro

Marcus Guerro - April 29, 2023 at 11:11 PM