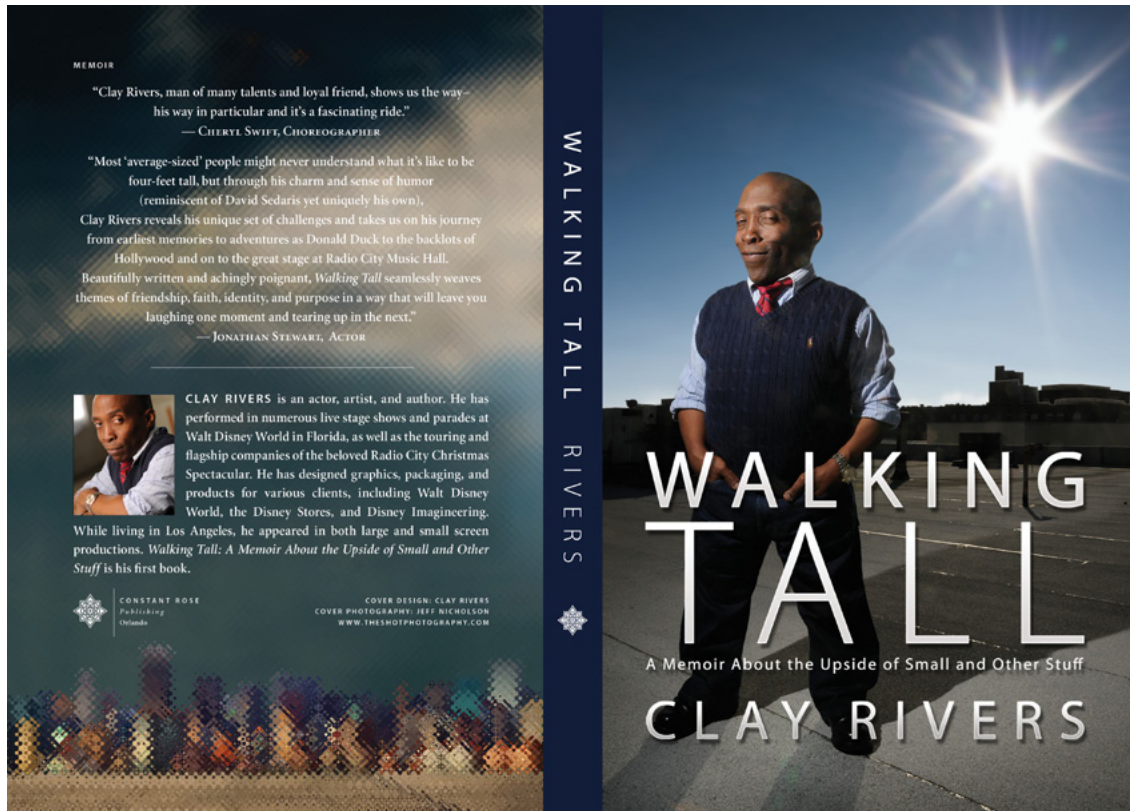


# NEW BOOK RELEASE

Constant Rose Publishing | Orlando, Florida | [info@constantrose.com](mailto:info@constantrose.com)



## WALKING TALL: A MEMOIR ABOUT THE UPSIDE OF SMALL AND OTHER STUFF

By Clay Rivers

**A** TRULY UNIQUE CITIZEN OF THE WORLD, Clay Rivers and Constant Rose Publishing announce the release of a new book chronicling a most unique life's journey. In a world that associates stature, physical perfection, and race with a person's value, "Walking Tall" is about harnessing the power of self-worth as experienced by an **African American, gay, Christian man who also just happens to be a dwarf.**

His career as an **actor, artist, and author** took Clay to Disney's Magic Kingdom, Hollywood, and the stages of New York City. A graduate of central Florida's Jones High School and Rollins College, Clay offers readers a message of accepting oneself and others. In today's world, his is an especially poignant message for people of all ages, colors, and heights.

From early lessons in the deep south to escapades as Donald Duck at Walt Disney World to the cat and mouse games on his psychologist's couch, and finally to the finish line of accepting and loving himself, "Walking Tall" is brisk reading,

full of charm and a devilish sense of humor. For anyone who has ever felt the slightest bit uncomfortable in their own skin, feared wrestling personal demons into submission, or may have missed the directional signs while walking their own road less travelled, "Walking Tall" is a globe-trotting journey to self-acceptance.

Clay would love to talk with you about his life in Orlando, LA, and New York, his lessons, and those who helped him along the way. **Clay is available to share those stories in formal or informal meeting or interview sessions.** His genial style and charming personality allow him to adapt his message to the setting.

