

# TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT BROADCASTING

MAGAZINE

ISSUE #30-  
2015

21ST CENTURY  
**WOMEN**  
AREN'T DOING WHAT!?

# KEITH POWERS

TALKS "STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON",  
MTV'S "FAKING IT", AND "MAXIMUM IMPACT"



TWISTA. RODNEY STEPP & THE STEPPIN' OUT BAND  
FEATURING STEVE COOPER. NIZM. JMUSIQ. ALEX LATTIMORE. LIL GEORGE.

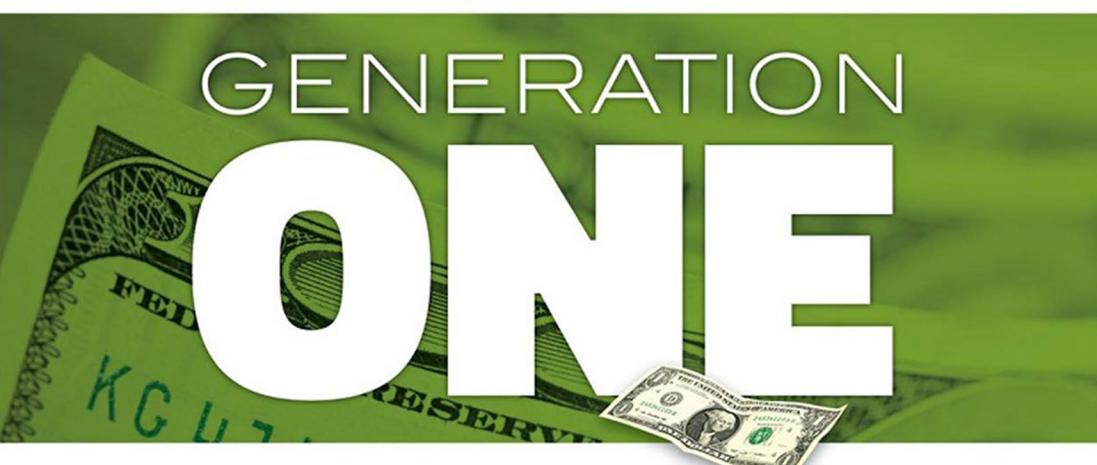
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"This will be the last generation that starts from scratch. We will build wealth."



## THE SEARCH FOR BLACK WEALTH

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It's that time again. As media, we try to make it a point not to print, post, or share completely false or misleading content. I have always wanted to be able to use my voice/influence to say something of value whether it be through music, my artwork, or a media outlet such as this one. On almost a daily basis, people are arguing, debating, and becoming outraged by things that are often not even true to begin with. I guess doing a little research or only dealing with credible sources is too hard for most. Personally, I have a problem with "taking advantage" of people but from what I've learned, a lot of the most successful people in business live by a certain code when it comes to morals and in order for them to get ahead, others have to get stepped on, mislead, or completely manipulated. Who is at fault between the two? Is it the person doing the manipulating or the person being manipulated? Furthermore, do you keep telling people to "wake up" or do you advance while they are asleep? Just a thought.

P.S. "Twenty4Seven Magazine: The Mixtape Vol. 2" will release late August as well as our "Maximize Your Twenty4Seven" Tees. For other news, visit [www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com](http://www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com).

