SPEAKER PACKET · 2026 · FOR BOOKING AGENTS & EVENT PLANNERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER · CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST · LAWYER · THERAPIST

Dr. Ragashanti

Makes you laugh. Makes you think. And walks you from one life into another — with the humor of a comedian and the precision of a clinician.

Ph.D.	**Anthropology** — University of Connecticut
J.D.	**Juris Doctor** — Fordham University School of Law
M.A.	**Counseling Psychology** — University of Connecticut
B.A.	**Psychology & Africana Studies** — Vassar College (Double Major)

04	10	16	1,000*s*
DEGREES ACROSS FOUR DISCIPLINES	SIGNATURE TALKS ON THREE TRACKS	COUNTRIES SPOKEN IN	EVENTS AS MASTER OF CEREMONY

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BOOKING WORLDWIDE

§ 01 — ABOUT

Not your typical *keynote speaker.*

> *A man equally at home in a university lecture hall, a comedy festival, a corporate boardroom, and a therapy session — bringing an extraordinary depth of human understanding to every stage.*

Dr. Ragashanti is a **Jamaican-born anthropologist, lawyer, Therapist, cultural commentator, and media personality** — and one of the most entertaining voices on Caribbean identity, personal transformation, and relationships in the world today.

His academic and professional evolution is as formidable as it is eclectic: a **Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Psychology and Africana Studies** from Vassar College, a **Master's in Counseling Psychology** from the University of Connecticut — where he went on to earn his **Ph.D. in Anthropology** — and a **Juris Doctor** from Fordham University School of Law. He was also a practicing Therapist whose clinical work gave him an intimate, ground-level understanding of the emotional lives, relational patterns, and psychological landscapes of the Jamaican people, that no amount of sole academic study could provide.

What makes Dr. Ragashanti singular, however, is not only where he landed — but **where he started**. Before the degrees, before the lecture halls, before the clinical practice, before the television and radio studios, he was a streetboy in the rugged and violent environs of Jamaica. He spent time in multiple government Boys' Homes. He was jailed on three separate occasions. The transformation that followed was not handed to him by a program or a rescuer — he engineered it himself, from the inside out, through an intentional **psycho-cultural worldview shift** that he now delivers as some of the most powerful transformation keynotes in the circuit today.

Scholar. Lawyer. Clinician. Broadcaster. Rebuilt man. A speaker who occupies the rare territory where rigorous thinking, lived scars, and genuine laughter meet.

§ 01 — ABOUT, CONTINUED

Broadcaster. *Clinician.* Man of four disciplines.

It is a combination of credentials that positions him uniquely — not merely as a cultural enthusiast or a transformation speaker, but as a **scholar, a legal mind, a clinician, and a rigorous thinker** who brings intellectual and emotional firepower to every stage he steps onto.

Dr. Ragashanti's expertise spans the full breadth of Jamaican life — its music, language, food, religion, and spirituality, the complex and often taboo intersections of sexuality and identity, and the rich, complicated, frequently hilarious terrain of Jamaican relationships. Whether speaking to Jamaicans navigating love, conflict, and intimacy within their own culture, or to non-Jamaicans trying to understand — and survive — relationships with Jamaican partners, he delivers insights that are clinically grounded, culturally authoritative, and so entertainingly rendered that audiences laugh before they realize how deeply they have been seen.

This gift for illuminating the human interior of Jamaican culture was forged not just in academia and the therapy session, but on the airwaves. For years, Dr. Ragashanti was one of Jamaica's most recognized, entertaining, and trusted media voices — a status held for decades — hosting the television talk show *Man Talk* and commanding the airwaves with his consistently top-rated talk-shows on three of Jamaica's leading radio stations. Week after week, Jamaicans brought him their most intimate struggles — affairs, heartbreak, cultural clashes, family pressure, sexual identity issues, and the unique emotional grammar of Jamaican love — and he competently addressed them with psychological insight, cultural fluency, and the kind of humor that makes hard truths not just bearable, but **genuinely healing.**

He is also the founder and owner of *Tambourine Radio*, an online station that has extended his reach to a global Caribbean audience. His voice has traveled across **fourteen countries and five continents** — including Jamaica, the United States, England, Canada, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia, Brazil, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and Thailand.

As a speaker, he has graced stages for **Jamaican government ministries, high schools, universities, and diaspora communities** across the US, UK, and Canada, as well as colleges, corporations, and festivals worldwide. He has also served as Master of Ceremony for **thousands of** private and public events in Jamaica and around the world.

