Corey Andrew Powell ([00:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Jawn is a remarkable talent in the world of television. So he's an acclaimed producer and daytime Emmy nominee who has garnered an NAACP image award for outstanding talk show and two tele awards for his exceptional work as executive producer of the nationally, uh, the nationally syndicated the Sherry Shepherd show. Now he's garnered a wealth of experience across platforms like Travel Channel NFL Network and Epics, and he's also made his mark as a contributor to a b, c news with segments on GMA three's. What you need to know, his impactful documentary Soul of a Nation Black in Vegas is something that I really loved watching because it was a great show about representation and it aired on prime time and a BC, uh, on a b, C in 2023. And it further showcases dedication to storytelling and representation. Vin Dub, the Pop Culture expert by CNN's Brooke Baldwin, and he's a prominent figure in entertainment and he has been for many years, and we're so excited to have him share his insight with us today. So please join me in welcoming Jawn Murray to the screen. Jawn Murray. Hey, good

Jawn Murray ([01:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Evening, Corey. How you doing?

Corey Andrew Powell ([01:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I am well, sir. Thank you so much for joining us. We are thrilled to have you. And I know you had a busy day 'cause you're pretty much coming right from the Sherry Shepherd show <laugh> to join us, so we appreciate that.

Jawn Murray ([01:27](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

My pleasure, man. Listen, most people know that we're on during the day, but, uh, it's a busy time at the show during the holiday season, so it was a long day today. Mm.

Corey Andrew Powell ([01:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, we are so happy you found some time for us. And before we get started, I wanna just let you know on a personal note that for me, being in the whole pop culture journalism space, you are one of my heroes. And, uh, I looked up to you and Lloyd Boston, uh, when I was in college. I said, I wanna do that, and you're one of my, um, inspiration, so thank you for a

Jawn Murray ([01:57](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Person. So it's a little bit of entertainment with me in a little bit of fashion with Lloyd.

Corey Andrew Powell ([02:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I try and you see, I I try to be the culmination of both. So

Jawn Murray ([02:04](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Look, and Lloyd's a great guy, a really great guy. So, um, we've had, uh, we haven't spent a lot of time together, but every time I run into him we have really good moments, so

Corey Andrew Powell ([02:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Oh, wonderful. Well then, look, I say I learned from the best <laugh>, so we have a lot of questions, uh, to answer or to ask you today, I should say. And I wanna remind our inductees, of course, to send messages on social media if they wanna share or tag or, uh, tag a question to us. We can get that to Jawn as well. But in the meantime, I'll just kick it off. And I would love to start by asking you what initially inspired you to pursue a career in television production and media?

Jawn Murray ([02:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, you know, I always wanted to work in television. Um, I'm from a little small town in Virginia called Warrington. Uh, and when I was in middle school, my mom moved me to the big city. And when you're in a small town where everybody knows everybody, uh, you do a lot of dreaming. And so, um, I had an aunt that babysat me. She used to watch repeats of like legacy TV shows, like I Love Lucy and Leave It to Beaver. And even though clearly it was color tv, she loved a good black and white show, <laugh>. And, uh, I fell in love with the show. I love Lucy. And one of my favorite iterations of, uh, that show is the, the season that, uh, Ricky moves to Hollywood and Texas family to Hollywood with him. And it was something about watching Lucy have these aspirations of breaking into Hollywood that first piqued my interest in the entertainment industry.

Jawn Murray ([03:24](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And so, uh, after that I was a latchkey kid. I'd come home after school once we moved to the big city right outside of Washington DC and I let myself in after school and, and daytime television was my babysitter. Um, I've had the pleasure of telling folks like Ricky Lake and Rolanda Watts and Sally, Jesse Raphael, and I'm looking forward to telling Monte Williams, y'all were my babysitters <laugh>. And so I'd watched these talk shows and the Oprah Winfrey shows and these adult topics, and I really fell in love with this medium and, uh, had aspirations of wanting to break into the medium and be like a black Regis film or a black Tom Bergeron and, um, just, you know, television and entertainment, uh, with things that I loved. And at the time, a lot of the talk shows would have a lot of the entertainment news experts on people like Tanya Hart and, uh, Flo Anthony.