Tyrene Davis



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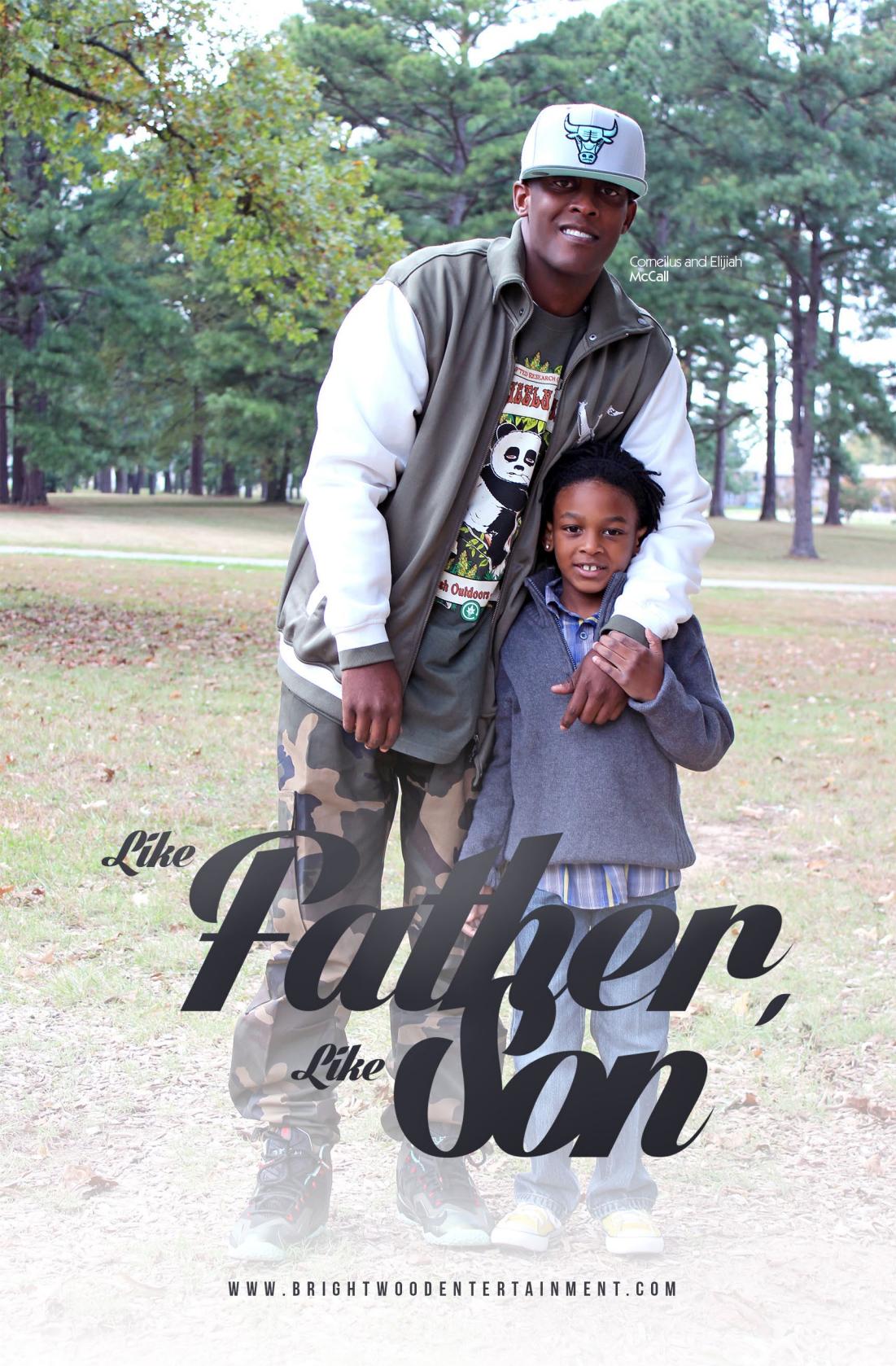
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**NIZM**  
CHICAGO, IL

**Where are you from? Describe your upbringing.**  
I am from Chicago, raised on both the South and North sides of the city. My upbringing was one of a very blue-collar nature. I had both parents, one a bill collector, the other a former sheriff turned preacher who was very spiritual, but realistic.

