

CILLAH HALL

Immigrant, Strategist, Thought Leader



With a background as a former model, TV news producer, and entrepreneur, Cillah Hall is all about living an authentic, impactful, purpose-driven life. A “Gazelle in Our Midst,” She lives by the motto of her favorite African fable that says,

“Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up and knows that it must run faster than the fastest lion to survive. Every morning a lion wakes up and knows that it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn’t matter whether you are the lion or the gazelle, when the sun comes up, you better start running.”

Despite overwhelming obstacles throughout her life, Cillah has persevered, emerging from hardship as an inspirational thought leader, openly sharing her challenges, which include life as a divorced mother of two juggling a career in underrepresented industries. Her firsthand experience as a double minority - a female and a black woman- has only made her more resilient.

Cillah is the founder of Gazelle Media, an integrated media brand that publishes print and digital content, including the fashion and lifestyle magazine, [Gazelle](#). Born in Zambia, Africa, Cillah has paved her way. When she was 18, she was runner-up in the Miss Universe - Zambia Pageant. With newfound confidence, she flew halfway around the world alone and came to the United States with only her suitcase and \$136 to her name. She later graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, then worked her way up in the media business. For several years, she was a morning news producer at NBC affiliate station KSDK-TV, where she produced a top-rated award-winning newscast. She also honed her media skills at KPLR-TV, Channel 11, where she served as associate producer and assignment editor.

Cillah’s career includes starting her own PR firm, Xanadu Public Relations. She represented world-renowned music artists, as well as nonprofits like the Pujols Family Foundation, corporate CEOs, and professional athletes. Her resume also includes roles as co-founder and event producer of Missouri Style Week. But her proudest accomplishment thus far is Gazelle Media, whose name is inspired by the way she lives her life and her African roots.

Today, Cillah is enjoying a new phase of her career journey, serving as a digital marketing and DEI strategist for Fortune 500 companies, innovative global enterprises, and educational institutions.

In addition to being the head of a publishing enterprise, Cillah sits on the board of the YWCA, a nonprofit whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. She also serves on the advisory council of Lindenwood University’s fashion program and gives her time as a committee member for several nonprofits, including Saint Louis Ballet and the Metro Theatre of Saint Louis. Cillah has also served as a member of the board of governors for the Mid-America Emmy Awards.