

JULY/AUGUST 2022 ISSUE
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C.O.B.S.

CIRCLE OF
SISTERS

THE QUEEN'S COURT

Meet Ebony Fletcher
CEO/Founder of Hair Krack
Products

THE KING'S COURT

Meet Koro White
Media Mogul & CEO of The
Sensor Awards

WOMEN'S WERK

Meet Tiffany Vinson
CEO/Founder of Trip With Tiff
Travel

POWER COUPLES

*Meet Chris & Roberta
Holmes*

ARTIST CORNER

*Meet 8-Year old Miracle
Daverne*



Meet
**TAYLOR
REDD**
CEO/Founder of
Redd Rose Vodka

From The Office of the Editor

– BY TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY –

FAMILY FEUD VS CELEBRATION OF LIFE

We have combined our July/August issue to make it our official summer issue.

Happy July 4th and Welcome Summertime! I love the Summer, but I hate the bugs. I love the heat of the sun except when that heat is baking my weave (makes me feel like I am wearing a wool hat and a scarf) LOL. I love running through a New York City fire-hydrant, watching fireworks (just wish they didn't start the fireworks celebrations in May and end in September), love eating slushies, and BBQs, hanging out with my circle of sisters, and relaxing under the AC after a long train ride from work.

I can hear Will Smith's song "Summertime" remembering the images in his video with the red paper cups. Seeing black families do the soul train line and water balloon fights. I love BBQs because there is always plenty of food, laughter, alcohol, potato sack races, and a shared history of who we are as a family. The elders of the black families understood the importance of family gatherings because they were taught from slavery that family sticks together no matter what. Prayer kicks off the unity of family gatherings as well as closes it out. The elders start the prayers by declaring to keep our families together and make us stronger, and then we all agree by saying Amen.

Times have changed! Funerals are the new way to celebrate life by bringing loved ones together from near and far. The purpose of a funeral is to show love, and support, gather and hug people you haven't seen in years. You're not thinking of who you don't like because everyone is in grieving a state of mind. We are not only at war in our communities, but we are at war within our families. It's like having a family gang rivals. The Tree family doesn't get along with the branch family and we seem to pass these traits of hurt and mistrust down to our children. Eventually, that seed of discord is planted in the next generations and it separates our family. There are times I am around family members and I can detect that they don't want to be around me by the seed that was planted. I want to say get to know me not by what you heard. Bad seeds planted grows judgment and unforgiveness. I stopped attending family reunions because there are real ingredients missing that is the celebration of life as a family.

My advice when you're told to stay away from certain family members investigate why? Do your homework and don't allow someone's ancient history of hatred to live in your today.



Trevi Booker

Trevi Booker Pershay

MEET THE C.O.B.S. TEAM



Trevi Booker Pershay

Editor-in-Chief

Trevi Booker Pershay is Editor-in-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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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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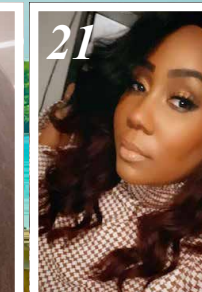
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MEET CEO/ FOUNDER OF REDD ROSE, VODKA

TAYLOR REDD

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S Magazine. What an honor to have mompreneur Taylor Redd grace our July cover. Taylor is a paralegal turned bartender who grew her brand during the pandemic. We will dive into her journey of becoming a successful owner of her brand. Please share with our audience who is Taylor Redd the woman and the brand.

TAYLOR REDD:

It is such an honor to be on your cover of C.O.B.S. Magazine! SO EXCITED! Taylor is a dreamer, who turns those dreams into reality! I am a mother of 2 who likes to vacation anywhere with a beach. After working at the time 6 years as a paralegal I moved to NC and decided to take the bartender course until work became available in the legal industry for me. While in law school I fell in love with bartending so much that working to become a mixologist was a

breeze. Learning about all the different brands – spiked my interest in creating my own brand.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Taylor, before the birth of Redd Rose Vodka you had another business which you called your side hustle. Can you share with our audience the name of your side hustle business? When did you decide to take your side hustle and made it your sole mission?

TAYLOR REDD:

The “bar scene” isn’t for me – will I do it yes maybe 1 night a month! It’s a great position, but it came down to my managers taking money from me and my check and this happened two many times. One night a guest asked if I would work a birthday, I said sure – I charged them \$75.00 and made \$500 in tips working 3 hours. From there I secured additional jobs that same weekend and made close to \$4k in 3 days. That’s when I decided to create POUR and do private events because what I made in 3 days would have taken 2 weeks behind a bar on a good night with a split. Pour also known as Pour Mixology turned into full-time work very quickly.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

One publication titled you in their article The “Rose” that grew during the pandemic. Can you share with our audience how you were flourishing during the pandemic? Have you ever struggled with believing in yourself? If so, how do you overcome that limited belief about yourself?

TAYLOR REDD:

I love this topic because it shows that at the end of the day I am a human being. I never believed in myself. Not once, did I come from a family that has worked a full-time job and that’s it? The pandemic was a blessing and a curse – a blessing because people had time to pay attention to Redd Rose, to me, to the story. One thing people do not realize there aren’t “regular people”

who own brands – there are major corporations pumping spirits out and they know you will buy it. Sometimes I still don’t believe in myself, or the fact that I made it this far. Now that I have hired and am hiring – it seems so unreal! Believing in yourself is the biggest hurdle to tackle, and every day I spend time telling myself “I deserve this, and everything will work out in my favor”. I also must remember what I have created is different there aren’t people I can talk to, so sometimes I get in my head about things and probably make it more difficult than it needs to be.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Redd Rose Vodka is a huge tribute to your grandmother’s legacy. Can you share how important your bond was with her? What values did she instill in you that have helped you be a successful entrepreneur?

TAYLOR REDD:

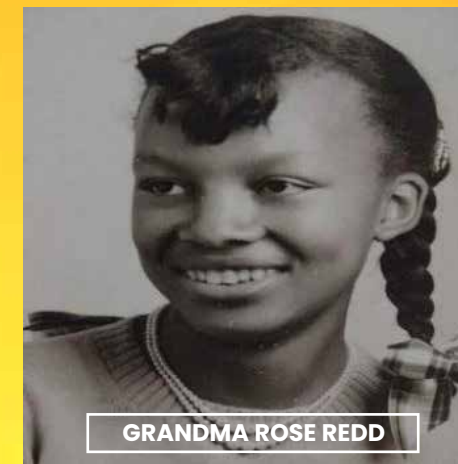
My grandmother Rose Redd! She is my happy place, and I miss her dearly – she always had a story to tell. She was a tenacious and agile woman. She stood on her own two feet and carried herself with a “can’t be touched” attitude. She owned Flea Markets and bottle recycling companies – driving the street at night to pick up items to refurbish and sell the next day. She allowed women to come in and sell items as well so that they could take care of their families. The Flea markets were filled with people every day! She sold hot dogs, popsicles, candy, chips, and soda in a refrigerated van. She worked with the county fair and used her lot to park cars for 6 days at a time, and even did bingo nights! She supported her people and they knew who she was and they knew she had their back!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have two legal degrees under your belt, and it looked as if you were heading towards becoming an Attorney. It seems that you had a different calling in mind. You went from law to owning your own liquor brand. Can you explain to our readers how you took a leap of faith to start the process? How hard was it for you to step out of your comfort zone?

TAYLOR REDD:

The calling is still to become an attorney, I am not done with that yet – just pausing until Redd Rose has a team to take care of her. My mom worked for a law firm in Atlanta and going to work with her when I was little was so much fun! Listening to the attorneys talk about cases and what was going on. It was so interesting to me,



and I enjoy making things make sense. Pausing my dream does not mean it’s over or I no longer want to do it, it’s just on pause. I told a few people that I wanted to create Redd Rose, and they told me to stay in school or buy a house with the funds I had. Creating Redd Rose has been the best thing to happen to me and it was the best decision I have ever made. The reward is the legacy is still alive – with her by my side, I know we will make this brand successful!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

We understand that you relocated from Ohio to North Carolina after a district judge you supported was about to retire. Share with us why you decide to transition and what does this have to do with the birthing of Redd Rose?

TAYLOR REDD:

The judge I was working for said “go live your life”. I thought I was already living it as a 20-year-old with a 1-year-old child, working for the district court judge. I was the youngest person in the building! But when looking back now – it makes sense. My life wasn’t in Ohio – I didn’t like living there moved to NC. I didn’t know anyone here, I just wanted to make it work in a new place with new people, and did just that. When I first moved here, I slept on a couch with my son in a mobile home with no heat or air conditioning and brown water. Once Pour started to take off and I worked a full-time job – we then moved into a nice apartment. When I think about my past and all the obstacles I have overcome – I am living the life I dream of so beginning Redd Rose was not hard to do.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a mom how have you made any adjustments to your personal and professional life to juggle these two roles? What advice do you have for mothers trying to balance family with their entrepreneurial ambitions?

