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hen we first decided to launch Black Men magazine, it was a time when there was not much activity in the men's magazine category. We witnessed many other publications fall to the wayside. Reason being, most publishers were trying to imitate the high fashion and non-ethnic magazines while trying to appeal to the "Urban Male" and it did not transcend well.

There were snazzy modern names, attempts to avoid using the word "black" as not to offend some or be accepted by the mainstream market. They shunned many things that we enjoyed in the urban culture and tried to force feed us what they felt we should read or see in a magazine. Gone now are the attempts to mold us into some "Beverly Hills 90210 chicken wrap and sushi" looking magazine. We like our product REAL, THICK and HEARTY.

First was the name: Would you call you magazine "Noir Homme?" (Pause)

Some magazine names out there sound like old pimp names or the name of a pet German Shepherd. "Sit, _ _ _ !"

What name is more controversial, in your face, heart felt, and speaks directly to the audience then "BLACK MEN"? As much scrutiny as we received, over the past 18 years, Black Men has been successful. Every other month, someone is attempting to mimic our swag, and it appears that we have enough to go around because it's working.

As recognized by The Village Voice, women with curvy hips and circular derriere have begun to be the accepted norm in a market where the size 0 small is promoted as the ideal size. Since then, over the years we noticed that the edgy or soft image of your favorite model or celebrity, gingerly looking over her shoulder while displaying her tiny waist which blossoms into bouquet of "Oh My Goodness" drives the average ethnic men's mag reader insane.

This "scale tipping of sales concept" is the reason why we dedicated this collection of photographer's artwork in the form of a "Book-a-zine" We Introduce... The Book of Back-Shots...

Marcus Blassingame Editor-in-Chief



BlackMen's

HEST OF BLACKMEN Howard Huang

It takes a keen eye to understand the subtle balance between photography and design, but NYC-based, Taipei-born, Hawaiian-raised, Howard Huang, has embraced both with a deft hand. In the last eight years, Huang's unique mix of a sharp creative vision and veteran technical prowess has catapulted him to become one of commercial photography's fastest-rising stars, with his stylish photos gracing an impressive range of media—from magazine covers and celebrity fashion layouts to national advertising campaigns for Fortune 500 companies.

The best word to describe Huang's trademark style? As he puts it: "moody." Huang's photographs create a fantasyland that moves easily from the highly dramatic to the subtly enhanced. His models appear warm and sexy, with a lingering touch of glamour and drama. If nothing else, Huang's world is a visually arresting one: one look and you're mesmerized.

"Images with a story behind them are definitely the most interesting," says Huang. "I am always thinking of a narrative behind the shoot, because I prefer creating images with a powerful emotional impact. It has to be something that makes you feel a sensation: whether it's sexy or surprising, or even a disgusting feeling. But no matter what, it has to attract the eye instantaneously."

Huang's impressive list of client work ranges from commercial product photography for corporations such as Panasonic and Nintendo to national advertisements for Verizon, Southpole, Lot29 and Mecca Femme. He's also shot celebrities such as: Nicki Minaj, Lil Wayne, Keyshia Cole, Nelly, Ashanti, Busta Rhymes, Wiz Khalifa, Prodigy, Pitbull and many more. His work has appeared in some of the today's top entertainment publications, including: Seventeen, Teen Vogue, XXL, King, The Source, Smooth, VIBE, URB, Urban Latino, The Village Voice, Billboard, Urban Ink and yours truly, BlackMen mag—among many others. Huang also published a compilation of his work—featuring some of the most beautiful femme models in the gametitled Urban Girls (Taschen).

In the end, it's the magic of the single image that moves Huang. "Only the photographer really knows what he or she wants out of every image," he muses. "It's like you're a movie director, but for one frame only—and there's a tale to tell behind every still frame." He pauses for a moment. "I fell in love with the whole photographic process a long time ago," he says, "and I just kept on shooting."

ALL IMAGES BY HOWARD HUANG/ WWW.HOWARDHUANG.COM









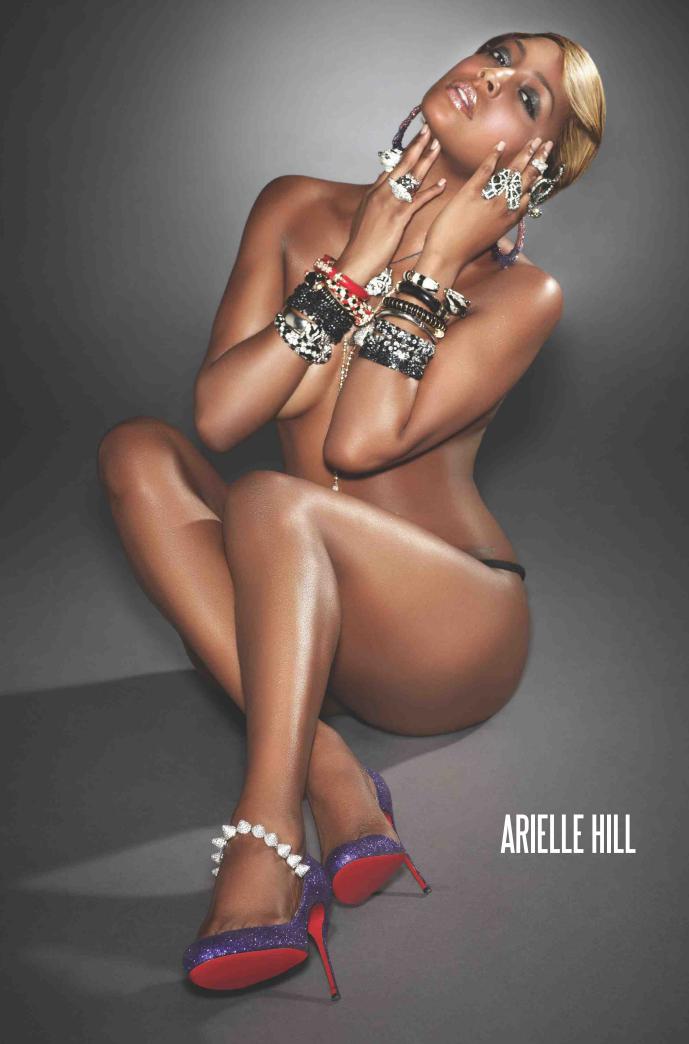




"I am always thinking of a narrative behind the shoot, because I prefer creating images with a powerful emotional impact."

-Howard Huang







ARIELLE HILL





"I fell in love with the whole photographic process a long time ago...and I just kept on shooting."

—Howard Huang









ALEEA

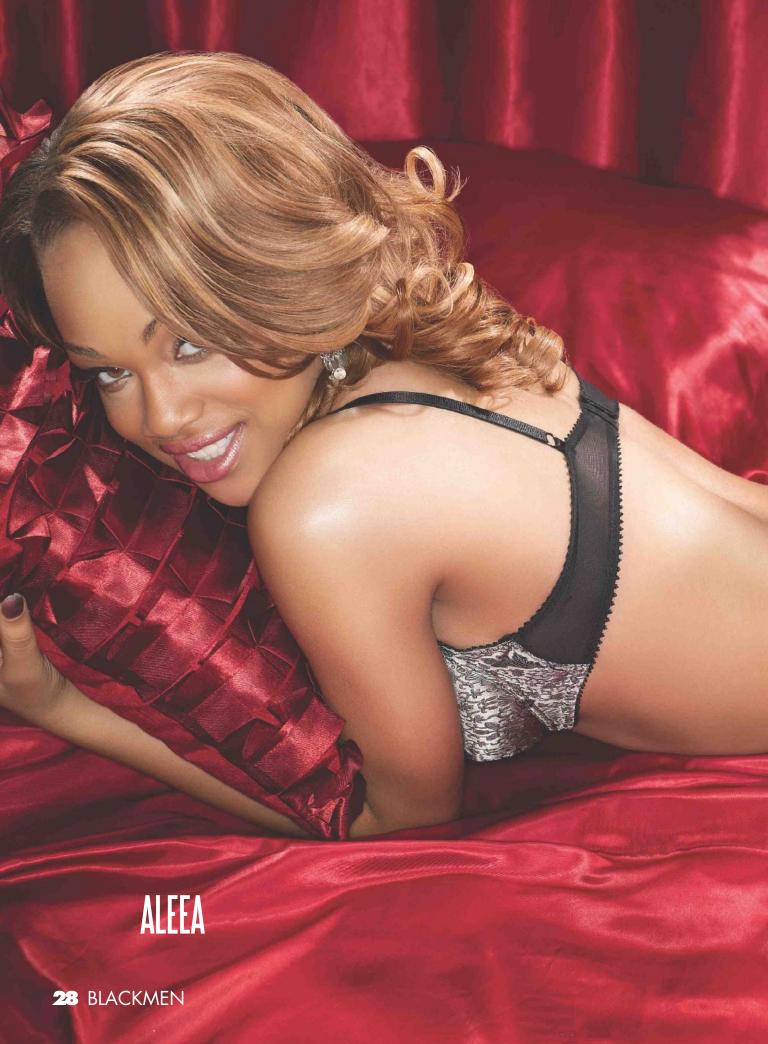


ALEEA

























SUSANNA





CHARISSE MILLS

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BlackMen's

THE BEST OF BLACKMEN

Jeffery Duran

ew York City photographer, Jeffery Duran, exemplifies his visual dimensions through the medium of photography. Documenting with a camera his images holds captive the essence of passion. Expressing visual content that is both emotionally evoking and provocatively eye pleasing.

