



Lilly Bekele-Pisner

PODCASTER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
VOICE OVER ARTIST
ACTOR & HOST
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATOR
FACILITATOR

Meet Lilly

Lilly Bekele-Piper is a child of red soil. Born in Addis Ababa, she immigrated to the United States as a child and returned to East Africa in 2011. She has 25 years of experience in international development, education, and strategic communication. Her impressive resume includes work with Harvard University, the United Nations, the World Bank, and USAID, where she was instrumental in launching Disney/National Geographic's nature-focused children's TV show, Team Sayari, broadcast in 51 African countries.

Lilly's passions lie at the intersection of human rights and creative arts. Since she launched her media platform in 2018, she has produced nine shows with live audiences, including two episodes recorded on-site in partnership with UNICEF in Kakuma Refugee Camp and a creative festival in Nairobi featuring Ethiopian artisans. Lilly is a sought-after speaker and guest on global radio, TV and digital platforms, as well as an experienced and dynamic facilitator in the creative and development sectors.



About Selam & Hello

Selam & Hello is a podcast that shares stories of joy and justice from Africa and the diaspora. Each episode is dedicated to exploring the complexities of identity, culture, and global living while celebrating the rich diversity of the pan-African experience.

Selam and Hello started in 2018 as “Up/Root” and rebranded as “Selam & Hello” in 2023. During the pandemic, the show paused but since January 2023, has dropped a new episode every Tuesday. Selam & Hello’s media library is growing and has over 70 episodes to date - featuring over 80 dynamic guests from 14 countries who have brought abundant joy and justice to our listeners across the world.

Lilly has produced 14 live shows, including two in partnership with UNICEF on-site at Kakuma Refugee Camp. This year alone, Selam & Hello has featured historian of race and medicine, Dr. [Ijeoma Kola](#) (Nigeria), Booker Prize-shortlisted author [Tsitsi Dangarembga](#) (Zimbabwe), recording artist and peace activist, [Emmanuel Jal](#) (South Sudan) and entrepreneur Jean-Tristan Minaze (Central African Republic) in four live shows - showcasing the diversity and brilliance of the Continent and the diaspora as well as her adept skill at creating dynamic conversations.



Past Guests on Selam & Hello



**World Champion
Marathon Runner
Eliud Kipchoge**



**Chef, Olympian,
International Rugby
Player, and TikTok Top
Creator Africa 2022
Dennis Ombachi**



**Author of Always
Another Country and
The Resurrection of
Winnie Mandela
Sisonke Msinmang**



**New York Times' East
Africa
Correspondent
Abdi Latif Dahir**



**2019 CNN Hero of the
Year
Freweni Mebrahtu**



**Satire Master, Voice of
Social Commentary,
Cartoonist
Extraordinaire
Godfrey Mwampembwa
(Gado)**



**Medical Historian,
Founder of Cohort
Sistas, Asst Professor
of History at University
of Notre Dame
Dr. Ijeoma Kola**



**Global Advocate,
Bridgerton Star, Tech
Trailblazer
Arsema Thomas**



**Booker Prize-
Shortlisted Author
Tsitsi Dangarembga**

Press & Speaking Opportunities

Lilly Bekele-Piper is a talented communicator and public speaker. She leverages her rich background and expertise in international development, education, and strategic communication – and her roots in East Africa – to create compelling narratives. Her passion for human rights and the arts have fueled her creation of Selam & Hello, a testament to her skill in curating engaging dynamic stories and engaging shows.

Lilly has the rare ability to entertain and engage audiences, as well as manage complex and nuanced conversations. In her previous roles at the World Bank and USAID, she led multi and bilateral events, supported high-level visits, including that of Secretary of State Blinken, and curated learning events for global and local partners.

Lilly has a BA in Speech Communication from Wake Forest University and a Masters in Higher Education from Harvard University.



Brands Featured on Selam & Hello



Lilly has been entrusted by world renowned brands to have them represented on Selam & Hello. Including:





Contact

To discuss partnering with Lilly contact us on:
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