TAYLOR REDD:

Advice to moms is that you will always feel guilty for missing a basketball game

or ballet recital, is okay. It’s okay to feel that guilt but know your kids do not love you any less, just tell them what you are doing. Tell them what you are building for them, let them know that mommy is working, and it requires me to go away. I always bring them a gift or something, but we must remember that our kids do not ask for anything – only happy parents. There isn’t balance, there isn’t a proper way to juggle – just be present when you can and let them know what the end goal is.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You’ve shared with Tinika and Trevi the difference between owning a brand and being the face of the brand there is a difference. Please share that with us.

TAYLOR REDD:

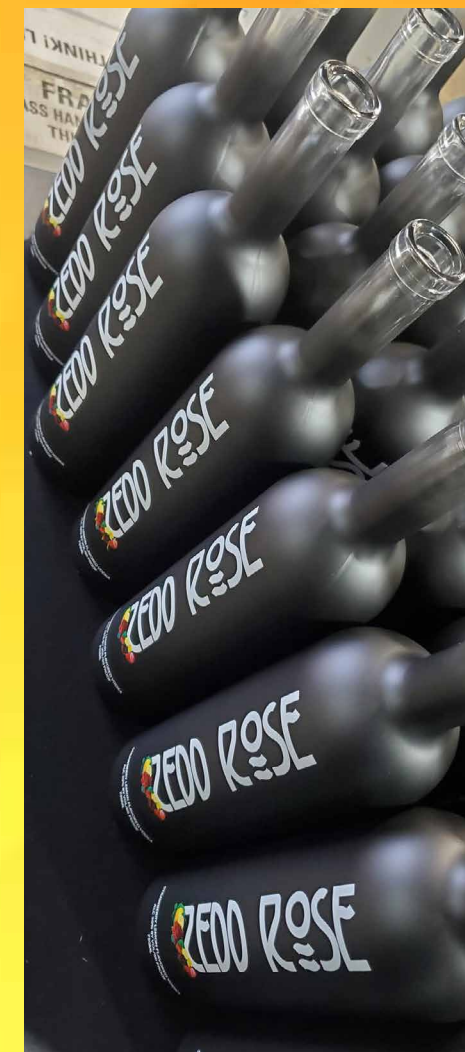
Owning a brand and being the face of the brand is a little tough. Owning the brand is all the back-end work, the sales meetings, paperwork, supplier demands, marketing strategies, and the full business structure. The face of the brand is the person who talks about the brand, is present at the meetings and tasting, and engages with supporters. Both are doable but sometimes I lose myself in the backend that I can’t remember who I am.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is your life lesson quote that has become relevant to your development to becoming a CEO?

TAYLOR REDD:

“I am an ordinary woman who chooses to be extraordinary by giving my dreams a chance” – Lisa Nichols –



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is next for yourself and Redd Rose Vodka? Can you share where your vodka can be purchased? How do our readers continue to follow online to continue to follow your journey? Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

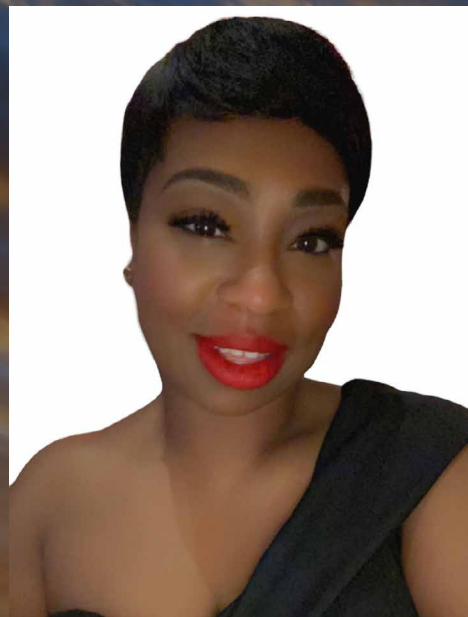
TAYLOR REDD:

MORE FLAVORS!! Redd Rose is available online and, in the Florida, marketplace. The plan is worldwide! www.ReddRoseVodka.com @reddrosevodka on all social media platforms



MEET CEO/FOUNDER OF HAIR KRACK HAIR PRODUCTS

EBONY FLETCHER



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In this month's section of Queen's court we have the pleasure of speaking to Ebony Fletcher. Ebony takes pride and excellence in helping people improve their appearances. Can you share more about our professional background before launching your business?

EBONY FLETCHER:

Hello C.O.B.S readers and thank you for allowing me to share my business story. As a little black girl, my aunties have always used a straightening comb on Sunday mornings and sponge rollers the night before school pictures to make sure my hair was in tip-top shape. My aunt Mona Lisa, was a professional & excellent hair stylist. I use to get my hair done at her shop which felt like every week. But I was going there for the experience. I loved every minute of it! The clients, the hairstyles, the music and just watching her do her thing. I told myself, yes, I want to do this too. I started braiding hair when I was 14 years old and by the time I was 19, I had advanced to full head extensions and wigs. The rest is history!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What inspired you to launch Hair Krack Hair products? What was the process that went into the design and development process for your

product line? What makes Hair Krack hair care products different from the competitors?

EBONY FLETCHER:

I started doing hair in my house and women would come to me with every type of hair issue you can think of. Bald spots, breakage, split ends, unmanageable curls, dryness, dull, thinning edges, etc. You name it, they had it. I needed to create an all-natural hair care line to help all needs of hair whether kinky, coils, curly, or frizzy, that would accommodate everyone's hair texture. Hair Krack differs from the rest because each product is formulated to a specific need and it works!

-Peppermint Shampoo is to increase circulation to improve hair growth.

-Coconut Depp Conditioner is to improve hair and scalp health.

-Pomegranate Detangle is used to detangle the hair smoothly and reinforce hair follicles resulting in thicker hair.

-Lemon Shine Moroccan Oil works as a hair tonic and will make your hair shinier, stronger, and frizz-free. It's also a heat protector used with curling and flat ironing.

-Mango Curling Pudding transforms shrunken kinks into super stretched-out curls. Use purely as a hair moisturizer & a styling aid.

-Hair Butter made with Shea Butter enriched with vitamin A&E is best used to soften dry, brittle hair and repair split damaged ends.

-Vegan & Organic growth drop infused with Hemp Oil a combination of 17 essential oils purposed for overall scalp health. Hair needs a healthy environment to grow.

Healthy scalp=Healthy hair

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Independently owning and operating your agency requires being a good leader. What three character traits do you think were most instrumental to your success?

EBONY FLETCHER:

PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PRAYER

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Just a fun question to ask. You were able to select only one hair product

and get dropped off on a desert island. What would you take with you?

EBONY FLETCHER:

It would probably be the hair butter because it's versatile. I can use it on my hair and my body. It is the first product I that made by hand, so it is my baby.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What has been the most important lesson you've learned along your journey? Looking back would you say it's been easy or smooth in retrospect?

EBONY FLETCHER:

So, when I first started my business, I thought, "Oh wow, I have a big family and a bunch of friends that have friends, I'm going to be sold out all the time. NOT! LOL first rule of business your friends and your family are not your first supporters. It's strangers. Hard lesson learned

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What else should our readers know about your hair care products and what are you currently focused on?

EBONY FLETCHER:

HK is a top-tier all-natural product line. I emphasize natural because over time hair companies change their formula to create a longer shelf life. They add so many different unnatural preservatives and consumers don't even realize it. HK products have been the same since day one! Nothing is added and nothing is taken away. Currently working on two new products coming out this summer, edge control glaze and mousse for braiding styles.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is your philosophy or perspective about beauty? In your role as a powerful woman and leader, how much emphasis do you place on one's appearance?

EBONY FLETCHER:

Whatever makes you feel beautiful, do that! I feel beauty is not what you wear, but how you feel about yourself. I feel beautiful when I'm wearing sweats



and a t-shirt (mommy mode) some people feel different. It all depends on your environment. Business meetings have their attire so does being a soccer mom. So, it's according to where you are.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Was it hard to fit your personal and family life into your business and career? Can you express precisely what the struggle was? What was the tipping point that helped you to achieve a better balance or greater stability between your work life and personal life?

EBONY FLETCHER:

Very hard. As a new mom, I find it very difficult to manage work and my businesses. When we had to go back into the office last year, I took it really hard. I had never been away from my baby before and it was difficult to be away from her for 8 whole hours. I cried every day on my way to work. It was a big adjustment and I'm still not used to it. I'm always on the go whether in the house or outside. It's always something to be done, laundry, cleaning, bathing, hair styling, wig making, product shipment, playtime, reading, feedings, etc. the list goes on and on. I still haven't gotten the hang of it. And as much as I need a break, I don't want to go a minute away from my baby.



MANGO CURLING
PUDDING



PEPPERMINT &
LAVENDER SHAMPOO



COCONUT & JOJOBA
DEEP CONDITIONER



CITRUS &
POMENGRANTE
DETANGLING MIST

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Finally, what do you wake up looking forward to? Where do you see yourself in about 5 years? How can our readers or others connect with you? How can they support you?