Included you'll find a link to [a recent interview](#) with Clay to give you a glimpse of his calm yet provocative on-camera personality. Also included is the [author's bio](#), [book reviews](#), as well as [an article](#) inspired by the book entitled "Walking Tall Made Easy." For an excerpt from "Walking Tall," a PDF of the book, or to discuss an event or interview with Clay, [send us an email](#).

## IN A FEW WORDS

### CLAY RIVERS

Author

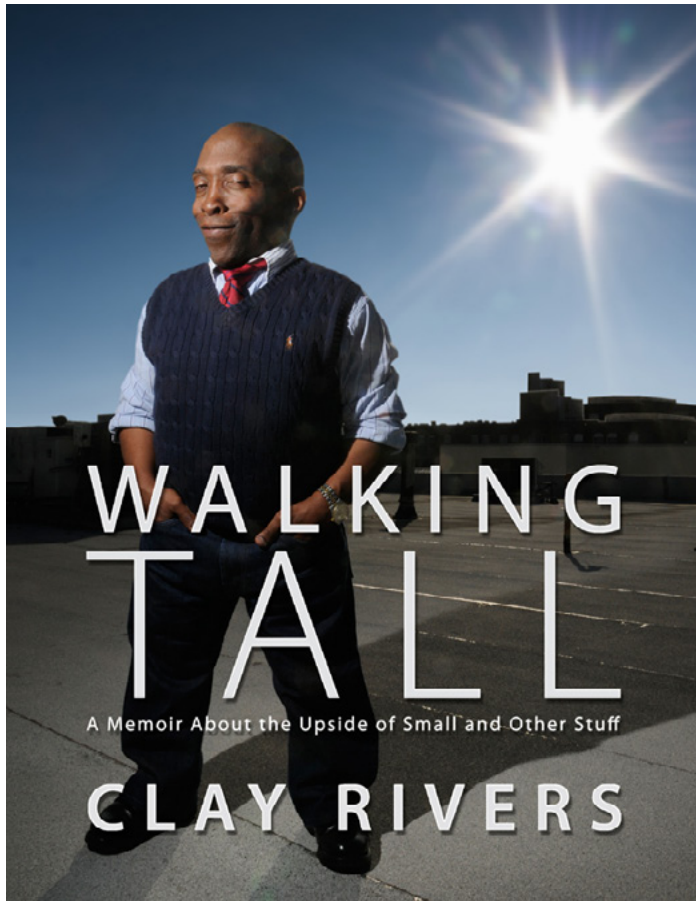
**C**LAY RIVERS, IS AN ACTOR, ARTIST, AND AUTHOR. He has performed in numerous live stage shows and parades at Walt Disney World in Florida, as well as the touring and flagship companies of the beloved Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

He has designed graphics, packaging, and products for various clients, including Walt Disney World, the Disney Stores, and Disney Imagineering. While living in Los Angeles, he studied under the celebrated acting coach Richard Brander, and has appeared in both large and small screen productions.

Clay is also a screenwriter whose works have been recognized in national screenwriting competitions in New York, San Francisco, and Boston. "Walking Tall: A Memoir About the Upside of Small and Other Stuff" is his first book.



**ABOVE** THE AUTHOR OF "WALKING TALL," CLAY RIVERS.



**ABOVE** THE COVER OF "WALKING TALL," THEBOOKDESIGNER.COM E-BOOK COVER DESIGN AWARD WINNER IN NONFICTION FOR APRIL 2012.

## IN PRAISE OF WALKING TALL

### KAM WILLIAMS

NewsBlaze.com

*"Writing my memoir wasn't my idea. I avoided the challenge for years. I'm a private person who's most comfortable with one-on-one interactions ... My close friends have told me with earnest fervor that my life experiences would make for interesting reading, given my unique perspective on the world... Short. Black. Christian. And gay ... How do I define self-worth in a world that correlates value with stature, physical perfection, and race? The answer: by walking tall."*

- EXCERPTED FROM THE INTRODUCTION (PGS. X-XI)

**A**CTOR/ARTIST/AUTHOR Clay Rivers has certainly held a variety of jobs over the course of his career: graphic designer, teddy bear in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, Donald Duck at Disney World, and bit roles on such TV series as "Charmed" and in movies like "She's All That."

But finding work hasn't been the easiest thing, given that the guy's a gay black dwarf. So, besides sharing the average actor's anxiety about landing his next gig, Clay has had to deal with the triple whammy of discrimination based on his height, color and sexual preference.

And because he's a Christian, too, he's struggled to square his faith with his homosexuality. He even tried dating women after hearing a former drag queen address his congregation about how he had hung up his dresses and become straight with the help of the Lord.