Jawn Murray ([04:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Mm. I love to hear these, uh, incredibly attractive black women tell these stories about gallivanting through New York City or Hollywood and mixing and mingling with all the boldfaced names. And so all of that was the foundation that piqued my interest in wanting to be into this business. And once I decided as a, as a young teenager that I wanted to work in entertainment, uh, there was really no stopping me. It was either gonna be this or I was gonna go to culinary school. So, uh, entertainment won over and, uh, it's been full steaming ahead ever since.

Corey Andrew Powell ([04:44](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Wow. You know, <laugh>, there's so much there that I relate to as well, and I think so many people do. 'cause TV is that thing that we are also connected to in our homes, and it can really impact you. But what's really important about what you just said too, was the representation component. You saw people who looked like you doing a job that you thought was interesting. So I think that's why, uh, it's important for us to be able to see ourselves reflected out in the world because it lets us know that we can actually do it too. I mean, is that

Jawn Murray ([05:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, absolutely. If you can see it, you can dream that you can be it. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. And for me, uh, there weren't a lot of black men in the entertainment news space when I was starting out in the business. I mean, there were definitely ones on television. I loved Monte Williams, I loved our city hall. Um, uh, and, and both of them were very different in their approach and what they brought to television. Um, but it was something about entertainment news that was very attractive to me. And at the time, it was female dominated or dominated by white males. And so when I finally, uh, as a 20-year-old broke into the entertainment news space while still in college, I was a student at Norfolk State University and, uh, getting freelance writing assignments, I started an online newsletter. I was making strides in entertainment while on the campus of, of an HBCU.

Jawn Murray ([05:58](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, but I wanted to break into entertainment news in particular because there weren't a lot of people that looked like me doing it. And, uh, and so I was able to make some great strides, have some great success, and make a name for myself outside of New York City and LA like I was living, uh, between Norfolk, Virginia and the Washington DC area and, and was becoming a national name in entertainment. And so, you know, representation matters because for me, it motivated me to wanna be in that sector of the business. 'cause there wasn't a lot of representation. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. Uh, my, my bigger dreams of being, uh, on doing television. Clearly I was able to see some representation, but I was trying to fill a void when I started out entertainment news. And it was really a great foundation for me, uh, as I was branching out into all the other factors of the business that I ultimately, uh, you know, were, was exploring over time. Mm-hmm

Corey Andrew Powell ([06:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

<affirmative>. Yeah. Well, exactly. I'm glad you stressed that because again, representation matters. Um, I did not see many faces that looked like mine other than yours and Lloyd and maybe Andre Talley sort of in that space where I wanted to be. So yeah, I agree with you and I'm so happy that you were there because you inspired others, um, such as myself. Now you're the producer of the show, obviously, the She Shepherd show, and I just, knowing your whole history, obviously in in media there's a linear path it we're seeing, but how did you end up working on this show?

Jawn Murray ([07:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, my work with Sherry on the Sherry show is like my fourth act. So, uh, as, like I said, I started as an entertainment news writer. That was my, uh, journalism was my backup plan. TV was, was the first goal, but journalism was the one that opened all the doors and, and created amazing opportunities for me. Uh, my second act was syndicated radio. About four or five years into my journalism career, I was approached by the Tom Joiner Morning Show. Hmm. Uh, when I was a mere 24 years old to join that show as an on-air talent. Wow. And so I did that for six years while also pinning a highly successful entertainment news column for Elwell Black Voices for seven years. And then 2011, I looked up, I was burnt out. Uh, I had made more money than anybody in their twenties and thirties could have at that point.

Jawn Murray ([08:01](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, had a rockstar media career. I was doing a hundred thousand frequent flyer miles a year, seeing the world on somebody else's dime, living in five star hotels. Uh, even when they were booking my flights coach, I had enough points in equity with the airlines. I was always upgrading flying first class. It was a really great life, but it wasn't my priority. I wanted to be in television. So I walked away, uh, from two good jobs and a bad economy was the early Obama years. And, uh, decided figure out how to make this TV thing work. And I was able to break through in cable news, I became a talking head, an expert, and I was so good on networks like CNN and HLN, that that's when one day I was on live television and Brooke Baldwin was like, you know, you are the pop culture expert and the thing stuck.