EBONY FLETCHER:

I wake up every day looking forward to seeing my baby smile. When she sees me in the morning (half-sleep) she gives me the biggest smile. Also, just want to have a good day. Not a perfect day but a good day. Being productive, knocking down a task, and then taking a deep breath at the end. I see myself in another state when my daughter turns 4, where she can learn and grow freely. I want her to be raised in a different environment. HK will definitely be in retail stores and I will have a complete team.

You can reach me at hairkrackcustomerservice@gmail.com or FOLLOW ME:

IG: @hairkrackallnaturals

FB: @hairkrackallanturals

MEET CEO/FOUNDER OF TRIP WITH TIFF

TIFFANY VINSON

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S. Women's Werk. We are delighted to interview Tiffany Vinson. Tiffany decided to blaze her way in a wheelchair to become a successful entrepreneur living with a disability. Can you please share the story of the woman behind the brand?

TIFFANY VINSON:

TRIP WITH TIFF TRAVEL is a travel agency that provides travel management services for group travel. We specialize in group all-inclusive travel. (travel that requires a passport (Leisure, Corporate, Government travel planning)).

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you share when were you diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis? For those who may not be familiar with Multiple Sclerosis can you explain what is? Are there any

continuous health challenges that you face daily? What keeps that fighting spirit within you to keep fighting?

TIFFANY VINSON:

MS is a long-lasting (chronic) disease of the central nervous system. It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder, a condition in which the body attacks itself by mistake. MS is an unpredictable disease that affects people differently. Some people with MS may have only mild symptoms. Others may lose their ability to see, write, speak, or walk when communication between the brain and other parts of the body becomes disrupted. I was diagnosed in May 2006, and what a relief it was to finally have a name for what I was experiencing. My walking and muscle spasms have mainly been my challenge. What keeps me going is having the love and support of my family and friends.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have combined your love for travel and great customer service skills to create your company. Can you tell us about your company? Do you have specific clientele that you cater to? What set you aside from the competitors? Do you have a process for creating the ultimate getaway?

TIFFANY VINSON:

TRIP WITH TIFF TRAVEL takes pride in offering our guests travel planning with ease, we also provide services for guests who have "adjustability" needs. Such as wheelchair rentals, beach wheelchairs, etc.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Growing up you have had great examples of women. These women defied stereotypes and were leaders in

their communities. How did their tenacity help mold you into the woman that you are today?

TIFFANY VINSON:

I am where I am at this point because of the prayers that my sweet angel Freddie Mae Stokes. It was an honor to witness my grandmother, Freddie Mae Stokes, a woman of God, live life on purpose. My grandmother was the first person that I ever noticed with a physical challenge, paralyzed from the waist down, but that didn't stop her from being an entrepreneur, living alone, and holding her weekly bible study meetings. She was a woman of grace, she moved with intention, and she never allowed the wheelchair to have her bound. Her words were soft, but they carried weight. I now realize more than ever that it's important to remain grounded, and slow to speak...I have Freddie Mae Stokes to thank for that. My mother Dr. Angela F. Rodgers is the example of there's no time like the present to accomplish any goal. Mommy has always been the one to give a good and funny story. Her talents are many, but after 11yrs of owning a hair salon, she decided to enroll in college. She had always wanted to teach, and she did just that and then some!! She is exactly what I needed to witness, her work ethic, and her heart to pour into her students are amazing.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Entrepreneurs face many hurdles however being disabled should not be one of them. How did you see your diagnosis to create your business without barriers? How do you believe you are defining the odds as a disabled female entrepreneur? How do I overcome the "silent awkwardness"?

TIFFANY VINSON:

It is true, that entrepreneurs face many hurdles, I actually believe that my "disability" caused me to adjust...which is why I use the term adjustability. It was then when I realized that I had to make adjustments in the type of services that I provide, had to align with what I love, when



I adjusted that, then the rest was easier to manage. I have to be honest and say that there are many days when I don't feel I am defying the odds. I have to lean into my peaceful space and rely on the support of my husband to get through. I have come to appreciate the "silent awkwardness" that's when I'm at my best. It gives me the chance to "arrive" showing that with any challenge I can press forward.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

With looming fears still surrounding individuals from the pandemic has there been a decrease in the number of people traveling? Or do you see an increase of people wanting to travel overcoming the fear of isolation?

TIFFANY VINSON:

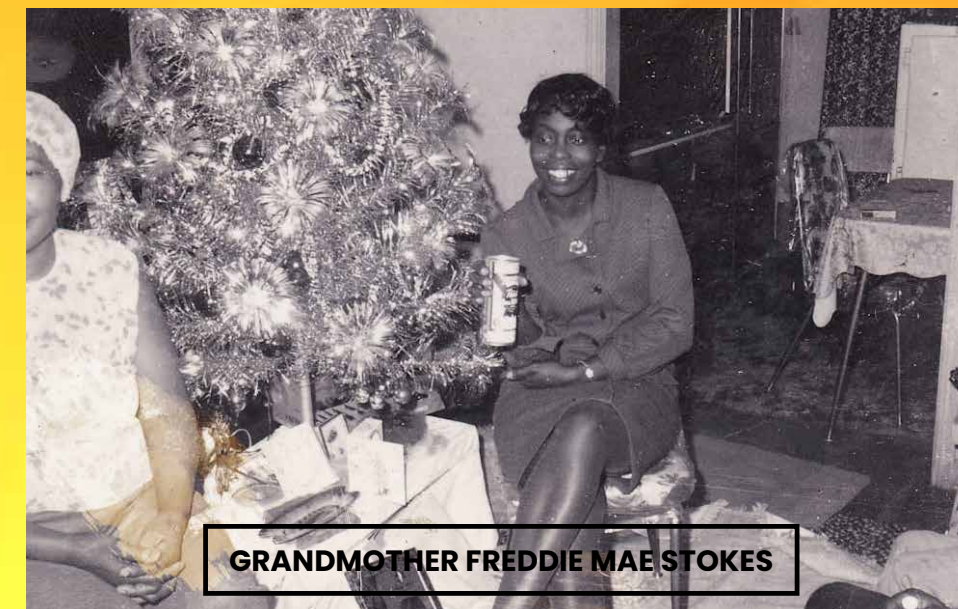
I have to say that most people are ready to travel, the number of cases has dropped, countries are now opening their borders, and with protocols in place and many being vaccinated there has been a surge for travel.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As entrepreneurs, there are always breaking points. What has been your breaking point during this process and how to overcome those challenges?

TIFFANY VINSON:

I have learned that with anything there will be challenges, my biggest challenge was having to deal with cancellations at the



GRANDMOTHER FREDDIE MAE STOKES

outbreak of Covid-19. That was a rough time, vendors were scrambling to find resolutions, short-staffed, 5 hr. hold times, clients not understanding how massive of a hit and the backlash was something fierce. I had to take a moment and speak with the group leads about how I was going to move forward. Amazingly, each guest was able to obtain their refunds, before our business was made whole after 6 months. That

experience had me looking into making certain that my guests understood the value of investing in travel insurance. From that point on, I wanted to create a client flow system, to keep guests in the know of their trip details, payments, and more.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What advice would you offer to another entrepreneur like yourself who may fear their disability is holding them back to achieve the ultimate success? What would want them to know that maybe someone did not share with you?

TIFFANY VINSON:

The best advice that I often tell myself, is to keep going, make the connections, make the calls and show up!! Walk and roll into your vision. Stay focused and stay true to yourself and your intentions.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Lastly, can you share your daily affirmation that you make applicable to your daily life? What are your future endeavors/objectives? Where do you see yourself soon? Please share where your services are provided as well as your social media platforms for our readers to continue to follow your journey?

TIFFANY VINSON:

There are many that I hold dear, but the one that stands out is one shared with me by a beautiful spirit, my husband's 8th-grade student Natasha Finoff (rip) on the back of her jersey she had YOLO. I remember asking Natasha the meaning and looking at me, with her beautiful smile and saying it means You Only Live Once. Ever since that moment, I look at life and appreciate all that it brings. I see myself growing spiritually and expanding our service destinations and our support staff. Social Media Platforms: Facebook: TRIP WITH TIFF TRAVEL Instagram: TRIP WITH TIFF TRAVEL LinkedIn: TRIP WITH TIFF (Tiffany A. Vinson)



MEET Media Mogul & CEO of The Sensor Awards

KORO WHITE

**COBS MAGAZINE:**

Welcome Koro to the King section of COBS Magazine. We are thrilled to have such a talented and gifted King to be in our Summer issue. You have quite an interesting background in the film industry. Can you please share with our readers who is Koro the man behind the brand?

KORO WHITE:

I am a man with great integrity, a Godly character, full of charisma, innovative, and a trendsetter. I also have a heart for people and enjoy helping others to reach their true potential in life. There was a process that I had to go through to get where I am now. The process was filled with many storms and valuable lessons. Some of the lessons I'd passed and some I'd failed. I am thankful to God for giving me another opportunity of life, success, and to do his will.