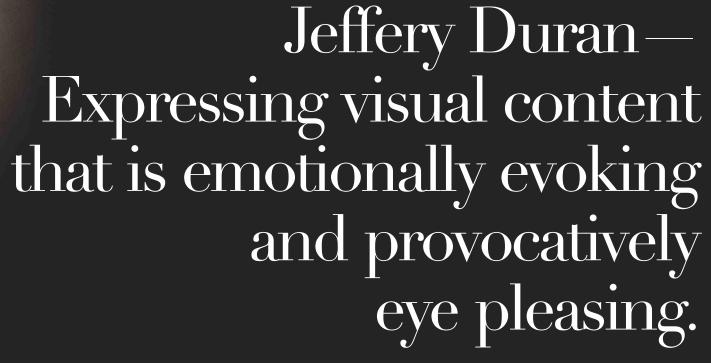
Duran expressed that being born and raised in the most diverse city in

the world inspires his craft. The environment—and the diverse influences that he has been exposed to—enhance his abilities. His channel of work is a blend of styles that is derived from photography masters in their own right. He projects leading edge imagery with a unique style that distinguishes him from the rest—making it his own.

ALL IMAGES BY JEFFERY DURAN









BlackMen's

THE BEST OF BLACKMEN

Hasan

FACET STUDIO

the opposite end of the camera as a model, Hasan fell in love with the art of photography and developed an eye for detail. After spending less than two weeks in school for graphic design, the young talent decided to learn about the fashion world from hands-on experience.

Always advanced in skill, at 12-yearsold Hasan attended college for cinematography and went to work on independent film sets as an art director and cinematographer. In hopes to expand his artistic impact, he decided to turn hobby into profession and began Facet Studio based in Los Angeles, CA.

Today, Facet Studio is a fully operational photography/video studio with over 2,000-square-feet of shooting space, tens of thousands of dollars of equipment, and an internationally known photographer. Make-up artists, hair stylists, interns, and a wardrobe stylist are also on-hand to assist in making the vision come to life. Many of produced images coming out of Facet Studio appear in magazines, fashion ads, covers and hosts of other web-content media. Today, Facet Studio continues to create immaculate images, and is one of the fastest growing photography companies in its region.

ALL IMAGES BY SULIMAN HASAN / FACET STUDIO

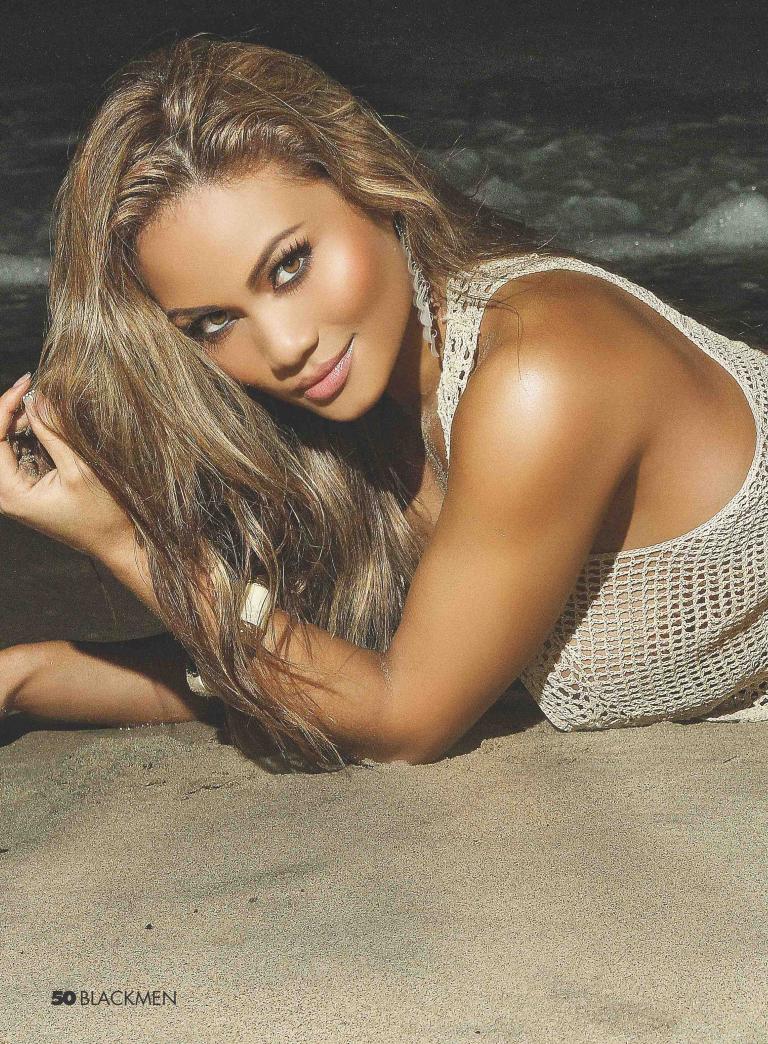












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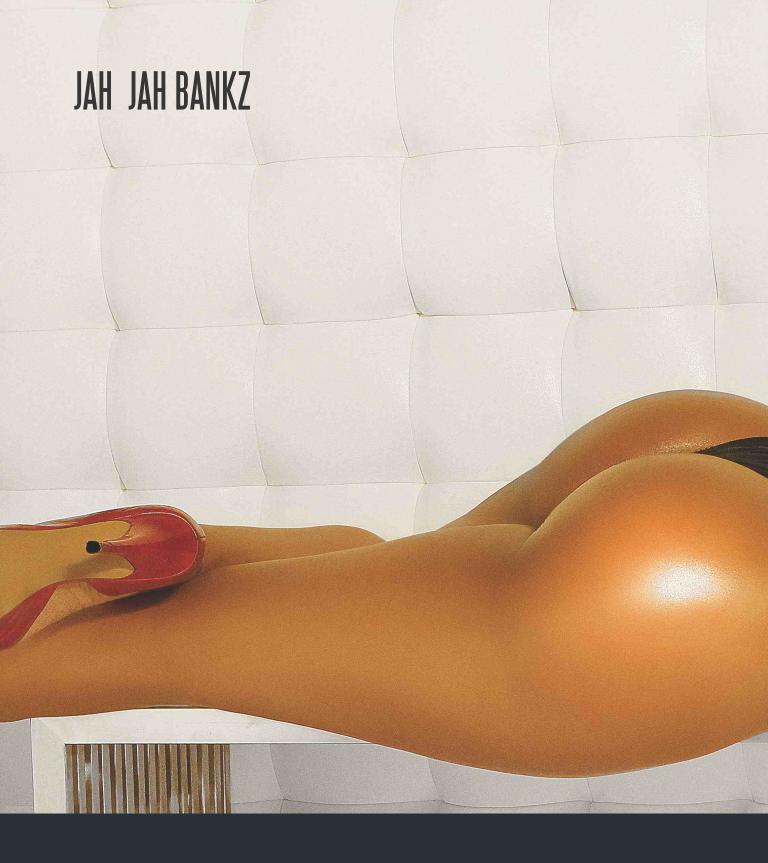
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Facet Studio— Creating immaculate images.







