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HOT SUMMER BATHING SUITS &#BOSSAPPROVED BEAUTY MUST HAVES

T.O. EXCLUSIVE GET UP CLOSE

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FEATURES Stacey McKenzie, Tania Archer, Farley Flex, Kim Davis, DJ Lissa Monet, Trixx, Kamakacci Juice, Emma-Lee, Harvey Stripes, N.I.S.E, Luigi Sardo









G

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THE BOSS TEAM WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!" TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO FIND SUCH INDIVIDUALS WITH CREATIVITY AND DETERMINATION. THAT FIT SO WELL WITH THE DIRECTION OF BOSS MAGAZINE



KLAUDIA BEDNARCZYK

Writer

HISS Contributors

Klaudia is majoring in professional writing at York University. She is an aspiring editor and writer. Her first short story, "Snails," was published last summer, and another non-fiction piece found its way into publication this year. Working with BOSS has been a great growing and fundamental learning experience. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor than Kern for my first steps into the professional world of magazines and publishing.



KADESHA MCCLURE

Hairstylist

My name is Kadesha McClure and I am a hairstylist at Movita's Hair Attraction INC. Being a hairstylist is a challenging yet rewarding career. Challenging because each day forces me to think outside the box and be creative; rewarding because seeing the satisfaction and happiness on your clients face ensures you that you have succeeded in making them happy. Patience, kindness and love are essential keys needed to make sure all your clients' needs are met, and I have had the wonderful pleasure of working with Boss Magazine. It's awesome to see young people coming together to strengthen and Motivate one another. I commend Boss for their initiative and continue to support their efforts in uniting young people.

MALCOLM LOBBAN

Phtographer

Malcolm Lobban is an architect, father, gypsy, tin toy collector, world traveller, and photographer. A bit of a renaissance man - designer, architect, an avid skier and sailor, passionate about the arts, ballet, dance, and painting. He is very interested in black and white street photography, portrait and studio photography, in particular the photos of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Sophie Calle, Raymond Depardon, and Robert Doiseau. Malcolm is also very interested in black and white fashion/portraits/nude photography from the 50's, 60's, and 70's, in particular the photographs of Richard Avedon, David Bailey, Herb Ritts. Lillian Bassman and Irvin Penn.

ON THE COVER Malaika Lue white sequence dress, Rita Tessonlin earrings. Hair stylist: Kashesha McLure Make up artist: Nicole Soo









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SPRING/SUMMER 2013

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Editor's Letter Be sure to Check out Editor in Chief Tamika Johnson latest thoughts, about this season's trends and upcoming Torontonian talents

@thatsbossmag Boss readers share their thoughts on Twitter



Cover Story: On & Off The Runway With Stacey McKenzie Supermodel Stacey shares her trials, tribulations and successes in becoming a successful all around female

Boss Woman: Tania Archer This issue's Boss Woman Olympian, motivational speaker and beauty spokesperson Tania shares her heroic journey to success

The Weight is Over A Plus-size fashion show aimed at empowering "women who are not a size 5"

Designer Profile N.I.S.E. Clothing Boss catches up with the designers of the urban clothing line N.I.S.E

Boss Beauty Must Haves Boss beauty editors share this season's must haves

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Toronto Loves Kicks Kick off your shoes and put your feet up as you read about TLK doing wonderful things in TO

Community Superheroes Find out how Femi James, Branden Gordon and Mathew Plummer are using their superpowers to make positive contributions in their communities

Feature: Kamakacci Juice's quest to a healthy lifestyle Boss takes a look into Kamakacci Juice's journey to rid himself of what some might call, "the good and plenty"

Boss Scholars Serena Fowler, Whitney Smith and Jennaire Lewars have each had to deal with major obstacles, but didn't let that stop them from achieving academic success

Firgrove Reads Volunteer-run literacy program

Black History 101 Mobile Museum Mr Khaled el hakim tells Boss about his traveling museum and enlightens us with his thoughts on the importance of Black history

A Hidden Debt Essention: Your Credit Score The Black Creek Financial Action Network gives Boss readers essential tips for managing money and debt.

Spotlight on Toronto's Crystal Seafood Restaurant Delroy Schobourgh, owner of Crystal's shares how he came to be a successful restaurant owner through his passion of cooking and business

How to Be Approachable Ready Online Not sure why you're not getting as many hits on your datng profile as you'd like? Here are some helpful tips to get you noticed.

Horoscopes Interested to know what the Spring/Summer season brings? Then Check out Nadiya Zodiac Starcast



SPRING OUT OF THE CANADIAN WEATHER AND **GF** WINTER SPRING **OF** BOSS FASHION

This issue we have my homegirl Supermodel/TV Host/ Runway Coach, Jamaican born Canadian grown Miss Stacey McKenzie on our cover. Her very presence commands a burst of positive energy. Stacey knows how to steal any show and her journey to success will capture your heart and her spread will highlight great affordable spring outfits so you, too, can rock your runway.

This issue's Fashion & Beauty sections are jam packed with something for everyone. We have looks inspired by Miss RiRi like it "Ain't Nobodies Business!" Girls getting ready for the beach? Please check out our swimwear spread. Fellas we won't leave you out this issue. We have Men's Beauty and Men's Fashion to keep you looking dapper.

What's Poppin' in the Toronto Entertainment Scene? Toronto is enriched with talent and this issue we have featured Trixx, Kim Davis, Emma-Lee, Harvey Stripes and more. Our Lifestyle section also honours our community members who are doing exceptional things. We hope you can be empowered by their Superhero stories. We also have a new feature. My second favourite thing; FOOD! Boss caught up with Crystals Seafood Restaurant for one of their recipes.

It wouldn't be a Boss Magazine if we didn't have our Boss Woman and our Boss Man. This issue we have Olympian Tania Archer who talks beauty, health and strength of being a Boss woman. Mr. Farley Flex is this issue's Boss Man and tells us how he has merged his love of entertainment and community to make a difference in the lives of Toronto youth.

There you have it! Another amazing issue of Boss. We would like to take the time out to thank all our supporters. We couldn't do it without you!

Please feel free to write me tamikaj@bossmag.biz or tweet @thatsbossmag. I would love to hear from you. Stay Blessed and Bossy at all times. 💋

Tamika Johnson



THANK-YOU TO OUR READERS WHO STAY IN TOUCH VIA HERE ARE SOME OF YOUR TWEETS. PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH US WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU



some of the local content. Keep it movin!

TERRYL KNOX @TERRYLKNOX Great to meet @ThatsBossMag 's fashion and beauty editor and fellow Gee Gee, Awena. Hope my skills could be of use & start contributing.



instead of living for accomplishments."



D@COCOCOUTURE_ Tune into channel 10 ! RT <u>@MissTamikaJ</u>: Currently in Rogers Studio with @missawena @ThatsBossMag is the business.

TANIA ARCHER @TANIAARCHER @ThatsBossMag I'm very excited to be named Boss Magazines Spring 2013's BossWoman. I hope everyone grabs an issue #stayinspired



JEL AKA 2 EASY @ITSJUS2EASY Seeing strangers with the newest copy of @ThatBossMag got me feelin proud of @MissTamikaJ and cheesin hard lol #kudos

EMMANUEL CORTEZ @MANNYCORTEZ89 Congrats to @ThatsBossMag for the release of their 4th issue of



NATASHA SAKHUJA @NATASHASAKHUJA---===-- Thank you @ThatsBossMag for your feature on my work @SakhujaDesigns! Loved seeing @MelanieFiona on the cover, gorgeous as always!

BOSS MAGAZINE AND YOUR TWEET MAYBE FEATURED.

@THATSBOSSMAG

NEHEMIAH FLOW @NEHEMIAHFLOW S/O to <u>@ThatsBossMag</u> ... stumbled upon your material and enjoying

JASMINE LEE @JASMINELEEHOMES "RT @ThatsBossMag: Too many people are living for compliments,

MAX GREENWOOD @WRITEANDREPEAT @ThatsBossMag spring means rain, zip-up hoodies, and a new baseball season to look forward to

Boss !!!!!

PLEASE TWEET US @THATSBOSSMAG FOR ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR STORY IDEAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF











WASH AWAY THE WINTER COLD WITH SPRING & SUMMER'S FRESHEST LOOKS: FLORAL PRINTS, SKIN FLASHY CUTOUTS AND EXPOSED TUMMY'S WILL HAVE YOU BLOOMING INTO THE SEASON. IN THE WORDS OF COCO CHANEL, "FASHION IS NOT SOMETHING THAT EXISTS IN DRESSES ONLY."THAT'S WHY WE'VE INTRODUCED OUR NEW MEN'S EDITORIAL FEATURE. DIVE INTO WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SEASON. THANKS COCO!



BY: KERN CARTER

ON & OFF THE RUNWAY

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO DEFINE SUCCESS: HAVING A LOT OF MONEY OR OWNING A HOME ARE SOME MEASURING POINTS: HAPPINESS AND STABILITY ARE OTHER WAYS TO GAUGE WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE FULFILLED. BUT FOR ALL OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SUPERMODEL STACEY MCKENZIE, SHE JUDGES HER SUCCESS LARGELY BY THE IMPACT SHE HAS ON OTHERS.

Knowing how she was treated as a child growing up in Jamaica, it's hard to believe that Stacey has become so supportive and positive towards others. She was teased mercilessly for not being the "typical looking black girl," and was called names we can't print in this magazine. But once she moved to Canada as an adolescent, Stacey hoped things would change.

"I've never been around so many white people in my life. At first, I was excited because I was like 'OK you're different looking and I'm different looking so maybe I'll be more accepted because I wasn't accepted back home. But it was the same thing here, except ten times worse."

Rejection is hard for anyone. Especially a young girl in a new country still searching to find out who she is; not being accepted could have devastated Stacey emotionally and psychologically for the rest of her life. But the rejection

only motivated her, and whether she realized it at the time or not, that rejection set the mental framework that would guide Stacey her entire life.

"I just decided the hell with everybody. Either I'm going to let this get to me or work with what I have and make the best of it and enjoy life. If you like it, you like it; if you hate it, you hate it."

Stacey took that attitude all the wav to New York. She was still in school in Canada and would take short trips to New York City and speak to every agency she could. She finally thought she found her break when one agency owner told her to go home, pack her bags and come back.

"That was my sign like 'oh my gosh I'm

doing this.' I literally came back home, Passion was what propelled Stacey. dropped out of school, packed my suitcase and got back on the bus a few days later."

Imagine her shock when Stacey got back to New York ready to start the career she has craved ever since she first saw Grace Jones posing in a magazine.

"When I got back to the agency, the lady that said she wanted to sign me looked at me and said 'who are you?' She told me that they're not interested after she already told me they wanted

More rejection. But Stacey had already spent a lifetime dealing with this. She wasn't going to get discouraged and she certainly wasn't going to give up. She left her suitcase in a locker at the bus station and went back to see all of the agencies she had met with on her previous visits. Her persistence paid off and Stacey got signed by the very last agency she visited.

Stacey was now officially a model. Paris was her next move and she landed her first big show with John Paul Gaultier.

"I love modelling. I love the runway. A lot of people at that age are driven by the fame and fortune. That wasn't what was driving me."

-R PERSISTENCE PAID OFF

to sign me."

And the further she got in the industry, the more she found girls that shared her experiences; girls that were criticized for their look, girls struggling to find their way not just in modelling but in life. Stacey was drawn to these personalities naturally and started giving them advice on everything she had gone through and steps they could take to help their situation.

"I would invite a few of the models I met over to my studio apartment and I would basically teach them, give them advice. Not charging or anything. Then I started meeting girls with no self-



esteem. One agency would tell them they're too fat, then another agency would tell them they're too skinny, and they're trying to conform to get into the business."

The meetings became more frequent and the number of girls that approached Stacey started to grow. These encounters inspired Stacey to transform her informal talks into a workshop she titled Walk This Way. She took that concept back to Canada and held the workshops in local dance studios.

"I wanted it to keep it underground. I wanted it to be a safe haven for guys and girls."



Stacey touches on many aspects of the industry during these workshops. She let's models know that the industry is big and that there are different areas of the business that they can be a part of. Whatever the topic, the basis of her message is based on one premise.

Stacey followed that message even as

a judge on Canada's Next Top Model.

She hated judging the girls because

she knew what it felt like to stand there

and be picked apart. But she was able to work with the girls on a day to day basis and that's what she loved more than anything.

"Just to see them evolve and grow. It was the best."

Stacey continues to lead Walk This Way workshops, and plans to expand them into the Caribbean. She continues to give despite admitting that she never had anyone within the industry to turn to for guidance herself. She wishes more people in her industry would give back in a real way, beyond just

donating or promoting charities, but instead give their presence and share their experiences.

Just listening to Stacey speak you can feel her passion. She loves modelling and has enjoyed a career most dream of. But her heart gets even bigger when talking about all those lives that she's touched and the potential to do even more. Stacey Mackenzie is a model, TV personality, entertainer, but most importantly, she is a giver who has chosen to offer her life and experiences to uplift those around her. A supermodel indeed!

¥Ρ

BOSS

YOUR RUNWAY NEVER LOOKED SO CLEAR

so STEP out in the latest affordable trends, sported beautifully by super model Stacey McKenzie.

> **Styled by:** Awena Abala & Jayshawn Jones

BCBG generation floral harem pant, H&M blazer, Rita Tessonlin necklace, Manolo Blahnik pump,

> Hair Stylist: Kadesha McClure, Make up artist: Cristyn Wu

Top shop Burgundy slit high waisted skirt \$40, H&M White fish net tank top \$14.95, H&M White leather vest \$29.95, Rita tessolin braclets, H&M hat \$14.95, Manolo Blahnik stappy heel \$450

Hair stylist: Kadesha McLure, Make up artist: Cristyn Wu.





Let Supermodel Stacey McKenzie and her All-Star lineup of industry experts teach you how! Jump at this unique opportunity to get first-hand knowledge on the ins and outs of the Fashion industry by attending one of her exclusive Walk This Way Workshops.

Be sure to visit <u>http://</u> www.staceymckenzie.com for more details on available dates, rates, and locations.

Malaika Lue Maxi dress, Rita Tessonlin earrings

Hair stylist: Kadesha McLure, Make up artist: Nicole Soo & Cristyn Wu





RULE THE RUNWAY WITH CONFIDENCE

<image>

TANIA ARCHER IS QUITE A LEGEND IN ATHLETICS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING. THAT'S NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING THAT SHE BRILLIANTLY COMBINED HER OLYMPIC AND BUSINESS EXPERIENCES TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND TO INSPIRE OTHER PEOPLE. BUT SHE'S NOT JUST A FACELESS SUCCESS: TANIA ARCHER HAS A STORY.

Born and raised in Ancaster, Ontario, Tania's commitment, passion, courage and strong sense of self prepared her to face the world. Her mother and mentor, Rose E. Archer, played a large part in Tania's success since she nurtured Tania into a competitive athlete and eventually the wealth management/financial planning industry. Tania proved to be successful at both trades, becoming an Olympian and successfully navigating \$100 million worth of assets through Archer Investment Group Inc.

Although Tania was constantly exposed to fitness and athletics, entrepreneurship was always her calling. Her aptitude for athletics was recognized by her older sister at an elementary schools' sports day event where Tania won the 80 yard dash on a dare to race against the other senior students.

"I do not consider myself an important public figure. I'm an ordinary small town girl who took a chance on my natural running talent, which opened the door for me to pursue my dreams. We all have it within us to be more than we are, to be extraordinary," says Tania.

Tania graduated high school at the top of her class and received a scholarship from the University of Alabama where

she pursued a degree in industrial marketing and consumer habits. Her athletic attributes continued to be utilized to their full potential as she placed 8th at the SEC Championships in her freshman year, and ran qualifying times for the NCAA Championships in her junior and senior year.

"Believe it or not, I was very quiet and shy. I had great influencers in my life; my parents, my sister, coaches and amazing family friends who always provided me with little jewels of motivation and well placed advice, sometimes tough love. It was having



these positive influences around me that helped me to achieve my goals.

But Tania was always more than just an athlete. She goes above and beyond to inspire everyone around her, as demonstrated by her efforts in pushing her body to the limits and sharing her life lessons with the community and business corporations. One of the corporations that Tania has become involved in is Mizuno, who continue to praise Tania's partnership.

"We are thrilled to have a partnership with Tania as she truly represents our aspirational brand," Barbara

Mitchell, Manager of Advertising and Marketing Services at Mizuno proudly states. "Mizuno's heritage is based on giving back to society and Tania is the embodiment of this as she shares her personal sports experiences through her speaking engagements and charity work. We believe in Tania's passion to empower those she reaches out to,"

IMAN Cosmetics is another company that believes in Tania's brand and her capacity to affect change.

"Tania's passion for fitness, health

and well-being is matched by her impressive accomplishments on and off the track; she is frequently referred to as a Lifestyle Athlete. Tania is an ideal fresh face of beauty for the IMAN Cosmetics brand and its skincare products."

Tania Archer's whole life is proof of her determination and effort. Those qualities propelled her to the Olympic trials and to becoming a renowned business woman and spoke-person for causes that she is passionate about. She is a BOSS in every sense of the word.

INSPIRED B

Pull off RiRi's ever evolving looks, like it ain't nobodies business.

Styled by: Awena Abala & Jayshawn Jones Black faux leather pleated shorts, printed logo sweater Urban Outfitters \$59.99, accessories Aldo

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PRING/SUMMER 2013 BOSS MAGAZINE

Red crop top, white/black striped trouser Urban Outfitters \$69.95, accessories Aldo Black faux python/ snake skin Sakhuja dress, black T-strap heel, accessories Aldo

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Crate



THE WEIGHT IS OVER REVOLUTION IS A PLUS-SIZE FASHION SHOW AIMED AT **EMPOWERING "WOMEN WHO ARE NOT A SIZE 5"** AND ALSO TO EDUCATE EVERYONE ELSE ON THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF PLUS SIZE WOMEN AND ENHANCE THE FASHION INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE

The Weight is Over fashion show was held at the Mambo Nuevo Restaurant in the Byward Market with the beautiful hostest Claira Calderone. We had backstage access and I got to chat it up with models, designers and the organizers of this fabulous event, Shantia Upshaw and Lakita Wiggins.

The Weight Is Over Revolution movement was started last year in Halifax by Shantia and Lakita; two successful women in their own right. Shantia owns a beauty salon, is a make-up artist, event planner, entrepreneur, activist and advocate for plus size women. Lakita is a full-time hair stylist, community advocate and fashion director.

Seeing the lack of fashion style in their home city of Halifax. the two women paired together to bring up this movement

that would not only showcase plus size fashion, but bring awareness to the beauty of plus size women in Canada. As a result of a brainstorming session one day at their salon, these women decided to put their dreams into action. Lakita explains that "from that one little idea, it turned into this big fashion show that we're trying to take all across Canada. An idea turned into reality."

After tackling the Halifax and Ottawa market, these ladies are hoping to expand their fashion show to Toronto and Alberta.

Lakita goes on to explain, "the Weight Is Over Revolution is to create awareness for plus size women that you can be sexy, you can be confident, and you can build your self-



esteem just based on the proper clothing choices. You can Some of the fashion trends for Spring/Summer that plus look sexy without looking trashy. You don't have to always size women can wear include vintage, peplum, leggings, go into the smaller stores and try to fit into their extra and vibrant colours. larges...There's places you can go that you just have to Julia and I had such a great time at Mambo with these ladies, find. And we come in to connect our models with retailers and might I add these are some of the fiercest models I've to this plus size industry as a whole. So we're kinda the people who bridge the gap."

One of the questions I asked Lakita was regarding the misconceptions of plus size models in the fashion industry and she mentioned the following:

"I just think we live in a world where everything is a size 0 to a size 5 and naturally everybody gravitates to a model were lots of door prizes to give away and a delicious meal [that] is not plus size. And for us, we know that's different. courtesv of Mambo. We know plus size women can be confident and have skills just as much as the smaller size models to walk down the Check out these hot ladies striking fierce poses on the runway with just as much confidence if not more. It makes runaway. See you next year! 💋 a lot of sense for us to be doing something like this."