Jawn Murray ([08:49](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And a lot of other people using that title now <laugh>, but Brooke was saying that about me. And so I went on to do a lot of cable news, which ultimately opened doors for me to start doing some daytime talk shows. And I co-hosted The View and did multiple appearances on the Wendy Williams show, and then the company that produces her show. I landed a deal for a pilot that they were developing at the time that ultimately didn't move forward. And, and I kept landing these network deals for the shows that networks either couldn't sell, or one of which I didn't want to actually be a part of. Uh, and, you know, started re making strides in television. And during that time, I also, uh, was a consulting producer on several award shows and some documentaries, and I started producing and directing some documentaries. And so that was my foray into Act four, which was something that I did not expect to be a prominent thing for me.

Jawn Murray ([09:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I just wanted to be compensated for my expertise on a lot of these projects that I was, uh, contributing to as a, as a expert, as a talent, as a voice. And, uh, but it all worked together because, you know, it was, uh, the fall of 2021, we were just coming out of the pandemic. Good. And she shepherd got a call to go in and fill in for Wendy Williams mm-hmm <affirmative>. Um, at the time we were aware of her now public medical diagnosis, but we couldn't talk about it. Right. So, uh, we went in for five days and Sherry had me kind of run point on the whole show. You know, we crafted her comedic monologue, or we like to call at the time, we called it her hilarious take on the headlines mm-hmm <affirmative>. And we handpicked all the guests and really crafted a show that, uh, we thought was light and fun and was the escapism that people needed coming out of the dark times of the pandemic. And it resonated with people both ratings and social media and, uh, and financially, brands and corporations really loved it. And so when ultimately they offered, um, uh, Sherry a deal, she said, I'm only here because of you, and so I will only do this if you do this with me. Hmm. And so, uh, you know, we decided to go on this journey together, and here we are, uh, almost at the midway point of season three, uh, and probably having the best time that we've had out of the three seasons so far.

Corey Andrew Powell ([11:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I mean, it's an amazing show. It's tremendous, and it's such a great show that does bring happiness and brightness to the world at a time when there's so much di uh, divisiveness and we're just not having some good days now, uh, these days all the time. And so a show like this is really wonderful because it's intentionally a show that brings good vibes and good intention. Was that the intention going in or was it just like, we're gonna just see where this

Jawn Murray ([11:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Goes? No, absolutely. It was about design. Listen, um, um, there were a lot of comparisons for us to, the, the, our only real connection to the former show, the Wendy Williams show, was the fact that we occupied some of her time slots mm-hmm <affirmative>. Um, at, at the time in which she was, uh, hosted her last season. She was only on in 69% percent of the country. Yeah. Um, for various reasons. Uh, when we launched the Sherry show in season one, we launched in, uh, 98% of the country. So, uh, we picked up some of her time slots, but really gain more ground. And so we wanted to show to feel and be a reflection of who Sherry is, who is a bright light mm-hmm <affirmative>. Who is a fun-loving comedian, who is a believer. And so we wanted to inspire people and have fun and, and just really use this show as escapism.

Jawn Murray ([12:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Escapism was a word that we constantly utilize. And so, you know, we wanted folks to be able to, no matter what you were doing in your life and whatever was going on in the world, this is the place you could come. And we knew that humor would be the great neutralizer. And we realized that we are, we have been resonating with people. You know, we, uh, got a letter from a lady who told us that on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, she goes to dialysis. And that while she's going through the worst part of her life, she schedules her appointments around the airing of our show in her city. Hmm. So that while she's getting this dialysis, she is distracted by all the joy that she gets from our show. Um, we have an audience member that regularly comes to the show and she's actually become one of my favorites.

