

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE
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W C.O.B.S.

CIRCLE OF
B SISTERS

THE KING'S COURT

Meet Davon & Tavon Woods
Founder of Foster Kids Matter

FASHION CORNER

Meet Ali Morgan
Founder of Aborigine Reigns
SBC Apparel

THE QUEEN'S COURT

Meet Chrishonda Benson
CEO/Founder of Pretty Dope
Society

ARTIST CORNER

Meet Tanaya Johnson
CEO/Founder of The Tanaya
Make-up Academy

DR. CHIKERA L. MARSHALL

Founder of Exousia University School of Theology and Entrepreneurship

FALLING FORWARD

- WRITTEN BY TREVI PERSHAY -



Happy September COBS Readers,

2022 reminds me of the television commercial "Red Bull" – it certainly has wings LOL. 2022 has certainly flown by at a rapid speed. We only have three more months, and the year is over. As we all know that September is the 9th month of the year and for women the 9th month means birth. Any time I am at a conference and I meet so many beautiful Queens in a room, I like to ask them two questions

1. Do you know who you are or your purpose?
2. Do you know what you're carrying inside of you (destiny)?

I often ask these two questions because it makes one think, I know who I am or my calling in life. I find that life has a way of taking us through so many obstacles that we become confused about what we must do and not what we are called to do. Destiny is knocking at our door because purpose wants the opportunity to come. Self-identity is the journey of your BECOMING. The philosophical meaning of becoming means (from the Oxford Dictionary): the process of coming to be something or passing into a state. We must examine the state of our thought process. The only person that can stop you is YOU. Get out of your own way and allow yourself to obtain all that God has for you.

Queen's, your goal is to break the curse of reverse. Never go back to what is not good for you and never re-enter doors that God has closed for you. It's time to fall forward not the reverse. Fall into your purpose, your destiny, and who you are called to be. Don't allow procrastination to be your kryptonite for your Super greatness. My favorite story in the bible is about Peter who got out of the boat and walked on water by faith. Everyone on that boat saw Jesus from afar. No one thought about stepping out of the boat by faith they were content. Only Peter put Jesus to the challenge and said if it is you Jesus ask me to come. So, Jesus said come. I know the others in the boat were like man you crazy. I bet they said something like you know we are in the middle of the ocean and do you logically think that as a man you can walk on water? There are times you will be in your own boat and want to step out. There will be those that are in your boat to heckle how crazy you are to take on such a task of faith. You have to take their criticism and turn it into your steppingstone. I will leave this with you – if know what you're carrying there will come a time that you must give birth to it. Keep falling forward there is so much to learn and grow into your BECOMING.

Trevi Booker

Trevi Booker Pershay

MEET THE C.O.B.S. TEAM



Trevi Booker Pershay

Editor-N-Chief

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

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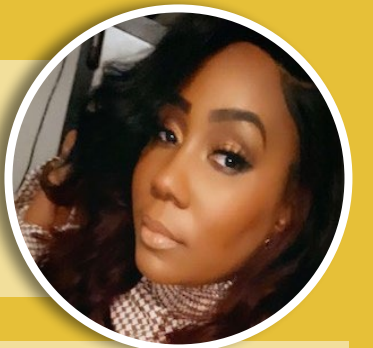
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Nisha Pershay specializes in taking care of weaves; therefore, you will have them for a long time. She is CEO & Founder of The Traveling Salon 2. Nisha holds down a full-time job with an investment company as well as she is Sound & Stage Manager for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

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Rosemarie Berghout

Newsletter Editor

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

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S CORNER

02) TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

MEET THE C.O.B.S. TEAM

03) MEMBERS OF THE COBS

FEATURED STORY

06) DR. CHIKERA
MARSHALL, TH.D

QUEEN'S COURT

10) CHRISHONDA BENSON

KING'S COURT

12) DAVON & TAVON
WOODS

SPECIAL EDITION - LEADERS

14) NEMYIJAH BUSSEY
14) EDMOND CADET
15) DR. LEISA A. HERRERA
15) DESIRAY BOYD

FASHION CORNER

16) ALI MORGAN

ARTIST CORNER

18) TANAYA JOHNSON

HAIR BY NISHA

20) NISHA PERSHAY

BEAUTY TALK

22) TINIKA THOMAS

FIT BY ARIELLE PERSHAY

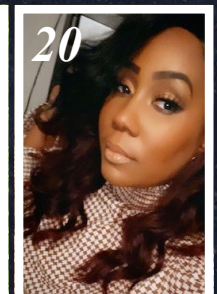
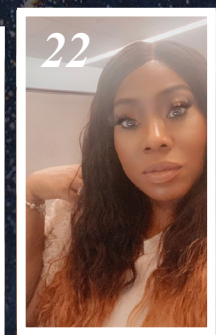
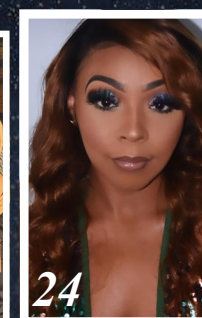
24) ARIELLE PERSHAY

AUTHOR'S CORNER

26) LINDA P. KORNEGAY

SPECIAL EDITION - BLACK-OWNED

28) BLACK NILE
28) NEGRIL BK RESTAURANT
28) PEACHES
28) CHOCOLAT
RESTAURANT & BAR
29) SUGAR HILL CREAMERY
29) RED ROOSTER HARLEM
29) HARLEM BISCUIT
COMPANY
30) SEAFOOD KINGZ
30) BAUCEE'S BITES
30) THE DOOR
30) BLACKKEYED PEAS



MEET FOUNDER OF EXOUSIA UNIVERSITY

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D

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

Welcome to C.O.B.S. Magazine. What an honor to have you featured on the cover of our September issue. We have with us a Brooklyn native Dr. Chikera Marshall who founded her own University. As an accomplished woman, she is a true example of black excellence. Can you please introduce yourself to our readers?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

Hello everyone, it is my honor to be speaking with you today. I am a servant, mother of two sons, beloved daughter, sister, and friend. Most of all I'm a child of the living God.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your bio, you mentioned that at the age of 15 you had a life-transforming experience. At this age, some young women are still discovering who they are. Can you share that experience and how much did that impact your life?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

At age 15 I was overwhelmed with identity issues, low self-esteem, and abandonment. It was stressful, to say the least. During that time my mother began to truly seek a place of worship for our family to attend. My mother was invited to a very prominent Pentecostal church in Brooklyn. It was there that I became acquainted with Jesus Christ. The teenagers in the Church seemed to glow which I had not seen among other teens. I became curious. One day my pastor at the time preached a message that said, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). He also said, "In order for you to see that He's good you have to try him for yourself". It was upon those words that I accepted the

invitation to accept the Lord Jesus Christ. From that day on my life was never the same.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about Exousia University? How did you come up with the name? How did you go about creating your institution? How important is it to articulate the vision?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

Exousia University is a fully accredited private Christian University with a passion to develop leaders and entrepreneurs who will glorify Christ and execute their God-given Authority. Exousia means authority in Greek. Exousia University aka EXU was founded to create a center where leaders are equipped to exercise moral excellence and distinguished ability, within the global marketplace. The name of the University was given to me in prayer by God. The University's logo is a Crown on Top of a Bank symbolizing the Authority we are called to exercise over the global marketplace. Because EXU is a 100% online University recruitment strategy is focused on attracting students who need a flexible and affordable option to complete their higher education. With 24/7 accessibility our students complete their coursework on their own time.

We have two tracks for students to participate in, one is fast track and the other is self-paced. Our students complete their course work while under the hair dryer, on planes, and even listen to their coursework as they commute to work.

Some people cannot abide by a traditional online/classroom

schedule where their posting deadlines and attendance requirements are. Some people desire higher education but are discouraged because they cannot wait four years to obtain a degree. Lastly, some individuals refuse to leverage their future earnings with student loans. These are the individuals I have the pleasure of presenting to at events, job fairs, and open house presentations.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Your educational background is extensive as well as your career opportunities. Can you share with our readers a few of the degrees you have earned? What made you want to do something completely different at this point in your life? When do you realize that you wanted to become a founder of a University?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

I possess an accredited bachelor's degree in Social Work, a Master's degree in psychology, and a Doctorate in Theology and Education. I was going to school to be a College Professor and as I approached graduation, the Lord spoke to me and said, "I want you to start a university". Naturally, I thought I was hearing things, but I quickly understood that this was not a request, but a command. After going from a salary of \$45,000 to a salary of \$147,000 at work, I found myself unsatisfied. I prayed about it and remembered when I taught criminally involved teenage girls as a budding social worker. It was the happiest, I have ever been at work. I also knew that God gave me an anointing of exhortation, prophecy, and the fivefold gift of a teacher. I also truly loved the Bible. So, I decided to combine all these things and pursue a career as a College Professor. I had my plan and God had His.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What programs do you offer? How much flexibility do you offer your students between online and in-person learning? How do you feel

the structure of your university differs from other institutions? What are some of the end goals you would like to see your students accomplish?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

At EXU we offer 31-degree programs in Theology, Urban Ministry, Prophetic Ministry, Religious Fine Arts, Leadership and Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Management, Coaching Counseling, Psychology, and now we have two dual Masters and Ph.D. programs. I'm currently developing a Sacred Music degree program for Musicians, Psalmists, and Worship Leaders. I want EXU students to gain raises at work, start businesses, and create multiple streams of income, all with a heart to serve humanity to the Glory of God. Before graduation, our students can elect to participate in career development, how to start a business, and how to start a side hustle course. I want to see EXU students use the education, spiritual development, and anointing in their lives to dominate in business and entrepreneurship.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

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

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

One of the things I did is, I kept my job while I built the University. I also committed myself to the goal. If you are going to do anything you must commit first. It did not matter the cost because I already committed to doing it. Thus, I kept my job I leveraged every dollar I had from my pension, pay raises, and credit to start this University. Not to mention my blood, sweat,

and tears. In my mind, the most important thing was to build the business and keep a roof over my children's heads.