My family is filled with creatives that work in the field of radio tv and film. What got me intrigued with film and movie making was when I first joined the drama and media team at my former church in 1996. I operated the cameras and recorded services that were aired on QPTV (Queens public Access TV.) Joining The drama team gave me the opportunity for self-expression, and to work behind the scenes, during production, such as lighting, capturing audio, working the curtains, and overseeing script, props, and equipment. I am a dreamer and would dream and reflect on movie concepts. A notebook was nifty, and I would always keep it with me to jot down ideas for movies and screenplays. I still use this method to create treatments for movies, and music videos and write books, commercials, short films, and features. In July I will pursue production for an upcoming movie entitled "Guilty Remorse." The casting call will be coming soon here in NYC.

COBS MAGAZINE:

As a passionate writer, we understand that you left New York City to attend Howard University to study their media and film program. Please share with our readers your experience after graduating from Howard.

KORO WHITE:

After graduating from Howard University, I instantly wanted to start working for major film companies and groups. My idea of interning began to fade away, so I began to look up databases for full-time film jobs in NYC. It was a

very arduous task, and the film industry is very competitive. There would be times I would go on craigslist, monster.com and mandy.com to look specifically for film jobs as a production assistant or cameraman. Unluckily, my determination in finding my dream job at a film company did not happen. However, I decided to take another route. I worked on indie film projects, volunteered for film festivals, such as the Brooklyn film festival, and worked as well as interned with the mayor's office of Entertainment & Maysles films. I'd also worked alongside the film crew with the taping of the BET "Wrap it Up" series in Brooklyn NY. Working and interning with these film groups and companies have enhanced my pre-production, and production skills such as scripting, camera operations, storyboard-ing location scouting, and logistics. The most exciting part of interning with the mayor's office of entertainment is the access to information that I had regarding shoots, directors, producers, and film crew. I had the opportunity to use the gift of gab, which landed me a Production Assistant position working on a film directed by Melvin Estrella (2006). I also applied to the made-in NY Production Assistant program, where I got turned down so many times. My only way of getting into the film industry was to utilize my networks and resources

COBS MAGAZINE:

As a film writer and producer can you share a few of the projects you've worked on that you are most proud of? We also heard that you're an actor as well. Can you share some of the projects you've worked on? Did you work with celebrities (explain)?

KORO WHITE:

Some of the film projects that I worked on were a short film entitled "Reverse Psychology," directed by Marquita Edwards. I also co-directed an urban web series "The Last Pews," which shot music videos for gospel artists Ty Bolden's "Free Woman," & Carlinda McClean's "Stomp the devil out." I also wrote a treatment and shot a promo video for the mogul in a making conference hosted by Playwriter/author Shawneya Ellis from Dover, Delaware. Other works included interviews with Celebrity stylist Vernon Scott, British Williams, Music producer Dre Knight, provided media services for the X factor event host-



ed by Lil Mama, shooting behind-the-scenes footage for the black Ink crew, video shoot with Marques Houston in LA, guest videographer for the BET experience in 2015, and shot an untitled tv pilot for a BET Sunday's best winner. In 2015, I was able to work behind the scenes for the Empire tv show listening party in NYC.

I had the opportunity to also work with the talented and gifted actress Angelique Valentine that starred in the movie Acrimony. I was featured on the OWN "Iyanla Fix my life" series entitled "Diary of a Mad Black Woman." I was surprised to see my message of hope and inspiration on that episode had gone viral. Tik -Tok, Instagram, celebrities, bloggers, vloggers, and social media outlets have reposted my controversial message. Currently, the content of my message is being used by African American authors, famous R&B singers, and social media groups such as TSR, WSHH, and soproud2beblack. TV, and entertainment celebrities, were also on that show, which you can also find via YouTube and rotation on the OWN TV network. My Production assistant credits can also be seen in the "Firebird" short film directed by Melvin Estrella and on the IMDB site.

COBS MAGAZINE:

We all know that the entertainment industry can be unkind. Have you ever had a moment where you wanted to give up? What was your motivation to keep going?

KORO WHITE:

There were plenty of times that I wanted to give up. I remember the time that I had a casting call to recruit members for my entertainment company to cover nationwide events. I carried my large camera bag on my back and carried two boxes of water bags of trail mix, and chips with my hands. I brought all these food items to the casting call at Ripley's casting hall in NYC. From that

point, I was tired, felt like giving up, and wanted to throw in the towel. With the lack of support and being a one-man team, I learned to rely on Jesus Christ and that my help comes from him only. Depression also hit me hard after graduating from Howard University. It was on and off and on battle with it, causing me to abort many assignments and projects and to focus more on my mental and physical health. With the loving support of my family and church, I was able to regain strength, and momentum and tackle obstacles in my everyday living.

At times the enemy is cunning and attacks the very things that you are called to do for God. I can reflect on the time that I was working on a project for a church in Queens Village NY. The project focused on the many highlights of the church events during the year 2017. I recorded the services, praise and dance team, harvest party, Christmas plays, and prophetic revivals. My idea was to do a special presentation for the new year's service on watch night. As I was working, countless days, and hours, editing footage, my computer froze and suddenly the media footage and files were damaged. I was furious, discouraged, and felt like giving up. I had called the pastor and explained to him the work that was supposed to be completed got wiped out. His exact words to me were "Your work was not done in vain Koro." "God knows your heart" "and the amount of effort you put into the project." His words encouraged me and

COBS MAGAZINE:

COBS would like to congratulate you on The Sensor Awards Project. We understand that you are the CEO and Founder of The Sensors Awards. Can you share with our readers your sole mission of birthing this vision?

KORO WHITE:

I experienced a lot of birthing pains, when it came to the mission of birthing the vision of the Sensor Image Awards & Sensor Awards. There were times that I experienced isolation, to get a deeper revelation of the awards show. The warfare was heavy and very intense. The Lord gave me specific instructions on how to coordinate the show. There would be no compromise, and God would get the glory. The whole vision was prophetic. Cameras have a sensor, which is a technical device, that is linked to a camera's hardware. The sensor captures light and transforms it into a high-quality image. Each one of us from a spiritual perspective has a sensor. The sensor is linked to our spiritual hardware. The Sensor, that we

possess, requires light. That light is Jesus Christ. He is the light of the world; with him, we can live in confidence and purpose, achieve greatness, and overcome the world and darkness.

COBS MAGAZINE:

What's next for The Sensor Awards? Where do you see yourself and The Sensor Awards in 3 years? You had your first event in Queens what are your plans for the next year? Where can our readers find you on social media?

KORO WHITE:

The Sensor awards & Sensor Image awards will grab the attention of tv networks and producers. With committed Kingdom and community Partners, this awards event can expeditiously grow wings and fly. The sensor awards and Sensor image awards are awards shows that honor and acknowledge the diverse talents and achievements of extraordinary individuals in the radio, tv, film, theater, and fashion industry. In the next 3 years, I see the Sensor/Sensor Image Awards on billboards and established in a theater with the financial backing of a variety of sponsors. We are eyeing Atlanta, Georgia for next year's awards show. Atlanta is the epicenter of black culture and entertainment. The Sensor and Sensor image awards would thrive in a city such as Atlanta, Georgia. People can find me on Instagram @ThesensorimageAwards and @kamani_entertainment Facebook K Amani White and The Sensor Image Awards FB page, Websites coming out soon





TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

GRILLED OYSTERS WITH CHORIZO BUTTER

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 ounces fresh Mexican chorizo, casings removed
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- Salt
- 18 Louisiana or another medium to large oysters, scrubbed
- Cilantro leaves and finely grated lime zest, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1:

In a skillet, cook the chorizo over moderate heat, breaking it up with a spoon, until lightly browned, 8 minutes. Scrape into a bowl and let cool, then break into small clumps.