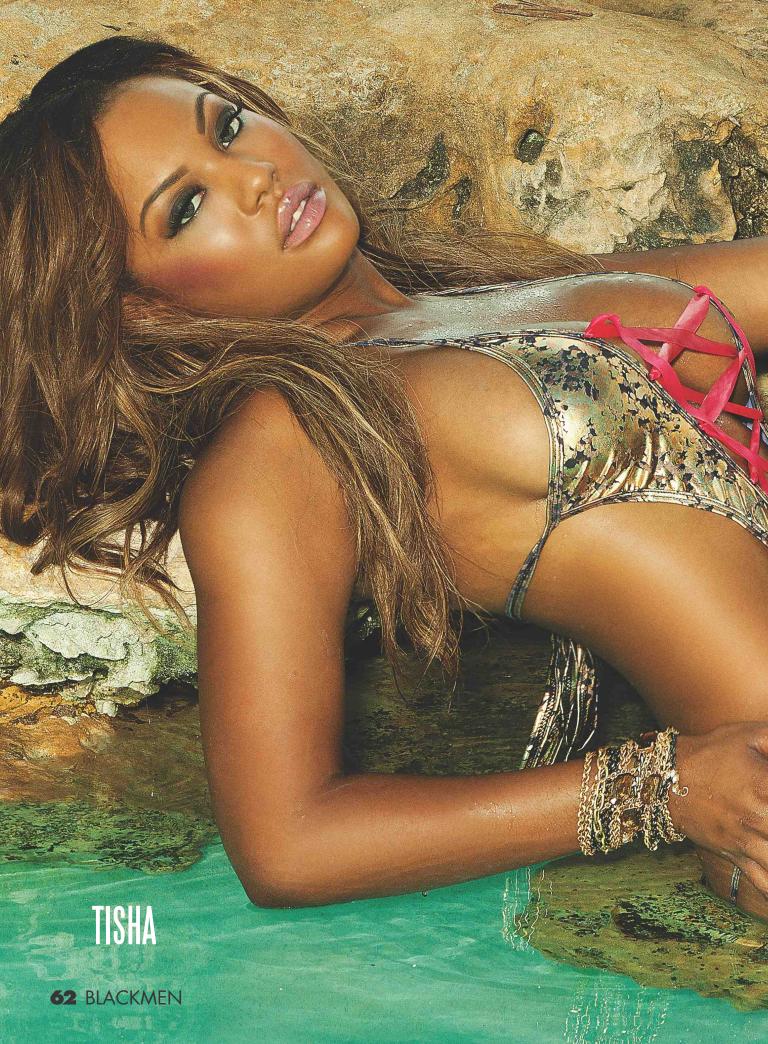




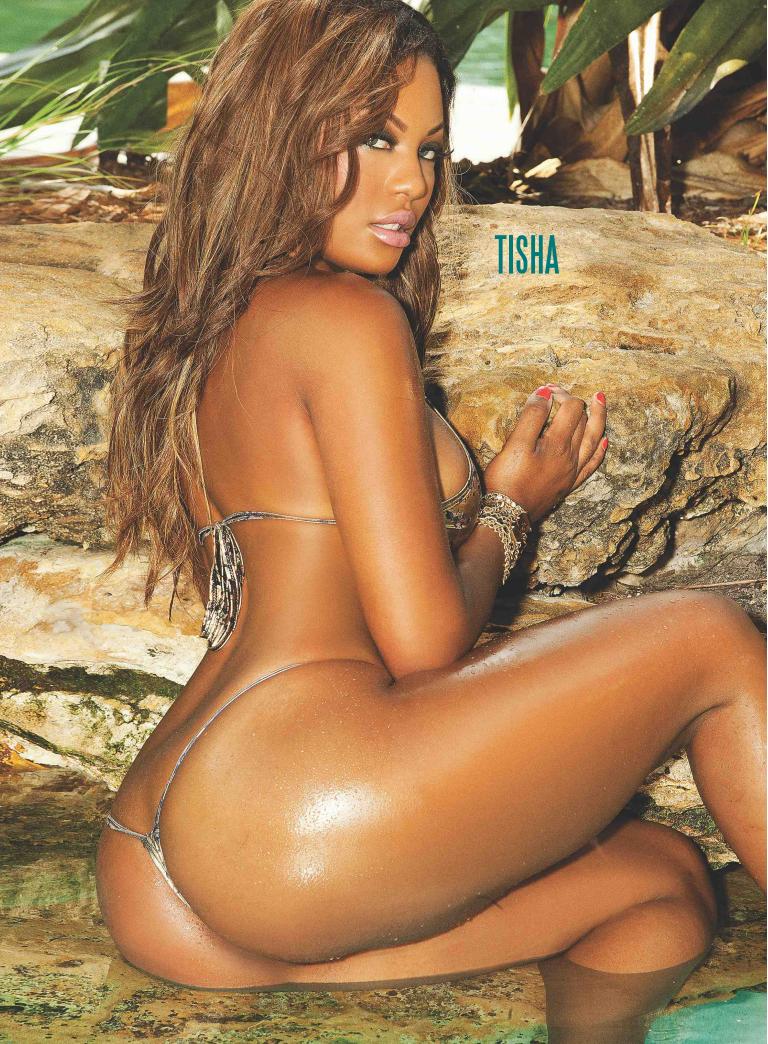














THERESA

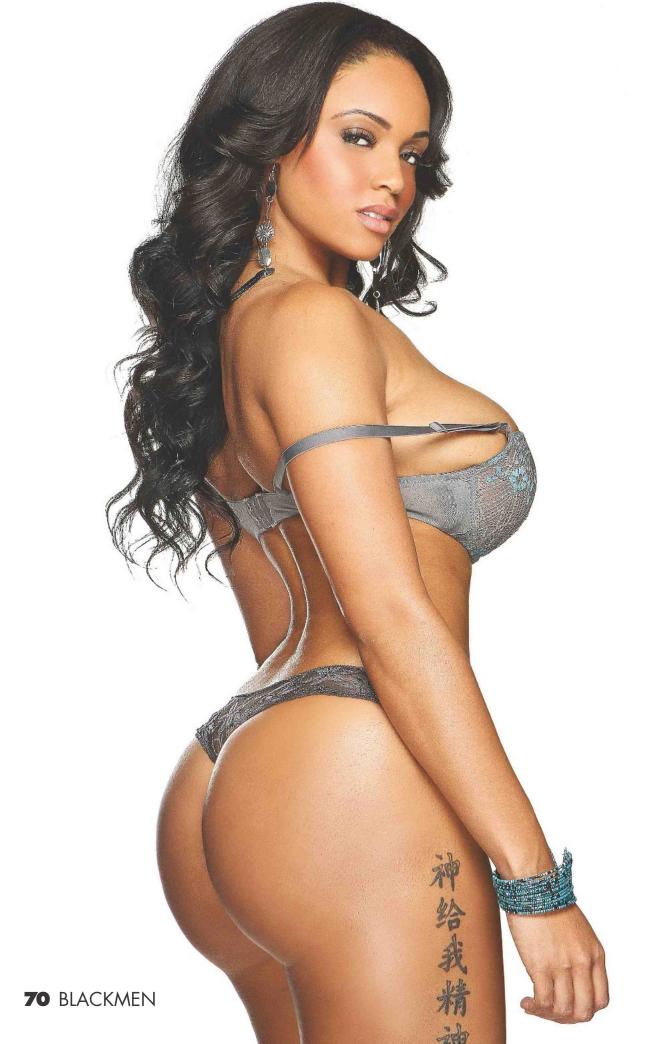
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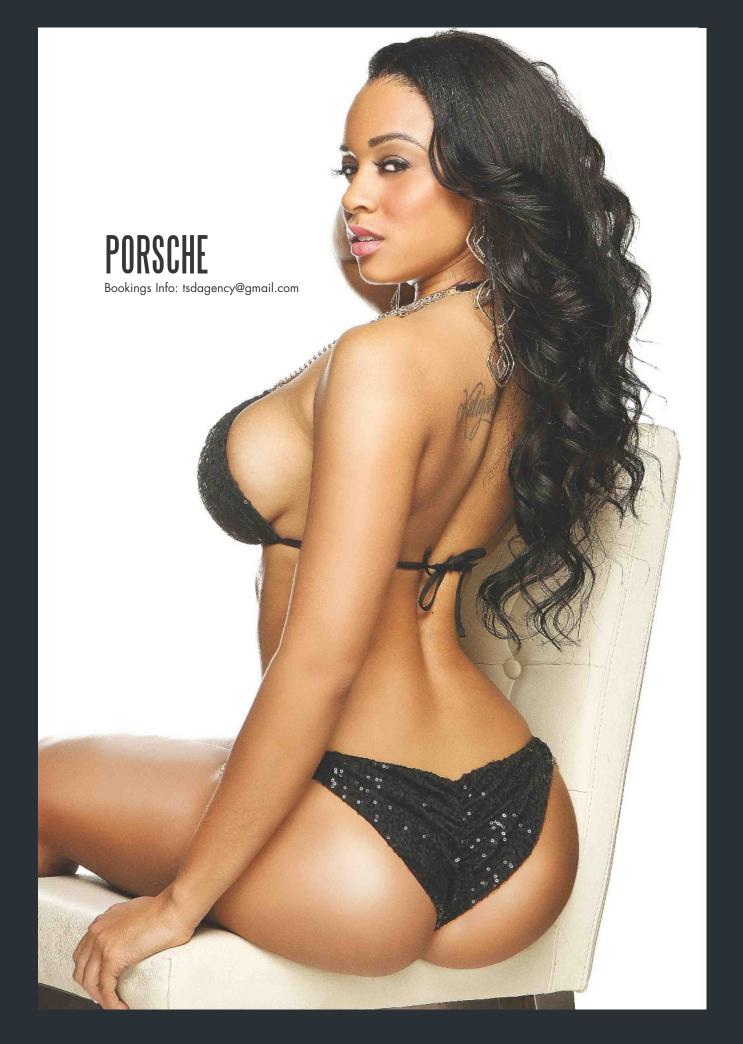








