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BO BENTON
KARLIE REDD
FABOLOUS
DRAKE
WAKA FLOCKA
PAUL WALL
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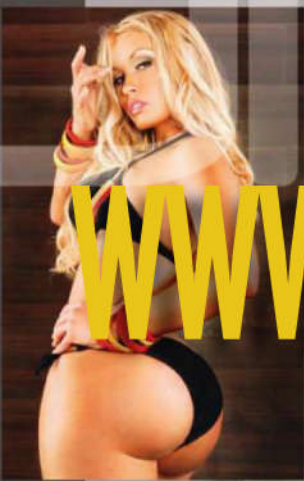
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MUSIC AND MAYHEM

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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2010

BlackMen

COVER IMAGE BY HOWARD HUANG

MUSIC AND MAYHEM



GOOD MUSIC? WHERE THEY DO THAT AT?

Since the dawn of Internet downloads, there has been a **massive attack** on music sales, giving artists a hard way to go with their careers.

What does it take for artists who **just want to be successful**? I'm finding that the more web savvy are **going in** and holding the industry for **ransom**. It's evident that nothing lasts **forever**. The **magnificent success** of the video model has run its course, as predicted in some songs. She **wouldn't get far** as serious talent without pursuing a craft or resume in the film industry. Models, such as Esther Baxter, had foreseen this plateau, and began pursuing a film career in hopes of saying, "**I'm back**," on a whole different level.

With music download sales slowly rising, it is clear that it will not be easy for artists to gain momentum. With the Internet's accessibility, the consumer can easily attain anything. All they need is a five-minute attention span, and then it's **on to the next one**.

Whatever your passion is in this game, you need to **find your love**, and stick to it. Don't worry about pushing a **Beamer, Benz or Bentley**, and do your best to **win, win, win—no matter what**. ■

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She may have started as Da Baddest Bitch but Trina (real name Katrina Taylor) has grown up quite a bit. She is now known as an international brand. To call her just a female rapper would be a misnomer. She is a rapper who has embraced the moniker of businesswoman. Her business enterprises include two fragrances (Diamond Princess and Diamond Doll), Pink Diamond Couture Clothing, and The Diamond Doll Foundation. In addition, she recently introduced her new cosmetic line with proceeds from the lip gloss going to girls in Haiti. The non-profit organization was started to empower young girls who may need a system of support to succeed in life.

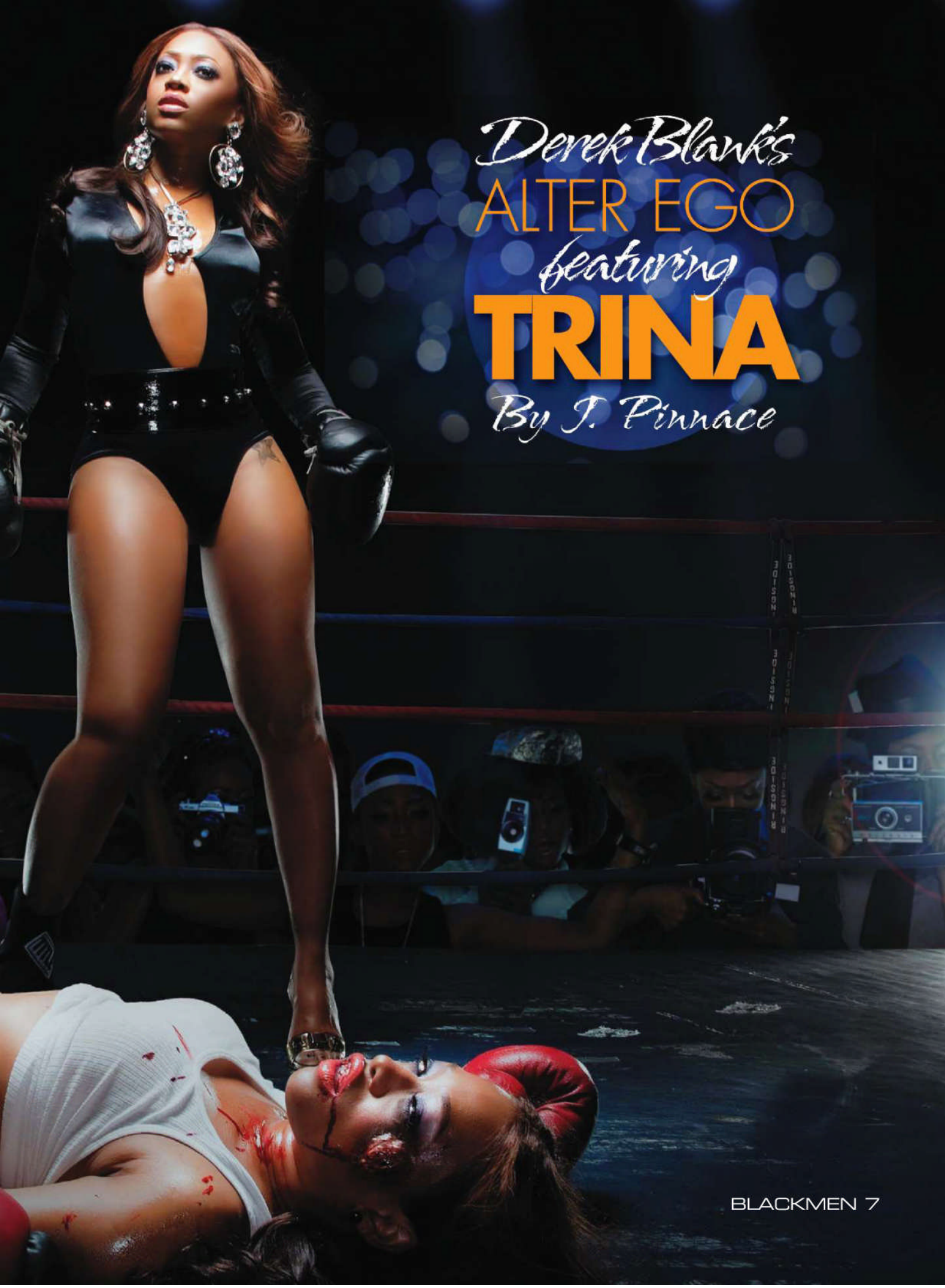
Amazin' the fifth studio album is the latest effort from the sexy artist. The album showcases the evolution of Trina as a woman and as an artist. "With this fifth album I stepped it up a notch and it starts with where I'm at in life," says Trina.

Trina's album was done with the help of some amazing artists. Some artists who participated: Diddy, Trey Songz, Lil Wayne, Keri Hilson, Nicki Minaj, Lady Gaga, and a host of others. Producers, such as Jim Jonsin, CP Hollywood, Yonny and Lamb also helped Trina achieve the sound she was looking for on the album. "I was really looking for a different sound," says Trina. The new sound that she was looking for include, "...a lot of acoustics, a lot of pop sounds, a lot of fun stuff for the club, a lot of retro that you could just dance and have fun with."

Change in one's life is what fuels the music an artist produces. As you change so does the music. "Change is part of life. As a woman you change every day. You grow, you evolve, and you constantly go through life changes all the time. I continue to grow and evolve. You know in your music those are things that you want to talk about, the changes, and all the things that are happening; some of the things that happen aren't that good. Two years

SOUTH FLORIDA'S BADDEST CHICK





Derek Blank's
ALTER EGO

featuring

TRINA

By J. Pinnace

Amazing Trina changing with time.

ago I was doing one thing musically, but today I'm doing something different. The good stuff, the bad stuff, it all goes in the music." However, Trina sees all change as growth, and as an artist it becomes, "...a form of expression of where you're at in your life. And I think that's how I kind of express myself, through music, as I change."

The artist is also taking care of business and giving back to the community. She is involved in a multitude of business ventures. She has two fragrances, (Trina loves perfume and is a self-described perfume fanatic) a couture clothing line, a cosmetic line, and the Diamond Doll Foundation. She is very proud of accomplishing the formation of her foundation. The foundation was formed to reach out to girls to create a place where they could explore problems common to teenagers in their transition to adults.

Trina is grateful to her fans for sticking by her in her endeavors. "I would like to thank everybody that got my album. And to everyone that don't have it, go get the album, it's amazing. I worked with some wonderful people on the album. It's a wonderful album. To all my fans, thank you so much. I'm grateful and humbled. I'm really excited about this project. Hope you guys love it."

Follow Trina on twitter at Trinalifestyle, and to my Web site www.ohtrina.com. For info about the cosmetic line, log onto www.thebaddestchick.com. ■





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Derek Blanks

Capturing the art of photography and the prestige of celebrity, visionary Derek Blanks presents the blend of the arts combined to capture the various characters of our favorite stars is his wonderful surreal display called *Alter Ego*. *Alter Ego* is a gallery of Derek's photography and graphic art talent that give his subjects the ability to express themselves in various themes through still images. The artistic expression of his work is amazing.

Check out more of Derek Blanks' *Alter Ego*: <http://www.dblank.com/>

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Bo Benton

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Beauty, talent and legs, Chicago, IL born and raised siren, Bo Benton, is a soulful, serious, career minded woman with a somewhat naughty, "alternate musical personality." Moving from the comfort of her hometown in the Chi to Flynt, MI taught her the importance of networking, and the power of meeting people while adapting to new environments. As a woman, an artist, a lover and professional, she is comfortable in her own skin.

BLACK MEN: You have beautiful features, what's your ethnic background?

BO: A TV Station (BBS) did a special on a company that analyzes DNA called, "Gene Tree." I tried it out. They take a swab of the tissue inside the cheek of your mouth and send it to their lab. We found out my ethnicity is comprised of 45 percent Saharan African, 35 percent European, 13 percent East Asian and 7 percent Native American.

BM: Growing up with such unique features, were you at all alienated by other Black children?

BO: Yes, I was picked on for being different. But I never thought of myself as being anything other than Black. Beauty can be a curse, as well as a blessing.

BM: On your album, who are the producers that you have worked with?

BO: My first single, "Handle This," featuring Too Short, produced by Bangladesh (Beyonce, Ludacris,





Gucci Mane), is getting major rotation in the Southwest, Midwest and Southern markets on all of their major radio shows. This can be downloaded on iTunes. Houston and Corpus Christi, TX are showing us a lot of love.

BM: What is the best advice to give aspiring artists who are looking to get radio play on major stations?

BO: You must succeed in the secondary markets first, and build a story because the mainstream markets are so saturated. The program directors control the airplay, and at times, it's based on politics. You pretty much have to present them with an established package. Co-signage by a major artist never hurts (Nicki Minaj, Eve, Lil Kim).

BM: It's amazing that you are bringing back the soulful vibe (Love Jones lounge, spoken word style).

BO: It's funny you should say that. About four years ago, I wrote an album called *Black Orchid* with producer, Shannon Sanders (India.Arie *Brown Skin*) and Andrew Ramsy. We only released "Birth of a Ghetto Child," which charted high on the adult contemporary stations.

BM: Okay, I don't think the guys can handle this *Black Men* magazine spread. It's almost an alter ego to the soulful vibe we were formally addressing. When men couple these images with the lyrics to "Handle This," they are going to second-guess turning the page to look at other women besides you. You killed this shoot. Is that how you feel?

BO: I'm very comfortable with myself. I feel good about and love myself. You can't love anybody else unless you love yourself. I hope to be known as having the greatest legs in the industry.

BM: Aside from my vote, I bet all the jockeys you mentioned in the song will be up front and center. It seemed you were giving a lesson on how to be classy in a sexy themed photo shoot.

BO: I'm not a "professional" model, but thank you. I am good at being myself and doing what I do. I'm not pursuing modeling, but if a campaign opportunity arises, I will consider it.

BM: Are you in a relationship?

BO: I am engaged in working on my career. I'm a very free spirit and as an individual, I'm in my own world. But I am a woman, and I would love to share my bed with a man that I love and care for. I'm very domestic. I love to cook, and have family get togethers. Not just anyone can fill that position. So at this time, I am married to this music.

BM: Well, I hope that through that marriage, you will find the love of your life.

BO: ThankYou.

Check out Bo's Webisode and application download, created by OneFiftyOne (<http://www.one50one.com>) on her Web site at <http://www.bobenton.com>, where you can also download her music.

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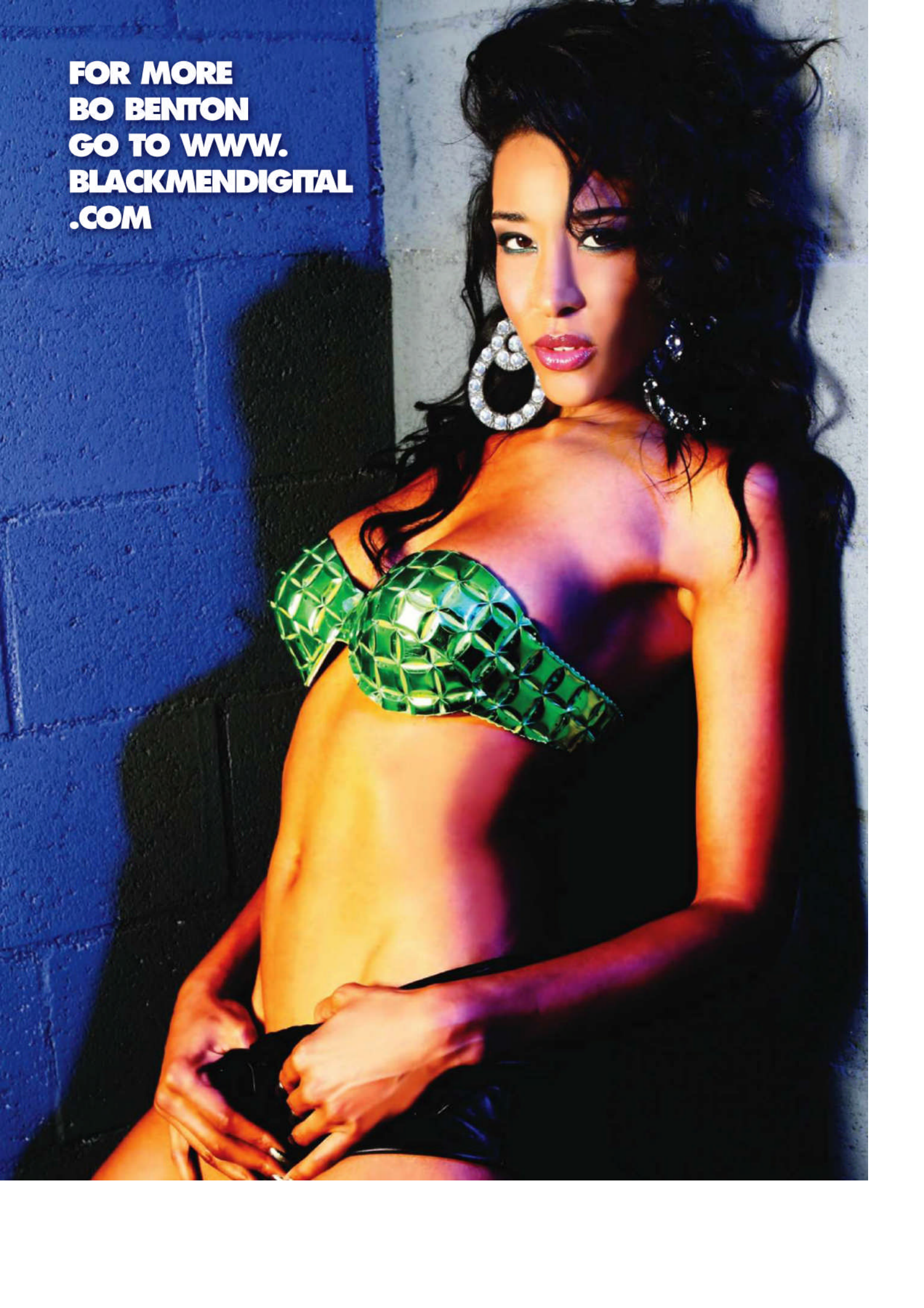
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CASH MONEY'S

Karlie Redd

By J. Pinnacle
Images by
Howard Huang

At an early age Karlie Redd was interested in and entered the world of entertainment. She was raised in Trinidad and at the age of 12 came to New York, where she spent the rest of the time growing up and honing her skills.

She began acting at the age of 16, and has done over 40 commercials, movies, and modeling appearances. She also studied at the Harlem School of the Arts, and toured with the prestigious Alvin Ailey Dance Company. Her career as a musician includes artists, such as producers Commissioner Gordon, Michaelangelo Saulsberry, L.O.S. The Maestro, and Jamaican producer Mickey Bennett. Working at this level of expertise helped Karlie perfect her craft. Her musical journey also includes musical work with Sean Kingston, Claudette Ortiz from City High, Da Rock, Will.i.am, the legendary KRS-1, rapper Hot dollar, and producer Lenky who is responsible for the international smash hit "Get Busy" by Sean Paul. Karlie has also recorded remixes to the songs "Hate on Me" by Jill Scott and "Bed" by J. Holiday.

Karlie's musical influences come from various artists, such


On Karlie Redd-
Wolford Hosiery;
Karlie Eva couture
On Christian Keys-
Ralph Lauren pant;
Cesare Paciotti Shoes

Biatta Intimates lingerie
La Crasia gloves





Biatta Intimates lingerie
Bird by Juicy Couture Vest



as the great Celine Dion, Lady Saw, Shaggy, and Bob Marley. Her focus these days is on her blossoming musical career. She performed in Los Angeles at B.B. King, and shared the stage with hot R&B performer Tyrese Gibson, and Jamie Foxx.

Karlie is an electric performer whose stage show is high energy.

The act features a full band, dancers, and plenty of audience participation.

Always striving to be the best and using all of her creativity, Karlie is also interested in films. She holds a degree in film directing and producing. In addition, she is currently learning the complexities of directing and producing, and using this knowledge in her music career. As an artist she knows the value of being knowledgeable in all aspects of her business. She hopes to direct and produce her own music videos in the future.