"THE WEIGHT IS OVER REVOLUTION IS TO CREATE AWARENESS FOR PLUS SIZE WOMEN THAT YOU CAN BE SEXY, YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT AND YOU CAN BUILD YOUR SELF-ESTEEM JUST BASED ON THE PROPER CLOTHING CHOICES "

ever seen. Entertainment included China Fox and there

DESIGNER PROFILE

N.I.S.E. is a multifacteted youth-led social enterprise driven by a community of young people who operate as a strong, family-minded network reaching across the GTA. N.I.S.E uses street fashion and design as a creative vehicle to cultivate and stimulate the minds of youth in neighbourhoods across the GTA. Through N.I.S.E., youth are able to gain leadership opportunities, knowledge, job transferble experience and skills, and a sense of identity. N.I.S.E also gives youth opportunities to engage in arts-based events and activities.

What does fashion mean to you?

The key to clothing, and all design is an interest in fabric. There is always an element of movement in clothing, therefore, Style Rises Above Fashion; it takes ideas and suggestions from surrounding environments and emulates them without swallowing them whole.

When did you realize you wanted to become a fashion designer?

At the time of NISE's conception, it was a positive way for us to channel and focus our energies, other than typically just playing sports.

We were a group of friends that had good sense of fashion and good sense of style and creativity, and knew we wanted to make clothing in order to keep our own individuality and at the same time gain a reaction from our consumers by using a simple word that could have many meanings. This method personified all our characteristics enabling us to come up with N.I.S.E. At the time of deciding the name and purpose of our business (N.I.S.E), we were all in grade 11 Brandon H. (DEC 2); Micheal W. (OCT 21) and were 16 years old; both of us born 1985. However, since we didn't actually register the business until a year later, we were all in grade 12 therefore 17 at the time of registration.

How do you define your label?

N.I.S.E uses urban fashion and design as a creative vehicle to cultivate and stimulate the creative minds of vouth in Toronto and neighborhoods across the GTA.

What sets you label apart from other Men's fashion labels?

N.I.S.E is predominately found in the GTA so we incorporate all entities of the mega-city into our clothing. Since we have an emphasis on guality, our brand distinguishes style from fashion, thus we focus on this aspect to drive our brand into establishment.



Style is also limited to creativity and difference (from the norm) simple factors such as addition of a hood on a varsity have been revolutionary as not many brands have that implemented into their varsities' (probably because they are no longer around 'hoods' to be inspired to incorporate one into a varsity jacket).

Our label is genuine, creative, innovative, and home-made (all Canadian). We pride our heritage, and have a respect for fashion and art. Other labels are here just to make a quick buck. We're here to be recognized as a staple in Canadian Fashion and Youth Led Enterprise.

Who or what was your inspiration?

Initially, the whole ROC-A-FELLA movement, predominately DAME DASH, CAM'RON and the Dipset movement. Russell Simmons definitely for his ability to usher change and represent black leadership, Michael Jordan's persistence and constancy to be the best, and his shoes for actual design coordination or much of our product. And last but not least P.Diddy, for his charisma and business sense.

Describe the general process you go through to create a piece?

We decide on the type of garment and then we use our "secret" 7 step rubric to determine if the product is functional, appropriate, comfortable, affordable, durable, and do we have the production ability to make this product in mass or is it going to be limited edition. Once we've decided those factors, we choose colours for

coordination, and we draw samples can't buy you that. Self motivation using adobe illustrator. This allows us is the key, gotta be able to wake to play with colours and logo positing up and KNOW what you have to do before sending out for production. without someone pushing you to do We've recently purchased our own it. Otherwise keep it fun and always be machine, so printing is now in house.

display for sale.

What is your favourite creation?

Definitely our varsity jacket as we've made over 100 variations to date and we've revamped and reinvented it in so many ways and have yet to run out of creative ideas for new products using the original piece.

Where do you want to see your At our Shared Retail OUTLET "Ascend" company go?

All we want now is to gain FULL establishment in CANADA before pursuing international notoriety, and and grow in order to fulfill our goal of com becoming a fashion powerhouse in the industry of Canada.

What advice would you give someone who is interested in pursuing your field?

Stay as creative as possible, and start as soon as possible. Don't wait for a break or link or money. You can start your business with passion and drive, because all the money in the world

Once all the mediums have been placed on the garments they are ready for purchase, we ship them to our store and get them input into the inventory at the store using POP systems and barcodes. Then we print the barcodes and barb-gun the tags onto the clothing and hangout up on open to new opportunities.

What does BOSS mean to you?

BOSS means a lot to me. It means to be a leader, and being a leader means learning to make potential leaders into actual ones and continuing that cycle. BOSS magazine highlights this very thing by giving young leaders of tomorrow a platform to showcase their arts, skills, talents, and business or endeavours. This is directly related to our mandate and goals as an organization which makes us happy to be able to contribute to it in any way, shape or form.

Where can the average consumer purchase your items?

located at "2350 finch Ave West Unit B" (North West corner of Weston Rd. And Finch Ave W)

We will also be officially launching our build a foundation whereby we can lay website this winter: www.niseworld.

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WITHOUT A CAUSE. Styled by: Awena Abala & Jayshawn Jones

T-IS A REBEL? A MAN WHO SAYS NO! GENTLEMAN, SAY NO TO THE EXPECTED NORMS OF FASHION AND TAKE CUE'S FROM OUR REBELS

On previous two pages:(from left to right): Printed dress shirt, Grey Vest, Grey Bow Tie, Black jacket with leather arm details, stylist own; White dress shirt, H&M \$17.95, lapel collar chain, \$30 Top Shop.

On this page: White textured sweater, 59.95 Zara. Black shorts,stylist own. Shoes: white low cut Luigi Sardo classics Red khaki pants, 39,95\$ H&M, white cotton button t-shirt, 17.95\$ H&M, Jean Jacket Stylist own, Shoes: low cut Luigi Sardo classic in dessert sand.



Black jeans 29.95\$ H&M, black shirt with leather sleeves, stylist own, Shoes: Luigi Sardo black high cuts. White jeans 29.95\$ H&M with Nise t-shirt, shoe:??; black jacket with leather details, blue jeans, models own and Luigi Sardo black high cuts; black jeans 29.95\$ H&M, Nise Varsity Jacket, White down 17.95\$ H&M, Shoes: White low cut Luigi Sardo

12 String tiki top \$70, highwaisted mesh panel Aolani bottom \$75 Photographed by Chris Swainston

LOVE THE SKIN YOU'RE IN FEATURING SWIMWEAR BY REESE

This amazing collection by Reese profiles bikinis made for the sexy, confident and bossy woman. Whether it's a high waisted bikini bottom, or a full body bathing suit, you can still feel beautiful revealing the skin you're comfortable in this summer!





Centre-mesh 1 piece MeaAa \$105, also in white on next page Photographed by Chris Swainston



Limited edition printed highwaisted two-piece, \$165 Photographed by Lance Gross

100





"LOVE OF BEAUTY IS TASTE. THE CREATION OF BEAUTY IS ART."





Now this is a statement that requires no words. Temporary lip tattoos, lets your lips do all the talking. Available at sephora.ca

Iman sheer finish bronzer This product is perfect for women of **in after glow** colour looking for a sheer warm glow. You can apply this bronzer together, or separately and can also be worn as a bronzer, blush, or shadow. Its guaranteed to give your skin a bronzed radiance from day to night!

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Bad Gal mascara. Bad Gal mascara is like luminious false lashes without the alue! Be as bad as you want to be with this sexy, rich mascara thats guaranteed to catch his eye.

Nail polish:

You can't go wrong with any of Essie's summer shades... From the sounds of it, it's gearing up to be a good time.



A CLEAN FACE

We go over the pros n cons to the simple question, which is better: manual or electric? and hopefully after reviewing you'll be able to make the best decision for yourself. We also leave you with some tips to ensuring that your face stays baby smooth against the dreaded razor bumps.

RAZORS VS ELECTRIC SHAVERS

Manual razors:

- the cheapest most effective option available •
- provides the closest shave for a longer period of time
- increases your chances of getting nicks, cuts and ingrown hairs, since you may • have to go over the same areas server all times to get the closest shave
- a longer process because it requires application.. Ie, shaving cream and ٠ aftershave

Electric Shavers:

- more pricey
- could reduce nicks, cuts and ingrown hairs
- electric shavers need more attention when it comes to cleaning and maintenance •
- not as close of a shave compared to manual razors

RAZOR BUMPS. WHAT CAUSES THEM?

They develop after shaving when strands of hair curl back into themselves and grows into the skin. Also known as ingrown hairs

How to treat?

There are a number of ways to treat it, here's a list of a few:

- scrub your face twice a day with a facial cleanser
- apply an anti razor bump cream twice a day (cream could be found in your local drug store)
- avoid using products with chemicals like alcohol or treatments that contain alcohol on shaved areas
- choose the right product: products that contain Salicylic or Glycolic Acid are the most effective in treating razor bumps. These ingredients clear the pores, moisturize and prevent infections. But consult your doctor or a pharmacist to make sure it's ok to use those types of products on your skin.
- don't scratch the razor bumps, they will get infected
- shave with the grain not against the grain



Prada Candy

This perfumes scent is true to it's name. It is as sweet as candy! The aroma is flirty with an alluring fragrance that causes heads to turn. If you love candy, Prada Candy is the perfume for you.



46

Maybelline eye studio lasting drama Gel Eyeliner:

Looking to be bold? or how about dramatic? Or better yet bring out the feline in you! What ever look you're going for, this intense gel eyeliner is a must have for this Spring/Summer.



Iman BB Crème with SPF15

BB Crème for Woman of Colour! Iman

Cosmetics introduces the "Beauty

Balm". Skin Tone Evener Complex,

multi vitamins all in one. This is a

SPF. essential botanical extracts and

must have product for ALL SEASONS!

Lise Watier eye

Looking for a eye liner

that adds glamour and sparkle to your

look? Lise Watier

eye glitter goes on

easily, doesn't clump

or smudge and adds a

eyes capturing effect

to your face. You can

layer it up for a more

apply one layer for

a hint of glitter, or

dramatic effect!

glitter liner

THE MANUAL TO KEEPING BEAUTIFUL:





since electric shavers roll up the skin, forcing the hair up before cutting it, this is a faster than manual razors



SPRING BEAUTY IS INSPIRED BY THE SPLENDOR OF TRIBAL OPULENCE.

BOSS MAGAZINE BEAUTY

Accessories supplied by: Just Supreme Boutique

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT





BY: KERN CARTER

SINGER EMMA-LEE IS ON THE BRINK OF STARDOM

It's one of those frigid nights when fingers should be covered and ears turn red from the touch of a cold breeze. Despite the conditions, I decided to janore the extreme cold weather forecasts and still make the trip down to The Rivoli all for one performance.

I got inside just as Emma-Lee's band was setting up on stage and was surprised to see that I wasn't the only one who neglected the cold

weather. A plump crowd started edging closer to the action and a hush settled over the audience as Emma hit her first note.

Who thought that on a frozen winter night it would be Emma-Lee's voice that made your bones shiver? But that is precisely what happened with every belt, every melody, every hum: It filled the room with a soul and energy reserved for icons of half a century past, resurrected by a timeless sound that seized the spirits of every single spectator.

"I've been singing my whole year for Emma. She recently finished up a Canadian tour life. When I was really with Juno winning, multi platinum guitar player Jesse young, I credit powerhouses Cooke. They performed for thousands of fans every night in like Mariah Carey and every major city across Canada. Whitney Houston for teaching me how to sing. "He was really generous in letting me perform some of my When I became a teenager, own songs as an opening set." I found all these girls that wrote songs about super And this April Emma will be hitting the road again with sad things because that's another Canadian talent, Peter Katz. They will be touring appealing when you're 14. most of Canada including a stop back at The Rivoli in Toronto I got into Feona Apple, on April 10^{th.} Emma has also started writing her third album, women who played an and even more exciting, has inked a deal with a European instrument and wrote their company. own songs. That became "I just signed my album Backseat Heroin to a German record more interesting than company so we're hoping to do some touring in Europe." women who just sang."

With so many opportunities coming Emma's way, she still With a style self-described manages to come across as a humble artist who is thankful as a mix of pop, rock, soul for her success. By now she knows the music industry can be and country, Emma herself nasty and exhausting. The deeper Emma-Lee gets into the does more than just sing. game, the more deals she signs, the more fans she attracts, For part of her set, she sits the more sharks will circle her waters. Emma recognizes alone on stage confidently these difficulties and has a way of dealing with the obstacles stringing her guitar without and gauging her success. sacrificing powerful vocals.

She credits her father "It is really hard sometimes. The main thing I always have to do if I feel I'm losing my spark is to just somehow play music. Everyone gets bogged down with like the business side of music and you lose sight of why you're doing it in the first place. But, as soon as you like write a song or pick up an instrument and play something or sing, you're like, oh yeah. My rule is as long as things are getting better instead of worse then I'll keep going."

for teaching her how to play guitar, along with being a bit jealous of her older brother who also played. More than just that, Emma-Lee is an accomplished song writer who finds inspiration from words people say or from her own experiences as a performer.

"I have a song called I Can Live With Dying Tonight and that sounds kinda morbid, but I played a show and I just felt really Emma-Lee hasn't stopped yet, and it doesn't appear satisfied with life and where I was at the time and I was like she'll be stopping anytime soon. A gifted musician with 'if I don't wake up tomorrow then that's alright because the talent and potential to make her voice heard across tonight was amazing'." nations, Emma-Lee is exactly what this title suggests: Amazing is an understatement when describing the past Emma-culate. 🕫

EMMA-LEE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED SONG WRITER WHO FINDS INSPIRATION FROM WORDS PEOPLE SAY OR FROM HER OWN EXPERIENCES AS A PERFORMER.





Young, talented actor, Clé Bennett hasn't changed much since he was a kid. As a child, Bennett played cops and robbers; as an adult, Bennett played SWAT and detective. After 12 years of experience and 2 awards of achievement, Bennett proves he is among the hardest working actors in Canada.

Born and raised in Toronto, Bennett grew up playing make-believe with his brothers. Fittingly, his acting career explores every inch of the Canadian performance scene film, television, theatre, and music. After such a fruitful career, one question remains – what drives this passionate actor?

The answer hangs around Bennett's neck and sits on his chest. Two dog tags rest next to his heart and with good reason. Each tag bears a striking inscription: "fridge box"

marks the first and "focus" marks the second. The words stir childhood memories of him and his brothers.

"Every kid plays make-believe, but I took it seriously. I used to have this cardboard box, a card board fridge box, that we used to turn into a spaceship, or a fire truck, or an army base—anything like that. We just learned to create from that, and what I'm doing now is really just an evolution of those thinas."

Bennett explains that those two words, "fridge box" and "focus", inspired his career: "They remind me that what I do is essentially what children do everyday on the play ground. "

Unlike most kids, however, Bennett committed to his character with a certain determination.

"If I was playing cops and robbers, I was serious. I'd get



pissed off if the other kids were taking it lightly," Bennett It is no wonder, Carlos, from HBO's The Line, remains says with a chuckle. Bennett's favourite role thus far. Although Carlos is an excon and drug dealer, Bennett approaches Carlos like he does Bennett's love for acting extended into his high school all his characters – without judgment. career where he won acting awards. A guidance counselor's

advice provoked Bennett's realization.

"I didn't decide to become an actor. I realized that I was an actor and decided to act on it."

Bennett burst onto the acting scene without any formal training he visited libraries and borrowed books. His first role: a lead. In Brett Sullivan's short film Shudder, Bennett got a taste of acting as a career. Bennett proved that a fridge box education could be the best education.



Between 2008 and 2009, Bennett acquires two awar winning roles in two television series, Guns and The Line. H brilliant performances yield him two Gemini awards in 201 Similarly, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television a Radio Artists (ACTRA) nominated Bennett for his portray of Raf Rousseau in CBC's Flashpoint. Bennett's critically acclaimed projects extend into film with the 2010 TIFF success Barney's Version.

Although immersed largely in TV drama – he appears in someone is going to have to pay them for it." Lost Girl, Republic of Doyle, Shattered, Break-Out Kings, and most recently. Cracked – Bennett does not limit himself A follower of his own advice, Bennett is indeed the proof to serious dramas. He lends his voice to commercial voicethat anything is possible with hard work. Bennett constantly overs for Coca Cola and Ford among others. In addition, immerses himself in his craft. Bennett plays a hotheaded chef in Total Drama Island and a musical trumpet in Razzberry Jazzberry Jam, just to name "If I'm not on stage, I'm on a set. If I'm not on a set, I'm in the a couple. His vocal and musical talent led him to write and studio. If I'm not in the studio, I'm at the gym or on a run or sing "A Song About Love (You'll Know)", a jazz song for Raf reading a script. Everything I do relates to my career. I like it on Flashpoint. like that – it keeps me sharp."

Throughout his illustrious career, Bennett favours "complex In fact, Bennett is currently performing in the Canadian multidimensional characters with big problems" above all. In award-winning play Kim's Convenience. fact, Bennett admits that his recent role as Billy Russell, a manic-Whether Bennett is playing on stage, in a studio or on a set, depressive rock star in CBC's Cracked was a rewarding challenge.

one thing remains certain: Bennett is the same actor who "The bigger the problems, the more I like to play them." transformed a fridge box into a spaceship. 🜌



"I don't see my characters as good or bad," he explains. Rather, he often pretends to engage them in a therapy session.

I DIDN'T DECIDE TO BECOME AN ACTOR. REALIZED THAT I WAS AN ACTOR AND DECIDED TO ACT ON IT."

rd-	Upon	receiving	his	Gemini	awards,	Bennett	left	an
His	impression by saying, "just understand, anything is possible.							
10.	I'm the proof." In his speech, Bennett speaks particularly t							
nd		piration; kie				ols and stu	Idents	s to
val	share l	nis experier	nce a	nd passic	n.			

"I discovered that inspiration is one of the most valuable ways to give. I often encourage them to focus on something they love no matter how silly or simple it may seem and to diligently work at becoming so good at it that one day



"I admire local artists but I didn't feel like any of them were standing in the waters I imagined myself in," muses visual artist Dion Fitzgerald, discussing contemporaries around Toronto. Visual art is a term loosely used to describe artistic creations that are viewed, such as a sculpture, photographs, or paintings. The mediums used in visual art can be as varied as the artists themselves.

Dion is a conceptual expression is that based out of Toronto, yet his roots extend far deeper than one city and culture. Dion

grew up between Canada, Antigua, and Barbados; different countries rich with tradition and custom. One thing that unites these countries is the appreciation of artistic outlet; whether it is genres of music formed by the history of the country, or styles of painting born through persecution. Dion acknowledges and displays his heredity through his work, showcasing the diaspora that is the Toronto arts community,

Visual art has always piqued Dion's imagination from a young age, either

from gazing at album covers or even the graphics on the underside of a skateboard. Listening to and creating music became the earliest artistic channel for Dion, as he discovered and took to seminal black artists such as Marley, Robert Johnson, and Peter Tosh. Later on in his career and unbeknownst to Dion, these artists' impact on the world would help inspire several of Dion's visual works, and illustrate how fluidly ideas can transfer from one discourse to another.

A depiction of legendary delta blues



artist Son House was actually the first painting Dion completed, part of a collection titled We Are Rock & Roll. The collection is intended to portray the black influence of rock and roll, and educate young listeners.

I had a chance to speak with Dion about his work, and discussing We Are Rock & Roll he answers "The Stones, Zeppelin, all of them studied the hell out of cats like Son House, Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, and basically got rich off of the foundation these men laid."