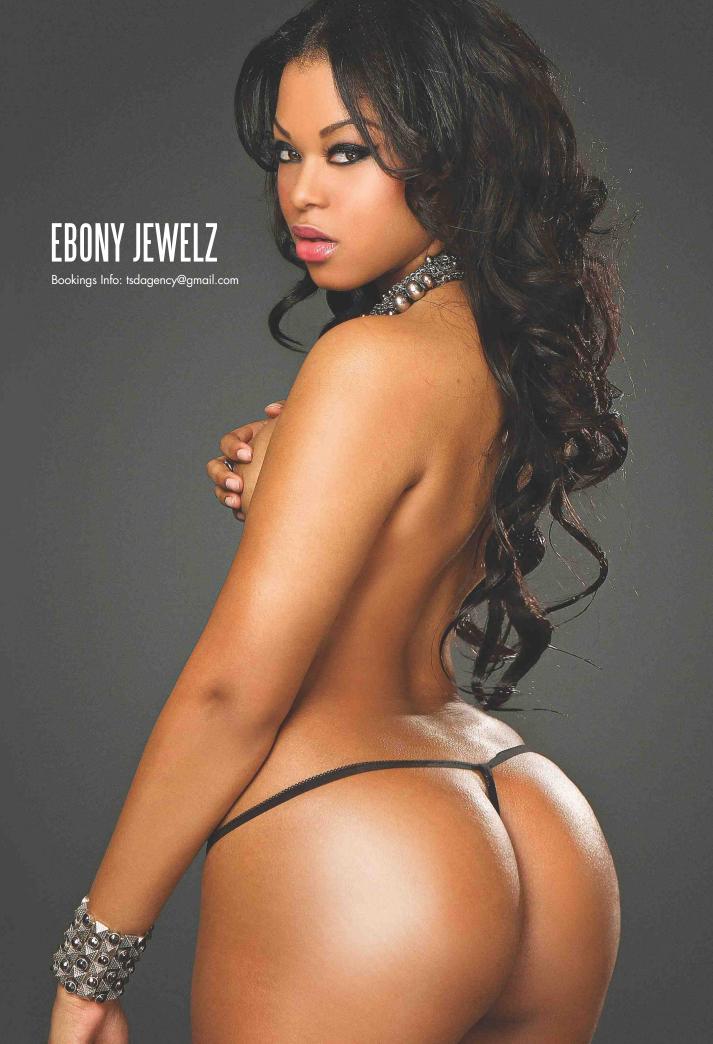


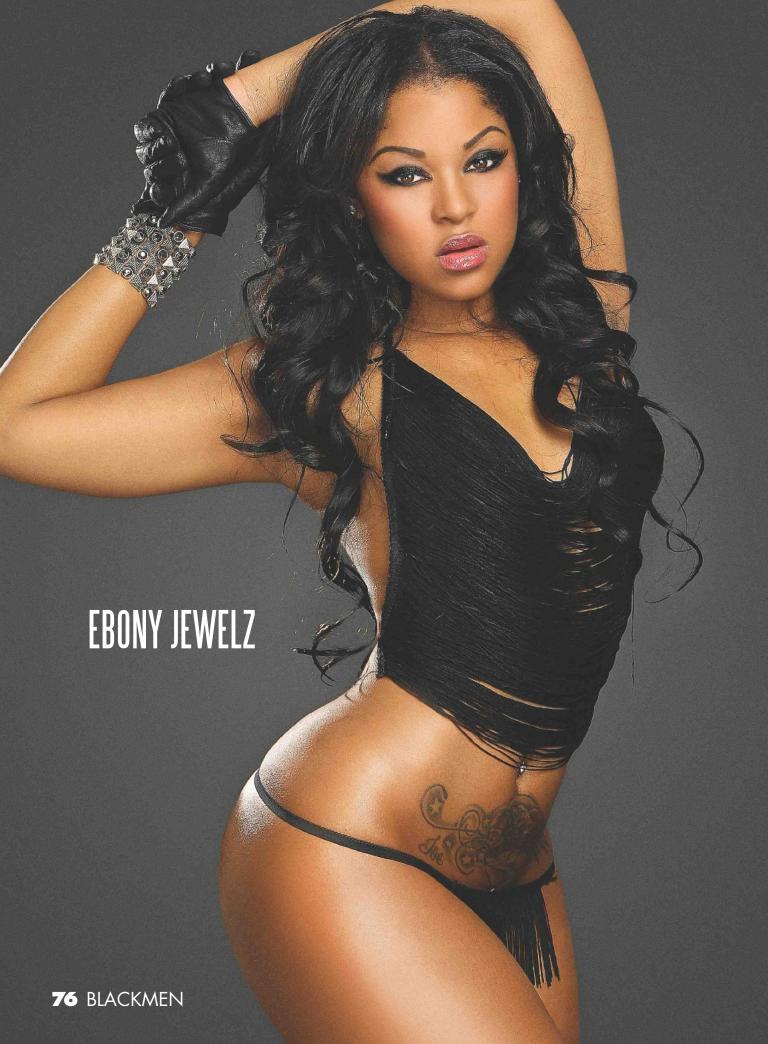














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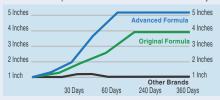
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BlackMen's

THE BEST OF BLACKMEN

Charles Gardner

IEC STUDIOS

charles Gardner's passion for photography centers on his love of art. Whether negotiating the narrows of a remote area in the Nevada desert or climbing down a mountain to a waterfall in Panama, his skill in capturing the essence of his subjects reflects his deep art background.

His photographs have been published in magazines, books, calendars and commercial advertising projects around the world. His images have appeared in a wide variety of publications including: BlackMen, JM, Girls of Lowrider, Lowrider, American Curves, Maxim, Maxim En Español, The Source, Vibe, Washingtonian and many more magazines.

Charles's photographic journey began when a group of close friends saw that he had an eye for taking pictures and convinced him to buy a camera. Immediately falling in love with the idea of creating something special in a digital format, he spent the next four years combining the demands of clients with the pleasures of shooting people in his own style and concepts. After graduating from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, he went to Maryland College of Art and got his degree in cartoon animation. Determined to find a way where he could combine his love of the art with the necessities of earning a living, he

decided to pick up a camera and pursue his dream.

For the next four years, every free moment was spent photographing and exploring the ideas and concepts for shoots. By mid-2007, he had established enough of a following among magazine photo editors and other clients that he was able to pursue his photography on a full-time basis. He embarked on his new career with enthusiastic determination, photographing adventure-oriented subjects around the world. From the high peaks of the Himalaya to the beaches of New Brazil, Charles was so seduced by the beauty of these wild places that he soon began his photographic emphasis on location-based photography.

