

CIRCLE OF BOSS SISTERS C.O.B.S

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SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE - VOLUME IX

Kings Curt

ED HENNINGS

CEO OF
ED HENNINGS
COMPANY

*Queen's
COURT*

*Olamide Olowe
CEO of Topicals*

Nicole Howard

SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR & WRITER
DIRECTOR OF THE HIT
STAGE PLAY

Chosen

SPOTLIGHT
U.S. OLYMPIC
GOLD WINNER
SHA'CARR RICHARDSON

WOMEN'S WERK

Aleeah Smith

CEO OF THE
PEACH COBBLER
FACTORY

Fashion

*Wilglory
Tanjong*

CEO & FOUNDER OF
ANIMA IRS

WOMEN
INNOVATORS

SHAYLA
DAVIS
CEO OF SPACES
BY SHALYA

YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR

Zoe Oli

FOUNDER
OF MY BEAUTIFUL
CURLY ME



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THE IMPORTANCE OF BLACK WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

BY DR. TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

HOW IT STARTED:

In the Black community, entrepreneurship is deeply rooted in the legacy of our aunts, grandmothers, mothers, and big sisters, who often turned their homes into thriving businesses. I remember going to my cousin's house because she was skilled at press and curls. Whether running hair salons from their kitchen, working as skilled seamstresses, cooking up soul food and selling out of their kitchen or for church fundraising, or entertaining crowds with their talents, these women lay the foundation for future generations of Black entrepreneurs. Their creativity, resilience, and determination provided for their families and created vibrant, supportive communities where their business became central to our collective experience.

WHERE IT'S GOING:

In the ever-evolving landscape of entrepreneurship, black women are merging as recognizable forces driving innovation, creating jobs, and being employed while hustling their businesses, which are both inspiring and impactful. These women are not just starting businesses but challenging societal norms, breaking through barriers, and redefining success. Black woman entrepreneurs represent an extraordinary wellspring of untapped potential, poised to revolutionize industries and drive economic growth. Despite their remarkable innovation and resilience, they face systemic challenges that hinder their full potential. Limited access to capital, persistent racial and gender biases, and lack of representation in crucial decision-making spaces often force black women to overcome hurdles that their counterparts may never encounter.

Yet, precisely, these struggles fuel our creativity and determination, leading us to create a solution catering to underserved markets and communities. The untapped potential of Black women entrepreneurs lies in their unique perspectives, shaped by their lived experiences and cultural insights. By addressing the systemic barriers and providing the necessary resources and support, we can unlock this potential, paving the way for more inclusive economic growth and innovation that benefits everyone.

To the Circle of Boss Sisters, please continue to grind, hustle, innovate, create, and design your business to change and ultimately impact our communities.

Blessings

Dr. Trevi Booker-Pershay

Dr. Trevi Booker Pershay



DR. TREVI BOOKER-PERSHAY:

PIONEERING MEDIA MOGUL, VISIONARY LEADER, AND EMPOWERING PASTOR



Trevi Booker Pershay is the epitome of a Media Mogul. As the C.E.O. and Founder of C.O.B.S (Circle of Boss Sisters) Magazine, launched in May 2021, she has dedicated her career to celebrating the excellence of Black and Hispanic women who lead their own brands. C.O.B.S. Magazine is a beacon for Black-owned businesses, sharing inspiring stories of women who have transformed their challenges into triumphs, embodying the journey from "whining to winning," "grind to get it," and "pain to power."

Trevi's influence extends beyond the pages of her magazine. She is a renowned Executive Director and Producer in theatre, television, and film. As a media powerhouse, creative visionary, content creator, published author, and mentor, Trevi's multifaceted talents have made a significant impact in the entertainment industry.

In her role as Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Trevi Pershay Productions, she leads one of the foremost black-owned entertainment powerhouses. Trevi's company is known for its 360° approach, creating an inevitable connection with global audiences through television, film, digital platforms, print publications, and more. Her work consistently bridges cultural gaps and brings diverse stories to the forefront of mainstream media.

Trevi Booker Pershay's unwavering commitment to excellence and empowerment, both in the media industry and her community, makes her a true trailblazer and role model for aspiring leaders everywhere.

Trevi Pershay received an honorary Ph.D. in Christian Leadership and Business, and in August 2024, she will receive her B.S. Degree in Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University.

SPEAKS TO WOMEN

"UpRising Entrepreneurs" in the local Black and Hispanic Communities.

Our women went from weeping to winning, from the grind to the get it and from the struggle to their strengths..... in finding their purpose.

We are Queens!!!! Period!!!

We encourage local Black and Brown businesses to advertise with us by requesting our special advertising packages – email us at cobsmagazine@gmail.com for further information

GOT A STORY??????

Please email us if you're interested in sharing your story with us. We are looking for CEOs, Authors, Artists, Fashion, and testimonials. Connect with us at cobsmagazine@gmail.com



C.O.B.S.
CIRCLE OF BOSS SISTERS



NICOLE HOWARD - CREATOR OF CHOSEN THE STAGE PLAY

Nicole Howard is a visionary writer and director whose storytelling shines through her compelling work. With a keen eye for character development and a deep understanding of the human experience, Nicole crafts narratives that resonate with audiences on multiple levels. Nicole transforms poignant scripts into captivating performances, leaving a lasting impact on all who witness her work. Join us in celebrating Nicole Howard's remarkable contributions as she continues to inspire and challenge the status quo with her unique creations.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What inspired you to write "Chosen: The Stage Play"?

NICOLE HOWARD:

The stage play is based on my book, the best seller, Chosen: A Lady's Journey from Called to Crushed to Crowned. The primary motivation behind my work has always been to inspire women to recognize their worth and to showcase that recovery and healing from trauma are not only possible but essential. The book and the play are intended to empower women to understand their identities and intrinsic value.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What is your process for creating a script, and how did that evolve during the development of this play?

NICOLE HOWARD:

When creating a script, I was fortunate that most of the foundational work was already completed due to the book. I began by drafting the screenplay, continuously refining it until I could convey

the entire narrative effectively within a 90-minute time frame and a couple of settings. This process was both challenging and fulfilling, allowing me to translate my written vision into a stage-worthy format.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How did you approach casting for the production? What qualities were you looking for in the performers?

NICOLE HOWARD:

Casting for the production involved auditions followed by table reads, where we sought out not just talent but individuals who exemplified dedication, kindness, and professionalism. While acting skills are crucial, we prioritize a positive atmosphere and have learned that egos and entitlement can be detrimental. We need to cultivate a collaborative environment that lets authentic individuals shine without disruption.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

In what ways did your own experiences

influence the characters or storyline in "Chosen"?

NICOLE HOWARD:

The characters in "Chosen" are deeply influenced by my own life and experiences. This connection adds a layer of authenticity that we believe resonates with the audience. However, producing the play has not come without its challenges. I've faced skepticism and criticism, particularly from those who believe I lack the qualifications to share my own story as a Black woman. Despite these obstacles, I remain undeterred and committed to my mission of uplifting and empowering women to recognize their royalty and potential.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What challenges did you face while producing the play, and how did you overcome them?

NICOLE HOWARD:

Having the unfortunate experience of people believing that I wasn't qualified to tell my own story. There are cutthroat,

mean people out there. Being a black woman, you are underestimated and devalued, even after you have had success after success. I never let a "hater" stop me; my goal is to do what God told me to do. My goal is to empower and equip women to recognize their royalty and to reach their full divine potential.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you balance your artistic vision with the practical aspects of producing a stage play?

NICOLE HOWARD:

Balancing artistic vision with the practical aspects of production is an elaborate dance. Creating a compelling narrative involves careful consideration of pacing and audience engagement. It's crucial to provide highs and lows, using visuals and audio to keep the audience entranced from beginning to end. The hard work put into rehearsals and production meetings is necessary to ensure everything comes together seamlessly.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What has been the most rewarding moment for you during the production and performance of "Chosen"?