A well-developed multi-talented performer, Karlie Redd can deliver the goods, whether it is in dance, music, modeling, writing, producing or directing her own music videos and films. ■

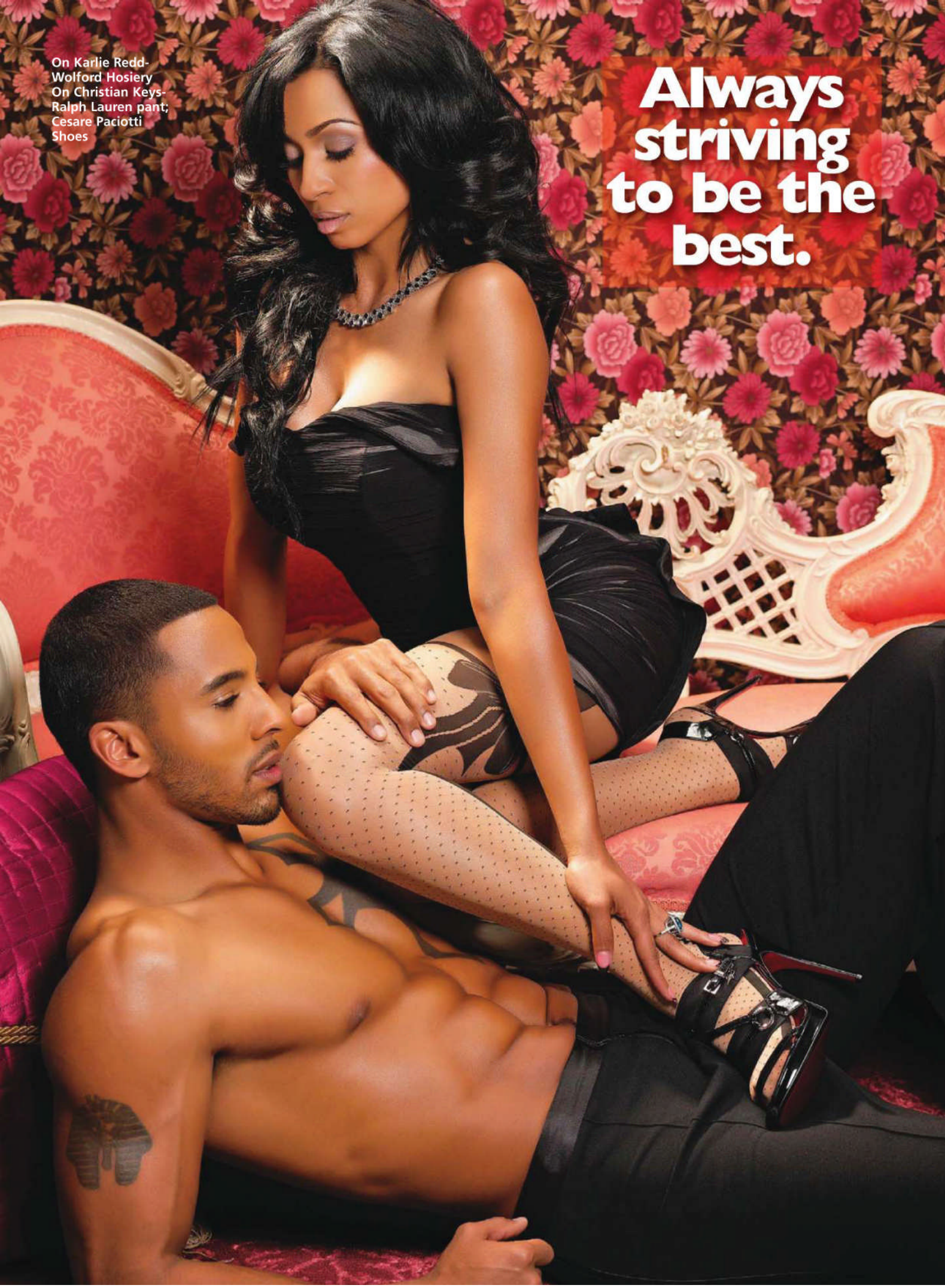
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Hair: Anthony Cherry
Makeup: Sacha Kemp
Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame
and Joe Exclusive,
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Asst. Stylist: Trey C & Ariel T
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones**

Biatta Intimates lingerie
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On Karlie Redd-
Wolford Hosiery
On Christian Keys-
Ralph Lauren pant;
Cesare Paciotti
Shoes

**Always
striving
to be the
best.**





FABOLOUS

N O T H I N G B U T N E T

By Ben Westhoff

It hasn't been an easy year for Fabolous. The Brooklyn MC saw the death of rapper, G Baby, after one of his shows in Queens, and remains a favorite target of the Hip Hop Police. Still, after a successful 2009, in which his fifth album *Loso's Way* topped the charts—his first CD to hit number one—his game is as strong as ever. "Anyone who listens from the beginning of my career to now has seen gradual changes, different forms of music in the collaborations and the subject matter," he said. On the heels of his well-received, DJ Drama-compiled mixtape, "There Is No Competition 2: The Funeral Service," he added that, like LeBron James or Steve Nash, he's focused on pushing his style forward: "It's like when a basketball player shoots 100 free throws; when he shoots one in a game, he's more likely to make it." It's fair to say that on *Loso's Way 2*, which he insists is coming soon, we can expect nothing but net. ■

Photographer: Howard Huang
Wardrobe: Marcus Blessingame
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones
Hair: Colin Yeo
Makeup: Hiyaton

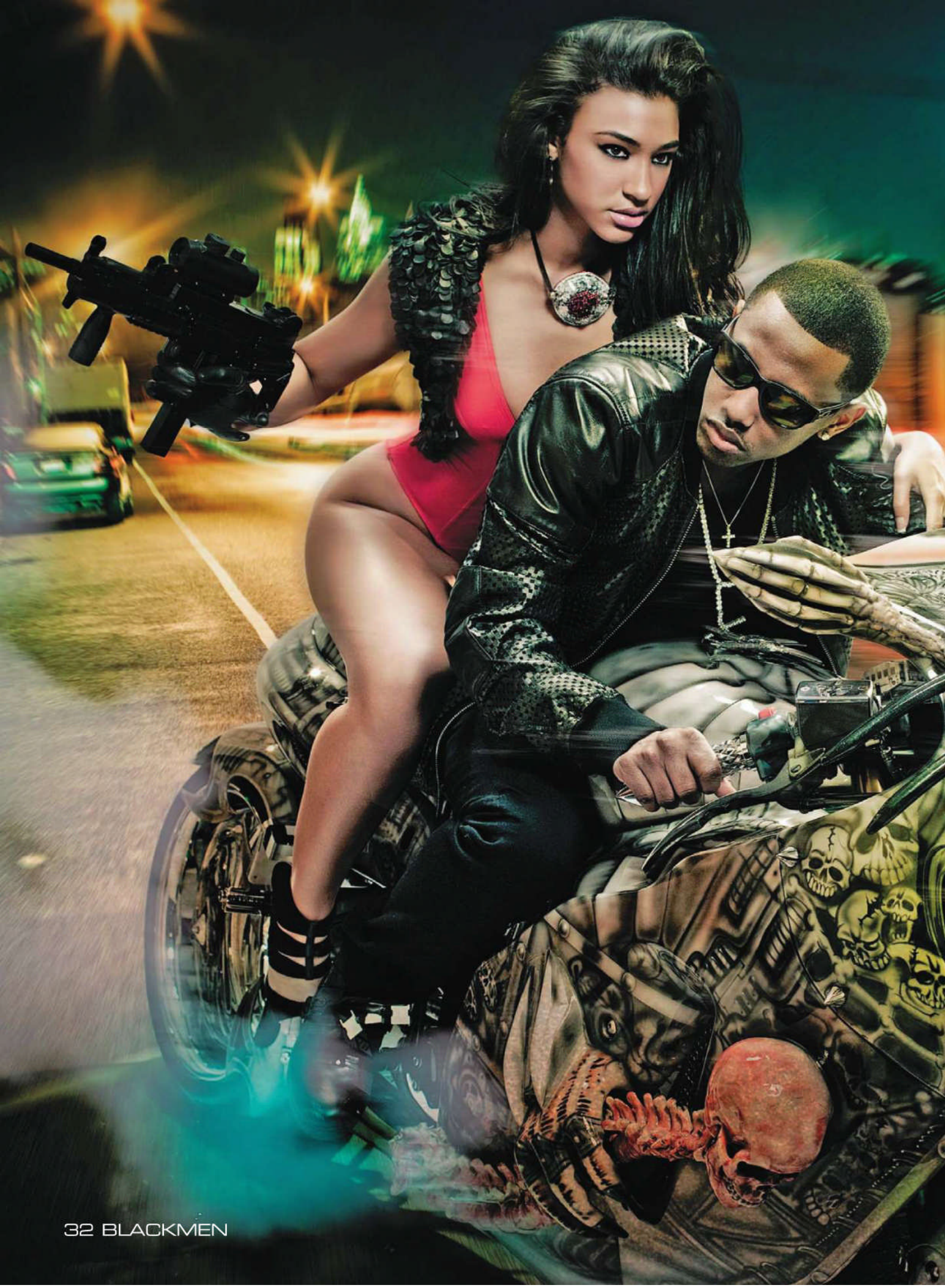
Dolce and Gabbana leather motorcycle jacket, tank & pant; Gucci shoes
Cartier sunglasses

BLACKMEN 29



Dolce and
Gabbana leather
motorcycle
jacket,
tank & pant;
Cartier
sunglasses







He is focused on his game.

Photographer: Howard Huang
Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones
Hair: Colin Yeo
Makeup: Hiyaton

On Fabolous-Dolce and Gabbana
leather motorcycle jacket, tank & pant;
Gucci shoes; Cartier sunglasses

On Casie-Eres swimsuit; Catherine
Malandrino crop bolero; Givenchy
sandals; Tammiko Accessories Necklace

Ashton Michael bodysuit
(www.ashtonmichael.com)
Gucci peep-toe sandals
Ben-amun stacked bracelet
(www.ben-amun.com)





MRS. AND MISS MINAJ

How Nicki Has Inspired A Nation Of A Million Barbies!
Photography by Howard Huang
Article By Cynthia Horner



Ashton
Michael
bodysuit
Gucci
peep-
toe
sandals



**Ashton
Michael
bodysuit
Ben-amun
stacked
bracelet**

NM

NICKI MINAJ

Bringing the hotness and glamour back into female emcees, Nicki Minaj has raised the bar. Any emcee, who emerges from this point forward, must be able to be about the music and the image—and in Nicki Minaj's case, the mysterious Minaj mystique.

Much is known about this beauty, whose exotic looks would have attracted attention, even if she were not one of the most talked about artists in years. Everybody thinks that she knows her favorite color, pink, and that she is inspired by cutting edge designers, but we really don't know that much about the mysterious pop icon. I see her on the internet and point out facts, some of which are clearly incorrect, and she, in her matter-of-fact, sultry voice, confided in our interview, "You really don't (know me)." I hastened to add, "But you will tell me things during this interview, so that I will feel that I know you." "Yes," she agreed in her poised, down-to-earth voice.





Photographer: Howard Huang
Hair: Terrence Davidson
Makeup: DAY with buddhaflyy
Stylist: Fatima B/Balan Inc.
Edditorial Asst: Sharri Jones

Ashton Michael dress
Sergio Rossi peep-toe pumps

As the hottest, new chick in the game, Nicki was asked how she felt about the pressures that accompany the accolades. She quickly spoke up, "It's time for me to start working." And work she does. While other entertainers spend much of their time hanging out at clubs and parties, Nicki is strictly business. Playtime is over. Nicki Minaj has put away her dolls and toys, and is grinding hard. It has been said that she would show people how things were done. But there was no trace of arrogance in her voice when stating such a fact. "I put God first, and do not allow things to cloud my vision, and I believe in work ethic, work ethic, work ethic. And that's what I do." How much work she intends to do this year remains to be seen, but at the moment, she's focused on proving herself as an artist, while at the same time, recognizing the significance of her untitled project. Passing up lucrative tour dates, Nicki is holed up in recording studios, working on the most highly anticipated CD to come in years. There will be no rest for the weary anytime soon, as the direction of the CD takes shape. As she listened to the numerous tracks that have been offered from the who's who of music, Nicki pondered over the material, uncomfortable with resting on her laurels. "I think that I am my worst critic," she reflected.

As Nicki continued her interview in her winsome, friendly voice, she took her time, choosing her words carefully when asked to describe herself. Moistening her lips, she quietly replied, "loving and very giving." Pausing for a moment, she peered up, her exotic eyes piercing through to the soul, and then confessed, "I have always been a perfectionist, and am always seeing what I could have done better."

Her blonde ambition began years ago, when she was just a cute, little girl, growing up in Jamaica, Queens, NY, a hotbed of talent. "I remember first being interested in the entertainment business. I was just five years old, but I know that I wanted to be on a soap opera." Although back then she never dreamed that she would leave behind Onika Tanya Maraj, opting for a glamorous alter ego, Nicki Minaj. But she did not abandon her aficionado for childhood things, namely dolls and stuffed animals. Back then, she was totally possessive of these possessions. She smilingly recalled, warning people to leave her things alone. "Oh yeah, if you touched them, I would say I would kill you. If you messed with my doll, I would cry and then punch you."

Nowadays her collection is more limited. "I have a friend, whose name is Oscar. He's a toy monkey, and he's my only friend now." So no more toy collection—instead, Nicki Minaj collects Twitter followers (over 770,000 at last count) and a legion of human Barbies, who emulate her ever changing looks. But years ago, she wasn't a fashion icon, and her style didn't win her any second looks. "You know what I used to wear? Remember those Boss jeans? My friends and I used to wear these really baggy jeans. It was hilarious. I did what I

MY CHICK BAD





NM

Ashton Michael crop military
jacket and bustier top
Top Shop shorts
La Crasia gloves



"YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ME."

Sachika dress
Christian Louboutin sandals
Melody Ehsani earrings
Ben-amun bracelet



Sachika dress
Melody Ehsani earrings
BLACKMEN 43



Delise' Ana blazer; Ashton Michael bustier; Top Shop shorts; La Crasia gloves; Gucci sandals



BLACKMEN 45

Ashton Michael bodysuit
Ben-amun bracelet

OPPOSITE PAGE
Ashton Michael bodysuit
Gucci peep-toe sandals
Ben-amun bracelet







NM



wanted to do then.”

Today, Nicki is as known for her variety of wigs, as she is her Barbie moniker. Pink, green, jet-black: she slips into her fashionable headgear at the drop of the hat. Does she have a favorite style? “Although I like the different hairstyles, I like the green bob the most. Everybody seems to like that. People are saying that’s the winner.” Her penchant for the colored wigs was inspired in part by her fans. She added confidentially, “Last year, a girl dressed up as Nicki Minaj for Halloween, and she had the black with the pink hair underneath, so I decided they needed a new look to choose from. It was getting boring. And color makes me happy; it really excites me. You see, I’m a very visual person. And when I look in the mirror, and I see green and I see pink, it does something to my attitude. It makes me feel very positive.”

As one of the entertainment industry’s most photographed celebrities, Nicki finds it a bit disconcerting that she can’t repeat outfits. She murmured with a note of regret in her voice, “No, I can’t

Ashton Michael Dress
Sergio Rossi peep-toe pumps



"I PUT GOD FIRST,
AND DO NOT
ALLOW THINGS
TO CLOUD MY
VISION..."

repeat outfits, and I can't really repeat shoes. You do have your downtime clothes, but I could never wear what I wore on stage at BET's Spring Bling or 106 & Park." One of her regrets is not being able to repeat wearing a pair of Jimmy Choo shoes on her perfectly pedicured feet. "They light up in pink neon in the front at the ball of the foot, and the heel lights up green. I love them." Her other favorites include shoes by the late designer, Alexander McQueen, anything by Fendi. But when she just wants to be chill, you'll find her in Jordan's—size three!

As Nicki prepared to go to the studio, she slipped into a pair of Jordan's from one of the numerous boxes of footwear, which has been offered to her in light of her celebrity baller status. "I remember when I was a little girl, begging my mother to get me the new Jordan's, and now I have three pairs of Jordan's that haven't even come out yet. It's like, 'Whoa.'" And all she has to do is tweet, and the kicks will be the next big thing. But that's what happens when Nicki Minaj inspires a million Barbies.■

Sachika dress
Christian Louboutin sandals
Melody Ehsani earrings
Ben-amun bracelet

OPPOSITE PAGE
Sachika dress
Melody Ehsani earrings
Ben-amun bracelet



Delise' Ana blazer
(www.deliseana.com);
Ashton Michael bustier top;
Top Shop shorts;
La Crasia gloves;
Gucci sandals





**Ashton Michael military crop jacket
& bustier top; Top Shop shorts;
La Crasia gloves;
Gucci sandals**



A blurred night city street scene with a person in a blue outfit in the foreground. The person is wearing a blue, shiny, form-fitting top and shorts, and is holding a large, glowing blue and white ball. The background is a busy city street at night, with blurred lights and buildings. The overall mood is vibrant and energetic.

CHECK
OUT MORE
NICKI MINAJ AT
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Ashton Michael military crop jacket & bustier top;
Top Shop shorts; La Crasia gloves; Gucci sandals

BLACKMEN 55



PHOTO: COURTESY UNIVERSAL MOTOWN

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B Y C Y N T H I A H O R N E R

If Nicki Minaj represents the best of the new breed of female entertainers, then 2010 is the year of male hip-hop artist Drake. The actor-turned-rapper has been featured on countless singles and has been touring throughout recording his recently released debut CD, *Thank Me Later*. Conscious of his fans' pockets, Drake discloses his work ethic on his recent tour: "It still has that vibe of 'Drake is a new artist'" and it is a night where you can come out and enjoy yourself and listen to songs that I hope you love, and have you think, 'Oh, it wasn't worth it!'

Having racked up titles as "Rookie of the Year" as well as a member of the Freshmen class, this chick magnet modestly states, "It is always a surprise to win anything! I am always watching awards shows and actually forgetting I am nominated in certain categories! (Laughs.) It is definitely pretty crazy. The Rookie Of The Year award was great to win because it was my first year in the game. Things have happened really fast—this all did just happen in one year so it is a cool little award to get. Just to be considered in a

category with so many other great artists was an honor. Awards are always nice—it was definitely flattering."

Stylish, with chiseled features and model looks, Drake, who hails from Toronto, Canada keeps quiet about his personal life, preferring to focus on his career. But he has been seen snuggling up with superstar Rihanna as well as attractive models and even a dime-piece "d" basketball player.

This critically acclaimed Grammy-nominated artist is the first of Young Money Entertainment artists to drop a CD, and has been living up to the label head, Lil Wayne's, high standards. Through diligence and hard work, he has become one of the most important artists to emerge in recent years. ■

THE YEAR OF



MUSIC NEWS MUSIC NEWS MUSIC NEWS MUSIC NEWS MUSIC NEWS MUSIC NEWS

Reservoir

GETTING DOWN WITH A NEW SOUND

BY J. LINDEL

Sean "Diddy" Combs formed a new group, Diddy-Dirty Money. This latest incarnation is a trio of formidable talent. The group has Dawn Richard, former singer/songwriter from the group Danity Kane. In addition, Kalenna Harper, another singer/songwriter, joins Combs and Richard. Together the trio created a new sound.