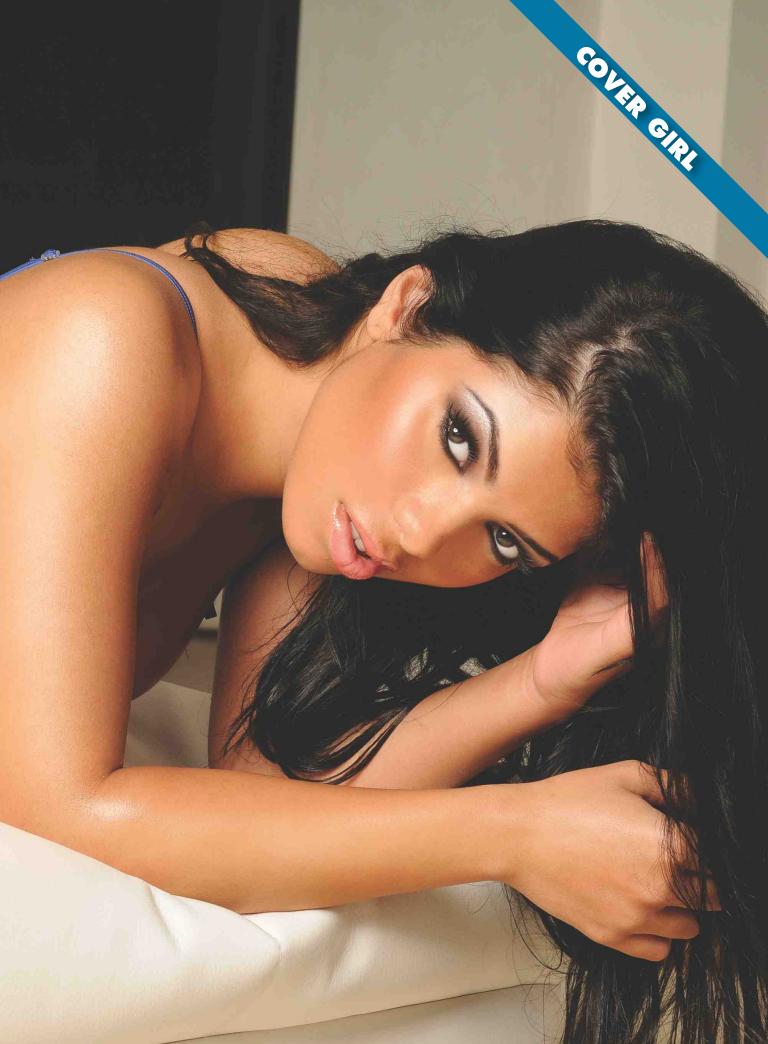
While Charles enjoys the day-to-day responsibilities of working with clients and running the business, the most rewarding aspect of his work is derived from his time spent in the field, in search of new locations and photographs. It's this sense of discovery and always wanting to know what's over the horizon—or around the next bend in the canyon—that continues to motivate Charles today both personally and professionally. Based in Washington, DC and LA, Charles has become one of the top glamour photographers in the country.

ALL IMAGES BY CHARLES GARDNER / IEC STUDIO

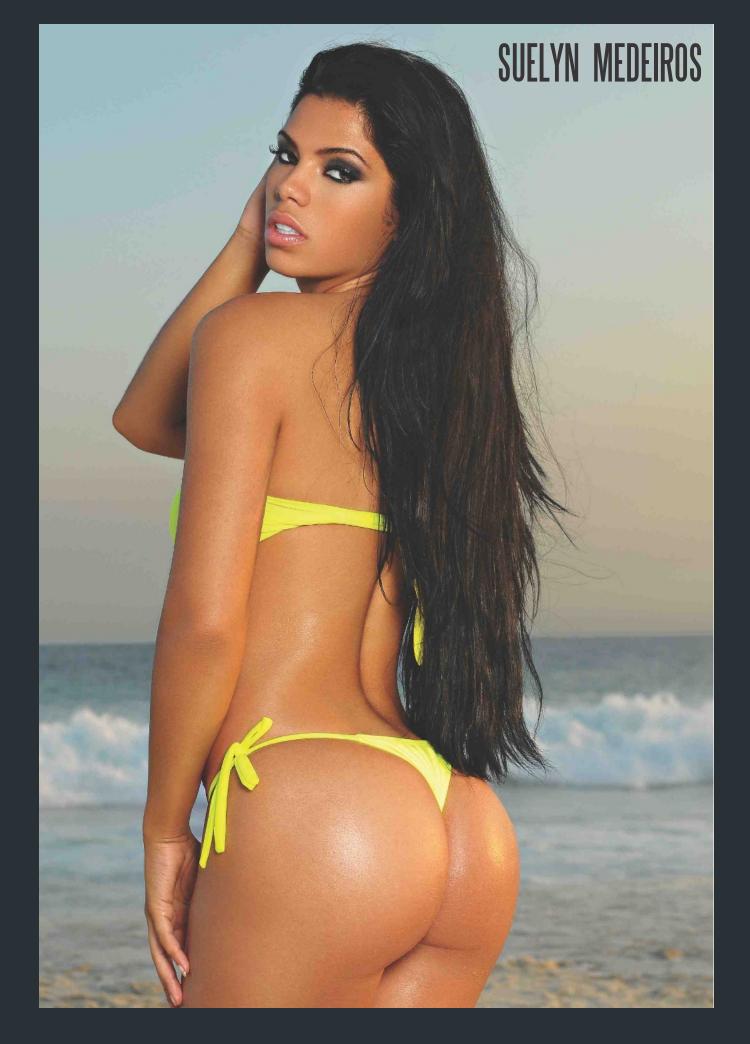




Charles Gardner: Motivated by his sense of discovery and always wanting to know what's over the horizon.







TIFFANY TURNER







TIFFANY TURNER







BlackMen's

THE BEST OF BLACKMEN

Nick Saglimbeni

SLICKFORCE STUDIO

Saglimbeni moved to Los Angeles to pursue cinematography at the topranked USC School of Cinema. Upon graduation, in response to hearing from many actors and models about their frustrations with bad photos and even more awkward photo sessions, Nick opened SlickforceStudio in downtown LA.

Clients quickly responded to the cinematic nature of Nick's photography, and Slickforce soon became one of the hottest studios in Los Angeles. True to the studio's motto, "You. Perfected.TM" Nick's clients enjoy a photographic experience like none other, including state-of-the-art image capture, signature retouching and compositing techniques, and a stress-free environment.

In December of 2009, after less than five years as a magazine photographer, Nick photographed his 100th magazine cover. That same year, he won the Blackberry Small Business Award for development of signature retouching techniques while at SlickforceStudio. The National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP) has awarded Nick with three Grand Prize GURU Awards,

in photography, retouching, and compositing.

In 2010, Nick released his long-awaited "Mastering Retouching" series, which sold out its initial run during the preorder phase. It continues to be one of the most popular retouching tutorials ever created. He then collaborated with art director Clint Davis for the follow-up series, "Mastering Compositing."

Nick has photographed national and international campaigns for Skechers, Sears, Nuvo, QuickTrim, Wacom, Urban Attitude and many others. His work has been featured on "Larry King Live," The Huffington Post, "Keeping Up with Kardashians," "E! News," "The Soup," "Khloé & Lamar," "Kourtney & Khloé Take Miami," Lisa Raye's "The Real McCoy," "Extra" and "Inside Edition."

His work has also appeared in publications such as People, Ocean Drive, Hamptons, The Wall Street Journal, Maxim, OK, LA Confidential, Photoshop User, and The New York Times. In August 2011, Nick Saglimbeni created and launched WMB 3D: World's Most Beautiful—the first magazine entirely photographed and designed in 3D.















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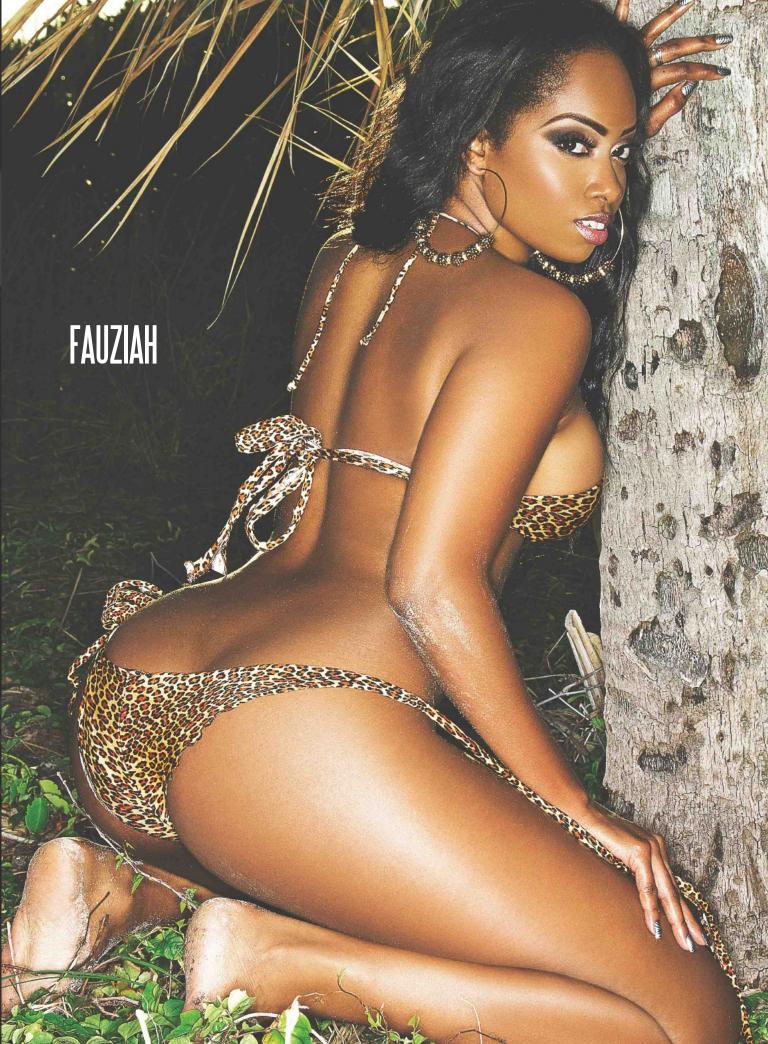
Courage

20/20 PHOTOGRAPHY

Courage is the founder and chief photographer of 2020 Photography—an up-and-coming premiere photography company offering superior work and professionalism. 2020 Photography specializes in portraits, fashion, couture, weddings, events, glamour, beauty, editorial, commercial, swim wear, and some tasteful urban projects.