§ 02 — THE ARC

From the Jamaican Streets to *four degrees.*

> *A keynote credentialed with a Ph.D. from UConn, a J.D. from Fordham Law, an M.A. in Counseling Psychology — and the unvarnished lived memory of three incarcerations.*

Dr. Ragashanti was once a streetboy in Jamaica running afoul with the law. As a young man he was placed in multiple government Boys' Homes and was jailed on three separate occasions. It is a profound understatement to say that he not only defied the statistical odds to have survived his early predicaments, but to have also realized his significant achievements.

His transformation was not directly realized from a specific program, a mentor, or a rescuer. It came from honestly identifying his faults and dysfunctionalities through deliberate introspection, then assessing the interplay between his deficiencies and Jamaican cultural norms in motion. This led to the implementation of what Dr. Ragashanti refers to as a **psycho-cultural worldview shift.** He stopped living from *"outside-in"* and commenced living from *"inside-out."* From this ethos, Dr. Ragashanti coined and applied the simple but critical phrase: **"hard life is no excuse for bad choices."** He then made himself **permanently choice-aware** — living the premise that there are always better options even in the worst of situations.

The result is the rarest possible speaker: a scholar, a lawyer, and a clinician who can walk into a room credentialed with four degrees, along with the experiences of a harsh early life in the streets and three incarcerations — and eloquently present to any group, with humor, with data, and with scars, *exactly how to walk out of one life into another life that is radically much better.*

This is not a motivational speech. It is a clinical application of transformation — delivered by a man who performed it on himself.

CHAPTERS OF THE ARC

01 STREETBOY

02 BOYS' HOMES

03 JAILED × 3

04 THE WORLDVIEW SHIFT

← the shift

05 VASSAR COLLEGE

06 UCONN — M.A.

07 UCONN — PH.D.

08 FORDHAM — J.D.

09 TV & RADIO HOST

10 GLOBAL STAGES

§ 03 — SIGNATURE TALKS

Ten talks. *Three tracks.* An unforgettable voice.

Each talk draws on Dr. Ragashanti's four disciplines — anthropology, law, counseling psychology, and clinical practice — plus the lived experience of a life rebuilt on purpose. The result is insight that is academically rigorous, culturally authoritative, and so entertainingly rendered that audiences laugh before they realize how deeply they have been seen. All talks adaptable to 30 minutes, 60 minutes, half-day workshops, or full-day intensives.

TRACK ONE · FEATURED — *Transformation & Personal Improvement* — 04 TALKS

01 **Streetboy to Scholar**
The Four Degrees That Started in the Streets of Jamaica

02 **Unlearning Cultural Programming**
Identifying & Dismantling the Cultural Constructs That Were Unconsciously Destroying Me

03 **Outside-In to Inside-Out**
The Worldview Shift from Victim to Architect

04 **Choices Control Circumstances**
The Daily Architecture of a Rebuilt Life

TRACK TWO — *Culture & Identity* — 03 TALKS

05 **Patwa: Jamaica's Influential Language**
How Patois, Reggae, Jerk Chicken, and Other Things Jamaican Became a Global Cultural Force

06 **Jamaica's Gay Debate**
Sexuality, Identity & Complicated Caribbean Conversations

07 **Beyond Brand Jamaica**
A Cultural Intelligence Briefing for Brands, Investors & Operators Engaging the Caribbean Market

TRACK THREE — *Jamaican Relationships* — 03 TALKS

08 **The Crazy World of Dating a Jamaican**
Provocative Insights on Jamaicans

09 **The Way Jamaicans Love**
Loyalty, Conflict & the Hidden Psychology of Jamaican Relationships

10 **Yuh a Move Different Eno!**
Gender, Power & the Unspoken Rules of Jamaican Intimacy

TRACK ONE · FEATURED

Transformation & *Personal Improvement*

01 Streetboy to Scholar

The Four Degrees That Started in the Streets of Jamaica

KEYNOTES · UNIVERSITIES · COMMENCEMENTS · YOUTH PROGRAMS · CORPORATE TRANSFORMATION · MEN'S LEADERSHIP

Before the Ph.D. from UConn, before the Fordham Law degree, before the radio and television studios and the practice in counseling psychology, there was a Jamaican streetboy running afoul with the law — who was also committed to government Boys' Homes, then jailed three times over. Dr. Ragashanti delivers the keynote only he can deliver: the unvarnished, often hilarious, anthropologically and clinically precise story of how a young man with every statistical reason to fail ended up with four degrees, a global platform, and a life he chose on purpose. It is a unique and inspirational transformation speech — a motivational keynote with actual data, actual theory, and actual scars.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A speech sourced from Dr. Stewart's principle that *"hard life is no excuse for bad choices."*
- → A clear-eyed account of what actually moves a human being from one life to another — and what doesn't.
- → The distinction between blame that is *true* and responsibility that is *useful* — and why both matter.
- → A replicable psycho-cultural framework for identifying the specific scripts running their own life.
- → Permission to laugh at the hardest things they have survived — which is its own form of freedom.

