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- **88** ANGEL BRINKS **94** DELECIA CORDON
- 100 6 110 **114** BIG TIGGER

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Editors Note



oday's crazy world of urban modeling has spawned numerous opportunities including television and entrepreneurship. Companies such as Draya Michele's Mint Swim, Karlie Redd's Remy Redd, Ms. Nessa's Rich Girlz and De Cordon by Delicia Cordon are products of expansion from urban

modeling to successful small business. The fact is that urban modeling has a community of its own and consumers within it.

Reality television has found a way to take the not so desirable aspects of the practices of some and turn it into entertainment, which has nearly overshadowed standard television programming. Shows like VH1's "Basketball Wives" and the "Love & Hip Hop" franchises have launched the careers of many unlikely stars and are scratching the surface of mainstream media on a daily basis. We interviewed some of those lovely burgeoning stars in this issue (page 82).

I had to swing down to Miami for a minute, and the trip inspired me to insert a Latina edition within this issue. Check out our "Lovely Latinas Lounge" on page 30. "Nothing but hotness here!"

Enjoy, Marcus Blassingame Editor-in-Chief



EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER John Blassingame EDITOR IN CHIEF Marcus Blassingame ART DIRECTOR Ed Alves CONTROLLER Frederick D. Zott ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Marty Puntus (201-843-4004 X113) mpuntus@enoblemedia.com AD TRAFFIC MANAGER Lisa Wagner OFFICE MANAGER Adriana Passamano SUBSCRIPTION SUPERVISOR Rav Errico CIRCULATION MANAGERS Evan Honig, Brian Gregory 201-843-4004

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4 BLACKMEN





Rame: Atalya Nickname: T Hometown: Brooklyn, NY Zodiae: Aries Sizes: 4 Bust: 32C Waist: 24 Hip: 36

Images: Suliman Hasan-Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Hair: Iyana Winfield @stylesbyyani Stylist Collab: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Khaliah Clark @kc_ynvs KhaliahClark.com Alexander McQueen Dress Saks Fifth Avenue Swimwear LaureLuxe Laureluxe.com Body Chains



Web Twitter: @Atalyas Instagram: @Atalya

Favorites

Drinks: I love fine wines—red at night and white for daytime. Food: Steak and lobster Mood Music: 90s music **Favorite Gossip Site:** MediaTakeOut.com is my guilty pleasure Favorite car: White Bugatti Veyron with the red interior. Music Artist: Mary J. Blige Rap quote or Lyric: "Sky is the limit." - Notorious B.I.G. Old school or slow jam: "Freak'n You" by Jodeci Favorite place to be kissed: My breast [grins]. Favorite body part on your man: His arms and hands. Ultimate Goals: I want to have my own business one day.

Marketing Tools Agency: TSD Agency Contact: tsdagency@gmail.com





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Name: Masika Kalysha Nickname: Kaly Hometown: Los Angeles, CA Born: Chicago Raised: Chicago/Atlanta Zodiac: Gemini Sizes Bust: 34D Yaist: 25

aist: 25 **Hip:** 38

3Ú

Image: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com



Web

Twitter: @masikakalysha Instagram: @Masikakalysha Facebook: facebook.com/masikakalysha

Favorites

Drinks: Deleon Reposado or 1942 neat. Food: Jamaican food and seafood. Mood Music: Usher "Dive" and "Climax" pretty much do it for me. Favorite Gossip Site: Bossip! They always show me love. Favorite car: Mercedes Benz CL63 AMG Music Artist: Frank Ocean, Miguel and Future. Old school or slow jam: "Dirty Dianna" – Michael Jackson Favorite place to be kissed: Lips Favorite body part on your man: Back Craziest position: Upside down Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: Lying like a capital "X" [laughs].

Ultimate Goals Game Plan: Have my businesses grow worldwide. Watch ;) Accomplishment: Taking care of my family.

Marketing Tools

Contact: Tonya Jeffries Web Site: masikakalysha.com E Mail: theeassistant77@gmail.com





Name:Miracle WattsHometown:Houston, TXZodiac:AquariusBust:32Waist:29Hip:44

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acle

Image: Suliman Hasan-Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist; TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com



Resume

Magazine: Straight Stuntin - Issue #23 Video: Waka Flocka Flame featuring Ludacris and Bun B — "Candy Paint Gold Teeth" • Slim Thug — "Creepin"

Web

Twitter: @MiracleWatts00 **Instagram:** @MiracleWatts00

Favorites

Drinks: Apple Martini
Food: Cajun Food and seafood
Mood Music: All Types!
Favorite Gossip Site: Mediatakeout.com, of course.
Favorite car: Aston Martin
Music Artist: 2 Chainz and Rick Ross
Rap quote or Lyric: "Loyalty is what we stress. Show respect, nothing less." – J-Dawg
Old school or slow jam: Slow Jam
Favorite place to be kissed: On my Neck.
Favorite body part on your man: His lips
Craziest position: Standing on top of someone's head, two people were holding my legs up. Get your mind out the gutter; I was a cheerleader. But, if I had my way I would always be on top [laughs].
Craziest place: I keep it in the bedroom.

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: Fetal position

Career Ultimoto Cor

Ultimate Goals: My ultimate goal is to reach the top of the mountain without falling down. I don't want to limit myself as to where I can go with modeling.

Game Plan: Continue pursuing my education, and try to build my brand. **Accomplishments:** I've worked with celebs like Paul Wall, Slim Thug, Bun B, Ludacris, just to name a few; and I've been published.