Courage's vision is to build a team consisting of the best makeup artists, hair and wardrobe stylists, designers and photographers. Photography is not only his passion, it is also the main focus of his business. Courage and his staff are professionals who look forward to working with professionals, and aim to please.

ALL IMAGES BY COURAGE @ 20/20 PHOTOGRAPHY









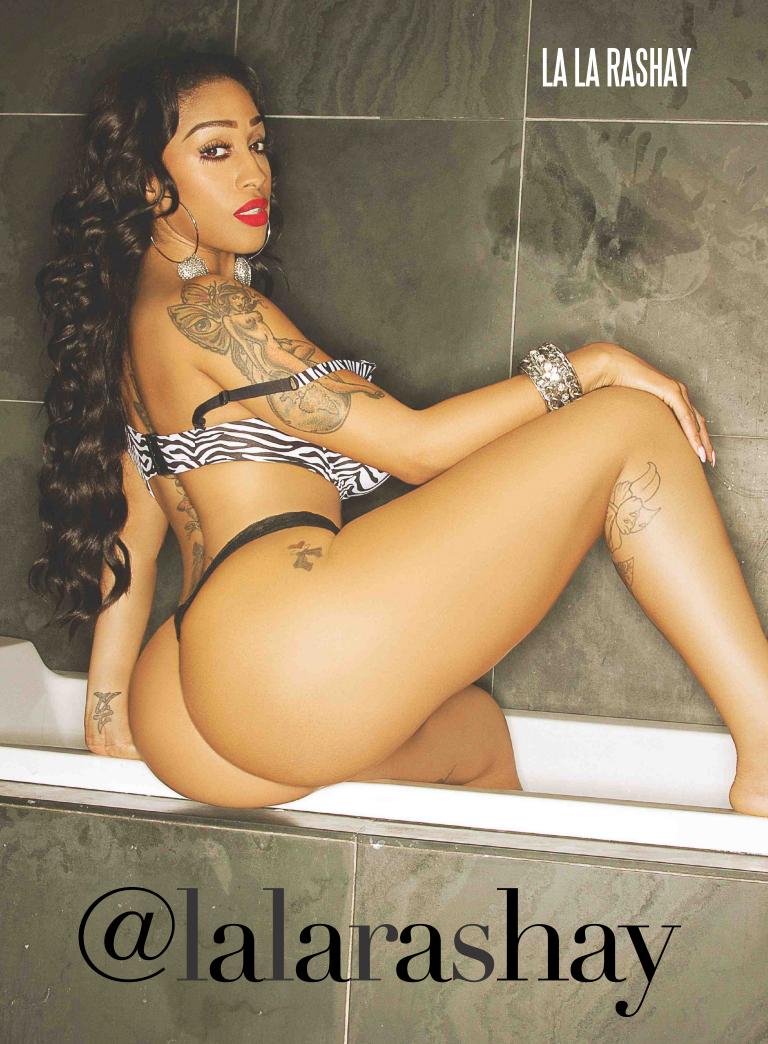
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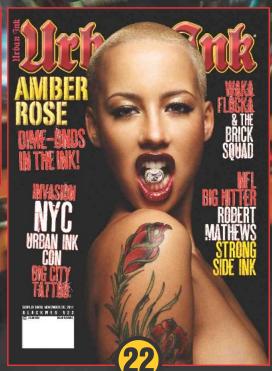












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oted photographer, Anthony Thomas, is known for creating eyecatching and career launching modeling portfolios. You have seen his work featured on the pages of FHM, Maxim, Smooth, Stuff, BlackMen, Straight Stuntin, ASSETS, Sweets, XXL and KING magazines. He shot ad campaigns for national brands such as Remy Martin and Grand Lenare. Added to his portfolio you have reality TV stars from Hoopz & Deelishis, B.E.T TV host Big Tigger, and music artists Birdman and Lil Wayne.

The idea began on the campus of Michigan State University in 2002 as a hobby and rose quickly in popularity. By 2003, EyeCandyModeling.com became the most popular urban modeling website. With 150-plus model profiles, mem-

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Clarence Clark

FOTOGRAPHY

arence Clark is a sick up-and-coming photographer. Although, he's fresh out of school and new to the shutterbug game, he's been able to acquire the attention of numerous national magazines.

Only 25-years-old and he has already founded his own photography company, CCLARK Fotography—based in downtown Atlanta, GA. CCLARK Fotography's mission is to provide creative, quality and unique art. Clarence describes his work as "one-of-a-kind and

breathtaking masterpieces."

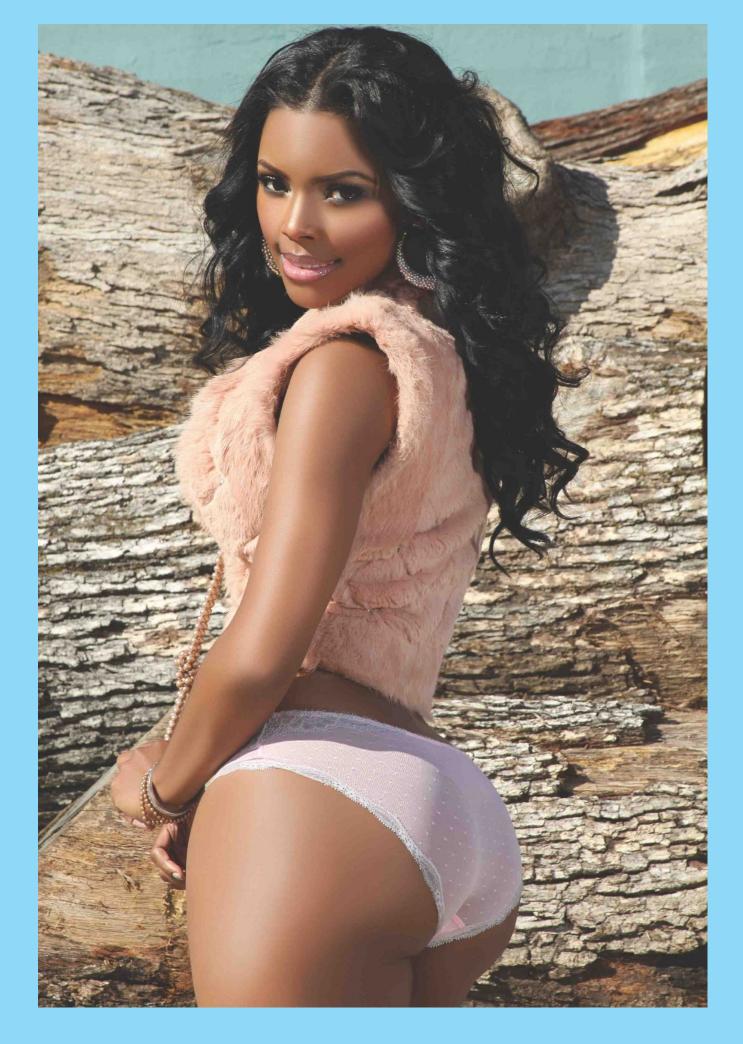
CCLARK captures beauty through the lens and puts their artistic interpretations on the image to come up with beautiful fashion eye-candy that's like none other in the field. He states that even though he's just as proficient with in-studio shoots, he's an outdoor type. "No studio is better than the great outdoors," Clarence explains. "I'm open to new ideas and am always looking forward to making beautiful and exciting magic with my camera."