Before starting the business, I took the time to invest in mindset. I paid thousands of dollars for coaching, entrepreneurship training, and surrounded myself with other entrepreneurs. What makes me unshaken by our economy, is that I participate in God's economy. Simply said, I give and continued to give. I give at church, to those less fortunate, and leaders that are doing real work for God's people. That kept a constant stream of resources coming my way. God gave me divine connections and resources because I participated in God's economy.

The way I keep myself encouraged and motivated is I participate in ministries that feed my mind, spirit, and the work I am called to. I regularly take part in entrepreneurship groups where other CEOs gather and sharpen one another. I also attend weekly Chapel services with my students. Hearing their testimonies and why they love attending the school keeps me motivated and excited about what God is doing. My relationship with God is the source of my life. God is love, strength, and a never-ending well in my life. He is everything.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is the definition of leadership? What have been your leadership priorities at Exousia University? On this journey what have you learned about yourself that you weren't aware of prior?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D:

I define leadership as one who is willing to go a little further than others. I say that because I believe a leader should be a Trail Blazer. I believe a leader is willing to sacrifice, serve, and endure what others are incapable or unwilling to endure. It has been my priority



to grow our brand, invest in our students, and provide a spiritual environment where students grow in faith and skill for the marketplace. On this journey, I've learned that I am capable of anything. I never dreamed of being the President of a University. God thought of me in that way. I can accomplish anything with the leadership, wisdom, and guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is a story found in Numbers 13:30 (NLT) where Caleb sees the promised land filled with giants and he says (while others were shaking in their boots), "let's go at once and take the land, we can certainly do it". I believe in the same way Caleb did that with God on my side, I too can certainly take the land.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What has been your proudest moment as a Founder and President? What are two or three initiatives that excite you when looking toward the future? If you could snap your fingers and make one thing happen for Exousia University what would that be?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D.:

This may sound strange, but my proudest moment thus far has been finishing. God commanded me to do something, and I got it done. I am extremely excited about EXU's first graduation, which will take place this November. I am equally excited about the Tee-shirt brand we are launching. The brand is designed to recruit new students and encourage people to study and educate themselves. Our third project is the launch of Exousia TV. Exousia TV will provide a full Bible education to a subscription-based audience for a fraction of the cost.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Outside of running a university

are there any other bucket lists goals that you would like to accomplish? Out of curiosity what do you think about each morning when you wake up? Do you have a daily affirmation that makes it applicable to your daily life?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D.:

I want to author several books and build a worship center for psalmists, recording artists, and others who want to worship. I imagine soundboards, instruments, lighting, cameras, chairs, and a crowd of people worshipping God all the time. But in God's timing, it will happen. I have devotional prayer and Bible study in the mornings. I also perform repetitive writing where I write scriptures repeatedly until they are committed to memory. These are scriptures that target what I'm believing God for or what God has said to me. I use this method to reprogram my subconscious mind and align my thoughts with what God says.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What is the best advice you ever received that you can share? Can you please provide your university website information and your social media platforms for us to continue your journey?

DR. CHIKERA MARSHALL, TH.D.:

The greatest advice I've ever received is that thoughts become things. The Bible says, "As a man thinks in his heart so is he" Proverbs 23:7. What you think you become. You can find us at exousiau.com and on social media at @exousia_university. We host weekly open houses, live chapel services, and other events. I look forward to serving you in the future.



Open House

Earn Your Degree In Months Not Years!

Exousia University (EXU) is a non-traditional university with unique class formats that allow students to learn at their own pace. With 100% online learning and NO physical campus, EXU provides students with an affordable and flexible way to earn your degree. Join our online Open House!!!

Saturday May 21, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM EST

CLICK HERE

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MEET OWNER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF PRETTY DOPE SOCIETY

CHRISHONDA BENSON

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In this month's section of Queen's Court, we have the pleasure of speaking to Chrishonda Benson better known as the "Queen on the Go." We will be discussing how Chrishonda saw an opportunity to use her creativity and business acumen to fill a void. We would like to explore her entrepreneurial journey. Can you please give us an overview of your background and career to date?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

Thank you for the opportunity to be featured. Before pursuing my full-time entrepreneurial journey, I studied business administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Upon graduating, I was accepted into a manager-in-training program with a college bookstore company, which quickly led me into the position of

bookstore manager at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. After a few years, I wanted a change, so I moved back to my hometown, Charlotte, NC, and started my career in the financial services industry. While climbing the corporate ladder, I decided to further my education. After completing my MBA with a specialization in innovation and entrepreneurship at Florida International University in 2018, I left my career as a communications consultant in corporate America, and never looked back.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Was entrepreneurship always in the cards for you or is it something that just happened out of the blue?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

For as long as I can remember, I've always had a passion for creating and

selling things to people. I recall being in middle school and selling candy on the school bus and even making and selling CDs at lunch during high school. I would ensure that whatever I was offering was unique enough and provided a better experience. I think it's safe to say, I've always been fascinated with learning as much as I can about business and entrepreneurship.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Let's talk about your company Pretty Dope Society. In the essence of cause and effect, why did launch Pretty Dope Society in 2020? How would you describe the value and target market for Pretty Dope Society? What was the mission? What makes you different from everyone else?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

I launched Pretty Dope Society in October 2020 because I felt that it was needed. At the time, the world was in the middle of a global pandemic and racial tension and police brutality were at the forefront of that entire year. I kept thinking about how things had changed so much, but even more so for our children.

Although I launched in 2020, the idea of providing products with representation started back in 2017, when my daughter Mariah (she was 4 at the time) told my sister that she didn't like her brown skin. Her rationale was that the "peach" dolls in the toy sections had more accessories, outfits, and styles. To hear my daughter say that at such a young age, really drove home just how important representation mattered for our kids. Shortly after that, I went on a quest to find books, toys, clothing, and anything that I could to show my daughter that her skin was beautiful and she was amazing just as she was born. During that time, I found some items, but I realized that there wasn't enough and there was even less available in the retail stores. I knew that I wanted to help close the gap and provide products of my own, so I took product design and sourcing classes over the years, and Pretty Dope Society was born. We breathe life into Black art through merchandise for children because representation matters. Our goal is to create products that Black children can see and use daily so that no child ever has to feel less than because of what is available on store shelves. The products that we create are truly special and made with representation in mind. Our kids need to see themselves represented daily, not just during Black History Month.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your bio, you mention you partner with your daughter Mariah to create products that black kids (and adults) need to see. As a single mom of a young black girl, you

are teaching her what entrepreneurship looks like at a young age. How important is it that she is learning the business and learning how to create generational wealth?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

It is extremely important that she sees that she can do whatever she sets her mind to, as long as she works hard and follows her heart. It's a truly amazing experience to have her see how I went from the corporate world to the entrepreneurial space and see my journey from the beginning to now. I'm teaching her that there is not just one way to achieve her goals and that following her passion and using her knowledge will allow her to flourish. At the age of 9, she can better understand how a business operates and she is even learning how to draw and create her own products.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What key challenges have you faced in your entrepreneurial journey and how have you navigated these?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

Launching in the middle of a global pandemic was both exciting and extremely challenging at the same time. Navigating through supply chain issues and severe shipping delays, while trying to build trust as a new business, was enough to make most people give up. I found that being transparent and ensuring that I proactively communicate with my vendors and customers allowed me to grow the business and become known for providing high-quality products.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What or who has been your greatest influence in business and why? How did that teach you to become good leadership skills?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

My greatest influence in business has been my family. I've always been the big hair, big dream, super ambitious family member. Despite all the ups and downs, pivots, and changes, my family has always been there for me and supported me. They have shown me

that consistency is the key to success. The love, care, and consistency that they pour into me are what I pour into my business, and that is what I believe has helped me become a good leader and business owner.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

The creativity of your designs is simply dope. How do you come up with designs? Do you feel like you are bringing black art to another level to represent our young black youth?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

Thank you! I source and commission art from some Pretty Dope artists that believe in representation just as much as I do. From there, I use my creative flair and input from Mariah and create designs that show our kids in a fun yet positive light. I believe that my product designs inspire Black artists to continue to create and the variety of styles and themes, it encourages Black children to dream bigger than ever. It's all just Pretty Dope!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a single mom how do you balance your personal and professional life? What adjustments have you had to make to juggle the two roles?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

Wheewwww, it's certainly not easy finding a balance between my personal and professional life, especially because they are pretty much intertwined. My business is my passion, so it's actually fun to work, but finding the off switch is difficult. I've found that giving myself an absolute stop time during the week and using silent mode on the weekends, has allowed me to be more active and present in my personal life. Those small changes have yielded amazing benefits that I believe ultimately improve my productivity and self-care.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are your expectations for Pretty Dope Society in the next 5 years? What would like to see more of and what do you think we need to obtain for such change to occur?



CHRISHONDA BENSON:

I expect Pretty Dope Society to become a well-known and trusted brand in the next 5 years. The need for representation is only going to continue to increase and we will be here to continue to close the gap in the retail industry. I would like to see Pretty Dope Society and other Black-owned businesses with products like mine fill the shelves of big box stores every single day. While I have seen a shift in the spotlight on Black-owned brands, it's just not enough. I hope that we can continue to grow and fill up spaces on shelves.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

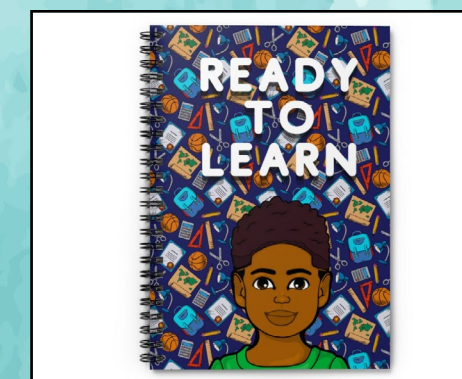
Can you offer a piece of advice that someone shared with you when you launched your business? Can you please share your website and social media handles for our readers to continue to follow you?