In 2009 Combs, the visionary, brought Richard and Harper together. He had a notion that they were kindred spirits. Their debut CD, *Last Train to Paris*, embodies the new sound. This latest sound can be described as electro-hip hop soul funk. "Diddy-Dirty Money is a movement that represents a change in music, declares Richard. "It's different from what most people expect. But if they take the chance to listen, they will respect it." Harper adds, "All that Hollywood stuff doesn't work for us. Dawn and I aren't background singers simply standing next to Diddy, and Diddy-Dirty Money isn't just more of the same. It's an organic group that grew out of a shared passion for music."

Richard was born and raised in New Orleans and was immersed in music. Her father, a musician and choir director, was also a member of the RCA R&B group Chocolate Milk "I'd sneak underneath his piano and watch him perform," recalls Richard. She started to perfect her performing skills at an early age when she joined her dad's choir and began performing with a local group called Realiti.

Her musical influences range from the Cranberries, and, Sheryl Crow to Green Day and Melissa Etheridge. "I saw myself as the leader of a rock band with pink hair, singing the music I love," Richard shares

Kalenna Harper followed a similar path. Her army father was a rapper, which caused her to spend a lot of time in the recording studio with him. By the time she was 17 she lived in Alaska, Germany and Hawaii.

Harper wrote poetry while she was pursuing a singing career. She gave up on singing when she was told she was too dark and not skinny or pretty enough. Later, she heeded her father's advice and started her songwriting career. In 2008 she signed with EMI Music Publishing. She is credited with songs written for Jill Scott, Jennifer Lopez, Bad Boy Entertainment, and award-winning producers Bryan-Michael Cox, Rodney Jerkins and Timbaland.

Musically, Harper's influences include Michael Jackson, R. Kelly, Karen Clarke-Sheard, and rock's Marilyn Manson. Harper feels very strongly that music can help you deal with a lot of emotions. She says, "Growing up, I understood how music can take you away and help you escape. At the same time I began learning how music brings people together, and how it can heal and comfort."

Richard and Harper both consider teaming with Combs as "divine intervention." Richard notes, "We mirror each other; perfectionists with a strong work ethic. We push and challenge each other."

To detractors who might simply dismiss Diddy-Dirty Money as an experiment, Richard answers, "Anything great will always have its naysayers. We're just going to let the music speak for itself." Adds Harper, "At the end of the day, tomorrow is not promised. But I know we're here now—and we don't plan on going anywhere for a long while." ■











***“At the end of the day,
tomorrow is not promised.
But I know we’re here now
and we don’t plan on going
anywhere for a long while.”***

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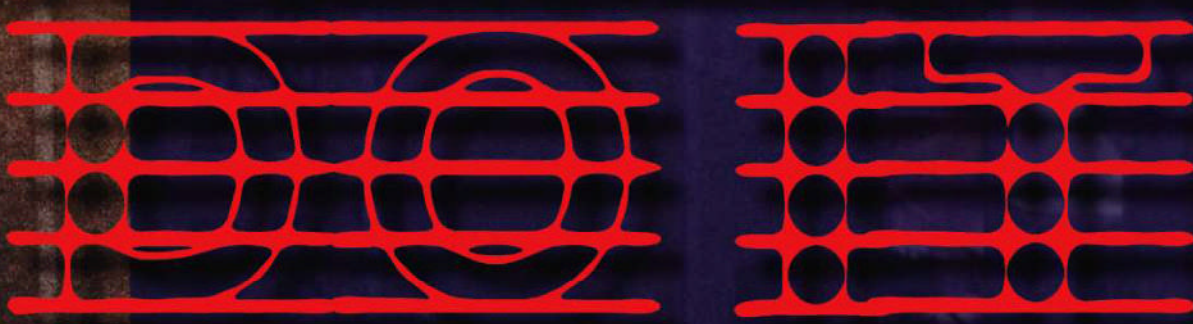
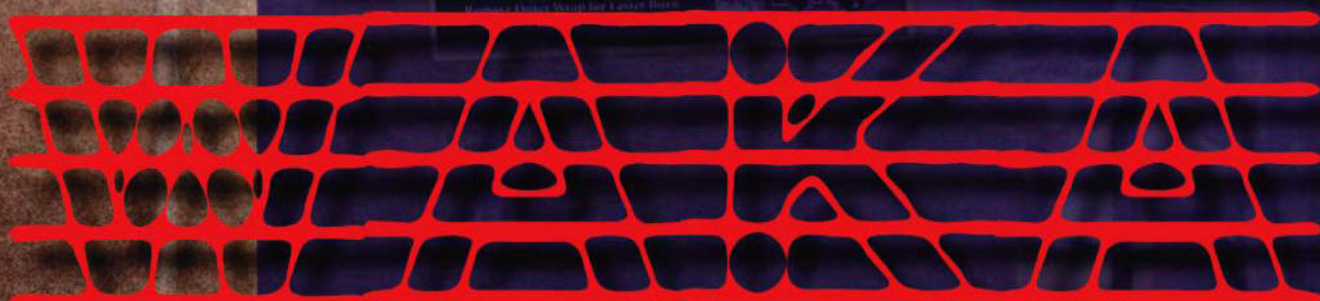
***“Anything great will always have its naysayers.
We’re just going to let the music speak for itself.”***



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Waka Flocka Flame is the protégé of Gucci Mane. Like his mentor, he's a heavy-drawling, tatted-up, loose cannon rapper from Atlanta, whose fan base grows bigger the more trouble he gets in. Hits like "O Let's Do It" dominate clubs, but he's drawn even more press for getting shot during a robbery attempt at an Atlanta car wash. Some tried to blame him for promoting violence after teens



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BY BEN
WESTHOFF**
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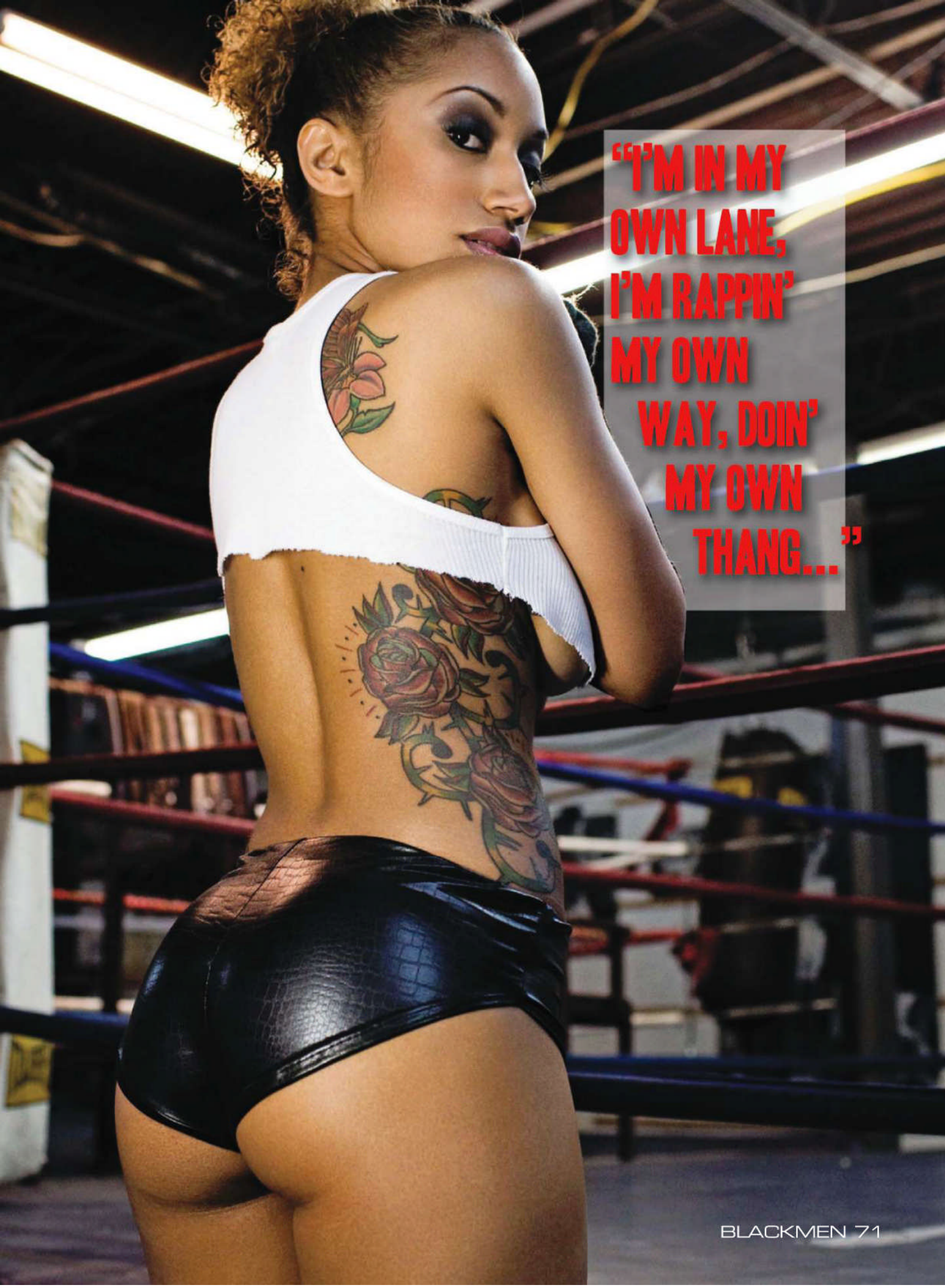
were shot while leaving his Gary, Indiana concert, and he pissed off members of Wu-Tang Clan by saying lyricism is not important to him. "I don't worry about that nonsense," Waka Flocka insists, adding that he's recovered from the shooting. "I'm feeling like Rocky when he beat Apollo Creed." The 23-year-old MC has no plans to slow down, noting that he's young and popular with the ladies. His only concern is making moves with his 1017 Brick Squad crew. "I worry about my label," he concludes, "and how we can evolve." ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DWANG VALDEZ



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A woman with curly hair, wearing a white halter-neck top and black leather shorts, stands in a boxing ring. She has several tattoos, including a large rose on her back and a smaller one on her shoulder. She is looking over her shoulder towards the camera. The background shows the ropes of the boxing ring and some equipment.

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OWN LANE,
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WAY, DOIN’
MY OWN
THANG...”**



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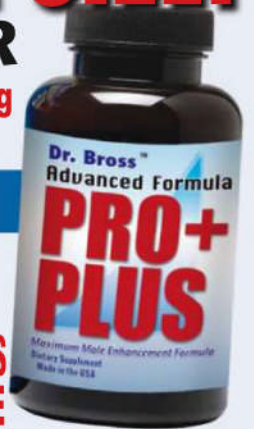


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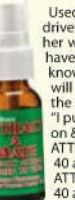
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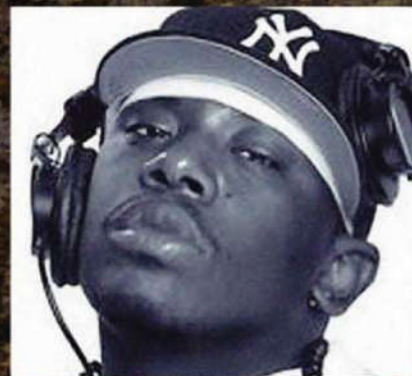
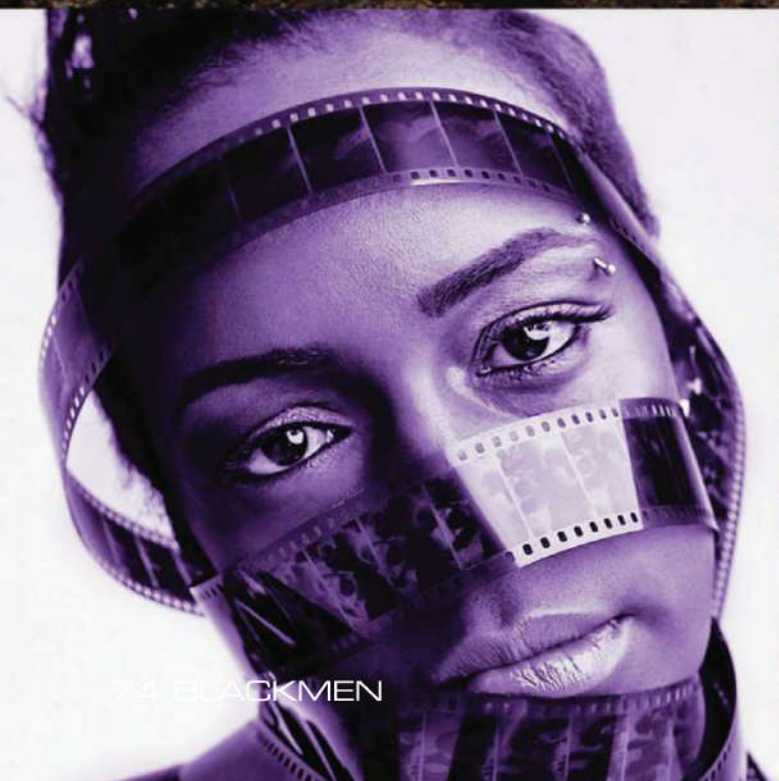
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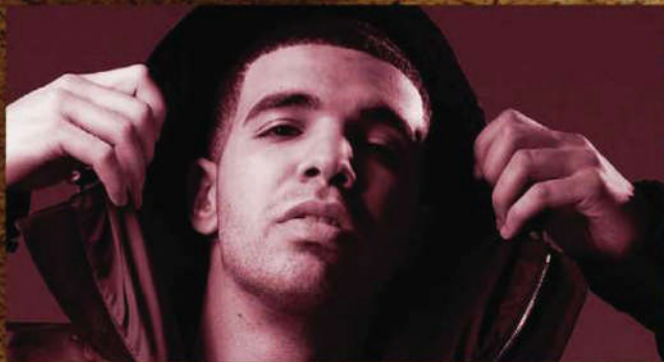
BEHIND THE MUSIC

MUSIC

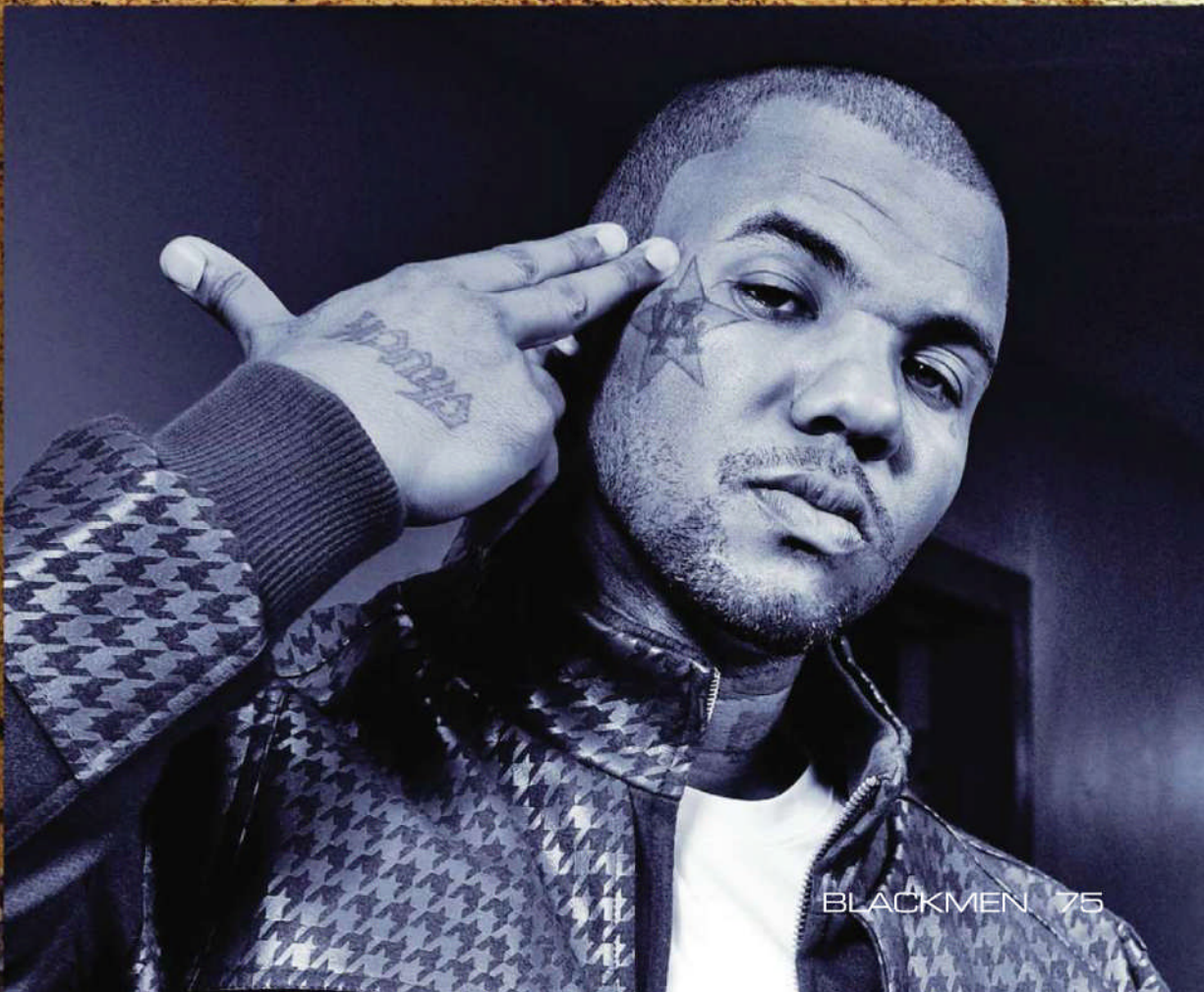
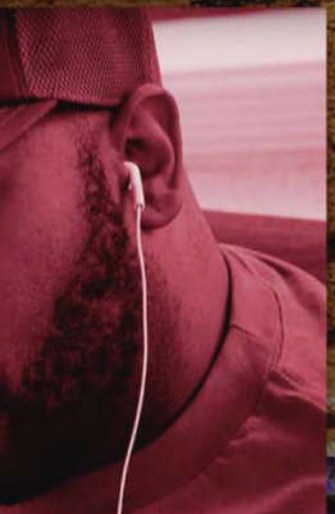
lack Men magazine is always searching to bring you the hottest models, and entertainment currently on the urban scene. We introduce you to people, places, and things that are trending right now.