Many of these legendary artists simply were not recognized for the massive influence they had upon popular music today, and Dion wanted to bring this to light. We Are Rock & Roll is the first of many collections for Dion, with each one depicting different aspects of black culture. "I began to realize that art is a forum for education and discussion," says Dion, and this seems

to be the underlying message for all of his work.

Dion paints under a kind of nickname. which he titles DVYNEART, short for "Divine Art". "DVYNEART is just an extension of me as an overall artist and creator. It represents the brand of what I do and the imagery, style and creations of Dion Fitzgerald."

As a child, Dion's mother taught him to express the things he could not understand through writing. This fascination of how words sound and fit together sticks with Dion through his life and work. In the music world, artists typically differentiate from one another with catchy and memorable names. Dion borrowed this way of thinking and created DVYNEART as a moniker that looked different and felt wholly artistic at the same time.

Dion's newest (and currently ongoing)

collection, Lineage, is one that amalgamates Dion's modern feelings towards family, culture, and race. 2013 will be the first year that Lineage will be shown publicly.

The collection draws its inspiration from a time when Dion was commissioned by an Antiguan relative to illustrate a family tree. To many, this would boil down to the overwhelming task of painting hundreds of portraits - but after viewing the idea in new light, Dion wanted to re-imagine what family meant to him. "I just started creating lines and symbols that for me represented everything from our historical journey to the islands, to slavery, brainwashing, death, birth, love. etc."

This concept of abstraction, drawn heavily from artistic influences like de Kooning and Kline, had suddenly entrenched itself in Dion's brain. What



DION USES INTENSE BLACKS AND EMPTY WHITES IN HIS WORK TO LEAVE THE VIEWER FEELING LIKE SOMETHING IS MISSING, IMPLORING THEM TO FILL IT IN THEMSELVES.

that meant is when Dion was going to depict someone on canvas, they did not always have to look perfect and studious, because they rarely were.

- a term used to describe strong, bold contrasts between light and dark - within Dion's work. This style breeds boldness within paintings, but is difficult to master due to limited colour intensities. However, Dion sees this minimalism as an advantage sometimes. "I am an artist that believes in the strength of simplicity. I love the idea of depth and making the viewer use their imagination to complete the paintings."

Imagination is one thing many artists - not just painters - feel is necessary to create a great piece of work. With

writing, the best work tends to come from those who do not tell the whole story, and leave out background in order to galvanize readers. Jazz music is all about the offbeat, the notes you do not hear. In this way, Dion uses intense blacks and empty whites in his work to leave the viewer feeling like something is missing, imploring them to fill it in themselves.

Pursuing art as a career became a reality for Dion in 2004, when after pursuing other interests for over 20 years, he suddenly had a dream where



he envisioned himself tapping back into his abilities. Dion purchased a sketch book, and never looked back. "By 2006. I was beginning to fill my band's rehearsal space with paintings. The fellas were like, 'Enough already, you should be selling these and making a little money.'" However, selling art is not as easy as posting it on Etsy and waiting for credit card orders to roll in you need to devise a plan, market your name, and hone your style.

Similar to his earlier musical aspirations, Dion mentions that he has always maintained a do-it-yourself attitude when it comes to his artwork. Even more similar to the music business, getting a foothold in the art world can be entirely based on persistence. knowing the right people, and developing and maintaining important working relationships. So, through a fellow artist named David Vasquez. and after being rejected by several galleries in Toronto, Dion was able to show his work at a space in Yorkville.

"Through this opportunity, I sold my first painting and secured a spot in my first group show at the Royal Ontario Museum of all places. The opening night, I knew I was an artist and I haven't stopped since then." More

opportunities for Dion to showcase his work popped up quickly after this, in Oakville, Mississauga, and of course, Toronto.

2013 holds many prospects. February holds special meaning to Dion, though, as it is Black History Month. and he plans unique events to fuse his art with his culture publically.

This February, Dion is helping organize a pop-up shop at the Bata Shoe Museum with Toronto Loves Kicks (TLK). In addition, at the TLK event, and culture in a modern globalized Dion will be staging one of his "live paintings", an event where he will sit and create a piece of artwork in front an audience. This event is something Dion has done at the Nuit Blanche event for the previous four years, and will likely do again for this year's happening. Live painting seems like it would be a challenging task, as most people visualize painting as something you do alone, with no onlookers. Dion overcomes the intimidation by again fusing painting with the other art medium he is so enraptured with, and loses himself in the rhythm.

"Music was my saving grace. I now look at [it] as more performance art than a live painting."

Also slated to occur for Dion in 2013 is a solo exhibit in Montreal, along with plans to attain gallery representation Dion shows no sign of slowing soon, as outside of Canada. In addition, Dion plans to release clothing and accessories under the DVYNEART name, including watches and iewelry.

> Conceptual expression can be hard to comprehend, especially to an untrained observer, but Dion Fitzgerald's work defies the conventional. His pieces evoke deep thought and about race society, in a way that other artists cannot convey.

"What I want to get across in any statement about my work is that it will always represent me and my vision of the world," says Dion. "I represent first a human, then a human male, then a human male of African ancestry. I aim to create new concepts and honest stories of Black male reality."

You can learn more about Dion Fitzgerald and his statement at www. DVYNFART.com

If you'd like to view and purchase Dion Fitzgerald's work, visit his web store at www.DVYNEART.bigcartel.com.



SINGER KRYSTLE DOS SANTOS BY: FMILIA DI LUCA

Alone with her Cajun shrimp, Canadian singer Krystle Dos Santos, sat in Kingston Mines, a Chicago bar, when a gentleman named Aaron approached her. Looking into Krystle's eyes, he said, "I can see that you're empty."

"Pardon me?" asked Krystle.

"You're empty because you're open. You have the power to choose whether you fill yourself up with the good stuff or the bad stuff," Aaron explained. Little did Aaron know, this musical talent was already full of "good stuff."

With a Bachelor of Science degree and an education from the Canadian School of Performing Arts, Dos Santos already recorded two albums and won the Urban Recording of the Year Award at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Her eclectic soul-jazz sound landed her at the top of music charts and on an episode of ABC's Samantha Who? Unlike talents she's compared to, like Etta James and Alicia Keys, Krystle Dos Santos began her career modestly. Until the age of 17, Dos Santos acted and danced more than she sang. Eventually, she tried singing. Krystle liked what she heard, and so did others. After graduating from college and travelling to England, the young singer returned home

determined to establish her solo career. The hustle began.

"I was working at a casino on a reserve that my mom worked at. They were going to start up a jazz night, and I was like 'I'm a jazz singer—pick me!' Fake it 'til you make it, you know?"

The jazz night fell through, but Krystle did not. She won a \$20,000 grant from radio station Magic 99 and recorded her album. After ten hours a day for ten days straight, her first album, a collection of covers and originals, was born. "It was the most fairytale project I could have ever asked for," states Krystle. "I was so young to the industry. Before I ever played a jazz show, I recorded a whole album, which is completely backwards. I didn't really know what to do. 'Young' doesn't necessarily mean age. It can mean experience."

Dos Santos, however, did not let her nativity stump her creativity. "After the first record, I wanted to get way grittier and way more creative," she says. Krystle did exactly that considering her second record, a concept album titled Fame Fatale. Her songs tell the story of a heroine in a post apocalyptic world of cyborgs.

Krystle's heroine: Unit 9. The mission: destroy Master

Control. "The man who made [Unit 9] was in love with her At Kingston Mines, Chicago—the same place she met so he makes [Unit 9] better than all the rest, and he is able Aaron—Krystle had one of those apropos moments. "I got to turn her on and off. And when everything gets real heavy [to the city]. I went to my hostel. The next day, I go to have within her story, he turns her off. Then she is able to see the my first day out in Chicago. I slipped three feet outside my door—I didn't even cross the street. I busted my ankle, just world for what it really is. She becomes a martyr and decides to bring down the world of Master Control so that everyone ruined it. I'm in bed thinking Chicago is a bust." can be equal again." While the rich imagery and intense plot It was anything but a "bust" because once she got back prove fun—Krystle even has a comic book in the works—the on her feet, Krystle spent her night at Kingston Mines. album also oozes with symbolism.

Dos Santos elaborates: "It was the music industry at the time. Master Control represents big record labels, and Unit 9 is that independent girl who wants to bust through."Like Unit stated. "Do vou want to sing?" 9, Krystle is that girl looking to "bust through," especially Although she didn't sign-up for the open mic, Krystle with her second album, which proved to be a harder, longer accepted the process than the first.

"I wasn't signed to a label, and I didn't have a [distributor] so it was very personal push. You use little avenues. You create your own website. You start a blog. You get it on CD Baby. You get an interview in the journal, or you go on Breakfast Television. You just kind of hustle." Krystle hustled past the industry's barriers. But there remained yet another obstacle: "pure boredom, just pure lack of inspiration."

"I felt like I was on a cycle, like on a hamster wheel. I was fed up. I felt like in a stale place," explains the singer. Like a true artist, Dos Santos decided to fill her soul with inspiration. She



Meanwhile, Krystle prepares for her theatrical performance planned a walkabout. "I was standing at work one day. I in Dreamgirls. While Krystle is already keen on another came up with this idea. Somehow, it just self-consciously walkabout—she's thinking Britain—her memories are still manifested in me and surfaced itself saying, 'you're going fresh from the United States. on a walkabout, and you're going to get inspired.' I just came After six weeks of travelling, Krystle returned home to out of nowhere."

"Walkabout" refers an Aboriginal Australian tradition; contents, a giant chess piece tumbled out and caught her adolescent boys live temporarily in the wilderness to trace eye. It reminded her of Chicago. That same night in Kingston their ancestors. Inspired by this ritual, Krystle's walkabout Mines, Aaron handed Krystle a gift, a giant chess piece—the became her inspirational journey to absorb music of the Queen. "It was symbolic of making the right move and living past and present. Alone, Krystle travelled to different up to that position," reflects Krystle. United States. cities: New York, Memphis and Chicago, among others. She admits the journey was scary. "It seems Her suitcase may now be empty, but Krystle's soul is filled so cool from an outsider's perspective, but I was scared. I to the brim with inspiration. Aaron may have given her the was terrified. [But,] you meet people along the way that advice, but Krystle will continue to make the right moves. She'll fill her soul with "aood stuff." influence or motivate you. It's really apropos."

An inspirational conversation from Aaron wasn't the only memory of that night. The man running the open mic at the bar asked Krystle to sing. "I can tell you're a singer," he

> invitation with amazement. The man says the song she will sing— Aretha Franklin's At Last.After four more songs and an encore of Aretha's show-stopping song, Krystle closed off the open mic session. She returned to Kingston Mines four nights in a row as a special guest. Along with many other inspirational moments like this, Dos Santos headed home to on her third work album, WalkAbout. Currently, the newly inspired singer has her new album in the works. Each song will embody the experiences she had in each city.

break from her walkabout. While dumping her luggage's



What do you get when the worlds of transnationalism, fashion, cultural criticism, fetishism, textile patterns and artistry collide? Undeniably, you are bound to wind up with a kaleidoscope effect, no? Meet 28-year-old Toronto-based artist, Rajni Perera. Hailing straight out of Colombo, Sri Lanka and having traversed in places like Australia, Upstate New York and right here in our neck-of-the-woods, Toronto, Ontario—Rajni was raised in both the Jane-Finch and Malvern communities—this bourgeoning artist's eyes have captured many things, which in turn has shaped much of her creative life.

Having been raised by unorthodox Sri Lankan parents who supported their daughter's passion for art, as well as her visions of becoming an artist by challenging the stereotype that claims the idea that South-East Asian parents often pressure their children into focusing their education around STEM programs (i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering, ART IMITATES EVERYTHING

BY: NICOLE SECK

Mathematics). As true or untrue as that stereotype may be, Rajni's parents refused to stifle their child's love for art, which Rajni considers to be a "big deal" to this day since it very much informs who she is as an artist. Recounting the details of the little things that her parents would do that have manifestly gone a long way, such as making available a smorgasbord of art supplies including paints, markers, crayons and pencils—which were often a part of her daily repertoire as a child.

Now, as an adult, Rajni recollects her experiences as a racialized woman who witnessed her parents face difficulties in moving up the socio-economic scale because of oppression, which often saw low-end jobs being served to whose skin is on the darker side. A woman who is inspired by Western media's infatuation with the fetishization of racialized women's bodies has come to cope with such life issues by producing art that is "light." In Rajni's words, "I don't want my art to be dark." For that reason, you will find that her art manages to transform a

serious matter into one that is frivolous.

Rajni's art tells the tale of what it means to constantly straddle the worlds of dark and light, the sacred and the profane, along with the demure and the frivolous. What's life if we are not to live it while laughing at its many woes, trials and tribulations? And within that space of frivolity, the self-proclaimed "textile nerd" makes room in her schedule to scour the internet for variations in textile patterns that can be found across the globe: whether its the mango-inspired Paisley prints that derive from India or the Kente-inspired textile patterns that can be found in Ghana, Rajni is inspired by them all.

In Rajni's remarkable works you will find remnants of where her eyes have travelled. Taking into consideration Rajni's often multi-coloured, multi-racial and multi-patterned imageries, she adds that she always knew she was an artist



and that having been formally educated by way of O.C.A.D's Bachelor of Fine Arts program didn't actually teach her the ropes of becoming a full-fledged artist; rather, it taught her the art of networking, working away from clichés and bringing together what it means to be both a human being and an artist while figuring out who she was going to be creatively.

However, Rajni regrets that the one thing that was not taught during her formal art education was the business aspect of being an artist. I suppose as the old adage goes, "you can't have your cake and eat it too." After having connected with Rajni over the following questions, it appears that one can indeed make light of almost any situation.

Read Rajni's in-depth responses below:

1) Given your experience of having partly been raised in Sri Lanka, what does the adage "art imitates life" mean uniquely to you?

In my own work, which is the only work I can speak for, it is true to a degree. The rest is informed by a lot of TV watching / movies, print media, advertisements. I think the mission of the ethno-pop visual artist today is to take a jumble of your own experience, hear-say about others' experiences (which may or may not be mediated by way of screen or print or advertisement – which we are immersed in and cannot get away from unless you live in the woods) and make work which talks about

something specific to you or to the audience you are trying to reach.

2) Is art an outlet through which you are able to emote? If so, in what ways?

Well for me it is a job, not something I do to 'relieve tension' or anything like that. This is my career and I take it seriously. Any emotions I experience don't really come into it. Everything is planned. Everything is scheduled in time and budget.

3) What meaning do you take from film, comics, geometry,



It differs from series to series. In The New Ethnography, I looked critically at the depiction of ethnic women in western media. So a lot of 'exotic' fashion shoots with tall, lanky African women wearing white. Indian-style bangles by haute-couture designers sold at crazy prices in Paris. Ethnically specific pornography. All of these things meant something very specific to me through the eyes of the Western Anglo-Saxon consumer. An ongoing consumption of the 'Orient'. In terms of comics and animation. this is stuff I grew up with so the way these things can look, especially when painstakingly rendered, I think it has influenced the look of my work quite a bit. Geometry is just beautiful. It makes images resolved and sharp. That is something I dig in terms of design, making a beautiful composition.

4) What advice would you give to lovers of art who wish to pursue formal education in the arts but, are dissuaded by those who insist that art is not a "real" profession?

I would tell them not to be lazy about it. And shyness is foolish don't waste your time being shy. Art school is a place where you go to learn to stand up for your own vision. No-one can teach you how to paint like you. You can, however learn what you don't want to make. And you meet great people

who can help you along the way. I certainly have.

5) Do you believe that one is in a sense, born an artist? Do you believe art to be somewhat of a natural ability or must it be cultivated, or both?

Nope. Don't believe in natural artistic ability. At all. You either stick to it or become distracted and start to talk about silly things like 'talent', which is bullshit. It must be cultivated from the start. There are lots of brilliant artists as well, by the way, who can't draw a stick figure. So 'natural ability' doesn't mean anything because art takes so many different forms. 🗭

Remember

Intellectual infancy, in all of its delinguency Is terminal.

And while it may be hard to see How being humoured, pampered and protected Can bring about these consequences most dejected, Please do not turn and flee when you are here directed To take with measure and perspective All types of common sense truth.

From time when you are but a babe the world will speak Of truths absolute and truths unique To you, dear child.

There is a world that works on truths unbending Before your very eyes, you see in awe Following laws and rules that, but for a madman's pretending, Those who abhorred the concept of a universal law Extend ad infinitum into the cosmos. Succumb to the pressure of the world outside And in that sterile cage of physical inevitabilities And with both arms embrace what they'd denied. We exist, human beings, who thirst for stability And in our interactions lies now a truth of different sort They are again as babes, Reprogrammed by the world to see in limitations A truth vulnerable to well-reasoned retort A truth unique to you, dear child. And not possibilities. For selfish ends they abandon Oh the blessing! Oh the freedom! Global responsibilities.

You were born into a wondrous place That both permits you to, without disgrace, Question truth, and live securely knowing That a different paradigm of the human race Will not collapse reality and vanish us without a trace.

So you rejoice!

You think. You give your ideas voice! You blink. And it all changes.

I have a dream, you say, I have a vision A stunning portrait of worldwide revision

Where, as result of my profound decision We'll see the end of all unjust division.

A world where hunger died and fairness lives. A world where we are not too selfish to forgive. A world where happiness confronted greed And plucked it herefrom like a rotten weed. A world of peace. My world.

You spout your ideas without reservation Then when you're done, you stop, And wait with baited breath. What will they say?

Laughter comes. Nothing but laughter.

Your dream is an illusion! You're an idealist with an empty head Whose lack of common sense will end them dead Since petty fantasies do not bring home the bread Abandon your conviction For it is nothing more than fiction





(A PIECE ABOUT THINGS I BY: LEO RAYNER NEVER WANT TO FORGET)

Grow up, you have been misled

In disbelief you think: What did I witness?

Are these people not the same Who told me to proclaim Without an ounce of shame Opinions rising up in my brain in any frame Without concern for passions they inflame?

Did they not tell me To think free?

"It's just too big, it's just too strange What is the point, fighting for change? If nothing really matters?"

"If I do not question, I am well protected! For the eyes of those in power are otherwise directed To those from whom resistance is expected And away from me."

"I am comfortable. I have a sign around my neck. Do not disturb. And so should you."

What's left to see is if you'll listen.

Will you pack up your dreams And stuff them in a box beneath your bed And years go by, and every day You feel the box ripping at the seams. Your box of dreams. Those nagging thoughts This isn't right, woe is me, how could I quit the fight?

Or will you stand And fight, embrace the brand Of radical, of ignorant, of revolutionary Of someone chasing dreams imaginary Will you hold your head high?

Will you swallow your nerve and eat your dignity? Expect neither agreement nor civility? Face countless looks of scorn and raw hostility? Abandon not in hard times your humility?

Will you still try to change the world?

The choice is yours.

I hope you do.

BY ALEXANDER CHERNOGOROV AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID REED, MANAGER OF LISS ART GALLERY



Established in the heart of Toronto by Brian Liss in 1987, Liss Árt Gallery has been home to painted, photographic and sculpted manifestations of emotions and experiences of such renowned artists and photographers as Ronnie Wood, Bob Gruen and Johnathan Ball.

Boss Magazine had the privilege to interview David Reed, who has been manager of Liss Art Gallery for 17 years.

Reed used the opportunity to explain how commercial art galleries strive to balance between commercial necessity and intriguing exhibitions as well as how these galleries act as a stepping stone for artists looking for fame and recognition.

The search for new artists at Liss Art Gallery never ceases. "We are always looking for new artists, almost every single day," says Reed. To date, Liss Art Gallery represents almost a hundred different artists from all over the world. Besides referring artists

through clientele and artist agencies, commercial art galleries always keep their doors open to artists who come walking off the street.