CHRISHONDA BENSON:

Do it now and do it scared! There will never be a perfect time to start, so just do it! How you start is not how you will end! You will continue to grow, learn, and evolve!

My website is www.prettydopesociety.com and we are on IG, Facebook, and TikTok @prettydopesociety

Thank you so much!





MEET FOUNDER OF FOSTER KIDS MATTER

DAVON & TAVON WOODS

COBS MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS Magazine King's Court. It is our pleasure to be speaking to Davon & Tavon Woods who have truly turned their pain into a purpose. Davon & Tavon Woods, former foster care youth, are on a mission to bring awareness to the foster care system. Can tell us a little bit about yourself and your twin brother?

DAVON WOODS:

We are extremely honored to have this platform to share our journey with your readers. My brother and I extend our gratitude to C.O.B.S Magazine. My brother Tavon (who is my twin brother) was taken away from our biological mother. When we were born doctors found out that our mother was using drugs while pregnant with us. Therefore, social service placed us into the foster care system. Seventeen years in the system and we knew nothing about ourselves or our family members.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You and your brother Tavon are the

Founders of Foster Kids Matter can you tell us about the beginning stages of your organization and what the vision was?

DAVON WOODS:

The beginning stages of getting this vision in motion were tough. When God gives you a vision it's also a calling to be a change. Having a full-time job was complicated because I needed to focus on what God called me to do, therefore, I recently quit my job. God placed this vision on my life to be the voice for youth in the foster care system and he made a way. It's been a year and God has provided provision for the vision.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You and your twin brother are on an incredible mission can you share what that mission is? What has become your primary driving motivation behind what you do?

DAVON WOODS:

Our mission is to bring awareness that

kids who are in the foster care system dreams/life and goals matter. Just like Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter and we want the world to know that the Lives of Youth in the Foster Care system matter. We want a strong message sent around the world that the youth in the Foster Care System needs to be empowered and loved.

COBS MAGAZINE:

In your bio, you speak about the experiences of you and your brother after being adopted out of the foster care system. Can you share some of those experiences and how being adopted at an early age affects your life growing up?

DAVON WOODS:

Well-being adopted isn't really a difference the only difference is that those parents legally become your parents. Our life growing up was very difficult never hearing "I love you", rarely hearing "good job" we so much needed

to hear those words; however, those words were never said. Part of a parent's job is more than just providing a roof over a child's head or food on the table. We need love, affection, and attention. At times as parents, we failed in those emotional categories.

COBS MAGAZINE:

There is a misconception that foster kids end up in the system because they are bad or commit crimes, but that's not true. What are some of the common reasons you see kids end up in the system? Do you feel in most aspects the foster care system is being misused and not protecting these kids properly?

DAVON WOODS:

That is not entirely the case. Some Kids end up in the system because of a mistake that the biological parents made. The unfortunate part about this is so many kids have lost their lives in the system all because a parent made a mistake. You have no idea what that child has to endure; there is so much hurt and pain that they didn't ask for. The foster care system is being misused and, in most cases, it's not protecting the kids.

COBS MAGAZINE:

There was a static that was quoted in Metro Family Magazine which stated, "There are more than 26,000 children who aged out of foster care nationally each year." The question is what happens to those children who are aged out without guidance? How do they ultimately survive and what do you feel these kids need most? The percentage that does survive what do those success rates look like?

DAVON WOODS:

Unfortunately, most kids that age out instantly become homeless or incarcerated. The percentage of youth is very high because these kids are broken and a lot of them just want freedom. These kids are placed into the world alone, some die alone, and some will be alone for the rest of their lives. These kids need people that will stick by their side through thick and thin.

COBS MAGAZINE:

It must take a thick skin to change a system that has its loopholes and sometimes fails the children. Is there a specific Scripture that grounds what you do or is meaningful for your mission?

DAVON WOODS:

Just having the opportunity to be able to spend time with these kids and having the opportunity to share our story with them. Being around these kids is what I look forward to because they now have someone they feel as though they can relate to. Doing this work is always



rewarding to me because you have an opportunity to be selfless.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me."

COBS MAGAZINE:

The month of May is recognized as National Foster Care Awareness. What should we be doing to play our part during this month? What types of special events does Foster Kids Matter host during this time? How important it is to continue to bring awareness to this issue all year round?

DAVON WOODS:

One of the ways we are working on bringing awareness is to implement a Walk For Foster Care and we plan on making this a yearly event.

COBS MAGAZINE:

What advice would you have for someone who carries a burden for a particular need and is wanting to start something to meet that need but is not sure how? As we are approaching a

new year what is the goal for Foster Kids Matter? Can you share your website with those interested in your organization or donate? Can you please let us know how we can continue to follow your journey via social media?

DAVON WOODS:

I would say try to get connected with different organizations in your area so that you could volunteer and learn more about making a change in your community. Our goal is to open up transitional housing for kids aging out of foster care. And our biggest goal is to open up a facility for kids that are currently in foster care, and we plan on opening them up all around the world. Our website is www.fosterkidsmatter.life YouTube- Foster Kids Matter Facebook- Davon Woods Tavon Woods Instagram & TikTok- [davonwoodsfc](https://www.instagram.com/davonwoodsfc) & [tavonwoodsfc](https://www.instagram.com/tavonwoodsfc)



LEADERS WHO ARE PROVOKING CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

COBS Magazine wanted to give honor where honor is due, these few leaders are provoking change in their communities through their not-for-profit programs or programs that are operated in the education system.

The importance of this story is that these communities' youth activists/educators/mentors are a beacon in the lives of the youth in the communities they serve. Our youth need mentorship, guidance and to be empowered in becoming great.

OPRAH WINFREY

A Mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself. A mentor is someone who allows you to know that no matter how dark the night in the morning joy will come. A mentor is someone who allows you to see the higher part of yourself when sometimes it becomes hidden from your views.



NEMYIJAH BUSSEY

MEET COBS MAGAZINE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nemyijah is 16 years of age, she is currently a Medical Student, and she is on the Honor Roll at her school in PA. Certifications – HIPAA, Dementia Friend, CPR/AED, HealthCare Provider. Nemyijah wants to be a Traveling Nurse, however, her dream is to become a neurosurgeon.

EDMOND CADET

MEET DIRECTOR OF HIP-HOP DANE PROGRAM YABC STEVENSON CAMPUS

Edmond Cadet is a Brooklyn native who now resides in Far Rockaway, Queens. He graduated from Hunter College in 2006 to obtain his Bachelor of Arts in English; he began his teaching career that same year. He also graduated from Alliance Theological Seminary of Nyack College to obtain his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (New Testament) in 2008.

Mr. Cadet just finished teaching his sixteenth year within NYC's Department of Education. The majority of his time has been in middle school; as the years went by, his interest in teaching high school students grew. Mr. Cadet currently works in Antonia Pantoja Preparatory Academy (APPA) in the Bronx at Stevenson Campus during the day. He teaches English Language Arts to eighth graders, and he also teaches high school electives. At the same campus, from late afternoon to late evening, Mr. Cadet teaches at the Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) after teaching at APPA. At YABC, Mr. Cadet teaches English courses and a

transforming Hip Hop elective to young adults. Let it be known Mr. Cadet is still excited about teaching students; his passion to help cultivate the minds of our youth will never cease.

When Edmond is not teaching, he spends a lot of time with his family—his lovely wife, Lea, and his charismatic and energetic two-year-old son, Isaiah. Moreover, he loves learning about different subject matters and engaging in theological conversations. School Information: Assistant Principle – Donna Reid (see Brochure below)



Contact for more information
Assistant Principal Ms. Reid, 718-792-8264 ext. 1111
914-361-5710
Doe@schools.nyc.gov

Directions to campus: 1989 Lafayette Ave., Bronx, NY 10473

- Take the #5, #36 or #39 bus to White Plains Road & Lafayette Ave.

Documents for Registration:

- Transcript
- Y1-Y2 Form
- Attendance Records
- Immunization Record
- IEP (if applicable)
- Proof of address

What is YABC?
Young Adult Borough Centers (YABCs) in association with Good Shepherd Services, are afternoon and evening programs for high school students to earn a high school diploma.

Open Enrollment for Fall Semester 2022!

Eligibility

- 17-21 years of age
- 17 or more high school credits
- Have been in high school for at least 4 years

We offer:

- A safe learning environment that will assist students in making informed choices about their futures

Partnerships in the local community
The Amazon Future Engineers Program is an introduction to Computer Science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems.

Established partnership with the Wakefern Food Corporation/ShopRite at Bruckner Blvd.

Smaller class settings

- Amazon Future Engineers Program
- Professional Paid Internships (\$15/hr.)
- Learning to Work Programs
- Access to Co-Op Tech during the day where students can study for certificates in a variety of fields
- Trips to Broadway Shows, 6 Flags, baseball games, college tours and more!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela

Partnerships in the local community
The Amazon Future Engineers Program is an introduction to Computer Science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems.

Established partnership with the Wakefern Food Corporation/ShopRite at Bruckner Blvd.

DR. LEISA A. HERRERA

MEET CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SOULPHAMM INC.



Dr. Leisa Herrera is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SoulPhamm, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides academic, artistic, and athletic programs for youth in New Jersey and New York City. Dr. Herrera created SoulPhamm (www.soulphamm.org) along with her husband Luis who passed away suddenly just before the organization was set to launch. She now runs SoulPhamm in his memory and the organization currently includes basketball, cheerleading, drumline, hip-hop majorettes, a student council, and a sorority for youth ages 10 to 21.

