

A portrait of Feleceia Benton, a Black woman with dark dreadlocks, smiling and wearing a white blouse and grey overalls. The background is dark grey.

FELECEIA BENTON

/ SPEAKER
/ PERFORMER
/ ENTREPRENEUR
/ WRITER
/ COMMUNITY LEADER

Feleceia



//

GOOD THINGS
COME TO THOSE
WHO

Change.

@heyfeleceia

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MEET FELECEIA

fuh-LEE-shee-uh

FELECEIA B. BENTON, IS A PASSIONATE LOVER OF GOD, HIS PEOPLE AND OF HELPING PEOPLE THINK BEYOND THEIR COMFORT ZONES.

"Everything changes when you change your mind."

As a single momma of a little girl born with Down syndrome, Feleceia has learned to believe in the power of perspective. Beauty can be formed from the most difficult situations.

After an unsuccessful four-month search for looking for a job, she created her own.

Founded in 2012, the Zoe Communications Agency is a creative content and brand management company that builds strategic marketing solutions for cities, communities and businesses like the City of DeSoto, the City of Hutchins, RISE Clothing, and the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce.

Her love for writing inspired her to not only author her first book, *Lessons from Five Fingers: 21 Life Lessons from the Book of Zoe*, but also led her to found *Elisia Magazine*, a quarterly digital lifestyle magazine that celebrates the diverse voice of the American woman.

An accomplished award-winning singer and performer, Feleceia has performed on almost every professional theater stage in Dallas/Ft. Worth and has been featured in publications like the *Dallas Morning News*, *Culture Map Dallas*, and most recently on the cover of *Thrive Magazine* with her little girl, Zoe.

As a single mother of an amputee born with Down Syndrome, Feleceia still finds the time to record a weekly podcast, *LifeChat Radio*, where she and her co-host talk music, business, spirituality and all things life.

Ms. Benton holds two degrees from Texas Christian University, a graduate of the Leadership Southwest program, and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Public Leadership at UNT-Dallas. She also sits on a number of non-profit boards in Southern Dallas County.

Feleceia is ultimately passionate about spreading her inspirational message of creativity, spirituality and empowerment through faith, hope and action.

The WORLD IS A STAGE



An accomplished award-winning singer and performer, Feleceia has performed on almost every professional theater stage in Dallas/Ft. Worth, and has been a teacher, choreographer and director for schools, churches and stages around the Metroplex for the last 15 years.

BOOK HER FOR -->>

THEATER WORKSHOPS

SPEAKING TO MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

DIRECTING

THEATER CONSULTING

HOSTING EVENTS





SPEAKING TOPICS

COMMUNITY

// A RECONCILED COMMUNITY

// COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

// THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ENTREPRENEUR

// A CREATIVE'S SEAT AT THE POLITICAL TABLE

BUSINESS + MARKETING + BRANDING

// WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
MARKETING BASICS FOR THE NON-MARKETER

// DO'S & DON'TS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

// WHERE PERSONALITY MEETS
PROFESSIONALISM

INSPIRATIONAL + SPIRITUAL

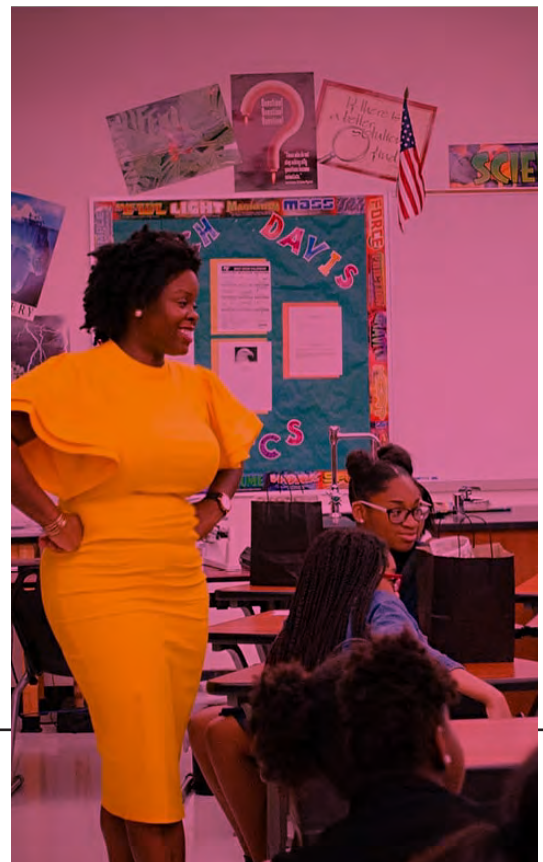
// SINGLE MOTHERHOOD

// RAISING A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

// MOMPRENEURSHIP

// MAINTAINING YOUR FAITH

// ADULT LIFE AS A PASTOR'S DAUGHTER



inspiration

Meet Zoe -- my little pint-sized-five-fingered-spare-chromosomed ball of sunshine.