The process of perusing portfolios and selecting the best candidate for an exhibition is rather delicate for a successful show and is as crucially beneficial for the artist as it is for the gallery representing him. The exhibitions themselves act as catalysts towards the development of a connection or a relationship between a director and an artist. "It is a bit of a chicken and the egg situation," claims Reed. "A curator, a manager or a director of an art gallery works side by side with their artists and they grow

together." Therefore, the amount of shows done by an artist years. Although he pays tribute to many other musicians and a curator together at any particular gallery reflects such as Jimi Hendrix and Rod Stewart, Wood also expresses the strength of a professional bond between them. The his genuine fascination with animals, nudes and landscapes increase in mutually beneficial collaboration results in the in his paintings and photographs. rise of overall success.

At this point it is hard to imagine that commercial art galleries consider anything except promoting as many artists as possible and accomplishing a surpassing profit. Despite the manager.

Wood's musical flair and inspiration flawlessly translated the aforementioned conjecture, in no way do commercial onto the canvas. Apart from depicting musicians full of joie factors conflict with the notion of the preservation of art. de vivre performing at their practice, Reed comments that "I think that the commercial art is the starting point," states when he looks at Wood's work he sees a lot of movement, a lot of exaggerated lines and colour, which is very reminiscent of the Rolling Stones's music. "As an artist I think he has been Almost all artists in need of a way to market their work to their clients and potentially to the world will start by able to make his work quite unique," continues Reed. "He is visiting galleries and trying to have their artwork exhibited, always experimenting with new techniques, new mediums." developing a clientele, and then expanding to other galleries After all, the more encouragement and inspiration one finds outside of their city or country.

Once an artist is recognized by the international public, then the museums would genuinely become interested in the artist's pieces of art. When a particular artwork is exhibited in a museum indicates that those artists are well established internationally for many years and undoubtedly quite expensive.

Reed provides the Group of Seven, whom many commercial galleries represented when they were younger. Now the majority of the best of the Group of Seven's paintings are shown in various museum-type galleries across Canada. In addition, it is a priority for any gallery to balance between thoughtprovoking exhibitions and commercial need. "Obviously it's a tricky balance," assures Reed. "we are a business and therefore the sales of our work are extremely important to our survival and longevity." Indubitably commercial art galleries are set up to market the work of artists they represent to the



on his life path, the more successful all of his endeavours as world. However, they focus entirely on acquiring artworks a poet, a painter or a singer will be. that have some cryptic elements to them, which either raises deeper thought and passes along a message or invokes The crowd of attendees at the exhibition consisted mostly personal nostalgic feelings.

of the Rolling Stones fans. Some had travelled from Chicago, Baltimore and Buffalo to see the Rolling Stones' "50 & Speaking of nostalgic feelings, the recent big event at Liss Counting" concerts and then visited Liss Art Gallery to see Art Gallery was Ronnie Wood's show. The gallery wanted Ronnie's homage to the band on display. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rolling Stones and their concert with an exhibition that focused on the band In many ways Ronnie Wood's show enacted a religious

and Ronnie Wood. journey for fans. Seeing so many representations of their favourite musicians in all the bright and wonderful colours The exhibition consisted mostly of Wood's pieces, which of Ronnie's exhibit is unquestionably overwhelming. featured his favorite subject matter: the Rolling Stones. The Moreover, to recognize Ronnie's great accomplishment as exhibition also features famous New York photographer an artist is an extra aspect of the show for any dedicated fan. Bob Gruen and Los Angeles photographer Richard Erin who are good friends with the Rolling Stones.

Should you become interested in attending Liss Art Gallery, head to their website www.lissgallery.com for location If there ever was a musician that inspired Ronnie, he has information and dates of upcoming exhibits. definitely done a painting or a drawing of them over the

The exhibition also features famous New York photographer Bob Gruen and Los Angeles photographer Richard Erin who are good friends with the Rolling Stones.





MAGAZINE

BY: JOSEPH FAVA FUNNY MAN FRANKIE 'TRIXX' AGYEMANG



Although Frankie 'Trixx' Agyemang always had a predilection for entertaining people, he never seriously considered a career in comedy until later in life. The Toronto-born comedian was never the prototypical class-clown one might expect a stand-up comic to have once been; but when you watch him perform his stand-up routine on stage, it seems inconceivable to picture Trixx (as he prefers to be called) doing anything else. His charisma and enthusiasm make him perfectly tailored for comedy – particularly stand-up comedy. But there was a time in his life when the thought of standing in front of a large group of people and endeavouring to make them laugh seemed futile. As he so bluntly put it: "I never had the balls to do it."

Despite the lack of confidence, Trixx always had the latent desire to be a comic. It was a desire that flourished in him as a young boy, watching and being inspired by his idols. "When I was a kid, I always used to watch Eddie Murphy's Raw and get intrigued by it, [Dave] Chappelle's another great one," he said. "I always wanted to do stand-up. I even used to practice in the shower."

The confidence Trixx needed to perform stand-up comedy gradually came to him as a result of his various vocations. The experience he gained working as an M.C. and a Di was invaluable in his development. "As an M.C., you get used to talking to people," he said. "And to entertain the crowd, I started telling jokes. I was used to talking to a lot of people, so comedy just kind of fit in." As a host for big events like concerts and parties. Trixx was able to find his comfort-zone under many scrutinizing eyes, and hone his talents. But even this wasn't enough to convince Trixx that he was ready for the pressure of doing stand-up comedy.

One of the defining moments in Trixx's life that he credits with giving him the motivation to finally go for it came while he was working as a Dj and involved an encounter with former Toronto Argonauts halfback John Avery. "I used to Dj this club called Havana, and John Avery used to always come there," he recalls. "I always used to crack jokes at the end of the night, and he would come to me and tell me I was funny and I should do stand-up at Yuk Yuk's because he was doing it at the time. Him kicking me in the ass really helped."

Not only did John Avery provide Trixx with the motivation he needed, he even helped Trixx set up his first show, which was at an amateur night at Yuk Yuk's comedy club in Toronto. His routine was short, and he spent most of it poking fun at the amateur comic who

was on prior to him (mainly because the comic kept reading his jokes off of a piece of paper) but his performance was enough for the host to book Trixx again.

Trixx became a regular at amateur nights, and what he started to learn after his first show, and from subsequent amateur nights he participated in, was to make the audience like him. "I came out raw," he reminisces. "I would say whatever I wanted and not worry about it. But there was this one night where I came out with fat-girl jokes, and a girl came up to me after because she was pretty pissed about what I had said. That made me feel pretty bad."

The experience not only taught Trixx tact, but made him re-



examine his on-stage persona. "Guys like Dave Chapelle can "If you can dig into the dark and personal things, and find say things that I wouldn't have the balls to say," he said, "like ways to make those things funny, then that's how you become great," he said. "That's what I'm trying to find." taboo stuff. And he can get away with it because people love him. He's likable." Trixx began to realize that if he wanted According to Trixx, being a famous comedian is not just people to not only laugh at his unique observations, and to about being funny and telling jokes, but being able to see the value of his perspective, he would have to present talk about the things that truly bother them and affect himself as someone who is likable and worth listening to. them. "I wouldn't just talk about Chris Brown and Rihanna For Trixx, in order for people to get the message a comedian because everyone else is," he said. "But if I had a unique is trying to convey through their comedy, they have to have perspective on domestic violence, I would talk about it. I the crowd on their side. In his view, that's what separates want my stuff to come from a real place" great comedians like Russel

Peters and Bill Cosby from the comedians we don't, and may never, hear about. "I remember Dave Chapelle did a joke about a missing girl," he said. "That's pretty taboo stuff there. But because he's likable, the crowd can see that he has a legitimate point-of-view on the subject. A good, savvy audience will know if you're full of shit, and just being

"IF YOU CAN DIG INTO THE DARK AND PERSONAL THINGS, AND FIND WAYS TO MAKE THOSE THINGS FUNNY, THEN THAT'S HOW YOU BECOME GREAT,"

As Trixx strives to become established as a bona fide offensive, or if you have a unique perspective on something." comedian, many people are starting to take notice of him, Being likable came easy to Trixx (his penchant for and flocking to his brand of comedy. The rising comedian entertaining people helped him to adapt) but what he is still has certainly come a long way since his first amateur struggling with is finding his voice – what he describes as night at Yuk Yuk's: He's performed to sold-out crowds, that unique quality that distinguishes one comic's message he's opened for many respected comedians (including one of his idols, Russel Peters), and he's released his own from another's. DVD. Regardless of everything he has accomplished "Everyone expects a comedian to tell jokes about the thus far, Trixx isn't ready to sit back, take it easy, and feel Kardasians, or Justin Bieber, and hot topics like that," he complacent with what he's achieved. In his eyes, he still said. "But great comedians like Richard Pryor, or Bill Cosby, has a long way to go.

are storytellers, they can talk about their life or their beliefs."

Trixx will be the first to admit that it is difficult to be truly unique, which is why he thinks that achieving something unique in his stand-up requires him to use material from his own life.

"I want to be international, I want to be big," he declared. "I don't need to be a millionaire or anything, but if I could make money doing what I love – I'll take that. 💋
BY: EMMA PORTEOUS THERE'S ONLY ONE Kinn Dirich

KIM DAVIS IS BOSS. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

As a Canadian singer and songwriter, Davis steers her career and life toward success and positivity – she's the boss, and she got to the top by staying true to herself.

"I am who I am," Davis states confidently.

With a lively spirit, Davis maneuvered through the R&B and hip-hop scene as an independent artist for years. Of course, Kim's' independent spirit helped her overcome the challenges of being an unsigned artist.

"You really have to do everything on your own. I overcame it by being a boss and doing anything that needed to be done," explains Kim. "Grinding and working hard is nothing new to me so I just continue to press on."

This soulful singer transformed from unsigned artist to award-winner. But Davis began her journey to success as most artists do; she sang locally.

Born and raised in Scarborough, Kim began as a back-up singer before falling in love with the music industry and deciding to work on her own material. It wasn't long before Davis acquired a production deal in New York. Her career took off from there.

Before Davis released her first album, she was already opening for established stars: Alicia Keys, John Legend, Robin Thicke, Ne-Yo, and Carl Thomas among others. Soon Kim became a star herself.

Her first album released in 2009 – Live, Love, Learn – boasts such popular singles as "Hush" featuring reggae artist Sizzla. Since this initial release, Davis has received recognition for her talents. She earned numerous awards, including four WBLK Unsigned Hype Awards. In addition, the R&B star was nominated three times for a DJ Stylus award.

To many, the awards establish an artist as a success. However, Davis considers herself a successful artist whenever she hears her songs on the radio. "To be honest, honest, every time I hear my song on the radio I'm like 'oh my God.' It's like I made it. It validates me as an artist. It validates my career



choice. It validates everything I have been working for and toward, the highs and the lows."

could not believe what just happened."

Not only was Davis recognized on the biggest hip-hop

station in America, but she was also recognized at the biggest music awards in Canada. In 2009, Davis released her reggae single "Show Me The Way." Soon after, the single received a JUNO nomination. For Kim, the nomination was completely unexpected considering how she developed the song.

"It was some time in July, and Caribana was about to happen. I was just sitting with a couple writers. They were saying, 'you don't have a reggae song. You need to do a reggae song for Caribana.""Davis got a beat from a reggae producer and then "Show Me The Way" was born. "We came up with

the song in like ten minutes – it pretty much wrote itself. the radio, she knows people are listening. Davis measures We literally had fifteen minutes left in our session so I got her success by the amount of people singing along to her in the booth and in fifteen minutes, recorded it. It was the songs. easiest thing."



that up.' He turns it up, and I hear 'Hush!'" I was dying. I advice works – she spends her time working on her passion, music. "As important as it is to think things through in your head, you also need to be in tune with what your heart is saying." Staying true to her love of music, Davis, like all

> musicians, holds one goal close to her heart: win a Grammy. But until then, Davis still takes pride in hearing her music playing on the radio. In 2007, she followed her song, "Sometimes," as it moved up on Flow 93.5's Megacity Countdown.

> "Listening every week, I eventually heard my song go from coming in at number ten to coming in at number three, number two, and then the number one spot. That was confirmation from my peers and my city, which meant more to me than anything outside of Toronto."

So long as Davis can hear her music on

WITH HOPEFUL AND INSPIRING MUSIC, DAVIS SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR HER LISTENERS. SHE EXPERIENCED PERSONAL ADVERSITY IN HER PAST, BUT HER SONGS CHANNEL HER POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE.

Since her JUNO nomination, Davis released her album, "There's Only One," in 2012. In addition, she is currently working on two new albums; one is R&B and the other is reggae. Although busy with her new albums, this JUNO nominated singer doesn't forget to be a role model. "I try to be respectable not only as a wife and a mom, but also as a person," she explains. Davis strives to inspire not only her kids, but also her fans. "I have an opportunity to use my voice, and people are paying attention. I want to be responsible and set a good example."

With hopeful and inspiring music, Davis sets a good example for her listeners. She experienced personal adversity in her past, but her songs channel her positive outlook on life. Not everyone can relate to Davis' past, but everyone can relate to her music. "It comes down to having people see the message I carry in my music."

Her main message: be yourself. In fact, Davis proves her

"Reaching people is probably the best, best feeling ever."

There are probably a couple of things that we can delete. Maybe the body image thing or speaking at the women's shelter. I'll leave that up to you to decide. Also, you need to find other ways of referring to her besides Davis (I give several examples of where you need to change this, but it happens continually throughout so just read through it). The story of her following "Sometimes" up the chart can be combined somehow with the story of her hearing Hush?? Just a thought.

I removed the paragraph about the women's shelter and body image; it might flow better now. Also, I changed "Davis" to"Kim", "she", etc. Finally, I left the story at the end because I feel the mini-narrative leaves the reader with a good sense of who Kim is; however, if you prefer, I can combine it with the earlier radio. I'm still unclear as to whether Live.Love. Learn is an album or a mixed tape so I left it a is. 🗭



Haley Small knew from a young age that she wanted to be a singer. Ths Mississauga musician got her start when her dad sent a recording of her to the SkyDome (now Rogers Centre), where she was soon asked to sing the national anthem at a Blue Jays game.

She was just 1n, and well on the way to starting her music career. When asked if she was nervous about her first gig, Haley replied "honestly, I feel like my nerves have gotten worse, now in my older age, rather than when I was younger, I think that's because when you're young, you're so oblivious and naive, so I was just excited, I wasn't nervous at all." But these nerves haven't stopped hel, Haley, now 21, has embraced the music scene.

Haley, a classically trained singer, is coming into her own. Her smoot, R&B/ pop sound has developed over time. She grew up listening to artists like Mariah Carey, Toni Braxton, Boyz ll Me, and Stevie Wonder. In high school, she began listening to artists like Ne-yo and India Arie. Even now, Haley is still jamming to singers like Aaliyah and Brandy. "I've got an obsession with the '90s, so I listen to a lot of '90s R&B."

As someone Signed to Ebony Sons Management (owned by DTP records), Haley has spent quite a bit of time recording in Toronto, Atlanta and L.A. Developing her personal style has really come into play in the last year.

"I think some artists just know what they want musically, for whatever reason, and there's other artists who have to take the time. I have definitely been that type of artist, because I

think I am very versatile, in terms of, I like a lot of types of music, and I don't have a voice that kinda only suits one genre. I could do pop, I could do r&b, I could do jazz. And also with genres, there are a lot of different sounds, so its been hard to figure out what works best for m, and what I feel most comfortable with. But I feel like over this past years it's definitely become a lot more clear for me."

Haley has also done quite a bit of recording on her own. In her Mississauga home studio, she is able to record whenever she feels inspired, or when she just needs to get something done.

"It's such a freedom," she says. Haley has also filmed music videos on her own, shooting and editing them herself. Her vide, "Don't Let go" was an exceptio, since she hired a videographer who shot and edited it for her. Throughout the past careful signing contracts." year, Haley has been posting weekly YouTube videos of her singing in her studio called "Small Sunday."

This artist has accomplished a great deal for herself over the years, including writing her own music. Haley explains "I write a lot of my songs, I coco-written in Atlanta and LA, and if out of my musi, with no regrets." a writer has a song they have written I'll pick it up. But I've written a lot of my own music.s. She continues, "I find I write a lot about love, more so

than anything, at this point in my life, you know, different themes of love and relationships are what I'm usually writing about."

Halev offers advice for aspiring singers. "The biggest thing for singers is really figure out what you want, take the time to find out who you are. I have been trying to do this for a long time, and I have been to so many auditions and seen some of the most important

> people in the business. and it didn't work out, for whatever reason. But I look back and I am so grateful, because I definitely didn't know who I was. I was still in the process, and I still am, but I feel like now, more than ever. I am. I kind of started to realize what I want and who I am. To be thrust into such a demanding, dog-eat-dog business, when you don't know who you are, can be really damaging to who you

are." and she adds: "and also, be very

When asked where she hopes to see herself in 10 years, Haleysanswers, "Ten years, wow, I will be 31," she laughs, "in 1n years I hope to share a lot of music with the worl. and to inspire people. I hope to have worked with a lot of my favorite artists and producers. And to write with some writers here, and I've have a lot of fun. And make a career

> You can find and download some of Haley's tracks on soundcloud, and check out her music on youtube. 🕖





While sitting down with up and coming television personality and aspiring broadcast journalist, Kelly Wray recalls the start of her career in the entertainment industry, while managing to balance life as a university student in downtown Toronto. Wray realized that a career in television broadcasting was something she hoped to pursue after taking a two year broadcasting course at H.B. Beal Secondary School in London, Ontario. She recalls watching her idol, Barbara Walters, on ABC's 20/20 and knowing that this was a persona she would soon want to become. "I really wanted to be in the industry, I did my research and if I wanted to be a lot like Barbara Walters, then where do I need to go?"

Wray finalized her options between the top universities in Ontario for a successful career in broadcast journalism. Wray was determined to attend Carlton or Ryerson University in order to fully pursue her passion.

"My number one was Ryerson because I heard their programs were more hands on and practical. I got accepted to both, but I ended up attending Ryerson University."

Wray preferred to study in the heart of downtown Toronto and says it was challenging and competitive with many females wanting to join the media and entertainment industry. The competitiveness of the field only motivated her further to pursue her passion for journalism.

The following year, Wray studied television broadcasting for her bachelor's degree at Ryerson University. She expresses how stressful it was trying to gain positions at



various studios. She eventually managed to attain volunteer positions in Toronto, but decided to take it a step further. Wray made the decision to move to New York City hoping to land an internship at ABC's 20/20. She laughs while reminicing her exact reaction after assisting in the studio and encountering her childhood hero, Barbara Walters. Looking back, Kelly Wray never would have thought that her start in the business would have turned out the way it has.

The next step for Kelly was just figuring out where she felt

THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE FIELD ONLY MOTIVATED HER FURTHER TO PURSUE HER **PASSION FOR JOURNALISM.**

comfortable and situated to eventually begin her future:

"Just trying to figure out how to stay in Toronto, pay rent, and trying to find any job in the industry. Networking is so huge in this industry. I started emailing anyone and everyone, and I ended up working for free."

After trying to open doors for herself as a journalist, Wray managed to land a volunteer job at Henry Less Productions where she worked on showcase promos and started her first television production career.

"I moved up to more on set production fields, the goal in my head was to one day get on camera".

After landing her first television feature on CBC's production Steven and Chris, Wray now produces a special design segment. 'Cool Home Hunter' features Wray as she discovers quirky and unique home spaces across the city. Along with architects and home owners, Wray provides tips and ideas for a more creative look on modern interior. Steven and Chris currently airs on CBC and the show is now on their sixth season with assistance from Kelly Wray herself.

When asked where she sees herself in a couple of years, she responded without hesitation, "I see myself rocking it in the TV industry. I have such passion for it and I don't see myself doing anything else."

Kelly Wray already rocks! And she'll continue to follow her dreams until little girls are staring at the TV screens wishing they can be just like her. 💋





DJ LISSA MONET DESCRIBES THE HUSTLE OF A DJ

Lissa Monet is а successful DJ who moves and have a faux concert in my Was born and raised I remember spending weekends at right here in Toronto. She also DJ'd in different parts of the world as far as Africa. Here is a look into her career so far.