Dr. Leisa Herrera, affectionately known as Mz. Doc has served in youth development for more than 30 years. A native of Brooklyn, she began the 1City Youth Project while in high school, as an outlet for gang-involved and disenfranchised youth. The Brooklyn-based organization attracted youth from all parts of the state, eventually finding its way to Nigeria, and is now the subject of an independent Documentary titled, "1City Soul" (follow the link to view the trailer) which will premiere in October. 1City birthed Nu Sigma Theta, an independent fraternal organization that provides opportunities for community service for adults and includes men and women from around the world.

Mz. Doc has led after-school and summer programs for local nonprofits and served as a Program Director and Assistant Principal for two alternative high schools through a pilot which gave rise to the Transfer School movement. She attended Epiphany Lutheran Elementary School and Brooklyn Technical High School, and her other academic endeavors include studies at Universal Theological Seminary, Mount Olive Bible Institute, John Jay College, Liberty University, and Northcentral University. She has earned two Bachelor's Degrees (Christian Education & Elementary Education (Summa Cum Laude)); two Master's Degrees (Christian Counseling & Management and Leadership) and two Doctorate Degrees (Theology & Educational Leadership).

Dr. Herrera also founded the "SoulDeevas", which launching in 2023, will provide a platform for women to develop social, learning, and professional networks and is laying the foundation for 1City Academy, an independent private school to serve students in grades 5-12. She is an ordained minister serving in the offices of Pastor and Teacher and is a member of World Changers Church International. Dr. Herrera hopes to challenge her peers all over the world to create and/or support programs in their communities that engage young people and effectively build our next generations of capable leaders.

Honoring the life of Luis Herrera – R.I.P



DESIRAY BOYD

DEAN OF SCHOOL CULTURE AT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMY QUEENS AND ATHLETES HELPING ATHLETES

Working with youth is a huge part of Ms. Boyd's purpose in life. In June of 2018, she saw

a need for young ladies to be mentored and launched a mentoring group called the "Academy Queens". This mentoring group allows young ladies to express their thoughts, emotions, and life experiences and find support through group sessions, workshops, and community service.

Ms. Boyd also initiated a program "Athletes Helping Athletes", where she trains high school athletes on how to mentor younger athletes.

Ms. Boyd has a heart to mentor young ladies outside of her career as well. Since 2007, she has mentored young ladies in the New York area as well as in the state of Virginia. Ms. Boyd mentors young ladies of various ages and is continuously encouraging them to be the best that they can be. However long God allows each young lady to be mentored by Ms. Boyd, she is humbled by the fact she is known as a "big sister" to each one of them. She is grateful to have the chance to also mentor with the Elmont Memorial High School mentors. Ms. Boyd has been honored to speak at several local conferences, where she empowers young ladies to gain an understanding of their purpose.

ALI MORGAN

MEET CEO AND FOUNDER OF ABORIGINE REIGN'S SBC APPAREL

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS Magazine Fashion Corner. We are interviewing Ali Morgan whose clothing brand is on a mission to advance and improve the quality of life for Aborigine children. Ali's passion for change is remarkable. Can you introduce yourself in a few words and tell us where you are from?

ALI MORGAN:

My name is Ali Morgan. I'm a father first entrepreneur second. I was born and raised in Brooklyn New York.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about Aborigine Reign's SBC Apparel? How do you describe your style of clothing? Who are your targeted consumers? What is the driving force behind your label?

ALI MORGAN:

Aborigine Reign SBC Apparel was created out of necessity. I felt so much pressure from all the things going on in the world. It's hard for us as a people to get our point across, whether that's because of division amongst our people or because our people are afraid to speak up about the truth. I felt a good way for people to be vocal without speaking was to put phrases on clothing, this would allow our people to voice their opinions without saying a word.

I would describe our style of clothing as streetwear. It's a way to reach a



large audience of people that I feel need a different perspective. This group of people are our youth and young adults. They already have all of the confidence needed but their objectives are misguided. I believe if we can gain a little portion of their attention and point them in the right direction the power that they possess is unlimited.

My target consumers are people of color. They're my only focus.

My driving force behind the brand as stated earlier is being a father and knowing how the world is right now. I believe as a man it is my responsibility to stand on principles that will not only affect the ones I know and love but also affect other people who look like me and my children. We as a people must put our children in positions where they are equipped from the beginning and are able to propel themselves into the lives they choose to live.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your opinion, what skills are necessary to be a successful fashion designer? What are some trademark elements that shine through your collection and are representative of the Aborigine children?

ALI MORGAN:

To be a successful fashion designer you must have unconscious determination, a desire in your heart to succeed that's equivalent to your

desire to live, and an unwavering belief in yourself that will not allow you to quit. In the end, it's all worth it.

The brand is specifically about making statements. We put things on clothing that inspire people while bringing awareness to causes that matter to us as a people. We will continue to do so until Aborigine children around the globe are competing on an even playing field.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your bio, you talk about a name change. Can you elaborate on the name change and the reason behind it?

ALI MORGAN:

Unfortunately Support Black Children received a lot of resistance when we launched back in 2020 from all the major online marketplaces. Something about the name Support Black Children seems to cause controversy and confusion from other groups of people. In order for us to continue spreading the word, I thought it would be beneficial to the brand if we change the name to something that still had an impact on the movement, we're a part of while at the same time giving us the freedom to promote the brand in places that we were shut out from previously.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You are changing the fashion industry through your designs and message.

How important is the element of bravery during the process?

ALI MORGAN:

To answer this question I will use a famous quote. I would rather die on my feet, than live on my knees. Fear is based on dealing with the unknown but when you acknowledge that there are going to be challenges involved and there will be obstacles to cross your fears become your strengths.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

It's been a turmoil two years for a lot of us, especially those in the creative industry. The residue of the pandemic still lingering how do you stay motivated and creative?

ALI MORGAN:

I believe the pandemic allowed people to take time out and see the truth around them. So, for me, the pandemic was a blessing in disguise. Outside of spending needed quality time with my family I was able to dig deep into my creative side in a way that I couldn't before the pandemic.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How have your past experiences played a role in the development of your clothing line? What has been your greatest achievement?

ALI MORGAN:

Growing up in Brooklyn New York is a gift and a curse because you can chase your dreams but you're also living in one of the biggest cities in the world. The competition, the stereotypes, the fast pace, they all whole weight in the environment that I live in. It also shaped the views and opinions displayed throughout

the brand. My greatest achievement is being able to stay focused while having enough faith in myself to move forward even when people tell me that I can't. I believe there comes a time in everyone's life when they want to do what's right by themselves and the ones they love and if we don't grab the bull by the horns when the opportunity presents itself, we might not ever get a chance to see it through.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are currently working on and looking forward to? How do you see you're labeling evolving over the next decade?

ALI MORGAN:

Aborigine Reign SBC apparel is just a steppingstone to a bigger picture. The goal is to release a non-profit called H.E.A.L.I.N.G. The project will focus on opening youth facilities (schools) for children of color in low-income areas across the nation. For us to make a lasting impact in our lives as a people, we must start with the youth. Our children are the ones that will create the changes for our people, for good or for worse. So, either we're going to point them in the right direction, or the systems that are in place will.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

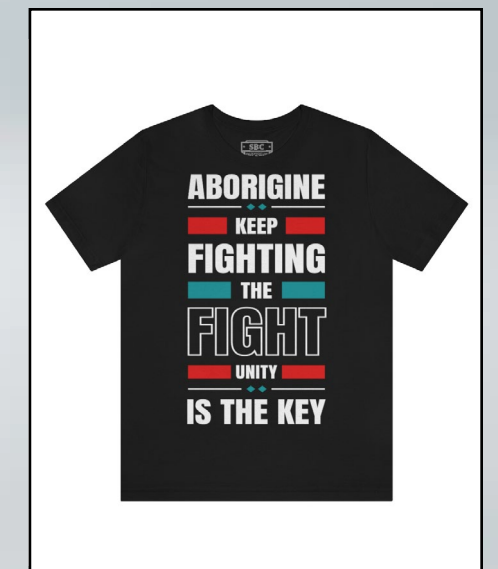
Do you have any words of encouragement or advice for people who are wanting to start a brand or work in the fashion industry? Lastly, can you please share your clothing website and all your social media platforms for our readers to connect with you?

ALI MORGAN:



No matter where you come from, no matter the obstacles that you find before you if you believe in your heart that you can bring something to the world that will have an impact on someone's life, even if that's just one person I would encourage you to see it through. It'll be the greatest achievement of your life. Don't allow fear, money, or social constraints to prevent you from doing what your heart truly desires. Know your worth and handle yourself accordingly. You can find Aborigine Reign's SBC Apparel at:

www.i-s-b-c.com
www.amazon.com/morningmomie
www.facebook.com/aboriginereign
www.instagram.com/aboriginereign
www.pinterest.com/aboriginereign
www.twitter.com/aboriginereign



TANAYA JOHNSON

MEET PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP ARTIST AND BEAUTY EDUCATOR

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S. Magazine Artist's Corner. We are excited to interview our first Professional Makeup Artist, Beauty Educator, Model, and National Trainer for Sephora Tanaya Johnson. This Manhattan native has the passion and vigor for making the world beautiful one face at a time. Can you introduce Tanaya Johnson the woman behind her brand?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

What an intro! I am so honored that you chose me to be the first artist feature for your magazine! Tanaya J is driven, fierce, and humble. She's a woman who grew up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan with a dream to impact and empower the world of beauty, who dared to trust God with the trajectory of her life and career. She's passionate and understands the need to see women empowered from all walks of life.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How did your career begin in the world of makeup? Where do you find your core inspiration? What do you love most about doing makeup?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

Oddly enough, I've always loved makeup! I can remember being a little girl and sneaking to use my mother's makeup (old school Posner) and using her berry-colored lipstick for blush on my cheeks. Growing up, I didn't know that I could have a career in beauty and so I went the traditional route; I went to college and studied English writing and Africana Studies at SUNY Albany. I wanted to be a teacher, and in fact, that plan came to pass.