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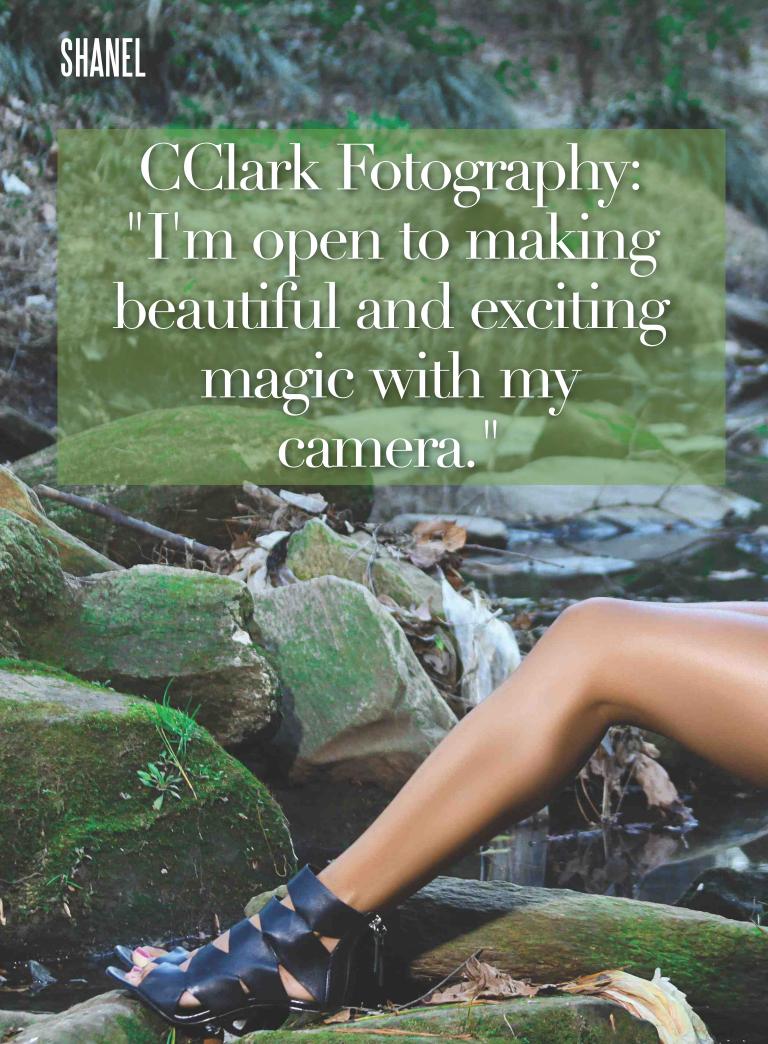






















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Lloyd Parks

43 STUDIOS

Photographer and Illustrator

Born: Los Angeles California Raised: Central America (Belize) Hometown: New York

Aself taught artist, photographer, Lloyd Parks is well known for his edgy and artistic creativity, coupling art and photography to produce everything from glamour to surreal pieces. The founder of both Gorgeous Magazine and 43studios, his style is limitless and does not stop at his own door or publications. Lloyd lives on the belief that modeling means "Becoming" and uses his philosophy to mold and create models and individuals who want more from their talent and skills. Often tagged as mean, strict, unorthodox, Lloyd pushes forward because he knows that only the determined succeeds and he's determined to give you the best, no matter what. After all that is said and done, Lloyd is hailed for both his work ethics and innovative outlook on the industry.

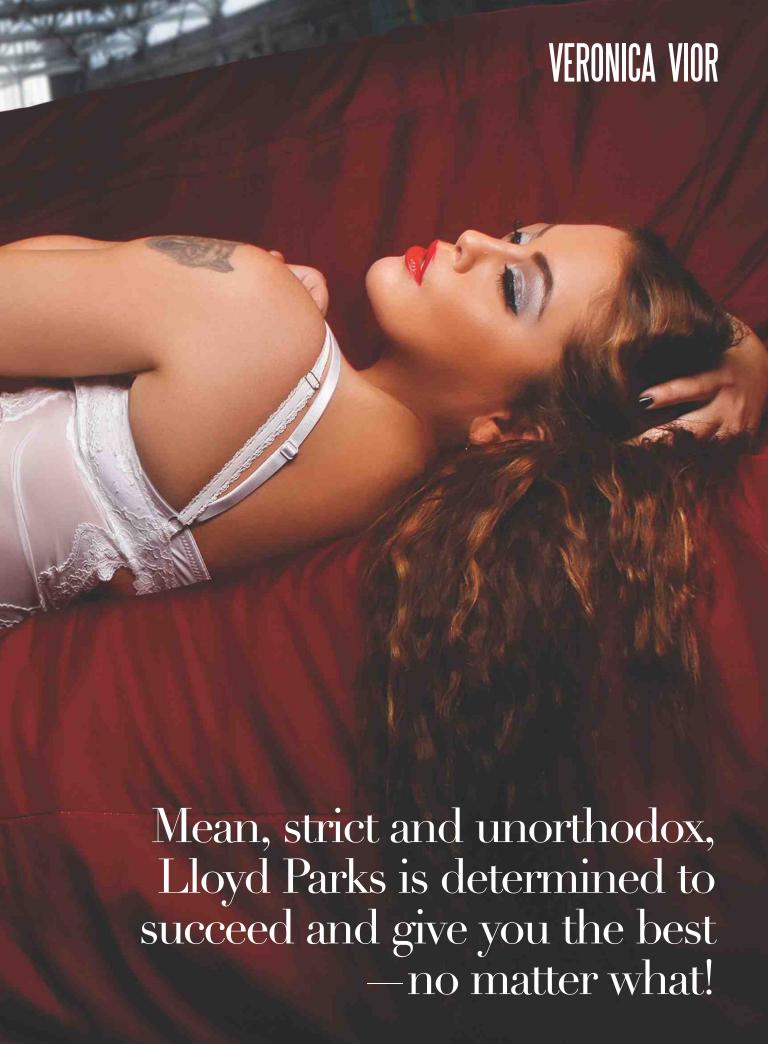
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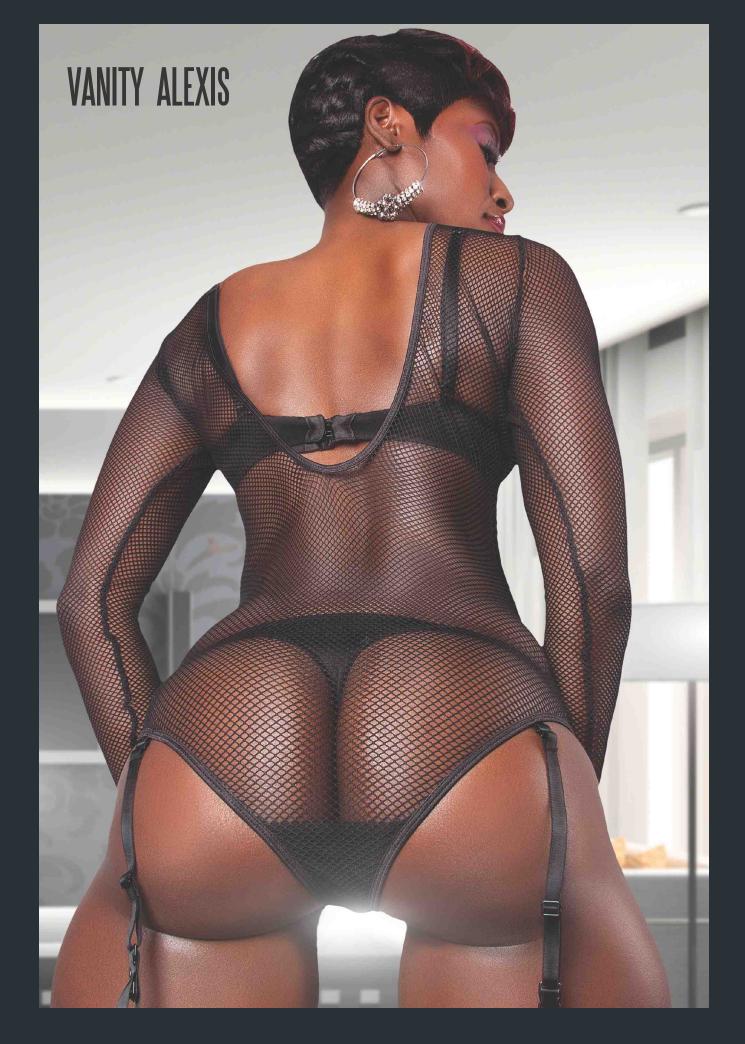


















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Tiffany Jackson

V X N S T U D I O S

Studios was founded in 2009 by model, Tiffany Jackson—formerly known as VH1 personality, Kaylana Reese—also known as Classy. During her three-year career as a model, Tiffany found it difficult to find professional photographers that were—not only creative and had a wide range of skills—but were also affordable and produced images that would immediately help her surpass the competition.