First, why don't you tell the Boss world who you are.

Stylus Award Winner and overall lover of anything musical.

How do you feel about choosing to become a DJ?

I feel brave. Working for yourself is not for the faint of heart. I've always had a love for music. It was a part of my life for as long as I could remember. My earliest memories of music were on Sundays when my mom would put on a Stevie Wonder or a Whitney Houston album on blast and go in on Sunday dinner. I remember begging my Dad

to buy the Bobby Brown "Don't be Cruel" cassette and I'd make up dance living room when no one was looking. my grandmother's house, pulling out radio show disc jockey hosting a top 10 countdown. I remember studying for exams with music, going through breakups with music, I remember not being able to fall asleep without music playing. It only made sense I'd be playing music for a living.

What songs get the club jumping right now?

It honestly depends on the type of event that I DJ. Right now the songs I'm DJ Lissa Monet, a Toronto born, 5x that get the crowd going is Baauers Harlem Shake, Ace Hood, Rick Ross & Future - Bugatti and of course the current Toronto anthem, Drakeys Started From The Bottom.

How do you decide what to play when you're already on stage? Is there any improvisation?

I make a general decision in my head, but its always improvisation. I really try not to play the same mixes three gigs in a row.

What venues other than the club do

you enjoy playing at?

I LOOOOVE weddings! They are so much fun. I love meeting with the bride and groom and talking about what types of music they want at their weddings. I think wedding receptions are changing now and couples want more of a tailored musical aspect to their reception and I'm all down for that.

What cities have you most enjoyed plaving?

I love spinning in NYC, and I just recently got back from Ottawa where I spun at a few events. It may be our nation's capital, but they sure know how to party.

There are so many DJ's out there in Toronto, what separates DJs and how do you separate yourself?

I think what separates DJs now is the difference between passion and fame. It's easy to spot the DJs who just want to be a famous/popular DJ. But when vou come across a DJ who is passionate about music and what they do, it speaks volumes in their sets.

Toronto DJs have a bad rep for not supporting their own talent. How do you address this criticism?

That's a tough one, because you see all the other DJs in different [American] cities doing it, and you want to do the same, but sometimes the music isn t of quality or it tries to hard to sound like everything else. Toronto rappers are stuck between a rock and a hard place trying to make music that is original, true to self but still appeals to a general audience and DJs are stuck between a rock and a hard place supporting local talent while still trying to rock a party.

At the end of the day, the DJs main goal is to rock a party, so if your music doesn't fit into the aesthetic of songs I am playing at the moment, I won't play it; even if you>re my next door neighbor.

Tell Boss about some of your accomplishments.

My Stylus Awards, DJing in Africa, DJing my best friends wedding in Scotland, my "4" mixtape series and my "Love Letters and Broken Hearts" mixtape series with DJ P Plus

What do you have to say to people who are feeling discouraged about completing their qoals?

Don't give up too soon. Give it at LEAST two years. If after that time you are still frustrated and in the same place mentally, move on to something else.

What was your prime motivation throughout your life?

Right now what motivates me is discovery and learning. Learning what people like musically, and learning about the musical world outside of Toronto.

What is the next step for Lissa Monet?

Who knows? I never know lol. 🍘



SPRING / SUMMER 2013 BOSS MAGAZINE



TAKES A HUMBLE APPROACH TO RAP MUSIC

Harvey Stripes. He explains how despite not growing up in know your music word for word." the projects, he was still driven by insatiable ambitions.

"I told my mom I didn't want to take anything from her anymore, I only wanted to give."

Raised by his mother and grandmother, Stripes was reared on the likes of the Temptations, Sam Cooke, and Ray Charles. He relies on where the beat takes him when composing, whether it's a song about his childhood or the party lifestyle. He also avoids listening to what's hot before stepping into the studio.

"I'm not going to listen to a new Lil Wayne record then go write a song," he explains. "I would rather listen to some old music, listen to some Sade, something that would mellow me out, clear my mind, and then I approach a record in a Harvey Stripes way."

Stripes equates Toronto to a Mecca of sorts for artists and entertainment, a place where you can connect with fellow artists from Vancouver, Winnipeg, or Montréal. After touring with rappers like Young Jeezy, Wale and soonto-come Meek Mill, Stripes has witnessed first-hand how universal his music is.

"Ottawa was the place I feel turned me into a man," says "It's so dope to go somewhere like Saskatoon [where] they

Reserved by nature, Stripes knows how to adapt to the influx of attention that comes with the territory of being a musician and running his label DNDMG. "It's almost like I have to be bi-polar sometimes," he says. In his single "Sobriety" featuring Mario, he mentions Caucasian women as being one of his addictions. When asked if this is still the case, he admits: "Absolutely." Despite indulgence and liquor, he stresses that responsibility also comes with success and that lifestyle. All things in moderation. "But when I have to put on the shades and hit the clubs, we got to turn up."

He stresses the importance for rappers to keep it real while remembering they're entertainers. "People can see through fake shit," he continues. "People can see when you're pretending to be something you're not." One of the things he pays close attention to is staying honest.

"I don't really rap about growing up in the projects, busting my gun, or selling drugs. If it wasn't part of my life, you're not going to hear it in my music."

Though his career is still gaining altitude, there remains aspects of Canada's hip-hop industry that he would see

changed. "I feel like there's so much talent in Canada but no unity," says Stripes, although he mentions that he doesn't think all rappers should hold hands and make a We are the World record.

Cities like Miami. LA and New York have robust and active markets ready to launch home-grown talent, and have also developed their own distinctive sound. Stripes finds that the hip-hop environment in Canada still needs a sound of its own and is much less supportive of its artists.

"It's like we're crabs in a bucket," he savs.

Artists from our home turf feel they must head across the border to be taken seriously as they're often overshadowed by rappers in the U.S. Stripes says that connecting with artists from the U.S. was one of the most challenging parts of working on his latest mix tape A Dollar and a Dream and notes the importance of collaborating with them without being outshined. Stripes confesses he's

STRIPES FINDS THAT THE HIP-HOP ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA STILL NEEDS A SOUND OF ITS OWN AND IS MUCH LESS SUPPORTIVE OF ITS ARTISTS.

about to jump ship himself, but will always carry Canada his back.

"I'll never do an interview and not mention Ottawa."

Coming from a middleclass family, but growing up amongst Canada is being sold short as there are many domestic those with less, Stripes has been involved with charities rappers who could spit and flow as hard, if not harder, as helping underprivileged or at risk youths. He says the most those in the U.S. important thing he's learned about being a hip-hop artist so "Right now we're playing high school basketball with skills far is to stay true to yourself and to not put out anything for the NBA," says Stripes. "Let's go out there, let's see who's that you wouldn't put on your own iPod.

scouting for new players."

Look out for Stripes' next release. A Penny and a Nightmare. Regardless, Stripes maintains that Canada is his foundation set to break free at the end of spring. 🌌



on	and is the place where he'll bring the music back to. Being a businessman, his philanthropist spirit showed when he gave
	away cash and Gucci bags to the audience at his Toronto tour.

BASE PLAYER JUWAYON CLARKE ON THE DIFFICULT LIFE OF A MUSICIAN IN TORONTO BY: KERN CARTER

What is your first musical memory? Was music always a passion or is it something that you grew to appreciate and realize that you're good at.

I would say my first memories would be hearing my mom sing and watching my uncle play drums. I remember being at church all the time with my mom for choir practice or band rehearsals. There was a choir back in the day named Chosen Generation. my whole family was apart of the choir. my mom, aunt, and future aunt in law all sang on the choir and to top it off my uncle played drums.

about, I feel its something that is hard wired in my DNA lol. I couldn't get away from it if I tried. It's a gift from God and I cherish it. Now that I am older I see things differently, now I think more in depth about what I do as a musician. there were 3 things that I have ever been interested in, music, football, and cars. The car thing was always more of a hobby but I reached a point in grade ten where I had to make a choice, and as much as football meant to me music was my life.

When did you first pick up the base guitar? Do you play any other instruments? Tell BOSS a bit about how you got involved in your band.

Man.... I didn't pick up the bass until I was in grade 11 which I feel is late considering I was around music all my life. I played so many instruments growing up and it was all cause I could play by ear. I didn't realize I had an ear

always did and I never really thought until I found the other people weren't catching on to things as fast. I realized that it would take me very little time to learn things. it started with me just being able to repeat what ever I heard and sing it back. As I got introduced to instruments I found I was able to do the same. As long as I could figure out where stuff was on what ever instrument it was and it wasn't beyond my physical ability I could repeat it. When I was in kindergarten I sat and watched my uncle practicing drums in the basement all the time and one day when he was gone I decided to give it a try I started playing a beat. My uncle caught me one time and started teaching me. up until grade 7 I lived in an area called Jamestown in Rexdale. It was a rough area at the time but I never hung with the crowds that I could get in trouble. Aside from pockets of trouble the schools and community centers had so many programs and I was in so many of them. I was able to learn the soprano and alto steel pan, violin,

flute, and drums which kept me more than occupied. After those years I went through a rock faze in grade 8 and picked up the electric guitar. With in the past couple years I picked up the keyboard, and a bit of organ. I am fascinated with instruments and how they all come together which lead me to music production and mix engineering.

I went to Humber College briefly for music and while I was there I noticed that 90 percent of the people there were so timid when performing and were too caught up thinking about what scale they were singing or playing that it just didn't sound good lol. This was something that bothered me and one day this new girl shows up at my school. no body knew who she was she always sat by herself and everybody thought she was Spanish or light-skinned lol. eventually we all got to know her and one day she asks me to back her up for her little

bro's charity fundraiser. Turned out she wasn't like most of the timid vocalist. she was more of the give it all you got type and we clicked. turned out she had a solo project going on and wanted me to be a part. I signed on and with the other guvs we formed the band Vaness Alegacy.

A lot of people don't understand the life and hustle of playing in a band (getting booked for shows etc). What did it take and what does it take to be successful at playing music for a living?

Ha they definitely don't. Choosing to be a musician is one of the most ridiculous things you could do lol. Honestly as hard as it is I love it and I have so many great memories and experiences. I believe that if something is for you then it will work out. You have to have faith. this is a profession that a lot of people take for a joke, and I can see why and don't blame them sometimes cause a lot of people really act the stereotypes to the fullest and that's fine for them but not for me. It takes faith, hard work, dedication, and not being an idiot aka education....you have

to build your self and establish yourself in what you do. The industry is more of who you know a lot of times but one thing that I hold strong to and that is actually having something to bring to the table. Its great to know people and get work but can you actually do the job. I have a grass routes mentality of not talking more then I can do. I make it a point to do what I say. The world is full of people that talk a good talk and have nothing to show for it. I'm a less talk more action kind of guy. I always grill younger guys who say they want to be a musician, not to discourage them more to get them to really think and search themselves to see if that's what they really want and from there I help them. Another big thing is surrounding vourself with people who are doing what you want to do or at least people who are going somewhere, stagnant people will hold you back. I myself have had the privilege of growing up with guys who are doing it and I have a couple people in my corner who have done it before me and that's who I exchange knowledge with.

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Tell BOSS about some of your more memorable shows. Where were

they? Who have you played with?

I have a couple not in anv particular order. One was playing at Z103's hot summer rush with Kreesha Turner and Alyssa Reid. I have done the one in Nova Scotia. and in Toronto at Canada's wonderland: just a sea of screaming fans. It always blows me away How loud the crowd gets. Another on was when I played for Melanie Fiona on the Regis n Kelly show in PEI. You try to play it cool but its always cool to see people in real life that you have seen on TV lol. I can't forget the time I played in shandhai china with Kreesha turner; amazing experience, and to see people cheering that don't even speak English will never cease to amaze me. Finally and I think the biggest on personally was My band Vaness Alegacy's CD release in Toronto. This was like my baby. Few things

feel better then performing your music that you co-wrote produced and mixed in front of a packed venue. I also arranged the show and for me that could have been the best show of my life. To put in so much work and to have people sincerely come up to you and tell you how much they loved it is such a rewarding feeling.

What keeps you going everyday? What makes you wake up and say "this is what I want to do with the rest of my life?"

My Mom, my family and friends who have seen my potential from the beginning, and my goals. My mom worked hard and did everything she could for me. She always saw greatness in me. I played so many instruments and she always encouraged me to reach for the stars. I am quiet but I listen and I pay attention and her and my stepfather went out on a limb and bought me a guitar one day. They nurtured what they saw in me. If someone else can believe in me so much from a far then why cant I? This is just who i am, I am music. I just can't see myself happy doing anything else for a living. 🗭

CHASE REASON TURNS HIS VISIONS TO RAP BARS

SOME RAPPERS CHASE WOMEN, OTHER RAPPERS CHASE MONEY, BUT TORON-TO RAPPER CHASE REASON IS RUNNING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF RACE. CHECK OUT HIS THOUGHTS ON WHAT HE BRINGS TO THE RAP GAME AND WHAT HIS MOTIVA-TIONS ARE BEHIND HIS MUSIC.

Tell me a bit about who you are as an artist:

Chase Reason is just as the name suggests, I am an artist trying to build an image around substance rather than material things.

Growing up in a number of high risks neighborhoods, I recognize the challenges that youth in these areas face, specifically speaking, easy access to opportunity killers(i.e Drugs, Guns) as opposed to opportunity itself. The second major challenge is lack of role models or too many role models in a lifestyle that is not conducive to success in the fabric of our society today.

Fundamentally, the purpose of Chase

Reason and his music to is produce a role model that can be looked to for support and as alternative lifestyle/ path for children in high risk neighborhoods.

Have you been working on any major projects lately? And if so when will it be about?

Yes, I recently completed a project titled "Chase Reason Presents: Avengers The Mixtape". You can download it now at chasereason.com.

It was a themed project, and done in a way which characterized some of Marvel's characters such as Thor and Iron man into tracks on the project. To answer your question in real time: I am currently working on a project titled: Appreciation Volume 1. This project is a hybrid between original tracks and remixes of existing tracks on the market today. The purpose of this project was to provide a means of growth to myself while still producing music and remaining current in a fast changing market. Appreciation will be out early August.

When did you realize performing was your passion? Was this a childhood dream?

I realized this in Grade 12 at my high school Father Henry Carr, through a class titled: "Creative Writing". No this wasn't a child hood dream for me, it evolved over time, while I was in High School.

Who are some of your musical influences? Is this what helps you produce your music?

Pac, Biggie, Nas, Big L, Shyheim, Beanie Siegel, and Jay-Z.

This helps to develop the music to an extent. All of these figures have been monumental in terms of development and provided a framework for rap overall.

As an artist, what sort of message(s) do you try to evoke to the public?

My main message to the public is that every decision has risks associated with it that can make life better or worse. Before you make a decision, most important thing is to think it through and then consider alternatives.

What sort of artist do you see yourself collaborating with?

I can see myself collaborating with Neo Soul, R&B and Soft Rock artists. All three of these genres produce comprehensive sounds that I can leverage and take advantage of.

What makes you different from any other artist in the media?

I would have to say that my core values as referenced in question one, and the socially driven motivation to show high risks youth that even if there is no opportunity, you can create it through hard work and focus.

What's your next step as a musician? Where do you see
yourself in the next 3 years?Where can we find your music and learn more about
you?

My next step is travel the world a bit more and gain exposure in the various markets and cities. In the next 3 years its difficult, but I imagine I will be doing international shows and collaborating with different artists on a global platform. "Chasereason.com"..... Everything is there, Twitter Handle, Facebook, Biography, Music, and Videos all in one places... chasereason.com



Do you have any advice for those who wish to pursue this career?

d in Now

My only advice would be to diversify your portfolio as much as you can. Listen to other genres to get ideas and thoughts, and be truthful to yourself in your music.

 A lot of artists rap about a life they don't live, and you will
 eventually be called on that, which hurts your overall credibility.



BY: JOSEPH FAVA

Have you ever been to my hometown Woodbridge, Ontario? If you haven't that's ok, it's just another one of those ubiguitous small towns you've either heard of, once lived in, or have seen on TV. It's a sprawling suburbia, saturated with chain restaurants and familiar shopping outlets, and boasts little to no music culture to speak of. Finding original music in Woodbridge is like trying to find water on Mars – it's there, but well hidden. It's not like living in a city, where you could step outside your home, take a stroll a couple of blocks north, south, east, or west, walk into a bar (or even a park – which happened to me in New York), and discover your new favourite band or artist. In Woodbridge, music usually flourishes in basements, and on rare occasions, garages (rare because the noise is usually too intolerable for the neighbours).

Suffice it to say, Woodbridge doesn't attract the ears of music connoisseurs in Canada the way cities like Montreal.

was playing those sports since I was six, eight years old, and I continued in high school, and I eventually got a scholarship. I wasn't even into rapping at all back then." Like any young person, he listened to music, he even loved music, but he never considered a career in music.

But in 2008, a new passion began to emerge in KDC's heart and mind, a passion that would steer his life in a totally new and unexplored direction. The change was first set in motion by his older brother, who after returning from university in Buffalo, where he acquired a passion for music, enlisted the help of his younger brother to help him write songs. Although KDC had been working with an old buddy of his, (recording beats and rapping over them) the inspiration his bother provided him with was like a powerful wind getting caught in a ship's sails, and propelling it forward. "The inspiration started to come from having someone with the same energy and vision as I did," said KDC.

"WHEN I LOOK AT GUYS LIKE JAY-Z AND KANYE WEST, THEIR MUSIC STANDS OUT FOR A REASON,... IT'S NOT EASY TO DO WHAT THEY DO. I WANT TO BE THE BEST IN EVERYTHING I DO SO I LOOK TO THE BEST. I TAKE FROM THOSE GUYS THE HARD WORK IT TAKES AND THE BELIEF THAT I CAN MAKE IT."

Toronto, or Vancouver do. So for young, aspiring, starryeyed artists from Woodbridge like rapper KDC (Koyce D. Caesar), establishing himself from the centre of a musical vacuum is difficult. But getting over this difficult hurdle, and any other hurdle on his horizon, is a task he relishes, and he tackles it with an abundance of enthusiasm. "Woodbridge doesn't have an imprint," he said. "It's not like a New York or LA. But that's why I'm here. I'm going to set that trend."

Originally from Toronto, KDC and his family moved to Woodbridge when he was 13, and at the time, he didn't have any aspirations towards a career in rap and hip-hop. When I asked him if it was around the time he moved that he was starting to think about getting into music, he bluntly responded with, "Oh no, not even close." His focus used to be on sports: "I used to play basketball and football. I came from a very sports-oriented family," he recalled. "I

Armed with a new-found passion for music, and a vision of what he hoped to accomplish with his music, KDC set-out to establish himself. For many musicians, that's the tough part, and for musicians like KDC, sitting on the outskirts of the rich and robust music-scene that is Toronto, it's even harder to break into that scene when you're not steeped in it. "There aren't any outlets [in Woodbridge] for music," he said. "But I took that to advantage. Woodbridge is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada. If I could set the tone here, turn the whole city into an outlet, then that would be the best thing ever." That's a pretty tall order, but he does not seem fazed by it. His determination is his salient guality - ostensibly there's nothing that can deter, dissuade, or even discourage him. He credits the development of this dedication and motivation to his idols. "When I look at guys like Jay-Z and Kanye West, their music stands out for



a reason," he said. "It's not easy to do what they do. I want opportunities you get and blow people out of the water." to be the best in everything I do so I look to the best. I take So rather than disparage over a listless performance, KDC from those guys the hard work it takes and the belief that I rehearsed harder, and focused on getting better with each can make it." passing day. Fast forward four years, and his career as a musician is starting to take shape.