Some of the music people you should know: Yolande Geraldts, film and video director; Drake, a new artist from the Young Money Entertainment camp; hot new producer Omen; Debra Antney, mother and manager of Waka Flocka Flame. We've included a couple of DJs who are hot on the club scene: DJ Scram Jones, DJ Eque, and DJ Absolute. A new hip-hop book, *BMF: The Rise and Fall of Big Meech and the Black Mafia Family* by Mara Shalhoup, describes what it was like in the good old days of the criminal empire of Big Meech, who also owned a record label. All of these elements add flavor to this music issue of *Black Men* magazine.





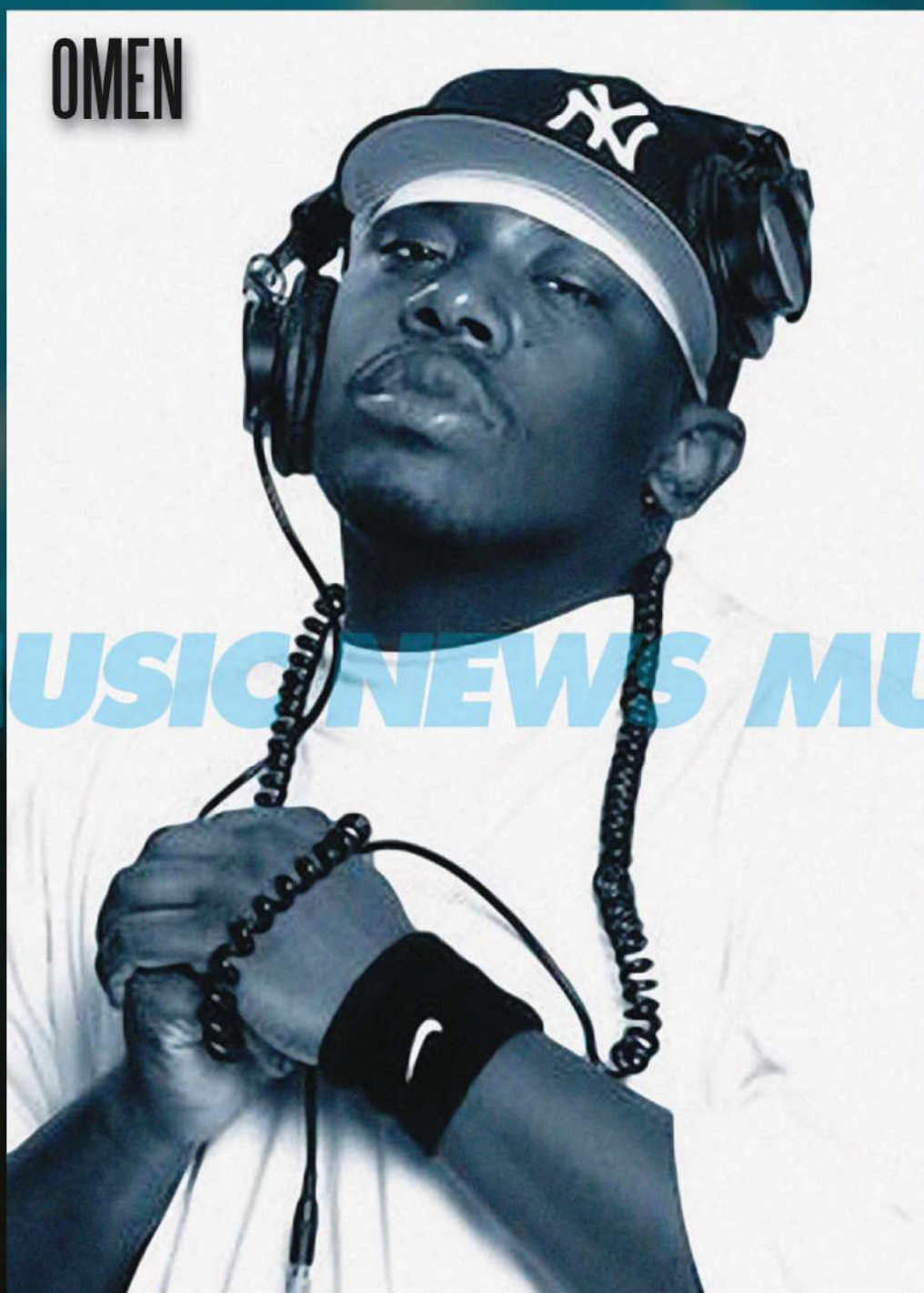
MTV VIDEO



Music Review

B L A C K M E N

OMEN



**BY
CALESH
LEWIS**

In 1998 Omen dropped in the game as a new hungry producer landing a heat rock on Memphis Bleek's debut album. Shortly after he went on a heavy hiatus from the world and concentrated his efforts into the keys. He emerged with a deep, rich sound with substance that made him stand out from other producers. He quickly earned his stripes and recorded hits with the likes of Fabolous, Ludacris, Travis McCoy, Gym Class Heroes, and Drake. Recently his new hit with Lil Wayne, "I'm Single" has been dominating airwaves all over and with placements on Drake's New Album the sky's the limit.

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DEBRA ANTNEY SHE'S TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

BY J. PINNACE

Boss lady, Debra Antney, is the founder of Mizay Entertainment, a management agency that boasts having artists, such as Gucci Mane, Nicki Minaj (who has since left the company), and Wacka Flaca Flame on its roster. We caught up with this wonder woman to find out just where she came from and how she feels about her business.

BLACK MEN: How did you get into the management business?
DEBRA ANTNEY: **By default, I was managing several non-profit events for entertainers and athletes that ultimately lead me to managing artists.**

BM: What type of sacrifices have you had to make for your business trying to balance your professional time and your personal time?

DA: **Giving up my personal life and allowing people to invade my personal space; also being accessible 24/7.**

BM: Do you find any differences between working with a mostly female staff and working with both male and female staffers. Is it easier, harder, etc.?

DA: **Female staff, I must deal with PMS, jealousy, fraternizing and gossip.**

BM: Do you have a different management style when dealing with your artists and dealing with your son, the artist? Are you harder on him as an artist, or are the expectations the same?

DA: **Juaquin is my son; Waka Flocka Flame is my artist. We know how to differentiate between the two. Waka gets treated no different than my other artist.**

BM: During my research I read that you visited Gucci in prison. It seems that loyalty is very important to you. How do you feel about artists who jump to other management, and how do you deal with it after you've put in a lot of energy into their careers?

DA: **I celebrate the success we shared and wish them the best in their future endeavors. I thank GOD for giving me the energy to help someone's career and make a positive difference in his or her life and career.**

BM: As a woman who owns her business, do you feel that the criticism you receive would be different if you were a man?

DA: **No, because people criticize success Period!!**

BM: With the allegations that exist about your business, how do you answer the critics who come down on you? Do you think that they're just haters?

DA: **I wouldn't consider them haters; they are people with opinions.**

BM: When you're negotiating with men, do you find any unique challenges because you're female?

DA: **They don't call me Suga Knight for nothing. (Laughs)**

BM: What do you hope to be remembered for in this business?

DA: **Ask this question at a later date after I accomplish the goals I'm seeking in this business.**

BM: Is there anything else that you'd like to discuss?

DA: **Yes, I am working on my first book titled, *On A Handshake*. It's Coming Soon!**

At press time, it is being reported that Gucci Mane fired his management. However, Debra Antney denies these reports. ■

Music Video

B L A C K M E N



YOLANDE GERALDTS

By J. Lindel

Yolande Geraldts has a resume that reads like a "who is who" in music videos. The Director/Executive Producer/Producer is a recognized and respected director of music videos. She has received a ton of awards and accolades, which include an Emmy nomination for the 28th Annual News & Documentary, American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award, NAACP Image Award nomination, Media Arts Fellowship, National Board of Review and Motion Pictures, Miami International Film Festival "Special Jury Prize and Audience Awards, Hampton's International film Festival "Inspirational film" Award, United Nations and Community Organizations.

This multi-talented director has worked with some of the industry's brightest stars. Trey Songz' most recent music video "Invented Sex," and "Say Ahh" shows

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her work at its best. She is preparing to co-direct Songz' "Yo Side of the Bed" also starring Keri Hilson. Plies has also benefited from her excellent work. In 2009 Plies' "Want It, Need It" featuring Ashanti in 2009 enjoyed a much success.

Accolades from her television and film work keep pouring in. She was the producer in 2005 of *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*.

The busy director is involved in all aspects of the entertainment business. She is the co-owner of Frame By Frame, Inc. In addition, she is involved in and is co-owner of an online magazine, *Convey*. Gerald also recently completed a short film and is currently working on a feature film.

Gerald takes great pleasure from working with the heavyweights in the music video industry. "I like the fact that we can take a medium like music where artists may have put something together lyrically, and we can see what they're doing. Even if it's not in narrative form, it's something that is still visually stimulating but not necessarily something you'd typically see from any other director," states Gerald from an interview with writer Khalid Strickland in June 2009. ■



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By Marcus Blassingame

Where were you born and raised?

Jersey City New Jersey

What's the age difference between you and Akon?

We are going to be young forever (laughs).

Do people mistake you for one another?

The press makes that mistake periodically.

How many siblings do you have?

Bu is one of four boys and one girl. Bu is the youngest boy but older than their sister.

Were you strictly behind the scenes or did you do any recording or music?

I don't broadcast my status. I am behind the scenes doing the administrative. When I was younger I wanted to be an artist but I don't have the patients to be in the studio recording. But in a few years I may feel a need to express myself musically.

How has the music industry been affected by the web?

I think the web gave the consumers the option to download music instead of buying CD's and buying singles instead of the whole album. Giving the consumer the opportunity to download for free has left the music industry in the position that it's in now

Has the recording industry begun to adapt to the change in music sales?

Yes it has evolved the deal structure such as including iTunes sales. Going against the web you can't win so instead of going away from internet we had to respect and embrace it.

How have you adapted?

We have adapted to the web in many ways including how we scout for artist. I search on YouTube and Myspace. Justin Beber which is one of Def Jam's

biggest artist was found on You Tube. The internet helps you reach people easier.

What plans do you have for Def Jam in this new environment?

As far as the Rick Rubin Lyor Cohen and Russel (Simmons) days when hip-hop was more raw, they had rougher artist (Beastie Boys and Onyx), music has evolved. People now want to party, so now we have artists like Soulja Boy. It's my job to bring in the next new wave whatever that may be.

Do you have your eye on any artist that you feel has major potential?

There are a few and as soon as the ink dries we will keep you posted.

Is there a particular artist in your camp to be on the look out for that's about to blow?

We just signed this new kid from Atlanta *Cyhi The Prince*. We recently released a mix tape on him which was so crazy (amazing) that Kanye not only blogged about it on his site, and contacted us to work with him, also look out for *Miranda* who has that edgy round the way appeal.

Where do you see music in the next five years?

It's going to be all about acts who can tour and do more than just sell CD's. Music is going to evolved into an entirely different sound.

Where do you see Def Jam over the next two years?

I'm going to learn the corporate world and take it to the next level.

What is your ultimate goal?

My goal is to share the lane with Berry Gordys, Lyor Cohens and the LA Reids of the world.

"Bu likes white girls" according to gossip site Spoofem.com. Black Men Magazine seems to get the same flack from the ladies.

Lighter skinned girls love me. I tend to attract them more than brown skinned women. I would love to be approached by brown skinned girls but they don't seem to make their presence felt. In business we tend to see more fair skinned models show up at castings than dark skinned models. I would love to see more brown skinned sisters in front of the camera.■

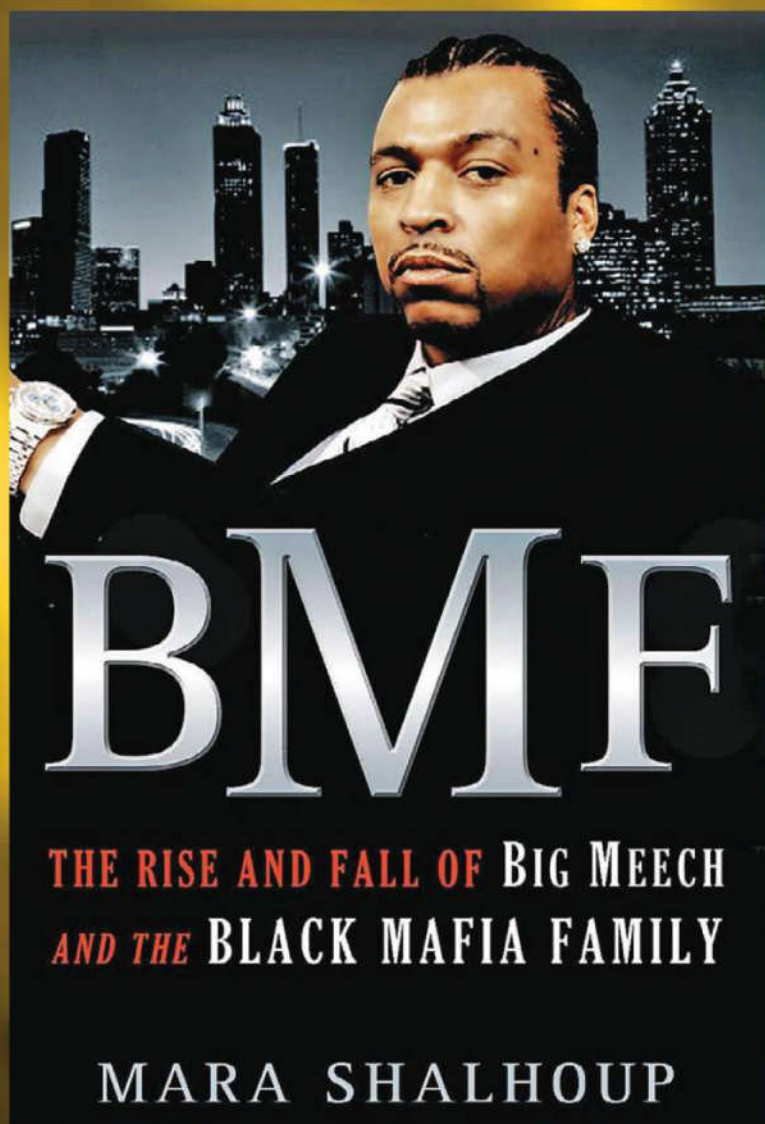
THE MUSIC MAN

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A black and white portrait of Abou Thiam, a young Black man with a short haircut and a small earring, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Abou Thiam,
aka "Bu," is the
twenty-seven-
year-old brother
of Akon, who
recently
assumed the
position of
Vice President
of A&R of Def Jam
Recordings.
He is the youngest
person to be
appointed
to the position.

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THE WORLD WAS BMF'S

By Ben Westhoff

Journalist Mara Shalhoup was extremely nervous upon meeting Big Meech. She arrived at his Michigan jail in the middle of a snowstorm in 2008, to interview him for her new book, *BMF: The Rise and Fall of Big Meech and the Black Mafia Family*. Having already reported for years on BMF, the sprawling criminal enterprise Meech controlled, she was well aware of his reputation. "It was a nerve-wracking experience," she says.

But Meech, born Demetrius Flenory, was tremendously charismatic, and he immediately put her at ease. Wearing an orange jumpsuit and speaking from behind a glass partition, he was clearly glad to have an audience again. As the former leader of one of the most notorious drug-trafficking rings in history—which moved countless kilos of cocaine and hundreds of millions in cash around the country—he was used to underlings lapping up his every word. Shalhoup immediately understood how he was able to win their loyalty. "I'm sure he wasn't always the good guy," she says, "but he plays the good guy really well."

Journalist Mara Shalhoup writes of the rise and fall of Black Mafia Family



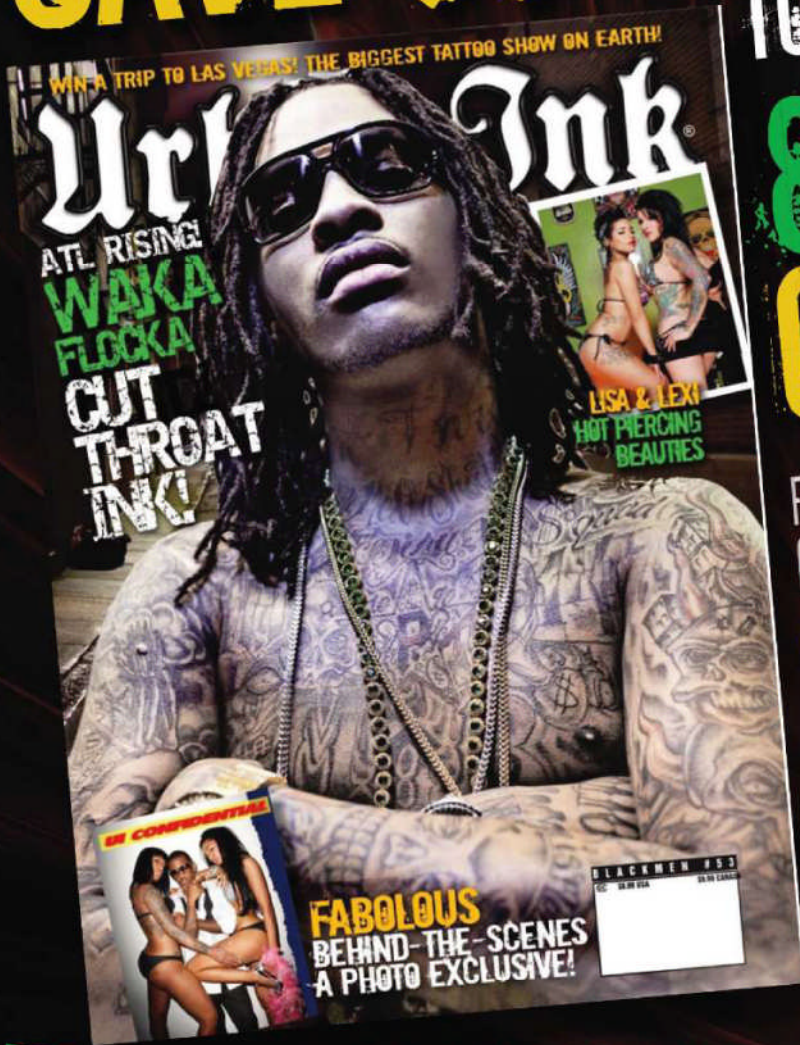
He spoke to her about his introduction to the drug game, which came around the time the bank threatened to take away his family's Detroit house. "He knew he could make the \$7000 or \$8000 they needed selling drugs," Shalhoup says.

