



Having overcome seven brain operations over the course of her life that were deemed necessary to tackle a slowly growing tumor in her brain that affected her sight, Dr. Z has managed to maintain her vision—her internally driven life's calling.

She is the first African-American woman with roots connected to the Pequot tribe of southern Connecticut and Arab lineage from North Africa who is legally blind to have earned a Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics. She is currently affiliated with AZIZA Productions Inc., a small science media production company she established in the year 2000. She has always been interested in communicating science to the lay public through television.

While working on her Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics at the University of Maryland at College Park, Dr. Z received a Mass Media Science & Engineering fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and was assigned to CNN's science and technology unit in Atlanta Georgia. During her fellowship, she gained hands-on experience producing science news video segments which aired on CNN's newscasts. This experience launched her career as a TV science producer and on-air correspondent.

Subsequent to her AAAS fellowship, Dr. Z continued to produce science news segments for CNN based out of its Washington DC bureau on a freelance basis for a couple additional years. During this time, she had the opportunity to produce a short motivational documentary film that aired on CNN in the year 2000. It was watched by middle and high school students in the classroom across the United States. Titled The Changing Face & Image of Science & Engineering, this short film profiled six dynamic young African-American scientists.

After receiving her doctorate in physics in 2002, Dr. Z became a regular science producer and correspondent for Evening Exchange on Howard University Television, the Washington, DC affiliate PBS station. Hosted by veteran journalist Kojo Nnamdi, Dr. Z helped stimulate the on-air roundtable discussions with experts, and also produced five to ten minute-long video segments, which were broadcast before the roundtable discussions. Stories she produced include discussions regarding the benefits and drawbacks of genetically modified foods and the significance of the human genome project, among others.

As president and CEO of AZIZA Productions, Dr. Z spends most of her time running the day-to-day operations of her company and takes an active role in her company's productions. She is currently producing a personal film about her life titled "Seeking Vision." Through this film, she hopes in part to unveil the misconceptions about blindness and the continual obstacles faced by people who are blind seeking mainstream inclusion in society.

To book Dr. Z for a speaking engagement, send an email to info@azizaproductions.com.



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