Jawn Murray ([13:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And one day, uh, uh, at the end of the last season, she grabs me and said, I just want to thank you guys for giving me a place to come to, for me to feel like I have purpose in life. And she shared with me that in 2021, her 40-year-old daughter died from covid complications and that it nearly killed her to lose a child to Covid. And she said, you know, at the time I was barely hanging on by a thread. And she said, and some days I'm still only hanging on by a thread. And then she fell in my arms and said, but you guys give me such a sense of purpose and I look forward to being here every week. And all, all my staff saw was, you know, one of our favorites just weeping in my arms, and they came over to make sure that everything was okay. But it's that type of impact that I know that we're having on people, both those in their homes and those who get to come and experience this live that makes this whole situation worthwhile.

Corey Andrew Powell ([14:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hmm. That's amazing. Yes. Thank you for what you do, because I have laughed a lot. And also people don't really know often that Sherry was a standup comedian, I would say was She is. Yeah. I mean, that's what I knew her from like first before she started, like really booking TV shows. I saw her do her standup stuff like years ago. So I think there's so many leadership lessons there that you've just covered. In fact, it's interesting because like someone in the audience has just sent us a question. Lester Brown is asking, what is the most important leadership lessons that you've learned in your career? Um, I, I'm, I'm looking at tenacity, I'm listening to you, like you just kept going at it, but what would you say to Lester as far as one of your top leadership lessons in your career thus far?

Jawn Murray ([14:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, you know, I mean, at, at the Sherry show, I'm in a leadership capacity as one of the three executive producers of the show. So, you know, I'm one of the folks that helped hire and fire and, and had to lead a team of a hundred plus people. Um, and for me, I'm a rip the bandaid off kind of guy. I don't believe in beating around the bush. I don't, you know, uh, let, let's just have a conversation. Let's be frank. Let's just deal with the thing hit on. I don't like to belabor things. Um, I don't like to let things fester. I like to deal with things head on. And I found for me that not being averse to confrontation really helps mitigate issues before they can fester, before they can become a cancer and really cause a problem amongst the team. Another thing that I'm a stickler about is having good culture at our show.

Corey Andrew Powell ([15:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Mm-hmm <affirmative>.

Jawn Murray ([15:27](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, listen, I, I consider myself a nice guy. Sherry's an extremely nice lady. And so everything that we do at our show from the, the time you come into the building or to the time you leave, it should be a reflection of us. And so we've only surrounded ourself with executives and leaders and, and creatives who embody those attributes. If you can't be good to people, then you can't work here. Um, one time the Duchess Sarah Ferguson was a guest on our show. And, uh, I always go up to greet our guests in the green rooms, uh, before the show because it makes them feel at home and feel welcomed. Uh, and, and our studio and Sarah Ferguson says, she kept calling me happy Jawn. She says, happy Jawn, you're so wonderful. Happy Jawn. And then she told me, she says, everybody here is so nice.

Jawn Murray ([16:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I've never been to a show where everybody's so nice. And I looked at her dead in her eyes and I said, and if they're not nice, they won't be here the next time you come. <laugh>. You just have a low tolerance for that type of energy, you know? Yeah. And if you watch the show regularly, those who watch the show or casually watch the show, every now and then, you'll hear a celebrity come and sit on the couch and say, I've never been to a show where everybody's this genuinely happy. It's such a well all machine, everybody really enjoys being here. Clay Aiken from American Idol Fame was just on the show last week, and that was one of the compliments he gave us. He was like, I've done a lot of shows, but I've never been to one where everybody was this Dagg unhappy.

Corey Andrew Powell ([16:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hmm. That's so important. You bring that up. Because very often, even in business, for example, in social environments, you know, you, you talk about this, the, the culture and that extends to your professional life or your personal life. You are responsible in many ways for sort of cultivating the kind of environment that you want. If you invite chaos in, that's what you're gonna get. If you don't tolerate chaos,

Jawn Murray ([17:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

You, you have to be hands on with it. Like, there was a season and a cycle where, uh, the Buzz buzzfeed and LA Times and all these prominent online sites and newspapers were doing these exposes on talk show culture. And it really led to demise of shows like the Ellen DeGeneres show. 'cause she was known for being, uh, telling people to be kind to yourself. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. But behind the scenes they say, allegedly she wasn't kind, and the producers weren't kind. And so she worked to eradicate, uh, the perception that was, uh, being placed about her in the media. And she got rid of the, the toxic executives and made a lot of shifts behind the scene. But the idea that there was the possibility that she herself wasn't kind, uh, it really turned off the viewers. And from the time this story broke to the time she premiered for the season following that, she literally lost a a million viewers mm-hmm <affirmative>.