Zoe is an avid lover of dancing, singing, hanging out with her cousins, and all forms of chicken. The child loves chicken.

She's my roommate, my brunch buddy and my motivation for a lot of things. I started a business for her, founded a fashion show on behalf of her, wrote a book about her, started a magazine inspired by her, and keep going because of her.

Who would have ever thought that a little tiny human child could teach so many lessons about life, and could reveal so many things about me that I never even knew?

I jotted some of my favorite lessons about life + parenting + raising a little girl with special needs in a book a few years ago called Lessons From Five Fingers: 21 Life Lessons from the Book of Zoe.

You can find it on my website and on Amazon.


In 2014, we launched Elisia Magazine, a magazine that celebrates the every woman of our generation. You can find it at ElisiaMagazine.com.



Available at
amazon





A photograph of a person with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt with 'DALLAS' printed on the back, hugging another person from behind. The second person is wearing a white t-shirt with 'FREE HIGGS' printed on the back. They are standing in a crowd at what appears to be a protest or rally. The background is slightly out of focus, showing other people and structures. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

sample writing

MEET THEM WHERE THEY *are*

writing sample

Where were you on the evening of July 7, 2017?

Around 9pm, I was checking in as "safe."

Thinking back, that entire week sounds like something out of a dramatic movie with sad ending.

We'd just experienced another round of publicized murders at the hands of law enforcement – another two black men – tragedies that once again hit too close to the homes of black and brown folks around the country who'd grown incredibly sensitive to this recurring narrative.

A few handfuls of fellow passionate, concerned humans gathered to do the thing we don't often feel comfortable doing - we talked. I was one of those humans, sitting at Union Coffee in Dallas, thinking aloud, seeking resolve and perhaps even a little comfort.

And near the conclusion of the meeting, it happened.

Just a few miles south of where we were sitting and seeking and listening, chaos. We learned of what happened, we checked in as "safe," and we waited. My thoughts immediately rushed to my child who was at home, even closer to the epicenter than I was. She was safe, too, our neighborhood, eerily quiet.

The shooting, the protests, the chaos - it all happened and was contained within just a few blocks in the middle of Downtown Dallas. Investigations spilled over into the coming days. I remember trying to make my way into the heart of Downtown days after the attack to get my passport. Zoe and I had a plane to catch the next day. We couldn't even get to the street of the passport office as the entire block was still closed. Our trip out of the country would have to wait another day. I went to Mexico for a week and tried to forget. I didn't know that the next 365 days would find me in the middle of working with people deeply entrenched in the "the work."

And now, here we are, one year later. Some folks are marching.

Some folks are posting.

Some folks are hosting and heading to events.

Some folks could care less.

Some folks are angry.

Some folks are sad.

And a lot of black and brown folks, while sympathetic to the loss of life, are still having a hard time understanding how we honor the loss of life innocent police officers, but don't know how to honor the loss of life of regular black men, some of whom were heroes in their own circles.

This...this is a tricky road to navigate.

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DALLAS-FORT WORTH

VOL. 9
ISSUE NO. 5

thrive

SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER
2017

A RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES LIVING WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

HAPPY CAMPERS

THE BEST STATE PARKS
WITH ACCESSIBLE FUN

TAKE
THERAPY
TO THE
GYM

THE GOOD FIGHT

TEXAS PARENTS BAND
TOGETHER TO BATTLE FOR
THEIR KIDS' HEALTH CARE

MEET FELECEIA+ ZOE

THE ENTREPRENEUR
MOM AND HER
DAUGHTER

+

91

MUST-HAVE
SPECIAL NEEDS
RESOURCES

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Publicity

DALLAS DOING GOOD

» Feleceia Benton:
Lighting the Runway
for Models with Down
Syndrome

VOYAGE DALLAS

» Meet Feleceia Benton of
Zoe Communications Agency

THRIVE MAGAZINE

» Meet Feleceia + Zoe,
the Entrepreneur Mom
and her Daughter

LEADING GIRLS PODCAST

» Ep 21: Raising Girls with
Special Needs with
Feleceia Benton

THEATER JONES

» Feleceia Benton towers
memorably as the kind-
hearted but commanding
burlesque theater matron,
Medda

CULTURE MAP

» Family and sugar – lots of
it – drive this fierce Dallas
actress

Signature EVENTS



Think Out, Be Light FASHION SHOW

Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day The Think Out, Be Light Fashion Show celebrates children and young adults with special needs. Every year on World Down Syndrome, a band of incredible models take to the runway wearing the latest fashions in front of friends, family members and supporters. Think Out, Be Light is always an unforgettable night.

ThinkOutBeLight.com



Becoming Her CONFERENCE

How can we create the next generation of women without the intentionality of mothers? The Becoming Her Conference explores the dynamics of the relationships between mommies and daughters, and breaks down some of the layered communication issues that sometimes make it hard for them to hear one another.

BecomingHerConference.com

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FELLOWSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

UPCOMING





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Julia