NICOLE HOWARD:

Perhaps the most rewarding moments throughout this journey have been those heartfelt encounters with women who share their stories of resilience after facing their crushing seasons. Hearing their testimonials—whether in person or through social media—makes every effort worthwhile. Knowing that "Chosen" has a meaningful impact on their healing processes is incredibly gratifying. Chosen: The Stage Play film placed in the top 20 finalists at The Essence Film Festival. It was an honor to be considered out of thousands of entries within such a wonderful group of talented, creative black writers, directors, and producers. The Essence Film Festival Chosen: The Stage Play film placed top 20 finalist.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Besides being a playwright, you wear several other hats. Can you briefly talk about your other endeavors?

NICOLE HOWARD:

In addition to my role as a playwright, I also embrace my responsibilities as a wife, mother, and GIGI. These roles are of utmost importance to me. While I maintain a full-time job, my husband and I run a nonprofit organization called "Respect My Royalty", focusing on women's empowerment through initiatives like providing school supplies and prom dresses for deserving young women.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Do you have any advice for aspiring

playwrights and producers looking to break into the theater industry?

NICOLE HOWARD:

Write as much as you can with goals in mind. Attend seminars, courses, and workshops in script writing if you need assistance or want to help perfect your technique. Research what works for you and your vision...this may mean attending theatre shows, watching YouTube videos, and Google searches. Stay consistent and confident, network, and maintain a positive attitude.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What are your future goals for "Chosen" and any other projects you're currently working on?

NICOLE HOWARD:

After completing a successful two-year tour with our live stage play, we now have our film screen in various theaters up and down the East Coast while visiting film festivals and graciously accepting awards. Our next venture is to have the film added to Amazon Prime this upcoming fall and next year start the process for our feature film. We hope to spread peace, love, healing, and God's grace to the masses.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What legacy do you hope to leave in the theater world through your work? Can you please provide your contact and social media information? Thank you for being part of the COBS family.

NICOLE HOWARD:

I want to leave a legacy of kindness, positivity, strength, and love. To be remembered as a woman who encouraged virtuous character, integrity, hard work, and helping others. People should know the goodness and faithfulness of God through my stories.

I.G.: ladynicole.1

I.G.: respect royalty

www.respectmyroyalty.com



Empowering And Equipping Ladies To Recognize Their Royalty And To Reach Their Full Divine Potential

CHOS

A Lady's Journey from Called, to Crushed, to Crowned

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MANAGED BY : B.L.A.C. ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT : KAM HOWARD



Photo Credit NAILAH HOWZE

OLAMIDE OLOWE: YOUNG BLACK FEMALE CEO OF TOPICALS REVOLUTIONIZING SKINCARE

In the ever-evolving world of skincare, few names resonate as strongly as Olamide Olowe. As the CEO and co-founder of Topicals, Olowe is not only breaking barriers in the beauty industry but also reshaping the narrative around skin health. Her journey from a college student with a passion for dermatology to a trailblazing entrepreneur is a testament to her vision, resilience, and innovation.

Today, Topicals skincare announces a \$10 million financing round led by CAVU Consumer Partners. The 28-year-old founder and CEO Olamide Olowe is the youngest Black woman ever to raise more than \$2 million in venture funding. Already she was included in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for 2022 for her previous fundraise of \$2.6 million (Fox, 2022)

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Olamide Olowe's interest in skincare began at a young age. Growing up with chronic skin conditions, she experienced firsthand the physical and emotional challenges they bring. This personal struggle ignited her desire to find better solutions and support for those with similar issues. Olowe attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she studied pre-med with the intention of becoming a dermatologist. However, her entrepreneurial spirit soon led her down a different path.

THE BIRTH OF TOPICALS

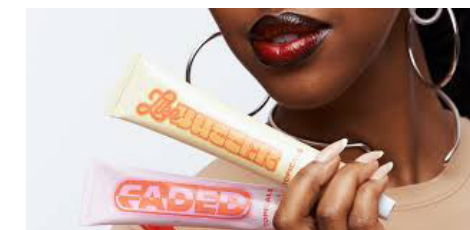
The idea for Topicals was born out of a realization: traditional skincare products often fall short of addressing the specific needs of those with chronic skin conditions. In 2020, Olamide Olowe, along with co-founder Claudia Teng, launched Topicals. The brand quickly gained traction for its innovative approach, combining science-backed formulations with a strong emphasis on mental health. Their products, designed to treat conditions like eczema, hyperpigmentation, and psoriasis, are both effective and inclusive.



INNOVATING IN THE BEAUTY INDUSTRY

Under Olowe's leadership, Topicals has distinguished itself through its commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and mental health awareness. The brand's slogan, "Skincare for Flare-ups," encapsulates its mission to provide effective solutions for those often overlooked by mainstream beauty brands. Topicals' products are not only designed to improve skin health but also to empower users by changing the way they feel about their skin.

One of the brand's standout products, "Faded," targets hyperpigmentation and dark spots. Its unique formulation and marketing approach have garnered rave reviews, establishing Topicals as a leader in the skincare market. Olowe's ability to combine product efficacy with a compelling brand story has been a key factor in the company's success.



ADVOCACY AND IMPACT

Beyond product innovation, Olamide Olowe is a vocal advocate for mental health. She understands the profound impact skin conditions can have on a person's self-esteem and overall well-being. Topicals donates a portion of its profits to mental health organizations, reflecting Olowe's commitment to making a broader societal impact. Her leadership style emphasizes empathy, authenticity, and a deep understanding of her customers' needs.



THE FUTURE OF TOPICALS

As Topicals continues to grow, Olamide Olowe remains focused on expanding the brand's reach and impact. She envisions a future where skincare is accessible, effective, and inclusive for all. With upcoming product launches and plans to enter new markets, Topicals is poised to become a household name in the beauty industry.

Olamide Olowe's journey is a remarkable example of how personal experiences can drive innovation and entrepreneurship. Her dedication to improving skin health and advocating for mental wellness is not only transforming the beauty industry but also making a significant positive impact on the lives of many. As she continues to lead Topicals to new heights, Olowe's story will undoubtedly inspire the next generation of changemakers.

References

Fox, M. (2022, November 10). *Forbes – Topical Founder Olamide Olowe Is Youngest Black Women Ever to Raise \$10 Million in Funding Topicals Founder Olamide Olowe Is Youngest Black Woman Ever To Raise \$10 Million In Funding (forbes.com)*
Black Entrepreneur - Olamide Olowe - Black Entrepreneur & Executives Profiles (blackentrepreneurprofile.com)

TINIKA THOMAS-FOREMAN

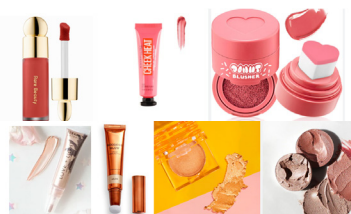
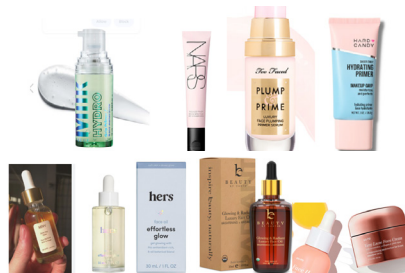
WINTER MAKEUP BAG ESSENTIALS: PREPARING FOR THE CHILL

As the seasons change and winter approaches, it's time to revamp our makeup bags to ensure we're prepared for this cold weather. From hydrating skincare to vibrant winter hues, a well-stocked makeup bag can help you face the frosty months in confidence and style. Here's how to prepare your makeup essentials for winter

1. FOCUS ON HYDRATION

The winter air can be harsh and dry, so it's crucial to prioritize hydration in your makeup routine. Start with a nourishing moisturizer that suits your skin type. Look for ingredients like hyaluronic acid and glycerin to lock in moisture. Here are must-have products for hydration:

- A Hydrating Primer- a good primer can create a smooth canvas while delivering moisture.
- Facial Oil - consider adding a lightweight oil to keep your skin dewy throughout the day.



