

JUNE 2022 ISSUE
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C.O.B.S.

CIRCLE OF
Boss SISTERS

THE QUEEN'S COURT

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CEO/Owner of Allure
Art Studio

THE KING'S COURT

Meet Perry Thompson -
CEO/Founder of Rhythm
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Meet Rachel "Rae" Reeves -
CEO/Founder of Resumes
by Rae



From The Office of the Editor

TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

Welcome to the month of June! When I was in my youth, the month of June had a significant meaning for me. It meant the end of the school year, summer camp begins, summer youth jobs, wearing shorts and sandals, going to the pool or the neighborhood fire hydrant, visiting amusement parks or beaches, and family BBQ's. Unfortunately, Father's Day was the least important day to me. I had an absent father, and although my mother had a terrific longtime boyfriend (let's keep it real) he wasn't my father. I gave him the respect because he stayed with my mother for years providing for three girls that were not his daughters (he only had 1 child with my mother). I respected him for coming to the table and showing what a good man will do for the woman he loves. I remembered his conversations with me about boys and how he stood up to the boys that gave me a hard time. I even remember him teaching me a karate move to kick a boy in a specific place that will bring him down to his knees. My stepfather Johnny (Sleepy) Clark was a man that loved my mother and stood by her side. He is not alive today but I'm grateful he was a part of my childhood journey.

I'm super proud to witness to so many Black/Hispanic men who are socially taking ownership in parental responsibility. More families are providing a healthy environment for their children to come to terms with their parent's separation. Social media have created platforms that illustrated fathers who can do their daughter hair, seeing Girl Dads post, daddy/ daughter dances as well as music video dance-offs. I am glad to see men taking a stand and saying not all men are disconnected fathers. We still have a long way to go, there are still those individuals who need time to mature in being responsible for their child's mental well-being. Make note mental problems in the black families start with unbalanced, or issufied parents who don't get healed with unsolved issues. Yes, I said that!!! Get mental help so we don't screw up our children's perspective on healthy relationships.

My prayer is that we take accountability in being the best role model because it starts at home. It is important that your daughters experience the first man to love is her father. When a father is in the child's life (regardless if it's without or with the mother), that father plays an important role of what a Black man's love looks like. I was blessed to have uncles, male big cousins and male best friends to show me what it felt like to be loved and protected by a black man.

If you have a story that you would like to share in COBS, please email us at cobsmagazine@gmail.com. Happy Kings Day to all the fathers.

Trevi Booker

Trevi Booker Pershay



MEET THE C.O.B.S. TEAM



Trevi Booker Pershay

Editor-N-Chief

Trevi Booker Pershay is Editor-N- Chief and Founder of C.O.B.S. – Circle of Boss Sisters. Trevi wears many hats she is CEO & Founder of PDM Performing Arts Corp., Trevi Pershay Productions Inc, PDM Productions LLC and she is author of the book "A Different Type of Church Girl – The Battle of the Calling on Amazon. Trevi is also Senior Pastor of Restoration, Hope and Deliverance Center, mentor, dance teacher and she is known as Tyler Perry of the Hood and the Purpose Pusher.

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Tinika Thomas is CEO & Founder of Shay Beauty Consultants, she currently is Vice President on the Board of Directors for Trevi Pershay Productions, PDM Performing Arts as well as business advisor/manager to Trevi Booker Pershay. Tinika juggles many hats, she is a mom, soon to be wife, make-up designer and enjoys being with her 3-year-old grandson Cam.

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Nisha Pershay specializes in taking care of weaves; therefore, you will have them for a long time. She is CEO & Founder of The Traveling Salon 2. Nisha holds down a full-time job with an investment company as well as she is Sound & Stage Manager for Trevi Pershay Productions Inc.

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Rosemarie Berghout

Newsletter Editor

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Rosemarie Berghout is the Chief Executive Officer of Fresh Grounds Inc., a non-profit organization that provides community resources throughout metro Atlanta. Rosemarie is also the co-founder of R&R Exp. Productions, providing entertainment platforms for local artists in Atlanta, GA. as well as providing a social networking vehicle for an array of spotlight and fundraising events. With a passion for creativity and expressive writing, Rosemarie created her first newsletter publication for her home church in Brooklyn, NY and after relocating to Dacula, GA., she continued publishing newsletters for a local church in Atlanta, GA. as well as providing other social media and event publications for various professional clientele.

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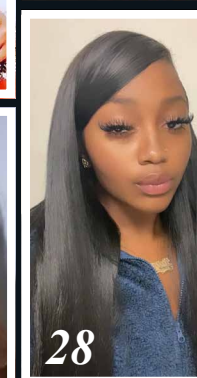
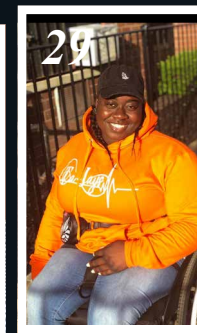
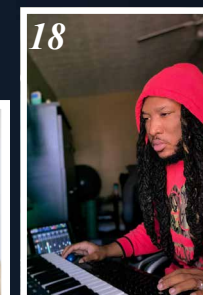
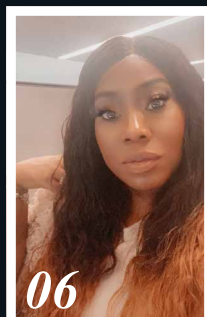
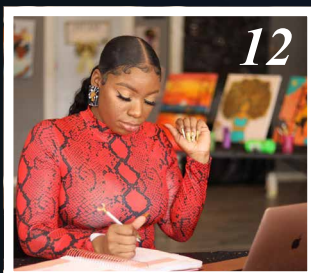
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TINIKA THOMAS

INSIDE TIPS FOR EVERYDAY MAKE-UP ROUTINE – REGARDLESS IF YOUR A NEWBEE OR EXPERIENCE IN THE MAKEUP WORLD.

HOW TO REMOVE FACIAL HAIR? HERE ARE THE 4 BEST FACIAL HAIR REMOVAL PRODUCTS FOR SMOOTH SKIN

If you are trying to get super-soft skin and that nice air brushed look with your makeup you may be surprised to learn facial hair removal is the way to go. Yes a good skin care routine is just as important but, the removal of the peach fuzz on your face makes your makeup look super smooth and even. The removal of facial hair is the clue to no more cakey makeup that most women experience. The three common ways that most dermatologist say are used by women are:

1. Physical removal from a razors or waxing.
2. Chemical removal from hair removal creams which often dissolve the hair from the root.
3. Laser from hair removal which destroys the root of the hair with each treatment.

HERE IS A PEEK AT A FEW OF MY TOP 4 HAIR REMOVAL PICKS:

1. Finishing Touch Flawless Women's Painless Hair Remover:

This pocket-sized epilator gets rid of your hair without leaving your skin the slightest bit irritated. The cute packaging gives this product the look of a lipstick so no one will know your secret.

This product is available on Amazon for \$19.00
<https://amzn.to/3N6Mp6o>

This product is also available at Walmart for \$10.00
<https://bit.ly/3N5mlsf>

2. Derma flash Luxe Dermaplaning Kit:

This kit is a much pricer but it really works. Dermaplaning will exfoliate your skin as well as shave your facial hairs. It removes your dead skin cells to reveal a smoother, younger skin, creating a flawless canvas for skincare and makeup.

This product is available on for \$199.00
<https://amzn.to/3N1mOMj>

3. Schick Silk Touch-Up Tool:

This super cheap product is perfect for those times that you want to just want to remove a few facial hairs. This product gently removes fine hair son your face. It will also smooth and exfoliates skin by dermaplaning. It is designed with fine micro guards on the blade to help protect the skin.

This product is available on Amazon for \$4.90
<https://amzn.to/3wWxJQj>

This product is also on Walmart for \$5.67
<https://bit.ly/3NNn6Gf>

4. Panasonic Facial Hair Trimmer for Women:

This facial hair removal tools has a pivoting head that fits along all the nooks of the face to gently remove your facial hair. This facial trimmer has been designed with a sleek, stylish profile to fit comfortably in either hand for total control and slip easily into your beauty kit, bag or purse for trimming anytime.

This product is available on Amazon for \$19.99
<https://amzn.to/3GwiyIt>

This product is also available on Walmart for \$39.95
<https://bit.ly/3NiSMnr>

So when choosing what methods will work for you whether it be tweezing, waxing, shaving, trimming or dermaplaning you have to know which method you can tolerate the best.

BEAUTY TALK



A FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE

Written by Tinika Thomas-Foreman

There is no one like a Dad. A Dad is a son's first hero and daughter's first love. A father is a person that can light up a child's smile when they enter a room, fill their hearts with love, and create adventures to remember. COBS magazine is paying tribute to all the fathers that are just doing it all.

According to History.com Father's Day was first celebrated in 1910 in Washington State. This was thanks to a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, who gathered support from the community for the holiday to be celebrated state-wide. The holiday slowly spread and went nationwide in 1924 when President Calvin Coolidge urged all states to observe the day.

Throughout the world, fathers are always considered the head of the household. They play an important role in the life of a child. Our fathers keep us grounded, and foster us

What makes you a man is not the ability to make a child, it's the courage to raise one."- Former President Barack Obama

with upstanding beliefs and morals these are some of the roles that dads play in our lives. They are the roots of our

trees.

My dad taught me the importance of family, perseverance, and hard work. He instilled values in his children that would carry us into adulthood. I remember him always saying there are two things that no one could ever take from me my family and my decision to be kind to others regardless of differences.

On Sunday, June 19th millions of Americans will be honoring their fathers around the world with wishes, gifts, and family time. This is an important day for us to show and say how much we love our dads. To all the fathers, stepdads adopted dads, and grandfathers HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day#section_2



MEET TAMEKA BLAND

FOUNDER AND CEO OF LIMITLESS

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S Magazine. What an honor to have you featured on the cover of our June issue. We have with us veteran hairstylist and serial entrepreneur Tameka Bland. You are a true example of black excellence. Please tell us about Tameka Bland and the woman behind the brand.

TAMEKA BLAND:

A little about me. I am a mother of three children with my husband of 12 years and two grandchildren. I grew up in West Louisville Kentucky a place that I call home. There was a lot of poverty during that time which I never paid attention to. During the pandemic, I realized that there were not a lot of businesses that did not have the infrastructure for delivery. Also during this time, you had a lot of racial injustice as well as food insecurities that were going on. I did not realize that it was that bad until a family member could not make it to the grocery store which was not within walking distance of her home or get anything delivered to her address because of what area of town (West Louisville) she lived in. My husband and I began to brainstorm and research ideas. We realized that maybe there was

something that we can do to help out the community by offering delivery services. Initially, it was supposed to be a courier business, however, we figured that the best way to serve the consumer was through consumer delivery. After tons of research and planning, we realize that starting a delivery service is possibly the best thing that we can do to help out our community.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You were a serial entrepreneur from early in your career. Can you share your business adventures from the early 2000s? What did you learn from those ventures that have prepared you for the present day?