02 Unlearning Cultural Programming

Identifying & Dismantling the Cultural Constructs That Were Unconsciously Destroying Me

MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCES · DIASPORA EVENTS · CLINICAL TRAINING · MEN'S WORK · DEI · UNIVERSITIES

Every culture hands its children a set of unwritten instructions on how to be a person. Some of those instructions are gifts. Some are weapons pointed at their own heart. Drawing on his training in anthropology, counseling psychology, and clinical practice — and on the hard-won work of rewriting himself from the inside out — Dr. Ragashanti walks audiences through the specific Jamaican cultural constructs he had to identify, name, and dismantle to build a productive and successful life. The cultural constructs were Jamaican. The mechanics of escape and successful evolution are universal.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A working definition of *"psycho-cultural reprogramming"* — what it is, how it installs itself, how it hides in plain sight.
- → The clinical difference between cultural *pride* and cultural *captivity*.
- → A step-by-step method for auditing the cultural constructs running our behavior — what to keep, what to grieve, what to release.
- → The relief of discovering that what felt "natural" and inherent was only scripts written by others — that could be changed.

TRACK ONE · FEATURED

Transformation & *Personal Improvement*

03 Outside-In to Inside-Out

The Worldview Shift from Victim to Architect

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP · TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCES · JUSTICE REFORM · MEN'S EVENTS · RECOVERY & REHABILITATION

The hardest move in any human transformation is not really the work — it is the shift in worldview that defines the quality and impact of the work. Dr. Ragashanti names the specific internal pivot that changed his life: the switch from living as automatons activating predefined external scripts, to becoming aware of the simple truth that we can all create our own scripts. It's switching from living *'outside-to-in'* to *'inside-to-out'* — which provides more control and efficiency in determining personal outcomes. It is taking up the sometimes strange and terrifying, but utterly clarifying position of being responsible for what happens next. This talk breaks down and simplifies the clinical dismantling and restructuring of the thought architecture that keeps intelligent people stuck inside ineffective behavioral scripts.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → How to hold two true things at once: real injury and radical responsibility.
- → The psychological and cultural reasons the victim stance *feels* like safety and *acts* like a cage.
- → A therapist's framework for separating what was done to you from what you will do next.
- → The specific, repeatable internal move that opens a life — named in plain language and demonstrated in real time.

04 Choices Control Circumstances

The Daily Architecture of a Rebuilt Life

CORPORATE · PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT · EDUCATION · YOUTH · LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT · PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

It's a little cliché and a restating of the obvious, but it's still quite true — the quality of our lives is directly the result of our choices. However, how to authoritatively balance our choices with the demands of our circumstances has long proved tricky for many. Transformation is not an event. It is a sequence of small, unglamorous, mostly invisible decisions made on ordinary days when nobody is watching. Drawing on his clinical training and his own rebuilt life, Dr. Ragashanti delivers the most practical talk in his catalog: the actual architecture — habit, environment, language, identity, relationship — of how a person walks out of one life into another, with the unmistakable authority of someone who has done it.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → The five practical domains every serious transformation has to reorganize.
- → How to engineer environment so that the version of you that you desire becomes the version of you that happens.
- → A clinical framework for distinguishing *motivation* (unreliable) from *architecture* (reliable).
- → The specific, repeatable daily mechanics that produced four degrees from a streetboy.

TRACK TWO

Culture & *Identity*

05 Patwa: Jamaica's Influential Language

How Patois, Reggae, Jerk Chicken, and Other Things Jamaican Became a Global Cultural Force

UNIVERSITIES · DIASPORA EVENTS · ARTS & FESTIVAL CIRCUITS

The Jamaican language, Patwa (patois), is the source of numerous intriguing debates. The gamut of people's impressions of Patwa runs from absolute ridicule and dismissal to euphoric celebration. However, when we understand that languages carry culture, culture carries identity, and identity carries existence, we can better appreciate the multilayered sophistication of Patwa in the Jamaican cultural context. Patwa is the fuel of Jamaican identity. Patwa anchors every riddim, every dish, every accomplishment, and so much more. Patwa is the engine in a still-evolving cultural architecture built by salt-of-the-earth Jamaicans who were dismissed and told their language was broken, their music was *'boogooyaga,'* and their traditions were underdeveloped — and who responded by gloriously stamping their presence on the world anyway.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A deep understanding of Jamaican language, music, and food as living systems of resistance and identity.
- → The ability to distinguish cultural appreciation from cultural appropriation in the Jamaican context.
- → An unforgettable, entertaining introduction to the anthropology of the Caribbean.