2. CHOOSE CREAM OVER POWDER

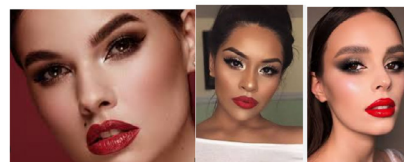
The cold months can lead to dry skin, making cream products ideal for winter. Cream products provide a natural glow and blend seamlessly into the skin, avoiding a cakey finish. My recommendations are:

- Cream Blush- opt for shades like berry or soft rose to add a touch of warmth.
- Cream Highlighter- A subtle highlighter can give your skin that lit-from-within look.

3. EMBRACE RICH COLORS

Winter is the perfect time to explore deeper, richer color palettes. Think jewel tones and muted shades that complement the season's palette. My color suggestions are:

- Lips- Bold reds, plums, and deep berries are perfect for winter.
- Eyes- Experiment with smoky grays, deep greens, and warm browns.



4. DON'T FORGET ABOUT SPF

Even though it's winter, the sun's rays can still affect your skin, especially if you reside in snowy areas. I suggest keeping a broad-spectrum SPF handy to protect your skin from UV damage.



5. STOCK UP ON TOOLS

Winter makeup can sometimes require a bit more finesse. Ensure you have the right tools to apply your products flawlessly. My essential tools suggestions are:

- Makeup Sponges- perfect for blending cream foundations and blushes.
- Brush Set- invest in a good set of brushes to achieve a polished look.

6. UPDATE YOUR EYE CARE

Winter can also be harsh on your eyes, with the dry air often leading to irritation. Remember to use a gentle eye cream and consider switching to waterproof mascara to withstand harsher weather conditions.



7. ORGANIZE YOUR MAKEUP BAG

Finally, take a moment to declutter your makeup bag. Toss out expired products and re-organize your essentials for easy access. Use pouches or compartments to separate skin-care, makeup, and tools. Most importantly, remember to keep your makeup tools clean.



CONCLUSION

Preparing your makeup bag for winter doesn't just mean switching up your products; it's about understanding your skin's needs in colder months. With a focus on hydration, rich hues, and essential tools, you'll be ready to embrace the beauty of winter while keeping your skin looking its best. So bundle up and let your makeup shine through the frost!



TINIKA THOMAS-FOREMAN

FROM MAKEUP MASTERY TO MAGAZINE LEADERSHIP

Tinika Thomas-Foreman is a leading expert in the beauty industry, serving as the Beauty and Co-Editor for C.O.B.S. Magazine. With a reputation for excellence, Tinika is a well-known makeup artist who has showcased her exceptional skills in film and television, earning her a prominent place in the industry. As the C.E.O. of Shay Beauty Consultants, Tinika continues to elevate beauty standards and inspire others with her creative vision and dedication to her craft. Her work reflects her technical expertise and her passion for helping others feel confident and empowered through the art of makeup.



Photo credit by Tom Jenz

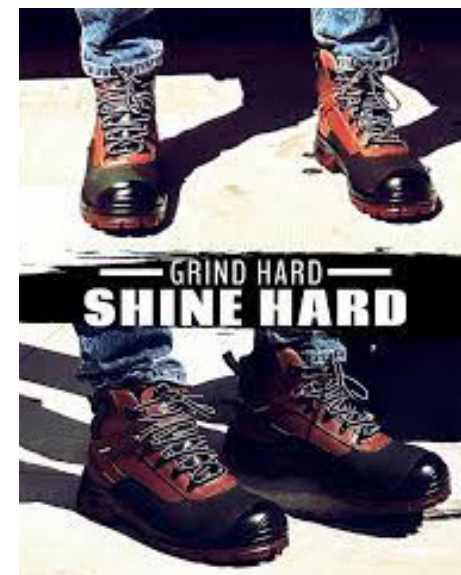
ED HENNINGS FROM INCARCERATION TO INSPIRATION - THE JOURNEY OF A REMARKABLE ENTREPRENEUR

Ed Hennings, the CEO and Founder of the Ed Hennings Company, is known not just for his inspiring personal story but also for his innovative approach to fashion, particularly in the realm of boot design. After overcoming significant challenges in his life, including a long stint in prison, Hennings transformed his experiences into a powerful narrative of resilience and creativity. His boot designs reflect this journey, blending rugged durability with a unique sense of style that resonates with people who appreciate both form and function.



Hennings' boots are more than just footwear; they are a symbol of perseverance and strength. Each pair is meticulously crafted to withstand the test of time, much like Hennings himself. The designs feature high-quality leather, reinforced stitching, and soles built for comfort and endurance. However, what sets these boots apart is the attention to detail and the story behind each design.

Inspired by his life experiences, Hennings incorporates elements that represent his path to redemption. For example, some boots feature intricate patterns that symbolize the challenges he has overcome, while others have bold, clean lines that reflect his focus on moving forward and building a new future. The color palette is often earthy, with deep browns, blacks, and tans dominating the collection, but there are also unexpected pops of color that symbolize hope and new beginnings.



Hennings' boots are designed for individuals who walk their own path, who understand the value of hard work, and who aren't afraid to stand out. Whether worn on the streets, in the office, or out in the rugged outdoors, these boots make a statement about the wearer's character and journey.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, Ed Hennings' boots are also a testament to quality craftsmanship. Hennings is deeply involved in the production process, ensuring that every pair meets his high standards. The materials are sourced responsibly, and the boots are made with techniques that combine traditional methods with modern innovations. This commitment to excellence has earned the Ed Hennings Company a loyal following, with customers who appreciate the story behind the brand as much as the products themselves.

Hennings' journey from adversity to entrepreneurship is reflected in every aspect of his boot designs. His story inspires others to believe in second chances and the power of self-reinvention. Through his boots, Ed Hennings continues to walk the walk, leaving a legacy of resilience and style that is as enduring as the boots he creates.

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NISHA PERSHAY

NISHA'S CELEBRATING BLACK HAIR CARE LAUNCHES OF 2024M PT. 1!

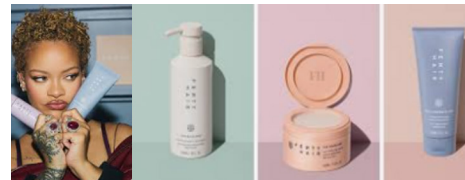
As we are almost halfway through 2024, I want to recognize major black hair care launches created for us by us. Supporting Black women-owned brands can be a powerful way to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in business. Black-owned hair care brands are essential for several reasons, many extending beyond simply purchasing products.

Here's why it matters! Black-owned hair care brands are often founded by individuals who understand the unique needs of Black hair, which is frequently overlooked or misunderstood by mainstream beauty brands. These brands create products tailored to the textures, challenges, and styles common in Black hair care. Let's get into celebrating these black own CEO's and highlight some of their new product lines.

BLACK HAIR CARE PRODUCT AND THE CEO

1. FENTY HAIR BY RIHANNA

Fenty Beauty revolutionized the beauty industry. Now, the Fenty Hair line could similarly cater to a wide range of hair types and textures, particularly those often underserved in the mainstream haircare market. Rihanna has a significant cultural influence, especially within the Black community. A haircare line by her could inspire more people to embrace and care for their natural hair, much like how Fenty Beauty has encouraged self-expression through makeup.



2. CÉCRED BY BEYONCE

Beyoncé has long been a symbol of beauty, strength, and empowerment, especially within the Black community. Her influence extends to Beyoncé's music, with her embracing and promoting natural beauty, self-love, and confidence. Any beauty or haircare line by Beyoncé would likely prioritize inclusivity, offering products for a wide range of hair types and textures, particularly those that cater to the needs of Black women.