TAMEKA BLAND:

I've always wanted to be a hairstylist from an early age. I went to Doss High School where I earned half of my hours and after graduating high school, I went to the Hair Design School. From the early 2000s-to 2008, I was a hairstylist just working as a booth rental. In 2009 I opened my salon called Visions Hair Salon, it was a booth rental salon where I had a few stylists on contract and it became a great thing. Throughout this journey of booth renting

I learned from those around me, I learned from mistakes, and I learned that you can be the best stylist in the business but if don't have good customer service you don't value your clients. If you don't appreciate their business then how can your business succeed? So in 2013, I decided to close the salon, I had lost all of my clients at the time (due to the above mentioned) and I need to reevaluate my life as well as my career. I decided to work for a natural hair salon just as a receptionist just to learn the ins and outs of the business. Through continuing education, learning the back office side of the salon, retail customer's engagement, and how they interact with customers. This is how that salon became a successful one and I knew that one day I could do that again as well. So I left that salon in 2017 to start my salon and hair product line called Krown'd Kurlz Ultimate Hair Products. A year prior my husband and I had opened a retail clothing store for men. It was going great, we were the only Black-Owned Clothing Store in Louisville. Because of my back office experience at the salon, continuing education, and reading and researching, we were able to sustain ourselves in the

retail clothing business and the salon. I had my salon for a few years and things were going great. Then the pandemic hit. From there life took a drastic turn for both businesses. Well, let's just say LimitLess was born.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You turned your professional hairstyling skills to make people look fabulous and then you'd switched gears and created an app. Wow! Can you share with our readers what was your sole mission in starting this app?

TAMEKA BLAND:

What a life change! I surprise myself daily with where I was, what I thought my career would be, and then Boom! It has been a blessing. Our mission is to make delivery accessible and affordable for everyone by connecting consumers with the best local merchants in their neighborhood right at their fingertips. We're not just an app. We're a community of people who care about the community, economy, sustainable business practices, and empowering local merchants.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you define success? What effective strategies have you implemented or initiated to achieve the ultimate success for your app?

TAMEKA BLAND:

I get asked this question often. I don't define success as monetary. I do define it as being healthy, spiritually wealthy, motivated, inspiring, goal-setting, and being able to accomplish the things that you have set forth. Be happy with life and those that genuinely love you! The most effective strategy that I've been playing implemented to achieve the ultimate success for LimitLess is marketing by any means necessary. Whether that be through radio, promotions, newspaper articles, or through partners that we have signed onto our app. Social media has been a really big deal when it comes to staying relevant. Networking events and continuously meeting as many people as possible who are very interested in where the direction of LimitLess is headed.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are the value-adding solutions your customers benefit from using the app? How does your app differ from the competitors like Uber Eats, Seamless, and Grub Hub?

TAMEKA BLAND:

Our customers benefit from using our app because our fees are more affordable, we service a smaller delivery area, faster service, and we go into neighborhoods that some of the other services or drivers rather not reach. We are integrating snap benefits into our platform for those that get food stamps. We also partner with the local farmers. Our App also differs from the other delivery apps such as Uber eats and Grub Hub because again we are more affordable and we have larger mileage proximity for

delivery. We are not just limited to West Louisville if you are located within the mileage you can utilize our services as well. We are providing access for the customers in underserved areas but some areas are off-limits!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Generating a new business, increasing your profits, or at least maintaining your financial stability can be challenging both during good and bad times. Can you share the key factors you use to keep forging ahead and not lose growth traction during a difficult economy? How do you find ways to keep yourself encouraged, motivated, and engaged? What sustains your drive?

TAMEKA BLAND:

I believe marketing is the most intentional avenue to keep your traction improving to forge ahead during good and bad times. Making sure that we're staying on top and ahead of the game is one of our main focuses. I find ways to keep myself encouraged and motivated by reading, and creating google alerts to stay on top of the industry and things I need to know. I do listen to a lot of motivational podcasts, I love Motiviversity on iTunes Podcast. I pray (a lot), meditate, and I try to work out as often as I can. Building a legacy business is the goal of staying focused on what's ahead! My goals allow me to always see light at the end of the tunnel, even if it's not too close. I keep it pushing and encouraging myself and others. It's the "INSPIRATION FOR ME" that is a constant reminder that this girl from West Louisville who grew up in poverty, who was teased, had a rough upbringing, a teenage mom, overcame it all and I am a living witness of how far God has brought me. I AM UNSTOPPABLE and if I can do it! You can as well! In the wise words of DJ Khaled "Keep Going"!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you believe becoming an entrepreneur is one of the best decisions you have made and why?

TAMEKA BLAND:

Oh absolutely I believe that becoming an entrepreneur is one best decision that I've made, I've made a lot of mistakes but I made a lot of good decisions when it comes to being an entrepreneur. It's all about persistence, dedication, and grinds. If you are persistent with anything that you're trying to do it's worth the reward. Becoming an entrepreneur has never been easy. There are days I lose, days I win, and a lot of ups and downs, but I would not trade it for anything in the world. I will say that

I have a goal, and my goal is to create a legacy business for my family and because of that, I don't lose too much of that drive.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Outside of creating Limitless, what would be another business dream of yours?

TAMEKA BLAND:

Oh I have so many business ideas. I have would say that one of my business moves would be to incorporate a ride-share program for Limitless for children to get transportation back and forth to their daily activities. This is just one business venture that I would like to have. It may not happen within five years but that's definitely on the list of goals. I don't want to speak too much about the others, there are so many. You will just have to wait and see.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Where do hope Louisville, West End will be in the 10 years? What changes would like to see happen in your community?

TAMEKA BLAND:

I would love for West Louisville to grow more with minority-owned businesses. More grocery stores, and more things in the community for children to do to stay active. I would love to see some change come to certain neighborhoods whereas you know that they don't have the same opportunities and access to different parts of the city.

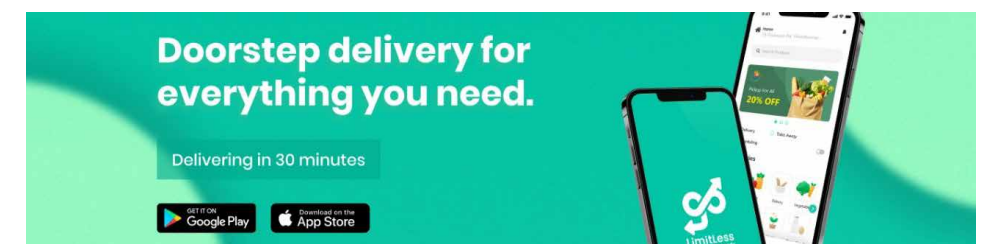
C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is the best advice you ever received as a first-time female entrepreneur that you can share? Can you please share your website information and social media platforms for us to continue to follow your amazing journey?

TAMEKA BLAND:

The best advice that I was given as a first-time entrepreneur and I still get to this day is just to keep pushing, keep going. You are unstoppable, become that light in each room that you walk into, become resilient, stay ahead of the game and you are your biggest competitor.

Our website is limitlesslouisville.com and we can also be reached at LimitLessLouisville on Instagram and Facebook thank you and I hope you continue to follow my journey, God bless!





MEET *PERRY THOMPSON*

CEO AND FOUNDER OF RHYTHM AND BLUES PRESERVATION SOCIETY

last one in the store! My mother and I enjoyed listening to Jazz music. It was hilarious to me to watch my dad trying to sing to the music and clapping off-beat. Listening to black radio was great back then. My parents gave me my first radio cassette player at nine years old. I would tape everything that was playing on the radio! Even throughout high school, the 80s R&B and the impact of Hip Hop was such a good time in black music. The radio DJs like Kenny Webb, Frankie Crocker, Mister Magic & DJ Red Alert spinning R&B and Hip Hop gave me such profound memories of music I had in my life and still do.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You are the CEO and Founder of a non-profit organization called Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society. Can you tell us about your organization, the vision you created, and what made you decide to target this particular genre?

PERRY THOMPSON:

The Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society is a nonprofit organization that preserves the culture of Black music. The reason why I started this organization is that black music has influenced every other genre of music, it's important to show how great black music is by honoring those who contributed to black music culture. My VP/COO and Artist-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Sonja Elise Freeman shares the same vision as I do in preserving black music culture by developing both artistic projects and academic curricula to educate youth and young adults. I'm very fortunate to have her as a part of the Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society Executive Team.

COBS MAGAZINE:

Your hometown of Atlantic City was known as the hub for jazz music. Is part of your mission to bring back R&B and other genres to Atlantic City where that lust was lost? How important would such a comeback mean to all the artists, producers, and writers who contributed to that era?

PERRY THOMPSON:

Black music played a major role in Atlantic City. Club Harlem was the place where black artists performed on Kentucky Avenue. Sam Cooke was its biggest act at Club Harlem. Jazz Legend Nina Simone got her start in Atlantic City. We want to do our part to bring back consistently R&B and Jazz musicians to Atlantic City by having music festivals, concerts, and special events highlighting local, regional, state, and national musicians as well as bringing R&B, Gospel, Hip Hop, and Jazz Icons to perform here as well. This is important for Atlantic City to honor artists who performed here from their humble beginnings to those who contribute daily to continue to grow the rich culture of black music in Atlantic City through the songwriters, singers, instrumentalists, deejays, rap artists, dancers, visual artists and producers we feel should be honored too. I think it would mean a lot to them

to be recognized for their contribution to the culture of Black music in Atlantic City.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You take great pride in your organization. What role does the preservation of R&B music play in empowering the community in which you serve?

PERRY THOMPSON:

Black music has always been of great importance to our community. It brings joy, and good times when we come together, eat food, dance and listen to its soulful sounds. When you see us dancing and singing together, there is a bond shared with everyone that is contagious. We want to bring that same energy back to the community of Atlantic City. We want to show the legacy black music culture has had in AC by doing lectures, block parties, workshops, seminars, and talent shows. We feel this will empower the community in a great way, by combining entertainment with education on the history of black music creatively while honoring all who have contributed over the years as well.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You mentioned that you will be spearheading several projects for the 2022-2023 season can you tell us about your new ventures that you are looking to tap into? What would like your end goal to be?

PERRY THOMPSON:

We have several projects for 2022-2023. First is our Classroom Tour where we want to speak at colleges, universities, and schools on the history of African American Music. We have done two lectures at Stockton University in New Jersey. Last November on the history of Hip Hop, and this February on the legacy of Nina Simone on her birthday. We also want to present our stage productions:

1. Strength Of A Woman: A Phyllis Hyman Tribute starring Queen Diva, VP/COO of the Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society.
2. Love, Pain & Activism: A Nina Simone Tribute starring Ayanda Sunshine. We are looking for sponsorship for all projects.
3. We want to create a Preservation Center to honor those who contributed to black Music. We also like to have an annual awards show, talent shows for kids, and music scholarships as well.

COBS MAGAZINE:

As a seasoned R&B connoisseur how do you define the state of R&B music right now? What are the elements of authenticity that we are missing from music nowadays versus music from the past?

PERRY THOMPSON:

I feel the state of black music today is in a good state, but it could always be better. Back then, music reflected the times, and musicians were advocates for change through their music by stepping out of their comfort zone of composing

music. When I heard Marvin Gaye's album "What's Goin On", it was such a masterful and touching album! Curtis Mayfield with his songs of pride and unity affected me. Everyone had their unique style and sound. To me what's lacking today is no originality. There are some artists today who are using traditional R&B and Hip Hop styles in their music like H.E.R., Kem, Kendrick Lamar, of course, Alicia Keys, and Silk Sonic have that traditional flavor too. I would like to see more artists be more original and incorporate their sound in the traditional ways instead of using so many samples or covers. In the Golden Age of Hip Hop, all lyrical styles were different. No one was "biting", or copying someone else's rhymes. Songs like "The Message" by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five and "Fight the Power" by Public Enemy spoke of our frustration, hurt, disappointment, and anger at what was happening in our community. I would like to hear more lyrical content with substance and stop using words to tear us down and disrespect women and let's enlighten the youth.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You interviewed for The Press of Atlantic City where you stated "Black music is culture. It's world culture." Can you elaborate on what you meant by this statement?