Images: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com

Fitness Profile

Name: Tiffany Michelle Upshaw Nickname: Tiff, Tee-Tee, Kiddo, Tiffy, Upshaw, T Hometown: Fort Myers, FL Shoe: 6 or 37

> Dress: 2/4 Jeans: 4 Top: S/M Sizes: Small/ 2-4 Bust: 34D Waist: 24 Hip: 37

Resume

Gym: Omni Fitness (Fort Myers, aFL)

Competitions: I competed on August 29th to try to win and gain IFBB Bikini Pro status at the 2012 GNC IFBB North American Championships.

- 1st Place, Bikini-A Short Class & Overall Bikini Winner -2012 NPC Dexter Jackson Classic (National Qualifier)
- Top 17 out of 85 Competitors 2011 FLEX Bikini Model Search
- 4th Place, Bikini-A Short Class 2011 NPC Dexter Jackson Classic
- 1st Place, Bikini Short Class 2009 Royal Palm Classic: Bodybuilding, Figure & Bikini Championships

Trainer(s): Dexter Jackson (@MrOlympia08) and Gale Elie (@Floridafit1 - FloridaFitLife@aol.com). They are head of "Team Blade" out of Jacksonville, FL and oversee my contest prep and off-season diets. However, I weight train myself in my hometown.

Magazine: Black Men / MQTease / Dimepiece / MixedMag.com (cover model) / Gulf & Main / FDM / Chaparral Boats

Film/Video: French Montana featuring Lil Wayne, Drake, Uncle Luke, Rick Ross – "Pop That" – Lead Role / Bow Wow featuring T-Pain – "Better" / Trina featuring Flo Rida and Git Fresh - "White Girl" / *Sinful Hospitality* - Short Film, 2008 - Lead Role - Director: Britton Thorn

Commercial/Ad/TV: Somerset Auto Commercial / Nissan Commercial

Runway: Aluna Swimwear: Beats & Bikini's Fashion Show

Web

Twitter: @TiffanyyUpshaw Instagram: @TiffanyyUpsahaw Facebook: Facebook.com/TiffanyUpshaw -Facebook.com/TiffanyUpshawFanPage Model Mayhem: ModelMayem.com/TiffanyUpshaw

Favorites

Drinks: Mango Mojito, Red Sangria, Coconut Water, Gatorade Fierce Melon and Caipirinha Food: I seriously have a little fat girl on the inside of this fit body! I enjoy authentic: Mexican (Chips and Queso, Churrasco Steak), Italian-American (Lobster Ravioli, Meatballs), Seafood (Chilean Sea Bass, Shrimp and Lobster), Soul/Southern (Anything BBQ!), fruit of any kind, and I tend to fall weak in the knees to French Fries. Also, Butterfinger Blizzards, and Publix cupcakes, too. Did I list too much? Mood Music: Old school and new school R&B Favorite Gossip Site: I don't have time for those...Twitter and Facebook are enough. Favorite car: Maserati Quattroporte Sport GT S and the Porsche Cayenne Sport Exercise: I recently fell back in love with long distance running. My personal best was a 6.78-mile run for one hour at a pace of 8'50." I also enjoy running bleachers, plyometric training, cross fit, TRX suspension training, and the normal gym workouts. Body part: My genius brain, as well as my legs, natural

booty and stomach. I love my body because I built it to the physique that makes me confident with the genetics given. Favorite place to be kissed: I usually don't kiss and tell, but for Black Men, I'll say my neck. Favorite body part on your man: I love every inch of my man. One part that I do love is the chest. Craziest position: It's a little complicated [laughs], but that's what makes it enticing. Let's just say reverse cowgirl but with him sitting up against the headboard and my legs under his. Craziest place: An insane asylum. Just kidding. It was while driving and on a balcony.

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: Spooning with me lying on his chest.

Career

Ultimate Goals: I've already accomplished one goal on August at the 2012 NPC Dexter Jackson Classic in Jacksonville, FL. I took first place in my bikini class out of seven beautiful ladies and also ended up winning overall in my entire bikini division. Now that I've qualified to compete on a national level, my ultimate goal is to get my

pro card and become an IFBB Bikini Pro! Game Plan: My game plan is to just do me! Stick to the diet, step up my training in cardio and upper body weightlifting and fine-tune my posing routine. This sport is a very selfish one and when it comes down to focusing on the goal to win, we make a lot of sacrifices. Accomplishment: A major accomplishment that I still am attaining was the invention of The Scoopie™ (www.TheScoopie.com - www.Facebook.com/TheScoopie). It's a scoop that has an attached funnel that you can scoop a powder/liquid substance into, snap on the attached funnel, flip it over and pour the substance into any container; especially compatible and mess-proof in getting powders/liquids into smaller spouts such as water bottles. I've always wanted to be an entrepreneur/inventor of something that would create simplicity for people, and I finally did it! I came out with my first prototype in August of 2012 and am pitching it to different companies to supply the ScoopieTM in their powdered products. I've spent countless hours and sleepless nights on this idea/creation and I'm so excited to see all the positive feedback about it!

Physical Training

What's your most difficult exercise? Being lazy...I'm too motivated to sit still. Are there any problem areas in your regiment? I finally came to a happy medium with myself when it comes to my competition prep. Food used to be the culprit, so I've trained myself to stay away from alcohol, restaurants, clubs, and anything that will deter me from my ultimate goals.

What do you strive to improve? My discipline to stay focused everyday as well as making certain that I stay on my fitness game every day. Not just a couple days a week or after a carbicide (carb suicide). [Laughs]. What inspired you to train? Back in 2008, I was discovered on MySpace by Optimum Nutrition and American Bodybuilding, and they wanted to endorse me as an athlete and fitness model. They introduced me to the fitness and competing world, so I give credit to them as well as my inspiring friend, IFBB Figure Pro, Amy Vetter. She really got me in the gym and taught me how to work out. Now, you can't even get me out the gym or get me to stop doing some type of physical exercise activity!

