

Dr. Sonny Kelly

Sonny Kelly is a world-class performer, storyteller, motivator, speaker, and comedian. He holds a PhD in communication and performance studies from UNC–Chapel Hill. In 2022 he founded Legacy Heirs Productions as a vehicle to entertain, educate, and empower individuals and communities.



Courtesy of Legacy Heirs Productions

Dr. Kelly is currently an instructor of communication at Fayetteville Technical Community College, where he teaches public speaking, interpersonal communication, and intercultural communication. He received his master's degree from St. Mary's University and his BA from Stanford University. After serving as an officer in the US Air Force, Kelly has held positions as a nonprofit organization director, university admissions counselor, award-winning pharmaceutical salesman, college communications instructor, and church youth pastor.

As a lover of theater and performance, Kelly has acted professionally on stage and in television for over 20 years. He is a writer and director of live theater as well as the creator and cohost of the CrossOver radio show on WIDU in Fayetteville. As a professional storyteller, he has performed for the National Association of Black Storytellers, the Black Storytellers' Alliance, as well as schools, businesses, and civic organizations across the country. He is a proud participant in the Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County Artists in Schools.

As a professor and scholar, Kelly's research and work focus on interpersonal communication, performance, critical pedagogy, and public speaking. His research is based upon developing trauma-informed performance-based interventions to empower underserved youth to counter the school-to-prison pipeline. On March 10, 2002, Kelly committed his life to Jesus Christ and has sought to share God's love with everyone in his midst ever since. He is the blessed husband of Elenah and father of Sterling and Langston. No matter where he is or what he is doing, Kelly's passion for teaching, engaging, and empowering others through love is unmistakable!