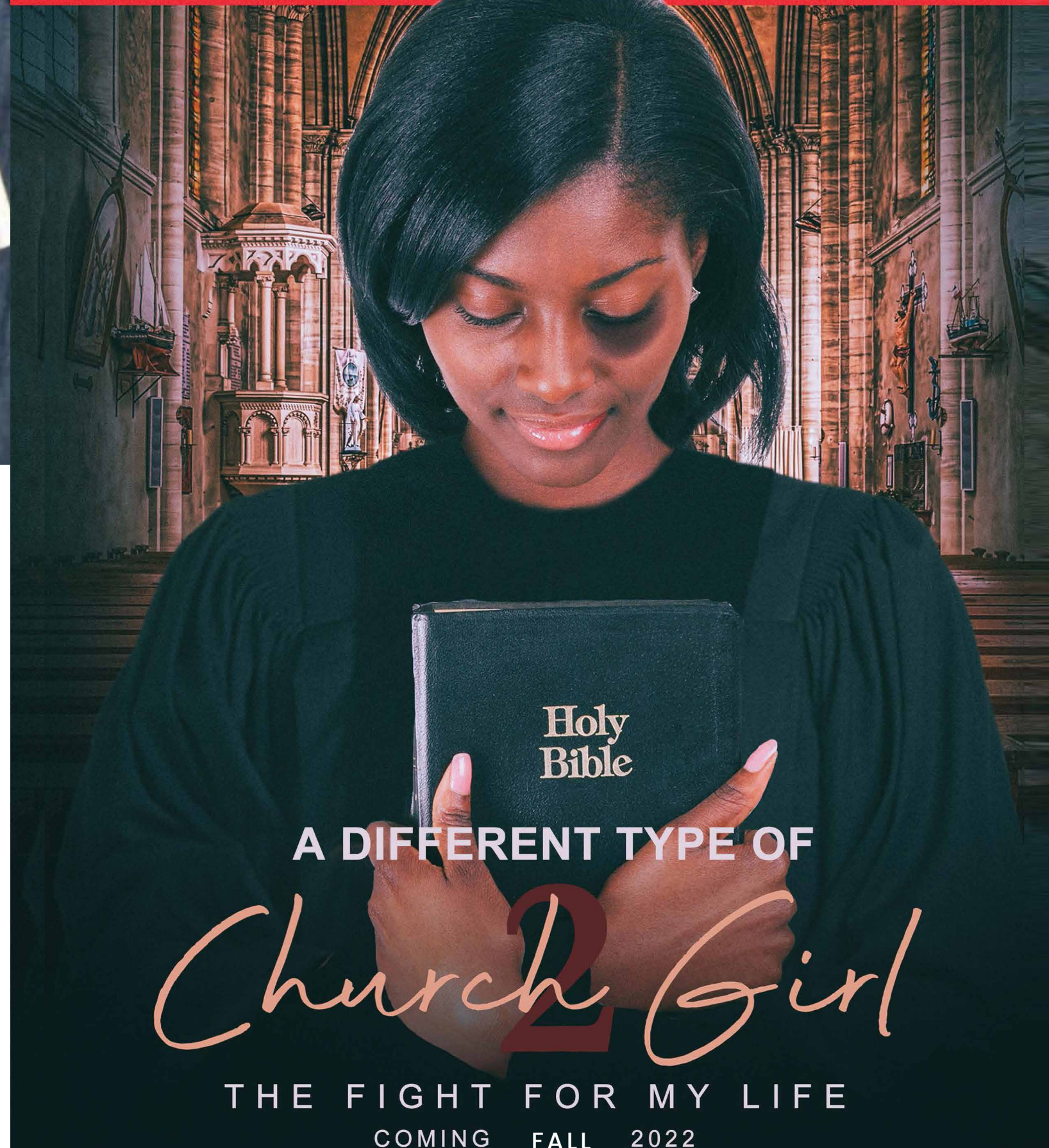
STEP 2:

Add 1 tablespoon of water to the skillet and simmer over low heat. Add the butter to the skillet a few cubes at a time, whisking constantly until melted before adding more. Stir in the chorizo and lime juice and season with salt. Keep warm over very low heat.

STEP 3:

Light a grill. Place the oysters on the grill, flat side up. Grill over high heat until the shells open slightly. Carefully transfer to a platter and, using kitchen gloves or a mitt, remove the top shell. Spoon the chorizo butter onto the oysters and garnish with a cilantro leaf and lime zest. Serve right away.

<https://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/grilled-oysters-chorizo-butter>



MEET YOUNG ARTIST

MIRACLE DAVERNE

in love with the track the minute I heard it and the lyrics express the way I feel, thanks to my amazing songwriter/producer, EpiQ "The Illustrator". He's so incredible!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You were recently honored at the 2022 Sensor Image Awards. What did receiving that award mean to you? Are you hoping to be nominated for a Grammy Award in the future?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

I was honored and so excited to perform live my song "We Need Change" at the 2022 Sensor Image Awards. Omg, I can't wait to be nominated and win a Grammy Award in the future.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What has been the highlight of your career to date? Who do you contribute your success to?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

The highlight of my career to date would be having my own company, "Fun Music Entertainment, LLC with my other partners and a platform so I can inspire others through God's grace. I also love the fact that I can travel a lot to record and shoot music videos in different places.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have your own YouTube channel with over 500,000 views. That is very impressive for someone your age. Do you share any other content on your page besides your music?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

Thank you so much and yes, I started a book club and I'm preparing to launch some fitness and fun challenge videos.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You are a young lady of many hats. You also started your book club. Can you share how this idea came

about? Why was it so important to you?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

I started a book club because there were so many kids that couldn't read and I wanted to do something fun and easy to help them. Since Covid-19 happened, education was so hard for so many kids, especially those that couldn't speak English. When my school was shut down, my mom had to help me and another student, who lived in a non-speaking English household. It was very difficult for him to follow along with his family, not understanding everything but my mom allowed him to come to our house and successfully pass his classes.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

This question is for your mom. Christina, can you share Miracle's journey as a premature baby? Did you ever think that she would be such a gift to the world?

CHRISTINA DAVERNE:

It was such a crazy experience when I delivered Miracle. During my pregnancy with Miracle, I was clocking out of work one day when I blacked out, fell, and had multiple seizures (never had a seizure before). I woke up three days later and was told I had an emergency C-section and had a baby girl who was very sick and wasn't sure if she was going to stay alive. We were both in the hospital for a while but all I can say is God NEVER forgot about his own. Throughout that situation, I knew God was with me and my baby girl. I didn't have a name for her right away, but God saved our lives and when I was able to finally hold her in my arms, I knew her name would be Miracle.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Through this journey, a business was birthed. Can you tell us about the business and what was part of

the goal to create a platform for young artists like your daughter?

CHRISTINA DAVERNE:

Yes, Fun Music Entertainment, LLC is a children's entertainment company that specializes in modeling, casting calls, music, short film, dance, and fitness with education. Fun Music Entertainment is a company that allows kids to really be kids through the Arts. I wanted to start this company because there's so much negativity in our media, which can be very damaging to children.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What values do you continuously instill in your daughter to keep her humbled through her rising success?

CHRISTINA DAVERNE:

I continuously tell Miracle to keep God first in everything you do in life and prayer is key.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is your go-to motivation quote? Can you tell us about any upcoming projects that are in the works? Where can our readers connect with you on social media? We are wishing you all the best.

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

My go-to motivation quote is from the Bible verse "I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me" (Philippians 4:13) and ALWAYS try your best. I have so many upcoming projects with music and videos. I'm dropping a new song "SummerTime" and "Take A Pic" featuring That Girl Lay Lay. You can follow me on IG and FB at @miracledaverne7. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S. Magazine Artist's Corner. We are excited for the opportunity to interview a 9-year-old musician, superstar, dancer, and model Miracle Daverne who's taking over the world one day at a time. Can you tell us a little about yourself and what inspired your start in music?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

I've always loved music since I was a baby. I got inspired by my grandma and mom who always played gospel, R&B, country, and jazz music at home. My mom took notice of me learning lyrics of different songs so fast and rehearsing dance moves I saw online.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Out of your singles you have released which one has been your favorite to record and why? What message do you hope that kids take away from your platform?

MIRACLE DAVERNE:

My favorite song that I've recorded so far is "Like Me" because I'm so



MEET AUTHOR OF THE HER IN MANY AND FOUNDER OF LIGHT TALKS WITH TEA N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to the Author's Corner of COBS Magazine. N'Teajiedd Alli is a first-time author and Higher Education, Professional. N'Teajiedd work is inspired by her zeal and passion to help others. Can you please share with our readers who is N'Teajiedd Alli?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

I am a courageous, resilient, and kind-natured woman aspiring to live her life to the fullest of what God has designed it to be. I am someone who loves to try new things and never shy away from the opportunity to learn something new and challenging. I am a natural cheerleader and am very silly. You will never know this until we have our first good conversation. I love cooking and entertaining friends and family. When not at home, I enjoy skating, bike riding, and other outdoorsy things

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Did you know from early on that you wanted to be an author? Did your passion for writing come to you naturally?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

As a teen, I found delight in writing poems but I never imagined myself being an author. Honestly, I thought I was a terrible writer and never considered pursuing it professionally. My grades were okay in my English classes and it wasn't my strongest subject. It was not natural at all. However, I found interest in writing for other areas like curriculum and program development for youth. I worked on my writing and become more confident and natural with expressing myself.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your book? How did you come up with the title? Who is Her in the book that you wanted to represent? When you sat down to write The Her In Many, how long did it take you to complete the book?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

The Her in Many is a reflective book/journal that takes us through a few obstacles women face with unearthing their true selves as defined by Jesus Christ. The title was inspired by a moment in my life when I began to desire an alternate version of myself. I felt like a trapped bird and often

imagine myself being happier, laughing more, smiling, and being more daring. I wanted to be "Her". Her is not the standard of a woman but your best version of yourself. There is no one definition of Her and amongst each woman, "HER" will be completely different. I started the book 3 years before it was published. I gave up many times in the creation process but felt the pull to finally get it done this year.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Why did you feel it was important to write this book? Are any parts of this book directed towards any of your experiences throughout life?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