PERRY THOMPSON:

Black music has a profound influence on the culture both nationally and internationally. Many of the music genres originated by black people have not only become popular in America but across the globe. You can hear it in Hip Hop, the African drum sounds in Reggaeton. Latin music such as Salsa, Mongo, and Rumba, all have African influence in its music. In the Caribbean, Reggae and Calypso also show their African roots. Enka is Japan's form of Soul music with a touch of blues in it. Black music is very popular throughout Europe. Black artists have toured Europe for many years and have become more popular there than in the United States. Black Music is a culture that transcends all races, and it's used in everything from commercials to promoting fashion, and sports entertainment. The Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society recognizes this and we are on a mission to preserve black music culture one record at a time through entertainment and academic excellence.

COBS MAGAZINE:

On Mondays, you host a Music Spotlight via your Instagram live. What type of artists do you interview? Will you be hosting any special events for Father's Day?

PERRY THOMPSON:

Our Instagram Live Monday Music Spotlight we started in January 2022 to honor those who contributed to Black Music Culture. We interview the artist or a family member of a legendary artist. In June which is Black Music Month, and in honor of Father's Day, we are doing a Monday Music Spotlight Father's Day Tribute all month speaking to the children of R&B Soul Legend Fathers:

- June 6th- Princess Idia Gamble, daughter of legendary songwriter/producer Kenny Gamble
- June 13th- Bobby Wilson, son of the legendary Jackie Wilson
- June 20th- Joe Tex Jr. son of the legendary Joe Tex
- June 27th- Aika Kendrick, daughter of Eddie Kendrick of the legendary group The Temptations

COBS MAGAZINE:

What advice can you offer to aspiring artists, producers, and writers who are looking to break into the music scene? We must support your organization can you share with our readers how they can donate? Please share all your social media platforms for our readers to stay connected?

PERRY THOMPSON:

My advice to aspiring artists, producers, and writers is first to learn your craft and master it. Become very musically inclined and learn from those who came before

you. Listen to their music and their lyrics. Be very knowledgeable about the culture of black music, it has such a great history. Also, learn the business of music. So many black artists were robbed of royalties, published by managers, lawyers, and record labels. Be true to yourself and don't allow the industry to dictate what music you should do. Understand the legacy that Black Music has, and recognize its greatness. The Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society is on all social media platforms to connect with us: Instagram @rbps18, Twitter @rbps18 Facebook @RBPS999

If you would like to donate to the Rhythm and Blues Preservation Society: Cashapp: \$RBPS18 PayPal: PayPal.me/RBPS18 Are you ready to take the next step? Contact us today!

RBPS MUSIC SPOTLIGHT JUNE 2022

Hosted by
Mr. Perry Thompson
CEO/President

An Instagram Broadcast!
We are honoring R&B Soul Legend
Fathers through the eyes of their
children.

CONFIRMED GUESTS



Princess Idia Gamble
Singer
Daughter of Songwriter
Hall of Fame
Kenneth Gamble
June 6, 2022



Bobby Wilson
Singer
Son of Soul/Rock & Roll
Legend Jackie Wilson
June 13, 2022



Joe Tex Jr.
Singer
Son of Southern Soul
Legend Joe Tex
June 20, 2022



Aika Kendrick
Realtor
Daughter of Eddie
Kendricks
The Temptations Member
June 27, 2022



Rhythmb bluesps.org

KING'S COURT

MEET AMY SIMON

CEO OF ALLURE ART STUDIO



C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

We are delighted to have Queens's native artist, educator, and entrepreneur Amy Simon. Her mission is to nurture creativity, confidence, and culture in everyone through art. We are excited to hear about your journey. Can you tell us about yourself?

AMY SIMON:

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity! I am an artist, educator, and activist who grew up in Jamaica, Queens. My parents immigrated here from Dominica, West Indies so I grew up in a Caribbean household. I always had a passion for teaching and art, so I decided to merge my love for both passions and opened my own art studio in 2019. Allure Art Studio is a creative arts event space in Hollis, Queens where I host private and public painting events for the community to build their creativity and culture. I also rent the space out for creative events like black-owned pop-up shops, business launch events, workshops & classes, panel discussions, fitness classes, birthday

dinners, etc. To spread my love of art, I also teach paint therapy workshops for kids and teaching staff at various schools across NYC.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Your love for painting emerged at the tender age of 11. Can you share the moment when you drew your first art piece? When did you realize this was not a hobby but a gift that needed to be shared?

AMY SIMON:

When I was 11, I begged my mom to buy me a painting set. I was always an extremely shy child who would get in trouble for not speaking up and I remember painting being a safe outlet for me to truly express my feelings. I can't remember my very first piece, but I know I loved painting sunflowers and using different colors to represent how I felt at the moment. I used to blast my Aaliyah and Mariah Carey CDs and channel my emotions onto the canvas. I had never heard of an artist as a possible lucrative occupation, so I put my

art skills to the side and pursued teaching. Art and I reconnected in college when I took an "Intro to Painting" elective and this course quickly became one of my favorite classes. Once I became a teacher, I would go to paint parties by myself, and painting became a much-needed hobby. Even though my room started filling up with art and I realized I had talent, I avoided calling myself an artist. I honestly didn't think that my art was good enough for such a title.

In 2017, I went through a dark depression and decided to see a life coach. During the first session, he asked me, "What do you truly love to do?" and I said, "I love painting." He then asked, "If you had a magic wand, what would you do to include painting in your everyday life?" I said, "I would probably teach people how to paint in my own art studio." He told me all this can happen for me if I truly acknowledge myself as an artist. My first homework assignment was to introduce myself as an artist to people I had just met and show them my artwork. It took my almost 20 years after I first picked up a paintbrush for me to call myself an artist. I started an Instagram specifically for posting my art and started attending many art events around NYC. After putting my art into the world, many opportunities started finding me and I realized that this was the path God wanted me on all along.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You were an educator of the art for almost 8 years, and you decided to take your skills to turn them into a business. That was the birth of Allure Art Studio. Can you tell us about your company? Why the transition from being an educator to full entrepreneurship? What was the vision you wanted to create?

AMY SIMON:

Once I started calling myself an artist and acclimating myself into the art world, I saw a need in the Queens community for an art space that catered to black and brown people. I would always have to travel to Brooklyn or Manhattan to do a painting event and the spaces in Queens lacked cultural pieces and a relatable ambiance. One paint party I went to didn't even have brown paint and didn't play any songs I knew! I started drafting a business



plan for my own art studio to curate a space for US and Allure Art Studio was born in April of 2019. The vision of Allure was to have a studio that was modern, glamorous, and homely with a sprinkle of turn-up and a spoonful of good vibes. I chose the name Allure because by definition the word means "to powerfully charm, entice, attract, or tempt" and I believe my allure is through teaching and art. I want everyone who comes into the space to feel free to be creative, network with others, and be inspired to walk in their own allure. During a paint event at Allure Art Studio, guests choose a painting from my website, gather their friends, bring food, drinks, and decorations, and we help them host their own private paint event. I sketch the outlines for each canvas if needed and guide them step-by-step in their painting process. We play music catered towards their party and assist them with their artwork if needed. At the end, they get to add glitter to their pieces and create memories with family and friends. From April 2019 to June 2021, I was hosting paint events at the studio and teaching full time and it was just feeling so overwhelming. I was giving 50% of myself to both fields and didn't quite feel completely successful in either one. During the aftermath of the pandemic, many teachers were telling me that art programs in their schools were taken away due to funding and COVID-related issues. Teachers were also super stressed, and it felt like they needed a calm and creative outlet to disconnect from the chaos in the school system due to the pandemic.

In June of 2021, I decided to leave the education system and became an independent contractor hosting paint events at different schools throughout NYC for students and teaching staff. I bring all the supplies to the schools and do paint therapy with them for either an individual session or an ongoing residency. I also created my own paint therapy curriculum to merge my love of art and read-alouds. I take impactful picture books of color that focus on self-love, resilience, and respect and add a painting activity to each book. Now, I feel fulfilled being able to serve as an art instructor in the education system with everything that I love to do!

COBS MAGAZINE:

How would you describe your art to someone who has never seen it before? What message are you trying to send through your art?

AMY SIMON:

I would describe my art as cultural pop art with an added touch of mixed media to bring it to life. I create bright,

bold, and colorful pieces that I use vibrant colors, solid paint consistency, and glitter or jewels. When viewing my art, I want people to see a celebration of the beauty of blackness, femininity, culture, glamour, and beauty. I want them to also see they can create something beautiful.

COBS MAGAZINE:

Many art opportunities have found you over the years. Can you please share some of the shows that you had the pleasure of being part of? Did you have a favorite show that impacted you as an artist?

AMY SIMON:

One of my favorite shows was a Wakanda Forever-themed art show curated by The Art Hub NYC. Everyone had to dress in formal black cultural attire and each piece represented the beauty of black people. Another art show that meant a lot to me was being a featured artist in the Made in Queens art show curated by South Queens Women March. My pieces got to be on the walls of the Rufus King Manor Museum for the entire summer of 2021 and I received a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Bill de Blasio for participating. I also have been a part of various art experiences in Queens. I had the opportunity to help paint the Black Lives Matter mural on Jamaica Ave. with other artists of color and did a live painting to honor victims of police brutality at Juneteenth Queens curated by Alicia Hyndman. My favorite art show was the one I put together for the students in my summer art program. This past summer, I created a 6-week course for young artists in the community for ages 5-14. During the workshops, they created amazing masterpieces inspired by dynamic artists of color and I taught them about being a true ARTrepreneur. They learned about naming their piece, pricing their work, and presenting themselves & their artwork to potential buyers. At the end of the program, I had an art show for them to showcase all their work and they even sold their pieces. This meant so much to me because it gave these

little artists a chance to see that it's possible to be a thriving artist and make money from their art, something I never heard of as a kid.

COBS MAGAZINE:

The pandemic has affected each individual in its ways. Has the pandemic affected you, artist? Were you able to find solutions to keep the art studio afloat?

AMY SIMON:

Of course! Before the pandemic, we would have up to 50 painters in the studio during paint events. When the world shut down, we had to close the studio for 4 months and I had to find ways other ways to make money. I taught myself how to transition to virtual paint events and this was very difficult because it was new territory, I had to figure it out on my own. At the height of the pandemic, I launched Allure Art Accents, an extension of my Allure brand, to sell my artwork on different clothing, accessories, and home décor items. I even started doing mobile outdoor events where I bring all the supplies to different spaces instead of indoors at the studio. When we opened the studio back up, I had to transition the space to be more COVID safe, which cost a lot of money. I also had to reduce the guest capacity, which brought in less revenue than before. I had to double the number of events I was having to make up for the loss of revenue. To help nurture the mental state of everyone impacted by COVID, I started doing my own public events called "Art Therapy Thursday" and this became really popular. During these sessions, I choose a different theme each week and we have paint therapy to disconnect from the stresses of the world.

COBS MAGAZINE:

One of your goals is to encourage others to explore their creativity. What are some of the techniques that you use when you are teaching others to discover their creative side?