Around the age of 24, a friend of mine encouraged me to start a business. I knew nothing about starting a business, I also wasn't so confident in my skills compared to all the artists I admired, and I thought she was flat-out crazy! However, one night I prayed about it and decided that I had nothing to lose. I launched out into the deep created business cards, made a website, and Tanaya J Makeup Artistry was birthed! My core inspiration comes from my desire to see women feel and look their best. This happens to be what I love the most about makeup! I live for the transformation; that moment when the

client sits in my chair looking and feeling one way, but leaves realizing their beauty.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have over 16 years of experience in the Fashion and Beauty Industry how has the industry changed since you began? What were some of the difficulties you have faced along your journey? Where do you pull your strength from during those difficult times?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

Whew, it has been 16 years! Y'all are making me realize my age! Back when I started, it was much harder to figure out how to begin, where to find work, etc. Over the years, the explosion of social media: YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook have truly been pivotal in helping artists promote and push their work to potential clients; which is amazing! It's a free advertisement. While there have been amazing wins, there are still some challenges. Inclusivity of women of color in beauty products that represent our shade range is still a challenge. Sad, because this is the 21st century and we are still being under-represented. As an artist, it's been hard to break through the glass ceiling, especially on the corporate level with bigger beauty giants. The higher you climb, the scarcity of people who look like you and me becomes apparent. To be honest this sucks! And it makes it hard to navigate without support and push. This is why I draw my strength from God, my family, and friends. I have to keep my "WHY" alive. Keeping top of mind why I started in the first place, and where God promised to take me.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have an impressive portfolio. How would describe your signature look and what about your style that sets you apart from other artists? Can you share where your work has been seen and can you name-drop a few celebrities that you have had the opportunity to work with?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

Awww thanks so much! My signature look is all about the glow honey! I love to make my clients look lit from within. I also take a moment to study my clients in search of a feature on their faces that I want to celebrate in the makeup. The



more skin-like and enhanced my client looks the better, which is what I believe distinguishes me from other artists. My work has been featured during New York Fashion Week, Full Figured Fashion Week, Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH) Website, Good Morning America, BET Black Girls Rock, Brides Magazine, Harpers Bazaar, The New York Times, Essence Magazine, and Instagram just to name a few.

I've also had the pleasure of working with some high-profile/celebrity clients: Tisha Campbell (MARTIN), CEO of Louis Vuitton Americas, First Lady of Namibia, Vicky Jeudy (ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK), Sergio Hudson (Michelle Obama Fashion Designer), Sofia Ruffin & Medina Pullings (Evangelists),

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you feel you have been blessed with specific gifts and abilities that have led to the success of your business? Can you explain?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

I really do believe that God has blessed

me with the gift of artistry. Most people don't know that I've never been to a beauty school! The formal training and education I received were during the years I worked for Sephora. What I'm able to do with my hands came straight from heaven! I am also gifted to teach and educate. This is a skill and a gift that I use at my church to teach Bible Study, and in the marketplace with my makeup students. I believe that this ability to teach and educate as well as do makeup has contributed to my business's success. It helped me to launch "The Tanaya J Makeup Academy," a makeup school designed to launch the careers of those desiring to be a part of the industry.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You are about empowering women from all walks of life and educating women on the importance of skincare. Through that love, you launched a special program. Can tell us about the program, its purpose, and its goal?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

Anyone who knows me knows that I absolutely love skin! I believe that your makeup will only look as good as your skin does. If you grew up in a black household, then you know that our mothers' idea of skincare was slathering us in Vaseline! My mother still swears that that is why she looks young at 72 and why we all have nice skin; I don't have the heart to tell her that that's probably not true. LOL! Because of the reality that most women of color are riding off of the age-old "black don't crack", I decided to launch "Enhance Your Beauty", which is a one-day hands-on workshop designed to educate everyday women of color on the ins and outs of skincare, how to develop a skincare routine, products, and how to

do an everyday makeup look.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Beauty Instagram profiles have become a major influence in the beauty industry, how important are social platforms to you? How does your content differ from other professional makeup artists out there?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

social media is literally how I meet and connect with new clients. I think I mentioned earlier that everyone should use social media to promote a business or service because it's FREE.99! I can't tell you how many clients have found me simply because they used a hashtag. I believe that branding yourself on social media as an artist is key. I have to admit that it gets hard to manage the page when I am booked and busy, but I try to ensure that when a person scrolls on my page, they get a snapshot of my artistry offerings. Because 70% of my business is bridal makeup, you will see a large number of bridal clients featured on my page. This content helps attract newer bridal clients who can see their desired makeup style represented on my page.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are three tools in your makeup kit that you can never, ever be without? What are must-have beauty products? What is your three beauty do's and don'ts? Does everyone look better with makeup?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

This is literally the hardest question for a makeup artist to answer; we love it all!

- Must haves I can't live without Duo Lash Glue, Bdellium Brushes, and my triangle blender.
- Must-have beauty products: NARS Natural Radiant Longwear Foundation, Danessa Myricks

Evolution Powder, Dior Lip Glow

- 3 Do's: Please DO remove your makeup with a face wipe before washing; you would never get in the shower with your clothes on. Please DO put on sunscreen; skin cancer affects everyone. Please DON'T over pluck your eyebrows, Please DON'T use Milk of Magnesia and Calamine lotion on your skin as a primer; it clogs pores.

For me, it's not a matter of do people look better with it without makeup. It's more of an enhancement and showing up looking like your absolute best self. I believe that evening out the skin tone, putting on mascara, blush, and lip color can make a world of difference.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to go into the field of professional makeup? Where can our readers find you and keep in touch with you?

TANAYA JOHNSON:

The best advice I can give is to pace yourself; it's a marathon and not a sprint. Avoid falling into the trap of comparing your artistry journey to those you see on social media; it takes time, give yourself grace daily. Practice, practice, practice! Take plenty of classes to educate yourself on new skills and artistry techniques so that you can remain relevant as an artist; trends are always changing. Readers can connect with me via email: tanayajmakeup@gmail.com and also on Instagram: tanayajmakeup.



NISHA PERSHAY

HAIR TIPS BY NISHA PERSHAY

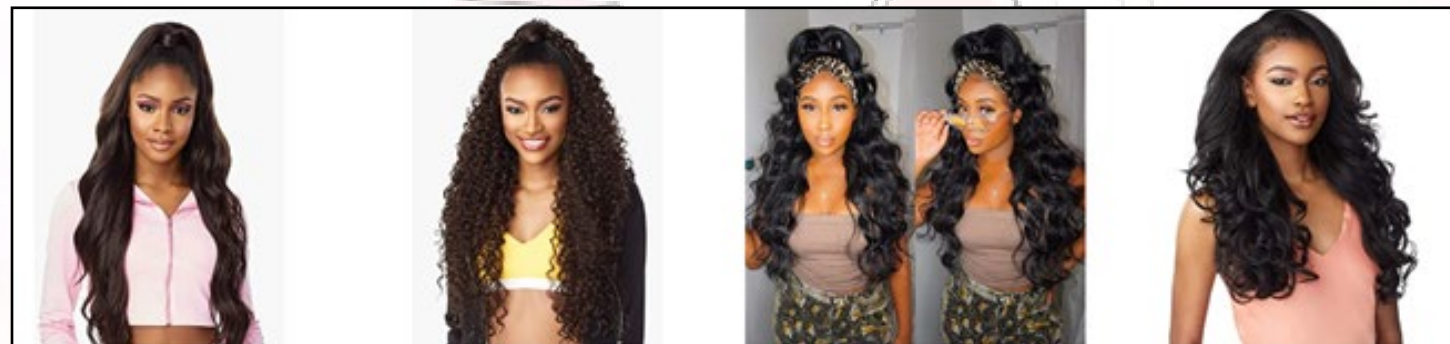
"NISHA'S TIPS FOR BEING BADDIE ON A BUDGET WITH FALL HAIRSTYLE TRENDS"

Now that summer had come and gone, let's welcome fall 2022 trends with trends that won't kill the pockets! What I love the most about fall is that you can rock any hairstyle in this season. Fall is the month to be bold and daring, go for those colored wigs, pony, short haircuts, and silk presses. If you are ready to take those risks with these trends, keep on reading! Check out some styles and products you should be bold to rock but also give yourself great spa hair while saving some coins.

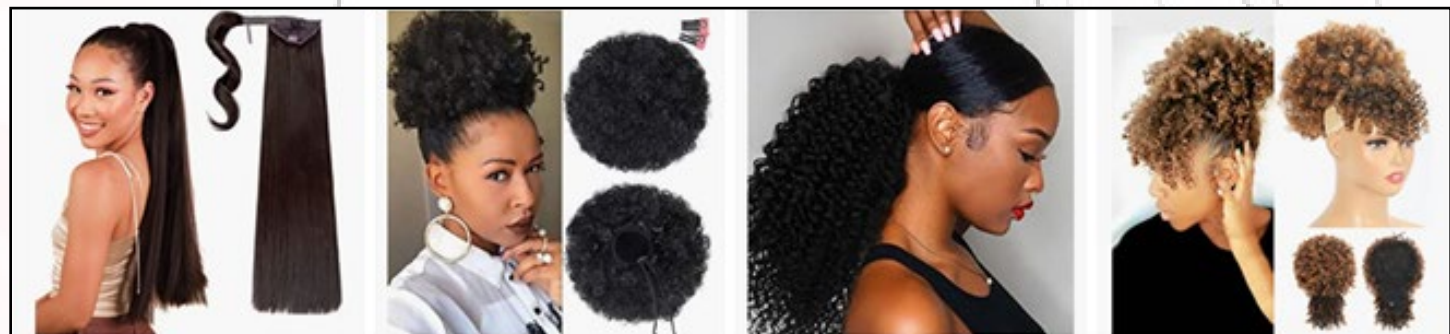
What are the new trending styles? Well, there are so many styles to be bold and daring but these fall trends will keep you stylish but also budget. You can rock these styles such as Sleek ponytails, shadow roots, modern mullets, 90's layer cuts, finger waves, headband hairstyles, flat twists, braids, and face-framing styles. Some of these styles you can kindly do at home and style to your liking.