I thought this book was important to write because I realized that many of those "hard" moments I've experienced would have played out differently if I was more aware of who I was. I've also noticed some of the negative impact social media has had on the minds, identities, and values of women and was deeply bothered. This made me think about the foundational values that would better equip us for a world that can

be cruel to vulnerable people. For example, when you are full of self-embrace, you'll be more mindful of what influences you allow into your life. This book was created as a beautiful reminder that there was a foundation before the influence. The book includes many of my own experiences but through journeying with many women from different walks of life, I found that it was theirs too.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your book, you ask the questions that most women ask themselves silently. In your opinion, is it normal for individuals to question their self-worth? Do you feel there comes a period where we stop questioning our worth? What advice can you give, that you have experience, with overcoming such hurdles to raise our values?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

I think it's normal to question self-worth. I believe many people often experience areas of their lives where they are doubtful. However, this can be used to dive deeper into exploring that area to gain confidence or it can lead to a negative mindset resulting in being stuck. I believe that people will always question themselves but as time passes, it will be geared more towards exploring for growth. The best advice I can give someone who experiences self-doubt is to always remain curious about themselves. Practice the areas you aren't feeling too assured in and it will get better. Speak good things about where you desire to be and keep positive thoughts in that direction.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

When you are not writing you are helping others break through the barriers of delays. Is the reason for you birthing Light Talks With Tea? Can you tell us about Light Talks With Tea? Explain.

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

Light Talks with Tea is my life coaching

business focused on helping bring light to those heavy experiences through conversation. Life coaching is such a powerful tool because it allows us coaches to dig deeper with you to uncover those areas blocking you from experiencing the best version of yourself and the goals you have for your life. Once we raise that awareness surrounding those deep areas, we can begin partnering to create a forwarding plan to access that goal or aspiration. My deepest desire is to see others win in whatever that area is. I have experienced life coaching myself and it has changed my life so much that I was able to publish my book. I'm excited to be a part of what it can do for others.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

None of us can achieve success without some help along the way. Is there a particular person who you are grateful for helping get to where you are today?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

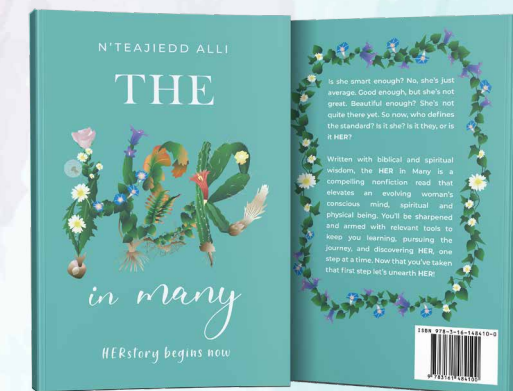
My amazing husband, Tobi Alli, was a huge support to me. He stayed by my side listening to every idea and helping me to dive deeper into each concept. He was my biggest encouragement, especially at times when I felt discouraged writing the book. He spoke life when I began to question my self-worth. I am also grateful for my cousin and my Bishop Dr. Courtney Bradley, who encouraged me through Godly wisdom. He never let me forget who God said I was and continued to push me through the years for all that God has in store for me. He has been rooting for me all along.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have known the Editor in Chief Mrs. Trevi Pershay since you were a teenager. How much of an influence has she been throughout your life even until today? Can you share one of your memorable stories?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

I've grown up calling her Sister Pershay. Sister Pershay has always made me feel seen and heard. I often didn't have to say much but, she always knew what to say to lift my spirits. She pushed me forward in every area of my life. I experienced so much as a teen but, she provided the safest place to let out all the hurt and anger. She gave us the floor, and I danced with all of my heart. I will never forget the freedom and joy I had during our rehearsals. The rehearsal was the one thing I looked forward to when life was so hard and unbearable. Even in my adult years, I remember going through an abusive relationship and being so broken. I was calling her from a precinct as she started to encourage me. She begins telling me about how God will use me. I was standing in the empty lobby of the precinct with a face full of tears feeling hopeless and lower than I could imagine while she told me what I had to offer. I couldn't see it at that moment but today, I am living that word.



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?

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

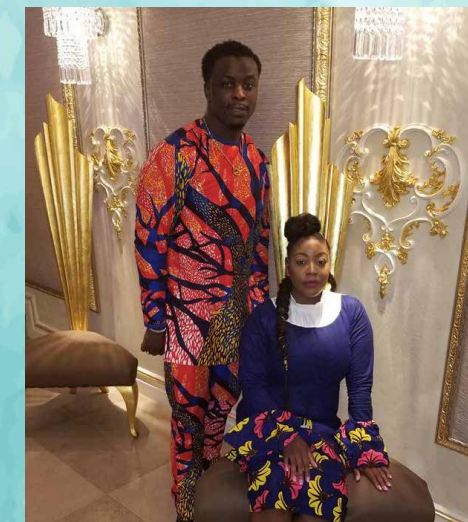
Throughout my life, I was reminded, "someone needs who I am". There were many times I questioned if I needed to be someone else or needed to change myself. Anytime I gave myself this type of mental beatdown and started self-doubting, I was reminded that someone is waiting on something I had to offer. I have recognized that in those moments, God always sent someone my way to encourage or help.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are you looking forward to for the remainder of this year 2022 and 2023? Can you share where your book is available for purchase? Can you please share how our readers continue to follow your work? We wish you continuous success!

N'TEAIJIEDD ALLI:

I look forward to officially launching "Life Talks with Tea". I also look forward to setting up speaking engagements to speak to groups of women about some of the topics covered in the book. When things settle, I plan to start working on my second book. If readers are interested in purchasing The Her In Many, they can access it on Amazon. They can also follow me on Facebook for more information N'Teajiedd Alli.



TINIKA THOMAS

INSIDE TIPS FOR EVERYDAY MAKE-UP ROUTINE – REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU ARE A NEWBIE OR EXPERIENCED IN THE MAKEUP WORLD.

HOW DO I KEEP MY MAKEUP FROM MELTING IN THE SUMMER?

The change of seasons means your makeup routine has to change as well. The major makeup issues during the summer are the cakey foundations, smudged eyeliner, and let's not talk about that shine. Thank goodness there are ways to mattify your makeup so that doesn't move all-around all over your face. I want to make sure you enjoy the fun days of summer and not let your skin ruin your plans. I am giving 5 classic solutions for your summer makeup problems.

1. Use Less Makeup

Yes, you are reading this correctly less is better. As the temperatures continue to soar your makeup bag should get lighter and lighter. The less you wear the less dripping and dapping you will have to experience. Narrow down your products to what you need to assist with those humid days.

2. Try Concealer Instead of Foundation

Sometimes we can use concealer to spot conceal in the areas where needed. Spot concealing works for any skin type because you are only covering specific areas. Concealers usually contain fewer oils than foundations. This method mostly works for everyone. Laura Mercier has a great secret camouflage concealer that is good for all skin types. It leaves your skin looking natural and flawless the same as your long-wearing foundation.

Available at Sephora for \$36.00
<https://seph.me/3nkLYdw>

3. Schick Silk Touch-Up Tool

What is a long-wear product? Like any beauty product throughout the day, it will fade. Long-wear products are usually composed of different formulas and ingredients that will keep the foundation longer than the average foundation. Estee Lauder's Double wear foundation has been rated the best long-wearing foundation. This foundation is available in 56 shades no matter your skin tone there is a match suited for you.

Available at Sephora for \$46.00
<https://seph.me/3y3TRsC>

4. Don't Powder Just Blot

If you ask any makeup expert they will tell your powder and hot skin are two forces that do not go together. The powder will have a tendency of clinging to your pores making for a cakey mess. If you are shiny or if your makeup feels like it is running try using blotting paper (or even an absorbent paper towel will work). The blotting paper is good for soaking up any sweat without disturbing your makeup.

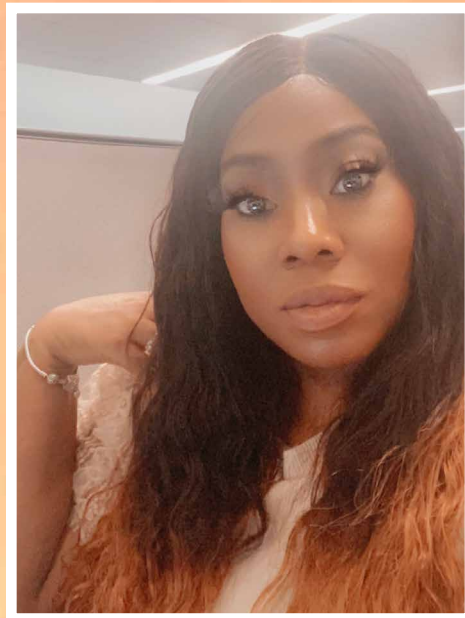
Available at Sephora for \$9.00
<https://seph.me/3I2AEwe>

5. Get a Setting Spray

This is like the Holy Grail to finish off your makeup look. It is a mist that seals your makeup in place and will require a huge effort to remove. Every makeup artist will suggest that you do not go without a setting spray. The all-time favorite one is Urban Decay All-Nighter Long-Lasting Spray. This spray is like magic. Good for all skin types this spray will keep your makeup fresh, smudge-proof, and transfer-resistant for up to 16 hours.