Big Meech and his brother Terry "Southwest T" Flenory eventually set up shop in Los Angeles and Atlanta, filling huge, decadent stash houses with hundreds upon hundreds of kilos. Though Terry preferred to keep quiet, Meech did everything big, causing the brothers to fight and eventually stop talking to each other all together. While Terry laid low, Meech and his entourage drove Lambos and Porsches, spent \$50,000 at a time making it rain on strippers, and guzzled bottles of Cristal. Meech threw a huge birthday party for himself with live jungle animals, and posted billboards in Atlanta that said: "The World Is BMF's." "That's a level of flaunting that most drug dealers would not dare do," says Shalhoup. (continued on page 150)

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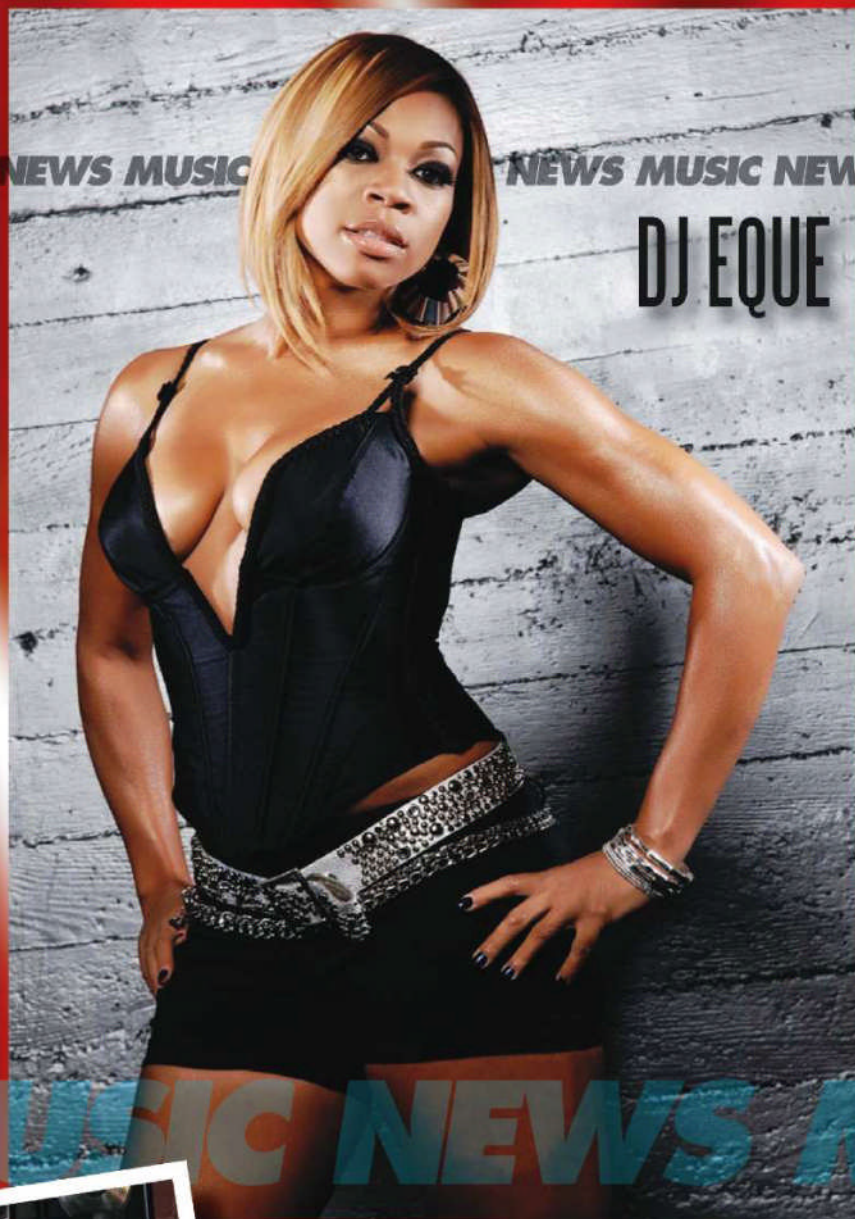
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DJ EQUE

SPINNING THE SEXY

Article by Caleesh Lewis

DJ Eque rocks parties across the world, bringing her equipment of skills and sexiness. Hailing from Houston, TX, she is one of the flyest DJs in the game. Eque first took interest in deejaying in '96, while attending and playing basketball at Tennessee State. She met a DJ, who had been hitting the local party circuit, and decided that was something she wanted to do. Eque stated, "I started going to [the local DJ's] house to practice. Then somebody gave me a mixer and one turntable. I practiced a good three years before I did any parties."

Eque got her first gig at the *Vibe* magazine party at Peterson Center—the very party Notorious B.I.G.—who Eque toured with, spinning for Uncle Luke—was attending the night of his murder. Though the experience was bittersweet, it was the gateway into gigs for major industry parties. Currently, Eque travels between New York City and Los Angeles with her husband, Talib Kweli, occasionally deejaying for Queen Latifah. When asked to give advice to a novice spinner, Eque said, "I would study the craft. Before you grab a laptop and say, 'I'm a DJ.' And don't just grab someone's hard drive, 'cause we can have the same records, but I will still kill the party, because I know how to program my set."

To keep up with DJ Eque, check out her website, www.DJEque.com, or follow her at www.Twitter.com/DJEQUE. ■



SCRAM JONES

Scram Jones is a Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum producer who has worked with everyone from 50 Cent to Snoop Dogg to Mariah Carey. He is also a highly skilled turntablist who holds multiple club residencies throughout New York City and has DJ'd alongside

world champions like Grandmaster Roc Raida and the X-Executioners. Scram Jones is also a talented lyricist, known for his witty punchlines and strong delivery, who has collaborated on the mic with some of the best including Kool G. Rap, Nas, and Styles P. Scram has won DJ, MC, and Producer battles and has received accolades in all three areas, making him the ultimate "Triple Threat."



Article by Caleesh Lewis

DJ Absolut was the first to debut G-Unit on the radio and the first DJ in New York to showcase Lupe Fiasco and bring Lupe Fiasco onto the Big Apple's mixtape scene. Absolut's working motto is, "always before them." Along with being a formidable jockey on radio station, Hot 97, Absolut is part of a top-notch crew affiliated with the Heavy Hitters, which features some of the strongest DJs worldwide, such as Enuff, Camilo and Felli Fell. "I'm just happy to be a part of the winning team," Absolut said. In 1997, Absolut got his foot in the door during an internship at an up-and-coming magazine, *Stress*. To learn everything he could about the entertainment industry, Absolut did anything and everything, while working for free. "I was just pounding the pavement!" Absolut exclaimed when asked about his introduc-

DJ ABSOLUT HEAVY HITTER

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WHAT COMES TO NEW YORK
QUEERS

tion into the business. As production is a major priority, one of Absolut's biggest accomplishments has been working A&R for LL Cool J's last album, *Exit 13*. Absolut has also worked with Jadakiss, Gucci Mane and Trey Songz. Because of being featured on BET, MTV, *The Source*, *Vibe*, and *XXL Magazine*, expectations for Absolut remain high, but the successful disc jockey has been able to stay grounded by "taking it one day at a time."

You can catch DJ Absolut on Hot 97, in a mom and pop store with his bi-weekly mixtapes or DJing the hottest parties all over the globe. ■



LEGACY OF
THE DRAMA
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Keith Grayson better known as DJ Kay Slay grew up in on the East side of Harlem, New York in an environment where hip hop was very much alive. Around the neighborhood Slay was known as a prominent graffiti artist going by the tag "DEZ". He was even featured in the 80's classic, *Style Wars*. Kay Slay first caught interest in deejaying from an older fellow by the name of Rodney Woodson. This was back in the late '70s where he was still too young to be at a party so Rodney would sit him in a back room where the turntable was and tell him which records to play. Rodney would tell him, "After this one goes off put on this one...then when that one goes off put on this one." After doing this a few times Slay felt like he found his new love. At 14 he was deejaying at parks all around the Harlem and Bronx areas. By default he was also spinning for Zulu Nation because he was down with the 11th Chapter of Zulu. Slay says "When I was doing it no one

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KAY SLAY

knew where hip hop was going. No one had a clue it was gonna be a billion dollar industry. It was a love for the game not doing it for money." Things weren't going well in the streets at that time. He caught a few cases and the last case he said to himself, "My Moms didn't raise me to be this way." He stated, "Peer pressure from

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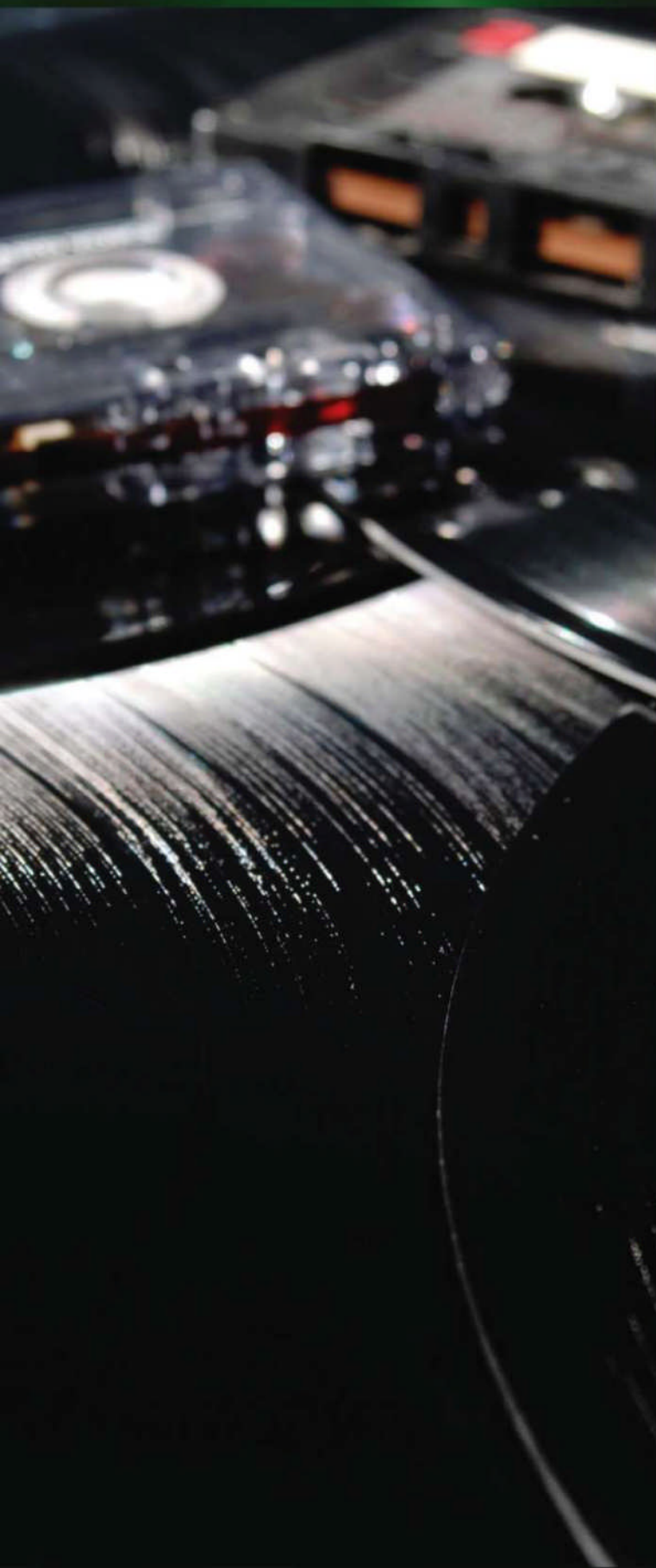


PHOTO: I-STOCK PHOTO

the hood make you do stupid stuff but in 1991 I said I'mma do it the right way; I was looking around and seeing cats like Kid Capri gettin' his money." His intentions were never to become a big DJ. He figured he would do mixtapes because he didn't wanna be a anybody's intern but he wanted to be in the music industry. Years later Hot 97 offered him a show on the strength that Funkmaster Flex was talking about him consistently. They gave him complete creative control of his show and the Drama King did things radio never saw before. He brought the actual streets, not the fabricated rapper world, but the real live street guys in to do mixtapes and radio drops. At the same time having guys call from jail and freestyle on the phone and whoever won got 500 dollars in their commissary at the end of the week. Staying dedicated to what he came from, he made his show and his movement tailor made for the inner cities and streets.

Chris Lighty signed Kay Slay to his first deal with Violator Loud Records but when Steve Rifkind's historic label folded Slay automatically went to Sony. Right around that time is when 50 Cent had his mishap. Lighty reintroduced 50 to Kay Slay and he told Slay straight out, "I'm gonna need you." From there they recorded "Magic Stick" but this was pre Lil' Kim feature and the record "50 Shot Ya" took its place on Slay's first album, *Streetsweeper Vol. 1*. He soon followed with a volume 2 and a whole other series of mixtapes. One of the most popular ones he did featured Alpo. Right at the time *Feds Magazine* dropped and they had a whole cover story on AZ, Rich Porter and Alpo story. He and Kay Slay grew up in the same projects and Slay remembered him so he reached out and got Alpo to host the mixtape. That spawned a whole lot of controversy but nothing the Drama King can't handle. One of his famed alias, aka Slap Ya Favorite DJ, was crowned due to him having to G check a few DJ's in the industry. Regardless, he always stayed true to his craft and the culture as a whole. He even went as far as to put out his own artist, Papoose. Known for his street saavy lyricism, Slay picked him up and took Papoose from having a little buzz to him being on a hit remix in rotation all over the country and then touring overseas. When all that settled down, Papoose came home to a a Million-Dollar Deal with Jive. Now Papoose has a big radio smash called "Bucket Naked." DJ Kay Slay has proved on radio, through albums, through working with many artists that he is a mainstay in hip hop. In the fourth quarter around December he will be releasing his final album entitled, *Rhyme Or Die*. You can keep up with him and Follow Kay Slay on www.twitter.com/RealDjKayslay. ■

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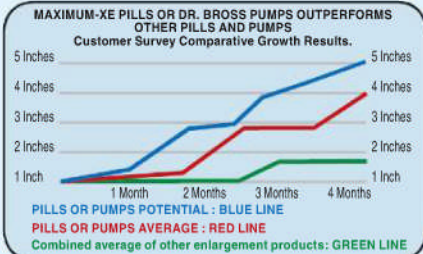
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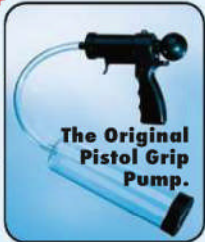
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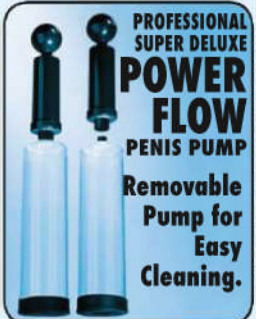


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MISS JOIE

Name: Joie Chavis

Nickname: Miss Joie

Hometown: Torrance, CA

Born: Los Angeles, CA

Raised: Los Angeles, CA

Zodiac: Libra

Sizes

Bust–34D

Waist–25

Hip–40

Photographer:

Howard Huang

Location: Destination 1610

Hair: St. Anthony

Makeup: Sacha Kemp

Wardrobe:

Marcus

Blassingame

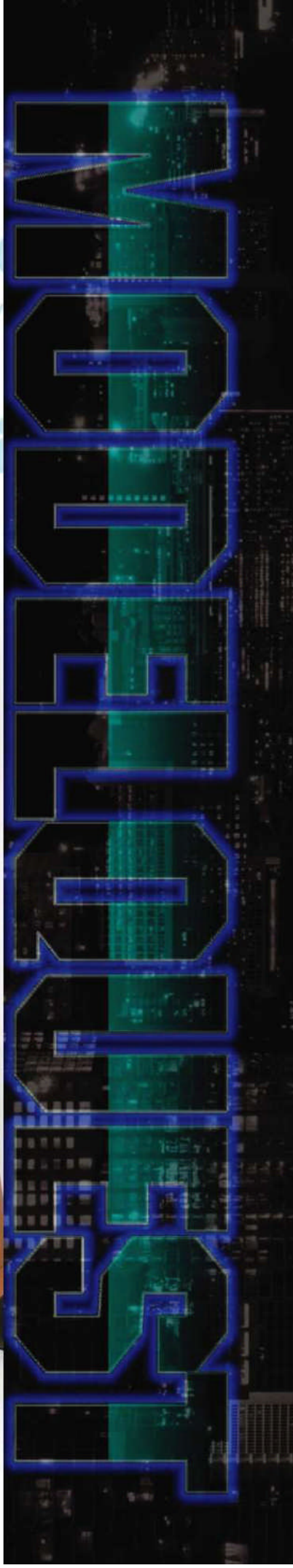
Editorial Asst:

Sharri Jones





Lila Nikole Swimwear; La Crasia gloves; Bebe shoes



Joie Chavis

Resume

Video—Raheem Davaugh's "I Dont Care" music video

Magazine—*SHOW* issue 19, *BlackMen Music & Mayhem*

Commercial/Ad—McDonald's McCafe

TV—*House* as hospital visitor

Web—showgirlzexclusive.com

Favorites

Drinks—Lots of water, vodka gimlet

Food—Mexican, soul food

Mood Music—Amel Larrieux

Favorite Vacation Experience—Hawaii

Favorite Car—Land Rover

Music Artist—Trey Songz, Lil Wayne, Drake, Jeezy

Rap Quote or Lyric

"Rock star lifestyle might don't make it."

Old school or slow jam

"Lovers and Friends"

Favorite place to be kissed

Forehead, cheeks

Favorite body part on your man—Abs

Craziest Sexual Position—Standing up

Craziest place You Had Sex

On a balcony

Favorite position to fall asleep after sex

Spoon position, on my side

Ultimate Goals

Become a successful model and actress.

Game Plan is to get well known/
established, market myself, invest in all
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non-stop.