Jawn Murray ([18:02](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And so, you know, and that's because people were really troubled by this idea that the personality that we bought into may not be authentic to who we believe she was. And instead of being kind, she's being accused of being mean. Now again, um, uh, I've met Ellen. I I was at a Usher grandma party one time and actually danced with her and her wife Portia. She's very kind to me. Um, and at the time I wasn't on the Sherry show and she didn't know who I was. She was kind just because, so I don't that that wasn't my experience with her, but just referencing, you know, the type of stories that came out about shows, we've been very intentional. And I, I regularly tell my team, I don't know what's going on around here, but we gonna fix this. 'cause what I won't be is a Bud Feed expose <laugh>.

Corey Andrew Powell ([18:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, no, I hear you. 'cause they were definitely, um, doing a lot of those stories and, um, that demise of that talk show culture was why I thought it was interesting when the Sherry show took off, because I was really curious. I said, well, how is she going to be as a host? And it's great that you brought up the authenticity because we do talk about that in the leadership conversation as well. You cannot lead others, first of all, until you are really le leading with the truth of who you are. And in this case, it happens to be, thank goodness, uh, that Sherry's a good person and that's how she leads, and you are a good person. So that's how you

Jawn Murray ([19:19](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Lead authenticity is how you cut through the clutter. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. Uh, uh, people come to me all the time and they say, oh my God, I wanna be you. And I was like, don't be you. Be yourself. Right, right. 'cause I've never, I, there were times when I was trying to describe to executives and managers and agents what I wanted to achieve in this business. And I tell them, you know, I really like to be like the Black Regis film or the Black Tom Bergeron because I needed a reference point for them that they'd understand some of the trajectory that I was hoping to aim and, and, and accomplish in this business. Right. But I've always been my own motivation. Like I, I'm only trying to top myself. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. You know, I, I, I've never looked at any of my colleagues and my peers have been envious or jealous. And, and I want what they have. I don't know what it takes to get what they have. Right.

Corey Andrew Powell ([20:04](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Right. So

Jawn Murray ([20:04](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I, I want what God has for me. I wanna align myself with a professional path that best suits me, and I wanna challenge myself to be better daily, uh, versus, you know, trying to be somebody else following in somebody else's blueprint. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. You know, we can all be inspired by people, but the path that we carve should be our own.

Corey Andrew Powell ([20:22](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. Yeah. You hear often people say that you, I wanna be the next this, I wanna be the next that. And I'm like, I think I wanna be the first Corey, Andrew, that's pretty much what I'm gonna strive for and not the next X, Y, Z, but I get it as a, as a reference. Yeah. That's kind of how I look at it. And it's okay to be inspired by others. Absolutely. But definitely try to be your authentic self. And, you know, I have another question too, that someone, uh, named Jessica Randolph. She's asking, how does someone get into television? Is it just about, about knowing someone, but then you also talk about the importance of networking. Yeah. And so maybe combine those two thoughts into how you answer someone like Jessica for that question.

Jawn Murray ([20:57](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, the, the answer to Jessica's question is easy. There's not one path to break into this business. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. Uh, TV is the hardest medium to break into. Uh, there's so many competing elements to it. Now, listen, we used to only have linear television and cable. Right. Right Now we've got all these streaming platforms and, uh, you know, digital platforms. And so there's just so many ways for people to establish themselves as an entity and, and, and again, be authentic enough to kind of cut through the clutter. Uh, so I don't have an easy answer for that because there's not an easy path to break into tv. And there's also not one way. Uh, but what I can tell you is, uh, networking is one of the greatest tools you can use no matter what sector of the business or what career path you are on.