DIY - Pony/Half up half down which is a summer go-to, but this hairstyle is always a big trend in the fall. There are many tricks to saving money with this style because this style doesn't require as much maintenance. You can purchase the hair already perfected, here are some hair companies to consider when you are trying to save money.

- Sensational Half Wig N Pony Wrap Instant Up N Down UD 4 (1) - you wear this style more than one way, and the entire purchase is under \$30. You can either purchase on amazon or a local beauty supply store.



- Ponytail hair - these are styles you can do at home, and they will not break the bank. You can purchase online through amazon or your local beauty store. The price range can run \$10-\$25 but the amazing thing with proper care it can last you a while.



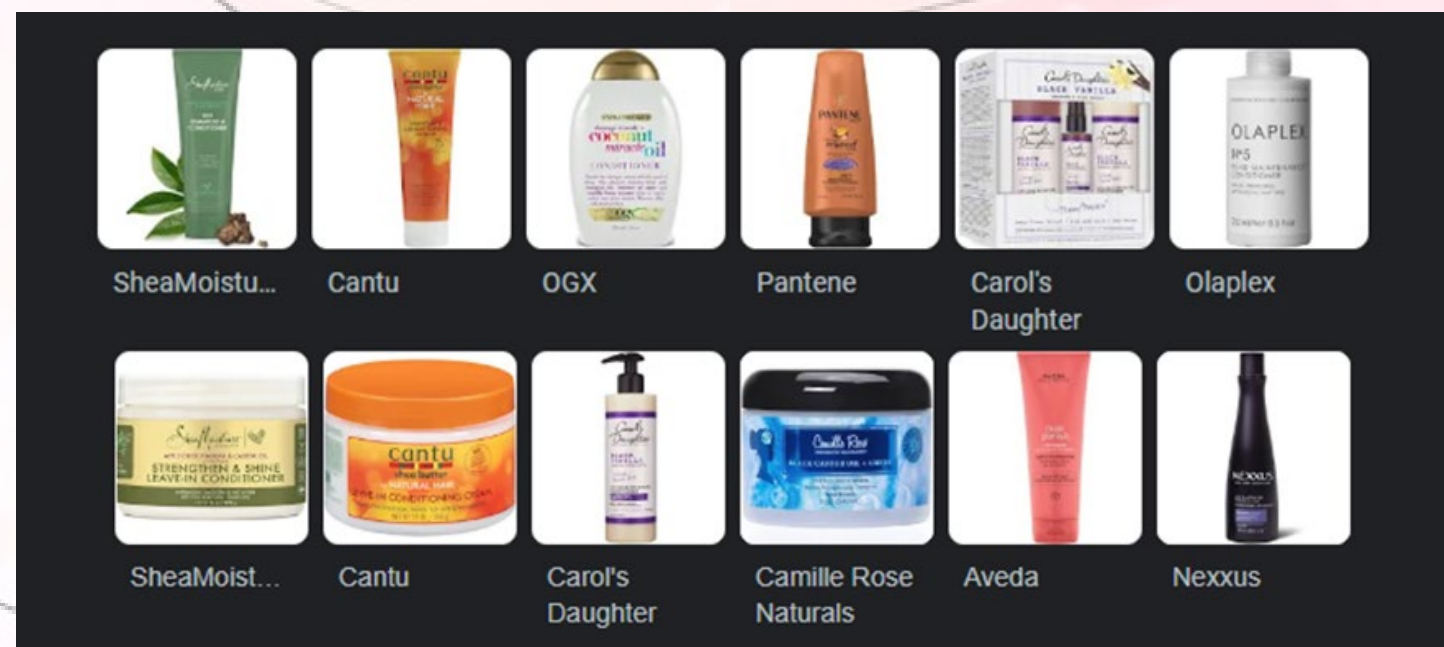
THERE ARE OTHER AFFORDABLE WAYS TO SLAY YOUR HAIR AND ONE OF THOSE POPULAR TRENDS IS WIGS. YOU CAN EASILY GO FROM LONG TO SHORT IN SECONDS ALSO THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH WIGS. TODAY'S WIG IS BECOMING MORE CREATIVE AND IN HIGHER DEMAND. THESE ARE SOME IDEAS YOU CAN TRY THAT DO NOT DAMAGE YOUR NATURAL TRESSES.

- Pixie-cut wigs are fun for those considering going short but too nervous to cut their own wigs. Give these wigs a try and be bold with color, curls, and so much more. These wigs can be purchased on amazon or your local beauty supply store price range may vary from 30 bucks and up. Synthetic hair is preferred for those who aren't the greatest at using curling tools!



LET'S GET INTO SOME HAIR PRODUCTS! IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR HAIR CONDITIONED, TRIMMED, AND MOISTURIZED EVERY TIME YOU PERUSE NEW HAIRSTYLES. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROUTINES IS HAIR WASH DAY, YOU MUCH WASH YOUR HAIR BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY NEW STYLE. ANOTHER IMPORTANT GESTURE IS CONDITIONING YOUR HAIR RIGHT AFTER THOSE WASHES, CONDITIONER BRINGS BACK NOURISHMENT TO THE HAIR FOLLICLES.

- Shampoo and conditioner for all textures are important because we all have beautiful textures that make our hair unique. Here are some affordable products to consider for the wash day!



TINIKA THOMAS

Inside tips for everyday make-up routine – regardless of whether you are a newbie or experienced in the makeup world.

VEGAN MAKEUP – HOW IT'S TAKING OVER THE BEAUTY INDUSTRY

Vegan makeup is becoming trendier in most recent years. More and more consumers around the world are starting to make more conscious decisions about what they are consuming and how they consume it. There is more of a demand for more eco-friendly and cruelty-free products. Vegan cosmetics are made without materials of animal origin or their traces. Vegan cosmetics offer a more cruelty-free product with natural ingredients. There are a lot of companies claiming their products are cruelty-free which can become a challenge for the customer. The challenge is if the consumer is not educated about what cruelty-free products have they can be fooled. These products do not contain toxic chemicals, sodium lauryl sulfate, polyethylene, petroleum distillates, or parabens. I will be exploring a few popular cosmetic companies to get top vegan free and cruelty makeup products for your everyday needs.

Juice Beauty

Juice Beauty makes all-natural organic skin care products and cosmetics. Juicy Beauty was born out of a passion to deliver high performance yet beyond clean skincare. These product collections with clinically proven results target anti-wrinkle, brightening, firming, blemish/oil control, microbiome glow, and makeup with skincare benefits. You can't go wrong with Juice Beauty products from cleansers to foundations. All Juicy Beauty products are available on their website for purchase.

W311 People

W311 People believe less is always more. This vegan makeup brand makes quality cosmetics. That's why they use the cleanest ingredients guaranteed. This company is on to be accessible to all, ensuring more people can choose clean and be well. All W311 People products are available on their website.

Kat Von D Beauty

Born in an iconic tattoo studio, rooted in a dream of unrestricted beauty a tattoo-inspired makeup was created. Kat Von D Beauty is 100% vegan plus cruelty-free makeup. All their products always will be a high performance you have their word. In their process, they primarily remove carmine, which is used as a pigment, from its products. You can purchase all Kat Von D Beauty products on their website.

Cover FX

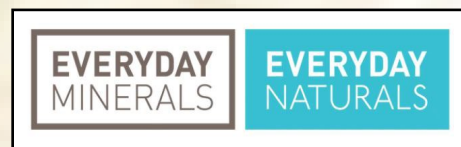
Cover FX is a leading vegan and cruelty-free cosmetics brand. The company provides its customers with high-performing products that are made with safe and clean ingredients, including soothing tea leaves and antioxidant-rich algae. Priding itself on providing products for all skin types and tones, Cover FX is well-known for its foundation that comes in over 40 different shades. You can purchase all Cover FX products on their website.

Milk Makeup

Despite Milk Makeup's name, you won't find any milk in its products! The NYC-based brand has been cruelty-free since day one and became 100% vegan in 2018. This meant removing animal-derived products like honey, beeswax, gelatin, and cholesterol from its line. Aside from cosmetics, the company has an impressive skincare line with synthetic and natural alternatives to animal-based products, including hydrating moisturizers and serums. You can purchase all Milk Makeup on their website.

Everyday Minerals

Despite Milk Makeup's name, you won't find any milk in its products! The NYC-based brand As an affordable brand with a full line of options, Everyday Minerals products are 100% vegan, all-natural, sustainable, and cruelty-free. Handmade in Austin, Texas, the brand also provides eco-friendly and recyclable packaging. Focused on ultimate customization, the company's website allows you to tailor your makeup look by cosmetics, formula, and skin type. And with face powders in 24 shades, tinted lip balms, and a skincare line, it would be hard not to find something you like from Everyday Minerals. You can purchase all Everyday Minerals on their website.



FOOTNOTE: TOP TRENDS GUIDE.COM BY ANA ROBERTS MAY 19, 2022

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

ARIELLE PERSHAY

Tips & Tricks to stay Fit

Hello beautiful people! I am back with some fun tips & tricks to stay fit. This particular workout is very popular, some may turn their nose up, while others will embrace it, however, I can promise you once I break down why this workout is important it can guarantee to change your thoughts about it.