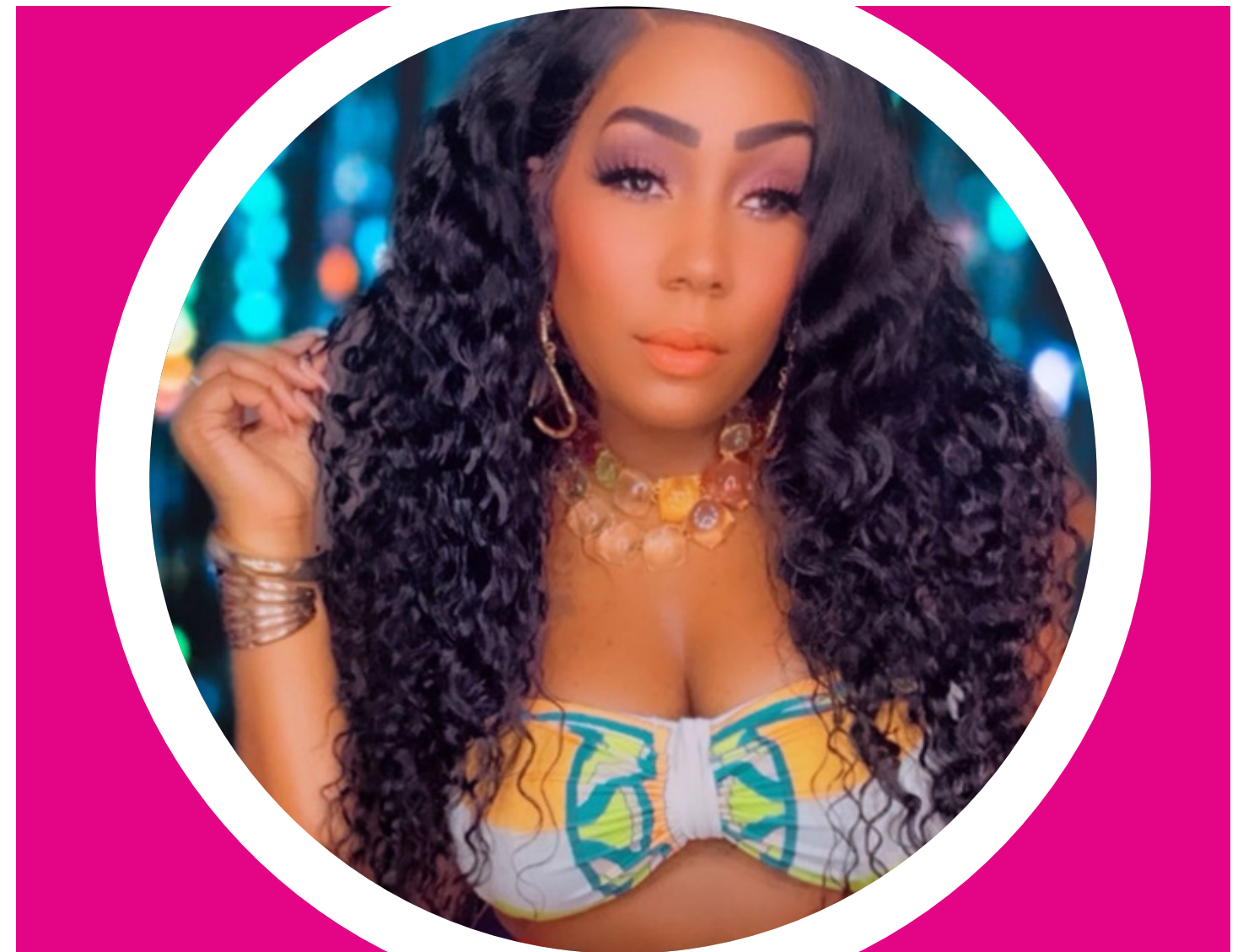
3. MIELLE BY MONIQUE RODRIGUEZ

The brand has become a staple in the Black haircare community, and it is known for its natural and organic products specifically formulated for textured hair. Monique Rodriguez, a former registered nurse, created Mielle Organics after years of experimenting with natural ingredients to address her own hair care needs. She started by sharing her homemade haircare recipes on social media, which quickly gained popularity. The products are designed to cater to different hair types, especially curly, coiled, and kinky textures. The brand uses high-quality, natural ingredients like honey, ginger, rosemary, mint, and babassu oil.



4. TPH BY TARAJI P. HENSON

TPH by Taraji offers a comprehensive line of haircare products, including scalp treatments, shampoos, conditioners, styling products, and more. The brand emphasizes the importance of scalp care as the foundation of healthy hair. TPH by Taraji is designed to be inclusive, offering products for various hair textures, from straight to coily. The line is versatile enough to support different styles, whether you wear natural hair, relaxed, protective, or even under wigs and weaves.



NISHA PERSHAY

A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE IN HAIR DESIGN

Nisha Pershay is the Hair Consultant for C.O.B.S. Magazine, bringing over a decade of expertise in hair weaving, treatment, color, and cuts. With a passion for transforming hair into works of art, Nisha's talent extends beyond the salon. She was the former C.E.O. of The Traveling Salon, where she led the company for three years, providing top-tier hair services on the go. Nisha continues to make her mark in the film and theater industry, where her skills are highly sought after. Her dedication to her craft and innovative approach to hair care have earned her a respected place in the beauty industry.



Photo credit Andrew Nelles – USA Today Sports

SHA'CARRI RICHARDSON THE RESILIENT SPRINTER REDEFINING TRACK AND FIELD

C.O.B.S. Magazine is delighted to spotlight this powerful young woman, Sha'Carri Richardson, now competing in the 2024 Olympics, bringing home the top metal for the U.S. team. Watching her run track always lets me know what possible looks like. I admire her faith, focus, and how she takes off as if she is going after what rightfully belongs to her.

Sha'Carri Richardson is a name that has quickly become synonymous with speed, strength, and resilience. As one of the most electrifying sprinters in recent history, Richardson's journey from a high school track star to a world-renowned athlete is a story of determination, perseverance, and unapologetic authenticity.

EARLY LIFE AND INTRODUCTION TO TRACK

Born on March 25, 2000, in Dallas, Texas, Sha'Carri Richardson showed a passion for running from a young age. Raised by her grandmother and aunt, Richardson's early years were marked by personal challenges that would later fuel her drive on the track. She attended Carter High School in Dallas, where she began to make a name for herself in the track and field world. Her natural talent and relentless work ethic quickly set her apart, earning her a scholarship to Louisiana State University (LSU).

COLLEGIATE SUCCESS AND BREAKTHROUGH

At LSU, Richardson's performance on the track was extraordinary. In June 2019, she set a collegiate record in the 100 meters with a time of 10.75 seconds at the NCAA Championships, making her the fastest woman in collegiate history. This record-breaking performance catapulted her into the national spotlight and set the stage for her professional career.

TURNING PROFESSIONAL AND MAKING HEADLINES

Richardson turned professional later in 2019, signing with Nike. Her professional career took off with impressive performances, including a standout run at the 2020 U.S. Olympic Trials. Richardson won the 100 meters with a time of 10.86 seconds, securing her spot on the U.S. Olympic team and becoming a favorite for the Tokyo Olympics.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Despite her incredible success, Richardson's journey has been without challenges. In June 2021, she faced a major setback when she tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, following her Olympic Trials victory. This resulted in a one-month suspension and her disqualification from the Tokyo Olympics. Richardson's candid admission of using marijuana to cope with the recent death of her biological mother highlighted her humanity and vulnerability, sparking widespread support and conversations about mental health and the pressures faced by athletes.

RETURN TO COMPETITION AND CONTINUED IMPACT

Richardson's resilience was on full display as she vowed to return stronger. In August 2021, she made her comeback at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon. Although she did not win the race, her presence on the track and unwavering confidence reminded the world of her undeniable talent and potential.

CULTURAL IMPACT AND ADVOCACY

Beyond her achievements on the track, Sha'Carri Richardson has become a cultural icon and a voice for marginalized communities. Her vibrant personality, bold fashion choices, and unapologetic authenticity have endeared her to fans worldwide. Richardson frequently uses her platform to advocate for mental health awareness, racial equality, and the importance of self-acceptance.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

As she looks to the future, Richardson's goals remain ambitious. She aims to break world records, win Olympic gold, and inspire the next generation of athletes. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience and self-belief, proving that setbacks are only stepping stones to more outstanding achievements. Sha'Carri Richardson is more than just a sprinter; she symbolizes strength, resilience, and authenticity. Her journey, marked by incredible highs and profound lows, inspires and captivates the world. As she sprints towards her dreams, Richardson's legacy is already being written—not just in the records she breaks, but in the lives she touches and the barriers she dismantles. With her eyes set on the future and her heart rooted in her values, Sha'Carri Richardson is poised to leave an indelible mark on the world of track and field and beyond.