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Show Magazine

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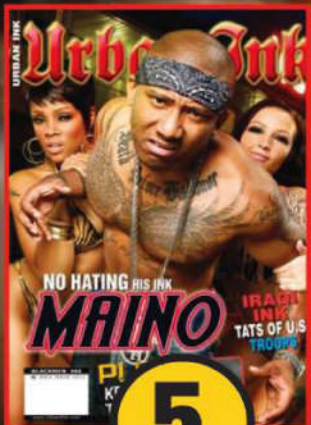
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DAWN MONTGOMERY

I Can Transform Ya!

Name: Dawn Montgomery

Nickname: Mississippi

Ethnicity: African-American and Irish

DOB: January 3, 1984

Born & Raised: Hattiesburg, MS

Residing: Atlanta, GA

School: Oglethorpe University

Zodiac: Capricorn

Measurements

Bust-34D

Waist-26

Hip-41.5

MODELOQUEST

IMAGES BY HASAN FOR FACET STUDIOS



Montgomery

Resume

Ad Campaigns: PZI Jeans, Syditty Clothing, Seagram's Gin, Kissable Lips, Urban Beauty Hair, Akoo Clothing, Design Essentials and Crème of Nature

Magazine Appearances

J'Adore, Upscale, Jet, Black Men Magazine, Savoy, Essence

Music Videos

Triple C's, featuring Young Jeezy, "Erry Day," Playaz Circle, featuring Bobby V, "I Can't Remember," Ludacris, featuring T-Pain, "One More Drink"

Web

www.MySpace.com/damog02,
www.Twitter.com/mississippiidawn,
Facebook at Dawn Mississippi,
official website to launch Fall 2010.

It's not often in life that you are blessed with a front row seat to history in the making. Such opportunities to witness pure talent that truly makes a difference in the lives of many are rare. When they occur, the best thing to do is hang on, enjoy the ride and cherish the moment. It will be a while until it comes again. Fortunately, for the world of urban modeling, December 2007 presented one such special moment named, Dawn Alicia Montgomery.

The beautiful and unassuming Hattiesburg, MS native, mother, aspiring model and writer is attacking the terror dome: fashion, modeling and entertainment industry—with a simple, yet daunting goal—become the best overall model that she can be, and change the perceptions of urban models throughout the industry. By today's standards, practices and mentalities in the urban entertainment world, the fulfillment of such dreams seems damn near impossible.

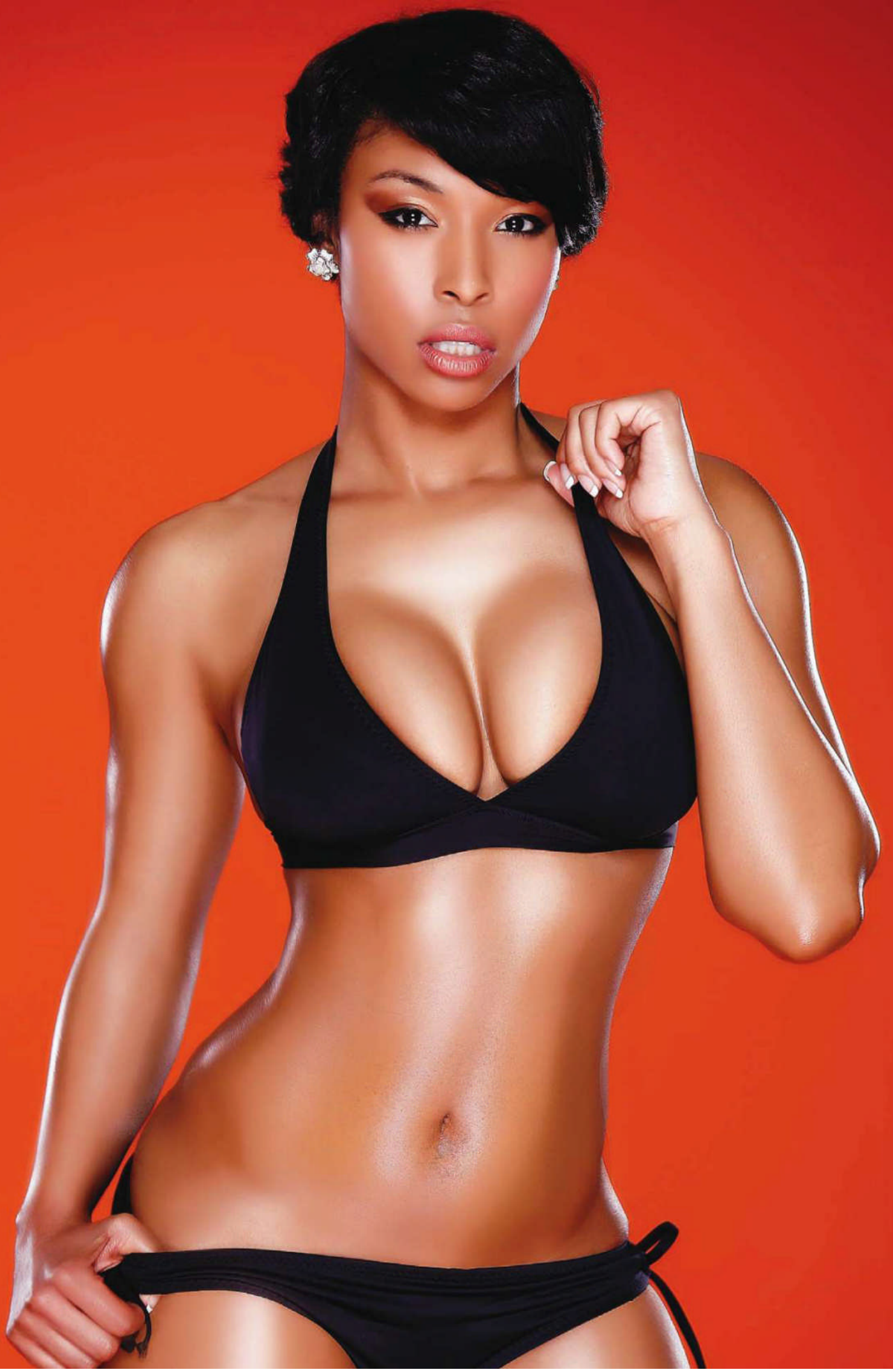
If you've learned anything about this Southern girl, she's a beast at transforming and breaking down the walls of conformity. Her weapons of choice are an acute study of the industry, consistent diversification of her portfolio, relentless work ethic and general respect for industry protocol. Couple that with an infectious personality and strong support

(continued on page 150)





"I NEVER
WANT TO
BE THE
SAME AS
THE NEXT
MODEL
SITTING
NEXT
TO ME."





FOR
MORE
DAWN
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Name: Jasmine Adams
Nickname: Jazz
Hometown: Thibodaux, LA
Born: Houma, LA
Sizes:
Bust-34 D
Waist-22
Hip-37

MODELOQUEST

JASMINE



Resume

Training: Acting and speech lessons/classes at Grambling State University

Magazine: *Connect Mag*, *Catdaddy Models*

Video: "Sit Still" feat. Dizzy aka Raw D.I. and Drummer Boy, "Never Knew" feat. Neyo, "Go Hard" feat. I.G. and Lil D.P., "Walk It Like a Motor Bike" feat. Fetti, C-loc and Tank Jones

Commercial/Ad:

Film: *Bad Lieutenant*, *Midnight Bayou*, *Tribute*, *Leonie*, *Hungry Rabbit Jumps*, *Red*, *Green Lantern*

TV: "Venevision Television"

Runway: Jerk and John Couture, Gossip Boutique, Sacs, Do U Clothing

Favorites

Drinks: Patron and Pineapple

Food: Fried Chicken

Mood Music: R&B

Favorite vacation experience:

Cozumel, Mexico

Favorite car: 1967 Shelby Mustang GT 500

Music Artist

Erika Badu, Trina

Rap quote or Lyric: "Life can be only what you make it. When you're feeling down, you should never fake it, say what's on your mind and you'll find in time, that all the negative energy will all be free, and you'll be at peace with yourself. You won't really need no one else except for the man above, because he will give you love."

Old school or slow jam:

"My Life,"

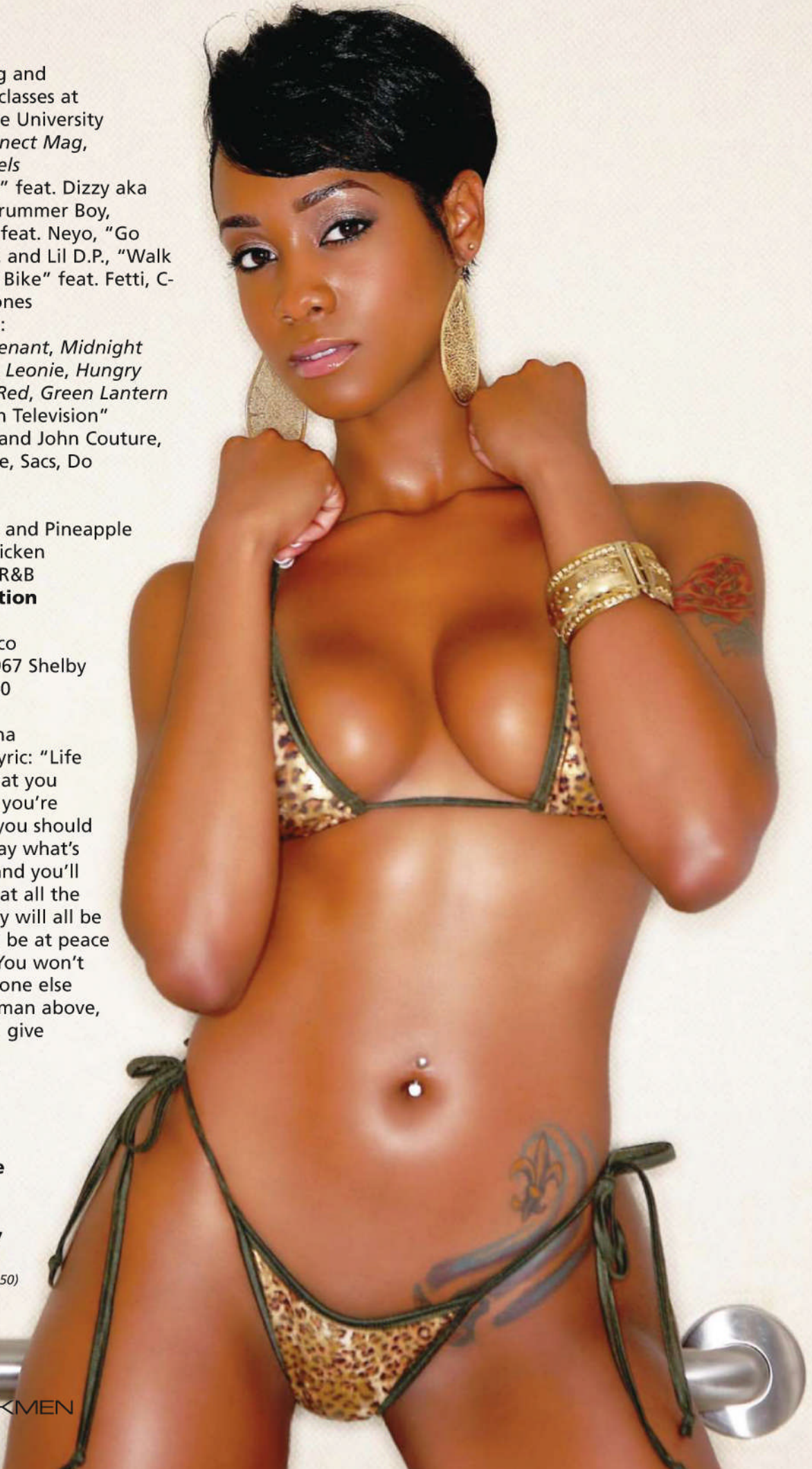
Mary J. Blige

Favorite place to be kissed

My neck

Favorite body part on your

(continued on page 150)



HER
FAVORITE
PLACE
TO BE
KISSED,
"MY NECK."



FOR
MORE
JASMINE
GO TO
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Photographer: C.E. Wiley Studios
Hair/Makeup: Jasmine Adams
Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones
Videographer: Caleesh Lewis



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AYISHA

Name: Ayisha Diaz

Nickname: Dragon

Hometown: Omaha, NE

Born: Queens, NY

Raised: Omaha

Zodiac: Taurus

Sizes:

Bust-34 B

Waist-26

Hip-38

Stylist's own bikini
Gryphon coral wrap

Stylist's own bikini
Gryphon coral wrap



Gyuska Dia

Resume

Video: Chris Brown "I Can Transform Ya;" Soulja Boy "Getting Money;" Wu Tang Clan "Our Dreams;" Lloyd Banks "Beamer, Benz or Bentley;" Freeway "She Makes Me Feel Alright;" Juelz Santana and Chris Brown "Back to the Crib;" those are some of the videos I've been in.

Magazine: *Black Men Magazine*

Web: www.ayishadiaz.com

Twitter: @ayishadiaz

Facebook: Model Mayhem

Favorites

Drinks: Saluti Aloe Vera Water

Food: sushi, California roll

Mood Music: R&B

Favorite vacation experience: I don't have one yet, but when I do have one, I hope it's in the Dominican Republic.

Favorite car: It's between an 87 SS Monte Carlo or a yellow Lamborghini.

Music Artist: Erykah Badu

Rap quote or Lyric: "I face that flower, then I taste that flower, then I take the flower, then I'mma give it back to you."

Old school or slow jam: I have to go with slow jam. I love calm, sexy music

Favorite place to be kissed: The nape of my neck, it sets me on fire.

Favorite body part on your man:

This is a hard one 'cause I love everything on him, but his lips are one of my favorites.

Craziest position: I can't pick, so I would say the splits, 'cause the position he gets me in is crazy.

Craziest place: You guys don't want to know.

Favorite position to fall asleep in

after sex: I love to spoon naked.

Ultimate Goals

Be successful and happy: life is too short.

Game Plan: To make progress towards being a successful woman each day.

Accomplishment

Making it out of Omaha, Nebraska on my own, and standing my ground as a new urban video model in the Big Apple, New York City.

Marketing Tools

Agency: Rosea Models

Contact: (917) 652-9870, roseaymodels@gmail.com

Web Site:

www.Ayishadiaz.com

Fan Site: www.Twitter.com/ayishadiaz

E-Mail: ayishadiaz@gmail.com



WANTS TO BE
KISSED AT
"THE NAPE
OF MY NECK,
IT SETS ME
ON FIRE."



Stylist's own bikini
Gryphon coral wrap

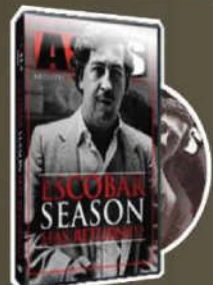
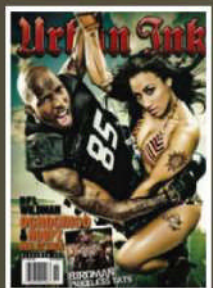
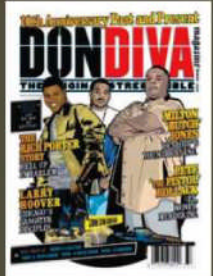
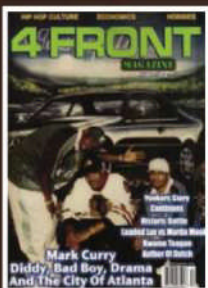
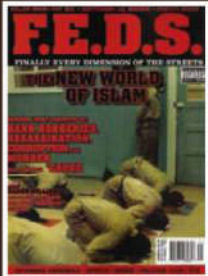


Photographer:
C.E. Wiley Studios
Hair/Makeup:
Jasmine Adams
Wardrobe:
Marcus Blassingame
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones
Videographer: Caleesh Lewis

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Gryphon coral wrap

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YAMI DOLL

Stage Name

Yami Doll

State NY

Ethnicity

West Indian
and Puerto Rican

Sizes:

Height 5'9

Bust 36B

Waist 27

Hip 45

Shoe 8

Dress 8-9

MODELQUEST

Comme Des Garcons sequin vest
Bra (LF Stores)
Elle McPherson Underwear
Portrait by Dents Glove
Stevie Boy sunglasses by SB Shades

elle



YAMI DOLL

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Elle McPherson Underwear
Portrait by Dents Glove
Stevie Boy sunglasses by SB Shades

elle

Resume

Editorial Straight Stuntin
Issue #10, Straight Stuntin
Issue #11 (cover) ,Gorgeous
Magazine (cover)

Music Video 50CENT "Touch
me", Ray J, Maino, Pappose
"Thug luv" and Shaggy "I wear
my sunglasses at night"

Social Sites

Myspace/
VIXENTOTHEFULLEST
ModelMayhem /Yamidoll
Twitter /YamiDoll
Face Book/Yami doll





Bra (LF Stores)
Elle McPherson Underwear
Portrait by Dents Glove

BLACKMEN 123



Photographer: C.E. Wiley Studios
Hair: Ciara Smith
Makeup: Jasmine Adams
Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame
Editorial Asst: Sharri Jones
Videographer: Caleesh Lewis

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YAMI DOLL
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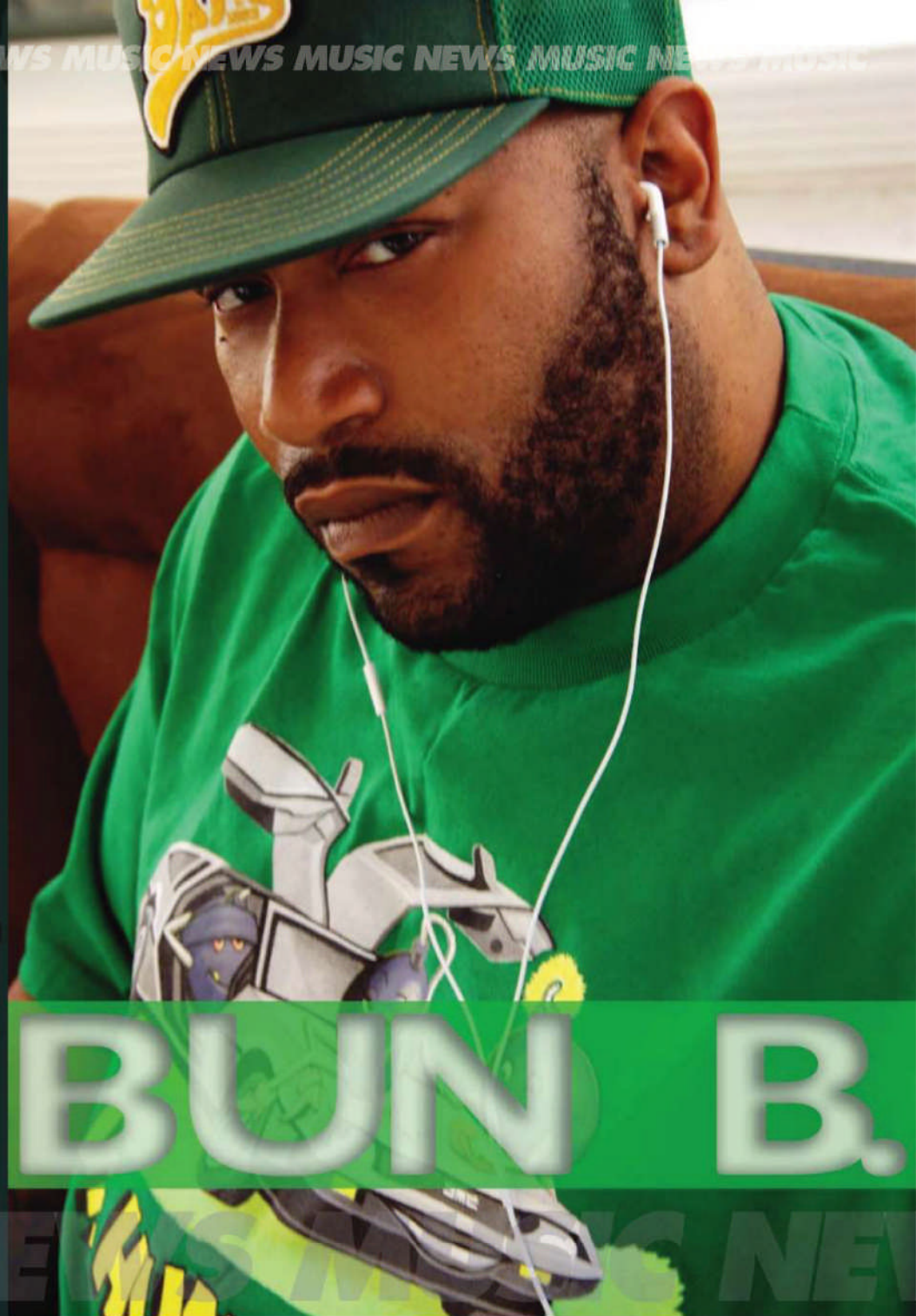


TRILL O.G.