AMY SIMON:

Before we start the painting, I have





everyone take a few deep breaths to calm their body and make them call themselves an artist. A lot of people feel weird calling themselves an artist and think that because they haven't painted before, they can't paint and doubt their abilities. I also have all painters take an oath of having "good vibes only." It's very easy to beat yourself up while you're painting and speak negatively about your artwork so that helps to avoid the negative energy. I tell all artists to make sure that if they hear anyone around them speaking down on themselves tell them to have good vibes only energy. Another thing I stress is that the goal of painting isn't to create the "perfect piece" or to have it look exactly like mine. A true paint experience is about trusting YOUR creative process and feeling free to do your own thing or switch up the style to make it your own. During the painting portion, I walk around to each painter and compliment them on one thing they are doing well and support them with an artist technique tip in an area they may need help with. At the end, we give them glitter to make their pieces shine and they always feel so proud of their masterpiece.

COBS MAGAZINE:

It seems like colors are central to art and the creative process. How do you choose your color palette for each painting? How do you come up with titles for your artwork? Are there any artists, movements, or places that inspire you?

AMY SIMON:

When choosing a color palette, I think about which colors look good together. Sometimes I think about where someone might hang up the painting in their home and go off a color palette that might be fitting. I always use a touch of gold or silver glitter to make it shine. To choose the title of my piece, I try to come up with something clever or expand on the focal point of the piece. I am greatly inspired by a current artist named Whitney Austin from Charlotte, North Carolina. She creates pieces that highlight people of color and adds creative mixed media additions. She also has a dynamic social media presence that inspires me to build an online community. My inspiration comes from visiting different art museums around New York City and learning about the journey of different artists. I love being surrounded by art so I try to do one art exhibition a month by myself or with some of my artist friends. One of my favorite museums to go to is the Queens Museum at Flushing Meadow Park. I love being able to have a picnic with my art supplies,

sketch the Unisphere, and then go inside and view the art of the museum. Such a magical place!

COBS MAGAZINE:

What is the best thing about being an artist? What is the best thing about being an entrepreneur? What do you fear? Do you have any advice for aspiring artists looking to start their own company?

AMY SIMON:

The best thing about being an artist is inspiring others to acknowledge their God-given gift and walk in their purpose. Before each paint event, I always discuss my journey as an artist and try to speak life into the allure of others. Truly believe that everyone has something alluring about them that they should trust and share with the world. That allure is true to our path, purpose, and passion. As an entrepreneur, I love being able to create my own schedule and work on my own time. I hired a few Allure Gems to assist and teach various paint events and they even get the chance to curate their own art events at the studio. It's amazing to be able to have a vision for an event that impacts the community, work through it as a team, and see it come to life. It's also been amazing getting the chance to collaborate with other black women business owners in Queens. I've truly built a network of creatives who trust me and my space to help host their event. One fear I have is being able to balance everything and sustain my current lifestyle when it's time to transition to life as a future wife or mother. It would be a huge change because I move very freely in my business, and it sometimes worries me thinking about how I can create work/life balance as an entrepreneur. For anyone looking to start their own company, I would suggest one word: DISCIPLINE. You need to have the discipline to be a self-starter and trust your gut to make executive decisions. It's important to create a realistic schedule for yourself and truly stick to that schedule, even when you don't feel like it. You will also need discipline in managing your finances! Your income will change month to month, and you have to be prepared to sustain your finances in any situation. The stability of a traditional 9-5 is out the window and you end up having slow months where you need adequate savings in order to still pay the bills. It's also important to have a good business foundation with an accountant, bookkeeper, and business mentor. Having a relationship with God has also helped me tremendously as an entrepreneur. When times get hard, you need to be disciplined to have faith in what God has in store for you and trust in Him when setbacks come your way. When creating my schedule, I include time with Him for prayer, devotionals, bible study, and anything that helps me to get closer to Him.

COBS MAGAZINE:

Are there any exciting upcoming projects that you are currently working on? Can you please list your website and social media platform for our readers to continue to follow your journey? Thank you for your time.

AMY SIMON:

Yes! For the entire month of June, we are hosting an art exhibition called "Black Men Shine" to celebrate Juneteenth. We found local black male artists in the NYC area to display their artwork at the studio and their art will live there for the entire month of June. The opening ceremony is a Poetry & Art Showcase open to the public with food & drink vendors and spoken word artists. The exhibition will be open to view every Wed & Fri in June from 7 pm - 9 pm. For Father's Day, we are hosting a Candle Making workshop with Vibe Out Candle Co and a Daddy-Daughter Paint Date for all ages. I do the Daddy Daughter events pretty often in remembrance of my late father, Rodney Simon. He really supported me throughout my art journey and unfortunately passed away shortly after the studio opened. I love being able to curate a space for Dads & Daughters to bond and create memories on canvas that will last a lifetime. During the summer, I'll be having an art & music program for the youth! Classes will be focused on painting, drawing, drumming, DJing, creative writing, photography and so much more. We will be going on trips to local art and music spaces, and they will learn about entrepreneurship in the art and music fields. At the end of the program, we'll have a showcase where students will display their art and music skills and potentially sell some of their pieces!

We always do pop-up events throughout the month so check out what we have coming up on our website www.allureartstudio.com or follow us on social media IG: @allure_artstudio FB: @allureartstudio



SWEET AND SMOKY RIBS

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp. chili powder
- 2 tbsp. onion powder
- 2 tbsp. kosher salt
- 2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 2 tbsp. packed light brown sugar
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 3 racks baby back ribs (about 9 pounds total)
- 1 c. BBQ sauce, plus more for serving
- Watermelon and toasted baguette slices, for serving

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1:

Preheat the oven to 300°. Combine the chili powder, onion powder, salt, paprika, brown sugar, black pepper and cayenne in a medium bowl. Sprinkle the spice mix on both sides of each rack of ribs (use all of the spice mix). Wrap each rack individually in a double layer of foil and divide between 2 rimmed baking sheets. Bake the ribs until the meat will easily pull apart with a fork but the racks still hold together, about 2 hours 15 minutes to 2 hours 30 minutes.

STEP 2:

When the ribs are finished roasting, preheat a grill to medium. Unwrap the ribs. Brush each side with 2 to 3 tablespoons BBQ sauce. Grill the ribs meat-side down until well-marked and the ribs release easily from the grill, 3 to 4 minutes. Flip and continue grilling until well-marked on the other side, 2 to 3 minutes.

STEP 3:

Transfer the ribs to a cutting board and generously brush each rack with more sauce. Slice into 4-rib portions. Serve with watermelon and baguette.

<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/a35980478/sweet-and-smoky-ribs-recipe/>



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
The author's corner would like to introduce you to Brooklyn native Lakeasha Williams a long-time educator, principal, speaker, social justice educational leader, writer, and author. Lakeasha motto is to be bold, courageous, and be unapologetically you. Our readers would love to get to know you a bit better. Can you tell us about your backstory?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
My parents instilled greatness in me from a very early age. I always knew that I was different, in a good way. However, I did not envision anything beyond teaching, marriage, a nice house, and children. My life is nothing like I had originally planned! It's so much more than I ever imagined. I made a final decision to work with children my sophomore year in college. Inspiring children to reach their fullest potential automatically came with that decision. My evolution has extended to working with families and meeting the needs of the entire family in the community at large.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
When did you first realize you had a gift that was meant to be shared with others?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
As a child, I have always worked with

MEET LAKEASHA WILLIAMS

AUTHOR OF SHINE ON BROWN GIRL AND FOUNDER
OF BRICKHOUSE UNLIMITED

even younger children. As I got older that natural nurturing, aspect continued to grow. However, as an adult, it was coupled with my social justice nature. What are we doing as a society to ensure that EQUITY is implemented so that everyone's needs are being met? This is what I believe is my gift to the world: providing children and families with unique educational experiences to close the access gaps. That is what equity means to me.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
You are an Amazon best-selling author. Can you please tell us about Shine on Brown Girl? Do you believe this book gave you the platform to convey the message about the misrepresentation of black girls with brown skin?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
The character Layla came as a result of several things. My lived experiences. My Brown Girl video went viral after Kamal Harris became Vice president-elect. The current challenges that our children still grapple with. The message in SHINE ON BROWN GIRL is relevant. Black and brown girls still feel invisible and are marginalized in our society. I hope the SHINE ON series catalyzes change. Our stories matter. Children need to see themselves profoundly

represented in literature. I also hope that it teaches tolerance, understanding, and appreciation for all. The next book in the series is SHINE ON BROWN BOY.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
In your book, the main character Layla is re-affirmed about her greatness daily by those she is surrounded by. Unfortunately, some parents today do not reiterate that greatness to our children. In your years of experience working with children, how is the development of a child affected when the main person in their life is telling them what they can't do or who they aren't versus letting them know what they can do or who they are?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
Children need to be affirmed and reminded of their greatness every day. Sometimes the parents are not in a great space and are not able to recognize the importance of that due to their trauma. When we say it takes a village to raise children that are the absolute truth. I believe that schools are part of the village that it takes to raise children. Therefore, I extend my support to providing our families with the necessary tools and strategies that they need to be successful in the home as well.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:



When you are not leading or serving your community you are running your business. Can you tell us about Brickhouse Unlimited? What was your purpose for starting your company? What platform were you looking to create?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
Brickhouse Unlimited began during the pandemic because I realized the need to do more in our community to support our families in a variety of settings i.e. shelters, foster care, prison, etc. often it is during those difficult moments when people lose hope. Can you imagine a young child who has lost hope? That means we have failed as a society. My company was designed to provide children and families with an array of supportive services to assist them during these transitional periods and help them to not lose hope.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
None of us can achieve success without some help along the way. Is there a particular person or persons who you are grateful for helping you get to where you are today?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
I agree. Several people helped me throughout my journey. My parents instilled a can-do mentality in me from a very young age. My grandmother served as a source of inspiration for me because she left everything that she knew in South Carolina to carve out a different life for her family in New York City. Dr. Janice Jacob, my former principal saw leadership qualities in me as a teacher and planted the seeds of principalship in me. My long-term mentor, Dennis McKesey, has helped to shape me into the social justice community leader that I am today.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
You had an interview on Pix 11 news when your video went viral of your students reciting the poem Brown Girl after the win of vice-president Kamala Harris. Can you tell us what happened after that video went viral? What did you discover?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
After the video went, viral two major things happened. I received death threats for affirming black and brown girls. I also received positive feedback for affirming black and brown girls. Many people thought it was such a beautiful sight to see. I discovered that ignorance still exists. I also discovered that black and brown women still felt invisible



around the world.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
As an educator, what advice can you give to parents regarding supporting their children through adversities? What do you find that is lacking in our communities to give kids the basic tools to meet the needs of having hope and empathy?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
I believe that parents should be honest with their children, help them to process their emotions, and support their problem-solving skills. This would teach our children that negative things sometimes happen in life but that experience does not define who we are. We should also not remain in a negative mental state. I feel that adults need support with coping skills. Hurt people, hurt people. As a society, we have yet to unpack our trauma. We see this manifested in our children each day. We have to heal together. Mental health should be mandated for all schools and entities that serve families.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Can you please share your favorite "Life Lesson Quote"? Can you share how that was relevant to you in your life?

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
I love the quote by Frederick Douglass, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken

children." As a young child who grew up in marginalized communities, I have firsthand experience of the effects of pouring love into a child. That is my hope for every child. Our children need to feel loved and be supported to reach their fullest potential.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
What are you looking forward to for the remainder of this year and 2023? Can you please share how our readers continue to follow your work? We wish you continued success and good health!

LAKEASHA WILLIAMS:
I am looking forward to the next book in this series, SHINE ON BROWN BOY, as well as, additional platforms to share the many different messages in SHINE ON BROWN GIRL.

I also want to continue to grow my company, Brickhouse Unlimited, and support as many families as I possibly can. So, stay tuned!