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Interview with Richardson



ALEEAH SMITH THE VISIONARY CEO BEHIND THE PEACH COBBLER FACTORY

BY DR. TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

Aleeah Smith, CEO and founder of the Peach Cobbler Factory, is redefining the dessert industry with her innovative approach to a classic Southern favorite. Her journey from being a passionate home baker to a successful entrepreneur is a testament to her resilience, creativity, and unwavering belief in her vision. Through her leadership, Peach Cobbler has grown from a small local business into a rapidly expanding franchise, delighting customers across the county with its signature desserts.

At just 26 years of age, she is the youngest Black woman in her franchise in other locations. Aleeah's innovative approach extends beyond the kitchen. She implemented a franchise model that prioritizes community involvement and local ownership, allowing franchises to tailor their offerings to meet the unique tastes of their customers.

In 2013, Aleeah opened her hometown's first Peach Cobbler location, focusing on quality ingredients, traditional recipes, and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Word of mouth spread quickly, and it wasn't long before Aleeah's cobblers became a must-have treat for dessert lovers far and wide.

What sets Peach Cobbler apart from other desserts is Aleeah's commitment to preserving the authenticity of her family receipts while embracing modern trends. Each Peach Cobbler location offers various cobblers, from the classic peach to inventive seasonal flavors, all made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

As I visited the Peach Cobbler website, there was a range of complementary products, including ice cream, brownies, Cobbler shakes, Churro Stix, Cinnamon rolls, Belgian Waffles, Cobbler puddings, and Cobbler Cookies, and it's a one-stop destination for enthusiasts.



Under Aleeah Smith's leadership, the Peach Cobbler franchise shows no signs of slowing down, with plans to open new locations in major cities across the United States. Aleeah is focused on expanding the brand while maintaining the quality and authenticity that made it a success. She is also exploring opportunities to introduce new product lines and expand the franchise internationally. Yes, Aleeah – Work that Gift Girl.

Aleeah Smith, I see continued growth for the Peach Cobbler franchise, which continues to build a legacy that will inspire future generations of young entrepreneurs. You are a testament to what God can do if you only believe.



ARIELLE PERSHAY

SNACKING AND BEING HEALTHY

Finding healthy and delicious snacks can sometimes seem impossible, but it doesn't have to be. With creativity and a focus on nutrient-dense ingredients, you can enjoy snacks that satisfy your cravings and boost your overall well-being. Here's a guide to some of the best healthy and tasty snacks that are perfect for any time of the day.



1. GREEK YOGURT WITH FRESH FRUIT: Greek yogurt is a protein-packed snack that can keep you full and satisfied. Top it with fresh fruit like berries, apple slices, or a banana for natural sweetness and added vitamins. You can also sprinkle some granola or nuts on top for an extra crunch and added fiber.

2. VEGGIES AND HUMMUS: Fresh vegetables paired with hummus make for a nutritious and satisfying snack. Carrot sticks, cucumber slices, bell pepper strips, and cherry tomatoes are great options. Hummus is rich in protein and healthy fats, while the veggies provide fiber and essential vitamins.

3. NUT AND SEED MIX: A homemade mix of nuts and seeds can be a crunchy, energy-boosting snack. Almonds, walnuts, sunflower seeds, and pumpkin seeds are all nutrient-dense options. Just be mindful of portion sizes, as nuts and seeds are calorie-dense. Adding a few dried fruits, like raisins or apricots, can enhance the flavor.

4. APPLE SLICES WITH ALMOND BUTTER: Apple slices dipped in almond butter offer a delicious combination of sweet and savory flavors. Apples provide fiber and vitamin C, while almond butter adds healthy fats and protein. This snack is also portable and easy to prepare.

5. CHIA SEED PUDDING: Chia seeds are packed with omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, and protein. To make chia seed pudding, mix chia seeds with almond milk or another plant-based milk and let it sit in the refrigerator overnight. You can sweeten it with a bit of honey or maple syrup and top it with fruit, nuts, or a sprinkle of cocoa powder.

6. COTTAGE CHEESE WITH PINEAPPLE: Cottage cheese is another high-protein snack option that pairs well with pineapple for a touch of sweetness. Pineapple is rich in vitamins and antioxidants, while cottage cheese provides calcium and protein. This combination can be a refreshing and filling snack.

7. RICE CAKES WITH AVOCADO: Rice cakes are a low-calorie base that can be topped with various healthy ingredients. Spread mashed avocado on top and sprinkle with a little salt, pepper, or chili flakes for a satisfying snack. Avocado is an excellent source of healthy fats and fiber.

8. EDAMAME: Edamame, or young soybeans, are a protein-rich, tasty, and nutritious snack. You can find them frozen; you need to steam or microwave them for a few minutes. Sprinkle with some sea salt or your favorite seasoning for added flavor.

9. SMOOTHIE POPSICLES: For a refreshing treat, blend up a smoothie using fruits like berries, bananas, and spinach, then freeze it in popsicle molds. These smoothie popsicles are delicious and contain vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

10. HARD-BOILED EGGS: Hard-boiled eggs are an excellent source of high-quality protein and essential nutrients. They are easy to prepare in advance and can be seasoned with a pinch of salt, pepper, or a dash of hot sauce for extra flavor.

TIPS FOR HEALTHY SNACKING

- 1. Portion Control:** Even healthy snacks can contribute to weight gain if overeaten. Be mindful of portion sizes to keep your snacking balanced.
- 2. Stay Hydrated:** Sometimes, thirst can be mistaken for hunger. Drink a glass of water before reaching for a snack to ensure you're genuinely hungry.
- 3. Balanced Nutrients:** Aim for snacks that balance protein, healthy fats, and fiber to satisfy and energize you.
- 4. Preparation:** Keep your snacks easy to prepare and readily available. Pre-cut veggies, portion nuts, and keep healthy snacks within easy reach to avoid unhealthy choices.

Incorporating these healthy and tasty snacks into your diet can help you maintain energy levels, support your overall health, and make snacking a more enjoyable and nourishing experience. By choosing nutrient-dense ingredients and experimenting with different combinations, you can satisfy your cravings in a way that supports your wellness goals.

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ARIELLE PERSHAY

EMPOWERMENT ADVOCATE AND EDITOR: ARIELLE PERSHAY'S JOURNEY TO UPLIFT WOMEN

Arielle Pershay is a dynamic force in women's empowerment, serving as the Fit and Career Coach Editor for C.O.B.S. Magazine. Arielle is also an upcoming author passionate about helping women discover their worth and identity. Her debut book, *Queen, Let's Talk*, is a powerful guide designed to inspire and uplift women on their journey to self-discovery and empowerment.

Her academic pursuits further demonstrate Arielle's commitment to personal and professional growth. She is set to graduate in Fall 2024 with a Bachelor's degree in Ethics and Management and a minor in Human Resources from Exousia University. With her unique blend of experience, education, and a heartfelt mission, Arielle Pershay continues to significantly impact women's lives everywhere.