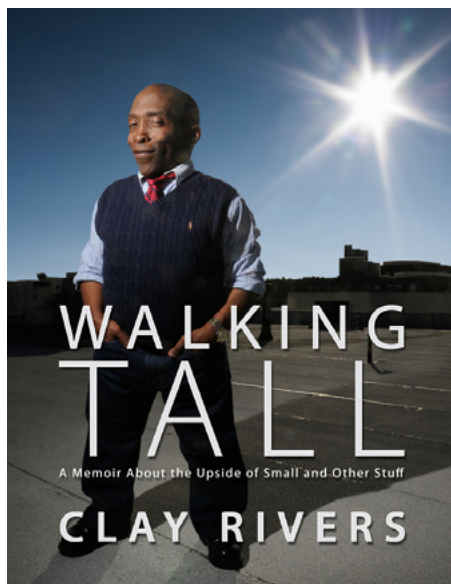
Clay came to accept himself by the age of 38, which is when he came out to his mother. "Well, I still love you. You're still my son," she responded, despite being "well aware of the Biblical scriptures regarding homosexuality."

A man of admirable integrity, Clay talks about his willingness to walk out of a Hollywood audition where he was being asked to play a demeaning character showing short people in a bad light. What makes this autobiography intriguing is the fact that the complex author is able to both emote and entertain while giving the reader a decent idea of what it might be like to walk a mile in his complicated moccasins.

A meaningful memoir by an introspective soul who has arrived at a peaceful place where he's perfectly comfortable in his own skin.

(Published online at:

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20120613202137kamw.nb/topstory.html>)



## A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

**No doubt about it:** Clay Rivers has seen the world from a unique vantage point—and not just because he’s flown in a miniature plane across the Radio City stage and performed as Donald Duck at Disney World. As a gay, black, Christian dwarf, Rivers’ journey through life has been a continual mix of challenge and achievement—and he reflects on the lessons he’s learned with a style and wit that will make you look at your own life with renewed compassion and wonder.

*Richard Hine, Author*  
“Russell Wiley Is Out to Lunch”  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

## A MEMOIR WITH SOMETHING FOR ALL

**Clay Rivers** is a gay, African-American Little Person with a deep belief in God. He is also an excellent writer. Even the straight, white, relatively tall agnostic that I am can see that. I found in *Walking Tall* many life lessons for anyone willing to listen. It’s also a fast, funny read. If you ever wondered what it’s like to work as a ‘character’ at Disney World or to be onstage with the world-famous Radio City Rockettes, or even just what it takes to navigate the streets of New York or the roads of Los Angeles as a Little Person, buy this book. But there is also much here about family, about faith and most of all, about friendship. Worth every penny.

*Bambanutter*  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

## FASCINATING JOURNEY

**To me the most intriguing part** of this memoir is not the experience of Mr. Rivers as an LP or “little person,”

although this is indeed unique and worthwhile to read if all you know about this group is from reality TV. Far more interesting to me was Mr. Rivers’ honest portrayal of the struggles he has endured reconciling his identity as a Christian with his identity as a gay man. As we move toward a more open & accepting society where sexual identity is concerned (hopefully), it is enlightening to learn about the challenges that gay men and women continue to face. A worthwhile read.

*Kimberly S.*  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## A LIFE HANDLED WITH GRACE AND CHARM

**I was thoroughly moved** as I read this memoir. Clay has led a most interesting life and I predict the next phase will be even more adventuresome and fulfilling. He is a gifted author who made me feel as though we were friends having a conversation while sharing good food and wine! Some of the descriptions of events

are laugh-out-loud funny while others are poignant. The honesty and transparency in his writing allowed me to be empathetic and caused me to reflect on my own life. I am glad he decided to share his life story with the rest of us!

*Cynthia A.*  
NEW YORK

## HEAD AND SHOULDER ABOVE THE REST

**In *Walking Tall*,** Clay Rivers describes in detail the challenges of his life without losing any charm or gratitude to all that shaped him. He involves you, the reader, making you part of the story. The story is animated and alive. His colorful descriptions paint a vivid picture and place you beside him. He considers you as a friend, letting you into his world. A must read for those who ever felt out of place or isolated. Thank you, Clay, for inviting us in.

*Tony R.*  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

## MIND-BLOWING AND ADDICTIVE READING

I grew up with Clay and I am so glad he stepped outside the box and wrote this book. Walking Tall brought moments of uncontrollable laughter and moments of tears. Walking Tall reminded me that another person's views of me do not define me. Clay overcame many obstacles and transformed his life into greatness. One can only dream of traveling to the many places he has been or meeting the people he has met. In a world full of hypocrites, Clay broke through many social barriers. I love Walking Tall so much. I will read it again and highly recommend it to everyone!

Lori  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

## A RIVETING MEMOIR

From the highs of success to the lows of disappointment and everything in between, Clay Rivers takes readers along a most memorable journey that is his life. Walking Tall is such a well-written and engaging memoir that I had a hard time putting it down. Clay has such a distinctive voice and charm that drew me in and kept me riveted from the first page. For as many laugh-out-loud moments in the book, there were just as many poignant and emotional moments that brought tears to my eyes. Clay's amazing journey from his days at Disney to the bright lights of the Big Apple is nothing short of awe-inspiring. I am recommending this book to everyone I can. Walking Tall is the best memoir I have read in a very, very long time.