Above where an artist is from, one of the other obstacles they have to overcome is exposing themselves to an KDC released his first EP Mission Impossible at the end audience for the first time. What I've learned from talking of May, and just prior to that, had released his first music with anyone who has to perform in front of an audience video for the song C.R.Y. He has garnered a lot of attention since playing various shows, including a memorable set at (whether it's singing, doing stand-up comedy, or acting) the first performance is always the hardest, and it's the Caribana, at which he was proud to say he blew a few people performance that can make or break someone's confidence. out of the water. With more shows lined up for the latter If that first performance is anything but good, it takes a half of 2013, and more people digesting his music and special kind of artist to take the negative thoughts bred becoming fans, some might say KDC has achieved what he from a bad performance, and turn them into something wanted – but he would say that the time for breaking out positive. KDC dealt with this after his first performance at the champagne bottles is far away. "I am not happy yet," the Harlem Night Club. "This was when I just started to rap, he said. "I'm happier, but there's tons of room for growth." so it wasn't the greatest," he said, laughing to himself. "It Ever the humble artist, but I think the young rapper from was a long night for me. But I learned that it's not every day Woodbridge. Ontario would at least admit (if not on record) that you get 100 eyes looking at you, so you have to take the 👘 that he's on the right track. 🜌



You may not have heard the name, but you'll surely remember it. The boy behind the name is making some grown up moves and is ready to have the world hear his music.

Where did the name Priddy Boi originate from?

Well it somewhat grew up with the type of person I am in terms of always going out looking good as well as "fresh" on days I just find my dress code casual haha, I take it as a compliment. Girls would also call me a pretty boy, but out of most "pretty boys" nowadays they'd say I'm different in my personality towards my attraction to females. I changed the spelling to "Priddy Boi" to give it a more masculine look to it.

Have you been working on any major projects lately? And if so what will it be about?

We have a few big projects coming through, one I know I'm able to expose is a tour on May 13th to Vancouver with 10,000 people to watch myself as well as some industry artists. As well as a school tour in Toronto.

When did you realize performing was your passion? Was this a childhood dream?

Yes. This was a childhood dream. Ever since I was 9 years old I had this passion to perform music & want to let it out to the world that my talent is unique, empowering, & versatile.

Who are some of your musical influences? Is this what

A NAME TO REMEMBER WITH MUSIC YOU WON'T FORGET

helps you produce your music?

My first musical influence was 50cent. & now I don't necessarily have a favorite artist other than myself. I do really love some artist's talent don't get me wrong, but as an artist I'm still in competition to be the best, as if it was a sport. You'd always believe inside that your team is better, you're the best. I never take it into a negative action though. I LOVE collaborating with artists & mixing out talents, but I always think of it as business at the end. Music in general is what helps me produce my music. I listen to all types of genre's to get ideals & build a creative niche in my music. Hearing music that isn't mine on TV, radio stn's, etc. strives me every day to get there. That's my biggest influence.

As a rapper, what sort of message(s) do you try to evoke to the public?

The messages I evoke mainly are reality experiences, party experiences, anything to entertain my fans. I always speak the truth & that's what makes it more relatable.

What song gets you through the toughest days? Why?

To get me through the toughest days I listen trap or rap. The music isn't so happy & it'll match the mood of my day, it'll feel more appropriate to listen to rather than something so happy on a bad day

What makes you different from any other artist in the media?

It may sound weird, but I'm slowly coming up with a way to dance words out from a song. Lol. So yeah just look out for that in music videos, & shows. I have an entertaining sound, look, & feel to when you listen to my music.

What's your next step as a musician? Where do you see yourself in the next 3 years?

My next step management has down is to see how far we get this year of 2013. We're looking to me being signed by then. In 3 years I definitely see me set.

Where can we find your music and learn more about you?

My music will be on YouTube shortly. Currently just made a new account, as long as you stay following me on twitter @ PriddyBoiEnt & subscribed to the PriddyBoiEnt channel on YouTube you'll be just fine.



Description: Currently in its second year at Downsview, VELD is shaping up to be the EDM festival that Toronto has been sorely lacking. Over 30 electronic music acts will be spread over two stages and two full days, resulting in a sweaty dance jams during the day time hours and colourful almost-raves-but-still-all-age parties at night. Dress lightly and bring some glow sticks to make sure you blend in.

Bottle Service?: On the VELD website, there is currently a banner advertising bottle service at the festival. Who knows how much it will cost to sip a bottle of Grey Goose while sitting in a private booth watching world-class DJs spin, but God knows it will be worth it.

IVO FES

Date: August 4-5
Headliners: Frank Ocean and Drake.
Cost: Tickets start at \$50.
Location: Molson Canadian Amphitheatre.

Description: It's hard to be considered a music festival without having more than one stage, but this fest (curated by Toronto's favourite MC, Drake) gives off a very good impression, hosting the hottest acts in R&B and hip hop, along with a performance from Drake himself. Now in its fourth year, OVO (October's Very Own, a clothing company and label started by Drake) Fest is a tribute to Toronto from one of the biggest rappers in the last, well, four years, and the fest will continue to be held as long as Drake maintains his standing in the music world.

Who will show up this year?: One of the best reasons to attend OVO Fest is to get a sneak a peek at the amazing guests that Drake manages to secure. From an inevitable cameo by The Weeknd (Drake's protegé) to a 2011 appearance by Stevie Wonder (as many young fans in the crowd were reported saying «who>s that guy in the glasses?»), you never know who>s going to show up. You can bet on something amazing.



Description: The Toronto Urban Roots Festival (TURF) is looking like it could become the mainstay festival Toronto has sorely needed since the Virgin Festival stopped in 2009. This being its first year, we do not have much information about the fest, but the lineup speaks for itself: blending top-tier CanCon with indie music darlings is always a good idea, especially in hipster rich Toronto. Expect a lot of Toronto microbrews and poutine stands.

Learn While You Listen!: The Fort York Historic Site is open during TURF, so check out some Fort York guard drills and artillery demonstrations, or take a look at how people were crammed together in one small space before the advent of music festivals at one of the many guard barracks on site.



Date: July 4-7

Headliners: Belle & Sebastian, Neko Case, Fitz and the Tantrums and The Hold Steady.

Cost: \$150 for a four day pass.

Location: Fort York Garrison Common

Boss WAS THERE

GINUWINE CONCERT













BLACK HISTORY MONTH at the Jane Finch Mall, organized by N.I.S.E. Clothing and Blair Photography.





BOSS MAGAZINE TEAM interviewed of









interviewed on Rogers TV and meeting at the Spoke Club.



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I ascendyen y ascend@ascendyen Monday to Friday – 11:00 am to 9:00 pm Saturday to Sunday – 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm







MOST PEOPLE KNOW FARLEY FLEX AS BEING A JUDGE ON CANADIAN IDOL, BUT HE HAS DONE MUCH MORE THAN THAT. FROM BEING A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, TO ACTING AS THE NATIONAL AMBASSADOR FOR UNICEF, FARLEY HAS MADE IT HIS MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE; AND HE HAS.

His presence in the music scene did not start at Canadian artists he recommends the internet as a great starting place. Idol. He was an important part of founding FLOW 93.5, an "One key thing is to recognize the internet is a tool to be used effectively. And if you're trying to get partners, or record deals, or whatever, it is to support your effort or business, they will want to know what have you done on your own to carve out a career for yourself." He explains, "it's the same thing to play a show and be able to say you have an audience when you play shows, and say you can get 220 people out on average. It's the same kind of concept on the internet. How many followers do you have? Or Facebook fans? Or twitter followers? You have to have some sort of social savviness, as to how important that is, on top of your talents."

urban radio station in Toronto. Recognizing that there were not enough outlets for urban music in the city, FLOW allowed Canadians to listen to and discover new urban music. Farley also had a role in discovering and managing artist Maestro Fresh Wes. "I enjoy the discovery part of it, it's challenging but pretty exciting at the same time." Although he is no longer hands on managing musicians, Farley hasn't forgotten about the Canadian music scene. Working to promote the importance of the live touring scene, he recognizes the need for musicians to play live.

Farley also recommends, "get your stuff out there.... if you're "If artists were able to go out and perform based on the merit a true artist there is no finite life to your creativity. If you like of their music, they would actually make a living." However, to hold onto your songs until such a time, well, while you the live scene in Canada is just not where it should be. While hold on no one is appreciating. So know that youve gotta many rock bands, such as U2, play many different cities, get stuff out there and turn your dream into a goal basically." urban artists aren't always given the same opportunities.

For instance, when Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake go on tour, they are only given two Canadian dates. On this Farley states "there needs to be a consistent tour circuit that allows the K-OS's etc. to get across the country and make a living."

Although noting that there is still a deficiency in the urban scene in Canada, he also praised the persistence of urban artists.

"The most admirable thing about urban music in Canada is there are no outlets, but artists keep creating."

One of Farley's current projects is "R.E.A.L School," which teaches students about various aspects and of the important industry structure of pop culture. He sees that many students want to be part of the industry, but also want to be famous, like Beyoncé. Farley sees that the probability of success as a singer or rapper is very low. Comparatively, there are so many jobs that are still within the industry. He teaches students this important message.

"If you're not necessarily 'The Rapper,' and you don't have to be 'The Rapper,' but you can be the publicist, the manager, the trainer, the engineer, the producer. There's a pretty substantial list of supporting roles that keep you close to the fame you love, but is just more aligned to what your personal skill sets are."

Giving advice comes fairly naturally to Farley. To aspiring

Farley does not limit his motivational speaking to just students in his R.E.A.L. School program. Farley has spent quite a bit of time speaking to different Aboriginal Communities. Adopted by a Cree family, Farley has been officially accepted into their culture. He spoke at 9 different reserves in Northern Alberta, where he shared his perspective on sense of self, and on the importance of knowledge of self.

He was also able to take away a lot from the experience for himself.

"A lot of times weve seen money and business is what everyone needs. But you go to some communities where they>re not interested in financial gain. They're just interested in being able to live their lives in the way they have traditionally. They want to hunt and fish. We have educators up there to teach them economics, and that's great for the educator, and for the educational body, but some people are satisfied with just having enough to eat, and a shelter. And youve got to respect that. Big time, actually."

Farley feels it is important to share your knowledge with others. Speaking about getting performance out of potential is helpful to the different audiences he speaks to.

"If folks think I have something to share that they can benefit from, or they can take to help benefit someone else, then it makes sense to be willing to share it."

But he doesn't pretend to have it all figured out. Farley teaches that potential is always a continuous challenge everyone should be working on, even himself. He shares his story.

"It's an ongoing question

to me. I don't think I

have met my potential yet, not even close. So because I think about that as much as I do, I am able to share why I think that. And I've tried to build strategies around being able to do that; empowerment, diversity, you know, knowledge of self, all feed into that same concept."

He uses the important lessons he has learned from being part of a strong family. He shares some of his life mottos.

"It's important that you want to leave the world in a better place than you found it. If you have kids, that's part of the Including his wardrobe, Farley has one goal that he strives to plan, if you don't have kids, that's also part of the plan. You just do some things for your personal legacy, to yourself,

not publicly, but personally, so that the world is better because Llived "

Regardless of wealth. class. or race, Farley teaches that everyone can make a difference. And what's more, that it is important that everyone is trying to make a difference in some wav.

He describes how someone can do that.

"Giving back what you have, whether it's time, whether it's influence, whether it's knowledge, whether it's money, whatever it is, the world is supposed to be a place where we all give to each other."

Farley believes and teaches that being yourself and being confident in who you are encompasses all aspects of your life. even in vour wardrobe! Being well known for having

vibrant and original clothing, Farley explains that much of his wardrobe has been specially made to represent him, in ways that corporate clothing just fails to do.

"If you have a sense of self, you know you're either going to find someone who understands that, or do it yourself the best you can." He explains further, "certain colours that look good on my skin, you can't find at Harry Rosen! Dark blue

"GIVING BACK WHAT YOU HAVE, WHETHER IT'S TIME, WHETHER IT'S INFLUENCE, WHETHER IT'S KNOWLEDGE, WHETHER IT'S MONEY, WHATEVER IT IS, THE WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLACE WHERE WE ALL GIVE TO EACH OTHER."

suits and black suits and gray suits aren't the best colour for a black man."

Instead, Farley chooses to wear vibrant colours that compliment his skin tone, instead of trying to fit into one of the ready-made moulds already out there.

"If you go to Africa you will see in a second all the colours that on the other side of the ocean they choose to wear that are vibrant on their skin."

achieve: to "just to be me." 🔊



WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT ORGANIZATION FOUNDED ON SHOES WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE OUTLET FOR YOUTH? DION WALCOTT AND LEE JOSEPH DID. AND THAT'S WHY THEY STARTED TORONTO LOVES KICKS.

Toronto Loves Kicks (TLK) is a movement that was created by two ordinary young men who dared to be different. What When asked how TLK benefits youth, Dion replied, "It benewas once considered just a hobby has grown into a culture fits them because it shows that you can do anything if that, when examined closely, has provided a common langyou put your mind to it. At the same time, it gives them uage that many find relatable. With this in mind, TLK adsomething to relate to. Instead of looking at us as teachers, vocates sneakers as an innovative form of engagement to or principals or officers, we're just adult figures who also draw and sustain the attention of youth, and then creates a understand what they're going through and in the same space where they can connect with people and resources, culture as they are." which will set them on the right path to a positive and What does the future hold for Toronto Loves Kicks? They successful future.

are currently doing a sneaker exhibit project with the Bata TLK is a community organization that uses sneakers to Shoe Museum. TLK is also planning on starting a multiengage people and capture their attention. They are a purpose centre where various kinds of talent would come mobile event based organization that services the whole together, and if anyone would like to use them as a plat-GTA. They target different markets—because sneakers can form, they also welcome collaborations. align with a lot of different cultures— and provide creative opportunities.

WHY DID DION AND LEE DECIDE TO START **TORONTO LOVES KICKS?**

Twitter: @TdotLovesKicks | Instagram:TdotLovesKicks "For a long time I just wanted to step out and do something Facebook:TorontoLovesKicks

COMMUNITY GROUP: _OVES KICKS by: justina opoku-ware





on my own that I was also passionate about," says co-founder Dion. Dion and the other co-founder Lee both have a love for sneakers and decided to merge that with their creativity and dedication to helping others.

For Dion, he enjoys what he does because he gets to engage with and see growth of different people all over Toronto. "We get to move forward and do things that we never thought we'd be able to do. At the beginning, to think that sneakers would have taken us this far, a lot of people thought we wouldn't have been able to do it."

They also have a grand opening gala in April, and a sneaker expo on June 2.

"Always keep your imagination in check," Dion advises, "Because that's what will push you forward."

S S/ MER 2013 **BOSS MAGAZINE**



Boss Magazine is looking for nominations of Superheroes to be featured in our next issue! Send a brief paragraph about why the nominee should be selected to: bossmag01@gmail.com

BOSS MAGAZINE INTERVIEW Q & A WITH FEMI JAMES



What is your superhero motto?

Walk with purpose...I believe that whatever we do we must do it with purpose - Be intentionalin all that we do. For me, that means especially in the times when I am nervous or scared.

What are you most passionate about making happen in your community?

Creating spaces for

voung leaders to be agents of change in their lives, in their com-munities, and in the lives of others, which for the most part means supporting that journey of self-discovery and defining ones purpose.

What or who inspired you to get involved in your community?

To be honest, I did not want. For as long as I could remember, friends, family, teachers, mentors, and strangers have always told me that I should work with children and youth; whether it be teaching, coaching, mentorship, etc. In high school I worked with kids and my peers always in a leadership role, but I did not see it as part of my purpose. So when it came to selecting my major for university, I went the other direction toward Kinesiology and Health Science. Then when I was in university I had a moment where I realized that as much as I was trying to stay clear of working in community, my heart, personal projects, and professional

work were all based in community; specifically working with youth who I saw reflections of myself in. At that point I began my journey to get involved and stay involved within my community, which began with me asking a ton of guestions to elders, family, mentors, God, and myself.

What have you been most proud to be a part of in your community?

I moved around Scarborough and Toronto a bit growing up, so community is every-thing and everyone around me at any given time. But what comes to mind right now is my current project. I have the privilege of being an executive director for one of the Youth Challenge Fund Legacy Initiatives called The S.P.O.T. – Success Power Opportunity Teamwork, based out of the Malvern community. We just opened our doors on January 17th, 2013 to a brand new 3, 770 square foot Art and Technology Centre for youth. The space is beautiful with vibrant colors, a wall of windows that brings in so much natural light, and an unmistakable vibe of positivity from the young people in the space.

I am proud of this because I have been a part of the process of working with the youth leaders and the adult allies from the beginning; and now that the space is open, I still get the opportunity to sit with some of those youth leaders and see their faces as they enjoy the space, organize, learn, grow, collaborate, and mobilize in 'their home' that they built. That's dope! So yeah I am proud and excited to take it to the next level and as my team always says "we're gonna do big things for this community and beyond."

Which superhero (real or fictional) inspires you the most?

Simply said God...My purpose is divine. And to walk in it means I draw my daily strength and inspiration from him, while giving all glory and honor to where it is due.

BOSS MAGAZINE INTERVIEW Q & A WITH BRANDEN GORDON



What is your superhero motto?

Truth conquers all things.

What are you most passionate about making happen in your community?

around me". l am most passionate about my work as a What are you most schoolteacher in the passionate about Toronto Catholic District making happen in School Board and as your community? a volunteer with the Salesians of Don Bosco I am most passionate (a congregation of about changing the Catholic priests, brothers, way people see the and nuns dedicated community, not just to youth ministry). Through my work with both of these people from outside the community but the ones who live organizations, I strive to create a community in which young here as well. There are some young people who believe people know that they are loved and valued. I want to give that they should live up to the reputation that Jane and Finch has. I want to change that. I want the youth of Jane them the academic tools they need to be successful and, more importantly, moral values rooted in love of God and and Finch to dream big and work hard to make that dream neighbour. come true. As Vincent van Gogh says "I dream my painting and I paint my dream". Once these youth paint a dream, it What or who inspired you to get involved in your will last forever.

community?

My community involvement mostly came about through the guidance and support of my good friend Lionel. He helped me get a job with Toronto Parks & Rec. after I had completed high school, which eventually led to my career in education. He also introduced me to the local priests of the Salesians of Don Bosco, who continue to be a source of inspiration and support for me as well.

What have you been most proud to be a part of in your community?

If I have to choose one experience it would be my volunteerwork with the Salesians of Don Bosco. Among other things, we have a vibrant Friday night program which provides a fun and safe environment for children and young adults to socialize and become better acquainted with their spiritual heritage.

Which superhero (real or fictional) inspires you the most?

The fictional superhero that inspires me most is Dr. Man-Which superhero (real or fictional) inspires you the hattan from The Watchmen. His back-story is one of the most? more interesting ones in comic books and his superpowers make him nearly invincible. I also like that he is able to make I have many super heroes who inspire me, but the super hero choices in line with the greater good, even at the cost of his that inspires me the most is my mother Janet Brown. From own self-interest. A person whom I consider to be a real-life the days when I wasn't the "perfect son", and people used superhero is Pope Benedict XVI. His defense of the sanctity of to say to her that I wouldn't amount to anything in life, she life and marriage in the face of global opposition continues would always defend and encourage me. She always pushes to inspire me to stand up for the truth, no matter how me to my full potential, and always believes in my dreams. Whatever I'm doing or whatever project I'm working on she unpopular it may be. He is a courageous man and worthy Vicar of Christ. always has my back. She is my super hero. 🜌

BOSS MAGAZINE INTERVIEW Q & A WITH MATTHEW PLUMMER



What is your superhero motto?

My superhero motto is "Try to be a positive role model and to use my skills and talent to improve my life and the lives of the people

What or who inspired you to get involved in your community?

Dameion Royes inspired me to get involved in my Community. Dameion is the CEO of "Big It Up," a retail store that sells hats and scarves. He also runs a program called "Shoot With This". Shoot with This is a film program that teaches young people the art of film making. I met Damieon when he brought his program to my high school. He encouraged me to apply to the Broadcasting and Television program at Seneca College and has been my mentor ever since.

What have you been most proud to be a part of in your community?