**What made you get into music. Are you signed?**  
I was a writer of poetry at a young age. Writing came naturally because my father and sister are writers. My interest in Hip-Hop came from stealing my sister's tapes (Heavy D, X-Clan and LL Cool J) back in the day. Combine that with an eclectic household. My sister was into Alternative music and Hip-Hop, my mom was into R&B and Jazz, and my dad was into Blues and Country. At any given moment you could hear, Heavy D, Duran Duran, Kool in the Gang, or America. I am not signed at this time.

**What's the meaning behind your name?**  
It had no meaning when I came up with it (right after high school). I just wanted something different and came up with it playing around during a game of Scrabble. Years later, I found out it meant "new" in Japanese and "discipline" in Urdu.

**Do you find it hard to do music in your city with the rate of violence going on?**  
Not at all. Though I am VERY aware of the violence that is in Chicago, it has no bearing on "doing" music. If anything, it makes me more aware to do music. The misconception is that all "rap" music coming out of Chicago is affiliated or synonymous with violence and that can't be further from the truth. While we are all aware of it, for many it is inspirati-

on to cover and discuss it, while showing an alternative to that lifestyle.

**Tell us about your single, "Life In My City".**  
That song was actually written in 2002. The relevance is almost frightening, given today's cultural climate in the city. The song was written from a socioeconomic perspective to give an outsider a bit of depth of the "hood" that isn't always caught. A lot of people assume they know the hood, but taking them into the intricacies of it the way an observer from the environment sees it gives the listener a different perspective so they aren't so quick to judge negatively.

**What separates you from every other artist?**  
I am not them and they are not me. I speak from my perspective. I am a blue collar, educated black man, but still in touch with my roots. I'm just telling my story, my thoughts, and my emotions with a bit of wit humor and the like.

**What has been the hardest thing about the music business to you thus far?**  
For me the challenge was learning to separate the music from the business. As artists, we become in love with the music but learning that this is a business is difficult because of my passion for the music. But, if you don't take care of the business then the music doesn't happen.

**How can people contact you for business?**  
Via my website: [www.refgenmusic.com](http://www.refgenmusic.com) or [www.facebook.com/NizmLaVerite](http://www.facebook.com/NizmLaVerite). For booking, contact my manager Johnique Nicole via email at [johnique@refinedgmusic.com](mailto:johnique@refinedgmusic.com) or phone at 312-857-6293.

**JMUSIQ**  
LOS ANGELES, CA



Born in Georgia, JMusiQ started out as a kid who just had a swift way with words, and it was not until the age of 15 that he realized his talents. After experiencing peer pressure from his now long time friend and producer DFree, JMusiQ decided to take his skills seriously. Writing his own music, influenced by his life experiences and having moved to Nigeria by the age of 9, then relocating to California, the art of flowetry just came easy to JMusiQ. Everyone experiences defining moments through our life that help us define who we are as individuals. Winning the "battle of the bands" in High School was the defining moment when JMusiQ realized that he had found his true calling with music.

Constantly honing his skills while attending school full time, JMusiQ has faithfully performed throughout the Los Angeles area and built a solid fan base of teens and college students. While signed to Grind Kings under the artist name "Jared" His first EP, entitled "All the Way" was an amazing experience for him. JMusiQ has also performed at the Nigerian Presidential inauguration in 2011 and the "Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria" pageant in 2013; his video for "I'm Gone" made it on MTV Africa and other major video outlets.

JMusiQ has been featured on a handful of successful mixtapes coming out of California, including The BlaQOut, a BlaQ Kennedy project, and Southern Cali Bullshit (SCBS) a One Six project. The musically nourished artist inspired by the success of great originators like Jay-Z, Kanye West, Talib Kweli, Mos Def, and Eminem just to name a few. Without a doubt from the beginning, JMusiQ held a promising dedication in his heart to the creation

of music. Currently JMusiQ is focused on promoting his newest project, MusiQ.

"MusiQ is an introduction to my solo career orchestrated by me. This is my first project where I haven't had any outside influences directing me. This is very much my vision for what I want my music to be. In just 8 songs this project reveals so much, it's uplifting, it's sexy, and it's a fun listen."