Marketing Tools

Agency: TSDAgency -TSDAgency@gmail.com Website: My website is under construction so I direct people to ItsMyURLs.com/TiffanyUpshaw Fansite: Facebook.com/TiffanyUpshawFanPage

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LOVELY LATINAS

Name: Charm Killings Hometown: Pomona, CA Born: San Bernardino, CA **Zodiac:** Cancer **Bust: 34** Waist: 23 **Hip:** 39 Resume

Videos: Tyga – "Dancing For Dollas" • Big Sean featuring Chris Brown – "My Last" • Rick Ross – "Amsterdam" • Jay Sean featuring Nicki Minaj – "2012" • Bow Wow - "Pretty Lady" • Young Jeezy -"Rough" TV: Fuse TV's "The Hustle"

Web

Twitter: @charmkillings Instagram: @charmkillings

Favorite

Drink: Coconut water Food: Sushi Mood music: Robin Thicke Music artist: The Weeknd Slow jam: Robin Thicke - "Teacher" Place to be kissed: Neck Body part on man: Mouth; more specifically, his smile.

Photography by Charles Gardner of IEC Studios












Image: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Hair: Iyana Winfield @stylesbyyani Stylist Collab: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Khaliah Clark @ke_ynvs KhaliahClark.com

Name: Rocio Santana Nickname: Rosie **Zodiac:** Cancer Bust: 36DD Waist: 24 **Hip:** 46

Hometown: Uptown New York (Dyckman)



Magazine: Smooth (July 2012 Cover) Video: 2 Chainz featuring Kanye West – "Birthday Song"

Web

Twitter: @rociosantana_ Instagram: @rociosantana_ Facebook: facebook.com/rociosantana



Favorites Drinks: I usually don't drink, but if I must, I like my champagne pink. Food: Sushi Mood Music: Anything Trey Songz Favorite Gossip Site: Necholebitchie.com Favorite car: Bentley Coupe Music Artist: Jennifer Lopez and Jay-Z Rap quote or Lyric: "I'm so far ahead of my time. I'm bout to start another life. Look behind you, I'm about to pass you twice. " – HOV! Old school or slow jam Real Love: Mary J. Blige Favorite place to be kissed: My breasts Favorite body part on your man: Broad shoulders and big arms. Craziest position: Upside-down Craziest place: In a public place where I can get caught. Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: Ass up, face down.

Ultimate Goals

Game Plan: My ultimate goal is to write a New York Times Best Selling book, and to take over the world. Accomplishment: Landing the cover of a magazine when it was my first shoot ever.

Marketing Tools

Agency: Facetime Contact: Rich Martinez E Mail: rociosantanabookings@gmail.com Name: Michelle Game Name: Michelle Game Nickname: Game Hometown: Dallas, TX Zodiae: Taurus Bust: 36 Waist: 25 Hip: 37

Images: Suliman Hasan-Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Swimsuits By Aluna Swimwear

Resume

Training: One Track Modeling (Irving, TX)
Magazine: Dynasty Series / Kasanova Magazine / Zaria Magazine / Bikes N Beauties / I Love Las Vegas / Stare / Florida Magazine.
Video: GP Music featuring Day 26 – "Get Er Done" / Yung Berg – "Shawty U Can Get It" / Birdman featuring Nicki Minaj and Lil Wayne – "Y U Mad" / Trey Songz featuring Fabolous – "What I Be On"
TV: Spokes model for Ambhar Tequila and Sicario Tequila / Fashion Host in New Jersey along with the cast of "Jerseylicious" / Telemundo 2010 Episode,
Web: Michellegame.com / King-Mag.com: Web Girl of the Week, BlackMenDigital.com / LaMezcla.com / Vibe.com: Vixen of the Day / Ggurls.com / Modelmodele.com

Web

Twitter: @Michellegame Instagram: @Michellegame Facebook: Facebook.com/Officialmichellegame Model Mayhem: modelmayhem.com/michellegame







Favorites Drink: Apple Martini and Riesling Food: Chicken Mood Music: Down South Нір-Нор **Favorite Gossip Site:** Mediatakeout.com Favorite car: I like big body cars and big trucks. Music Artist: Drake Rap quote or Lyric: "Dealt with cats that's poor and a cat with fame / One who played basketball and I had more game / So por favor, papi stay in your lane." – Angie Martinez Old school or slow jam: Slow jam Favorite place to be kissed: Neck Favorite body part on your man: Shoulders Craziest position: When I'm lifted up in the air. Craziest place: Vegas Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: Like a baby.

Career

Ultimate Goals: My goal is to be an amazing mother, a good role model, and successful in the modeling industry and medical field. Game Plan: The plan is to stay focused and driven, positive and motivated. Accomplishment: I've been published in magazines, calendars, TV and videos.

Marketing Tools Agency: Ason Productions Website: michellegame.com Email: Michellegame32@yahoo.com



Name:Iesha MarieNickname:EshaBorn:New JerseyRaised:Miami, FLZodiac:AquariusSizes:X-smallBust:36Waist:27Hip:36

TRIE

Images: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Earings by RichGirlz.com



Magazine: MixedMag.com Video: Omarion featuring Rick Ross – "Let's Talk" • Trey Songz featuring Young Jeezy and Lil Wayne – "Hail Mary" • French Montana featuring Rick Ross – "Straight Off The Boat" • J. Nics – "G Code" Runway: Miami Swim Week 2012,

Funkshion 2012, Aluna Swimwear, WET Couture

Web

Twitter: @lesha_mariee Instagram: @lesha_mariee Facebook: www.facebook.com/leshamariee Model Mayhem: modelmayhem.com/2653791

Favorites

Drinks: I'm a Hennessy-type of gal. Food: Love Dominican food! Mood Music: On my Rozay Pandora flow.