Are you ready to Twerk it out with me!? Let's go!

My tip for more tricks to stay a fit challenge for you is Twerking. Yes, you read it correctly. The challenge is Twerking. Ladies before you flip the page let me expound on the benefits and the history of Twerking

What is Twerking and who started it?

Answer:

According to blackthen.com/origins-twerking-began. "Twerking" originated from Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa. Where the very similar style of dance known as Mapouka dance originated. The dance has existed for centuries and consists of movement in the buttocks. How cool is this!



(<https://blackthen.com/origins-twerking-began/>)

Studies also show on the same website blackthen.com/origins-twerking-began, the name term Twerking comes from New Orleans' the early 80s-90s bounce scene. Modern-day twerking is very similar to Mapouka dance and has existed for centuries. Twerking is also prevalent throughout the reggae and dancehall culture. I am sure you have seen your favorite reggae artist always incorporate twerking in the videos and songs

Now that we are a little informed on the history of twerking, let us move on to the benefits.



What are the benefits twerking can bring to my body?

Twerking may seem like it is just working out one part of your body which is the butt, nope, twerking actually works out every muscle in your body. Yes, EVERY muscle in your body. Let's dive deep into this. According to guardian.ng/life/some-benefits-of-twerking-you-might-not-be-aware-of/. Twerking tones and grows your butt, your thighs become super strong, your hip flexibility increase, and more than anything it boosts your confidence. Ladies here is another cool fact about twerking, you can burn up to 500 calories in 60 minutes of twerking. Just to add my own two cents in, twerking also works out your lower stomach area. Ladies don't be afraid to twerk because the benefits are better than your average workouts.

<https://guardian.ng/life/some-benefits-of-twerking-you-might-not-be-aware-of/>.com



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Twerking is so fun, easy, and a splash of sexy workouts that you can do to burn calories and tone your full body while strengthening your buttocks. I know you may see and hear twerking in the videos, celebrities' music/videos, and professional dancers doing it. I can assure you, you can do it too. Below I am going to give you a step-by-step breakdown of how to twerk the right way. Please confirm with your physician if you can participate in this challenge.



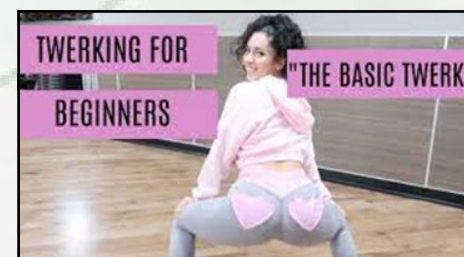
Ladies are you ready to start the twerk challenge?

Let's TWERK! One day a week for 20 minutes I want you to Twerk to your favorite song. Following my beginner's step-by-step below. Another helpful tip, if you are still a little hesitant, is to do the twerk challenge, you can do squats, but you will still get the same benefits.

LADIES FOLLOW THESE THREE STEPS BELOW, LET'S GET OUR MEGAN THEE STALLION KNEES ON!

Step 1:

Get into a squat position. Make sure you are low to the ground, feet apart, back straight up. Place your hands on your knees, or wherever you feel comfortable placing them.



Step 2:

Pop your booty outward. I know this sounds weird. Ex. Pretend you are about to sit in a chair. Pop your booty away from your stomach.



Step 3:

With some rhythm pop your booty back and forth. Make sure you keep step on and step 2 on your mind. The more you practice the better you will become and let's not forget nice and tone.

Ladies twerking is so fun and healthy to do if you do it right. Not only will it sculpt your body it also tones the booty, grows your booty, and build muscles throughout your whole body, and lastly, it also brings sexy confidence out that you didn't realize you had. Ladies the next time you see a video of girls twerking don't turn your nose up at them but join them. You are still the beautiful/classy boos just with a little bounce to it.

I hope you enjoy this challenge. I look forward to some beautiful tone booty and bodies.



LINDA P. KORNEGAY

MEET AUTHOR OF DADDY TEARS, A DAUGHTER'S SEARCH

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to the Author's Corner of COBS Magazine. We are pleased to have first-time author Linda Kornegay. Linda's passion is to share her life lessons with others to hopefully inspire and motivate them. Can you tell us your backstory?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

My back story is really an act of love. I was a young mother of 24 years old loving on my newborn, my firstborn. While looking at him fondly, I began to wonder about my biological father's family history. I do not know the history to inform my son. He may ask about our family history, and I would know nothing of my biological father. This thought was a little troubling to me, so I started my search again for my biological father as a young adult. Previously, I had searched during my younger years by asking questions and going to the library. As time lingered, my thoughts were not so focused on finding my biological father until now while holding my newborn, my firstborn.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

When did you begin your writing career, and what prompted you to do so? Did writing come to you naturally?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

I started writing in 2012 after God allowed me to meet my biological father. I was prompted to do so because it was so overwhelming. I found myself feeling some of the stages of grief. Even though my father was alive, I still felt a sense of loss. The stages of grief I felt were denial and acceptance. Yes, my father accepted me but for so long, I was denied and unwanted by him. I had to, needed to write about those feelings. The writing came naturally because it was as if I was talking to myself about myself. Nobody was present to say, I got to go now because I had been talking for so long.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your book? How did you come up with the title? What is the main empowering message that you aim to share with the world? Did your actual results align with your expectations?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

My book is a short love story where God allowed me to meet my biological father for the first time ten years ago. I share some of my journey as to how I got to the point to meet him. The title came because I cried so much as I was writing. I was writing because of my unknown daddy. He caused me to cry unknowingly. He caused



me to cry Daddy Tears and because I had been searching for him, I added to the title, A Daughter's Search. So now you can read my short love story called Daddy Tears, A Daughter's Search. The actual results did align with my expectations. I trusted God and church people when it was said, "God will answer your prayers." I prayed and I believed that my dad and I would meet. God allowed it to happen. Thank you, God.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Who was the greatest influence on your decision to write this book, and in what ways did they encourage you?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

The greatest influence was my mother-in-law. My mother-in-law is a genuine kindhearted woman of God I know. She speaks loudly with wisdom but in a quiet voice. She speaks so lovingly that one finds themselves listening to her intensely. One day I read my written words to her

because I did not want to come across as being mean or hateful. My mother-in-law said, "Linda, that can help a lot of people." I said, "no ma'am. I was just writing to get out some of my feelings because I felt so overwhelmed, and I had to get it out. I was just writing for me." My mother-in-law said, "You like helping people and this can help a lot of people. Then she asked, "You do like helping people?" I humbly said, "yes ma'am." This is how my writings turned into a book.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Did you ever have doubting moments through this process? How many times did you want to throw in the towel and what kept you motivated?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

Doubting moments about finding my father? Yes ma'am. As I asked more questions and sought, but in vain, I felt like throwing in the towels numerous times.

Why? Because I did not find him right away. What kept me motivated was I wanted to know. I know that God will answer prayers. I was not sure how it would be answered but I believed God would allow me to find my father. Doubting moments about writing the book? Yes ma'am. I was writing personal stuff about myself, and I wanted to stop several times. I am very private and did not wish to share everything that was written. What motivated me was therapy in writing. I was sharing some of my innermost thoughts that I dared not talk about. I was motivated because I felt a sense of release. I was verbalizing my feelings. I was getting it out. Also, reluctantly in my mind, I could hear my wonderful and loving mother-in-law saying, "I could be helping someone."

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

When you finally found your biological father can you describe that moment? Did you have to learn true forgiveness or by that point had you already forgiven him?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

On the phone, oh my goodness, I was elated and surprised. I answered an unknown number which I don't usually do. I am so glad I answered. I was so overjoyed when we had our first real conversation. In-person, oh my goodness again. I was so nervous and excited. My dad picked me up from the airport. As he was driving up in his malibu, I was straining so hard to try to see what he looked like. It was dark, then he parked briefly so we could put the suitcases in. I got in on the passenger side to hug my daddy for the first time. I was very happy and thankful. Forgiveness? I never really thought about it until my husband shared to write that I forgave him in the book. My husband informed me that I had forgiven him. My husband had seen what I went through, and my husband saw what I went through meeting him. You see I never thought about forgiving him. As I write now crying answering your question, it is as if he had done nothing wrong. Oh my God. Did I really feel this way, like abuse when someone is hurting you, but you go on.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What kinds of feedback did you hear right away from readers? What is the most moving or fulfilling experience you've had because of writing this book?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

These are some of the reviews from Amazon without names:

1. Could not wait to get to the end of the book

Very inspirational book. So enjoyed reading Linda's journey and could not be happier for her to have an answer to her questions concerning her real dad.

2. Never give up on the things you desire to be persistent

This book is a short read The author allows you to travel with her on this journey of determination, rejection, and love. It's a wonderfully written book I'm glad she shared her journey and love story

3. When it's a matter of the heart.....

This story is one that evidences how we never truly know those around us. We never truly know a person's yearning and even their undeniable heart's desire. Who knew what passions lie waiting in the author's unyielding heart? Who knew how the feeling of being denied by a biological father made the author twist on the inside with the feeling of possible abandonment? It didn't mean forever, simply just not now. God knew, that's who, as well as the author, who had more than a story to tell but an experienced journey to share..... as she did so in writing Daddy's Tears. This is truly a love conquers-all storyline. Wonderful reading. Enjoy and share the victory of those tears shared by the author and others.....well worth the read.

The most fulfilling experience I have had.