SHAYLA DAVIS

CEO/FOUNDER OF SPACES BY SHAYLA

Shayla Davis is the dynamic CEO and Founder of Spaces by Shayla, where her innovative approach to interior design redefines how we experience our environments. Shayla combines her keen eye for aesthetics with a deep understanding of client needs to deliver transformative results. Shayla believes that every space has a story to tell, and it's her mission to bring those stories to life. Shayla Davis is a true trailblazer in the world of interior design.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Can you give us a little background about your upbringing?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I'm Brooklyn, born and raised the youngest of 3 siblings and raised by a single mom. At the age of 5 years old, I was in a car accident with my father, who unfortunately perished in that accident.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us the inspiration behind starting Spaces by Shayla? What motivated you to enter the interior design industry?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I've been interested in interior design for as long as I can remember. It wasn't a big thing when I pursued formal education and was talked out of my passion. "It's not a real major," most people said, so I pursued other interests, but design has always been my heart and passion.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How would you describe your design philosophy, and how is it reflected in your projects?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

My design philosophy is in the tagline of my logo, «Style and Grace in Every Space.» I love inspiring people to have the homes they are proud of and being the one to help them achieve this. I undertake projects of any size and assist people who don't know what to do. Most have ideas but don't know how to bring them to fruition.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as an entrepreneur in the interior design field, and how have you overcome them?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

My biggest challenge has been presenting myself on social media. I've never been that girl. After repeated attempts and posts, I am now more comfortable presenting my ideas and have grown a following.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

In your opinion, what are the key elements that make a space genuinely exceptional?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

The key elements are colors, lighting, balance, scale, and, of course, representing the client's style.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you stay updated with the latest trends in interior design, and which trends are you currently excited about?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I am a Houzz Pro member, and they offer badges for class and continuing education. I attend these classes and follow social media, HGTV, Pinterest, and other professionals in the field. I am excited about dual coffee tables, which were never a thing, and the myriad of accent walls, not just color but texture, board, and batten.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Can you walk us through your design process when working with a client from initial consultation to project completion?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I have several different packages from which clients can choose, including the Virtual Design package and the Pillow Talk package. These are done via video conference, but I schedule an initial consultation for those in person. The purpose of the consult is to get to know the client and their wants and needs. Just because I have a consult, I don't accept every client. Sometimes, we are not fit, and I love what I do, so I want to have a great experience and provide the same for the client. Afterward, I presented them with a 2D and 3D rendering of the space with the ideas we discussed, allowing for conversation surrounding the choices to ensure I had a solid understanding. Once this is accomplished, the contract phase will



follow. Most projects are 8-12 weeks, depending on the client's wants and needs. We spend a lot of time together, so I need to ensure we are a fit for each other because it is a relationship. After the design, there is a reveal and photoshoot of the space. The client's name or address is not shared to ensure their privacy.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What role does sustainability play in your designs, and how do you incorporate eco-friendly practices into your projects?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I gear my designs toward sustainability when allowed. I try not to follow the trends unless this is a specific request from the client. I make the best design decisions based on the environment and resale of a property.



C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you handle client feedback and criticism regarding your designs?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

I handle feedback and criticism very professionally. My goal is to give the client their desired space; after all, they have to live there when I am gone. I welcome feedback and constructive criticism and ask for it throughout the process. If the client isn't happy with a design concept, that means I've missed the mark, and again, this is a relationship, so my end goal is to please.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Are there any memorable projects that stand out to you, and what made them special?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

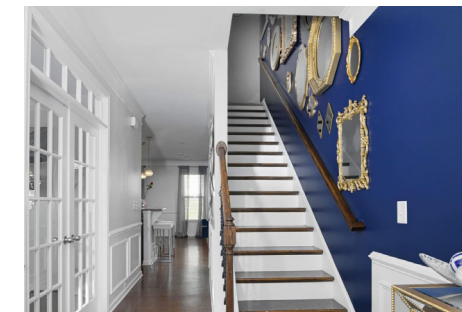
All of my projects are memorable when I see the happiness and delight on my client's faces at the reveal. The ones I love the most are the spouse's spaces when the woman wants to achieve a goal, and the husband has other ideas in mind, and I can "marry" (pun intended) them both to achieve cohesiveness and satisfaction from both parties.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you balance creativity with practicality when designing client spaces?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

This is achieved by allowing the clients to dump all their wildest ideas and then explain, «Hey, if you paint your cabinets orange, they may tank your resale value because that is very specific to your taste» However, the final decision is always that of the clients. It's my role to keep them informed, but it is also my role to please them.



C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What advice would you give aspiring interior designers who want to start their own business?

SHAYLA DAVIS:

Learn, learn, learn. You may be the best designer in the world, but you have to keep up with new design ideas, you have to have superb people skills, and if you get a 'red flag' client, do not be afraid to end the relationship, you will be better in the end. You don't want a high-stress project because if you're anything like me, it will stifle your creativity, then no one wins. This business is big referral-based, and word of mouth, a 'red flag client' will likely not give you a good review. It isn't worth the money and all you've put into growing your business. As the adage suggests, not all money is good money.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What are your goals for Spaces by Shayla, and how do you envision your company's growth? Can you please share your contact and social media information? Thank you for being part of COBS Magazine.

SHAYLA DAVIS:

The Future of Spaces by Shayla is one client at a time. Eventually, I plan on adding design for commercial spaces and staff members to my team. I am still a one-woman show, which is becoming quite daunting.

CONTACT:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spacesbysayla>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pillowtalkdecordcore-andmore>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/splendidspacesbysayla/>

WILGLORY TANJONG

CEO & FOUNDER OF ANIMA IRIS



Picture Courtesy of Anim Iris website

ANIMA IRIS: THE VISIONARY FASHION DESIGNER REDEFINING LUXURY

In the vibrant fashion world, where creativity knows no bounds and innovation is the key to success, Anima Iris stands out as a beacon of inspiration and ingenuity. Founded by Wilglory Tanjong, Anima Iris is a luxury handbag brand that has taken the fashion industry by storm with its unique blend of contemporary design and cultural heritage.

THE GENESIS OF ANIMA IRI

Wilglory Tanjong, a Cameroonian-American entrepreneur, established Anima Iris in 2020. With a background in business and finance, Tanjong decided to pursue her passion for fashion after being inspired by her rich cultural heritage and the lack of representation in the luxury fashion space. Her vision was to create a brand that not only exudes elegance and sophistication but also tells a story of resilience, tradition, and innovation.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Bold designs, vibrant colors, and meticulous craftsmanship characterize Anima Iris handbags. Each piece is handmade by skilled artisans in Dakar, Senegal, using locally sourced materials. This commitment to quality and authenticity is at the heart of Anima Iris's philosophy. The brand prides itself on its sustainable and ethical practices, ensuring that every bag is a work of art and a product of fair trade and empowerment.

The designs of Anima Iris are a fusion of modern aesthetics and traditional African motifs. The bags feature intricate patterns, luxurious textures, and unique shapes, making them stand out in the crowded luxury market. Each handbag tells a story of cultural pride and artistic excellence, from the iconic Zaza Mini to the versatile Zuri Tote.

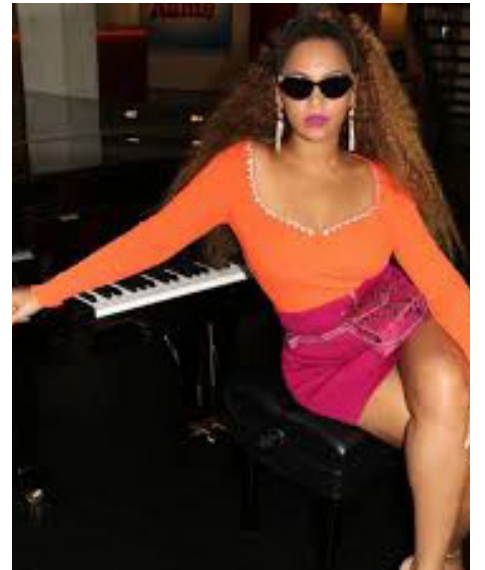
anima iris

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES

One of the most compelling aspects of Anima Iris is its commitment to empowering women and communities in Africa. By partnering with local artisans, the brand provides fair wages and creates job opportunities, contributing to the region's economic growth. Wilglory Tanjong's vision extends beyond fashion; she aims to create a platform that uplifts and supports African craftsmanship and entrepreneurship.

RISING TO PROMINENCE

Anima Iris quickly gained recognition for its distinctive designs and powerful narrative. The brand's handbags have been featured in major fashion publications such as Vogue, Elle, and Harper's Bazaar. Celebrities and influencers, including Beyoncé, have been spotted with Anima Iris bags, further propelling the brand into the global spotlight.