Favorite Gossip Site: Twitter, of course.

Favorite car: Old school Mustang.
Music Artist: Mary J. Blige
Rap quote or Lyric: "I had enough of the broken promises, so I'm in a room full of Pocahontases." – 2 Chainz
Old school or slow jam: Ghost Town DJs' "My Boo" is my all time fave!
Favorite place to be kissed: On my forehead.

Favorite body part on your man: His mouth; good teeth is a must.

Career

Ultimate Goals: To hopefully make it into a motion picture. Game Plan: I'm definitely planning on taking acting classes.

Marketing Tools

Contact: Tara Crespo **Fansite:** www.facebook.com/Ieshamarie **Email:** Ieshamariecrespo@hotmail.com







Photography by Courage 2020 Photography

Name:Jillisa LynnHometown:Rochester, NYZodiac:GeminiBust:34CWaist:24Hip:38

Resume

Training: Acting classes and workshops
Magazine: Black Men / Hip Hop Weekly / The Source / Show / ESPN
Video: I've done videos with Snoop Dogg, Soulja Boy, Justin
Timberlake, Ray J, Wale, Tyrese and many more.
Commercial/Ad: Oxywater Ad in ESPN magazine and commercial.
Film: Christmas in Beverly Hills / Project X / I Love You / Enjoy Paris
TV: "In The Flow," which was a sketch show produced by Jamie Foxx and starring Affion Crocket.
Runway: BET's Rip The Runway Swimsuit Contest Winner /

Web

Xquisite Boutique

Twitter: @Jillisalynn Instagram: @Jillisalynn Facebook: Search "Jillisa Lynn" Model Mayhem: modelmayhem.com/534917







Favorites Drinks: Simply raspberry lemonade Food: Cheese, chicken, rice and gandules. Mood Music: R&B Favorite Gossip Site: I don't go on any [laughs]. Favorite car: Baby blue Bentley, and it will be my next one. Music Artist: Alicia Keys Rap quote or Lyric: "The earth is our turf. We could share the world." - Young Jeezy Old school or slow jam: "I Swear" - All 4 One Favorite place to be kissed: In between my thighs. Favorite body part on your man: His lips and his back because I like massaging [grins]. Craziest position: I can show you better than I can tell you [laughs]. Craziest place: On a jet. Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex:

Spooning or lying on his chest.

Ultimate Goals

Game Plan: The game plan is to continue to train my craft so I book a lead role in a feature film and watch it domino effect from there. Also, I will be working with my team to take the steps to build my brand and reach my ultimate goals. Accomplishment: I'm proud of everything. All the people whom I've had the chance to work with: models, photographers, makeup & hair artist, stylists, magazines, music videos, TV, events, novel covers, Oxywater, and now movies. Feeling very blessed!

Marketing Tools

Agency: 90210 Talent and Mill Ticket Models Contact: Theo Caesar (818) 738-3663 Website: Jillisalynn.com Fansite: Facebook.com/jillisalynnfanpage E Mail: mail@jillisalynn.com



Photography by Mike Montoya

Nickname: Muñeca Zodiac: Cancer Sizes: Small **Bust:** 34D Waist: 24 **Hip:** 41

Name: Dolly Castro Hometown: Managua, Nicaragua

Cit.









Training: Culinary, interior design, Kama sutra **Magazine:** Black Men, Good Life, Mixed, Shock, Coast To Coast

Video: Young Jeezy featuring T.I. – "Fame" • French Montana featuring Diddy and Rick Ross – "Shot Caller Remix" • Ace Hood – "BLAB" • Urban Mistic – "Name On It" • Reikon – "No Molesten Mas" • Sensato – "Tony Montana" TV: Univision and Telemundo – Winner of "Miss Colita" and "Bonbon Nitido."

Web

Fansite: www.dollycastro.com Twitter: @dollycastroxoxo Instagram: @dollycastro Facebook: www.facebook.com/dollycastroxoxo Model Mayhem: Dolly Castro

Favorites

Drinks: Blueberry Mojito Food: Fritanga! Food from my country Nicaragua, or NOBU and late at night steak and shake. **Mood Music:** Slow jams Favorite car: It was BMW 750, but I'm tired of it, so I traded it for a BMW M3. Music Artist: Drake and Marc Anthony Rap quote or Lyric: "Take a shot for me." Favorite place to be kissed: Everywhere. Favorite body part on your man: His lips Craziest position: I like making up new ones [laughs]. Craziest place: In a lobby, up against a vending machine. Talk about a Coke and smile [laughs]. Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: With my man hugging me.

Career

Ultimate Goals: To take over the world. Game Plan: Pay no mind to haters and go hard. Accomplishment: My beautiful baby girl and my family.

A A A A A A A A A



Images: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com All Jewlery by RichGirlz.com

Name:	Alexis Lugo
ickname:	Lex
ometown:	Miami, FL
Born:	Rochester, NY
Raised:	Hollywood, FL
Zodiac:	Libra
Sizes:	Small/ 2-4
Bust:	34C
Waist:	24
Hip:	36

N Ha

ugo

Magazine: Smooth (Latina Edition) • Zaria • Vixen • 305HipHop.com • Ms. Hard Body • Nine5Fourmagazine.com • Digital Girl

Web

Twitter: @LexLugo Instagram: AlexisLugo03 Facebook: Facebook.com/alexislugo

Favorites

Drinks: An every day drink would be fresh brewed iced tea, but if we're talking about a night out, it would be a toss up between Hennessy and Sprite or Patron on the rocks. Depends on the vibe!

Food: I'm a big girl in a small girls body! I love to eat—that's my favorite pastime! I love anything from the sea! I could eat only seafood all day every day. Mood Music: Anything by Erykah Badu or Aaliyah!

Favorite car: I'm in love with the Lexus LFA!

Music Artist: I have so many favorites it would be wrong to pick just one. A lot of it has to do with my mood.
Rap quote or Lyric: "Ain't no room for doubters or negative bitches, so I deaded all the followers and got rid of the quitters." – By the late, great Big Pun. That had to have been one of the realist lines I heard that stuck with me

at such a young age. Old school or slow jam: I'm not much of a slow jam type of girl. I much rather prefer some dope old school jams.

Favorite place to be kissed: It sounds weird but right in the center of my forehead, but only if I have those feelings for you. It just melts my heart!

Favorite body part on your man: Eyes! They're the windows to the soul. I love eyes that look like they have a story to tell.

Craziest position: On the sink, bent over with one knee on the counter top!

Craziest place: One time, many moons ago, I found myself getting it in inside a 24-hour laundromat at two a.m. [Laughs].

Favorite position to fall asleep in after sex: On my side of the bed! Stay on your side, and I'll stay on mine [laughs]! I'm usually so hot and sweaty afterwards that I need space to cool down!

Career

Ultimate Goals: My ultimate goal is to own my own private investigation company. Game Plan: To finish my internship and get certified with my C licenses for private investigating; then, apply for my agency license! In the meantime, milk this modeling game for all I can to get me further to where I need to be in life.

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COVER STORY
How Real Is Love & Hip-Hop Attained and Mini Faust can It's very real, and our two cover star vixens Karlie Redd and Mini Faust can It's very real, and our two cover star vixens Karlie Redd and Mini Faust can It's very real, and our two cover star vixens Karlie Redd and Mini Faust can While the Atlanta chapter of VH1's "Love and Hip-Hop" carried some entertaining plotlines, keep in mind these are the actual lives of the stars. For Karlie Rodd, this result has for the

By Kathy Iandoli

Images: Facet Studios Wardrobe: Tsdagency.com **MUA: Facet Studios** Hair: Derek J - derekJhair@gmail.com PR: Jonell PR jonellprbrand.com/ All Swimwear- Nicolita Swimwear LA All Shoes Lila Shoes ATL lovinglilashoes.com Location: Diamonds of Atlanta

these are the actual lives of the stars. For Karlie Redd, this wasn't her first time in front of the reality cameras. Two years ago, Redd was a part of the second season of "Scream Queens," and while now she says she is quite comfortable in front of the cameras, she marks her first time around on reality TV as "scary."

For Faust, the experience was more than eye opening. Her relationship with Stevie J was placed on the chopping block, as cameras revealed his erratic behavior and infidelity. "Don't get me wrong, I've known Stevie for years, and there are certain things about a person that you might not like and you might sweep them under the rug, but when it's so blatant and in your face, you don't have a choice. That makes a difference," says Faust. "I watched it like America was







Karlie Redd & Mimi Faust get tough love in the Hip-Hop Game.

MAN TON

Contraction of the



watching it. I saw it when it aired." She says that she and Stevie J are currently on "speaking terms," since the two share a daughter. As much as Mimi is a businesswoman with a successful cleaning company – she recalls her business started while at a party and offering to clean for a messy host – she didn't feel her TV persona totally reflected that. "I have mixed emotions, because as much as they show me being about my business, there wasn't a lot that was shown as well," she says. "A lot of times I was made to be like the victim and I'm definitely not that."

Karlie is the ex-girlfriend of rapper/Hip-Hop mogul Benzino, and says being with him was like "any other relationship." "You know how when you start a relationship, he's sweet and nice and then as time goes on you really get to know the person and you're like, 'Wait a minute. You've changed,'" she says. "He's a nice guy when he wants to be. He has a temper, though." Redd explains that the only cast member she didn't get along with was K. Michelle, but she was conveniently never in the room with her.

Fair-weather fans of the show take to the Internet to voice their opinions on cast members, but per Redd, Internet haters are real life lovers. "On Twitter, I either get the haters or I get love. But then the same people that hate on Twitter see me in person and are like, 'I love you! You're my favorite!" Faust gets stuck with the uncertified therapists. "Women coming up to me crying, wanting to give me hugs and offer advice on love," she laughs. Amazing how one show can produce two completely different results from two cast mates.

"Love and Hip-Hop Atlanta" is like any other reality show, where people's lives are the plotlines. While the ups and downs make the show, once the cameras wrap, their lives are still in tact. Everyone can watch, but it's a whole other world to live it. "It's one thing hearing about it," says Faust, "but actually living it yourself is a completely different ballgame."

Spike leather top by-Anna Francesca @ Blend Showroom NYC







SEXY LADY BOSSES

Images: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios <u>Stylist: TSD I</u>mage @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com

By Dove "Sheepish Lordess of Chaos"

Before she even celebrates her 25th birthday, Atlantaborn rapper Diamond has experienced more in her life and career than some women twice her age. Petite and usually soft-spoken, Diamond enters a room more like the girl next door than a rap diva with nearly a decade of recording experience under her belt.

When other girls were celebrating their Sweet 16's, Diamond hit Platinum with her group Crime Mob's 2004 smash hit "Knuck if You Buck". The group recorded two albums before parting ways in 2007, and Diamond had a little breathing room to break and take out her teens with independent fervor.

Fast forward to 2012 and several collaborations later, Diamond is celebrating the release of her latest mixtape *The Young Life*, which features appearances from Keri Hilson, Juicy J, Verse Simmonds and more. But with the happy moments this Summer, Diamond also experienced another unexpected, unsavory career boost. The notoriety came in the form of scathing mentions of her relationship with ex-boyfriend Lil Scrappy, by way of VH1's hit show *Love & Hip Hop ATL*.

So how does this strong-minded songwriter cope with balancing her hard work and independent life amidst drama served on a platinum-grilled platter?







"My mother always said, it's not what they call you - it's what you answer to," she laughs. "I love the fact that you can be yourself as an independent artist. It allows me to showcase the many hues of a diamond!"

Throughout everything, Diamond expresses deep gratitude for her longtime fans, and love for those just discovering her music.

"I am true to my fan base," she explains. "I always find a piece of the old me - a pinch of my old - and mix it in my music that I release now. I'm being spontaneous with new ideas and new sounds. I'm open to all types of sounds, and using that to create more interesting music. I am always on my Twitter @DiamondATL, and my website is always current with new information to share with fans DiamondATL.com. I'm still growing and it feels good!"

Aside from music, Diamond is an avid traveler, and takes every chance she gets to escape, however, she's got her eyes on some major career moves in coming months. "[I'm getting in to] acting for sure, and I love fashion!" she asserts. "Fashion rings true as a real passion for me. I am creating designs for all types of clothing, so just keep checking my website, you will begin to see [my work]."

Although her name came up on *Love & Hip Hop ATL* in a negative way, Diamond doesn't shove aside the thought of doing reality television herself. "I enjoy [watching] some reality TV, and I would definitely entertain the idea of a show if it was true to my life," she explains.

Having lived such a fast-paced life so young, Diamond is sensitive to the needs and desires of young girls who may want to follow in her footsteps. Her advice? "Keep God first, and know that you can do anything that you place your mind upon."

Indeed, Diamond. Indeed.

Image: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios MUA Facet Studios Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com

Fashion For All By Kathy Iandoli

When Angel Brinks launched her clothing line in 2010, it was with every woman in mind. That's a bold move for the fickle fashion world, which resides on either small figures or full figures, but never dabbles in both. Brinks came from the modeling world, and felt design was a natural progression. "I kind of outgrew modeling," she explains, "and the transition was interesting, because when you work in the entertainment business you see what is desired and what is needed and what materials work best. For me, I got to see firsthand what was lacking in the industry." What Brinks learned at the time was that bodysuits and leggings only served a specific casual function. Meanwhile, the everyday woman would enjoy higher-end leggings made from sexier fabrics if given that opportunity. Angel provided it.

Once she began creating her own custom-made outfits, her body was the promotional vehicle. "It became the true definition of modeling, because everywhere I went, people wanted what I had on," Brinks recalls. Now, her outfits are tailormade for women's varied bodies. From smaller on top, bigger on bottom, and vice versa, every female form is welcome to slip into her threads that take each individual roughly an hour-and-a-half to make. Celebrities like Trina are big supporters of Angel Brinks' fashion, and that will only continue to grow. Brinks finds inspiration in designs from many places, like curtains, paints, and any other situations where art is present. "I make all of my designs from scratch," Angel says. "They all come from me, and you'll never find them anywhere else, unless they're an imitation."











By Kathy Iandoli

elicia Cordon has one goal in mind when it comes to designing women's wear: to turn some heads. "My goal is to make women stand out in front of a whole crowd," she explains on her website www.DeCordon.com, "to be an automatic eye catcher wherever she goes. My passion is to create the **'WOW'** factor at every event." The Atlantabased fashion maven started her endeavor in 2011, creating clothing that is both functional and sexy. Enter De Cordon, a fashion house that combines sexy body-hugging fashion like leggings and jumpsuits, along with dresses, skirts, tops and everything in between.

Standout Fashion Photography by Courage 2020 Photography

Hair by Brittni Carter • Makeup by Aunjoli @star_makeup











Sizes range from extra small to extra large, depending on the female form, and the collections include a Bodycon Collection of form-fitting fabrics, Glitz & Glam for the fly girls, plus a Safari collection with animal-inspired prints. Stylistically, the clothes come with strips, slits, and splits, revealing the feminine physique and all of its finer points. In addition, De Cordon offers accessories to accompany the high-end fashion. "I mix sexy with sophisticated and chic with fierce," Cordon says of her signature "curve-hugging" style. Celebrities celebrate her fashion as well, as Coco from "Ice Loves Coco" is known to frolic in De Cordon's gear. Her success continues to grow, as she leads the charge for sexiness. Women from all walks of life can rock with De Cordon, something many fashion lines can't boast. Delicia closes her mission statement with the following: "Let the fashion be the music in the room." Turn your style radar up for this.



Images: Suliman Hasan- Facet Studios, MUA Facet Studios, Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com His Suit: Hugo Boss, Tie, Shoes-Gucci, Models: Jah Jah Banks, Robin, Secret, Jaz

French Montana's trajectory in rap has been marked with many turns over the past several years. After the success of "Choppa Choppa Down" featuring Waka Flocka Flame, it was clear that French possessed a certain something missing in Hip-Hop. The South Bronx native started on Akon's Konvict Muzik, and upon leaving a bidding war for crew love began. Some expected French would migrate toward Kanye West's G.O.O.D. Music, while others figured Bad Boy or Maybach Music Group. The result was twothirds of the rumor, as French Montana is currently a part of a joint venture deal between Rick Ross' Maybach Music Group and Diddy's Bad Boy.

It's the best of both worlds for a street-spitter whose mixtape game has been intense ever since The Evil Empire hosted French Revolution Vol. 1 back in 2007. From that point on, it's been nothing but grind time for French Montana, as he is also the CEO of Cocaine City Records. French was also named a part of XXL Magazine's Freshman 2012 class. He'll be graduating from that title with the release of his debut studio album Excuse My French, a project that has been met with several pushbacks yet it remains very highly anticipated. While French has been a staple on the features circuit—linking with artists like Game, Jadakiss, Young Buck, and many others-his colossal "Pop That" with Drake, Rick Ross, and Lil Wayne fanned the flames for his ultimate arrival. No Rosetta Stone is needed to speak this French, just a strong desire for real street music.











By Kathy Indoli

COOKING IN THE KITCHEN

Images: Charles Gardner- IEC Studios Models: Sidney Lauren & Ebony Jewelz MUA: Renny Vasquez Hair: Jameela Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Video: Streetz Media

• Gotti's ten-year hustle came to fruition in 2009 with his infectious "5 Star Chick," featuring a then burgeoning Nicki Minaj on the remix. A lot has happened since then. Gotti launched Cocaine Music Group, bringing to light other talent from his native Memphis stomping grounds like rapper Zed Zilla. Gotti also dropped his debut album *Live From The Kitchen* at the start of 2012, after releasing a gaggle of mixtapes through his decade-plus tenure in the game. These days, though, he's clocking in time and a half in the studio, putting the finishing touches on a new mixtape, while simultaneously building what will be his follow-up album to *Kitchen* come 2013.



"I kind of like to work on both at the same time," Gotti says on his creative process with mixtapes versus albums. "Every time I approach my mixtapes, I'm trying to reach a certain type of people, basically. When I first started Cocaine Muzik I was trying to reach the dope boys all across the world," he elaborates. "It was so detailed in the content." He prefers rhythmic tracks, so they "bounce in the clubs," but on his album it's a matter of quality. "It has to be global," he states, "even in the production you pick, the sound you pick, it all has to be universal. Mixtapes can go from the studio to the street to the club." While Gotti's specialty is making heads nod, he plans to bring the lyrical element this time around. "Just because we in the club," he says, "doesn't mean we can't bring that real rap shit."








NOTE TO SELF Coming of Age

Tage Entertainment, One Village Ent., Swirl Films and Tri Destined Studios Present, *Note To Self.* A coming of age feature film in the vein of *Love and Basketball* meets *Good Will Hunting*.

Note To Self stars Christian Keyes who plays Curtis King—a handsome and popular college student and athlete. Although he started college late due to his mother's reoccurring illness (played by Valerie Pettiford), Curtis thinks he has overcome life's hurdles and is on top of the world. He is in a fraternity, on the basketball team, has no children, carrying a full class load, and interning at the university hospital under Dr. Thompson—his therapist and boss—played by Brian McKnight.

This is Curtis' senior year, which he is expecting to be filled with parties, women and fun, which in the beginning is exactly that. However, Curtis' world begins to fall apart due to his mom's failing health and the reappearance of his father (Richard T. Jones.) after 16 years. Curtis confides in Dr. Thompson about the things he is going through. Dr. Thompson recommends that Curtis start writing it all down in his journal so he can explore his thoughts and feelings—ala *Note To Self*.

Directed by Trey Haley, *Note To Self* also has guest appearances from some well-known actors. While struggling with his issues, in his love life Curtis is torn with his relationship he has with his "friend" Karen (played by Eva Pigford) and the new woman he is intrigued with Paula Whitaker (played by LeToya Luckett), a part time student, nurse, and full time pessimist on the subject of love and men. As he encounters classes, parties, basketball games, Greek Weekend, blockbuster nights, passion, humor, pain, loss and gain, Curtis inevitably learns from his sessions with Dr. Thompson and self-realization that he must release his mother, regain his father, find true love, graduate, and finally understand his *Note To Self*.





Director: Trey Haley Producers: ND Brown, Eric Tomosunas, Veronica Nichols, Keith Neal Executive Producer/ Writer: Christian Keyes EP: Brett Dismuke; Co-Producers: Jeff Lam; Associate Producers: Gregory Anderson, Reginald Jones Production Companies: Tri Destined Studios, Swirl Films Distributor: Image Entertainment, One Village Entertainment

To view the Note To Self Trailer hit up YouTube: www.youtube.com/tridestined



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FROM THA BASEMENT TO THA DEN By Kathy Jandoli

Images: Charles Gardner - IEC Studios Models: Claudia Nelson MUA: Renny Vasquez Hair: Jameela Stylist: TSD Image @tsdagency: tsdagency@gmail.com Video: Streetz Media

here's a level of freedom in Big Tigger's current life, one he's experienced. Spending close to two decades in the game, the industry veteran lived by a very stringent schedule, balancing television with radio. "I can't even remember a time, when I only had one job," he says. Tigger changed the face of music television when he took on BET's "Rap City" and co-hosting duties for "106 & Park." His love of Hip-Hop moved beyond hosting borders, as Tigger is also an emcee, known for freestyle-battling rap legends in "Tha Basement." It's a time in his life that people still mention, and he doesn't mind one bit. "If 20 years from now, my career was defined by those six and a half years in 'Rap City,' then I'd be happy with the legacy I left," Tigger says. "People still ask me to bring 'Rap City' back."



Radio also held his heart, and it still does, as Tigger has his weekend radio show "Live In Tha Den With Big Tigger" in 59 cities and three countries. However, the landscape has changed and he knows it. "The biggest issue right now with radio and television is the internet," Tigger explains, as the web is the largest playground for advertisers presently. While the Internet is a necessary evil, Tigger uses it to his advantage to deliver an alternative to certain radio that he now regards as "cookie cutter." His podcast BT Radio currently clocks in at 1.2 million downloads, with a combination of Tigger talk coupled with variety of music ranging from Dance to Hip-Hop. "Technology has allowed me to interview anybody around the world from home," says the honorary Ciroc Boy, who now balances his time between Washington D.C. and Miami. While Tigger may align with another brand full time for right financial and creative situation, he's perfectly content continuing to build his. "Anything could happen these days," Tigger says. "Every day is an adventure."





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DevonShepard



All the Write Moves Article by Dove "Sheepish Lordess of Chaos"

The highs and lows of Hollywood's behind-the-scenes action is not often put center stage, but it's definitely a well known fact that Black writers and directors have faced major challenges throughout the years. Since his first professional gig on "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" in 1994, writer/producer Devon Shepard has persevered in a difficult industry to maintain steady success.

Throughout his career, Shepard has created both comedy and drama, but finds that there is not much difference in the level of difficulty writing for the genres.

"I've been blessed to have the ability to bounce back and forth between each genre," Devon explains. "The key is; understanding the story and the characters. If you have funny character and you understand what makes that character funny, it's easy. You can play off those attributes to create the comedy. In drama, it's a different sensibility, because the characters are usually more complex and flawed so you write more humor and less jokes. Story is key. If you know how to tell a story you can write for any genre or whatever interests you."

Speaking of drama, creative minds faced their own intense battle when the widely publicized writer's strike began in 2007. Although some new opportunities came from the movement, all is still not golden in the competitive industry.

"We still don't have a clear formula for Internet revenue," says Shepard. "[The situation] feels the same. There are a lot more jobs for less pay. "

Despite any career challenges, Shepard strives to push his talents to new heights. His greatest inspiration is Norman Lear, a writer with over six decades of memorable work under his belt.

"Norman Lear is God to me," Shepard asserts. "I love his style of writing because it was pure. TV was too young to worry about political correctness. That's why we had 'Archie Bunker,' 'The Jeffersons,' 'Good Times' and 'Maude.' His shows were like plays. Each character was distinct and had their own points of view. His characters were real people. Remember when James died on 'Good Times'? Tell me you didn't feel that? I want to write that," Shepard continued. "Speaking of Norman Lear, I had an opportunity to pitch a movie version of 'Good Times' and I sold it. It was updated quite a bit. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the chain of authorship and we couldn't get it done. That still hurts to this day."

At the rate he's going, it's possible that Devon Shepard could be the next Norman Lear. His credits thus far include "Weeds," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Everybody Hates Chris," "One on One," "Crash," "The Wayans Bros.," "MADtv," and Showtime's latest hit show "House of Lies," amongst others. He's now also working on his own show entitled "Second Generations."

Shepard cites working with Don Cheadle on "House of Lies" as his career high thus far: "That's one cool motherfucka! " – and Shepard looks forward to "creating memorable television, producing other projects and eventually getting back into the director's chair."

When people reflect on his career and remarkable talent one day, Shepard has one simple wish.

"[I want people to know] that I went beyond the expectations of the 'Black' writer. I want to be known as a great writer who happens to be a brother."



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By Dove "Sheepish Lordess of Chaos"

Thomas Jones Independently Major

Thomas Jones has come a long way from his family's humble beginnings in rural Virginia. With over a decade of NFL football under his belt, the University of Virginia graduate is making the full-time transition to entertainment in 2012. Jones has been developing his record label for quite some time, and is now also taking on documentary and TV/ film production, acting and more.

Jones speaks confidently about his growing entrepreneurial endeavors, which he has successfully merged into the website IndependentlyMajorEntertainment.com. He is currently shopping his dramatic series "The Lick," which co-stars Clifton Powell and Michael Blackson, and intends on moving further into the Hollywood scene.

A true fan of many genres of music, Jones beams with pride about the talent he's found in artists like R&B singer/songwriter Myko, Latina pop sensation Jen Rodriguez, and multi-faceted lyricists T-Tone, Mike Beatz, Blow, Bezz Believe. amongst others. Jones has also been working with veteran Atlanta rap star Diamond, who is on the verge of releasing her next project.

Although he has been building on the music side of things for nearly five years, Jones is aware that there is no quick route to success in entertainment. "This is a daily grind," he advises. "It's all about timing and persistence. You create your own dream and you make your own race. Just work hard and don't give upjust when you're ready to give up, you're almost there."

Unlike many sports stars that dive into entertainment with big dreams and over-indulgent budgets, Thomas Jones still takes time to enjoy the intangible luxuries he

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can experience in everyday life.

"Obviously it takes money to live a certain type of lifestyle, but a lot of people who have money are completely miserable," he explains. "I've always been goal-oriented. I enjoy taking care of my family, it's in my power to do that, and my dreams came true. I have a pro bowl jersey [and] a Super Bowl jersey at my house, I have my diploma; now, I'd like to have an Emmy for my TV series, be a part of a couple of Grammys. It's more about the actual journey than it is the money."

> When all is said and done, Jones knows that he needs to stay true to himself to get the best from others. He is putting the finishing touches on *Mind Games*, a documentary he feels will give fans a better perspective of what NFL stars really go through. He also wants people to know that building a solid foundation in all aspects of life will transcend any quick money.

> > "In [the entertainment] industry, we meet a lot of people who try to cut corners-it's a lot of smoke and mirrors," he says. "I pride myself on being humble and respectful of people. I'm a normal person. That's what my documentary Mind Games is about. A lot of times NFL players are depicted as a certain type of person, but we have the same problems everyone else does. In most cases, we have more. People think money can erase any kinds of problems vou have in life, but all it does is enhance them. For me it's about being humble and doing business the right way-all you really have [in life] is your reputation and your name.'



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