Jawn Murray ([21:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Because the truth of the matter is, I've always believed it and I've seen it work. Uh, relationships will take you further than your skills and your gifts ever will. Hmm. There are talented people sitting at home all across this country. Uh, um, I know people who are dynamic singers and songwriters and musicians, and they will only be known and, uh, some local bar or their local church because they never did the work to build the relationships to, you know, acclimate themselves to the industry and to foster enough, uh, uh, comradery with their peers that opportunities, you know, presented themselves for them. Um, I can't tell you the number of times that someone I knew or had worked with or just met or made an impression on, was in a position where they said, oh my God, I have this great opportunity and Jawn would be a perfect fit for that.

Jawn Murray ([22:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

That's networking. You know, in this current capacity as the executive producer of the Sherry show, there's so many people that I've met on my journey, whether I interviewed them where I was privately counseling them, I was walking them through, uh, situations in Hollywood. They were calling me for advice and or they had a project that they were trying to get visibility for. And I helped a lot of people. And I never exploited those relationships. Uh, I always continue to maintain my rapport with these people even when I didn't need something or they didn't need something. And so now I've been able to use all of those relationships and call in a lot of favors to circumvent the structure of the system on, uh, the sherry show. Mm-hmm. That's networking. And so effective networking can benefit you no matter what career path you're on, no matter what you're trying to do. 'cause it can help you break through spaces and places that sometimes you just can't achieve on your own. Mm.

Corey Andrew Powell ([23:23](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yep. We also stress that here too. It's one of our biggest, uh, things we, we, we stress is the importance of networking. And so we really know that that's a big key. So even here within our community of, of our attendees tonight, we always encourage that they meet each other and talk to each other. And you never know who's gonna become someone in your professional network years later when you're in a position to either hire someone or be hired. So, uh, those things are definitely, definitely really important. And you've also attended Norfolk State University? Did I know I said Norfolk, not Norfolk, right. <laugh>, you never know how to say it, but I wanna just share that my entire family's all from Eastern Shore, uh, Cape Charles, Virginia, so <laugh>.

Jawn Murray ([24:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Oh, cool. Cool.

Corey Andrew Powell ([24:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So I know that whole area really, really well. And, um, I just would, you know, I love the fact that you started someplace you had bigger dreams outside of your state border, if you will, outside of your four walls. So what advice would you give your 18-year-old self, um, at this age, knowing what you know now versus what you knew then back in Virginia?

Jawn Murray ([24:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Um, I would tell my 18-year-old self, there was a driving down, uh, 95 about to hit 64 and go to Norfolk State. Uh, don't apply for those credit cards. <laugh>. It's the worst thing you could do as a college kid is Yeah, I'm gonna just say that how I feel it is f up your credit <laugh>, you know, they, they offer you them credit cards 'cause they know you in school and you broke and you gonna run them suckers up. It takes you forever to clean up your credit. Now I'm very happy right now because I have an 800 credit score on All right. Credit bureaus. But if you knew how much work <laugh> it you to get to that place, so that, that'd be my first day. I, uh, I also would've challenged my 18-year-old self to become financially literate at a young age. Mm. I would've loved, uh, when I was rolling in the dough, um, in my twenties and my early thirties, if I was diversifying my money and making my money work for me, uh, it just would've been a, a, a better situation. I, you know mm-hmm <affirmative>. I, I could choose to work now, you know, I work, I work because I have to, and I enjoy what I do for a living. But, you know, I could, you know, I I could live like a privileged person to take a year off and I just wanna backpack through Europe though. Yeah. I would never, that'd be like being on an episode of Survivor for

Corey Andrew Powell ([25:42](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

<laugh>. Well, listen, I think that, um, even you probably would end up making that into a TV show. It'd be like, join, join Across America or something. So

Jawn Murray ([25:50](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Can I tell you the best piece of advice I got in general was, uh, the legendary comedian, George Wallace told me ear, it was like my first and second year on the Tom Join Morning Show. And twice a year I used to go to Las Vegas for the Dr. Bobby Jones International Gospel Industry retreat. Mm-hmm <affirmative>. Um, Bobby Jones of BET fame used to do this really special event twice a year where you would, he would enrich, uh, recording artist and entertainers and industry professionals. It was, it was the best event. I miss it so much. But whenever I was in Vegas, uh, as a part of my networking, I would go and have lunch with George Wallace, who had a big residency in Vegas at the time. And one, one of the first lunches we had, George Wallace said to me, young man, they tell you work hard your whole life, save your money.