06 Jamaica's Gay Debate

Sexuality, Identity & Complicated Caribbean Conversations

UNIVERSITIES · DEI EVENTS · HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUMS

Jamaica has been called the most homophobic place on earth. Jamaica's Dancehall culture has been accused of producing "murder music" and advocacy aimed at harming gays. In actuality, though, Jamaica and Dancehall have also produced some of the most complex, layered, and quietly subversive expressions of gender and sexuality in the African diaspora. Both sides of the issue have truths and misinterpretations — and understanding the historical and cultural dynamics of the debate requires more than outrage, more than condemnation, and far more than the comfortable distance of outsider judgment.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A nuanced, historically grounded understanding of homophobia in Jamaica and the Caribbean.
- → Insight into how colonial-era laws continue to shape sexual identity and policy across the region.
- → A framework for engaging cross-culturally on LGBTQ+ issues without resorting to cultural imperialism.
- → Empathy for the complexity faced by LGBTQ+ Jamaicans navigating identity, family, and community.

07 Beyond Brand Jamaica

A Cultural Intelligence Briefing for Brands, Investors, and Operators Engaging the Caribbean Market

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS · MARKET ENTRY & EXPANSION · BRAND STRATEGY · HOSPITALITY · FINANCIAL SERVICES · CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Jamaica is one of the most globally influential — and most commercially misread — markets in the hemisphere. Its culture exports billions of dollars in influence; its diaspora is among the most economically active in the world; and yet most companies engaging the country, its workforce, or the global Caribbean consumer rely on assumptions, stereotypes, and surface intelligence that quietly cost them market share, talent retention, partnerships, and reputation. Drawing on his training in *anthropology*, *law*, and *counseling psychology*, his clinical work with the Jamaican people, and his decades of broadcast access to the unfiltered Jamaican mind, Dr. Ragashanti delivers a strategic cultural intelligence briefing that turns Jamaica from a risk into an advantage — for hospitality groups, financial services firms, consumer brands, media companies, and any organization operating in, investing in, or marketing to the Caribbean market.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A clear-eyed framework for reading the Jamaican consumer, employee, and partner — beyond the marketing brochure.
- → Practical cultural intelligence for hiring, leading, and retaining Caribbean talent in global organizations.
- → The strategic distinction between *"Brand Jamaica"* (the export) and the actual Jamaica (the market) — and why the gap is a commercial opportunity, not a liability.
- → The legal, reputational, and cultural risks that quietly derail Caribbean market entry — and how to navigate them with authority.

TRACK THREE Jamaican *Relationships*

08 The Crazy World of Dating a Jamaican

Provocative Insights on Jamaicans

RELATIONSHIP CONFERENCES · DIASPORA EVENTS · COMEDY & FESTIVAL · CORPORATE DEI

You fell in love with the accent. The confidence. The way they walked into a room like they already owned it. What nobody told you is that loving a Jamaican comes with its own unwritten rulebook, its own emotional language, its own deeply specific cultural logic. Dr. Ragashanti not only presents from his colorful dating experiences as a Jamaican, but also draws on his anthropological expertise on Jamaican culture, to carry you through the highly dynamic world of dating Jamaicans. Dr. Ragashanti delivers this presentation with his renowned comedic ability, that makes the speech impactful and unforgettable.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A clear, psychologically grounded understanding of the cultural values shaping Jamaican relational behavior.
- → Practical insight into communication styles, family expectations, and emotional expression in Jamaican partnerships.
- → The ability to distinguish cultural difference from personal dysfunction — a distinction that saves relationships.
- → A profound new appreciation for the richness, loyalty, and depth that Jamaican partners bring to love.

09 The Way Jamaicans Love

Loyalty, Conflict & the Hidden Psychology of Jamaican Relationships

JAMAICAN & CARIBBEAN AUDIENCES · MENTAL HEALTH · DIASPORA COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jamaicans love fiercely. They also fight fiercely, forgive selectively, and carry emotional wounds with a stoicism the rest of the world mistakes for strength. The way Jamaicans navigate intimacy, loyalty, betrayal, and romantic love is the product of a specific cultural, historical, and psychological inheritance that most Jamaicans have never had explained to them — until now.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → Genuine insight into the psychological and cultural roots of Jamaican relational patterns.
- → A framework for understanding how Jamaica's history has shaped the way its people love, attach, and conflict.
- → Practical tools for navigating the most common pressure points in Jamaican relationships.
- → The relief and liberation that come from having your emotional experience named, understood, and normalized.