I'm proud just to be involved in the effort to make a change in the community. There are a lot of community leaders that are in Jane and Finch trying to help change the neg-ative image that the media has put on the community, and I'm just proud to be one of them.

QUEST TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

His name is all over the Toronto party scene. Event Planner, Party Host, MC, Co-Owner of TalkOfToronto.Com. Kamakacci Juice does it all. But what started out as fun also caused him to gain an excess amount of weight. The late night eating and alcohol consumption combined with physical inactivity left him at 220 pounds as of the summer of 2012. That's when Juice decided to step into Athletic Leaders, and has never looked back since.

Joshua Findlay, also known as Kamakacci Juice, grew up in Mississauga's Meadowvale area. The name Kamakacci Juice comes from a combination of his clothing line, Kamakacci, and his nickname, Juice. He describes his neighborhood as being full of inspiration.

"GROWING UP THERE WAS AMAZING BECAUSE IT WAS A BIRTHPLACE OF A LOT OF ENTREPRENEURS. IT WAS VERY MOTIVATING. I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE ON THE RISE. RAPPER JD ERA WENT TO MY HIGH SCHOOL, AND RIGHT NOW HE'S BEING NOMINATED FOR A JUNO FOR BEST RAP ALBUM."

Juice hung around the right people in high school and that's what led him to the path he chose. For the last 7 years he's been active in the Toronto nightlife, and because of that lifestyle, he put on more than a few pounds.

"I GOT VERY CAUGHT UP IN IT. EVERYONE IN TORONTO KNOWS THOSE LATE NIGHT CHINESE FOOD SPOTS, ALL KINDS OF FREE ALCOHOL BEING GIVEN TO ME. JUST YEARS OF EATING AND DRINKING AND NEVER BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE, I WOULD DEFINITELY BLAME IT ON THAT."

In July 2012, he decided it was time to change his lifestyle; he was fed up with how his body looked physically.

"It gets to a point, and you know it, that you're unhealthy. I knew I was at that point and I needed a change."

In July when Juice checked in, he was 5'8, 220 pounds with 38% body fat. He cut out the alcohol and late night eating, and within three months he dropped down to 157 pounds and 8% body fat.



"DOING THAT HELPED ME TO REALIZE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. IF I COULD LOSE 60 POUNDS IN THREE MONTHS BY CHANGING MY LIFESTYLE AND BEING ACTIVE, THEN ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE."

Juice says he treats the gym like a job. He's in there six days a week and has maintained that weight. He attributes it to eating healthier, having a great leader in Granville and an amazing support system. He is currently starting another clothing line called 1986, which is his birth year, and plans to launch it around his birthday. He's also thinking of going into artist management, and has been so motivated by his physical change that he's looking to become a certified



100



BY: JUSTINA OPOKU-WARE SCHOOL BARE-FINCH SCHOOL BARE

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS EXCELLING ACADEMICALLY? BOSS MAGAZINE IS LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONSFOR OUR SCHOLAR FEATURE TO BE PROFILED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE! SEND A BRIEF PARAGRAPH ABOUT WHY THE NOMINEE SHOULD BE SELECTED TO: BOSSMAG01@GMAIL.COM

BOSS SCHOLAR: SERENA FOWLER

Serena Fowler was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. She recently moved to Canada to live with her dad whom she hadn't seen for over 10 years. In Jamaica she attended Wolmer's Trust High School, a prominent high school for girls. However, she lived in a violent and poor community which imposed many problems. Despite these circumstances, she overcame her challenges and performed well in school. Her goal for the future is to help other youngsters who are faced with a daily struggle of survival. She currently lives in the Jane and Finch community and is attending C.W Jeffery's. In the near future, Serena is looking forward to applying to University to study biochemistry and is currently She part of a film group with Dameon Royce. This group helps her to interact with young people who desire to uplift the youths in the community and show the wider society that there are positive young people who wish to make a difference.

What kind of obstacles did you encounter growing up in your community?

I grew up with my mother who faced many difficulties to provide for the family. Essentially we had moments where we were not sure where the next meal would come from. Also, I lived in a very violent community which made it tedious to move in and out of my

home safely. Because of this, there were many stigmas attached and so whereever I went those stigmas followed me. This always made me feel less than and inferior to others who were from safe communities.

How have you overcome these obstacles?

I overcame these challenges by relying on my mother's strength and focusing on my education. I strongly believe that knowledge is one significant way to be successful in the society.

categorized as unsuccessful from the very beginning)?

I was never faced with racism in my community because it was an all black community. However, the stigma attached to my community focused on degrading all young people that they would amount to anything of value to the society. Young women were expected to get pregnant at an early age while young men were assumed to be involved in drugs and crime. This made it hard for me to associate with people of different background because they used these stigmas and single stories to label me as being the same. I believe it's vital that people break away from these stereotypes and focus on the individuals own story

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? 10 years from now?

5 years from now I see myself graduating from university with a bachelors of science. 10 years from now I see myself engaged in programs to encourage young people who wish to endeavor in the field of science

What advice would you give to youth growing up in communities that are considered as "at risk"?

My advice to them would be to focus on positive things. They should associate with people who motivate them to do good. Finally, they should not allow anyone to hinder their goals because the sky is the limit.

BOSS MAGAZINE LIFESTYLE

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What do you have to say about the stigma surrounding your community in regards to race and success (certain races are



BOSS SCHOLAR: WHITNEY SMITH

The oldest of two siblings, Whitney R. Smith is a grade 12 student who attends Westview Centennial Secondary School. At Westview she enrolled herself in a non-profit organization called Success Beyond Limits, a program located in the school for students who need support in every and anything in their life. The program has supported her in many ways and she has dedicated her time to help the younger students who need more motivation and support by sharing her knowledge and experiences with them. She is also the current Student Council President for her school. With the current situation occurring within the TDSB, this year has been a very difficult year. Nonetheless, she has done everything possible to make sure the students have a great year. From holding a basketball game with the senior boys basketball team against the teachers as and police officers from 31 division, to a poetry slam and Halloween Haunted House, Whitney continues to contribute to her school community. She is also planning semiformal and extend the poetry slam to neighbouring schools.

What kind of obstacles have you encountered grow-ing up in your community?

For most of my life I have lived in the

Jane and Finch comm-unity. Some of the obstacles I encountered growing up in my community were finding a stable home. My family and I moved from America to Canada in 2003 and the hardest part we faced was finding a home. Moving from family member from now, God willing, I hope to be to family member, to finally living with total strangers, was one of the struggles and obstacles that humbled me as a human being. Finally we found a stable home and we have lived there since 2008.

How have you overcome these obstacles?

The way I have surpassed my obstacles was through writing. Being a 9 year old girl who had the world on her shoulders and saw her family struggling to have a decent meal, the only way I kept strong was by burying all my thoughts and insecurities on a piece of paper. What started out as simple distraction evolved into one of my deepest passions. Writing has allowed me to be strong, humble and has helped me in winning the spot as my School council President.

What do you have to say about the stigma surround-ing your community in regards to race and success (certain races are categorized as unsuccessful from the very beginning)?

Despite the many stereotypes and biased concepts associ-ated with Jane and Finch, my community has ambitious, determined youth. Often times the black youth in my community are portraved to be rude. obnoxious, and deviant teenagers. Nonetheless, my community creates many opportunities for the youth; there are myriads of organizations, centres, and clubs designed to help the youth who might be struggling with their life. The youth of Jane and Finch are doing many great things to help build the community.

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? 10 years from now?

The place I see myself five years from now will be in my last year in University, a few steps away from beginning a successful career in business. I hope to

be able to travel the world and create international networks. I know I will still be involved with my community and help the up and coming youth find the motivation and support they often times misplace or lack. Ten years an executive member of a lucrative business where I can showcase my many talents and be the idol and role model for the youth in my community.

What advice would you give to youth growing up in communities that are considered as "at risk"?

The advice I would give to the youth growing up in communities that are stigmatized as being 'at risk' is to remember that life is truly what you make it. Never allow the obstacles to stop you from attaining the success you want. Always strive for greatness and never settle for less. As humans we are always transforming and evolving. We should always make sure through all the evolving and transformation that we evolve into people who motivate others effortlessly. Find whatever makes you happy and stick with it, as long as it doesn't place harm or disaster to those around you. Love who you are and never 'alter' yourself for the comfort of another. Love yourself entirely and always remember that God helps those who help themselves!



BOSS SCHOLAR: JENNAIRE LEWARS

Jennaire Lewars spent most of his childhood in Rexdale, and instead of letting the negativity from the

community lead him down the wrong path, he focused on his studies and was accepted into the Gifted Program & International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Michael Power/St. Joseph Secondary School. Jennaire, in his fourth year, studies Health Science student at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, where he is also part of the UNICEF and Pre-Med Society. Lewars volunteers at a local long-term care facility, he's developing a community support website named Y-TAG (Youth Turning Away Guns, www.ytag.ca) and he's a member of the New Apostolic Church.

We caught up with Jennaire and asked him a few questions about growing up in Rexdale.

What kind of obstacles have you encountered grow-ing up in your community?

Growing up in Rexdale, and attending school in the Kipling & Finch area, as a child I was exposed to bullying, fights and other negative influences afflicting my mentality towards school as well as life itself. Due to the recurring episodes of bullying and retaliatory fighting, I was advised to switch schools. Such occurrences affected my grades as more time was spent watching my back at school as opposed to focusing on the teachers' lectures.

Other obstacles included the Pre-Jamestown Raid presence of gangs in the community as I had been "jumped" twice by multiple people: one during a school lunch period and the other during a visit and exit from the local librarv.

I experienced additional obstacles which were actually within the school system itself, as some teachers played a discouraging role by verbally expressing their doubt in my success in high school and post-secondary. I remember one of my teachers stating to myself and my parents that I should not apply to the IB (international Baccalaureate) program at what would become my high school, for the reason that I would not "survive" the program.

Another personal event that I'll share, just because I want youth to know that they can

make somethina of themselves despite their circumstances, was living in homelessness. For over half a year, my family and I had no home, which means no furniture, barely any food, just a bag of clothes. Despite the conditions of living in a shelter, I still managed to attend school, even achieve good grades and participate as usual with no one having any knowledge of my situation.

How have you overcome these obstacles?

The best ways for me to overcome these obstacles included keeping myself busy, listening to the advice of parents, older family members and even some youth slightly older than I was.

Keeping myself active and busy kept me from having "idle" time to just hang out at the mall or around the neighbour-hood, which reduced the chances of meeting with the wrong crowd.

I became involved with numerous organizations and sports as I played in the Rexdale soccer league for four years, joined sports teams at my school, such as intramural soccer and the school basketball team. I participated in the Micro-Skills art program and also became very involved with my church as my father is a minister; I partook in community events held by the church. such as the annual vacation bible school. I was also part of the 188 Cobra Air Cadet Squadron for a number of years as well.

Ialso occupied my time with researching almost anything that came to mind, I utilized my access to computers to teach myself how to do things, such as build websites, create pages, logos, clothing designs and many more in my spare time.

My parents were a tremendous aid in getting me past all these obstacles I faced. Until this day, they encourage me to focus, do better and never to give up on my goals. Having a strong parental presence in life is one of the most vital components to success. Of course, as a youth, I would often want do as I seem to be right for myself according my perception, however,

even now I am recognizing their points of view. My parents directed me into the path I am taking towards achieving my goals, and for that, I continue to adhere to their advice. Watching my own parents overcome their struggles in Canada— such as my father opening his business and my mother becoming a registered nurse motivates me to make something of myself.

What do you have to say about the stigma surrounding your community in regards to race and success (certain races are categorized as unsuccessful from the verv beginning)?

The stigma is definitely present, whereby minorities are expected to be part of the negative aspects of the comm-unity. According to the stigma, minorities are expected to be a part of the gang presence, the drop-outs, the poor and unsuccessful. These minority groups are frowned upon, and because of this there is less initiative to help these groups to prosper.

Many people do not highlight the positive things being done by these minorities, and as recognition is so absent from the media, people are left to believe the stereotypes and add to the stigmatization of the community.

The media portrays so much of the negatives, the violence and crime, but do not project the initiatives of the local youth, such as the Micro-Skills programs, the local churches that enter the community to reach out to the local youth and also the numerous participation of minority groups in their own personal initiatives to reduce the negative influences in the community. If the media portrayed more of the success stories that exist within the minority aroups, more people would realize the potential that many of the youth hold in the Rexdale area.

Currently, I am working on a website called Y-TAG (Youth Turning Away Guns) which is intended to highlight some of the positive initiatives directed to reducing violence, specifically gun violence, which will feature a web counselling component to help as a guide out of potentially dang-erous situations.

Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? 10 years from now?

I see myself still working to achieve my goals. I aspire to be a cardiologist. I have a high interest in health care, it helps that my mother is a nurse. It's a long road, but it's one I take one day at a time.

I see myself doing my best to set an example for my younger siblings and helping to build the spirits of the youth in my community.

What advice would you give to youth growing up in communities that are considered as "at risk"?

- Be active, keep yourselves busy and involved in positive community or school events and groups.

Set yourselves apart from those of negative influence. Don't fall for peer pressure or be intimidated into associating with gangs.

= Don't fall for the violence. Do not instigate issues or be quick to resort to violence; too many of us are being killed over arguments and beefs and by associations.

 Put a strong focus into education. Education is the way to make it in this country. There are so many resources in place for the youth to achieve their goals, taking advantage of these resources and being aware that these resources are available to you will help tremendously.

Listen to your parents, positive models or counsellors. role Some youth don't have the advantage that I had of having both my parents in my life, but despite that, take heed to the advice of those that are definitely interested in seeing you prosper.

• Don't be discouraged, even if you face difficult situations. Be motivated to overcome anything that comes your way.

• Don't listen to anyone that says you cannot be successful, as I mentioned, one of my teachers told me I wouldn't survive my high school program or find myself in post-secondary, I used that as motivation to prove them wrong. 🜌



Since December 2012, after the need for extra assistance with literacy was noted from within the community, Firgrove established a reading and writing program in place every Monday for children from kindergarten to grade 4.

The program is volunteer-run and headed by Firgrove Community Centre Coordinator Lorraine Anderson. Children may join in the program if their teacher has recognized they require extra assistance with their reading and writing, or simply if they wish to continue improving their reading and writing skills and have support with homework.

BY: POLLY FORD-JONES

The program runs for three hours, includes a healthy after school snack, an activity or game related to reading/writing, and the chance to work on homework or reading. Each week, the children are accompanied to the Toronto Public Library Bookmobile where they are able to select books and borrow them on their own library cards. Since the start of the program, the children's enthusiasm for books and reading has increased remarkably.

Volunteers include Student Ambassadors from grade 6-12 from Firgrove schools who are there to assist younger



students with their homework, and for some of the younger ambassadors, a chance to progress in their own work as has taken positive steps in supporting its students. well. Volunteers also come from the University of Toronto With consistent attendance and increasing interest, the Medical Sciences department and have been trained by program aspires to continue throughout the summer, Frontier College - a national literacy organization strongly offering kids the chance to maintain or improve their reading engaged in literacy promotion and development of literacy and writing skills by the next school year, and potentially programs in Toronto. increasing the program to more than one day a week.

The importance of good reading and writing skills for children The program has been started at the grassroots level - a is emphasized by the current school curriculum which need recognized in the community and being fulfilled by focuses heavily on developing reading skills from grades the community. With support and in continuing to train 1-3 and after this, children are expected to be able to both new volunteers and young student ambassadors, the read and understand the material for the remainder of their program hopes to sustain itself and maintain its community schooling. This demonstrates how critical a solid foundation orientation. 🍘



in reading is for young children, and the Firgrove community



WITH Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



COBO ARENA DETROIT, MICHIGAN Sun. June 23, 1963 - 5#





istory 101 BY: KERN CARTER **FISE FIM KHALID E**



As much as our history as we've been able to recover, so much of it has been lost and forgotten. This becomes even more drastic when considering the history of African's in North America. Being transplanted into unfamiliar land and torn from their native culture has left African Americans to create and recollect memories and traditions from the now familiar territory.

In steps Khalid el Hakim, founder Black History 101 Mobile of Over the past two Museum. decades. Khalid has been able to amass a collection of artifacts numbering in the thousands detailing the black experience in America from Slavery to Hip Hop. He has taken his exhibit across America, and now gives Boss a glimpse into his passion.

I read your website on how you got started as a collector, but what inspired you to create this museum?

I was inspired to create the museum after attending the Million Man March in 1995. By then I had a collection of about 500 artifacts and was inspired to start sharing the collection publicly after taking the pledge at the MMM to make a positive contribution to the community. Up to that point, it was only a private collection enjoyed by myself and close friends. Also, the reality of young people in my hometown of Detroit not visiting museums on a consistent basis. So, I decided that if they weren't going to museums then I'd take the museum experience to them.

What role do you feel that the museum plays in American culture? North American culture? Do these stories and artifacts have any cultural value to Canadians?

museum highlights The the contributions of Black men and women in America but there is a connec-tion that crosses borders. Black people in North America have a common origin as well as an overall common experience in the face of discrimination oppression and although its seen through different lens in different parts of North America. For example, just a few years ago Mexico printed a national stamp with the image of a stereotypical caricature of a Black man. This comic happens to be a

of imagery.

My maternal grandparents, the Millbens and as well as Evans escaped the brutality of southern slavery and escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. They settled in places like Dresden and Windsor. So I've always had a strong connection to Canada with aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews who are Canadian citizens. I grew up in Detroit which borders Windsor, of course. As a fan of Hip Hop culture I've been lucky to collect some classic Hip Hop related memorabilia from Canada including a rare concert poster of Canadian Hip Hop pioneer Maestro Fresh Wes opening for Public Enemy in Windsor from the early 90's. Another one of my notable Black Canadian pieces is an autographed hockey stick from the first Black NHL hockey player Willie O'ree who I met several years ago.

Tell us about some of your favourite or some of the most important artifacts that you have collected.

There are more than 5,000 artifacts in the collection and they all have a very significant value to me. I just recently saw the movie Diango so I'll share some examples of artifacts from the enslaved African era. In the collection, I have "slave" shackles, a bill of sale for an African woman and her two children, a piece called a manilla which was used as currency to purchase Africans and many "slaves for sale" advertisements from newspapers.

Why is it important for us to be knowledgeable about Black History?

It is extremely important to be knowledgeable about Black History. It is history that tells you where you've been, where you are and where you are going. If you don't have directions you are lost and just go in circles until you are given proper directions. We see many examples in our communi-ties of people who lack direction and guidance. That's why we see so much self hatred. popular comic strip character in Mexico Marcus Garvey said, "A people without

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but it comes from the racist Sambo character that is connected to a long history racism that has been used to dehumanize African people. So when images like that pop up its important to have conversations about the power

a knowledge of their past history, origin or culture is like a tree without roots."

Tell us some places vou have traveled to with this museum. What was the reaction?

The museum has traveled the U.S. a few times over. Since 2006, we have visited New York, California, Oregon, Washington, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Michigan. Everywhere we travel the response is positive overall. The exhibits challenge people to look at history in a new way. Some people become very emotional because they've never seen some of the more disturbing memorabilia before. For example, there is an original photo of two Black men being lynched in Marion, Indiana. Obviously, that is going to touch a deep cord with people, but its a part of history that we must know and understand so that it'll never repeat itself. But, even more importantly we need to know that history to understand what role people must play to address current injustices in society.

What are your plans for the future of the museum? What continuous role do you see the museum playing?

The plans for the museum is to expand the collection and to always have exhibits on the road. One of the huge challenges is that people tend to celebrate Black history only in February. So, we are pushing for the recognition of Black history all year. A thorough understanding of Black history is the key to liberating an oppressed mind. The role of the Mobile Museum is to inspire people to learn more about Black history as well as become collectors. I would like people to learn to value their own history and the artifacts that come from their experience and then to tell their own story. Some of the most valuable artifacts we have are right under our noses. I just read a story about a Canadian woman who found a copy of Booker T. Washington's book Up From Freedom in her grandparents house. When she opened it she found a letter written to her grandfather from Booker T. Washington! We need to look no further than ourselves for the richness of Black history.



know essential tips for managing money and debt well. In this article we address a behind-the-scenes, hidden debt essential – your credit score. By being a savvy borrower, you can actually improve your credit score and reduce your cost of borrowing.