By Ben Westhoff



Since the passing of his partner Pimp C in 2007, Bun B has experienced terrible grief. But his new album *Trill O.G.* sees him embracing UGK's legacy and his own status as a southern rap legend. "It's time for me to stand on that and mash on it, and claim my spot as a real O.G.," he says. The CD includes appearances from Trey Songz, Young Jeezy, and even Tupac and Pimp C on a track called "Right Now." Bun also recently drove the famous intercontinental road rally Gumball 3000, piloting a black Porsche Cayenne along with Cypress Hill's DJ Muggs. The trip took them all over Western Europe, Canada and the northeastern United States. "They took the restrictor out so the car could hit 160, and put on some wider tires so it could handle the curves better," Bun says. The rally happened just after he fell off a stage and split his knee open, but he didn't bother going to the hospital. Sounds like the move of a real O.G.



"It's time for me to stand on that and mash on it, and claim my spot as a real O.G."

Photography By D. Brown

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MODEL QUEST

North Carolina

Our Model Quest continues as we introduce Black Men Magazine to a new market in Greensboro NC. Every city has the hot spot that brings out all of the hot models in their surrounding area and my man Travis Hilliard (*Event Planner from MBA Entertainment, LLC, Washington, D.C.*) hit me up and to me he was connected one of the best teams in that market. Travis got the ball rolling and we formed a strategy with Versail Roddey – President of *AKNELL Entertainment Group (founded May 2006)*, an event coordination group started by 7 entrepreneurs, from varied backgrounds, which are responsible for delivering quality, upscale events for the 23 & up, mature clientele as well as fund raisers for area non-profits in the North Carolina area.

The idea was to do a Black Men Magazine casting call, and turn it into a major event featuring some the hottest Black Men Cover models Rosa Acosta and Casie Griffin. The scene was set at the luxurious club Lotus Lounge (120 West Lewis Street Greensboro NC).

Former Black Men Model turned Agent Alexis Greene of JNSQ Models - <http://www.jnsqmodels.com> helped coordinate the models during the event. A veteran to urban modeling to her credit, Alexis has done numerous jobs over the years. She helped give the models direction on their presentation as I orchestrated the brief runway walk for the local judges which consisted of some the local photographers, Club Owner Chris McGregory and myself.

The Girls did a runway walk in bikini or lingerie as well as a verbal presentation as to why they should be in Black Men magazine (one girl didn't have any two piece undergarments so to our surprise in this classy club plus conservative market, she through her dress over head and showed us her bare assets).

I've seen it all, but not in Greensboro till then.

The event was classy (aside from the mooning) with a nice mixed crowd of middle to upperclass folk from the surrounding area.

You can find pics on our Face Book Pages: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=503865109> (Marcus Blassingame).

Check out the three Greensboro NC Home Town Hotties in their Black Men Magazine debut:



ALEXIS GREENE

PHOTOGRAPHY—IEC STUDIOS

Name: Alexis Greene

Nickname: Lex, Gorgeous Greene, Smooches, Lucky...

Hometown: Hudson, Essex, Bergen and Morris County, NJ

Born: Hackensack, NJ

Raised: Mount Olive and Essex NJ

Zodiac: Aries

Sizes:

Bust—34B

Waist—24

Hip—38



Resume

Magazine: *BBE* cover issue #11

"Queen City Edition"

Mixtape Magazine Volume 1 Issue 3 with Zab Juddah 2005

XXL magazine Magic Special Edition, Fashion Spread 2005

XXL magazine Miami Fashion Spread, April 2005

Black Men magazine College Edition, Spring 2004

Videos: Bobby Valentino "Hands on You" Lead Dancer, March 2009

Juvenile Featuring Paul Wall, Mike Jones "Way I be Leanin" Dr. Teeth Lead 2006

Trina Featuring Lil Wayne "Don't Trip" Dr. Teeth Feature 2005

Webbie Featuring Trina "Bad Chick" Dr. Teeth Lead 2005

Bobby Valentino "Tell Me" Eric White Feature 2005

Urban Mystic "Where were you?" Gil Green Lead 2004

Commercial/Ad: Heineken Jamaica Principle, Miami, FL 2007

Winner Miss Apple Bottoms Charlotte, NC and ad on website, 2006

Audi Commercial 2005

MTV Video Music Awards Model on stage with Outkast, "Hey Ya" 2005

TVFins Television "Making the Squad 2004-2005"

Miami Dolphins

Runway

Caché December 2007

Caché May 2007

BET Spring Bling Daytona Beach, FL 2005

Websites

MingleBerry.com, Model of the Month, August 2008

CutieCentral.com, Web Girl of the week

www.Twitter.com/AlexisLovesMe

<http://www.facebook.com/gorgeousgreene>

www.modelmayhem.com/391555

MODELQUEST



Favorites

Drinks: Hi-C Orange

Food: Seafood or Italian

Mood Music: Slow and sexy mid-90s music

Favorite vacation experience: It's a three-way tie between Turks and Caicos, Hong Kong and Paris, France. I went to Hong Kong when I cheered for the Miami Dolphins in 2004-2005, and cheered in the Chinese New Year Parade.

Favorite car: Audi R-8, I saw a lot of these in Paris. They are so sleek.

Music Artist: Beyonce Knowles and Mariah Carey, I love these girls! Rhianna and Nicki Minaj are definitely gunning for the top spot. I love women with drive.

Rap quote or Lyric: "Women lie, men lie, numbers don't lie."

Old school or slow jam: "Cupid" 112, "Full Moon" Brandy, "4-Page Letter" Aaliyah, "Breakdown" Mariah Carey

Favorite place to be kissed: On my neck

Favorite body part on your man: If I had a man, it would be the "V," like on the old DeAngelo.

Craziest position: Me on a handstand—I did use to cheer.

Craziest place: Back row of a movie theater

Favorite position to fall asleep after sex: Spooning

Ultimate Goals

To become an accomplished actress: I am really feeling Zoe Saldana. She is not a pigeon holed actress. She can play any part and execute!

Game Plan: By the time this issue comes out, I should have my degree in Communications from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. After graduating, I would like to move to LA to start a career in acting, and not get caught up in reality television or porn.

Accomplishment: I've accomplished a lot in my

life, and I am happy with every decision I have made, because my decisions make me smarter, stronger and a better person.

Marketing Tools

Agency: I actually own a modeling agency in Charlotte, NC called JNSQmodels

Contact: 704-222-6305

Web Site: <http://www.jnsqmodels.com/>

E-Mail: info@JNSQmodels.com



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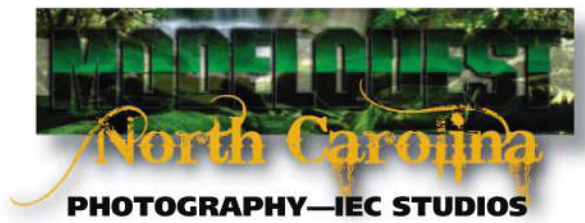
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DALIVIA

Name: Ms. Dalivia
Hometown: Springdale, MD
Born: Fairfax, VA
Raised: Springdale, MD
Zodiac: Taurus
Sizes:
Bust—36C
Waist—24
Hip—30

Resume

Training Narsh Smith-Fitness Trainer

Magazine Krushin Magazine, Titanium Girlz

Magazine,Gorgeous Magazine

Video Billy Blue-the world is yours pt.2, Flo-rida,Mac

Mane,Ball Greezy,Brisco-drop that, Flo-rida,Brisco,4-mill-

Ha,Phillip Hall-Special Girl

Commercial/Ad

Film

TV

Runway Catwalk Classic 08

Reality

Web

Twitter/msdalivia

Facebook/dalivia aivilad

Model Mayhem/msdalivia

Favorites

Drinks Sex on the beach,Nuvo, Ciroc and Moscato

Food Salmon,mexican rice,pizza, Caesar salad, corn bread and chocolate covered strawberries

Mood Music Love, Sex, Mellow

Favorite vacation experience

Ive traveled so much, ive had fun just about everywhere

Favorite car Maserati, Infiniti and 2010 Nissan Altima

Music Artist Trey

Songz,Drake,Lil Wayne,Lupe

Fiasco,Alicia Keys

Rap quote or Lyric "I got more than a thing for you,tattoo it in ink for you,right over my heart,I do the un-thinkable -alicia keys ft drake Un-Thinkable

Old school or slow jam Maxwell-

This Womens Work and Silk-

Favorite place to be kissed

Lips,Ear,Neck,and Toes

Favorite body part on your man

Lips,Calf muscles,Chest

Craziest position On top doing a split and split in air

Craziest place On top of a 64 story building on the roof

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex Laying on my side with my arm on my man chest and head resting up under his neck.I

LOVE TO CUDDLE AND BE IN HIS ARMS.



**Ultimate Goals**

My ultimate goals are to finish college, finish pursuing my modeling profession in all types of model and one day own my own modeling agency.

Game Plan My game plan to keep my A game and be one of the best models and inspiration to others. Further my career in tv/commercial and acting.

Accomplishment

My accomplishments are traveling, magazine print/ editorial, glamour, music videos, and getting recognized as upcoming top model in the DMV area as MsDaLivia.

Marketing Tools

Agency. JNSQ modeling agency

Web Site

Fan Site Facebook.com/
daliviaaivilad

E Mail msdalivia@gmail.com

NADIA JO

Name: (Ashley) Stage Nadia Jo

Nickname: AJ or Jo

Hometown: Greensboro

Born: North Carolina

Raised: North Carolina

Zodiac: Aquarius

Sizes:

Bust—34 B

Waist—26

Hip—42

Resume

Big Tigger October

Kitten of the month 09

Web- www.biggtigger.com,
www.cutiecentral.com,
a few more

Twitter-@Nadia_Jo

Facebook-

www.facebook.com/nadiajo
Model Mayhem-www.model-mayhem.com/1320600



Favorites

Drinks- Water, Apple Juice, White Wine, chilled patron shots

Food- pasta

Mood Music- All kinds, depends on what mood I'm in

Favorite vacation experience- Miami, I fulfilled one of my fantasies

Favorite car- Anything fast and sporty (Bentley GTC speed)

Music Artist- So many to name Jay Z, Fab, Wayne, Jeezy

Rap quote or Lyric- " I move forward the only direction, Can't be scared to fail search and perfection"

Old school or slow jam- Old School

Favorite place to be kissed- my neck

Favorite body part on your man- Chest

Craziest position- My legs on you shoulders, lifted up in almost a upside-down position, while I hold the back of your thighs

Craziest place- At my Mother's house, Sorry Mom

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex - my stomach



Ultimate Goals

My goal is to re locate, have fun and make money in the process. I want to do more work with Black Men Magazine and others. While doing so, become a well known respected name, not just in modeling but wherever modeling takes me. I would love to get into more hosting, be on the radio and even a host/correspondent for a show. There are also plans of opening a sports bar in the next five years. I'm so ambitious, I want to do it all. I Never say never, I never know who might need Nadia Jo.

Game Plan-To learn more about the business. Its easy to see the exterior but I need to see more of the interior. Keep networking, building my supporters, a couple of business classes

Accomplishment- Being featured in a magazine and on several websites

Marketing Tools

Contact- Antonynia Quinn, NadiaJobookings@gmail.com

Web Site-coming soon

Fan Site-www.myspace.com/imnadiajo

E Mail- Nadiajo83@gmail.com

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HEART OF A CHAMPION

ARTICLE BY BEN WESTHOFF

Paul Wall still rocks his famous grills, and he's got a new album due out this summer, *Heart of a Champion*, which was largely produced by Blink-182's Travis Barker. Their collaborations so inspired Wall that he recently moved out to L.A., though he still reps the H-Town. "At home in Houston, I'd get a little lazy. I'd get too comfortable," he said. The new CD also features a song with Chamillionaire called, "Round Here," the first track the childhood friends have made since falling out years ago. (Part of the problem was that Wall once fought Cham's brother, Rasaan.) "We wanted to lead by example, to unite the city of Houston," Wall explained of the reunion. He also recently opened up a new jewelry store in Houston's Galleria Mall with "TV" Johnny Dang, and even starred in a movie for the SyFy channel. Long after some predicted his demise, the Ice Man chugs on. ■

FOREVER YOUNG

ARTICLE BY MARCUS BLASSINGAME / MODEL: MASIKA K

IMAGES-VXN STUDIOS • STYLING-TSD IMAGE • PR-ECHOING SOUNDZ • HAIR-ST. ANTHONY CHERRY



In the classic tropical city of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico the stage is set for one of the most ingenious collaborations of prestigious industry insider socialites to introduce the world to one of the most promising new talents to explode on the scene. J-Star, musician, writer, lyricist and artist are just a few of the fitted caps sported by the theatrically trained college graduate and entrepreneur. Jamaican born and raised, migrating between Canada and the US (Detroit, MI), J-Star has developed a well-traveled, international swagger that gives him a unique A-game. His music ranges from a laid back, mellow street-life documentary style ("So I Grind," "Hate Fo-Awhile") to an up-tempo, rhythmic melody that gets the ladies shaking ("You Tube Girl"). Check out his music at: <http://www.echoingsoundz.net/jstar/>

When *Black Men* magazine introduced cover models Shakur, Rosa Acosta, Suelyn and Avonte on its June 2010 cover, sparks started to fly for J-Star's PR Team (Echoing Soundz). Both entities fused and formed a Voltron power move with reality show actress, LisaRaye at her B2B Weekend in Puerto Rico. Together with VXN Studios' photographer, Tiffany J, TSD Image stylist, Marcus Blassingame, *Black Men* magazine and cover models, J-Star introduced the "You Tube Girl" song and contest at the Caribe Hilton San Juan. Celebrities, ball players, real G's and bikini-clad women at a beach front resort were the backdrop, as the team participated in all the B2B Weekend events. The team dined at authentic cuisine style restaurants, such as El Jibarito Puerto Rico Restaurant. The YouTube Girl winner, Atlanta, GA's, Masika Kalysha, will appear in an upcoming spread in *Black Men*. Log on to: www.blackmendigital.com, www.tsdagency.com, www.echoingsoundz.net ■

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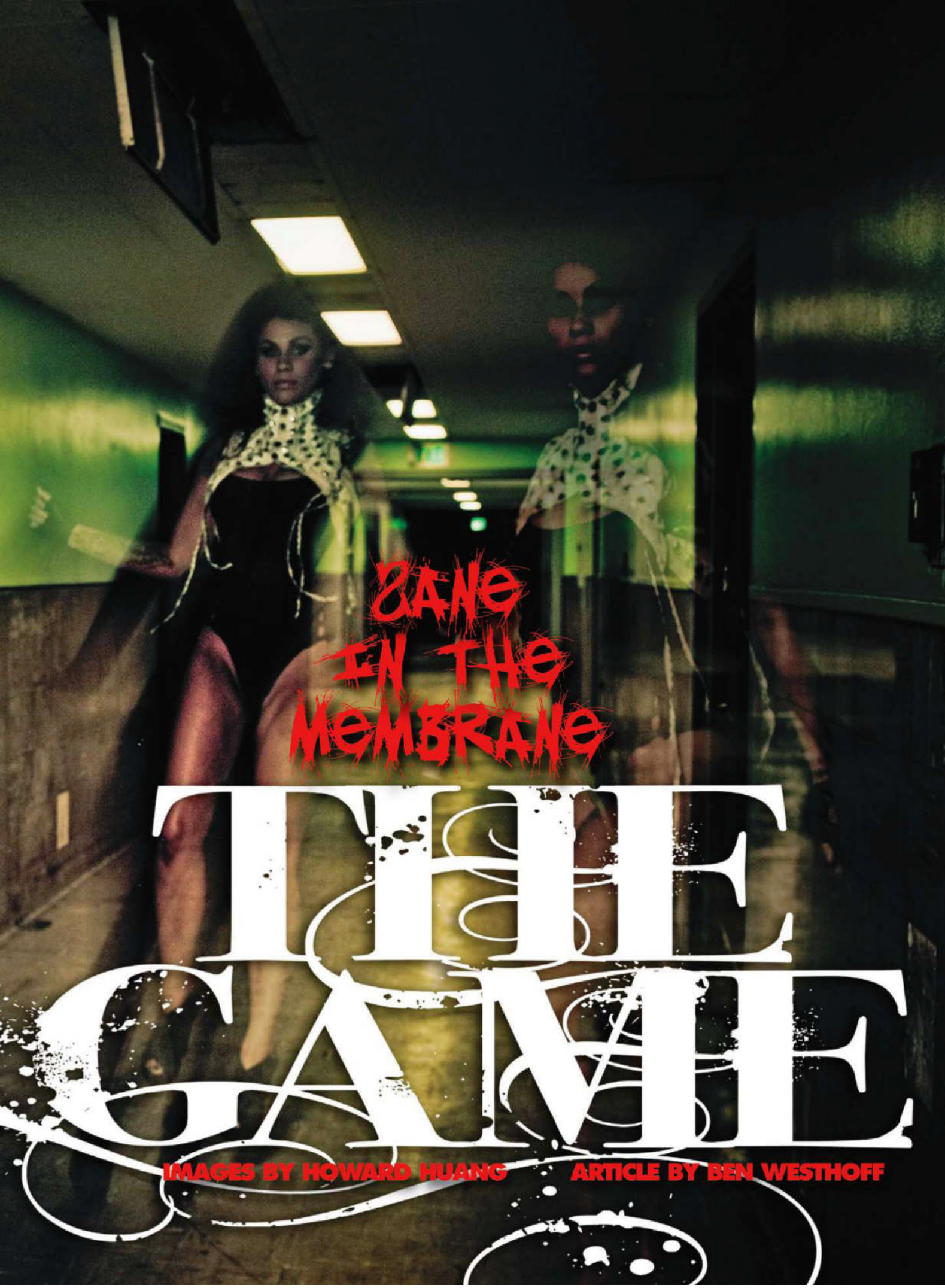
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ZANE
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THE GAME