Facebook: Lakeasha Williams
Instagram: principal_ shineonlakeasha
Shine on Brown Girl is available on Amazon.com

MEET ARTIST ANTONIO PAUL AKA “O BANGA”



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Welcome to C.O.B.S. Magazine Artist's Corner. We are excited for the opportunity to interview artist, musician, producer, songwriter, and engineer Antonio Paul aka "O Banga." Can you give us some background about yourself and at what age did your love for music begin?

O BANGA:
It is an honor to have an opportunity to be on this platform. I was born and raised on the island of Dominica, not to be confused with the Dominican Republic, until I was 16 years old. Now as an artist, a multi-instrumentalist, producer, songwriter, and mix master engineer, I remember finding my first love for music at the age of 6. I was in love with playing the drums, and by the age of 8, I would play in church when the drummer was absent. I used to break all my mother's combs playing drums on the table, buckets, tin covers, and whatever I

could find that made drum sounds.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
At the age of 16 you relocated to the Bronx where hip hop was born. Do you think your earlier experiences connected you to what you would do later on in life without even knowing? Did you have a role or assignment that appealed to you at 16 years old?

O BANGA:
Even before I relocated to New York, I had the urge to be a creator, but moving to the Bronx gave me a whole different perspective. My perspective was that my dreams and visions can come true. I ran into every studio I knew and either played those beats or made a beat in 5 to 10 minutes, and that blew everyone's mind. It was a great feeling being the one who created the sound. I made the artists and the DJs excited every time I stepped in the room all at the age of 16. I finally figured out

that I wanted to be a producer.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Out of curiosity what was the first hip-hop song you ever heard? Was that the first song that made you want to become an artist?

O BANGA:
I can't remember the first hip-hop song I ever heard. I know when I started listening to hip hop, Dmx's album It's Dark and Hell Is Hot, was one of my favorites because of the beats, the lyrics, and his cadence style. I would play over those beats on my Casio keyboard and the drums.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
What propels you to write a verse? How do you typically start? What genre would you categorize your music?

O BANGA:
I write a verse based on vibes and/or experience. I typically start with freestyling melodies and flows, then add lyrics once I find the perfect fitting flow. I categorize my music as Caribbean-Hip Hop, or Caribbean R&B since I add a lot of Caribbean elements and lingo in my music. I think it's the best representation of who I am, so I bring the best of both worlds.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
You have worked with some of the industry's legends. Can you name-drop a few of those artists? What did you take away from those experiences?

O BANGA:
I've worked with J-Lo, Lil Kim, Chinese Kitty, and Safaree, just to name a few. I've learned from those experiences that you have to make a name for yourself. Doesn't



matter how talented you are, your work ethic must speak louder.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Can you tell us about your new single that just dropped? Can you share the title and the meaning behind the song? What feedback are you getting from your listeners?

O BANGA:
My recent single is called 'Zeh Zeh' it means stupid. The moral of the song is to be who you are and don't let no one take you for a "zeh zeh". The song has been going crazy, I've gained a ton of new fans and followers. My streams went up in the thousands on all of my past releases because of this record. I am extremely grateful.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
How has the process of you being an artist, producer, and songwriter evolved for you over the years? What's different about your approach and what's stayed the same?

O BANGA:
With me being a producer, songwriter, and engineer, over the past 15 years I've worked with hundreds of artists on thousands of records. Now as an artist I've learned from so many mistakes that others have made. I am seasoned and ready to go full throttle. The only thing that has changed now, is me putting myself FIRST!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Let's talk a little about your family. You are the new husband and dad of a precious one-year-old princess. Support, in general, is important. How important is their support to you?

O BANGA:
Support is very important to me. All I need from my family is their moral support and motivation because they're going to love me whether I'm a superstar or not

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
You put so much into your craft I get the sense you understand what you need to be doing, or what's right for you. Do you expect black people, white people, young people, and old people to hear different things in your music? Does that make you feel the music you are writing and producing is the music you are supposed to be doing?

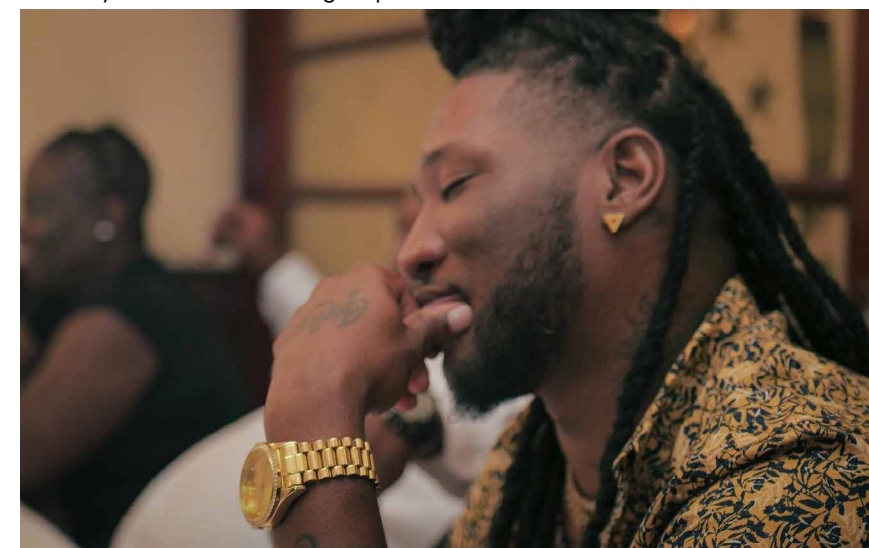
O BANGA:
My music is my story. I know many individuals from different walks of life can relate. The fun party vibes are for people of all ages, the trill vibes for the streets, the sexy vibes for the ladies, and the true story records for those who need that motivation. I am walking in my calling, but this is just the beginning of a greater purpose.



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:
Every day we wake up it is to show initiative to be purpose-driven. What drives your purpose each day? Can you share your next upcoming projects and what's next for you? Can you share where your music can be purchased, as well as, your social media platforms?

O BANGA:
Creating generational wealth is something that drives me to keep going. I want to ensure that the ones after me don't have to suffer the way I did. Also to bring hope to

those that have walked the same paths I've walked. Put God first and believe in yourself because only you can fulfill your dreams. I have a few more singles ahead as well as some amazing business endeavors that I'm proud of. Until then you can follow me on all social media platforms @ obangamuzik. My music can be found on all streaming platforms under the name O Banga



MEET RACHEL REEVES

FOUNDER AND CEO OF RESUMES BY RAE



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In this month's section of Women Innovators we are elated to have Rachel Reeves a New York-based Workforce Development Specialist, Social Media Influencer, and Resume Writer. A woman who understands the importance of career growth and continuous skill-building. Can you please introduce the woman behind her brand?

RACHEL REEVES:

I am Rae - a powerful, impactful, and passionate woman! As a child, my paternal grandmother would call me Ray. As I got older, I dropped the Y and added E for a more feminine feel. I use the moniker Rae to allow my clients to feel connected to me on a personal level yet always get the professional experience. It was a no-brainer for me

to take three passions, merge them into one and produce what I foresee to be a game-changer.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your company Resumes by Rae? How did the idea for your business come about? What is your process if someone would be interested in obtaining your services?

RACHEL REEVES:

The idea of Resumes by Rae sat with me from my teenage years. I was always approached by classmates in high school and college for homework or essay help. In 2019, I started my career working for The New York City Department of Environmental Protection. During my 3 year tenure as a city employee, I gained a wealth of Organizational Development and

Human Resources experience. After sitting on interview panels, reviewing resumes, and training new hires, it was time. I wanted to make a greater impact, reach more people and transform my professional experience, and birth an entrepreneurial spirit. I am pretty easy to find. Two large Facebook community groups, The Blaque Resource Network, and Mom Mob Connecting Mothers Worldwide have been an influential part of my success thus far. Many of my clients are members of these groups. I promote myself on social media and allow organic connections to cultivate from there.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

There are thousands of resume writing companies offering services similar to yours. How does your company differ? Do you target specific demographics and why? How did you market your business, and which tactics have been most successful?

RACHEL REEVES:

As humbly as possible, my company offers me. I like to think of myself as an asset. My competitors sometimes forget the power a resume has because they are blinded by profits, revenue, and praise. I am a firm believer in customer service and personalizing each experience. I get my clients involved in the process. We take deep dives. In the simplest terms, I treat my clients like the human beings they are. Not a number or dollar sign or quota mark. People trust me with one of their strongest marketing tools - a resume. Everyone deserves a resume that will change their lives. To date, I have worked with mothers, high school seniors, educators, and healthcare professionals. Scholars are my sweet spot. They are attentive, responsive, and interested in their future. Resume-building workshops allow me to speak to several scholars at once and they challenge me with their questions during the engagement segments.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

A resume is a brief written summary of a job applicant's past employment history, education, and other pertinent

information. What are some of the common mistakes that you see on resumes? Can you share three common tips for creating a good professional resume?

RACHEL REEVES:

The majority of my resume revamps consist of taking a deeper dive into the accomplishments of my clients and adding those metrics. We often forget that numbers and percentages are a reflection of our impact. I also still notice not-so-strong "Objectives". Let's get into the habit of calling it a Professional Summary, Career Overview, or Executive Summary. That section of your resume is your opportunity to brag and say "this is what I've been doing for this long and you can expect me to bring this to your company."

My three common tips are:

- Tip #1: Include quantifying data. For example: "Directed 12-person sales force to \$15 million in sales while simultaneously increasing sales in the territory from zero to \$2.5 million."
- Tip #2: Keep it visually balanced: Do not overwhelm the reader with irrelevant information that increases the page length, obnoxious fonts, bolding, excessive color, and photos. No photos, please.
- Tip #3: The use of power verbs makes a world of a difference. They add quick and effective content to your resume and bring your strengths alive where otherwise, it would read flat and redundant.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Let's discuss cover letters. How important is a cover letter? Are cover letters still necessary or are they a waste of time?

RACHEL REEVES:

Everyone has a love/hate relationship with cover letters! Here's why. Many view them as antiquated until they apply for a position that requires one. Employers use this as a tactic to see who follows directions as part of the application process. I always advise my clients to save a template, just in case.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

There are various formats used to create a good resume. In your

experience what is the best format that will catch the eyes of the recruiters?

RACHEL REEVES:

In my opinion, the reverse chronological resume will always be classic and widely accepted. A chronological resume lists your work experience and achievements starting from the current or most recent one and following up with previous jobs below. This is an effective format to show career trajectory.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In recent talks, you mentioned the idea of developing resumes and job hubs geared towards the black communities. Can you share your mission in creating these hubs?

RACHEL REEVES:

My experience with employment assistance services has been underwhelming. I have been the one to need these services and have been employed at organizations that provide them. I want to be able to establish safe spaces specifically for people of color. Career services, combating food insecurity, providing clothing assistance, offering training and workshops, internships, the list is limitless. Everything is under one roof. No referrals, no traveling, and no inconsistencies just dedicated customized services.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a mom and entrepreneur, how do you balance yourself to create that time for self-care? How important is it that you create that time to rest?

RACHEL REEVES:

Honestly, I don't create or dedicate self-care as much as I should and as much as I am reminded to. I am still finding that perfect balance. Being a mother is a job in itself. Sometimes self-care is disconnecting and turning the

laptop off at a set time. Other times it's not answering calls or emails until the next day. Something as simple as lighting a candle, pouring a glass of wine, and sitting in silence allows me to regroup. I would love to set aside 2 weekends a month: 1 to treat myself and the other to be a social butterfly and explore.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you give us your favorite inspirational quote that keeps you inspired daily? Besides creating the hubs, what other business ventures would like to tap into? Please share your website and social platforms for us to stay connected.