Available at Sephora for \$33.00
<https://www.sephora.com/product/P263504>

STAY FRESH, HAVE FUN AND STAY SHINE-FREE THIS SUMMER. ENJOY!!!



Summer

NISHA PERSHAY

NISHA'S 101 HAIR CARE TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

Summer is fast approaching, and we are all excited to welcome the heat but what most of us don't consider is proper hair care during the summertime. Here are some quick 101 haircare tips to keep your hair well protected and keep healthy tresses. One of the important factors for proper hair care is treating the scalp but what if I told you sunscreen helps also protect the scalp. Here are a few products that can help with scalp protection!



Banana Boat UV Protection Sunscreen Spray, SPF 30, Hair & Scalp Treatment

Fast drying ultra-lightweight formula and doesn't leave hair greasy or oily during use. You can use this product on either wet or dry hair.



Moroccanoil Protect & Prevent Spray

This product helps shield hair from pollution as is much needed in our daily activities. Another good thing about using this product if you have colored hair it will not fade and cause brassiness. Moroccanoil Protect & Prevent Spray is a leave-in hair protectant spray that you can use after washes or protective hairstyles.



Sun Bum sunscreen Scalp Spray SPF 30

This product helps as a nourishing mist that will help protect your scalp from the sun. You can use it with any protective hairstyle and it works for all hair types!



CPRE & POST SWIM CONDITIONER

This protection is great if you plan on swimming or even going to the beach. Use as a protective layer to the hair to neutralize the absorption of pool and ocean. This should only use before swimming or after. The conditioner effectively restores healthy texture, hydrates, and soothes dry and brittle hair.



Summer



CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS special edition of Power Couples. We're interviewing native Seattle power couple Chris and Roberta Holmes. The Holmeses are a fixture in the business community supporting and promoting the BuyBlack movement nationwide. The dual couple is on a mission to advocate, educate and empower those underserved communities. Can you tell me how long have you been married and can you share your story about what brought you two to your respective career paths?

CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Roberta: Chris and I are high school sweethearts. We met our senior year in October 1979 when I skipped school to play matchmaker for my best friend. The funny thing is a few years earlier, a childhood friend invited me to her middle school graduation telling me there was someone I absolutely had to meet, the person she was speaking of was Chris. I have always felt God destined us to be together. We were meant to be.

Chris: We made it official 36 years ago this month with an elopement. I picked up Roberta from work saying we were going somewhere special. I bought her a new dress and drove to the unannounced location where my mother and eldest sister were waiting. Our wedding was a simple affair just the four of us. The night ended with a beautiful dinner at our favorite restaurant. Our kids tell us we should have a big anniversary party for our 40th. Maybe they are hinting we should expect a surprise!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you please tell us about your business? What was the goal of creating your platform? Is this your only business or are you involved in other business ventures? Do you have individual

businesses as well?

CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Chris: I always had a passion for real estate and knew I would pursue a career in that field. It took a few years to figure out my path but once I got on it, I knew for sure real estate gave me the freedom and satisfaction I was looking for even though I regularly encountered discrimination as a young black Realtor in Seattle. I was successful. I was a full-time Realtor for over 25 years earning several top real estate listing awards. Helping people navigate the stressful and complicated process of selling or buying a home has been so rewarding for me. The natural next step was to begin investing in real estate which we did for over a decade. I am also an author and my first book was published in 2020. Politics in Kids Sports is not only a book, it's a guide to empower all student-athletes and their parents, with much-needed information to navigate politics and favoritism in the world of kid's sports. If the goal is to play sports in high school and beyond, being aware of the power coaches, and athletic directors hold is crucial. My insight came from watching our three kids grow up playing sports, as well as coaching four years in the rec league and AAU basketball. I am currently writing my second book.

Roberta: My entrepreneurial path was a very selfish one. I just wanted to be home with our kids. After we had our first baby, I was only able to take the standard six weeks off. After a disastrous experience with daycare, thankfully, my mother-in-law was willing and able to care for our daughter. Once we discovered our second child was on the way, I was already plotting how I could stay home with our daughters. Chris' real estate career was going well so I didn't feel a lot of pressure to immediately go back to work, but that time eventually came to pass.

We got creative. In 1990, when it was completely unheard of, we started a business that provided off-site administrative and customized business services. I've been working from home ever since. In 2016, I launched TheMotherland.online which is an e-commerce site that promotes pride in our African heritage with personal style. Almost all of our products are from artisans who create one-of-a-kind items allowing us to support small businesses throughout Africa! We also support programs for children in Congo, Liberia, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia that pay for food, schooling, and medical care.

Chris: The common thread in our entrepreneurship journey has been supporting small businesses, especially Black and minority-owned businesses. Our partnership with Exposure TV is a continuation of that journey. Tam Lawrence, Founder, and CEO of Exposure TV Network have been completely supportive of our efforts. As a Black women-owned organization, it made sense for us to forge this partnership. We started in 2020 with The Black Home Shopping Channel which has been a great success. The natural evolution was the creation of The Home Shopping Club (HSC). This expansion has been amazing and coincides with the development of the new Exposure Plus TV app and the official announcement of our HBO partnership which happened in May.

Roberta: HSC is a QVC-styled show that promotes entrepreneurs, events, and other creatives that in most cases would not have the access or budget necessary to get their brand in front of millions with television streaming. We provide a turnkey solution for Club members that include producing their infomercial, product reviews, a magazine feature, podcast interviews, and airtime that reaches over 440

million consumers in 128 countries using any smart device. It's all about Exposure, without Exposure you are invisible!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

When you started your business did you face the challenges of investors being biased to entangle themselves in a start-up founded by husband-wife teams? Can you share a story?

CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Chris: We learned early on there are many challenges when you decide to be an entrepreneur. At the top of that list is business funding. Access to capital, especially as a startup and as a husband-wife team is difficult. If you add to that being a Black-owned business, funding is virtually impossible. We never allowed that barrier to be an excuse so we were always self-funded. Credit card debt is not the ideal way to fund your business however it never crossed our minds to bring on investors. We always wanted the freedom to pivot and make decisions without "getting permission" from others but our approach to business has always been one of collaboration.

Roberta: Our partnership with Exposure TV is a perfect example. Before 2020, we never heard of television streaming, and we never saw ourselves as television producers however during the planning of our first national Black business event an attendee mentioned she recently met an amazing woman who was looking for people to produce content on her new streaming platform. I had no idea what she was talking about, but she insisted that we should talk. My conversation with Ms. Lawrence lasted two hours and it was clear not only did we share the same values but also shared the mission and drive to provide opportunities to our community. Ironically, we also shared another common thread. Ms. Lawrence was the daughter of Pan Africans, and I was the granddaughter of Garveyites. After sharing the details with Chris we were all in...And here we are today. Television producers of The Black Home Shopping Channel, The Home Shopping Club, and coming later this year, Chris will be the host for a new luxury real estate channel on Exposure Plus TV!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

There is no magical secret to being successful in business or marriages they may oddly have similar commitments. What are the top 3 things that you have learned going into business together? How do you continue to increase your odds of success? How do you clarify business roles and responsibilities with your respective partner?

CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Chris: We have had the benefit of growing up together since we were children when we met. The top three things that I have learned going into business together are:

We enjoy each other's company. It's difficult to work closely with someone you don't spend time being around them.

Understanding each of our strengths and areas for growth. Thankfully, my strengths are a complement to Roberta's areas for growth and vice versa.

Our shared values are important to our success. We always have been on the same page when it has come to what is important in life. For us the top of the list is family. Our business ventures have always been structured in a way that allowed us to prioritize family life.

Roberta: We have been able to increase our

odds for success by using setbacks and failures as opportunities for growth as individuals, as a married couple, and as entrepreneurs. We truly believe that when one door closes, another always opens.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a power couple how do balance work, life, and family? Can you please share your secrets on how you reduce the chaos in your demanding lives?

CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Roberta: A healthy work-life balance has always been a priority for us. It is much easier now since our children are adults. But back in the day, it could be challenging. One thing we always did was set aside time EVERYDAY for our children. Our business schedule worked around our children's needs.