Having enjoyed a modeling career

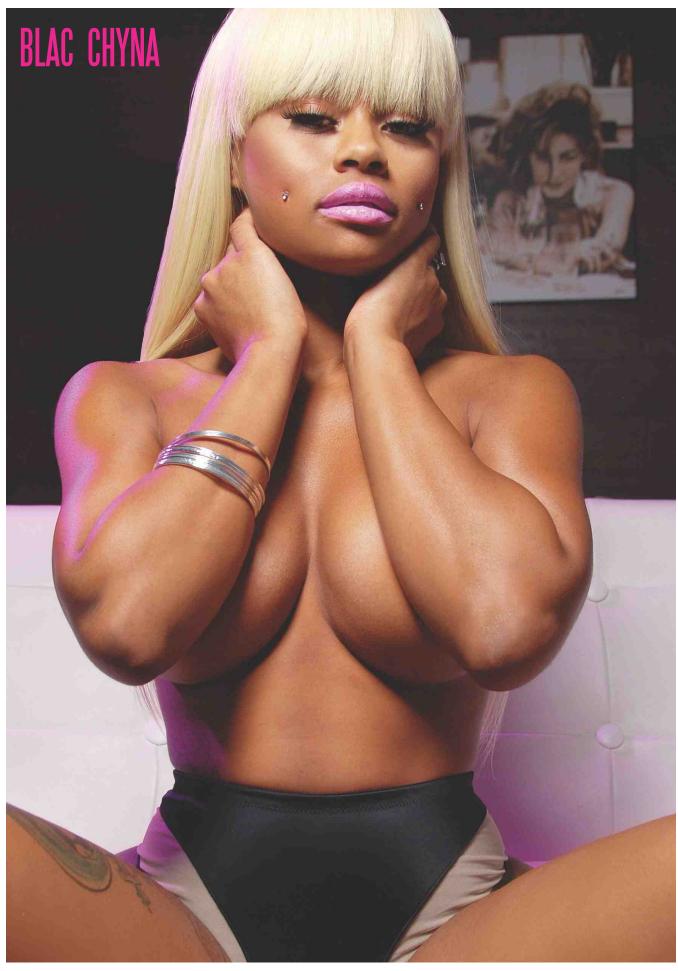
full of noteworthy accomplishments, Tiffany decided to take control of the other side of the camera and provide services once only available to top models. In less than a year, Tiffany's work has been published in several magazines and websites such as: Urban Ink Magazine, XXLmag.com, Black Men Magazine, Straight Stuntin Magazine and many other publications. She has also made a bridge to catalog photography by shooting for Miami dress designer, Geebin Flores, for GeebinFlores.com.

ALL IMAGES BY TIFFANY JACKSON / VXN STUDIOS



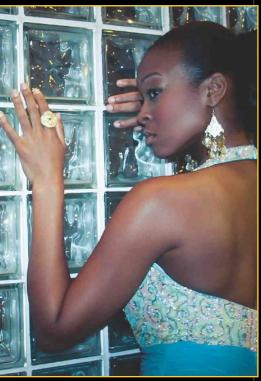


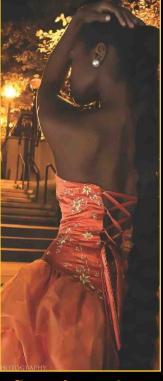












Last year's first place winner Geneva Montgomery.

and Black Woman, Hype Hair and Black Men magazines will present the New Day Associates Fashion, Film & Music Industry Mother's Day Weekend. Starting May 11, 2012, we will have our welcome party for the 33rd Annual International Model Of The Year. This is complimentary for models participating in the show, and takes place at the rear of the Chatfield Lounge.

On Saturday, May 12, 2012, we will have our Today's Black Woman anniversary party for with performing artists. Doors open at 9p.m. Showtime is 11p.m. with a networking party until 2:30 a.m. in the Holland-Lincoln-Columbia room in the West lobby.

On Sunday, May 13, 2012, we will have our 33rd Annual Model Of The Year Show in the grand ballroom of the Marriott Hotel. Doors open at 5p.m., with showtime at 6p.m. All events are held at the Marriott Hotel: 1 Hotel Road, Newark, NJ inside Newark Airport. Special room rates will be available at the Marriott with single or double occupancy at \$94. Call the Marriott at 973-623-0006 and request a reservation under "New Day Block of Rooms."

Admission is complimentary on Friday, May 11, 2012. On Saturday, May 12, admission is \$15 with invitation, \$20 without. Hot hors d'oeuvres will be served. On Sunday May 13, tickets will be \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

For more information, visit www.lindennewday.com or call 609-655-3667 to contact John Blassingame, publisher of *Today's Black Woman* magazine.■

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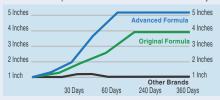
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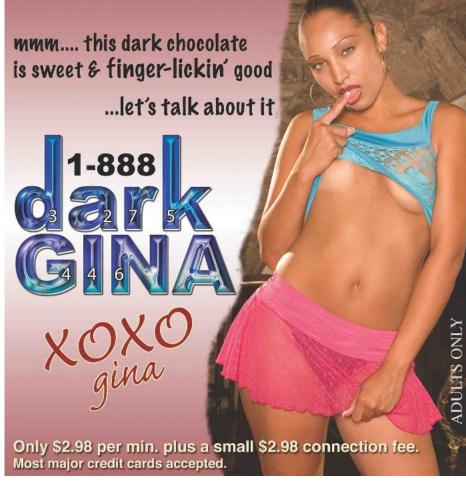
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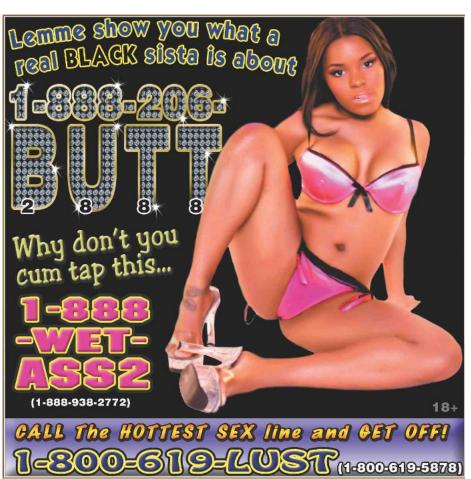








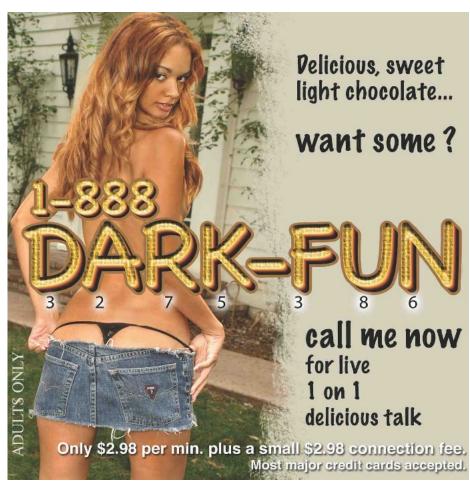


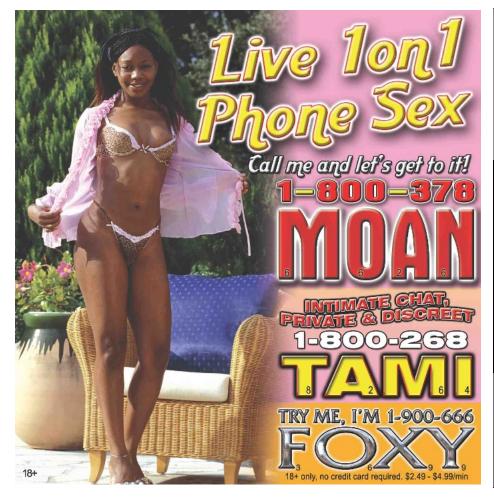










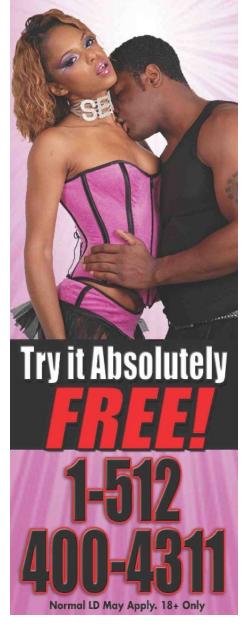






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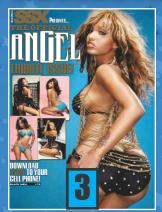
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