RACHEL REEVES:

There are 2 inspirational quotes that I'd like to share with whoever is reading and hope that it resonates with them.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us" - Wilma Rudolph

One of my 6 tattoos is Philippians 3:14 states, "I press on toward the goal for the prize for which God has called for me."

These quotes are a constant reminder that everything I put my hands on is going to work and that my name will open doors. I am unsure of what the future holds but I can only pray for prosperous ventures that impact an infinite amount of people and families worldwide, and dream my wildest dreams.

Website: Resumesbyrae.com
Facebook Page: Resumes by Rae
Instagram: @resumesbyrae



RESUMES BY RAE

MEET LATOYHA SAPP

FOUNDER OF OHANA SAFE HAVEN, INC.



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome Latoyha Sapp whose love to serve the community has never diminished. We will be discussing her organization and her passion to advocate for individuals who have experienced trauma. Please share with our readers who is Latoyha Sapp and the woman behind the brand point?

LATOYHA SAPP:

I am a single parent of 3 children born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey. I

attended elementary and high school in the area and participated in community programs throughout the city. I was brought up in a single-family household where education was very important and taught me to be powerful. After graduating from high school, I obtained my Associate's degree from the University of Phoenix, Arizona, and completed my Bachelor's degree from William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ. In addition to operating Ohana

Safe Haven, I am a case manager professional for at-risk youth and young adults, an active participant in multiple community service projects, and a regular attendant at my local church.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you please tell us about your non-profit organization Ohana Safe Haven, Inc.? When and why did you decide to start your organization? What are your organization's mission and vision? How did your experience in healthcare help you build a solid foundation for your organization?

LATOYHA SAPP:

Ohana Safe Haven, Inc. (OSH), is a community-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing HOPE: Housing, Opportunity, Programs, and Education to at-risk youth, women, and children by providing a safe, healthy, and healing environment. During my collegiate career, I accessed invaluable experiences, gained knowledge, and I wanted to see more youth exposed to the same opportunity. There is a great population of crime, and social and economic issues throughout North Carolina neighborhoods; countless minority youth are incarcerated or victims of the city's senseless violence along with experiencing homelessness. With my encounters with life's unfortunate circumstances and understanding of the importance of education, I desire to take part and strive for change. OSH focuses on developing individuals academically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. The vision is for all youth, women, and children to reach their full aptitude.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You were brought up in a single-family home where education was particularly important and instrumental. Today we are faced with so many issues that are plaguing our communities. What is your desire to take part and strive for change? How to stress the importance of education?

LATOYHA SAPP:

Throughout this journey, I learned that motivation, patience,

and trust were enormously helpful in my desire to strive for change. The motivation was there to inspire me to act in starting OSH, and trust helped me believe that the action would eventually pay off. Patience helped me in being able to withstand a bit of time and effort before seeing results. With these three factors to support me on my journey to creating and sustaining change, it has been a much more unique experience for me every step, but I welcome the challenge. The best way to explain the importance of education to a child is to model the desired behavior, expose them to resources that communicate the importance of education, develop an atmosphere of learning, and talk to them about why education is important.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You are pouring HOPE into your communities. Can you share with our readers your perception of the word HOPE and how it relates to your organization?

LATOYHA SAPP:

Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes concerning events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large. This is the reason why OSH's acronym is HOPE because we are providing Housing, Programs, Opportunity, and Education to at-risk youth, women, and children with the expectation of an optimistic outcome.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Since the pandemic have you experienced that more young girls and women were reaching out for help than normal post-pandemic? Do you feel that individuals are in search of the need to feel safer and more protected than ever before?

LATOYHA SAPP:

The pandemic has proven to be an economic hardship for the world. There has been an increase in the need for food assistance and housing assistance. OSH does what it can to provide individuals with basic needs items. Yes, individuals are searching to feel safer and more protected. In addition, financial, food, and housing security have become an increased concern.

curity have become an increased concern.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Funding your non-profit organization takes a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. Self-financing is the way most entrepreneurs start up their companies. How difficult is the process to continue to generate funding to handle the overhead? Do your local officials offer to fund non-profit organizations in your community?

LATOYHA SAPP:

Financial instability is a reality for countless nonprofits. Primarily dependent on fundraisers, donors, sponsors, and grants. Nonprofits today spend a great deal of time seeking and sustaining funding from multiple sources. These efforts, coupled with the pressure to direct all their resources to programs and services create significant financial stress on nonprofit organizations. Yes, some local officials offer grants to the organizations within the community however, no organization is grant ready.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What has been your biggest roadblock during this journey? What has been your biggest learning experience?

LATOYHA SAPP:

I would say our biggest roadblock is funding and finding Board Members which can only be described as 'rough and scary.' Life is a continuous learning experience. Throughout our lives we keep rising and falling, picking up important lessons along the way. The following statements unveil some of the most important lessons in my life: Walk Your Path, Good Things Don't Come Easy, and Be Flexible

with Your Goals.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Part of your focus is to help adolescent girls find healthy perceptions of themselves. If they have suffered traumatic experiences, how do they evolve from chaos and confusion to become capable, strong, and compassionate women?

LATOYHA SAPP:

I believe by developing healthy relationships and through those relationships, trauma survivors can learn to be safe, trust others, and learn new ways of relating to people to develop self-compassion.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What continues to be your daily driving force? What is your plan for the remainder of 2022? Can you please share your website for people to further read about your organization and are interested in donating to the cause? Please provide all your social media platforms.

LATOYHA SAPP:

My daily driving force is a quote by Melissa McCreery, "Small changes and small steps can create massive impact". Therefore, every good deed has an impact on someone's life. The plan is to continue to provide Street Outreach Services while focusing on building a sustainable Board and fundraising efforts. We can be reached at www.ohanasafehaven.org and 919-579-4949.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ohana-safe-haven>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ohanasafehaven/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ohanasafehaveninc/>





MEET MONROE

CEO OF BREN MAROE FASHIONS

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

We are excited to have footwear designer Monroe who will be discussing his journey from the music business to fashion. Before we dive in let's get to know who you are first. Can share your background about yourself?

MONROE:

From the music business to the fashion world. I moved to Atlanta from Virginia, to pursue my dreams and goals in the music industry, but before that, I went to school at the Colorado Institute of Arts, for music and video. Then I started on my journey to Atlanta. Worked on my first project called "Simply MONROE." I sold 50,000 plus CDs from that project on the streets in different cities. Then I kept recording and worked on my first mixtape project "PRIVATE PARTY" and sold thousands of them. By me grinding every day on the streets selling my CDs in Atlanta, I met this producer Ty Cutta that was doing some amazing things. He heard my music and introduce me to his friend Jmils that was producing for some major artists. He was working out of a million-dollar studio that his manager owned at the time and his manager was the manager of the singer Lloyd. So when I came to the studio, I knew right then that God open a major door for me. I started recording some of my biggest songs out of that studio with Jmils. We recorded my breakout single "Let's Make A Movie" which was number #4 on national DRT Charts. Then my follow-up single "Wish I Never Fell In Love" is charting on 36 stations on Pandora, and I recorded many more songs with Jmils and Ty Cutta.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

We are believers that a one side project or small opportunity can change your life. Was this case for you being able to make your mark not only in the music

industry but in the fashion world as well?

MONROE:

Yes, because I was doing major things as an independent artist, and everything was going digital. So I kept promoting my music on social media, and one day I was contacted by this company out of Italy to design my sneaker. They said they like my social media presence, and how I'm engaged with my fans. So I designed my first shoe, and it sold, and I designed other shoes and they sold, so that's how BREN MAROE Designer BRAND became a household BRAND. Then I designed some sandals, and they were selling in bulk. I started selling to retailers, and they were buying my product for their stores, and it was an amazing feeling, but I take no credit because I put the work in and God gets all credit. So I started selling my products on Wholesale sites, like ABOUND, FAIRE, RangeMe, and Tundra. Here is one of my stores: <https://helloabound.com/brenmaroe>

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your company Bren Maroe? Where did the name thrive from? What inspired you to become a footwear designer? What is your production process for your footwear designs? How do you want your customers to feel when they wear your sneakers?

MONROE:

The name BREN MAROE was created from some of my mother's names, and some of my names. My mother's name is Brenda, and my name is Monroe. My mother passed away when I was five years old and she was in the music business as well. I used to watch her practice with her group when I was a little boy. So I told myself that I would continue my mother's legacy through me and my Brand. I always wanted to design my shoe, and God open that door for me and I went in with a genius mindset and not a regular mindset and came up with these unique designs that represent BREN MAROE. When I design the shoe or product, I then upload a picture of my design on social media and to my wholesale sites, and when someone orders the product, I put the order in, and my manufacturer ships it out. I want my customers to feel that I designed the product for them because BREN MAROE Designs are created for the culture.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

The footwear industry is a very competitive market. Trends are constantly changing and inflation is hitting Americans hard. How does your footwear designs differ from other brands and how to keep your prices budget-friendly?

MONROE:

I don't worry about other brands or what they selling or their pricing. I just focus on the best designs, because people want something new and fresh, and BREN MAROE is different and stands out from other brands, and it doesn't feel competitive to me. I feel like I'm in my lane, but still sticking with the blueprint like other brands do. My pricing is very affordable to those that want the best footwear or designer clothing to add to their wardrobe.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You are also been dominating the airwaves as an independent artist. How you do create that balance between being an entertainer and footwear designer?

MONROE:

Yes I'm an independent artist signed to my label Seven Tyme Entertainment and my publishing company Episode Three Publishing. It's hard work to balance the commitment I have to my craft and my dream. Therefore, the balance is equal because both brands need my attention at all times. I love the doors that both brands are opening for me and my team. God is good.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

After the success of selling your first couple of footwear designs you started designing other products. Can you tell us what products you started designing? What made you want to create other products for your line?

MONROE:

After selling my first few shoes, I started designing my sandal line which I started selling wholesale to retailers on a website called Abound. Within weeks I sold 100 sandals to retailers, and I knew right then I had something. I kept designing more sandals with different unique designs and they kept selling, and I designed other products as well that sold as unisex. I added more wholesale stores to sell on to expand my brand reach.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What advantage do you gain as a designer to sell your products on wholesale sites versus selling your products independently?

MONROE:

The advantages of selling wholesale to selling independently are a big difference. In wholesale, the retailers have to buy more than one, and more than likely they will buy in bulk. If they like what they see they will look through all of my inventory. Independently, you just selling one product at a time, and you have to pay for marketing to get your product in front of people. With Abound wholesale sites, they pay for their ads and market my product. I just have to create amazing products for them to market, because when I make money, they make money.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What do you feel was the biggest hurdle in starting your business? What advice could you offer another footwear designer who is thinking about stepping into the fashion world?

MONROE:

The biggest hurdle was believing that I could do this, and not worrying about what people say because you can't please everybody. I came in with faith already because God said, "Work without faith is dead." When you have faith in everything you do, even if it doesn't happen in the time frame you expected keep trusting in

God because he is the one that gave you the idea. He just trying to see if you are going to stick with it or give up. I wasn't selling in the beginning, because I had to learn the system and build the brand. Once I figured out what to do with the product after I finish designing it, and who I was going to target, my faith got stronger. God was bringing ideas to me that were huge, and I knew it wasn't me thinking like this. I put the work in and God gets the credit and glory. Just do it and let God guide your footsteps because that's the only way you will WIN. FAITH OVER EVERYTHING.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How have you been able to trust your vision over the years? How do you continue to trust the process whether you receive a good review, a bad review, or good or bad sales?