Chris: And because we are entrepreneurs, we are always able to vacation and schedule frequent getaways while most people are limited to 2 weeks' vacation.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

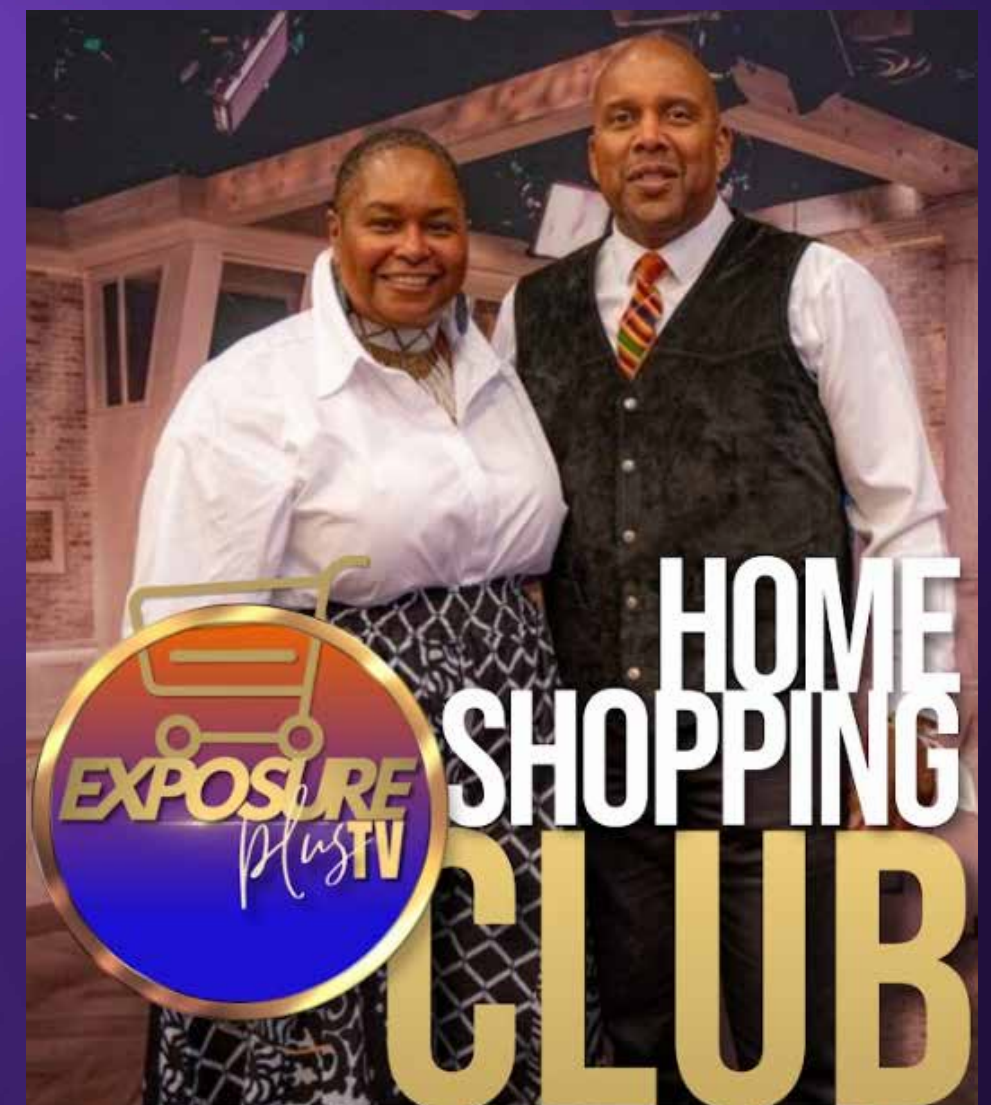
What is the best advice that you have received that you can share for couples that are looking to go into business or already have an existing one? What would want them to know to thrive? Please share where our readers can follow you online?



CHRIS AND ROBERTA HOLMES:

Chris: The best advice that I have received is the Golden Rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you treat people the way you want to be treated, you will never go wrong. That's true in your marriage, in your business together and for the people, you do business with.

Roberta: Ditto that! Your readers can follow us on Instagram @theblackhsn or visit our website at ExposureSeattleTV.com. Chris' book is available at PoliticsInKidsSports.com or on Amazon. It is free on KindleUnlimited. Anyone interested in purchasing African-inspired products they can visit TheMotherland.online



FASHION-FORWARD

ALL HAIL THE QUEEN OF FASHION

OUR EDITOR -N-CHIEF, DECIDED TO HONOR SOME OF THE BLACK FEMALE DESIGNERS FOR OUR SUMMER ISSUE. THESE WOMEN ARE THE PIONEERS OF TURNING THEIR PAIN INTO FASHION. THEY ALL HAVE AMAZING STORIES AND WE ARE ASKING OUR READERS TO SUPPORT THEIR BRANDS TO KEEP OUR CROWN SHINING.

ENJOY WHAT BLACK EXCELLENCE LOOKS LIKE....

MEET THE BOSS QUEENS BEHIND THE HAT GAME

SHERRELL ANDERSON – CEO/FOUNDER OF AHMAZING CULTURE

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IG: <https://www.instagram.com/ahmazingculturefedora/?hl=en>



JNELLZ – CEO FO JNELLZ FEDORAS

Website: <https://www.jnellz.com/>
IG: <https://www.instagram.com/jnellz.fedoras>



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CZHANELL MCRAE – CEO/FOUNDER OF C-HER SPARKLE

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BILLIE ABERDEEN CEO/FOUNDER OF QREATIVE QREATIONS

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TAMMY VAUGHN – CEO OF HOUSE OF VAUGHN

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/houseofvaughn>

House of VAUGHN



MEET NORAHS KHAN – FASHIONISTA

NORAHS KHAN – CEO OF NORAH KHAN FASHION

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/norahs.khan>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/norahskhan>

Website: <http://distinctivenorahskhan.com/dsk/>



MEET SHARON GARY-DILL HACKNEY

A FASHION DESIGNER FOR A CAUSE

SHARON GARY-DILL HACKNEY OWNER OF FASHION BY D'SHACOURT STUDIO

Instagram: [fashion_by_dshacourt_studio](https://www.instagram.com/fashion_by_dshacourt_studio)

Facebook: Sharon Gary-Dill Hackney

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharon-gary-dill-92b7b496>



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RASHIDA BROWN CEO OF TENTWENTY7

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Website: <https://www.aliveshoes.com/japer-footwear-3>



A TREVI PERSHAY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

WRITTEN BY TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

A SINDERELLA STORY FROM THE HOOD

LOVE DON'T LIVE HERE NO MO!



A SINDERELLA STORY FROM THE HOOD

LOVE DON'T LIVE HERE NO MO!

CASTING CALL FOR NEW YORK CITY

We are coming back stronger than ever before. The stage play "A Sinderella Story From the Hood- Love Don't Live Here No Mo" is creatively written, produced, and directed by your Trevi Booker Pershay!!!!

WHAT'S THE 411

NEW YORK CITY DETAILS

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD-

FROM AUGUST 7TH - TO AUGUST 28TH LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

SHOWTIME- MARCH 4, 2023

AGE REQUIREMENTS-

14 AND UP (LOOKING FOR SINGERS, DANCERS, AND RAPPERS) YOU CAN BE A NOVICE OR AN EXPERT.

HEADSHOTS AND RESUMES CAN BE SENT TO
trevipershayproductions@gmail.com

“ THE DEADLINE IS AUGUST 5TH TO
SUBMIT YOUR HEADSHOTS - YOU WILL
BE CONTACTED VIA EMAIL.

SEE YOU REAL SOON!!!!



STAYING FIT -BY

ARIELLE PERSHAY

Hello, my beautiful people! I am back! I hope you all have had a great time with the last challenges I wrote about.

Let's continue to stay active with our workouts, especially during the summer months. Please make sure that you continue to follow up with your doctor before increasing or changing your workout routines.

Today it's all about walking!! Or like Ciara said 1,2 steps and here are a few tips to keep you cool/safe in the summer heat.

HOW TO STAND RUNNING/ WALKING/JOGGING IN SUMMER HEAT

The best time to run, jog or walk is when the sun rays are not that strong. I would recommend morning, or when the sun goes down to start walking/jogging or running. According to "Fleetfeet.com" avoid cotton and synthetic fabrics, both fabrics take long to dry and leave you feeling sticky and soggy while you run" Stay Hydrated – Drink water throughout the day and carry hydrated packs.



BELOW ARE THE BENEFITS OF WALKING

- Maintain a healthy weight and lose body fat.
- Prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, cancer, and type 2 diabetes.
- Improve cardiovascular fitness.
- Strengthen your bones and muscles.
- Improve muscle endurance

SIGNS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION – ACCORDING TO THE CDC (CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION)

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, clammy skin
- Fast or weak pulse
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue, dizziness, or fainting

Let's walk it out, walk it out and do one two-step! Are you ready?! It doesn't take that much, play your favorite music, and walk it out for 30 minutes.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/walking/art-20046261>

<https://www.fleetfeet.com/blog/tips-for-running-safely-in-heat>

clipart by <https://i365art.com/product/jogging-black-girls-clipart-planner-illustrations-dolls-natural-hair/>



YOU JUST DON'T WAKE UP STRONG

ft

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