THE FUTURE OF ANIMA IRIS

As Anima Iris continues to grow, Wilglory Tanjong remains dedicated to her mission of redefining luxury fashion. The future looks bright for this trailblazing brand with plans to expand the product line and collaborate with more African artisans. Anima Iris is not just a fashion label; it is a movement that celebrates African heritage, empowers communities, and inspires a new generation of fashion enthusiasts.

In a world where fast fashion often overshadows craftsmanship and authenticity, Anima Iris is a testament to the power of purpose-driven design. Wilglory Tanjong's journey from a finance professional to a celebrated fashion designer is a story of passion, resilience, and unwavering dedication to making a difference. Anima Iris is more than just a name; it symbolizes elegance, empowerment, and the beauty of African artistry.

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Anima Iris Website - The Anima Iris Story

BACK TO SCHOOL PIZZA RECIPES

As a fan of The Pioneer Woman (Ree Drummond), I tuned into the show on weekends when I'm not stuck doing homework or chores. I love her demeanor, smile, and, of course, her recipes. In honor of The Pioneer Woman, I wanted to share some back-to-school recipes that are easy to try in your kitchen. The 54-year-old Oklahoma native is an American blogger, author, food writer, and TV personality, best known for her work under the brand The Pioneer Woman. She has a blog called ThePioneerWoman.com and has been a host for the Food Network's The Pioneer Woman TV show under the same name since 2011 (Bradley, 2023). Take a look at some fun and remarkable recipes for your kids.

FRENCH BREAD PIZZAS

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE PIZZAS

- 6 whole deli rolls or French bread, sliced
- Jarred marinara or pizza sauce
- Jarred or refrigerated pesto
- 2 lb. shredded mozzarella cheese
- Grated parmesan cheese, to taste
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1/2 lb. sausage (breakfast or Italian)

FOR THE TOPPINGS

- Pepperoni slices
- Canadian bacon slices
- Pineapple chunks, fresh or canned
- Roma tomatoes, sliced
- Sliced black olives
- Goat cheese
- Sliced bell peppers
- Pepperoncini
- Jalapeño slices
- Sliced red onion

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375°.
2. For the pizza: Slice rolls in half and lay them, cut side up, on a large baking sheet.
3. Top each half with a generous portion of either marinara or pesto. Next, top with a generous amount of grated mozzarella and parmesan cheese if you'd like.
4. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and softened, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a plate.
5. Add the sausage to the skillet. Cook, breaking up with a wooden spoon, until no longer pink, 6 to 8 minutes.
6. Top the bread with the onions and sausage. Sprinkle on your choice of optional toppings.
7. Once all assembled, put the pan in the oven on the lowest rack for 8 to 10 minutes. Crank up the heat to 425° and put it on the highest rack until the cheese bubbles a bit and turns golden, 2 to 3 minutes.
8. Remove and serve immediately! You can cut the pizzas in half right across the middle, so there are mini-French bread pizzas for everyone.



MUSHROOM PUFF PASTRY PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

- All-purpose flour for dusting
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed (half of a 17-oz. package)
- Olive oil for brushing and drizzling
- 2 Tbsp. salted butter
- 1 lb. sliced baby bella mushroom
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 c. dry white wine
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
- 3/4 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
- Thinly sliced fresh chives for topping

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Gently roll the puff pastry into a 10-by-15-inch rectangle on a lightly floured surface. Transfer to the prepared baking sheet. Use a paring knife to score a 1/2-inch border around the edges without cutting all the way through. Poke the pastry all over inside the border with a fork.
3. Brush the center of the pastry with a thin layer of olive oil. Bake until golden and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and garlic and cook, stirring, until starting to brown, about 4 minutes. Add the wine and a pinch of salt and pepper to each. Cook until the liquid is mostly evaporated, 7 to 10 more minutes.
5. Sprinkle the mozzarella over the puff pastry, avoiding the border. Top with the mushrooms.
6. Bake until the cheese is melted and the pastry is golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes, then top with the chives and drizzle with more olive oil. Cut into pieces.



FRUIT PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE COOKIE CRUST

- 1 1/3 c. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. orange zest
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 Tbsp. Whole milk, room temperature
- 4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

FOR THE FROSTING:

- 2 (7-oz.) jars marshmallow creme
- 2 (8-oz.) packages of cream cheese

TO DECORATE

- Mango, peeled and cubed
- Strawberries, hulled and sliced
- Canned mandarin oranges, drained
- Kiwi, peeled and sliced
- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Peaches, pitted and sliced, optional
- Pears, cored and sliced, optional



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. For the cookie crust: In a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar, orange zest, and vanilla thoroughly. Add the eggs and beat until light and fluffy. Add the milk and mix.
3. In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt, then blend this into the butter mixture. Divide the dough into 2 disks and lightly flatten each disk between 2 sheets of parchment paper. (Do not divide the dough if baking 1 large "pizza" on a sheet pan.) Refrigerate for 1 hour or freeze for 20 minutes.
4. Roll each dough half into an 11-inch round, then transfer to pizza pans. (Or, press the dough into a large sheet cake pan.)
5. Bake until the cookie dough is cooked and golden brown but not overly crisp, 15 to 18 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool completely.
6. For the frosting: In a mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip together the marshmallow creme and cream cheese until light in texture. Spread onto each cooled crust.
7. To decorate: Top the pizza with prepared sliced fruit, as desired. Slice into squares or wedges and serve.

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ZOE OLI

CELEBRATING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE INSPIRING STORY OF 12-YEAR-OLD ZOE OLI, FOUNDER OF MY BEAUTIFUL CURLY ME

In a world where the entrepreneurial spirit is often associated with adults, 12-year-old Zoe Oli is breaking the mold. As the founder of My Beautiful Curly Me, Zoe is running a successful business and making a significant impact on the lives of young girls, promoting self-love and acceptance. Her journey from a young girl with a vision to a trailblazing entrepreneur is genuinely inspiring.

THE BIRTH OF MY BEAUTIFUL CURLY ME

Zoe Oli's journey began with a simple yet profound realization. Growing up, she often found herself surrounded by media and toys that didn't represent her natural beauty or the beauty of many other young girls with curly hair. This lack of representation left Zoe feeling less confident about her appearance. Determined to change this narrative, Zoe created a brand to celebrate and uplift girls with curly hair and darker skin tones.

In 2018, at the tender age of 9, Zoe founded My Beautiful Curly Me. The brand offers a range of products, including dolls with various curly hair textures and skin tones, books, and accessories. Each product is designed to encourage young girls to embrace their natural beauty and feel proud of who they are.



EMPOWERING THROUGH REPRESENTATION

One of the core missions of My Beautiful Curly Me is to provide representation for girls who often feel overlooked in mainstream media and toy industries. The dolls, with their diverse hair textures and skin colors, serve as a powerful reminder to young girls that they are beautiful just the way they are. Zoe's brand is not just about selling products; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and self-worth in every young girl who interacts with My Beautiful Curly Me.

Zoe's impact extends beyond her products. She actively engages in educational and advocacy efforts to spread the message of self-love and acceptance. Through school visits, workshops, and social media campaigns, Zoe encourages girls to embrace their unique features and to be proud of their heritage. Her book series, which features stories about girls with curly hair navigating various life experiences, has been particularly influential. These stories provide relatable role models for young readers and help them see themselves positively.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

Zoe's hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. My Beautiful Curly Me has garnered significant attention and accolades. Zoe has been featured in numerous media outlets and is celebrated as a young entrepreneur making a difference. Her story has inspired countless individuals, proving that age is no barrier to positively impacting the world.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Despite her young age, Zoe has big plans for the future of My Beautiful Curly Me. She aims to expand the product line, reaching even more girls worldwide. Zoe also envisions launching more initiatives to promote self-love and acceptance, including collaborations with schools and community organizations.

Zoe's entrepreneurial journey is a testament to the power of believing in oneself and taking action to create change. Her story is a beacon of hope and inspiration, showing that anyone can make a difference with passion, determination, and a clear vision, regardless of age.