Your credit score is a number that reflects your credit-worthiness. The higher the number, the more credit worthy banks and other lenders consider you to be. The more creditworthy lenders consider you to be, the more negotiating power you will have when discussing the interest rate and other terms of a loan from a bank.

From earlier issues of Boss, readers for the expert money manager.

Your history with using credit (credit cards, bank loans, car loans, etc) determines your credit score. If you understand how your credit score is affected by your credit history and credit usage, you can make sure your borrowing and repayment patterns give you the highest possible credit score.

Here is some information about managing your borrowing to maximize your credit score that we found interesting.

Using a prepaid card won't help to improve your credit score but using a secured credit card will help to improve it and is one of the best wavs to establish a new credit history or on time), your credit score improves. repair a bad one!

Prepaid cards are not credit; rather they work much like your bank account balance. If you have a prepaid card with a balance of \$500 on it, once you've spent that \$500, you have nothing left. A secured credit card works a little differently. Suppose you pay \$500 to a credit card issuer as a security deposit (much like a security deposit on an apartment lease). The credit card issuer sets a credit/spending limit on your credit card. (And sometimes that credit limit will only just equal the deposit.) When you use the credit card to purchase something for say \$300, you must pay back that \$300 to the credit card company and your deposit of \$500 remains as the security. When you use your secured credit card responsibly (making payments When you close the account, you get

vour \$500 back.

Your cell phone payments history may affect your credit score!

Even though a cell phone account is not credit in the same way a credit card or a bank loan is, if you make late payments, miss payments, or your cell phone account is sent to collections, your credit score will be damaged if the cell phone company reports that history to the credit reporting agencies.

For a given borrowed amount, it's better for your credit score to have a higher credit limit and use less of that available credit on older credit accounts than it is to use a greater percentage of a lower credit limit on newer accounts. (Say what?)

Your credit score is affected by the percentage of your credit limit that you actually borrow, not the credit limit itself. So if two people each borrow \$500. but one has a credit limit of \$1000 and the other has a credit limit of \$1500, the person with the higher

SHOPPING AROUND FOR THE BEST PRICE ON A CAR LOAN OR MORTGAGE FOR A HOUSE CAN DAMAGE YOUR CREDIT SCORE IF IT TAKES YOU MORE THAN 2 WEEKS TO DECIDE WHICH I OAN TO ACCEPT.

\$1500 credit limit will have a better/ higher credit score (everything else equal). (To maintain the best credit score, try to keep your borrowing under 35% of your total available credit.) And while credit card companies may offer very attractive incentives to get you to sign up, you will have a higher credit score if you keep your older credit account.

Shopping around for the best price on a car loan or mortgage for a house can damage your credit score if it takes you more than 2 weeks to decide which loan to accept.

When you apply for credit, potential lenders submit inquiries about your credit score to the credit reporting agencies. The number of inquiries about your credit score is recorded in your credit history and included in for credit. When you are shopping around for a car or a mortgage, try to do it within a two-week period. All inquiries related to auto or mortgage loans made during this time are usually combined and treated as a single inauirv.

It's easy to get a free copy of your credit report (but they charge a small fee to provide your credit score). There are two credit reporting agencies in Canada—Equifax Canada (www.equifax.ca) and TransUnion Canada (www.transunion.ca). To find out more about how you can order your free "credit file disclosure" from Equifax or your "consumer disclosure" report from TransUnion (and to correct any reporting errors!), contact the reporting agencies directly or visit the website of the Financial Consumer



number of inquiries, while it may be shopping around for the best loan contract, the potential lender might view it as though you are desperate

your credit report. If there are a large Agency of Canada (http://www.fcacacfc.gc.ca) for lots more information because you are a savvy consumer and tips on Budgeting and Money Management.

Material for this article was written by

members of the Black Creek Financial Action Network (BCFAN). We are a multi-partner network working towards coordinating efforts among the many agencies providing financial information; mounting public events with a financial focus; advocating for the community on finance matters; sharing the best and promising practices aimed at building the capacity of service providers; and researching and evaluating financial programs and services. For a list of members and other information about BCFAN, please visit us at http://cec.info.vorku. ca/partnerships-collaborations/blackcreek-financial-action-network.

Readers of BOSS magazine are welcome to submit their financial questions to BCFAN. Please email your questions and inquiries to <u>vorkcec@</u> vorku.ca 🗖

BY: ENISSE CUEVAS-CORONA



GENERAL MANAGER AND RESTAURANT OWNER DELROY SCHOBOURGH DISCUSSES HOW IT FEELS TO MANAGE A STABLE BUSINESS IN A BUSY CITY.

With twenty nine years of restaurant experience, Delroy states that his grandmother's lifestyle as a business woman inspired him to open up his own business and turn his passion for cooking into a reality. And because Schobourgh has seen himself in the kitchen since his teenage years, his role as a professional chef and business owner has made him realize that he must keep realistic expectations of his staff.

Delroy plans on expanding his restaurant in the future, but for now he hopes to watch his restaurant grow, along with a great staff, food and customers who are welcomed to enjoy the great menu Crystals Seafood has to offer. Schobourgh's advice for those considering opening up their first business is to, "treat the last customer like the first, be passionate about the cuisine and try your best to make every customer have a great experience."

Make sure to stop by and order the most popular dish: Shrimps linguine topped with fresh vegetables and garlic at Crystal Seafood Restaurant located at 632 Vaughan Rd. Toronto, for unforgettable Caribbean cuisine. 🗭









RECIPE SHRIMP LINGUINE

INGREDIENTS:

Shrimp Julienne carrots Tomoato Sweet pepper Green onion Garlic her butter



Salt and pepper to taste.



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Sautee shrimp in vegetable oil then add julienne carrot, tomato, sweet pepper and green onion add garlic herb butter.

Toss the cooked linguine in with the shrimp and vegetable.

BY: FIANA ANDREWS HOW TO BE "APPROACHABLE-READY"



The popularity of online dating appears to be growing. A 2010 marriage survey¹ revealed that 1 out of 6 married couples met each other using that platform. It was further stated that more than twice as many marriages occurred between people who met on online than in bars, clubs and other social events combined. In 2013, I wouldn't be

bathroom mirror shouldn't be the first picture I see of you.

- If all I can see are your eyes then we need a discussion about poor lighting.
- Let's not leave out the sunglasses bandits. Come on? Does your profile picture really need to be of you posing with your sunglasses on? To me that's like wearing sunglasses inside; There's no need. If you think you look sexy with them on, save that picture for your gallery not vour profile picture.
- And why are you so far away from the camera? If you are guilty of having a stretched or squeezed photo, please take it down. This is 2013. I shouldn't be seeing pictures of scanned poor quality photos.

As I sit back in disbelief, I think to myself that these pictures are so not "approachable ready" and I'm sure many good men are over looked because they do not have a good profile picture. After a few minutes of scrolling, it was clear to me that many are clueless on how to appear approachable online. I didn't do a search for women, but I'm sure they are many culprits among them, also. People really need a lesson on what makes a good profile picture.

AS I SIT BACK IN DISBELIEF, I THINK TO MYSELF THAT THESE PICTURES ARE SO NOT "APPROACHABLE READY" AND I'M SURE MANY GOOD MEN ARE OVER LOOKED BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE A GOOD PROFILE PICTURE.

surprised if this data is similar, if not greater, and I assume The following is how to be approachable ready online and that Canadians are not far behind.

Since Online Dating seems to be a popular way to meet Your primary photos should be: someone, I decided to check it out for myself. The first thing I did when I went on the site was browse through pictures. As I scrolled down the screen, several profile pictures passed by before I decided to click on one to view their profile.

I wasn't impressed with what I saw.

• <u>A blurry phone picture of you standing in front of your</u> a study referenced on match.com and conducted in the United States with 7000 US adults

increase your chances of getting your profile clicked on.

Recent: Please do not upload a picture that is more than a year old. So many things could have changed within a year. If you want your date to recognize you when you finally meet, then put up a recent picture.

2) Sharp and in focus: Just did a quick online search on local department stores and saw that you can get a digital point and shoot camera for under \$60 with over 10 megapixels.



This is more than enough to provide you with a great quality profile picture.

APPROACH21 INK IS A CONCEPT THAT WAS DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT MEN AND WOMAN COMPLAIN ABOUT: WHICH IS MEN NOT APPROACHING WOMEN AND WOMEN NOT BEING APPROACHABLE. WE HELP BY SHARING TIPS ON HOW TO BE MORE APPROACHABLE AND ON HOW TO APPROACH

3) Well-lit: Try taking photos with natural light such as daylight preferably when it's sunny. If you don't have access to that, use the flash on your camera to provide you with more light for your photo. 4) Cropped: Your profile picture should be cropped so it shows only your head and shoulders. This is the solution to those far away photos where we can't see your face. A cropped photo is easier to see you and increases your chances of having your profile clicked. 5) Keep background distractions to a minimum: We should only see you and not you and a bunch of people or you and your messy room in the back ground.

6) Of you happy, looking directly at the camera: Researchers revealed that pictures of happy people looking directly at the camera instead of looking away were considered to be the most attractive².

If you follow these rules, you definitely will have a picture that is approachable ready and you are bound to have the number of people who click on your profile page increase.

For more info and dating tips, visit:

www.approach2link.com

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APPROACH21 INK ALSO PLANS AND PROMOTES EVENTS THAT CREATE APPROACHABLE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE EVENTS THAT PROMOTE INTERACTION AMONG INDIVIDUALS.

FOLLOW @APPROACH2LINK ON TWITTER, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM, AND FACEBOOK

Conway, C. A., Jones, B. C., DeBruine, L. M. & Little, A. C. (2008). Evidence for adaptive design in human gaze preference. Proceedings of the Royal Society, 275, 63-69.



Theme of the Season: Hello Fabulous Friends and Fans! we finally grasp the elusive. We are brought back into Happy Spring! Defining moments this season include a rare alignment with a more honest vision of our lives. This time series of three eclipses in a row, each just two weeks apart. the Universe is determined to surprise us with insights, The eclipses in the signs of Scorpio, Taurus, and Sagittarius opportunities, secrets revealed, and quick changes of fate. respectively, start in late April through May.

Life is a fantastic adventure, as this season will show us. It'll Eclipses normally come in pairs and symbolize a time when be a great season! Be Fabulous and Enjoy.



ARIES (March 21-April 19):

Money matters are especially important for you this season and you will see progress. The changes that come add stability in the big picture, even if they arrive with a swift unpredictability that surprises you at first. A great opportunity is as fortunate as winning the lottery.



CANCER (June 21-July 22):

Friendships can go through quick changes now, as you see the people that surround you in a new light. All of this is teaching you much about yourself, what you need to truly be happy and fulfilled. It might be hard to lighten up, so treat your play time seriously. Within the adventure is the key to your self-actualization, marking an important time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

Mid-May brings a Solar eclipse in your sign, signifving a time of an import ant and impressive beginning. Venus moving out of your sign on the same day is especially significant. While pleasure is wonderful, you understand that to truly feel joy you need to find a way to make what you enjoy into something profitable. The wav forward is clear.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

There are guick changes in the workplace that might surprise you at first, and then leave you feeling uncertain. Don't give into apprehension. You will quickly see how events are working to your advantage. The opportunity comes with a lot more responsibility, but you are up for the challenge.



have attained. Where there

are holes, you will find the needed resources to fill them. Taking care of family has an interesting way of helping you achieve your goals. Trust the obligations are moving you towards freedom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

A new vision opens up to you, and it takes you aback. You didn't know you could be so bold as to imagine such a fantastic future, but there it is, along with clear guidelines to get you there. It's gutsy and it certainly requires you to take a chance, but every life is finite. The smartest moves you make are those that consider the most optimistic future possible, while staying open to something even grander.





LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

What a fun season the Universe has planned for you! There are key moments when you take yourself much too seriously, so you will have to remind yourself. This is a time of crazy adventure, surprise flirtations, and dizzying joy that could leave you feeling more loved and supported than you knew before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

The month of April ends with a Lunar eclipse in your sign. Ready or not, there is going to be an ending. The thing is, you actually see the wisdom in it and embrace the change. You are ready to grow up and move towards a more solid future. It's exciting and vou know the space vou are creating now will fill you with more happiness than you have ever known.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

The Universe is not leaving change for the other guys. You are the recipient of a rare third eclipse at the end of May. A partner in love or business comes through for you in a big way. Trust the alliances you have made. The closure that comes moves you towards a better life than anything you could have planned for yourself.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Your workplace environment turns into a place for silly fun. You realize vou are more valued than you knew before. That doesn't mean you'll be granted a big raise just yet, but you are on the path. Some Capricorns could find themselves happily pregnant. Kids carry great news, whether they are vour own children or not.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

If you know you do something well, why fight it? There is an obvious opportunity that shows up that promises you a rise up the ladder of success, but you may be judging it. The truth is, you know it will be a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. Trust your own esteem of progress. If it matters to you go for it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):

Your sign, more than most, can get carried away by a song. This season, you find one that will define this moment of your life. It inspires you to work harder on your goals and be open to an even deeper bond with another. You are merging art with life, imagination with reality, putting you on the path to a charmed existence.

SPRING / SUMMER 2013 **BOSS MAGAZINE**

Nadiya Shah is your Fabulous Astrologer, Host, Communicator & Facilitator of the occasional epiphany, pointing the way to cosmic blessings. Visit her



On The Cover Model Stacey McKenzie, Malaika Lue white sequence dress. Rita Tessonlin earrings. Hair Stylist: Kadesha McLure, Make-Up Artist Nicole Soo. Editor's Letter Page 10 Model: Tamika Johnson, top: H&M, bottom H&M high-waisted dress skirt, shoes: Aldo multi-coloured high heel, Hair Stylist: Kadesha of Movita's Hair Attraction INC, Photographer: Ben Yamoah. Boss Fashion Title Page 12- Page 13 Model: Reese (also Designer). Photographer: Chris Swainston. **Cover Story: Stacev McKenzie Page 14 & Page 16** top: H&M basic iersev tank \$6.95, bottom: jeans models own, shoes: models own. **Page 17** top: H&M blazer \$69.95, bottom: BCBG generation floral harem pant (see www.thebay.com for pricing), accessories: Rita Tessonlin necklace, shoes: Manila blahnik pump, Hair Stylist: Kadesha McClure, Make up artist: Cristyn Wu. Page 18 - Page 19 top: H&M white fish net tank top \$14.95, H&M White leather vest \$29.95, bottom: Top Shop Burgundy slit high waisted shirt \$40.00, accessories: Rita Tessolin brackets, H&M hat 14.95\$, Shoe: Manolo blahnik strappy heel \$450.00, Hair stylist: Kadesha McLure, Make up artist: Make up artist: Nicole Soo & Cristyn Wu. Page 20 dress: Malaika Lue Maxi dress. accessories: Rita Tessonlin earrings. Hair stylist: Kadesha McLure, Make up artist: Nicole Soo & Cristyn Wu. Boss Woman : Tania Archer Page 22- Page 23 dress: Natalya Thomas gown, Photographer: Orland & Paul of Dream Works Photo Studio in Georgetown Guyana, www.dwphotostudio.com. Editorial: Inspired by: Rihanna Page 24 - Page 27 Model: Jleuce, stylist: Awena Abala, Photographer: Jayshawn Jones. The Weight is Over Page 28 - Page 29 photo's submitted by feature. Designer Profile: N.I.S.E. Clothing Page 30 - Page **31** Photo's submitted by designer. **Editorial: Rebel Without** A Cause Page 32 - Page 33 Model: (from left to right) Benjamin, Justin Rock, Kyle, Make-up: Beverly Ochoa, styled by: Awena Abala & Javshawn Jones. Photographer: Malcom Lobban. Editorial: Love the Skin You're In Page 38 - Page 42 Model: Reese (also Designer), Photographer: Chris Swainston. Page 43 - Page 44 photographer: Lance Gross. Boss Beauty **Title Page Page 45** Model: Alexandra Yasmin, Accessories supplied by: Just Supreme Boutique. Styled by: Awena Abala & Jayshawn Jones, Photographer: MaiAnh Nguyen. Editorial: Boss Beauty Page 48 Model: Karen. Page 49 Model: Tamika Johnson. Page 50 Model: Tamika Johnson. Page 51 Model: Alexandra Yasmin. **Page 48 - Page 51** Accessories supplied by: Just Supreme Boutique. Styled by: Awena Abala & Jayshawn Jones, Photographer: MaiAnh Nguyen. **Emma-culate Page 54** - Page 55 writer: Kern Carter, Photographers: Leonard Shen

(guitar picture) and Paul Stewart (reflection picture). **Cle at** Play Page 56 - Page 57 writer: Emilia Di Luca, Photographer: Photo's submitted by feature. Art Undeniable Page 58 -Page 61 writer: Max Greenwood, Photographer: Deshaun Price. Western Gem Page 62 - Page 63 writer: Emilia Di Luca Photographers: Eric Newby (mustache) and Nare Studios. Art Imitates Everything Page 64- Page 66 writer: Nicole Seck, Photograher: Raini Perera. Leo Ravner Remember Poem Page 67 writer Leo Ravner. Liss Art Gallerv Page 68 - Page 69 writer: Alexander Chernogorov, Photographer: courtesy of Liss Art Gallery. Trixx and Treats Page 70 - Page 71 writer: Joseph Fava Photographer: Nathaniel Anderson. I Am Who I Am Page 72 - Page 74 writer: Emma Porteous, Photographer: Paolo Azzarraga. No Small Task Page 75 writer: Emma Porteous Photographer: Photo's submitted by feature. Shining Through the Competition Page 76 - Page 77 writer: Enisse Cuevas-Corona Photographer: Photo's submitted by feature. **Fingers** to the Ground Page 78 - Page 79 writer: Oxana Tsirelman Photographers: Kadeem Ellis (black and white) Sean Getti (dress). Hustle and Flow Page 80 - Page 81 writer: Andrew Williams, Photographer: Ishmil Waterman, Home Base Page 82 - Page 83 writer: Kern Carter, Photographer: Andrew Kesler. Chasing Reason Page 84 - Page 85 writer: Enisse Cuevas-Corona, Photographer: Adam Oliveira. Music To My City Page 86-87 writer: Joseph Fava Photographer: Adam Oliveira. Priddy Boi Page 88 - P writer Enisse Cuevas-Corona Photographer: Photo's submitted by feature. Toronto's Summer Festivals Page 89 writer Max Greenwood. Boss Man: Farley Flex Goes With the Flow Page 94 - Page 96 writer: Emma Porteous. Now you know "Toronto Loves Kicks" Page 97 writer: Justina Opoku-Ware, Photos provided by feature. Superheroes Page 98-Page 99 writer: Justina Opoku-Ware, Photographer: Faaiza Mansoor. Ouest to a Healthy Lifestyle Page 100-Page 101 writer: Justina Opoku-Ware, Photographer: Mitzy Blair. Jane Finch Scholars Page 102 - Page 105 writer: Justina Opoku-Ware, Photographer: Faaiza Mansoor. Firgrove Reads Page **106 - Page 107** writer: (inser), photo's submitted by Firgrove Community Learning Centre. Khalid el Hakim: Black History 101 Mobile Museum Page 108- Page 109 writer: Kern Carter Photos provided by feature. Your Credit Score Page 110 - Page 111 writer: Black Creek Financial Action Network . Toronto's Crystal Seafood Restaurant Page 112 - Page 113 writer: Enisse Cuevas-Corona, Photos provided by feature. How to be Approachable Ready Online Page 114- Page **115** writer: Fiana Andrews. Photos provided by feature.











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