1. My mother-in-law was right, my story is helping people and I thank God.
2. I had the honor to hear and see my mother and father laugh and talk with each other.
3. God allowed me to unite with all my families in love and much gratitude.
4. Hearing the personal testimonies of the fathers and others are heartwarming and heartfelt.
5. I have experienced true satisfaction and peace in knowing that I did my best in telling the truths in my love story.
6. One of the unexpected fulfilling experiences is having young children, eight years old, and adults ask me to help them to write their books.
7. The privilege of introducing my phenomenal publisher, Laquita Parks, of paprovipublishing.com, is a gift.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Many aspiring authors would love to write about their journeys but may be fearful of the process. What is a piece of advice that you can share that helped you through your writing process and your decision to share your story?

LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

Pray, do it if you really want to write about your journey. Look deep inside of yourself and do it because you want to. No matter what anyone else may advise, it's your decision.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are you looking forward to for the remainder of this year and 2023? Can you share where your book is available for purchase? Can you share your social media platforms? We wish you continuous success!



LINDA P. KORNEGAY:

I look forward to telling you and others that God did this. God orchestrated this for me to share with you. I look forward to seeing how God will prepare, equip, and use this 10-year-old child to become the inspiring 61-year-old lady that He wants. I am looking forward to individuals becoming empowered and motivated through the search for their loved ones. I am looking forward to watching my book in a hallmark movie or another movie production company. My book can be on Amazon. You may find my book soon on most national book distribution sites. Of course, you may order personal copies thru my email: daddytears@yahoo.com or send a mailing request to PO Box 104 Bunn, NC 27508



THE BLACK-OWNED EXPERIENCE

Written by Trevi Booker Pershay

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, it has been a blessing and curse to many black-owned restaurant establishments. There are some black-owned restaurants unfortunately they have not survived during or after the COVID pandemic. As a people, we know how it is to suffer a loss and maintain a gain. We don't give up that quickly. The Media focuses on the killing, the violence, and the drugs as if these situations are who we are. Black-owned businesses are changing the game. We are taking back our community by bringing in new businesses as well as hiring those in the community. However, I am pleased to write about the wave of restaurants, chilled lounges, and fun environments that are opening all over the New York Metro Area. Check out a few of the hottest spots around.

BROOKLYN

BLACK NILE — 705 FLATBUSH AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11225

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

Hasson and Fanerra Dupree are the owners and chefs of Black Nile Seafood & Soulfood. Located in Crown Heights, the couple prides itself on serving unique Southern-style dishes with Halal meat and poultry. Their signature seasonings and sauces are prepared with fresh herbs to deliver tantalizing flavors that transform side dishes, like their Coconut Yams and Seafood Mac & Cheese, into main attractions.

NEGRIL BK RESTAURANT 592 NOSTRAND AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11216

Website: www.negrilbk.com or IG - negrilbk

A few years ago, Malissa Browne brought Negril BK, a Caribbean-inspired restaurant, to 5th Avenue in Park Slope. Negril BK brings authentic island flavors to your taste buds with a penchant for innovative Caribbean cuisines and rum cocktails. Known for traditional Braised Oxtail and Jerk Salmon dishes, you can now order directly with their own Negril BK app

PEACHES — 393 LEWIS AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11233

The Peaches Grand — 285 Grand Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11238

Hothouse Bed-Stuy — 415 Tompkins Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11216

Website: www.bcrestaurantgroup.com

Ben Grossman and Craig Samuel founded BCRG in 2006 with the opening of their first restaurant. Since then, they have opened four Peaches Restaurants throughout Brooklyn, offering different Southern options, from Lowcountry Shrimp and Grits to Louisiana Gumbo and their famous Nashville Style Hot Chicken. According to the New York Times, article Peaches restaurant is the FUBU at its finest.

HARLEM

CHOCOLAT RESTAURANT & BAR — 2223 FREDERICK DOUGLAS BLVD @, W 120TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10026

Website: www.chocolatharlem.com or IG: chocolatharlem

In 2010, Leon decided open up Chocolat Restaurant and Bar located on Frederick Douglas and 120th street. A great location with an eclectic and diverse crowd that truly represents Harlem. Chocolat serves a delicious array of soul food and contemporary American cuisine. Chocolat quickly became a popular establishment known for its beautiful design and incredible food.

No matter what the venture, Leon Ellis continues to strive for the best and put forth the best product possible. He fundamentally believes in putting God first and giving thanks for the various opportunities that he's been given. Leon starts his day with a prayer and morning run because keeping the mind and body right will ensure that he has performed optimally. Community is also extremely important to Leon. He continues to do what he can to make sure that those in the community who are in need can receive resources and help by using his various platforms as an outlet. During the recent COVID-19 outbreaks, Leon teamed up with several organizations to help feed essential staff and others in the community who are in need. In addition, he believes that he has a responsibility as a black businessman and entrepreneur to the Harlem Community in which he does business. His commitment is demonstrated in many ways including the development of an extensive training program for residents of Harlem.



SUGAR HILL CREAMERY — 3 LOCATIONS

184 Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox) New York, NY 10026

3629 Broadway, New York, NY 10031

55 Water Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

Website: www.sugarhillcreamery.com or IG: sugarhillcreamery

Petrushka, is co-owner of Sugar Hill Creamery with her husband Nick Larsen. Before opening Sugar Hill Creamery with her husband, Petrushka worked as Vice President for Programs & Education at the Brooklyn Children's Museum and Program Director at the Laundromat Project, a non-profit organization committed to building resilient neighborhoods using art, art making, and culture as platforms for meaningful exchanges between New York residents. In her spare time, she guest curates exhibitions at Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art and Storytelling; is an Adjunct Lecturer in Art Education at the City College of New York, and serves the Harlem-based non-profit Harlem4Kids as a Board Member. She is the proud mom to three children ages eight and under and has been a Harlem resident for close to 16 years. They serve handmade, small-batch ice cream and non-dairy frozen desserts with both seasonal and classic flavors. Many of the available flavors are inspired by their Caribbean and Midwestern cultures.



RED ROOSTER HARLEM — 310 LENOX AVENUE @ WEST 125TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10027

Website: www.redroosterharlem.com or IG- roosterharlem

Co-Creators Andrew Chapman and Marcus Samuelsson have long wanted to open a restaurant that would have a positive impact on the neighborhood's culinary landscape and its community at large.

Located in the heart of Harlem, Red Rooster Harlem serves comfort food that celebrates the roots of American cuisine and the neighborhood's diverse culinary traditions. We seek to share the story of Harlem with our guests and offer a space that celebrates local artists, musicians, and culinary talents alike. We embrace today's Harlem with a spirit of inclusiveness and community by hiring our family of staff from within the community, inspiring better eating through neighborhood cooking classes, and buying from local purveyors.

Named in honor of the legendary Harlem speakeasy that attracted neighborhood folk, jazz greats, and noteworthy figures of the 20th century from Adam Clayton Powell Jr. to Nat King Cole and James Baldwin, we're privileged to share our namesake with the original Red Rooster.



HARLEM BISCUIT COMPANY — 2082 FREDERICK DOUGLASS BLVD, NEW YORK, NY 10026

Website: www.harlembiscuitcompany.com

Chef Melvin "Boots" Johnson has been at it for years. Perfecting his craft, creating new recipes, and becoming a leader in the culinary world. Taught by his grandmother, Chef Melvin has used his homegrown skills, coupled with the instructions from chefs he's worked under, to create his signature style that encompasses Cajun/Creole, Southern, and contemporary styles of cooking.

The journey hasn't been easy. It's hard to stick to your roots in the ever-changing culinary world. Chef Melvin has not only done that but has been a bit of a trendsetter in the process. He's written menus and created recipes for some of the top restaurants in San Diego. At the young age of 30, Chef Melvin was the proud owner of the first speakeasy-style restaurant in the Historic Gaslamp District. Quite an achievement for a kid from inner-city Los Angeles.



BRONX



SEAFOOD KINGZ – 634 CITY ISLAND AVENUE, BRONX, NY

IG: [SeafoodKing2](#)

CEO/Founder of Seafood Kingz Darryl Lelie is no stranger to the restaurant industry. He's been in the game for 2 decades and is widely known for his original location of Seafood Kingz located in Queens, NY. History is being made a new seafood joint, Seafood Kingz2, held its grand opening on February 26th in Bronx City Island. Seafood Kingz2 is the first black-owned restaurant on City Island.

BAUCEE'S BITES – 920 E. 233RD STREET, BRONX, NY

Website: www.bauceesbites.com

The owner of Bauce Bites is Rasheed Jordon a.k.a. Baucee. Baucee's Bites is inspired by my dad's nickname for me as a child and my love for the tastier things in life. Some things never change. As simple as it sounds, driving with my family to get a burger or ice cream was some of the best times I had growing up.



QUEENS



THE DOOR – 163-07 BAISLEY BLVD QUEENS, NY (JAMAICAN RESTAURANT)

www.thedoorrestaurantnyc.com

Founders Joan Lewis and Christopher Roberts are owners of The Door Restaurant. The door offers traditional authentic Caribbean dishes. At the door, we strive to offer the most delicious Caribbean and Jamaican food in an elegant atmosphere. Our guests can enjoy a wide variety of options on the menus such as many different curries, jerked chicken, and different styles of fish.

BLACKEYED PEAS AND COLLARD GREENS – VEGAN SOUL FOOD – 40-05 SKILLMAN AVE, LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11104

Website: www.negribk.com or IG - [negribk](#)

Sandra Mathis is a contemporary Southern cook born in Harlem, New York. She is of African descent/from Sierra Leone a country in West Africa. Raised by her mother and grandmother, who both were born and raised in Magnolia, North Carolina. Sandra's love for cooking came from spending time with her grandmother cooking together as a child. Sandra is the owner of Grace Kelli Cupcakes, formed in 2017, an online Bakery named after her now 9-year-old daughter. Sandra also formed Black-Eyed Peas and Collard Greens in 2020, an online restaurant.



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TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF
Church 2 Girl

THE FIGHT FOR MY LIFE

COMING FALL 2022

YOU JUST DON'T WAKE UP STRONG

ft

BUILT2LAST

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