MONROE:

I kept trusting in my vision, by PRAYER, FAITH, and BELIEVING. I never doubted. I knew God had my back, because of the things I was doing, and by the brands that were working with my brand. By going through different seasons, good or bad, I kept grinding and grinding and grinding, and doors kept opening up and I kept growing. My next move is...KEEP WATCHING... BREN MAROE.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are your plans for the future for both your company and your career? Can you please provide

your company website, where to download your song, and your social media platforms? Thank you for your time and we wish you the utmost success.

MONROE:

My plan for the future is to be on my "Can I Get A Kiss Tour." "Then the "PRIVATE PARTY Tour," whichever one comes first. I'm also working to get my music charting on Billboard, shooting more videos, and recording more hit songs. I'm working on getting my designer products in some major big brand stores around the world and trying to do fashion shows to showcase my product. I'm just staying focused on what God is having me do daily. I'm also working on my non-profit "New Beginning," helping the homeless with a new beginning, dreaming again, and letting them know that God heard their prayer.

Go to PANDORA to check my music out: <https://pandora.app.link/36L05RSxIcb>
Go to my wholesale store to check out my products: <https://helloabound.com/brenmaroe>
Check me out on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/monroeoo7/Showquotedtext>



NISHA PERSHAY

NISHA'S 101 HAIR CARE TIPS AND QUICK FIX FOR HAIR THINNING

Believe it or not, as we age, our body changes as well. You may or may not notice but the hair defiantly will let you know the status of your health conditions. For most people challenges are either their hair will become fuller or even goes through thinning stages. I have some tips that can do a temporary fix for patchy spots from lite hair loss. There are some things you can do to give you that confidence boost. As a disclaimer, not all products will give the same results for all and if you are suffering from hair loss it is recommend speaking with your physician.

1) *Wonder grow Jamaican Black Castor Oil Hair Grease Styling Conditioner* –

This product specializes in growth for thinning edges. Use this if you suffer from patchy edges, or for thinning areas.



2) *Carol's Daughter Goddess Strength 7 Oil Blend Scalp & Hair Oil* –

this product helps with moisture to help protect hair from breakage and split ends. After using this product, the scalp feels moisturized, and hair is stronger and healthy-looking with every use.



3) *Toppik Hair Building Fibers* –

This product is great for a temporary hair fix; if you need something quickly to cover areas that are thinning. This is a fiber powder that you apply for any type of hair styling.



4) *Kiss Root Cover Up Gray Concealer Spray Tintation* -

Temporary Hair Color Spray Root Touch Up Spray Hair Dye. Another option for a quick fix is root hair spray, you can use this as well for styling purposes.

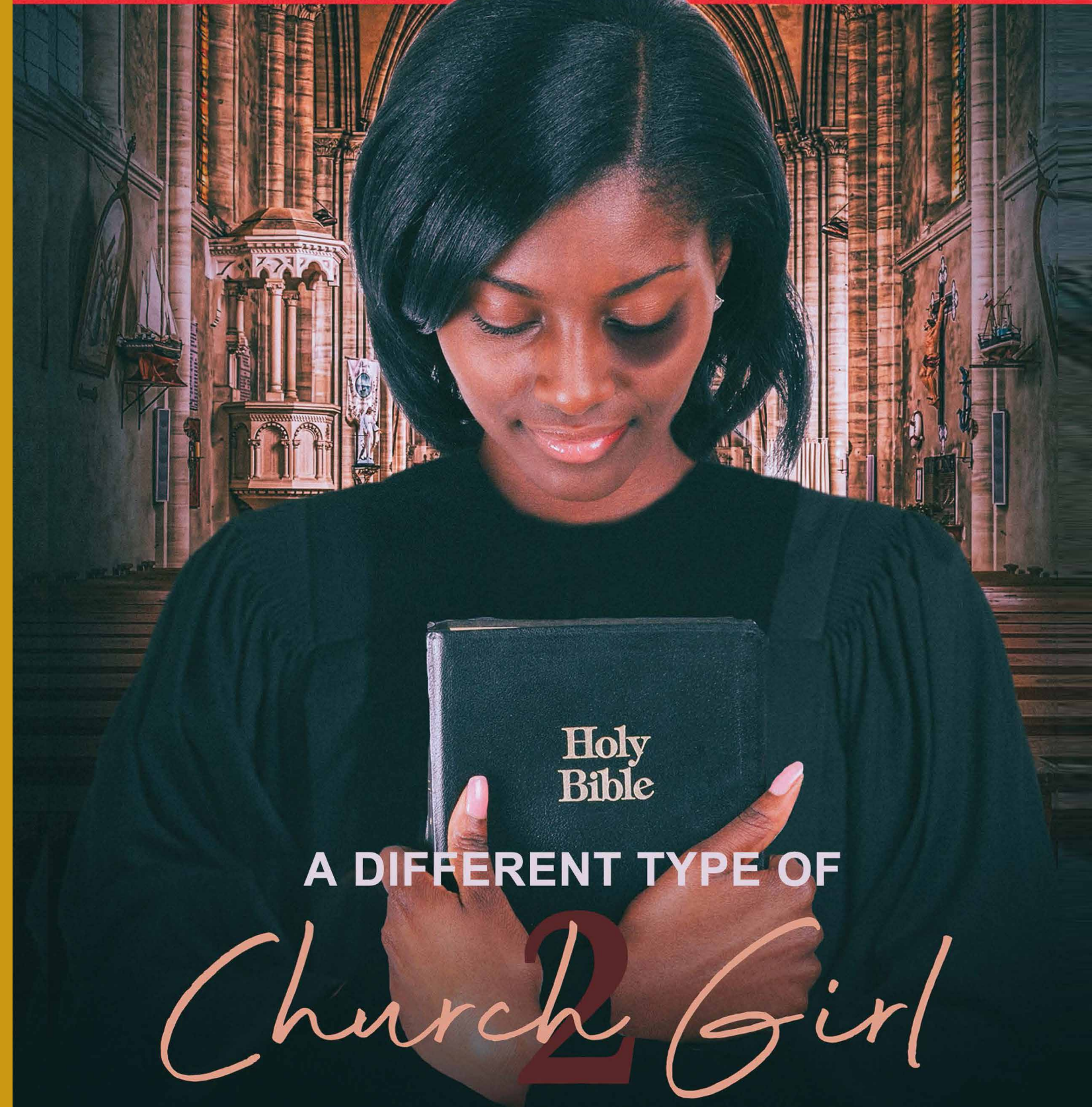


5) *Clairol Root Touch-Up Temporary Concealing Powder* -

Precision coverage for gray hair on the go with multi-use powder and application brush. Another gem to use to cover grays, and thinning areas to use as a quick fix.



TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY



A DIFFERENT TYPE OF

Church 2 Girl

THE FIGHT FOR MY LIFE

COMING FALL 2022

**C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:**

Welcome Paige to COBS Magazine! What a gift you are to the world. At age 17 you are CEO and owner of your nail salon called Polished by Paige. I can't wait for you to share with our readers how this all begins for you. At what age did you realize that you wanted to make doing nails your profession? How did this all start for you?

PAIGE WILSON:

It all started at the age of 14, in the summer of 2019. I was in Florida visiting my mom bored out my mind because my parents had to work, and me being 14 with no job or true hobbies. I was a couch potato watching nail videos on youtube. Until one-day mom asked me what do I want to do? I had no idea but I knew I wanted to try to do nails. I had a \$200 budget to get everything I needed and Amazon is my best friend.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

We understand that you received your nail salon license at 16. Can you tell us was it hard to obtain a license at such a young age? What style keeps your customers coming back for your services? How long have you been doing this?

PAIGE WILSON:

I started school to receive my nail license certificate at the age of 16 with a very high-demand clientele while also going into my last year of high school. At times this battle of responsibility became nerve-racking but not overwhelming. I took it as a blessing and kept going. My unique style of nails consists of a sturdy foundation, curve, and shaped to perfection.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Tell us how you received your nail license while attending High School? You have a very supportive mother who believes in you. How has your parents' support inspired you?

PAIGE WILSON:

After completing the 300 hours, I received my nail license certification. This was a huge accomplishment and it pushed me to move on to the next step of becoming a licensed nail technician in the state of North Carolina. My mom and dad's support was everything I needed to keep going. My parents constantly fed me the knowledge of being a boss and inspired me to do exactly what I wanted to do.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you manage business and school? What are some of the favorite things you like to do outside of doing nails?

PAIGE WILSON:

I recently just graduated high school early in February still being class of 2022. Managing business and school at the time was also a challenge. However, I've learned to manage my time better and made sure high school came first while clients came directly after. Some hobbies I enjoy are reading, going to the gym, and cooking. Currently, I'm working on my latest development which is my very own Mango Shea Body Butter. Here is a fun fact: I am obsessed with skin and

body care.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

At such a young age I am sure that you deal with jealousy. How do you handle that? What motivates you to move to pass the hate and keep your grind going?

PAIGE WILSON:

I've experienced so many forms of negative energy, jealousy, or envy from others. I focus on my energy on growing and realized that none of those things truly matter. No one's envy, negative opinions, or feelings towards me was going to take my mind off the bigger picture. At the end of the day, my business and income will not be affected by how others feel towards me pursuing my dreams. Therefore, whatever is thrown at me will be handled with class and grace. Becoming a Boss will always bring haters. that just means we're doing something right.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

In life, we come across obstacles that get in the way of purpose, have you ever had a time when you just wanted to quit? What or who motivated you to not give up.

PAIGE WILSON:

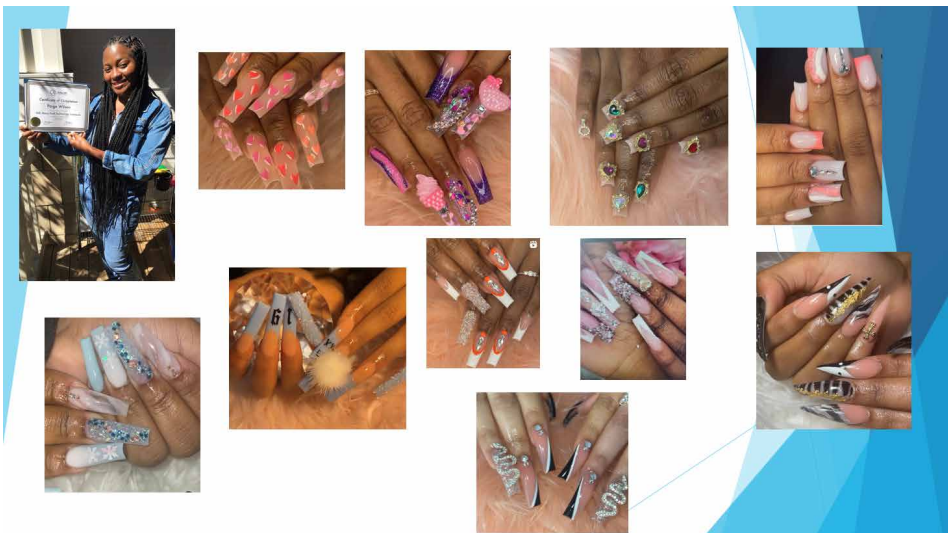
There have been times where I felt really low and started to question what I'm doing? I knew I wanted this profession but was unsure if I could handle this myself. I started to question why I wasn't where I wanted to be yet. I started questioning God why am I not at the top yet? Can I even get to the top? I had to realize nothing great comes easy. If God rushed my life and put the world in my hands right now would I know what to do with it? No! God is teaching me as we speak to take on the world one day at a time. There are always going to be obstacles, lessons, & tough times before the light shines. once I planted this in myself I have no worries. I do not doubt in my mind that I will become a great nail technician, and licensed instructor. My goal is to open other shops for other young nail technicians in various regions. This is a goal I am bound to reach.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What words of wisdom would you like to share with other young women in starting their own business? Tell us where you see yourself in 5 years and do you plan on going to college?