IMAGES BY HOWARD HUANG

ARTICLE BY BEN WESTHOFF



A couple years ago, Game seemed like he had lost his mind. After collaborating with Dr. Dre and 50 Cent on his blockbuster first album, *The Documentary*, he fell out with both of them. He later threatened to kill himself, got arrested and said he was done with hip hop. But he's somehow gotten his act together for his fourth CD, *The R.E.D. Album*, on Aftermath Entertainment. "[Dre] didn't understand my position against 50. So, he just distanced himself from the drama," Game says. "But, I got it out of my system, so now everything's on the up-and-up." Though he still thinks current hip hop sucks compared to his heroes N.W.A. and Geto Boys, he's psyched about his new music, especially a track he made with Justin Timberlake and Pharrell Williams. "It's gonna be the number one song of the summer," he says, "it's going to be on the radio all day." ■

BMF

(continued from page 82)

He felt he could be flagrant because BMF doubled as a record label, one that helped promote the careers of rappers like Young Jeezy, Fabolous and Bleu Davinci. Meech believed that so long as he made smart moves—like not talking on the phone—he would be okay. He stressed loyalty to his crew mates, and felt confident none of them would snitch.

His brother, however, was another story. Terry did use cell phones, and the feds ran wiretaps and listened in. Records of these conversations helped lead to BMF's downfall. Plus, as Terry's foot soldiers were arrested, many of them turned government witness, implicating their superiors so they would receive shorter prison sentences.

Though none of Meech's close associates ever turned on him, there was so much heat coming from Terry's side that both brothers eventually decided to plead guilty. "The evidence [against Terry] was very damning against his brother," says Shalhoup. They each received thirty-year sentences. Jacob the Jeweler, who lied to police about selling jewelry to BMF, also received a two-and-a-half year sentence. Jeezy was also accused of selling cocaine, but so far no charges have been filed against him.

Shalhoup, the editor of Atlanta weekly *Creative Loafing*, says that though her mother was worried for her safety, she didn't receive threats from any BMF members during her reporting. It helped that most of them are in jail, and also that Meech himself decided to cooperate with the book. He's interested in being immortalized a la his fictional idol, Tony Montana, it seems. "He's down with it," Shalhoup says. "He really wants a movie to be made."

Despite having been more recently transferred to federal lockup in Jesup, Georgia, Meech isn't feeling sorry for himself. Sure, he's a little annoyed that his supplier, Daniel Corral—whom Meech protected—was eventually indicted, and even ratted out his wife. But Meech knows that he had his run, for a time living the extravagant lifestyle most people can only imagine. He'll always have his memories.

In fact, Shalhoup says she's been back to see him twice since their original meeting, and he's been glad to see her. "He just likes to have people around him, listening to his crazy tales," she says. "His memory is absurd, and his eye for detail. He loves the attention." ■

DAWN MONTGOMERY

(continued from page 104)

system, and you'll definitely understand how Mississippi Dawn is leading the way in showing today's urban models how to git 'er done.

Black Men: What did, or do you still, want to ultimately accomplish with your modeling endeavors?

Dawn Montgomery: Currently, I am

working on my transition into mainstream, commercial modeling. The recent additions to my portfolio and resume have truly pushed me toward commercial modeling. I'm seizing the opportunity to capitalize on this moment.

BM: People often label you a "transformer," meaning you possess that special ability to consistently deliver for a wide variety of client projects. Explain why developing such an approach is key to the evolution of the urban model.

DM: My key to becoming a "transformer" is my willingness to grow. I can't become complacent with booking one major music video, a hair, or clothing campaign. I never want to be the same as the next model sitting next to me. Becoming a model with vast range in her work shows a client versatility and ability to deliver. Clients prefer models they can build an image around for their brand. It's never about you, the model. It's always about the brand, product or image.

BM: What effect has being a signed talent of an agency had on your career?

DM: It's helped tremendously. Clients have told me that they booked me because I'm signed to an agency. They felt that it spoke to my professionalism. A lot of unsigned models do not understand industry protocol, whereas signed agency models do. Their professionalism makes it easier for the client.

BM: You've booked commercial campaigns for worldwide clients, such as Seagram's Gin, Urban Beauty, PZI Jeans, Akoo Clothing and most recently, Crème of Nature. What do such clients look for when considering talent for their campaigns?

DM: The main thing commercial clients look for is, Do you fit their brand? Can you, as a model, relate to their consumers? You must show the client that you know about the brand and care about its success. I study and research the history of every company I work for. Not only can I be the face of a brand, I can also be their voice.

BM: You were challenged this year for your role in the Akoo Clothing Spring 2010 Campaign Billboard controversy in Newark, NJ. The billboard caused a media frenzy and directed ridicule toward you for what many deemed as racy, misogynist imagery. What do you want people to understand about the role you played in the entire controversy?

DM: I have no regrets. My family supported me and they understood my role as a model. When a company hires you to do a job, they expect you to deliver. I did that, and I am very proud of my billboard, even though it came down quickly [laughs].

BM: What do you feel is the biggest misconception aspiring urban models have about the industry?

DM: Urban models entering the industry today think that they can make a lot of fast money. That's not true. If you're consistently working then yes, you can make good money to live comfortably. But if you are shooting one music video from time to time, then you are spinning your wheels. Times and budgets have changed in the urban industry. So many new models are blinded by the fast life

that urban modeling can bring. I was taught to work hard and to never allow one job to define you. The key to real money and longevity is diversifying your work.

BM: What was the hardest thing for you to adjust to after you entered the industry?

Dawn Montgomery: Myself. I had the hardest time defining my own personal style. I had to learn simple things, like how to apply makeup and quick hairstyles just for castings. I went through a year and a half of consultations about this, and it really helped advance my career.

BM: If you could change anything about urban modeling, what would it be?

DM: I would change how women are introduced into the industry. I have yet to meet a new urban model that recognizes the significance of a clothing or hair campaign over a music video. Commercial campaigns have lifetimes of one to three years at max. Music videos these days are flash in the pans and may last three months, depending on the artist and song. What's more important to you: short money, cars and clothes or good money, respect and longevity?

BM: How has single motherhood shaped your outlook and approach as an urban model?

DM: It's been tremendously helpful. I have an observant four-year-old, and he truly keeps up with everything I do. He inspires me to watch my decisions and lead by example in this industry.

BM: One day, your son will grow to learn that his mother was a super-bad lady in her day. What do you want him to understand most about your model career?

DM: I want him to understand that I did not do what some women did to pay the bills. This industry can devour the weak at heart and mind. I come from a strong background and my faith in God has and will always provide our every need.

BM: How has your tenacious battle with bipolar disorder influenced your modeling?

DM: My disorder is my motivation. Many urban models worry about materialistic things. I'm more concerned about if it rains today, and whether I'll be able to get out of bed, take my son to school and make a casting at 3 p.m. My everyday battle is from within, and Christ is my army.

BM: You wear your love for your home state of Mississippi on your back. Why is this so important to you?

DM: It's very important, because people forget the importance of Mississippi in history. Yes, there are many negative things, but a lot of greatness has come out of the state. You're talking to one. My grandmother told me that if you ever forget where you come from, or become too proud to rep your home, then your soul has been lost. Think about it.

BM: Recently, your modeling endeavors have provided you with the opportunity to become a speaker and mentor to young, teenage kids. How does their adulation and interest in your life make you feel?

DM: I feel honored that a young person can hear my story, follow my career and say,

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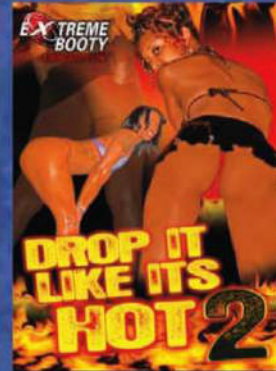
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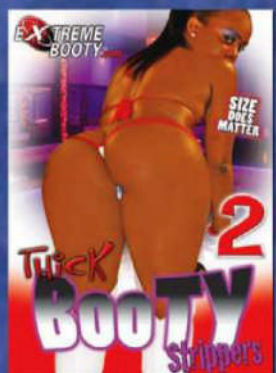
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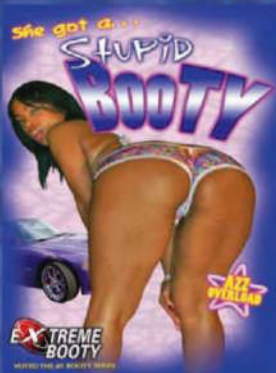
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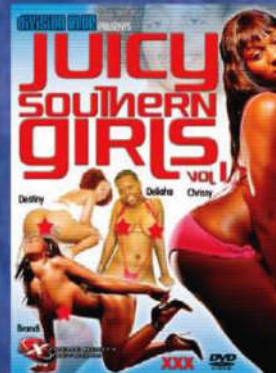
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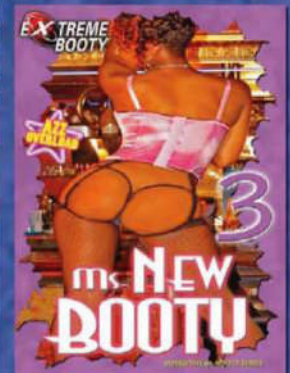
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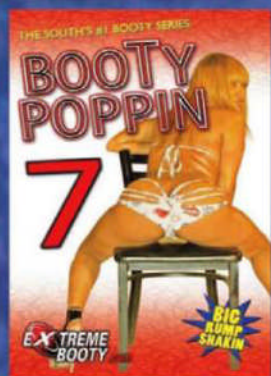
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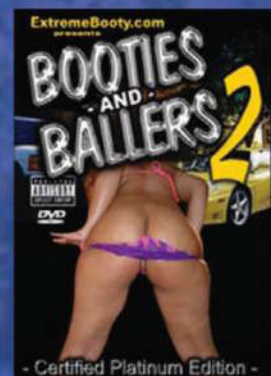
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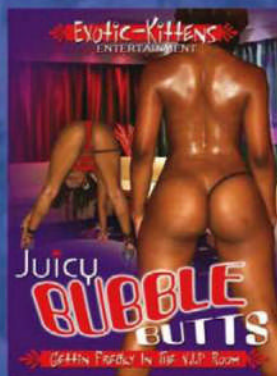
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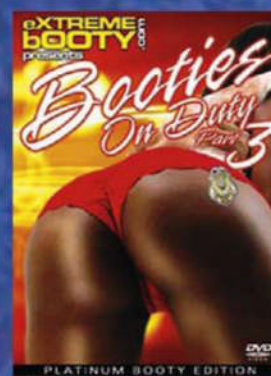
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"She lives by everything she says." It really touches me, because I remember hearing other speakers and saying, "I can do that one day." Now I am, and I won't stop.

BM: You often speak of your "Vision Board" on your Twitter and Facebook pages. Explain a little about what the "Vision Board" is, and how it aids you in your daily life.

DM: In the book, *The Secret*, you are advised to create a poster board of images that are examples of your wants, wishes, goals and plans for the year. You can do one or several vision boards for a year, depending on your ambitions. I've done this since high school. As I began to have bigger dreams, the board grows. It serves as a focused reminder of what I have planned for my career and personal life.

BM: You're a big-time sports fanatic, which for most men equals a dream come true. If you could be Editor-In-Chief of *Black Men* for a special issue dedicated to women in sports, which sexy ladies in sports would you feature and why?

DM: The Williams Sisters would be my cover. C'mon son! They own part of a major sports franchise! Danica Patrick would be a feature. She races against men at speeds of 180 mph plus. Candace Parker is next, because she's living the American dream. She plays basketball, is a wife and mother and stays beautiful. Her teammate Lisa Leslie is next up. She's the Naomi Campbell of women's basketball. Laila Ali would close it out. She, along with her father, is the great-

est.

BM: In the bedroom, which sport would you equate your bedroom manner to—football, basketball, baseball or hockey? And why?

DM: Tough question. I would actually have to say tennis. I like the one-on-one competition. If the serve is off, then it kills the entire mood [laughs]. I'm very into the person I'm with, and I do not need any extra noise or spectators. Sometimes I'll have the "advantage," but overall, we are both aiming for the best of three sets [laughs].

BM: What are your favorite characteristics in a man?

DM: He must be God-fearing. His love for the people around him speaks volumes. If you cannot treat other people well, then why should I expect you to treat me well?

BM: What do you feel men love the most about your personality and body?

DM: My personality hooks them. It also helps that I'm attractive and nice to look at, but once someone gets to know me, then they are like, "You are wifey material." Sometimes that tends to scare men off, but I believe that will soon change.

BM: What surprises can we look forward to from Mississippi Dawn in the near future?

Dawn Montgomery: I won't speak too much on them. Just know that they will bring about the E-Trade baby shocked face [laughs]. I'm always working. Even when you think I'm taking a break, I'm working on the next step toward changing the perception of urban models in the industry. ■

JASMINE

(continued from page 104)

man: Strong arms and chest

Craziest position: On a handstand with legs in the air

Craziest place: In a hot tub

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: On my stomach, I sleep like that anyway.

Ultimate Goals

Game Plan: To become very successful in my modeling/acting career and open many different businesses, such as a gym, and my own clothing boutique.

Accomplishment:

To go back to my hometown and give back to my community, also open a charity for young girls.

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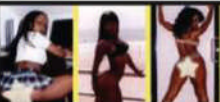
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(L-R) Charles Watson, 1st place male winner Rob Edwards, John Blassingame



(L-R) Charles Watkins, 1st place female winner Jessica Crawford, John Blassingame.



(L-R) John Blassingame, president and CEO New Day Associates, Inc., Jeff Friday, CEO Black Film Festival, Debra Hall, 1987 winner of 1st International Model of the Year, Wil Packer, Rainforest Films, Bob Sumner, VP Def Jam Comedy.

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Interviews and casting for the 24th Annual International Designer of the Year contest, presented by New Day Associates, Inc. and hosted by *Today's Black Woman* and *Black Men* magazines, will be held on Sunday July 18, 2010 at 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Marriott Hotel at Liberty International Airport, Newark, New Jersey. There is a \$30 registration fee.

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For more event information, call John Blassingame at (609) 655-3667 or visit www.lindennewday.com.

ALL-STAR FASHION WEEKEND

This fall New Day Associates, Inc. presents the 24th Annual Designer of the Year and the 14th Annual Hype Hair Natural Beauty contests hosted by *Today's Black Woman*, *Black Men*, and *Hype Hair* magazines. The two-day weekend of fun, fashion and industry networking will be held at the Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey.

On Saturday, November 27, 2010, New Day Associates, Inc. will celebrate the 15th Anniversary Party for *Black Men* magazine to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel. Present will be specially invited guests from the fashion, film, and music industries. Also present will be guests Bernard Bronner publisher of *Upscale* magazine, Wil Packer of Rainforest Films, Edward Avant publisher of *Heart & Soul* magazine, Wendy McKenzie lead casting director of the movie *Notorious B.I.G.*, Francis Romeros publisher of *Hombre* magazine and one of the producers of the Puerto Rican Day parade, and many other special guests.

Doors open at 9 p.m. and show time at 10 p.m. Feast on hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and party until 2:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 with invite and \$20 at the door.

On Sunday, November 28, 2010, *Today's Black Woman*, *Black Men*, and *Hype Hair* magazines, in conjunction with New Day Associates, Inc., will present the 24th Annual International Designer of the Year and our 14th Annual Hype Hair Natural Beauty contest.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and show time starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

For out-of-town guests, there is a special room rate of \$99 for single or double occupancy when reservations are made under the New Day Associates, Inc. block of rooms.

For information about accommodations, call 973-623-0006. For more event information, call John Blassingame at 609-655-3667 or visit www.lindennewday.com and click on competition information, or e-mail info@lindennewday.com. ■

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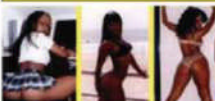
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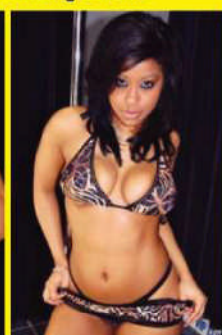
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CELEBRITY INK
Ray J
Article by Dove - Sheepshead Lordess of Chaos-From the outside looking in, it probably seems like life is easy for R&B singer-turned-reality TV star Ray J. But even with his multi-platinum sister Brandy and dedicated "momager" Sonja Norwood at his side, the trek to success has been anything but simple. Sure, Ray J had a Top 20 hit with 2005's "One Wish" and then the Top 10 hit "Sexy Can I" in 2006, and has also maintained an acting career since childhood. Yet fighting the labels that people put upon him has been the bane of his existence. For a while it seemed as though Ray J was taking a purposeful "bad boy" route when videos surfaced including his notorious sex tape with ex-girlfriend Kim Kardashian and a multiple studio-smoke session with Sean Penn cut-off.

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