Zoe Oli, the 12-year-old founder of My Beautiful Curly Me, is a remarkable young entrepreneur who is reshaping the narrative around beauty and self-acceptance. Through her innovative products and advocacy, Zoe empowers young girls to love themselves and embrace their natural beauty. Her journey is a powerful reminder that actual change can start at any age and that the future is bright with young leaders like Zoe at the helm.

As Zoe continues to grow her brand and spread her message, she will inspire even more young minds and leave a lasting legacy of empowerment and positivity.

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CORPORATE ETHICS

BY ARIELLE PERSHAY

This article will deeply dive into business ethics and why it is crucial.

WHAT DOES CORPORATE ETHICS MEAN?

According to Investopedia (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/business-ethics.asp>), business ethics are the moral principles and values that govern how companies and individuals engage in business activities. It goes beyond legal requirements to establish a code of conduct that drives employee behavior at all levels and helps build trust between a business and its customers.

GOOD ETHICS VS BAD ETHICS.

Imagine you downloaded an app on your phone, and as time goes on, you notice some technical difficulties with the app. You begin to realize that you need assistance, and you call the customer service number to explain the issues you're having with the app to the representative. After you informed the representative of the problem you experienced with the app, the representative was calm and went above and beyond to rectify the technical issue, offer different alternatives, etc. This is an example of work ethics. As customers, we want the corporation/organization to be trustworthy, obey the laws, follow the company's policies, and not harm the customers.

Investopedia website also mentions the concept of business ethics in the 1960s as corporations became more aware of a rising consumer-based society that showed concerns regarding the environment, social causes, and corporate responsibility. The increased focus on "social issues" was a hallmark of the decade. Please check out <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/business-ethics.asp> to learn more about work ethics.

WHAT IS GOOD BUSINESS ETHICS?

Businesses have responsibilities to their employees, customers, and board of directors, which may be contractual, legal, or promised. Below are some examples of good business ethics.

- Accountability
 - Caring
 - Honest
 - Fulfilling commitments
 - Responsibility
- Transparency
 - Corporate social responsibility
 - Obeying the law
 - Ethics of technology
- Workplace diversity
 - Customer prioritization
 - Community empowerment
 - Customer data protection

WHAT IS BAD BUSINESS ETHICS?

Bad business ethics, to make it simple, means breaking the promise or the law. Below are some examples of bad business ethics.

- False advertising
 - Conflict of interest
 - Discrimination
 - Harassment
 - Pollution
 - Exploiting workers
- Poor conditions
 - Unethical accounting
 - Selling customer data
 - Unfair competition
 - Complex securities
 - Insider trading
- Lying
 - Bribing
 - Evading taxes
 - Whistleblowing
 - Bribery
 - Manipulating accounts

I believe business work ethics define you as a human being; it reveals your attitude, commitment, passion, understanding, respect, and trust. You will not succeed in business if you do not do things in decency and order.

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS

Ethical business leadership is a leadership style that emphasizes following moral guidelines and demonstrating appropriate conduct. Ethical leadership understands the role trust, transparency, and accountability play in a strong and sustainable organization.

WHAT DOES ETHICAL LEADERSHIP DEMONSTRATE?

- Respect- treating everyone with values and worth, listening to their opinions, and being kind and selfless.
- Honest- being transparent and speaking openly about issues to build employee trust.
- Lead by example- setting a clear example for ethical decision-making and inspiring others to raise their standards.
- Accountability- taking responsibility for mistakes and poor decisions.
- Integrity- being honest and transparent in all interactions, even when difficult.
- Justice- treating everyone fairly and equitably, regardless of rank or position, and encouraging diversity and inclusion.
- Transparency- keeping employees informed about what the company is doing and how it is getting there and maintaining constant communication.

Although business ethics is not often a topic people discuss, it is essential to represent yourself with class, compassion, respect, excellent communication, and great listening, caring, and understanding of others. Business ethics are crucial in the workplace because it helps ensure that a company is doing the right thing and following rules. I think of it as business ethics, which is the foundation of an organization or company because it sets the standards of the company or organization.



EMBRACE AUTUMN SPLENDOR: THE BEST FALL VACATION DESTINATIONS

As the days grow shorter and the leaves transform into vibrant red, orange, and yellow hues, autumn beckons us to explore its enchanting beauty. Fall is the perfect season to escape the mundane and experience nature's stunning display. Whether you crave the tranquility of a secluded forest, the charm of a historic town, or the excitement of a cultural festival, there's a fall destination waiting for you. Here are some of the best vacation spots for your autumn getaway.



1. NEW ENGLAND, USA

New England is arguably the quintessential fall destination. Comprising states like Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island, this region is renowned for its breathtaking foliage.

- **Vermont:** Known for its picturesque small towns and scenic drives, Vermont offers unparalleled leaf-peeping opportunities. The Green Mountain Byway and Route 100 are prevalent routes.
- **New Hampshire:** The White Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop for fall colors. Don't miss the Kancamagus Highway, a scenic byway that cuts through the heart of the White Mountain National Forest.
- **Massachusetts:** Visit the Berkshires for cultural attractions and natural beauty. The region is home to quaint towns, historic sites, and renowned art institutions like the Norman Rockwell Museum.

2. ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Asheville is a haven for nature lovers and artists alike. The city is surrounded by stunning landscapes that come alive with color in the fall.

- **Blue Ridge Parkway:** Known as "America's Favorite Drive," the parkway offers countless overlooks and hiking trails to immerse yourself in the fall foliage.
- **Biltmore Estate:** This historic mansion and its sprawling gardens are magnificent in autumn. The estate often hosts seasonal events and wine tastings.

3. BAVARIA, GERMANY

Bavaria in southern Germany is hard to beat for a European fall adventure. The region is famous for its fairytale castles, charming villages, and spectacular fall scenery.

- **Neuschwanstein Castle:** This iconic castle, surrounded by forested hills, looks straight out of a storybook. The fall colors add to its magical appeal.
- **Oktoberfest:** Experience Bavarian culture at its finest by attending Munich's Oktoberfest. This world-famous festival runs from late September to the first weekend in October, offering traditional music, food, and beer.

4. KYOTO, JAPAN

Kyoto is a mesmerizing destination in any season, but it's especially enchanting in the fall. The city's temples, gardens, and parks are draped in vibrant autumn leaves, creating a serene and picturesque atmosphere.

- **Kiyomizu-dera Temple:** This historic temple offers stunning city views and the surrounding foliage.
- **Arashiyama:** Located on the outskirts of Kyoto, this district is known for its bamboo groves and the iconic Togetsukyo Bridge. The nearby mountains are ablaze with color in the fall.

5. CANADIAN ROCKIES, ALBERTA, CANADA

The Canadian Rockies are a spectacular destination year-round, but the fall season brings a unique beauty to the region. The contrast of golden larch trees against the rugged mountain backdrop is breathtaking.

- **Banff National Park:** Explore scenic drives like the Icefields Parkway, hike to Lake Louise, or take a gondola ride for panoramic autumn landscape views.
- **Jasper National Park:** offers stunning vistas, wildlife sightings, and serene lakes. The fall colors along Maligne Lake are particularly striking.

6. TUSCANY, ITALY

Tuscany's rolling hills, vineyards, and medieval towns take on a warm and inviting glow in the fall. The harvest season brings a flurry of activity and celebration to the region.

- **Wine Tasting:** Visit vineyards in the Chianti region to sample the season's new wines. Many wineries offer tours and tastings, allowing you to experience the harvest firsthand.
- **Medieval Towns:** Explore charming towns like Siena, San Gimignano, and Montepulciano, where you can enjoy local cuisine and immerse yourself in the region's rich history.

CONCLUSION

Fall is a season of transformation and beauty, offering unique travel experiences catering to various interests. Whether you're seeking the serene landscapes of New England, the cultural richness of Bavaria, or the historic charm of Kyoto, a fall destination is perfect for you. Embrace the crisp air and vibrant colors, and let the magic of autumn guide your next vacation adventure.

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