

# David Harrell

NAVIGATING A  
TWO-HANDED WORLD...  
SINGLE-HANDEDLY

davidharrellspeaks.com



## DAVID HARRELL'S SPEAKING PRESENTATION

of Navigating a Two-Handed World...Single-Handedly. In 2009, I created and produced my solo play A Little Potato and Hard to Peel in New York City. It is based off a story my grandfather used to tell me about his little league baseball team, "The Little Potatoes and Hard to Peel". He told me his team was smaller than the other boys and maybe not as talented but they always played with their hearts, so no matter if they won or lost, they never got down because they were tough...and hard to peel. My grandfather died when I was twelve so I never knew him as an adult. As I grew up I realized this story was just a metaphor for life. We all play this game of life, sometimes we win, sometimes we lose but no matter the circumstances we have to stay tough and hard to peel.

I was born without my right hand. People often look at me and see limitations. I have learned to adapt and find success by not allowing my circumstance to define me or my ability. Through my keynote, Navigating a Two-Handed World...Single-Handedly, I share a universal story of perseverance and courage. I present a dynamic and humorous look at how we can all take my grandfather's advice and not allow circumstances to peel away the core of our humanity.

"David's presentation is a captivating and transformational journey. What starts out as one man's challenge to accept his own strengths and limitations becomes a compelling charge to all of us, challenging us to look more closely into our own lives. Also, it's entertaining as hell."

- Jay Putnam, Associate Professor of Theatre,  
High Point University

### THROUGH THIS PROGRAM ATTENDEES WILL LEARN:

- Overcoming adversity
- Awareness of self
- Acceptance of self
- Acceptance of others
- Disability awareness

### FOR BUSINESSES AND ASSOCIATIONS WE FOCUS ON:

- Setting Goals
- Staying positive in the midst of challenges
- Keeping your sense of humor
- Not letting setbacks distract your focus
- Finding your niche
- Learning from your mistakes

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## DAVID'S KEYNOTE

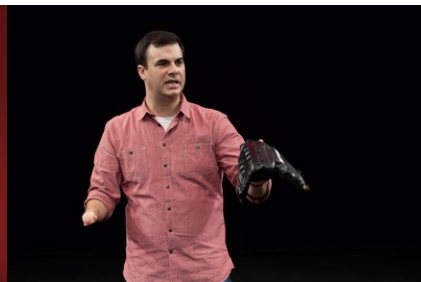
**TITLE:** Navigating a Two-Handed World...Single-Handedly

**SUBTITLE:** Not allowing our circumstances, no matter what they are, to peel away the core of our humanity. Theme: We all face difficult circumstances in our personal and professional lives. We may face limitations placed on us by our peers, by our superiors, or even by ourselves, but in the midst of those circumstances we have the choice to not be defined by those limitations. We can find our own path, celebrate our differences and take creative control of our lives.

**BENEFIT:** In this presentation, participants will learn that our differences can be strengths and lead to stronger teams and synergistic partnerships. They will be encouraged to look beyond the immediate differences they have with others to find common ground.

**KEYS TO THIS PRESENTATION:** David's personal story contains a universality that encourages the audience to recognize our shared humanity and our ability to succeed in spite of the circumstances we face.

**IDEAL FOR:** Associations/ Students/ Educators/ Teams/ Entrepreneurs/ Corporate and Civic Leadership/ Disability Advocates



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## BIO

**DAVID HARRELL** is an actor, speaker and disability advocate, originally from Brunswick, Georgia, now residing in New York City. His award-nominated solo play *A Little Potato and Hard to Peel* has entertained audiences from New York City to the depths of Southern Georgia – from off-off Broadway houses to the Department of the Interior. He uses his hysterical comedic sensibilities, powerful stories and a crazy cast of characters from his life's journey growing up with a disability to challenge audiences to not let circumstances peel away the core of their humanity.

