

BIOGRAPHY

Writer, director, activist, and actor Griffin Matthews has emerged as one of the most sought after multi-hyphenate talents today. Coming off of a breakout year in 2019, Matthews has proven that he is an undeniable force, captivating audiences through his scene-stealing performances. Best known for portraying fan favorite D'Unte in season three of Netflix's hit series "Dear White People," Matthews performance earned him instant critical acclaim, with the A.V. Club noting, "Griffin Matthews rightfully stakes his claim on every scene he occupies." Mashable called Matthews a "scene-stealer," while Vulture stated he gave a "breakout performance." This year, Matthews stars in HBO Max's hit drama series "The Flight Attendant," opposite Kaley Cuoco. The series follows Cassie (Cuoco), a flight attendant who wakes up in the wrong hotel, in the wrong bed, with a dead man – and with no idea of what happened. Matthews shines as Shane Evans, Cassie's flight attendant "work friend" who also carries his own set of secrets. Their friendship is put to the test when Cassie's life begins to unravel, and everyone's truths start spilling out. The series premiered on November 26, 2020 and was renewed for a second season.

Matthews was most recently seen starring in season five of HBO's hit sports dramedy "Ballers," opposite Dwayne Johnson. Additional television credits include NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," The CW's "The Carrie Diaries," HBO's "Doll & Em" and ABC's "Cashmere Mafia."

As a classically trained thespian, Matthews co-wrote and starred in the Off-Broadway production of "Invisible Thread" (aka "Witness Uganda"), which details Matthews and his husband Matt Gould's journey in founding their nonprofit organization, Uganda Project. The organization sponsors the education of orphans living in Uganda. The production, which ran at Second Stage Theatre, as well as the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University, won the Richard Rodgers, Dean Kay, and Harold Adamson Awards. In addition to "Invisible Thread," Matthews has recently been tapped to write a musical television series with Grammy nominee, Ester Dean.

As a director, Matthews directed the award-winning West Coast premiere of "Witness Uganda" at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles (while simultaneously filming "Dear White People"). He directed Tony Award winner Leslie Odom Jr's concert residency at the McKittrick Hotel in New York City, and Oscar nominee Cynthia Erivo's holiday concert at the famed Apollo Theater. He is slated to direct his feature film debut, "The Amish Project" that details the events of October 2nd, 2006 when an armed gunman entered a one room Amish schoolhouse full of little girls. He also continues to serve as a creative director for L'Oreal and Ulta Beauty's live events.

As an activist, in 2005, Matthews went to Uganda for the first time and subsequently started his nonprofit organization, Uganda Project and in 2008, wrote a benefit concert, "Witness Uganda" to raise money for their education, which eventually became the full musical it is today. He is recently known for his viral video entitled "Dear Amy Cooper: Broadway is Racist" that garnered over a million views across social media platforms and started the revolution to reform both the American Theatre and Hollywood in light of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Matthews was one of five freshmen men accepted into the prestigious musical theater program at Carnegie Mellon University. He honed his craft alongside classmates Leslie Odom Jr, Josh Groban, Katy Mixon, Josh Gad, and had Tony and Emmy award winner Billy Porter as a professor, which changed his entire college experience.

Matthews splits his time between Los Angeles and New York City with his husband and their two foster children.