KSW  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## WALKING TALL: A CHOICE

This book is an amazing read! It will have you laughing, crying, and feeling emotions you forgot you had. For Clay to open his life and share a bit with us is awesome. But, for us as readers, to experience it on a different level is more an adventure of a lifetime. Not only is it his story, but in some way it became mine too. It's good to know there's other people out there that relate and understand what you go through. Walking Tall ... my choice for a better outcome!

Mitzi Evans  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

## A LITTLE GEM

As a former New-Yorker, I am fascinated by anything to do with backstage Radio City Music Hall. As a Disney-phile, I am equally fascinated by anything behind-the-scenes Disney. This terrific memoir more than satisfies on both counts, and so much more. Told with heart, humor, and compassion, this is an easy and lively read. As author Rivers bounces from one

adventure to another, I found myself laughing out loud and, occasionally, tearing up. Highly recommended.

Sam-I-Am  
TORONTO, CANADA

## BREEZY, ENTERTAINING, YET ALSO CANDID

Actor, artist, and blogger Clay Rivers has written a breezy, entertaining, yet candid account of his journey through life so far. A very private person by nature, at the urging of his friends and colleagues, Rivers has recounted his trials and adventures as an African American, gay, Christian Little Person—what he refers to in a recent interview as his “quad-fecta.” Rivers has met his personal and sometimes very public challenges with grace and thoughtfulness, and delivers his anecdotes, including some devastatingly poignant moments, with wry insight and martini-dry humor. Highly recommended.

Mark Thrice “Writer”  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



## WALKING TALL MADE EASY WRITTEN FOR HEADDRAMA.COM

By Clay Rivers

**A** S A 48-INCH TALL, African American, Christian, gay male, I know a thing or two about facing challenges. In my new book, *Walking Tall: A Memoir About the Upside of Small and Other Stuff*, I take readers for a whirlwind tour of my journey to self-acceptance as I show how I define self-worth in a world that defines value based on stature, physical perfection, and race. From my earliest memories as a child to adventures at Walt Disney World as the world's most famous duck to the backlots of Hollywood to performing on one of New York's most famous stages and points beyond, *Walking Tall* emphasizes three themes—

- 1. Flow With The Go.** The most profound opportunities for personal growth and change never show up on your doorstep neatly wrapped with a big red bow and tagged as “The Best Thing You Could Ever Hope For Is Inside.” More often than not, the circumstances that will allow you to kick your quality of life up a notch or two typically barge on the scene when you least expect it disguised as a major setback whose sole purpose is to turn your world as you know it upside down. (Chapter 3)
- 2. No Masks Allowed.** So many people throughout history have said, “be yourself.” You know why? There's something to it. When I worked at Walt Disney World as Donald Duck, the Walt Disney Company supplied me with a costume to mask my identity from the tourists I came in contact with in the Magic Kingdom. To shield my identity from the people I encountered elsewhere, I moved through life with a well-crafted game face that presented the persona of a guy who had his act together. Let me share something with you that took me years to figure out: the only time it's a good idea to assume someone else's identity is when you're paid to do so. In the real world, nobody likes a phony. If you're parading through life pretending to be anyone other than who you really are—stop it. You're not fooling anyone. (Chapter 5)
- 3. To Thine Own Self Be You.** Everyone has strengths. Everyone has weaknesses. The trick is to discover your own fortes and foibles, own them—all of them, and make them work for you. Unless you're living in a cave, the rest of the world is already aware of your traits. Denying your true identity is a lot like walking into a party with a parrot on your shoulder and pretending it's not there. You know it's there and everyone else in the room can see it. But instead of having a great time catching up with your friends, your time is preoccupied with denying the existence of the fine feathered friend perched on your shoulder. (Chapter 15)

Choosing to live authentically by changing your perception about yourself and others is the easy part, but making the commitment—like any other life change—takes time and real effort. Somedays you'll make real strides and others you'll have set backs, but living out from under layers of guilt, unrealistic expectations, and unresolved matters can lead to a newfound ability to enjoy yourself and those around you in a richer, more meaningful way. Walk tall and see how the world responds to you. See how you respond.

*Walking Tall: A Memoir About the Upside of Small and Other Stuff* is available—  
in print at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

And available for download—  
for Kindle ereaders at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), for iPad at [Apple iTunes](https://www.apple.com/itunes), for Nook ereaders at [Barnes & Noble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com),  
and for iPad and Nook at [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)

For an excerpt from “Walking Tall,” a PDF of the book, or to discuss an event or interview, [send us an email](#).