10 "Yuh a Move Different Eno!"

Gender, Power & the Unspoken Rules of Jamaican Intimacy

UNIVERSITIES · GENDER STUDIES · DEI EVENTS · PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCES

In Jamaican culture, the rules of gender and power in relationships are everywhere and nowhere at once — in the music, in the yard, in the church, in the bedroom, and in the silence between what is said and what is meant. Jamaican men and women have recently undergone radical shifts in gender roles and conduct. The result is that many Jamaican men believe Jamaican women have changed for the worst, while many Jamaican women feel the same about Jamaican men. Drawing on his clinical training, anthropological techniques, and thousands of real relationship *"mixup"* stories from his radio years, Dr. Ragashanti traces these dynamics, names their consequences, and opens a conversation that explains the gender role shifts in Jamaican relationships and the eventual outcomes of the present trajectories.

AUDIENCES LEAVE WITH

- → A historically and psychologically grounded understanding of gender and power in Jamaican relationships.
- → Insight into how masculinity and femininity are constructed, performed, and enforced within Jamaican culture.
- → A framework for identifying inherited relational patterns and making conscious choices about which to carry forward.
- → The rare experience of having a genuinely difficult cultural conversation feel entertaining, safe, and worth continuing.

§ 04 — CREDENTIALS & MEDIA

Scholar. Lawyer. *Clinician.* Broadcaster.

A rare combination of credentials that positions Dr. Ragashanti uniquely — not merely as a cultural enthusiast or a transformation speaker, but as a scholar, a legal mind, a clinician, and a rigorous thinker who brings intellectual and emotional firepower to every stage he steps onto.

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL

Ph.D. *Anthropology*	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
J.D. *Juris Doctor*	FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
M.A. *Counseling Psychology*	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
B.A. *Psychology & Africana Studies*	VASSAR COLLEGE (DOUBLE MAJOR)

MEDIA & BROADCAST

Man Talk — Television Host	JAMAICAN NATIONAL TELEVISION
Ragashanti Live — Radio Host	NEWSTALK 93 FM & NATIONWIDE 90 FM
Disclosure — Radio Host	HOT 102 FM JAMAICA
Tambourine Radio — Founder & Owner	GLOBAL CARIBBEAN ONLINE AUDIENCE
Master of *Ceremony*	1,000S OF EVENTS WORLDWIDE

§ 05 — SPEAKING HISTORY

Stages across *five continents.*

Dr. Ragashanti has delivered keynotes, lectures, transformation workshops, and cultural trainings for government ministries, universities, Fortune-class corporations, and Caribbean diaspora communities worldwide — and served as Master of Ceremony for thousands of public and private events in Jamaica and abroad.

GOVERNMENT Jamaican government ministries	SECONDARY EDUCATION Jamaican high schools & sixth forms	HIGHER EDUCATION Colleges & universities across the U.S. and U.K.
CORPORATE U.S. corporations & professional organizations	COMMUNITY Caribbean diaspora events in the U.S., U.K., & Canada	WELLNESS Relationship conferences, mental health & wellness events
TRANSFORMATION & YOUTH Youth programs, rehabilitation & reentry, leadership development	FESTIVALS Comedy & arts festival circuits	MASTER OF CEREMONY 1,000s of private & public events worldwide

SPOKEN & BROADCAST IN

Jamaica · United States · England · Canada · Ghana · Ethiopia · Kenya · Tanzania · Colombia · Brazil · France · Greece · Italy · Spain · Netherlands · Thailand

Dr. Ragashanti doesn't just talk about Jamaican culture, transformation, and relationships — he ***entertainingly dissects them, hilariously performs them, and makes you love them.***

§ 07 — BOOKING

Book Dr. *Ragashanti.*

THE COMMITMENT

All serious inquiries receive a *personal response within 48 hours.* Fees, travel, and technical requirements confirmed on first contact.

— *Currently booking Fall 2026 / Spring 2027.*

EMAIL

raga@ragashanti.com

Preferred. For all speaking & MC inquiries. Please include event date, location, audience, track, and format.

DIRECT LINE

+1 929-696-2959

For event coordinators, agencies, and time-sensitive confirmations.

Available for transformation keynotes, commencement addresses, university lectures, corporate cultural training, relationship conferences, festival appearances, and Master of Ceremony engagements — worldwide.