David holds a BFA from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in theatre performance. He was nominated in 2010 for a New York Innovative Theatre award for "Outstanding Solo Performance" and has performed with the Greensboro Fringe Festival, Paper Lantern Theatre, One Man Standing Festival, Goodwill Theatre, United Solo, All For One (in the historic Cherry Lane Theatre), Georgia College, Playhouse Creatures Theatre, Soul-O Theatre Festival (Toronto, Canada) and the Monomaffa Theater festival in Parnu, Estonia. He has performed his solo play for young audiences, *The Boy Who Would Be Captain Hook*, in over 75 schools throughout the country and he continues to educate, encourage and entertain young audiences to not be defined by limitations.

As an actor, he has performed with theatres in New York City and across the country over the last 15 years, he has appeared in independent films, web series and the New York City institution *Law and Order: SVU*. As a Disability Advocate he has worked as the Accessibility and Outreach Director for the Raleigh Ensemble Players in Raleigh, NC and currently serves as the Disability and Programming Associate for Inclusion in the Arts in New York City. He serves on the NY Local Performers with Disability committee with SAG-AFTRA and is also a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

His keynote presentation, *Navigating a Two-handed World...Single Handedly*, takes aspects of his successful solo show to "carry each and every audience member into a world of hope; a world full of the complexities of the human condition." His clients have included; The Binghamton University Forum, The US Department of the Interior, G-CASE (Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education), College of Coastal Georgia, Savannah and Chatham County Schools, Coffee County (GA) Board of Education, Floyd County (GA) Board of Education, GA Dept. of Education Parent Mentor Conference, GEAR Summer Institute, Ohio Association of School Nurses and St. Joseph's College.

David's unique and powerful life story reminds us that we will all face challenges in our lives. People will try to place limitations on our abilities and we may even place limitations on ourselves but we do have a choice to not be defined by these limitations. We can choose to live our lives with dignity and courage; we can choose to navigate the world in our own unique way and as David's grandfather told him many years ago, we can all be little potatoes and hard to peel.

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## WHAT YOU GET

- David's audiences laugh, learn and come away with useful tools and a new perspective.
- David and his staff focus on you and the needs of your attendees and will make you look like a star.
- Pre-program questionnaire and consultation to ensure David's customized content addresses your own specific situation.
- Article for your newsletter, website or publication

## CLIENT LIST

US Department of the Interior,  
Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management, Washington, DC

US Department of the Interior,  
Office of Surface Mining,  
Washington, DC

G-CASE, Fall Conference,  
Savannah, GA

Ohio School Nurses Association,  
Columbus, OH

The Binghamton University  
Forum, Binghamton, NY

Chatham County Special  
Education Teachers Conference,  
Savannah, GA

Coffee County Board of  
Education, Douglas, GA

South Carolina Theatre  
Association, Aiken, SC

Parent Mentor Conference,  
Athens, GA

St. Joseph's College,  
Long Island, NY

Fairfield Public Library,  
Fairfield, CT

College of Coastal Georgia,  
Brunswick, GA

New Jersey Disability Pride  
Parade, Trenton, NJ

Georgia College and State  
University, Milledgeville, GA

Wayne County Board of  
Education, Jesup, GA

DDTI Conference, Durham, NC

NC Council on Disabilities  
Conference, Greensboro, NC

Randolph Community College,  
Asheboro, NC

Vance-Granville Community  
College, Hendersonville, NC

GA District 14 Special Education  
Directors Meeting, Helen, GA

GA District 15 Special Education  
Directors Meeting, Saint  
Simmons, GA

"One of the most moving and inspirational keynotes that G-CASE has ever experienced. David has a true gift of touching people's souls. His autobiographical story had the audience laughing to crying through the phases of his life experiences. One of his themes, finding the flip side of limitations, truly impacted our leadership audience"

- Philip Mellor, Executive Officer of Learning and Leadership, Henry County Schools, Coordinator of 2012 G-CASE Fall Conference

"His message really hit home with the audience, who gave him a standing ovation. This program is perfect for an organization that wants something different from the "routine" speaker, but a program that also conveys a lasting message about diversity. David makes the poignant point that being normal includes many differences."

- Sue Scherr, Diversity Program Manager, Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement