

BlackMen

# BlackMen®

# Takiry

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20

PAGE  
TRIBUTE

RADIO'S  
SEXIEST  
HOST

ANGELA  
YEE

INSIDE...THE

# TEN

MOST  
BREATHTAKING  
VIXENS

ALIVE  
DEDICATED  
TO THE  
DJ

SELF  
MARK DA SPOT  
SCREAM  
GOONIE  
KYRA CHAOS  
LYVE  
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BLACK MEN NOVEMBER 2014

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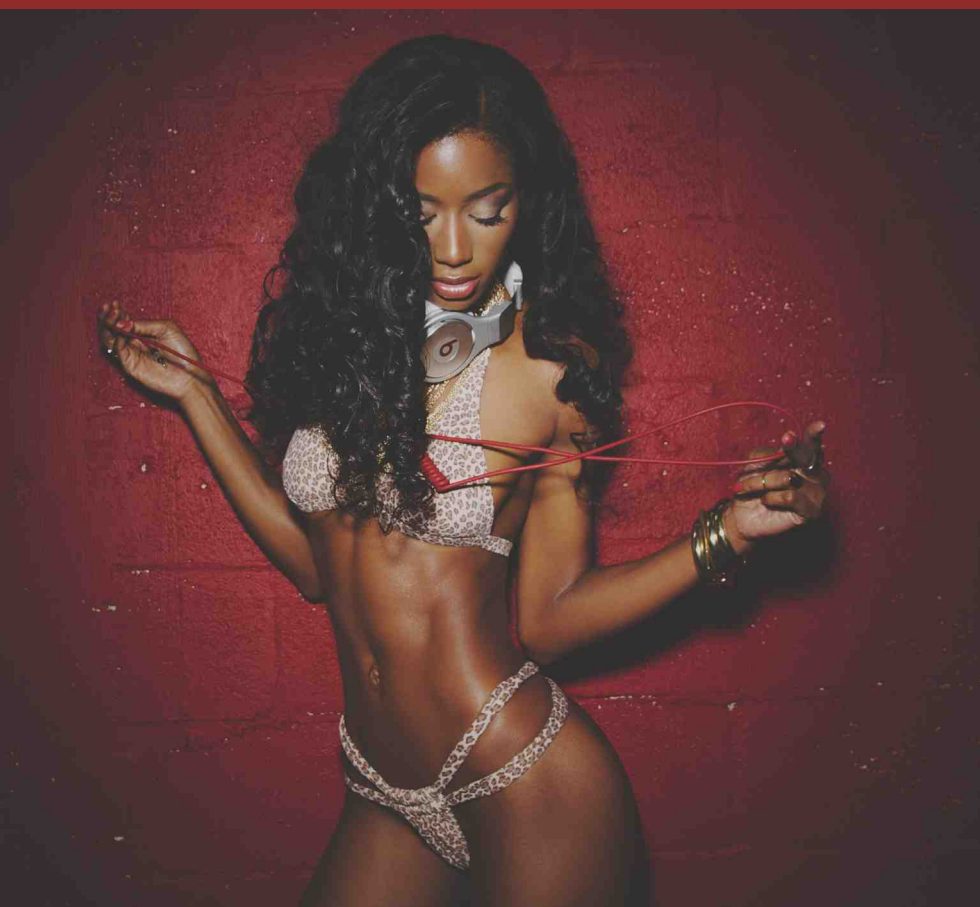
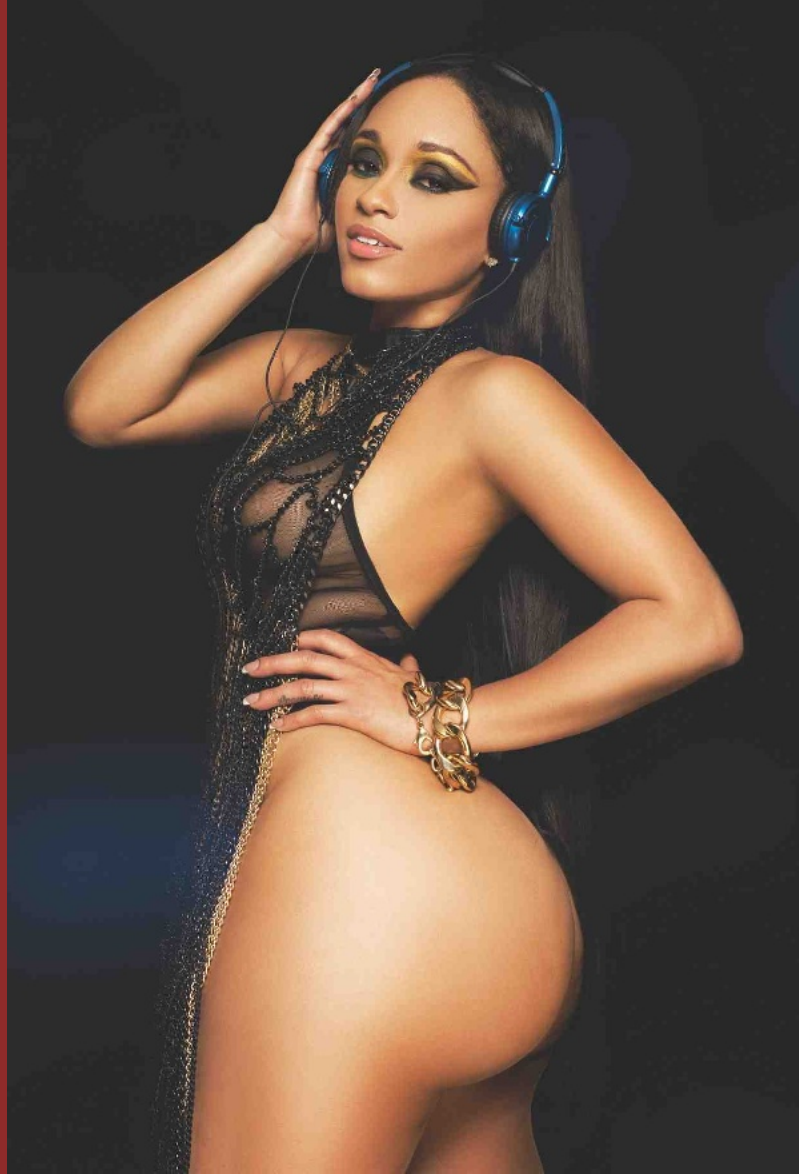


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NOVEMBER 2014

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NOVEMBER 2014

# BLACKMEN

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# Black Men

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# Editor's Note

With the current status of print in competition with the uninhibited liberties of social media, the purpose and reason for a print publication has evolved. Not that everyone desires the nostalgic feel of a physical copy in their hands, but there is an authenticity that comes with the gloss embossed paper as it swishes from page to page between your fingers. Also, the weight of a good heavy magazine feels like the World Cup in your hands.

Not that it matters, for we are more concerned with how sexy and scantily clad we can feature a demicelebrity if not a luscious but fit neighborhood vixen, but the one thing that I can say that you can't get freely on the internet unless I choose to place it there is my art. Ideas and how sexy imagery is perceived outside the normal expression that your average lad mag editor's limited imagination can allow them to produce.

The consensus is that the magazine will continually evolve and improve visually, opening up doors through the arts to expand the opportunities to do more for the collective community than just sell magazines.

Our images can be placed in art galleries. Our designers can add our images to press kits and look books. Our celebrities can use our images for high-end press releases, and our models can fulfill proper portfolios that would lead to increased bookings and work. This cannot be done with your average urban magazine image because they usually are not produced well.

Brands can benefit off our product placement of items as such images are not only shared by the staff, but also the talent involved in the features which gets publicized as each individual promotes the story on social media and reaches blogs on the internet.

This issue is a tribute to the DJ. Tahiry leads the pack as one of VH1 reality TV's most riveting personalities along with one of the world's most amazing radio hosts Angela Yee. Followed by an illustrious collection of beauties, their spreads are accessorized with the essential tool of all DJs, which is the headphone. Celebrating the legendary craft that has delivered music to the masses for many decades and we recognize a few popular names known for rocking the parties non-stop.

Best,

Marcus Blassingame  
Editor-In-Chief



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# TRADING PLACES WITH ANGELA YEE

Photographer : Will Millions | MUA : K Pari | Hair : Iyanna Winfield | Stylist : Marcus Blassingame  
Under Garment Bathing Suit-Malanski Boutique | Perforated body jumpsuit- Kia Von Vega | Headphones Beats By Dre | Shoes-Je Taimè Shoes

By Essence Gant

Before Power 105.1's "The Breakfast Club" became a nationally syndicated urban radio show, they'd already caught the ears of pop culture lovers around the world, thanks to blogs and YouTube. The three very different but equally entertaining hosts are undoubtedly atop the ranks of A.M.'s on-air elite—even higher than their pioneering archrivals who reside "where hip-hop lives." The show's success can be credited to multiple elements, like their range of comical to profound interviews, but the personalities are probably the bulk of why so many listeners tune in. DJ Envy is obviously responsible for the spins, but he—with his lavish cars, chains and cribs—is also living testament to the rewards that come after the grind. Although controversial and hilarious, Charlamagne Tha God (a.k.a. the one who coined the phrase "vintage vagina" for sexy women 40 years plus) can be quite insightful on matters of the culture, and very fearless in his approach to ask guests the questions others wouldn't dare murmur. And lastly, Angela Yee is the voice of reason, the most prepared during interviews, and apparently the smartest as she often manages to shade her co-hosts with funny shots that go right over their heads. So, when it was time to sit and talk with one of the three, we obviously went with Yee because she's the prettiest. We traded places with the brainy beauty and did all the asking. Here's what she had to say!









ANGELAYEE

**Black Men:** You have a career in a male-dominated industry and people always talk about the struggle for women working that arena, but what are some of the advantages of being a female urban radio show host?

Angela Yee: It's much easier for me to get meetings because a lot of times people would much rather be out with a female than with a guy. I think women are a lot more organized, too. A lot of guys that I work with are a little bit of a mess, and I think as a woman we're a lot more detail-oriented, a lot more organized. And I feel like when I interview people, I get to ask [personal] questions that may sound weird coming from a guy.

**Who was your most memorable interview with in your whole radio career?**

I would probably say the Ray J interview. A lot of what he said was just very unexpected, and we didn't know that was going to happen. I heard a rumor that there was a fight, and we managed to get him on the phone. I just thought he was going to clear it up and say something like, "No, that didn't really happen." Instead, he just went off!

**How do you keep your energy? You obviously have the early morning radio show, and a lot of times you have to host events and parties at night.**

Whenever I can get a full night's sleep, I do that. I make sure I take my vitamins; I make sure I workout; I make sure in the mornings when I come to work I drink green tea; I have fruit. I just make sure that I eat in a way that's going to make me maintain my energy throughout the day. I balance it out. I know that if I'm going to be out all night one night, then the next night I have to make sure that my schedule is not as crazy.

**You've mentioned on the show a few times that you hit the gym, so is it important to you for a guy you're dating to be just as in shape?**

It does matter a lot to me, a person that is healthy and cares. And not to say I can't help, because I know for some people it's not a priority, but if I'm dating someone I'm always like, "Okay, what did you eat today? I don't want you to be fatigued," or, "If you don't feel well let me get you some vitamins." Just whatever I can do to help. You know, I think it's important to improve any situation, just like I would hope anybody I date would try to make sure certain things about my life are better. But it is true that I like people who care about their appearance, and work out, and care about their health.

**You're currently producing a film called *Brooklyn Bred*, so tell us a little bit about that.**

Tionna [Smalls] is a friend of mine, and she had written this script a while ago and gave it to me. It was her first time writing a movie

script, and I went to school for writing. I had read a lot of scripts in the past, and I could see everything playing out in my head as I read it. When she asked me to come on board as a producer I thought it would be a great idea. I just appreciate the fact that she wanted to involve me in it, and I'm really excited! People have been coming up to me on the street asking about the movie.

**You do radio, now you produce, and you host events. How crucial is it to have multiple hustles?**

I think it's always important to be expanding what it is you do. I feel radio is the base of what I do, but I feel like I do a lot of things around that. To me, it's kind of like if you're not always progressing and doing different things, then I just get bored. With radio, it's always exciting and different every day. I'm comfortable with what it is I'm doing now, so I feel like it's time for me to take it to the next level in other things. And all that you do outside of work is really just to help you with what your main goal is. Everything I do outside of work kind of adds onto what I have going on at work.

**Speaking of work, you, DJ Envy and Charlamagne have such a sibling-like chemistry. They're always on the show telling guests you're single, you just bought a house, and basically trying to hook you up with everybody. If you were to date someone right now what are the top three qualities he would have to have?**

He would have to have a good sense of humor, he would have to be ambitious, and he would have to be intelligent; of course. I can't deal with someone who isn't intelligent.

**Between Envy and Charlamagne, who would you most likely trust to hook you up on a blind date?**

Envy! Definitely *not* Charlamagne! [Laughs.]

**On the show you guys play the game "F\*ck, Marry, Kill," so between Envy, Charlamagne and fellow station host DJ Prostyle, who would you "F\*ck, Marry, Kill"?**

Oh my gosh! I'd have to kill like all of them. I promise you, I would die. I can't even imagine. [Laughs.] It's like asking me about my brother, my father, and my uncle. You know how some people will say, "That's like my brother," but they've slept with him before? That's so not me! That's just disgusting, and I'm sure it would disgust them, too. [Laughs.]



# ARISE



Before we wrap it up, you're one of the most well-known radio personalities, and not even in just urban culture, but in pop culture, too. Did you always envision that level of career success, and what do you attribute it all to?

I always knew I would be successful because everything I've ever done in life I've always done to the best of my ability. I know that if you are intelligent, talented and hard-working—I mean that's just it. Whatever I don't know, I learn. That's always been how I've gotten as far as I've gotten in life. I did know I would be successful, but I just didn't know what I would be. I thought maybe a successful writer, or a huge marketing executive, but I ended up doing radio. I didn't know anything about it. I just walked right into it and made sure I learned everything I could possibly learn about it.



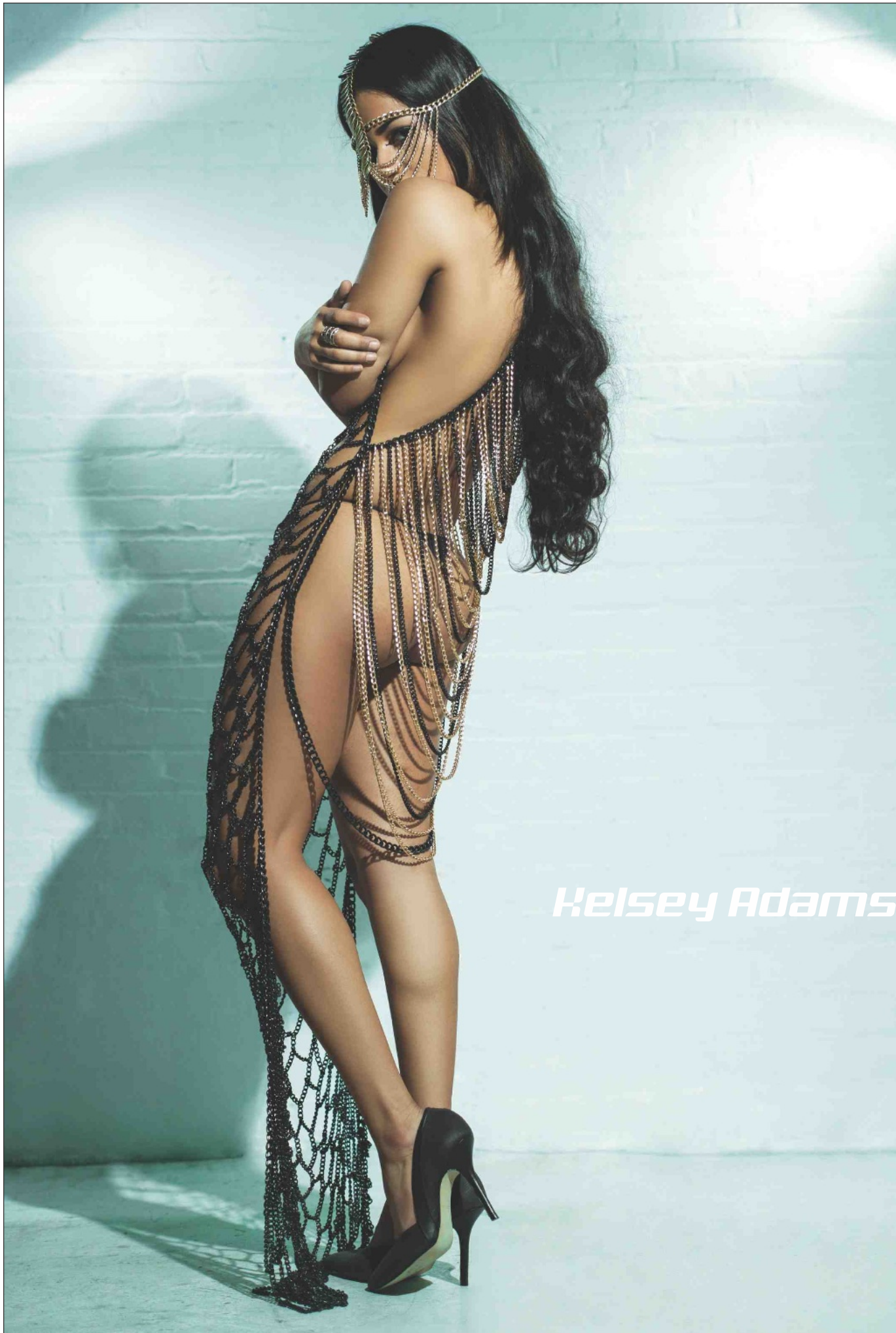
# Kelsey Adams

Photographer: Brendan Forbes | MUA : Rodney Jon | Hair : Iyanna Winfield  
Stylist : Marcus Blassingame | Studio: Tru Sound Lounge  
All body jewelry by Laurel Dewitt | Headphones by Skull Candy

**Name:** Kelsey Adams  
**Hometown:** Richmond, VA  
**Zodiac:** Libra  
**Sizes**  
**Bust:** 32  
**Waist:** 22  
**Hips:** 37

**Resume**  
**Training:** Acting classes with Shiek Mahmud-Bey  
**Magazine:** *Elléments Magazine, Today's Black Woman Style Report, Xtreme Hair-styles, Maxim, Black Men and Smooth*  
**Video:** Fall Out Boy ft Elton John - "Save Rock & Roll" and "Light Em Up," Chris Brown - "Sweet Love," Jeremih - "Feel The Bass," D'Banj - "Bachelor"  
**TV:** BET's "The Game," VH1's "Single Ladies"  
**Commercial/Ad:** Beats by Dre, Blink Cosmetics, album cover for Soca Gold 2014, iTunes single cover for B.o.B feat. Chris Brown "Throwback"  
**Runway:** NAACP 100-Year Anniversary Fashion Show





*Kelsey Adams*





# Kelsey Adams

**Do you host events? If so, where?**

Yes, I'm available to host events in any city.

**What's your favorite go-to night club or bar right now? Where is this venue located?**

I really love The Gansevoort in NYC. They've got the best daytime pool parties with a mixed crowd. Aside from that, it would have to be Pergola, a Middle-Eastern bar/restaurant/hookah lounge in New York.

**Who's your favorite DJ?**

David Guetta!

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**

J. Lo feat. Pitbull - "On the Floor"

**What song causes you to immediately turn down?**

I plead the fifth. [Laughs.]

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**

Sex on the Beach or Miami Vice

## Web

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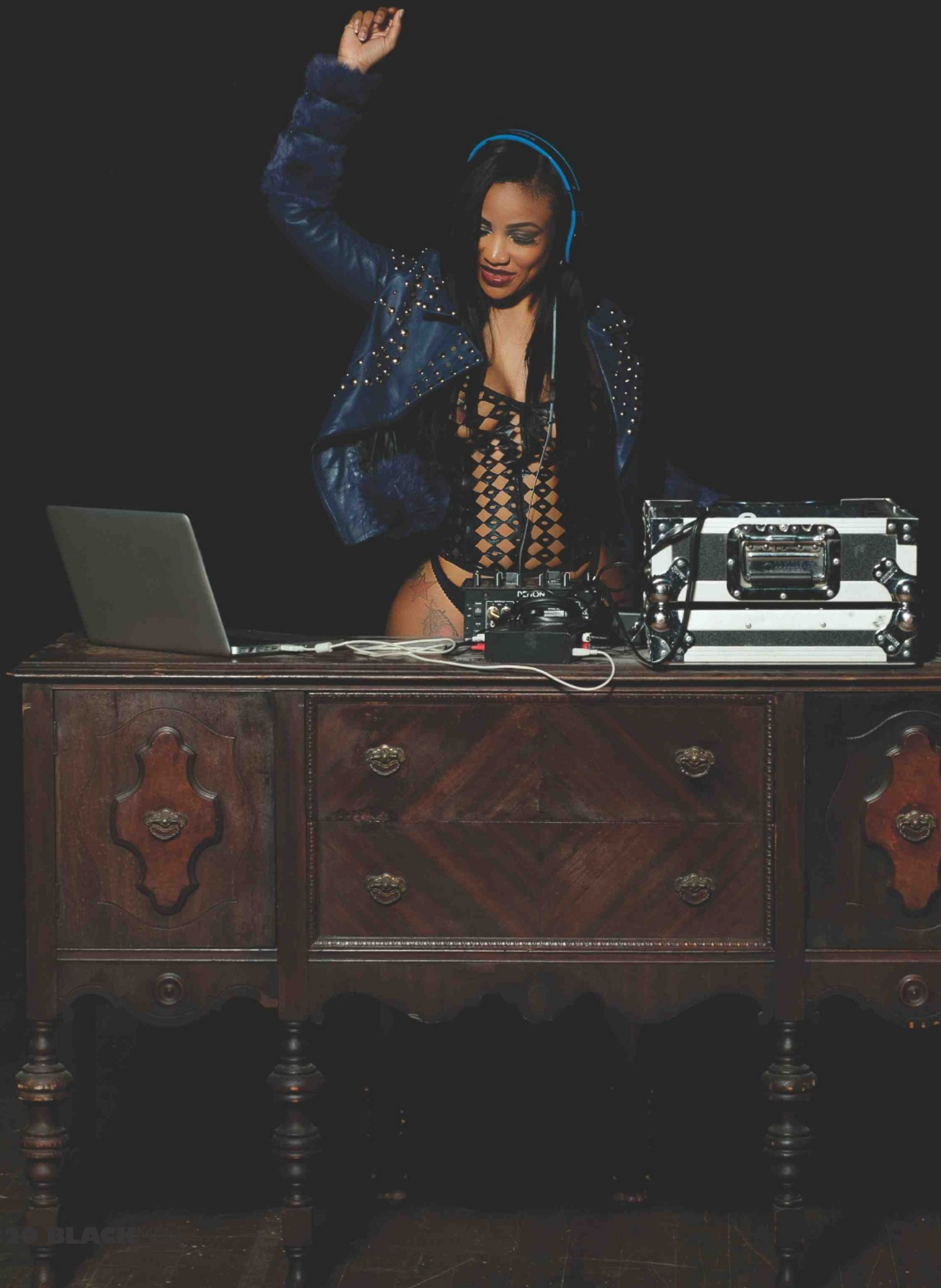
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# SPINNING BEAUTY

By Mannie Pendexter

**E**ntering the entertainment industry as a model, Kyra Chaos has blessed many print and online magazine pages and music videos with her stunning beauty and jaw-dropping physique. After awhile, though, Kyra began looking for something more. Always a lover of music, the Long Island, NY born, Hampton, VA native, weighed her options. "I never wanted to be a rapper, and I can't sing, so that wasn't an option," she admitted.

On one fateful day, a friend introduced Kyra to celebrity spin master, DJ Boof, who would eventually help her discover her next venture. After watching DJ Boof during one of his sets, Kyra joked with him saying, "I can do that!" Little did she know that Boof would offer to show her some of the basics, which piqued her interest. After that, it wasn't long before Kyra was online buying CDJ 800s and mixers. She setup a booth in her basement determined to learn the tricks of the trade. And because of her hard work and determination, today, *DJ Kyra Chaos* is able to travel the country rocking crowds from coast to coast.

**Black Men: You acquired quite a following with your previous career as a model. Has this helped you in your career as a DJ?**

DJ Kyra Chaos: Absolutely! I think it's helped more than it's hurt. That really made the name "Kyra Chaos." That's how everybody pretty much knows me. So, me already having a name, and a platform, and a following, it made it easier for me to slip right in. On the flipside, I would say that some of the male DJs didn't really take me serious. But, that just comes along with the work, and that's just something that I have to see.

**That's an interesting point you just touched on. How do you deal with that being that DJing is a predominantly male area of music?**

I hear the naysayers and what is being said, but I know what I want. I know what I can do. I know my talent. I know my work ethic. So, it's just show and prove at the end of the day, and that's it.

**Are there any DJs, either male or female, that you look up to?**

Absolutely. To start, on the female side of things, Jazzy Joyce is definitely a legend. DJ Lazy K as well. I like her as well. As for the men that I look up to, it would definitely be SpinKing. He's young, but he's

one of them. He's rapidly growing in the industry, DJ Drama definitely, and DJ Khaled definitely. The thing about Khaled that I really like is that I really admire his work ethic. He's more than a DJ. He's definitely one of the people that I absolutely, positively look up to in this game.

**Speaking of Khaled, he also works closely with music artists on production. Is that something that you would consider venturing into?**

Right! I want to tap into that definitely. I know music, so I definitely want to tap into all of those lanes.

**Who are some artists that you hope to work with in the future?**

Of course Drake, Meek Mill, Fabolous, Nicki [Minaj]... I mean, all of the top artists. Anybody that's on top right now. YG, Iggy Azalea... Even some of the down south acts like Migos, Rich Homie Quan, all of those people.

**Would you ever hop into another genre aside from Hip-Hop?**

Oh, for sure! I'm not just into Hip-Hop and Rap. I love music, period. All music. Slow music, pop music, everything. I definitely want to tap into the pop lane, and maybe later on get into the EDM.





**Currently, where can we hear you or see you DJing?**

I'm not at any stations, but I'm at a lot of different clubs. I don't have a home club yet. I'm all around the United States. I was in Buffalo [NY] two days ago. I'm in Alabama in two more days. I'll be in [Washington] D.C. I'm all over the place.

**You're also working with Yandy Smith now. How did that come about?**

I reached out to Yandy a few years back when I was a model, but she didn't want to take on any models. So, when I decided to do the DJ thing, I wondered, "Hmm... I wonder if I should reach out to her again and see if she'll work with me on the DJ side of things." So, I reached out to her, and she was all for it. She loved the idea. So, we got to work. I love working with her. She's about her business. She handles her business and she's very hands-on with all of her clients, and I really love that.

**We all know that Yandy has done reality TV. Is that something that you see happening in your future?**

That's not really something that I want to do. I feel that when you do reality TV, you always have to have that reality TV tagged to your name. I want to be a legit DJ. I don't want them to be like, "Oh, she went on a reality show to get her DJing poppin'." I want to be respected as a DJ.

**What about radio?**

For sure! Absolutely. I do want that in the near future, so hopefully that will pan out for me.

**Do you have any other projects not related to DJing going on right now?**

I have my leggings line: Chaos Leggings. It's on pause right now because Yandy and I are looking for some interns. But, I'm definitely still working on that.

**How can a potential intern get involved?**

They can email us at [djkyrachaos@gmail.com](mailto:djkyrachaos@gmail.com).

# WYKRAK GNAWIS







# DJ

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# HOLIDAY

## ALWAYS IN SEASON

By Martin A. Berrios

Most people associate holidays with enjoying themselves. That's what DJ Holiday specializes in. He has taken the Atlanta mixtape scene to new heights with collaborative releases with Nicki Minaj, Wiz Khalifa, Gucci Mane, Waka Flocka Flame and others. But that's not enough for the Zone 6 native. DJ Holiday talks to *Black Men* magazine to discuss his start in the game, how his father continues to inspire him and why the hustle never stops.

**Black Men: Where are you originally from and how did you get into DJing?**

DJ Holiday: I'm originally from Frankfurt, Germany. I was an army brat of course so I moved around a lot with my mom then we came to Atlanta, Georgia east side Zone 6. When I was young I was into sports so I got a full football scholarship at Fort Valley State University. There, I also took mass communications, did radio and fell in love with it. So, I took my first big refund check and bought some turntables and a mixer and the rest is history.

**How do you feel about the rising number of people DJing in this digital age we live in?**

I think it is kind of easy opposed to when I was coming up with the crates and turntables. With Serato you can just upload all your music, pack your stuff and just show up somewhere. That's why you have celebrities like Shaq, Paris Hilton or whoever doing it. But, I really appreciate the people who try to learn the art, the music, the crowd control and who are overall performers with it.

**What makes a DJ Holiday hosted event so live?**

When I get booked I'm getting top dollar to be there, so I'm going to try my hardest that you never forget it. At the end of the day I am the master of ceremony.

**Tell us about your favorite party moment.**

I've rocked every place from 3,000 people to 300 people. I've done parties for 5,000 dollars to 10,000 dollars, but the most memorable party I've done has a real special meaning to me. My father passed and I was scheduled to do a party that night and I did not want to do it. I was feeling bad and was messed up in the head, but I actually got ready and went to the party. It was over 800 people there and I rocked it. For one moment I saw my pops standing there and he chucked me the deuces, so I knew everything was going to be all right. Ever since then, my career took off and my wildest dreams came true.





**What's next for DJ Holiday?**

Right now we just working the Cash Out featuring Migos record "Trap House," we are about to shoot the video for it. I also got a big record with Meek Mill, Future and T.I. called "Flexing" coming out very soon. Right now, the brand is strong and I love doing mixtapes; that's my first passion. I love feeding the streets and working with young guys like Young Dolph and everyone else who keeps the motor running in this city. The Commission DJs is also a priority to me because I feel we were the best crew of DJs throughout the country. Also, I still have the six p.m. to ten p.m. on Streetz 94.5 Monday through Friday where I can break records for the A, which is special to me.

**All in a day's work huh?**

I'm just a kid from Zone 6, I feel like I'm not supposed to be here, but God blessed me and put me in a great position. My work ethic says it all. When those other guys are sleeping, I'm working and when they are up working, I'm working harder.





# SUE LYN

Photographer 2020 Photography  
Radio Urban Outfitters

**Name:** SueLyn Medeiros  
**Nickname:** Susuzinha  
**Hometown:** Rio De Janeiro, Brazil  
**Zodiac:** Taurus  
**Sizes:**  
**Bust:** 34D  
**Waist:** 22  
**Hip:** 38-40

**Resume:** I have a book out now—my memoir *SueLyn Medeiros: My Secrets Revealed*. It is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and Barnes and Noble ebooks. Also, I have a clothing line called Bombshells By SueLyn—available at [shop-bombshells.com](http://shop-bombshells.com).  
Video: 40 music video. First one was Chris Brown "Wall To Wall," and the last one was Tyga's "Hookah."

**Do you host events? Yes If so, where?**

Yes—all over the world!

**What's your favorite go-to night club or bar right now? Where is this venue located?**

Jimmy'z Monaco in France.

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**

Chris Brown's "Loyal."

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**

Patron or champagne.

**Web:**

Official Web/Fansite: [thesueLynblog.com](http://thesueLynblog.com) and [shopbombshells.com](http://shopbombshells.com)

Twitter: @sueLynmedeiros

# Of Followers: 763k

Instagram: @sueLynmedeiros

# Of Followers: 275k

Facebook: [facebook.com/sueLynm](http://facebook.com/sueLynm)

# Of Fans: 320k



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# DJ SELF

## THE PRINCE OF NY

Photographer Aderon Mothersill  
Headphones-Beats by Dre

The DJ life is not easy, but it is certainly an entertaining one. You travel the world rockin' parties, you get to work with la crème de la crème in the music industry, and some DJs even manage to get their own radio/TV slots. Since 1996, DJ Self has been grinding working on his own success story. And thus far, he has garnered all of the successes that comes with the role of a premier DJ—so much so that he's even been coined "The Prince of NY."

Born and raised in the Fort Greene area of Brooklyn, NY, during Hip-Hop's "Golden Era," Self was struck with a love for the music and culture that surrounded him. Deciding that DJing was the career path for him, Self made it his mission to take it all the way to the top—and so he did.

Self rose quickly in the game going from spinning the wheels of steel at nightclubs and events, creating mixtapes, and landing himself on radio. He has also been deemed one of three top-rated DJs in New York City. Using his notoriety to his advantage, Self co-founded his own crew of DJs called "Da Union," consisting of some of the country's sickest DJs. At one point, there wasn't a night in NYC when Self or any member of Da Union wasn't playing at one of the hottest nightclubs in the city. Their crew has DJs that not only specialize in Hip-Hop music, but also in Reggae, R&B and Pop music.

Over the years Self has developed as a DJ, honing in on his skill and mastering it. He is highly regarded as a true Master of Ceremony. He's taken the party to the next level in clubs and venues world wide including appearances in Berlin, London, Germany, Tokyo, Mexico, Caribbean, Chicago, St Louis, Seattle and throughout the East Coast. He has also worked album release parties for acts like Alicia Keys, Jay-Z, Jadakiss, Amerie, Busta Rhymes, Cam'Ron, Jim Jones and Missy Elliot. Self also did his thing at the star-studded closing party for the Pulitzer winning *Top Dog Under Dog*, which starred rapper Mos Def and Jeffery Wright. He was also the tour DJ for Mos Def's Black Jack Johnson tour back in 2002-2003, and got the crowd going when Mos hosted MTV2's Hampton's Party in 2003.

Self is also known for releasing some of the hottest mixtapes in the game. For years he has been selling thousands of mixtapes featuring a who's who of Hip-Hop and R&B artists. Some of them include *Rawkus Mixtape*, the number one selling *Lox Family Volume 1*, *Young Jeezy Street Certified Volume 1 & 2*, and *R&B Cookies*.

His name has rung so many bells that Self was once tapped by shoe brand Adidas who created a limited edition sneaker featuring him and another sneaker featuring his crew, Da Union. Also, Self has been endorsed by urban clothing companies, such as Cavi, Nostic, and Eight732, for whom he would showcase their lines as he rocked parties and events.

Moving on to the next phase of DJing that only a few manage to reach, Self has made several TV appearances. He has appeared as a special guest DJ for BET's "106 & Park" and "Rap City: Tha Basement." However, his sights were set on radio.

Self began making moves to land a radio slot. After pitching the idea of his very own mix show around, he landed a gig on Sirius Satellite's Hip-Hop Nation Ch-40 coined "VIP Saturdays." Rapper Eminem later added the "VIP Saturdays" mixshow to his Shade 45, and even extended the show an extra hour. Shortly there after, a radio station was looking for the next big thing. Self was exactly what they were looking for. DJ Self joined the family of Power 105.1 in New York City as a mixshow DJ back in 2008, and has been rocking with them since. Today, listeners can catch Self live on Mondays from 10pm-12am, from Tuesdays to Fridays from 10pm – 2am, and Saturdays from 6pm-10pm.

Sure the DJ life is a constant hustle and grind, but The Prince of New York is all for it!

JA



Photographer Angelo Lumas | MAU: GP exclusives | Styled: Evol Couture  
Swim Wear: OMG Swiwear | Headphones Beats By Dre

# JAZZMA

**Name:** Jazzma Kendrick  
**Nickname:** Jazz  
**Hometown:** Miami, FL  
**Zodiac:** Scorpio  
**Sizes**  
**Bust:** 34  
**Waist:** 22  
**Hip:** 36

**Resume:**

**Training:** Occasional yoga

**Video:** Trey Songz "NaNa," Rick Ross "Ashamed" and the *Mastermind* album trailer .

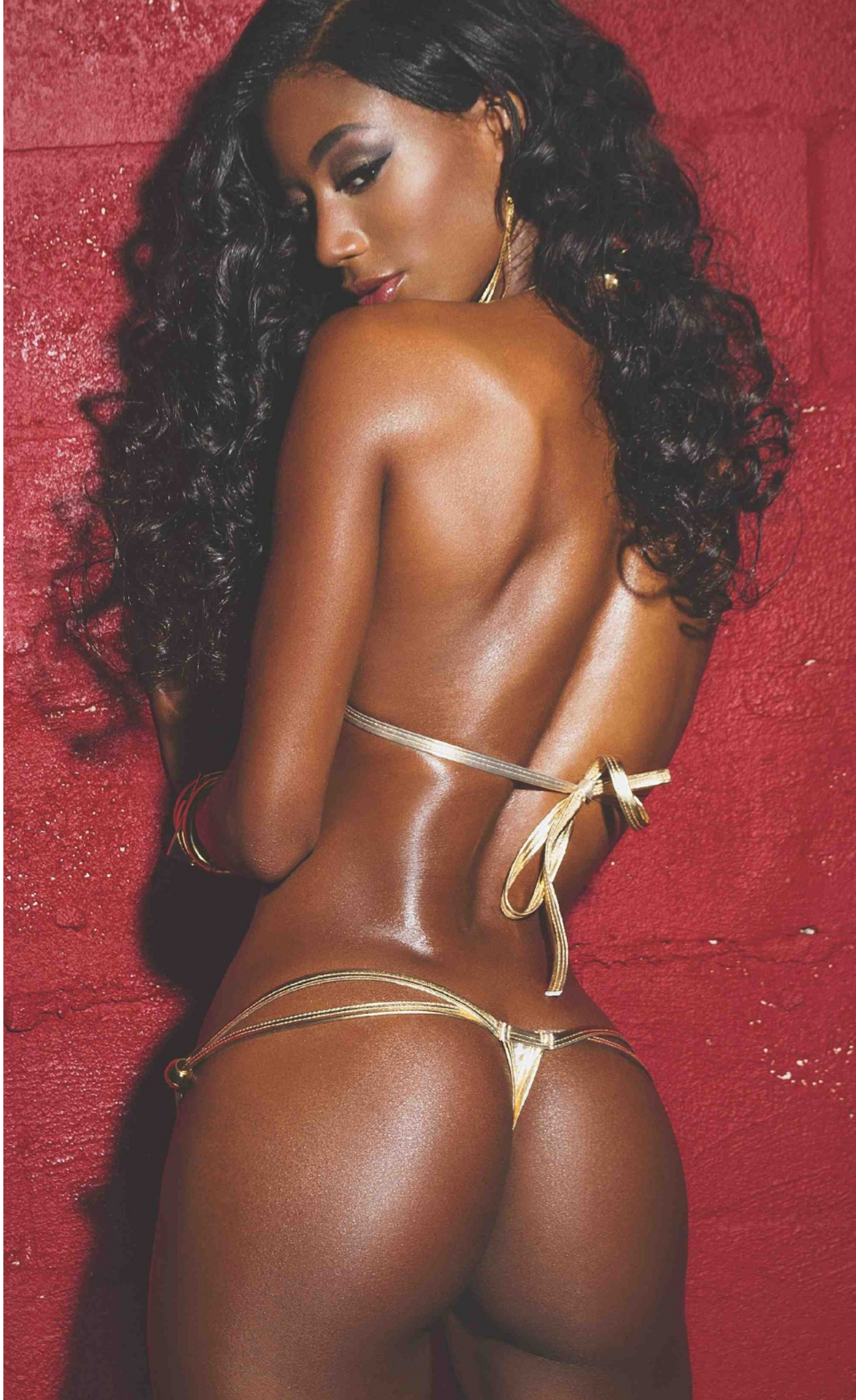
**Commercial/Ad:** Grey Goose Cherry Noir with Trey Songz

**Runway:** Mercedes Benz Swim Week for Red Carter, Lycra, and Vitamin A





JAZZMA



**Do you host events? If so, where?**

No, I don't host events, but I plan on starting.

**What's your favorite go-to night club or bar right now? Where is this venue located?**

My favorite party right now is FDR on Monday nights. It's located inside the Delano Hotel in Miami.

**Who's your favorite DJ?**

My favorite DJ is Mr. Mauricio.

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**

Ok, so it's not really a turn up song, but when "Or Nah" by The Weeknd comes on, I instantly get into my sexy zone.

**What song causes you to immediately turn down?**

None. Anyone who knows me, knows I'll dance to just about anything.

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**

My drink of choice is a shot of tequila with a champagne chaser.

**Web:**

Official Web/Fansite: It's being built.

Twitter: @Jazzma

# Of Followers: 3217

Instagram: i\_heart\_Jazzma

# Of Followers: 58K

Facebook: Jazzma Kendrick



# JAZZMA





# JAZZMA







# DJ SCREAM

## GETTING LOUD

Images by 2020 Photography  
Headphones-Beats by Dre

By Martin A. Berrios

**I**t is a testament to your name when Rick Ross is backing you and DJ Scream has earned every right of that stamp. From his days of growing up in Atlanta to touring the globe, Scream has always kept a solid work ethic that has allowed him to live his dream. *Black Men* magazine details his come up and how he carved out his own lane that lead him to be recognized by his turntable idol.

**Black Men:** When did you know you wanted to become a DJ?

DJ Scream: I used to watch "Yo! MTV Raps" and I always paid a lot of attention to the videos and the person in the background was the DJ. At that time it was essential for every act to have a DJ—Eric B and Rakim, GURU and DJ Premier, and so on and so forth. This really inspired me. Then, I was able to meet a DJ in person that I was able to ask questions. From there he showed me some things and I decided this is what I want to do.



**What were your first experiences as a DJ like?**

I started with some pawnshop turntables. I couldn't really scratch or blend well on those turntables because of the quality. From there I was able to buy some better Geminis and eventually I was able to get my money right and get my first set of Technics 12000s. So, since the age of 12, I have been a DJ, but I always respected the craft and culture behind it.

**Detail that love of the game you have for DJing.**

During my first tour ever I had to take crates and turntables to the airport during every stop of the tour. But, I did it for the love of the craft. At first the majority of us looked at Serato like, "Is this the end of the art form?" Thankfully, we all evolved with digital, but the era I'm from I would rather be on a pair of 1200s with vinyl.

**A DJ Screw mixtape holds so much weight in Rap, what sets you apart from others in your profession?**

I try to stay different. Just in the mixtape game—if one DJ was doing one thing I would go the other way on purpose. That opposite direction might have been more difficult, but I figured it out to make it work for me. It's the same thing with parties. I take the people into consideration first. I really try to cater to them in terms of what they have on and what they are drinking, so I really personalize that party experience for them. I pride myself on being original and innovative and that's what I think sets me apart from the rest.

**What has been your biggest moment in your career thus far?**

On some serious DJ stuff I met DJ QBert three weeks ago. I took a picture with him at an airport and posted it on my Instagram. I felt QBert and Roc Raida were those guys when it came to those turntables. Roc Raida, rest his soul, I'll never get to meet him but he also really inspired me a lot. QBert went one lane and Roc Raida went in another lane. I remember the day we saw them battle, and it was the most incredible Hip-Hop moment I've ever experienced. So, when I run into QBert and I tell him he's my idol and he tells me, "I know who you are," that was incredible. So meeting QBert and also meeting DJ Premier were top moments for me as a DJ. That's what I work for.

**What's up with the DJ Screw album?**

I want everyone to be on the look out for the DJ Screw album *Hunger Pain* on Atlantic/MMG/HPG Records. I'm working with some people I've worked with before and some upcoming guys, too. Right now, we are all putting it together. I was inspired by Kool G. Rap, so this has to be a street classic. I can't wait for the world to hear it

# DON BENJAMIN

## From Modeling To Music By Kathy Landoli

Photographer: Brendan Forbes | Hair: Celia Ayala | MUA: Porcelain | Stylist: Marcus Blassingame  
Location Billionaires Row | All shoes Je Taimè Shoes

Anyone familiar with the "America's Next Top Model" franchise will recall the Cycle 20 contestant Don Benjamin, whose light eyes graced the TV series' runways once the show went co-ed.

Benjamin moved to Los Angeles in 2006, hoping to achieve what many Cali transplants want. "I moved out chasing the acting and the music stuff. The modeling hadn't really happened yet." He says the music came naturally, where the desire to compose songs was constant. It was a perfect fit. "As soon as I got an opportunity, I was like man this is where I want to be," he says of making music. "I don't have to put on an act. This is really me, and I get to tell a story." Of course modeling pays the bills right now, but with songs like his Elijah Blake assisted street single "Doin' It Well," that's bound to change.



It's been a wild ride for the LA resident, who currently divides his time between being a Wilhelmina model, potential acting roles, and a burgeoning rap career. The latter in that trifecta, Benjamin credits as being the most "controversial." His model-level looks — while they're a "perk" and a "disadvantage" he says — make most people assume that Hip-Hop isn't his song style of choice. "A lot of people think that if you're a good looking dude, you should be an R&B singer," he says. That's not the case, as Don Benjamin is a rapper, and a good one at that. "I don't really talk about violence in my music either, so it isn't like I'm this pretty boy trying to act like I'm something I'm not," he explains. "It kind of benefits me, with having a pretty strong female following," he continues. "I try to target them and approach that whole market."

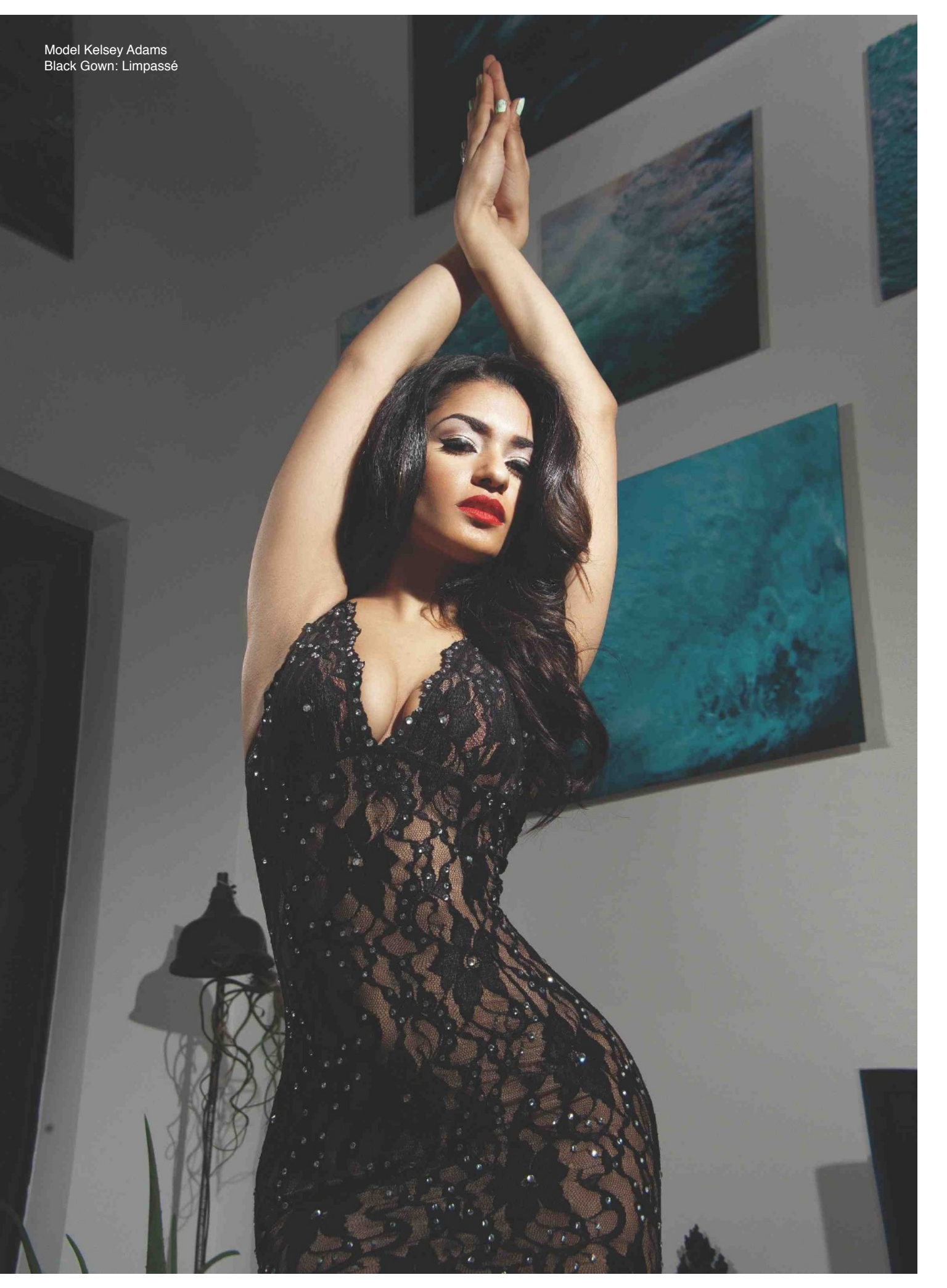
Music for Benjamin is easy; the modeling he says is more difficult, citing his fear of tripping on the runway versus slipping on stage during a performance (since that can turn into an opp for crowd engagement). ANTM helped not only his modeling, but also, life in general. "If there's one thing I learned [from ANTM] it's that you have to be ready for anything," Don says. "They would wake us up at like three or four in the morning like, 'Okay we're gonna shoot.' Then, they would put us on this bus with the windows blacked out so you wouldn't know where you're going. That kind of let me know you have to do whatever you can in this life to succeed. You'll be thrown into situations, and you have to do it to come out and be on top." His debut project is slated for a Fall release, and in the meantime, he's still multi-tasking more than most.







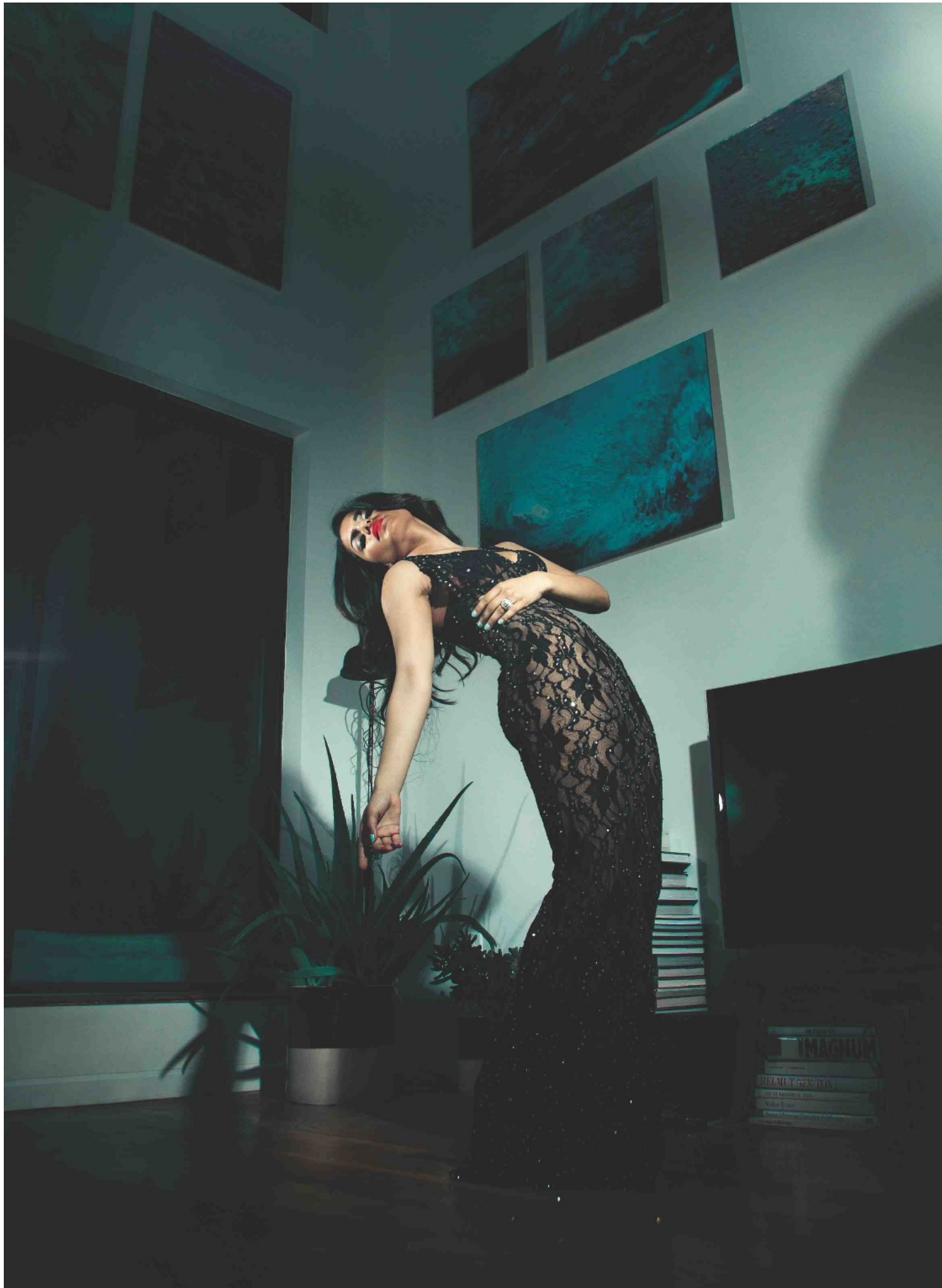
Model Kelsey Adams  
Black Gown: Limpasé







"I usually try to figure out each day with what I have going on," he says of balancing his now rigorous schedule. "Do I have a photo shoot that day or test shoots? Then, I figure out where I can squeeze in my studio time. Music is a first priority, but of course the modeling is a must." Don typically moves his modeling career during the day, spending countless hours in the studio at night. Acting is there too, as he's reading some scripts. Not bad for someone who used to play Chris Brown's body double. "I'm a few years older than [Chris Brown] so in *This Christmas* he was younger and was only allowed to be on set for a certain amount of time," he explains. "They would have me come in and stand during scenes where they were over the shoulder shots and whatnot." Now though, when Don Benjamin lands a role, it'll be face forward.







White Gown: Lu'Creatia





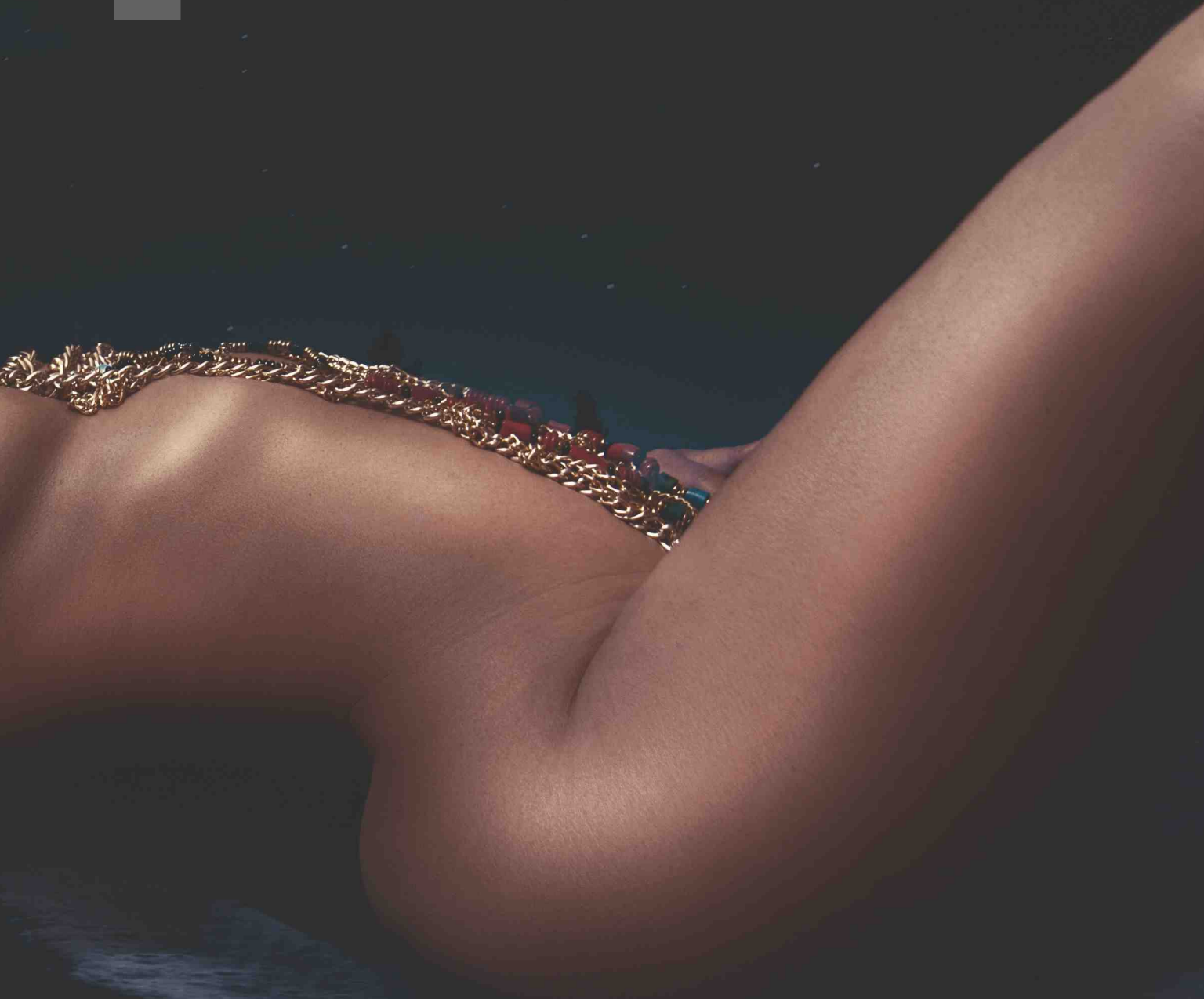


In the entertainment business, diversity is key, and Don Benjamin is proving to have mastered that in the midst of skeptics. "A lot of people tell me, 'You're too pretty, why don't you just stick to modeling?'" he says, before providing the best response. "In this world, why do you have to stick to one thing? Why can't you do everything?"

Point taken.

# TAHITI





**BlackMen**

# TAHIRY

## BUILDING A MOVEMENT

By Kathy Iandoli • Body Chains and Head Dresses Laurel Dewitt • Headphones Skull Candy

Brendan Forbes Photography | Hair: Iyanna Winfield | MUA: Rodney Jon | Wardrobe: Marcus Blassingame | TSD Studio

Very few people can boast their personal brand by just using their first name, but when you hear the name "Tahiry," you know exactly who it is. The model, businesswoman, and star of VH1 reality show "Love & Hip-Hop" has been pounding the pavement for years, building a brand that few in the current landscape of entertainment can touch. Tahiry, born Tahiry Jose, got her start on YouTube and print work, leading her to create her own calendar. Bigger opportunities followed, as Tahiry's big debut was gracing the cover of *King* magazine. "That was kind of like the beginning," Tahiry says, as her first cover opened doors to a whole new world. "The next step was clearly TV."

Of course, many know her as the ex-girlfriend of rapper Joe Budden, an obvious focal point in the "Love & Hip-Hop" series. "The world met me being Joe Budden's girlfriend, so it wasn't something that upset me at all," she recalls. However, she's since eclipsed that title, yet she keeps the experience of dating the de-facto leader of Hip-Hop collective Slaughterhouse in her back pocket. Dating a guy like Budden taught Tahiry how to be a stronger budding celebrity.

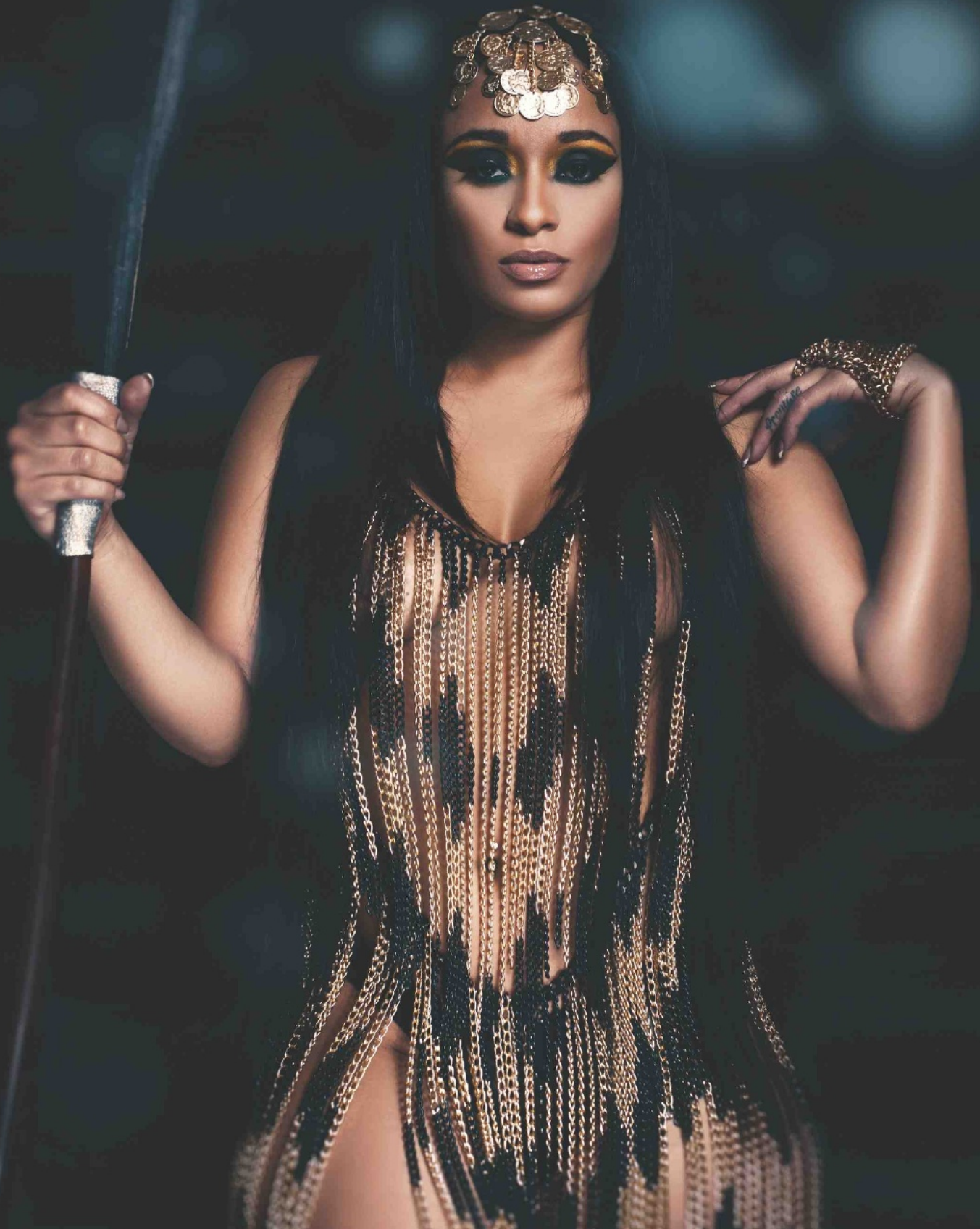
"The industry teaches you very fast that if you don't have a thick skin, you'd better grow one real quick," she says. "And then I come from the School of Joe Budden and his not-giving-a-fuckness. When we started early in the blogs, people were attacking us and he'd say to me, 'You shouldn't care. Those that matter don't mind, and those that mind don't matter.'"

Even someone as gorgeous as the Dominican-born beauty is not immune to the hate. "People support anti-bullying, but every day I get bullied on social media," she says. "People say I'm fat, I'm ugly, I'm too dark. My hair is too coarse. I deal with a lot." With the fame comes the shade Tahiry points out. "Nobody seems to care because you're a celebrity. Everybody thinks you're an alien," Tahiry says. "No, I'm a human. I've learned not to care, though, because the industry is fickle and one day they love you, but the next day, they hate you."

So much of Tahiry's career has been the product of proper planning, as her personal empire is her first priority. "I remember having conversations with some of my friends who have been in the industry for a very long time and them saying it's very important for me to stay Tahiry and let the world know who I am," she says. "From then on I would sit back and always strategize on what would be next for Tahiry, what I envisioned myself doing. I also took my time with every cover. I paced myself, you don't want to oversaturate the market. To me it was common sense. It was important for me to brand myself."



ТАИРЧ







# TAHIRY

**64 BLACKMEN**





Tahiry keeps a vision board to keep inspiring her, and she's no stranger to inspiring others as people keep asking when she's going to write a book. "I just sit here every day and try to make a fuckin' dollar out of fifteen cents," she laughs.

So what's next for Tahiry? While hosting nightlife events has evolved into correspondent work — and she's currently shooting her 2015 calendar — that's not all that's happening for the model-turned-mogul. "I just finished speaking with 'Love & Hip-Hop,' so it seems like a new season is coming

soon," she says, in addition to continuing her red carpet correspondence and possibly shooting films in London and the Dominican Republic. Tahiry is also working on a jewelry line, while continuing to run Harlem nightclub Suite 135, which she calls her biggest "headache" and "baby."

From being a bartender to owning the club, Tahiry is making moves. And she's just getting started. "There's brains to the booty," she jokes. "I just knew that I was here to stay, so I had to make things happen. I'm trying to leave a piece of me everywhere."





ТАИРЧ

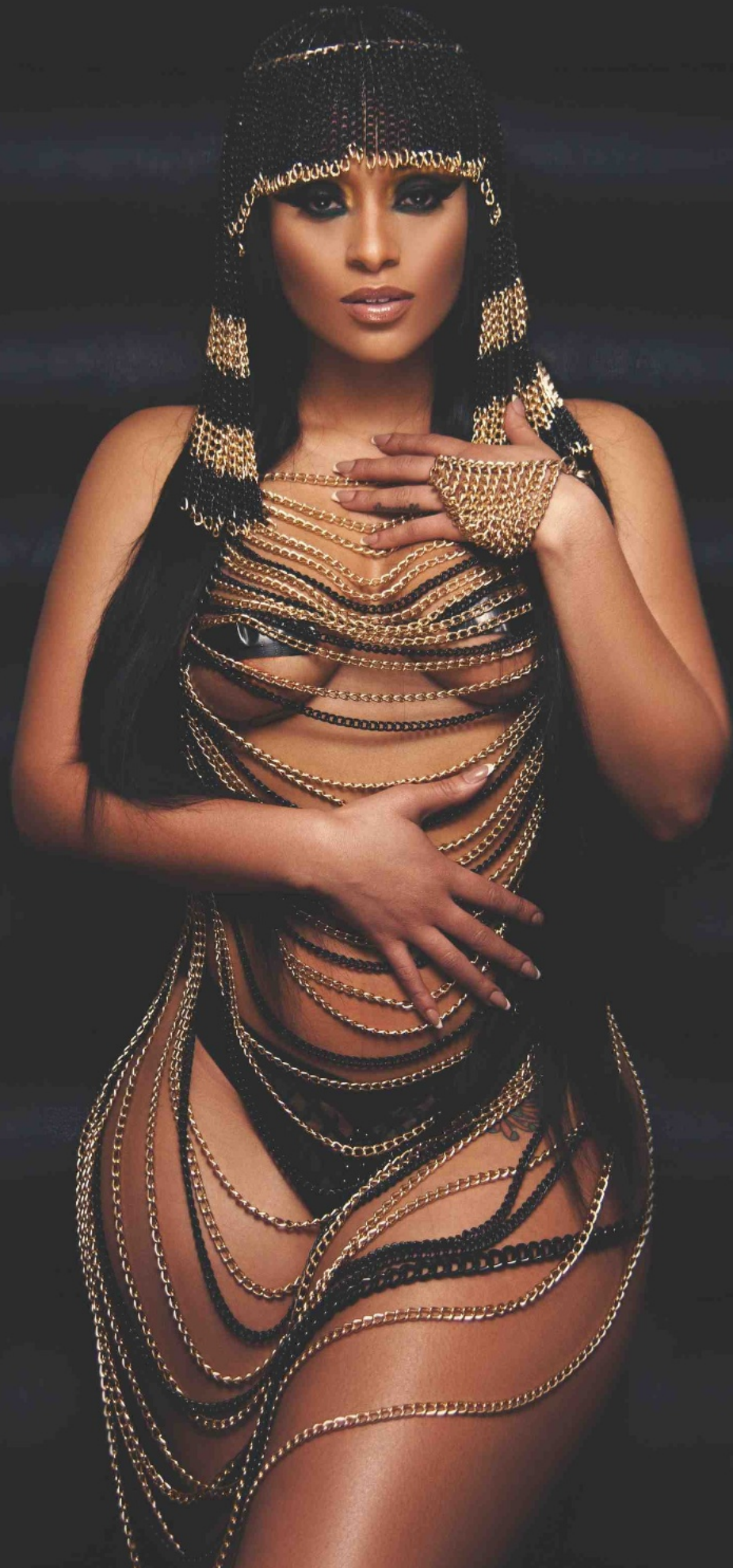


ТАИРҲ



ТАИРЧ







ТАИРЧ







ТАИРЧ



# DJ MARK DA SPOT

By Martin A. Berrios

Photographer Facet Studio | Headphones- Beats By Dre

As in any profession most people have to learn their way through things and a few are just born into it. With DJing playing such an integral part of his family history, you could say that it has always been in Mark The Spot's DNA. The Bronx native has played in every corner of the world and still looks at every set as his first. Mark shares how his Jamaican roots influenced his style and what the new guys should be doing to get on his level.

**Black Men: Where are you originally from and how did you get into DJing?**

DJ Mark The Spot: I am originally from New York in The Bronx, but I was born in Jamaica. The DJ ran through my family. My uncles were Jamaican DJs, so I watched them bring these big speakers outside and do these big block parties. Seeing that inspired me, so I just took it from there, but I went the Hip-Hop route.

**When did you know this was going to be your life?**

Well, Hip-Hop was way different than it is now, so people reacted to the music more then. When you heard a Nas or a Biggie record it was an entirely different response, and I fell in love with that.

**How do you approach crafting your sets?**

My style is different from a lot of people, and I learned from the best, which are Kid Capri, DJ S&S and DJ Craig G. So, I like to put on a show. I like to make the



crowd feel that when they leave a Mark The Spot party they had a great time. I like to check out the scenery before I do anything because I don't ever want to play music that a crowd isn't going to like.

You have to know your crowd when you go to certain places. It's like going to New York and playing two hours of old school West Coast music. I travel so much, so I learned doing my research is important. So, I'll ask my DJ friends that are from the city I am going to and ask, "Who's the hot artist?"

**Having so many years of experience with spinning at parties, do you think the V.I.P. and bottle service requirements have ruined the nightclub culture?**

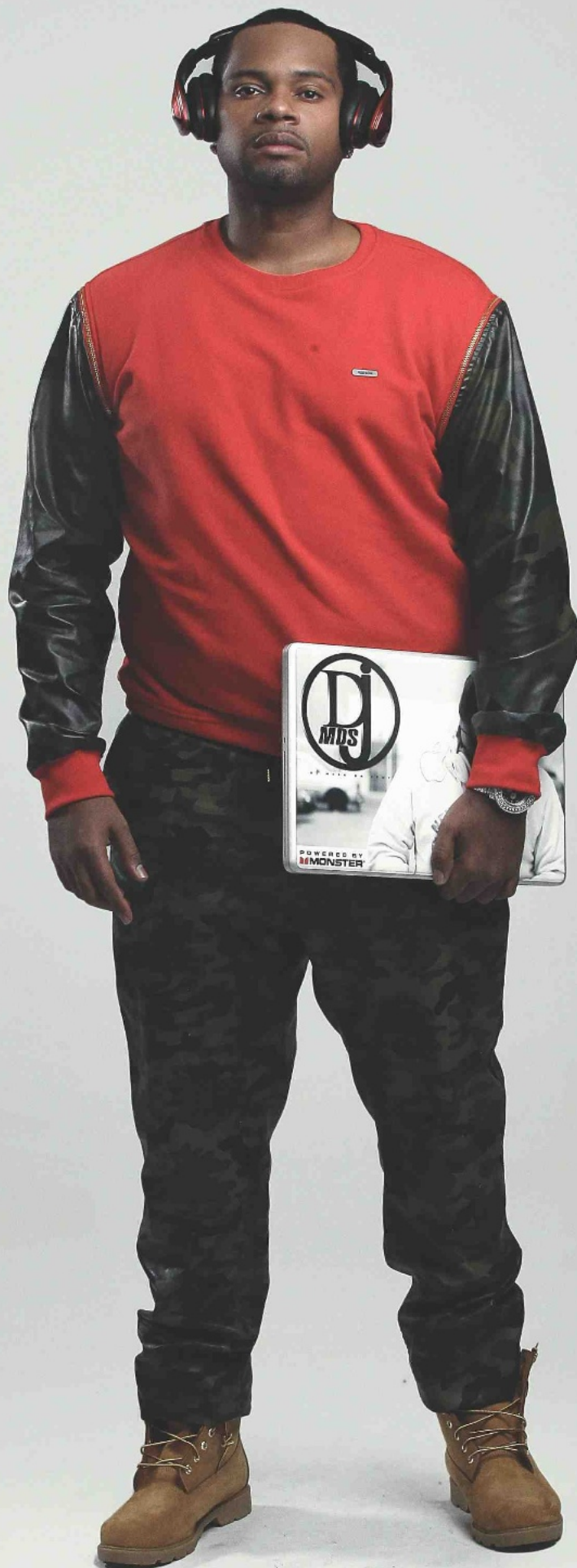
Big time. Back then, when we partied it wasn't about who was hosting or throwing the party. The first thing we used to ask about a party was, "Who is the DJ?" Back then, if you had a good DJ you had a good party. People weren't coming in to pop bottles or to come see a celebrity. Back then, people came to the party to enjoy themselves. I'm not saying they don't do that now, but they don't do it enough like they used to. It wasn't about spending 10,000 dollars to get a section at a club. In certain places like Las Vegas that's the standard, so you got to know what kind of city you are in—same thing for Hollywood.

**What's next for you?**

Well, shout out to my Monster Products family—I'm sponsored by them. Also, shout out to DJ Enuff, I just got the call today. I'm officially the newest Heavy Hitter DJ. I'm happy to be part of the family. Hopefully, I can help take this brand to another level.

**Advice you can offer to all the up and comers?**

Shouts out to all the newer DJs. Back then, we had to really work hard: carrying crates, buying records, researching and finding records. Now, they don't have to do what we have to do. Now, with laptops I can send you a song and you could play it that night. Back then, you weren't getting new records right away. So, all those new guys need to cherish what they have. If you have questions, don't ever be afraid to ask another DJ that's more experienced than you. The new guys have it a little bit easier, so I would take advantage of it.



Name: Iesha Marie  
Nickname: Eshh  
Hometown: Miami, FL  
Zodiac: Aquarius  
Sizes: X-small

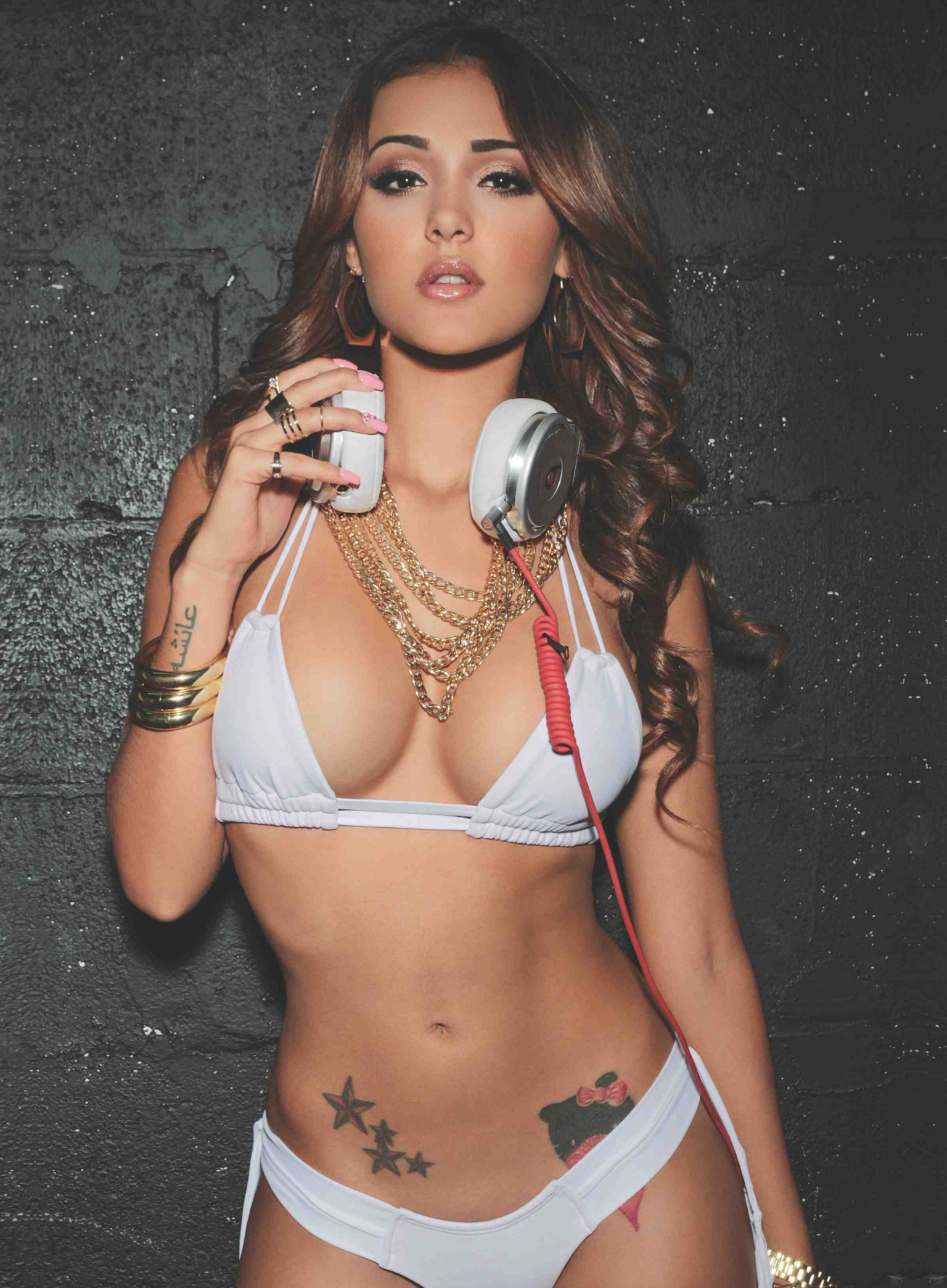
# iesh



# a marie

Photo by Angelo Lumas | MAU by Crystal Cadahia | Styled by Evol Couture  
Swimwear by Montce | Swim by Alexandra Grief | Headphones Beats By Dre







iesha marie





**Who's your favorite DJ?**  
Stevie J.

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**  
DJ Khaled - "They Don't Love You No More"

**What song causes you to immediately turn down?**  
"Fancy" by Iggy Azalea

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**  
Dusse on the rocks.

**Web:**

**Official Web/Fansite:**  
[ieshamariee.com](http://ieshamariee.com) and  
[ieshamariee.tumblr.com](http://ieshamariee.tumblr.com)

**Twitter:** [ieshamariee](https://twitter.com/ieshamariee)

**# Of Followers:** 28k

**Instagram:** [iesha\\_mariee](https://www.instagram.com/iesha_mariee)

**# Of Followers:** 377k

**Facebook:** [Iesha Marie Fan Page](https://www.facebook.com/IeshaMarieFanPage)

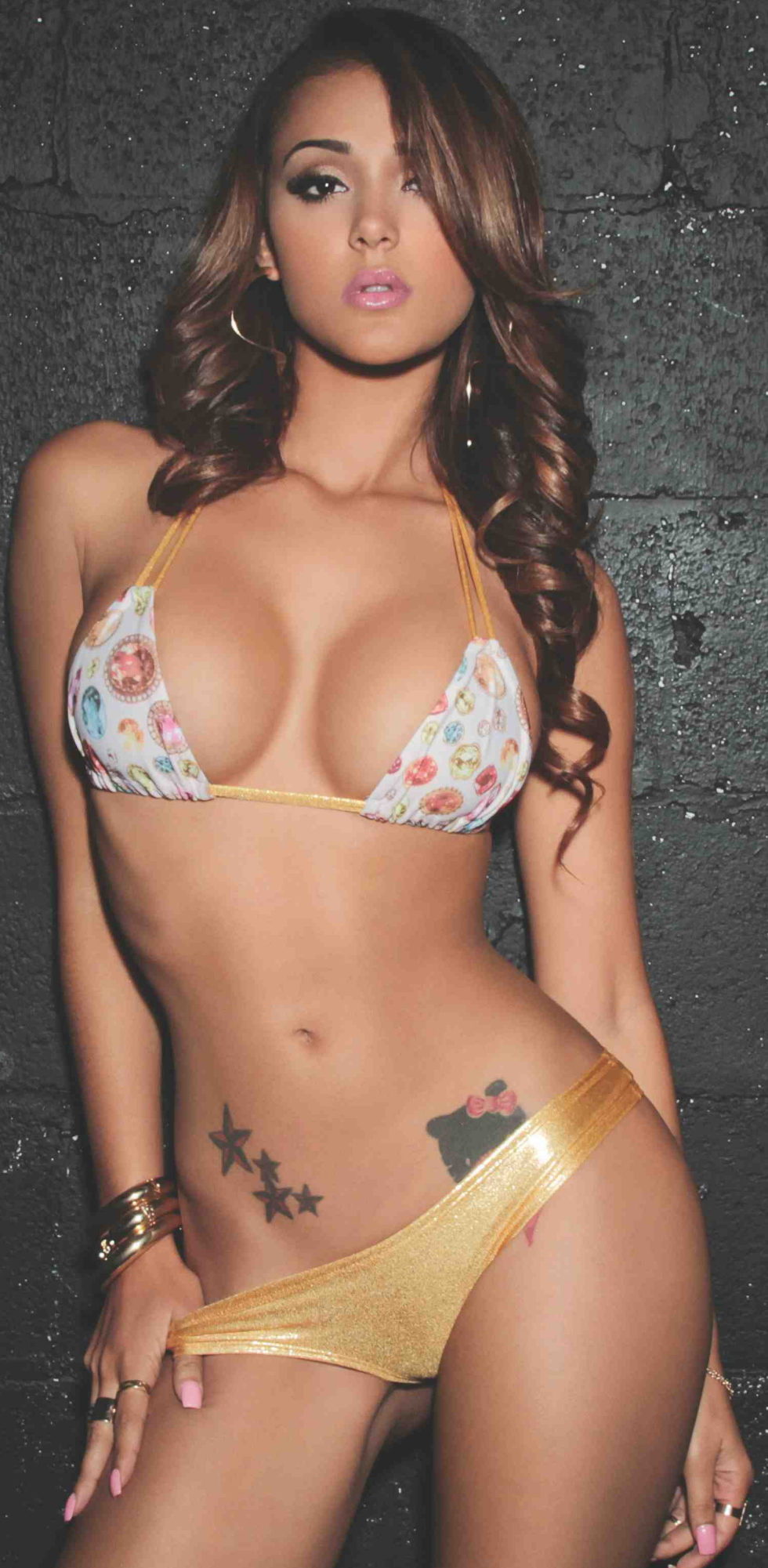
iesha



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ALL



# LIFE OF THE PA

By Mannie Pendexter | Photographer Aderon Mothersill

Long days and even longer nights... Manning the DJ table on BET's "106 & Park" and inside nightclubs around the world is all in a day's work for DJ Lyve. *Black Men* magazine got on the phone with the busy entertainer while he was on his way to the airport to catch an early morning flight from Los Angeles to New York. During our conversation, Lyve spoke about his influences, catching his first big break, DJing on TV, and some future projects he has coming up—one of which includes a charitable program inspired by his father.

**Black Men: What influenced you to go into music?**

DJ Lyve: What made me want to get into the music industry was that there were a lot of people that are from where I'm from that actually made it, like EPMD, Biz Markie, Craig Mack, and a lot of DJs that came from where I'm from in that area of Long Island. A lot of it had to do with growing up and seeing them and what they do taking off. Also, I had an uncle who used to DJ, so as a kid I used to go around with him. He kind of put the influence in me.

**When did you catch your first big break, and how did it come about?**

I would say my door opened up when I was 18. DJ Doctor Dré—of Ed Lover and Doctor Dré— and I were in the record booth and he took a liking to me. He actually took me on the road with him. He had me open up for him. I initially used to work the radio with him, but I would say my big break was when he took me into the record booth and basically made me his understudy.

**How did the "106th & Park" gig come about?**

"106 & Park" honestly came from my hustle really. It started because BET is owned by Viacom. I asked if they had something at MTV, and they said, "Just come up here. Bring us a bio or a mixtape." Once you're in the door it's all on me. They're not going to just hook me up, but at least I'm in the door so I can network. So, I do that and at first I got approached to go to BET. I did the same thing. I would just go visit them and branch myself out. One day I got a call to audition for a show called "106 & Gospel." I wasn't too much into gospel music, but I did it as a door opener. So, I got the job on "106 & Gospel," and literally after two weeks, I got the call to do "106 & Park." The usual DJ couldn't do it, so I was called to fill in. So, I kept getting calls after that. "106 & Gospel" eventually went off the air, but I was still doing "106 & Park." They eventually gave me my own day. I was doing Wednesday at first. Then, it went to two days. I was doing every Wednesday and Thursday.

**How was it when you first did TV? It must be a different feeling than when you're working parties.**

It's different. I was just nervous. Being in front

of all those cameras. It's different from being in front of 20,000 people. Being in front of the cameras made me more nervous than that.

**Are there any other ventures you'd consider going into aside from DJing?**

Actually, yes. There are two things that I'm looking at right now. It's opening a fast food franchise, and also, executive producing a couple of my own television shows. Those are actually in progress right now.

**What's in store for DJ Lyve within the next five years?**

You're going to see me probably on like two other television shows. I have a couple of different segments on BET that you'll see me on. You'll be seeing me in commercials, and also in movies. I'll definitely have a couple of major sponsors by that time. And, you'll more than likely hear me on the radio. I'm actually in talks with a couple of radio stations right. One in New York and the other is in Miami... and there's another one in North Carolina.

What I'm really trying to do within the next five years, though, is I'm trying to set up a program for people who come home from prison. Basically, trying to set up some workshops where they can go, because sometimes these people just don't know what to do when they get out. A lot of times to our brothers and sisters that get locked up for a long time the real world becomes different from their world. They don't know how to cope with the real world when they come home, and that'll push them to go rob or steal, do drugs or sell drugs, because they just don't understand. I want to give them somebody to talk to so that we can bring them back into the real world. That's what I really want to do... what I'm passionate about.

**What inspired that program?**

To be honest with you, my father was in prison my whole childhood. He came home about ten years ago. Being that he was institutionalized, he didn't know how to cope with this world, and he got locked right back up. My sister and myself, we know what it feels like to not have a father because ours was incarcerated. So, I saw him come home and not being able to cope with the world...twice. So, that's honestly what inspired it.

Photographer @aderonmothersill | MUA @porcelainmattel | Hair @stylesbyYani  
Stylist styled and represented by @tsdagency  
@malanskiboutique | LOCATION: #artfactory | Headphone-Beats by Dre

# ASHL





# EY ZEE

**Name:** Ashley Zee  
**Nickname:** Zee  
**Hometown:** Baltimore, MD  
**Zodiac:** Capricorn  
**Sizes:** Small/Medium  
**Bust:** 34D  
**Waist:** 24  
**Hip:** 38



ASHLEY ZEE





**Resume:**

Training: Acting classes.

Magazine: *Black Men*,  
*iAdore*, *Straight Stuntin*,  
*Hip-Hop Weekly*

Video: Busta Rhymes feat.

Nicki Minaj - "TwerkIt" /  
Fabolous - "Cuffin Sea-

son" / Shy Glizzy feat.

Trinidad James - "Pilot" /

Test - Bounce / Test -

"TTG"



**Do you host events? If so, where?**

Yes, in the DMV and NY.

**What's your favorite go-to night club or bar right now?**

**Where is this venue located?**

I'm out DC mainly, but there are a lot of clubs I like.

**Who's your favorite DJ?**

I can't say, I have a few DJs I like.

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**

Basically, Future's whole album, *Honest*. Oh, and Ty Dolla \$ign feat. The Weeknd and Wiz Khalifa - "Or Nah."

**What song causes you to immediately turn down?**

Hmm... That's too many songs to name [laughs].

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**

Henny. But, I can drink whatever. I know my limit.

**Web:**

Twitter: @TheAshleyZee

# Of Followers: 17.2K

Instagram: @AshleyZee1

# Of Followers: 153k

Facebook: Ashley Zee (It's a Like/Fan page)

ASH



LEY ZEE



Images by Facet Studio | Headphones - Stadium

# DJ GOONIE RAPPER SWAG

By Martin A. Berrios

The DJ Goonie brand is more than just spinning records and giving shout outs. The Los Angeles native is a staple in the West Coast Hip-Hop community through his work on the streets with the Toyz-N-The-Hood Toy Drive and breaking artists, including Kid Ink. *Black Men Magazine* finds how his mother influenced him to get into the music industry and why this DJ has a rapper swagger.



### How was your transition when you went digital?

I remember when I first bought Serato I was about 16 and I did a big mansion party where I made 3,000 dollars in an hour-and-a-half. After that I got booked to do my first club in Wilshire. So, I was like, "I really need to buy this Serato—it was next level and it's going to make me look more professional." The thing was I didn't know how to use it at all and I played my first club date with it. Thankfully, I picked it up on the spot and made it happen. But, I respect DJ culture so I eventually got a set of Technics 1200s. It's like every Black person owns a pair of Jordans and every DJ should own a pair of 1200s.

### Why should people attend a DJ Goonie party?

I wouldn't say it's my skills or technique because I don't do a lot of scratching or beat juggling. The basis of my turn up is found in my personality. I'm very comedic, I talk a whole lot of sh\*\* on the microphone, and I get people into it. Being from LA I force people to have a good time. You have certain people who go to clubs just to be seen, but I get them out of their comfort zone. You paid money for entry, parking and bottles and you too cool to party? Nah, I'm going to force you to turn up. So when I do the parties, I bring the hustlers, gangbangers, strippers, pimps and create the environment that all these rappers are talking about. I have a rapper's swag but I'm a DJ.

### What can we expect next from DJ Goonie?

Well, we just kicked off the #FuckDJGoonie campaign that was birthed out in the clubs. I'm still doing numbers on my Western Conference mixtape series. And, I am back on my production doing beats for artists. I'm a firm believer that without the DJ there is no music.

### Black Men: Where are you originally from and how did you get into DJing?

DJ Goonie: I'm from Los Angeles California. I honestly got into it because of my mother. She used to be a songwriter when I was younger. I used to see her trials and tribulations as a songwriter in this industry so I made it a point to do something so I can give back to her. So, around the age of 16, I started doing house parties and growing my brand from there.

### What did your original equipment consist of when you first started out?

Well, when I first started out, it wasn't on a serious tip. I was just hustling, burning all these CDs, play them at parties and turn up. Then, I really got into it and I invested in myself. But, my first turntables were a set of Numarks.



# Johanie 1

Photography by: Michael Vincent

Make-up & Hair by: Nadia Mohammadpour | Stylist Jheri Walker

**Name:** Johanie Taylor

**Nickname:** JT, JoJo

**Hometown:** St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

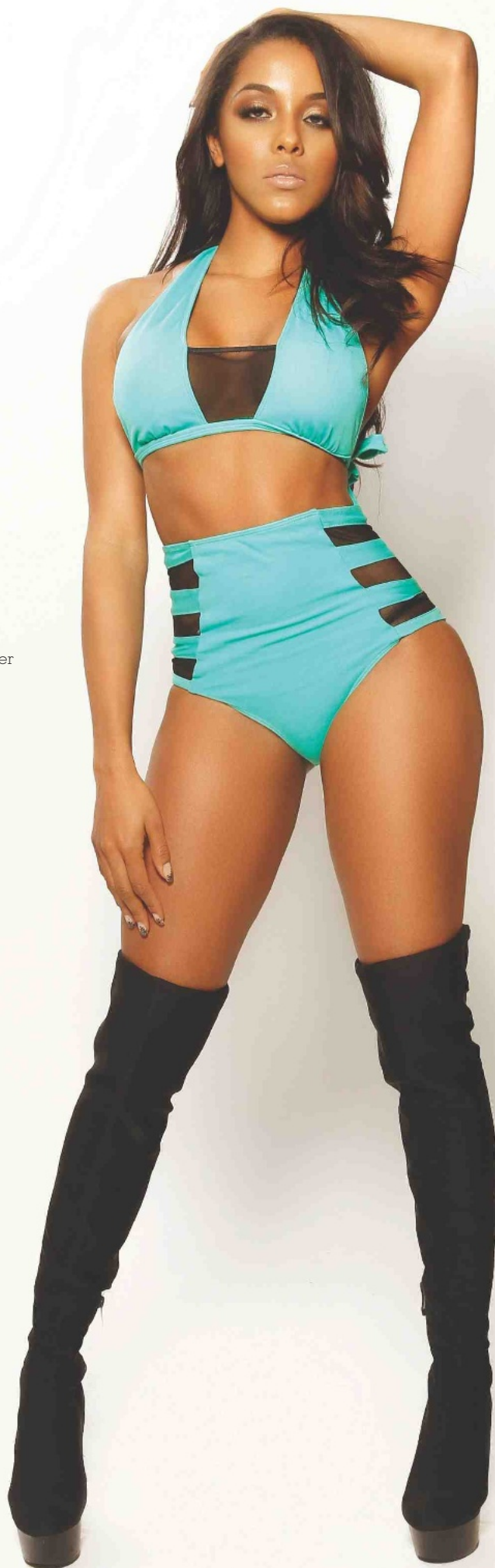
**Zodiac:** Pisces

**Sizes:** S

**Bust:** 32C

**Waist:** 26

**Hip:** 37







**Resume:**

Video: YG feat. Drake –  
"Who do You Love" / Juicy J  
feat. Wiz Khalifa and Chris  
Brown – "Talkin' Bout" / K  
Camp – "Cut Her Off"  
TV: "Real Husbands of Hol-  
lywood" – Episode 302  
Commercial/Ad: Malibu  
Red; Wild Turkey Liquor  
(American Honey)







# Johanie T

**Do you host events? If so, where?**

Yes, in Miami, LA, NY and everywhere in between.

**What's your favorite go-to night club or bar right now? Where is this venue located?**

Toxic Day Party in L.A.

**Who's your favorite DJ?**

Akon's DJ, DJ Benny D.

**What song that's out right now causes you to turn up?**

K Camp – "Cut Her Off"

What song causes you to immediately turn down?

Jhené Aiko – "Bed Peace"

**What's your drink of choice when you're out at a club?**

Coconut Ciroc on the rocks.

**Web:**

Official Web/Fansite: [JohanieT.com](http://JohanieT.com)

Twitter: @JohanieT

# Of Followers: 3k

Instagram: @JohanieT

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Facebook: JohanieT





Johanie 1



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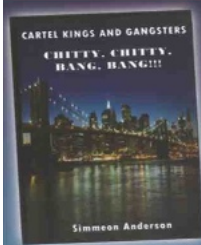
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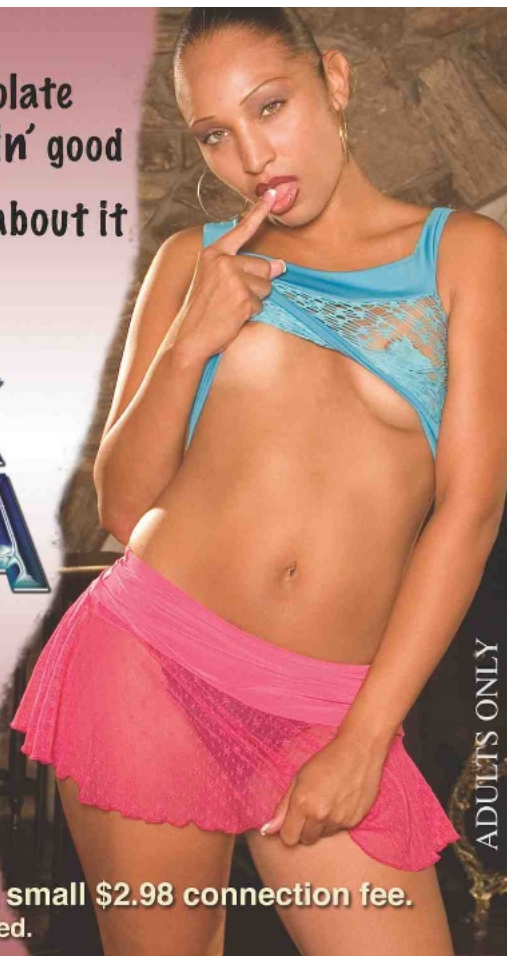


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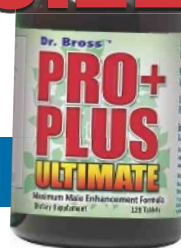


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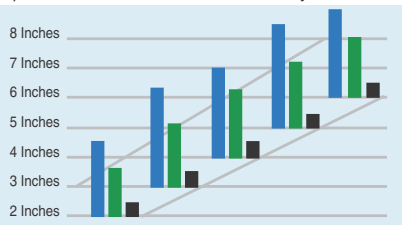
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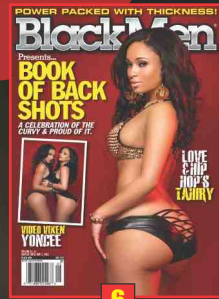
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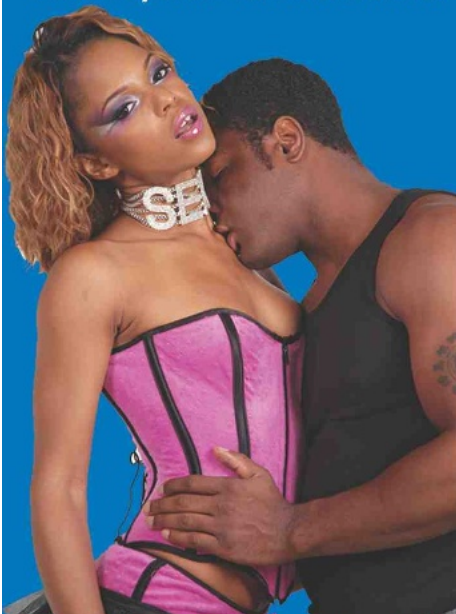
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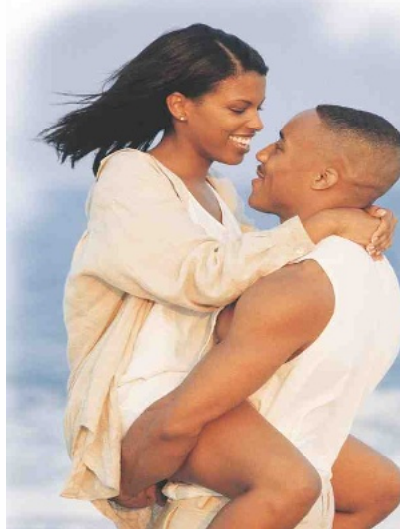
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