PAIGE WILSON:

I would offer these words of wisdom to young entrepreneurs like myself to first trust the process. You're not going to be perfect. No one is. Building a brand, an empire, from the ground up is not easy and it takes real hard work and commitment. The real test is



MEET

PAIGE WILSON

CEO/OWNER OF POLISHED BY PAIGE

your hard work will truly pay off when you stay focused. Be true to your passion, learn your passion, and study your passion. Put God in it. I'm still learning and I have so much to learn. But I'm ready and I'm hungry for more. Five years from now I see myself somewhere in Dubai on a boat for spring break. I will be thinking about how successful my chain of Polished by Paige Salons as well as my Beauty Supplies business are operating and generating income. I will also be thinking about how my instructor's license opened many doors for young women just like. I want to empower young girls who are not your average teenagers. As of now, I do not plan on going to college just yet. However, I have plans on attending real estate school as we as well as applying for a life insurance license. I plan on becoming a millionaire by the time I'm 25!

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

This question is for your mother Natasha. Natasha thank you for investing in your daughter's gift. We are super proud of you? What advice did you give Paige in pursuing her dreams?

NATASHA MORALES:

The advice I gave my daughter was to find something she love that would make her happy and enjoy doing. I spent many years in corporate America when she was little and didn't get to spend the time with my children on top of not enjoying what I was doing. So I didn't want my children to go to a job and hate it. I told Paige if you find what you love to do and make a living doing it, it will never be a Job. and that she did just that!

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Natasha you shared with our CEO Trevi Pershay a story of how you purchased Nails for Paige can you share that with us?

MOM & PAIGE WILSON:

I shared with Trevi that I gave Paige a \$200 Budget to order whatever she needed to get her nail supplies, mind you I am thinking it was just some nail polish and a drill, not knowing she had everything you needed to start a little nail business in her Amazon cart. Then she had already had her Dad on stand-by to purchase her a professional nail table.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Paige can you share with our readers how they can find you on social media and please share where your nail salon is located. We might have to make an appointment to get our nails done.

PAIGE WILSON:

Thank you Ms. Pershay for the opportunity to share my story with your readers. I can be reached on IG: Polishedbypaigee

MEET

DESTINI MURRAY

CEO/FOUNDER OF TA-JAYS FASHION

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Welcome Destini to C.O.B.S MAGAZINE. We are so blessed to have you featured in our CEOs under 20 story. You are a very unique young lady who wrote us at the last minute and we were moved and inspired by your story. Please share with us about your clothing line and how that came about?

DESTINI MURRAY:

My name Is Destini Mitchell-Murray. I'm 22 years old. As I can remember from the age of 5 years old up until today, I had a love for fashion. Looking at the many memories of family photos I was always dressed in fashionable clothing that included ruffles, patterns, glitter, and sparkles. When shopping for clothing it was what I wanted. My mother stated that I told her when I grew up, I want to be a Fashion Designer. As I continued to grow up attending school, my school assignments would include reading stories, drawings, and writings about my heartfelt dream. Fashion designing. As I was told by my mother she would speak often to my Grandmother about how passionate I was about this idea and I was so young. My mother told my Grandmother she had to find a way to make this happen for me. My mother began to speak to many others and finally, she connected with someone who told her exactly how to get the job done! My Grandmother did not live long enough to see this happen. In 2017 my mom surprised me and had someone design a logo for the Ta-Jays clothing line. She also patented, trademarked, and received certification to make my logo official. It was one of my greatest surprises.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

You shared with us that you were born prematurely and experienced a car accident. Can you share the car accident with our reader and how you motivated yourself to make a difference? Share with the readers the meaning behind TA-JAYS?

DESTINI MURRAY:

During the time of my mother's pregnancy I was told that I decided that as a fetus I wanted to break a hole in my housing sack and dangle my arm out. This caused my mother's sack to leak and my mother delivered me in the 7th month of her pregnancy. The doctors stated my chances would be slim, I would be quite small and have a huge chance of having some medical problems or even death. My parents and my family were prayer warriors and have a strong religious background so they were in constant prayer for me to make it through and God blessed my family. I made it! Seven years later in 2007 at the age of 7 years old my entire family and I were involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident. Although I was strapped in a car seat. I was injured quite seriously. The severity of the accident caused severe damage to my spinal cord, which resulted in me being diagnosed as a paraplegic. I was permanently disabled and I am now wheelchair-bound. I was quite young and resilient and to my memory probably didn't have much awareness of what this meant for my future. Every member of my family was injured. Nothing stopped us. With the help of my family who never treated me as though

"I can't" but, always as "I can" I was able to recover. I grabbed life by the horns, increased my motivation, and decided to LIVE. I found ways to HELP myself and INSPIRE others by sharing my story with others, motivational speaking, life learned lessons, and my love for fashion and designing was my way out. Here I am today. I am a young lady that always keeps myself busy and involved in my community. I currently am the motivation behind the starting of CUNY wheelchair basketball Teams in which I am a current player on the Queen's college team. This



is a basketball program I started in my last semester at Hostos Community College where I attended, completed, and graduated. I accomplished all this in my new self. I am TA-Jays. → which means - **To Absolutely – Just Admit You're Special** That's exactly my message. Life may throw you a curveball, it happens but, what you do with it will determine your outcome. It's ok to be different, be proud of who you are. No matter what you are special

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

You turned your pain into power and decided to be the difference. What was your motivation behind this movement?

DESTINI MURRAY:

My family is my motivation. We are a family that was built differently. We have been faced with many challenges and I have been taught you won't know if you can overcome the challenge unless you face it and take the chance. With my family and I together, that's just what I have done. I am a "WINNER" My family will always have my back and encourage me to always give all opportunities that come my way a chance. Even if I fail at it, I gave it my best shot so it's no longer an obstacle standing in my way.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

We understand that you're an honor student and we saw that you have a picture with the Spike Lee. Can you share with us how you manage to meet Spike Lee? What event did you attend and did he have a word of encouragement for you?

DESTINI MURRAY:

When I attended The Henry Viscardi school a school for people with Disabilities. My school was a participant in a program called Envisions, a program that offers career exploration and leadership opportunities. During my attendance there I was selected to participate in the program 2 times. Once heading to Washington D.C and another time heading to Atlanta. I wasn't just the representative for my high school because of my high achievement in academic studies but, I was the only student there with a disability. I felt honored. I was different. There was a contest for that group that year if you could ask Spike Lee one question what would it be. Whoever asked the best question with the Program Coordinators being the judge would have an opportunity after he speaks to the group would be able to ask their question and have a meet and greet with Spike Lee. My question: Why when you or movie writers are writing movies and there is a character part for a person with a disability. Why do you use fake people to play the part when if you use a person with a disability they can play that character better because they live that lifestyle every day? Spike Lee was very shocked. He really did not know what to say to me, but what he did say was...young lady Stay focused, do not give up because you are on the right path to reach your goal.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

You're such an advocate for life. What's next for you? I believe there is nothing that you can't do because you are driven to succeed? Have there been moments when you wanted to quit? How did you motivate yourself to press forward?

DESTINI MURRAY:

What's next for me is to stay on this journey. I'm currently in college, once completed I will receive my Bachelor's Degree in Apparel Designing. I want to continue networking with others who know more about designing software, design equipment, and machinery. I would like to see my clothing line reach a level where it is placed in a store or open my own store for my clothing line. I have had many struggles where I had to work alone due to places not being accessible for me as a person in a wheelchair. I am advocating for a world where accessibility is for all. Until then I will keep pressing. There have been several times I wanted to give up depending on the situation at that moment in my life but, my Mom is my number one supporter. She is always by my side and when I feel like quitting, she can feel my spirit shift. She will get with me and share a conversation, a prayer, a song, or a word, at times but, not often she will call for backup if necessary. It's like breaking and building. I cry a few tears, and I am ready to try again. I'm back at it!

**C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:**

We also understand that you're a motivated speaker for youth. What are some of your messages to young people?

DESTINI MURRAY:

I have been a motivational speaker since Middle School up until now. In middle school, I was a part of a group called Viscardi Ambassadors. I have continued. I go out to speak to students in schools, churches, and youth groups when I am asked and tell my story to encourage individuals. They need to know that life is not always fair it can change in a blink of an eye, things happen but, your ending is only what you put forth when you are going through. No matter what they can make it. Some of my favorite messages. I share a lot keep going, don't give up, keep moving forward, don't quit, There are always obstacles but, we can press our way around and through them. The next level, and more.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

You seemed to have a strong church family backing you. How has their support helped you or inspired you? Who were the mentors that impact your life?

DESTINI MURRAY:

My strong church family backing came from some major key people and the impressions they have left on my life will last forever. After my accident, my mother always said Destini use what we have left. Elder Daffney Rivera was my dance youth leader who allowed me to dance from my chair. Bishop Darren Page was my Youth Pastor who was the best to ever do it. He was all about youth. Elder Florine Lambert is a prayer warrior that will pull me and my Mom who keeps me covered through any storm. Sister Keisha Campbell and Elder Latonya Dorsey are always visiting me to make sure I am always prayed up, dedicated, and focused. There are many more that I can mention, however, I will name just a few.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Please share with our readers how they can connect with you on social media and please give us your website.

DESTINI MURRAY:

Find me on Instagram at Ta-jays_clothing_line or Blackbeauty_girl_ Facebook -Destini Murray Email-tajaysclothingline@yahoo.com



Tips & Tricks to Stay Fit by **ARIELLE PERSHAY**

Hello beautiful people. I am back again with another challenge.

Summer is getting closer, and closer, and I know we want to be vacation and beach body ready. I encourage you to get into this challenge for only one week. Yes! One week!

Are you ready? The challenge for this week is juicing. Yes, NO FOOD, everything juice.

I challenge you to fast from the food just for a week (Please confirm with your doctor first). Below are some yummy and healthy juices.

What are the benefits of Juicing?

Studies show (information from google) that fruit and vegetable juices can boost levels of important vitamins and antioxidants, including folate, vitamin C, vitamin E, and beta carotene.

Please check out this website for juicing options, it also explains what the benefits of each drink are.
https://littlewest.com/products/2-day-juice-cleanse-kit-14-juices?selling_plan=1993965742&variant=31285906440282

Another great option for juicing check- out
<https://food.ndtv.com/food-drinks/which-fruit-vegetable-juices-are-good-for-your-skin-1793561>

Cucumber Juice Cucumber is a known as a negative calorie vegetable, meaning it contains fewer calories than your body burns to digest it. Needless to say, it is very healthy and nutritious. Cucumbers contain vitamin K, A and C, is made up of 96% of water which means it is excellent for hydration and people with dry skin should definitely have it.

Please make sure to check out the websites in this article for a healthy natural fruit and vegetables juices.

I hope you enjoyed this article, and I look forward to the wonderful feedback. Remember you are already beautiful/handsome, we're just adding some health to it.



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