Jawn Murray ([26:32](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And when you are old, you travel the world. He says, when your is old, you gonna be too tired to travel the world <laugh>. And he said, travel now while you're young. Mm-hmm. And so he told me, he says, I know you're working a lot. I know you're going in and do these gigs. I know you're going in to do these interviews. I was doing a lot of corporate hosting at the time because being on the Tom Jordan morning show, you become corporate friendly. So you get a lot of mc and moderator work. And so because of George, if I had a gig in Los Angeles, I'd fly in two days early and I'd enjoy myself before the gig. If I had a gig in a city I'd never been to before, I'd stay a few days after. So that when I was in my next situation, or at some dinner party or in a, in a cultural setting where you're sitting at people who are well traveled and of, of upper class and they talk about the museums and the restaurants and the places they'd been in these cities, I wasn't one of those people that said, no, I got to a city, I checked in the hotel.

Jawn Murray ([27:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Mm-hmm. I went to the venue, I went back to the hotel, and I got back on the flight and went home. And it is something that was transformative for me. It, uh, uh, it, it changes your humanity to travel both domestically and particularly abroad. You start to see people differently. You realize that we're more alike than we are different. And a lot of the things that you can be taught in your little small towns and even in your local neighborhoods in a big city, that the world is more vast and broad than that. And so traveling and making sure that I saw the world was something that was one of the best pieces of advices I ever get. And so every time I'm on a panel, every time I'm in a situation where I can pour that into somebody else, I share that advice in my George Wallace voice. Hmm.

Corey Andrew Powell ([28:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Wow. Sean, thank you so much. And I really appreciate that because yes, it's the growth mindset and it's also being aware of your environment and going out in the world, being fearless, and you encompass all those things. And we are so grateful for you being here with us today, sharing that insight and giving us all that knowledge, dropping that, that, that Murray knowledge on us. And so we're so happy that you're here. So thank you for being here today with us.

Jawn Murray ([28:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Thank you. And listen, I wanna say special kudos to you and the National Society of Leadership and Success. It was a pleasure to join you all tonight. I hope I shared a nugget or two, uh, that was impactful and that, and that, you know, helps you on your trajectory and, uh, you know, engaging me on social and stuff. You know, I try to live, uh, a portion of my life out loud, um, to not just, you know, I'm not one of the people on social media that's like, look at me, look what I do. But I really wanna allow people to have a vicarious experience through me because I'm a product of hard work and dedication and manifestation. You know, I envision myself being in this business. I worked hard to achieve this career. And I'm only here because all of those elements plus preparation allow me to be successful.

Jawn Murray ([29:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And so I like to inspire other people by living through my success and, uh, you know, engaging me on social. And, uh, hopefully I inspire you. And, and, and I love to run into people out. And uh, people tell me all the time, oh, I was at this panel, on this forum, I wanna hear other people's success stories. You know, I want other people to DM me on LinkedIn and be like, oh my God, I heard you say something. It shifted me. Like that type of stuff really inspires me and gives me the motivation to keep doing it. For sure.

Corey Andrew Powell ([29:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/9RfgzMmvc7su5ZlK2iRBSurbz6P_RoRsmyDcwC6XmvmxHG0ajepbF2-rj5naFwbh59nGGvfUsMo_Up9tozsueaf5H18?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hmm. Well thank you so much and you've inspired me. As I mentioned, I do what I do a lot because of the inspiration you gave me years ago when you were starting out and I was starting out. So thank you sir, and we appreciate you being here, and we will talk to you soon. Thank you so much.