A businessman first: Handling his own publishing and newly graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelors degree in Communications, JMusiQ now attends UCLA's Music Certificate program. JMusiQ is anything but ordinary, he shows that through his many accolades. Producer, DFree is the backbone of his cinematic sounds and breathes the life of the party into the music that he creates for JMusiQ.

Currently JMusiQ is number 1 on the National Airplay Independent Chart, #98 on the National Airplay Top 200 Chart, and number 21 on the National Airplay Top 50 R&B/Hip-Hop Chart. A West coast tour is being planned for JMusiQ to promote his EP MusiQ, his charting lead single California Dreamin' and it's video release.

Recent press for JMusiQ includes his in studio interview on BReal.TV and several premium features on sites like Rhyme Junkie, Examiner, ThisIs50, JackThriller.com, GiGiCapone.com and more. To keep up with JMusiQ, please visit [www.jmusiq.com](http://www.jmusiq.com). For media inquiries please contact [info@gigicaponepr.com](mailto:info@gigicaponepr.com).



PHOTO BY MARC CARTWRIGHT

# MAXIMUM IMPACT

KEITH POWERS

Budding actor and model, Keith Powers is a series regular of the Teen Choice Award winning MTV series, "Faking It" and has a role as Dr. Dre's younger brother, Tyree Crayton in the highly anticipated upcoming Lengendary Pictures biographical drama, *Straight Outta Compton*.

INTERVIEW BY LUCKY SMITH

**Introduce yourself for us. How long have you been in the business?**

I am Keith Powers and I am from Sacramento, the capital of California. I am blessed to be from such a city which taught me to appreciate the things I've experienced today. I have been in the business since I was 17 years old.

**We understand you were a serious athlete. Can you give us some background on that?**

I played football from 8-17 years old. I stopped after highschool. I also ran track in highschool and played basketball up to my Sophomore year.

**What made you decide to go another route instead of following the sports route?**

I was good at sports but I was not really driven enough to go pro, honestly. Reality hit me when I was finding out that I would not be playing football at the next level. It was a blessing because I found my way into the modeling industry and eventually acting.

**What was the process of getting picked up as a model and what agency was it with?**

I got signed to JE Models SF first. I was recommended to meet with them when they needed young new

African American models. First, I sent regular photos then shortly after I met with them and signed that same day. Later, I eventually signed with Wilhelmina LA.

**What have been some of the biggest or best modeling jobs you've done so far?**

I worked for Aeropostale, which was very fun. The Abercrombie shoot was a great experience as well. I loved shooting for GQ and of course I loved walking for Calvin Klien in Milan. That was such an amazing experience.

**How did you transition from modeling to acting?**

I signed with my commercial/theatrical agency HRI Talent after being recommended by Wilhelmina LA then shortly signed with Luber Roklin Entertainment. I told Wilhelmina I would be interested in acting at first because I felt like it went hand in hand with modeling. Acting was definitely tougher than I expected but I fell in love with it.

**What shows have you appeared in?**

I am on MTV's "Faking It", Yahoo Screen's "Sin City Saints", I guest starred in "Pretty Little Liars", and I am working on an ABC show at the moment called "Recovery Road".



PHOTO BY MARC CARTWRIGHT

*“Hard work is undefeated. At the end of the day, we have to work on our craft. Continue to work, it is not about short cuts.”*

**Great!** We understand that you are in the most anticipated movie of the year, “Straight Outta Compton”. What role are you playing?

I am playing Tyree Crayton. Dr. Dre's little brother.

**How does it make you feel to be in such a big movie of such a legend of a group?**

It is amazing. I feel I have a big responsibility playing Dr. Dre's little brother and I am super excited.

**What was it like working Ice Cube and Dr. Dre?**

Working with Dr. Dre and Ice Cube was a humbling experience and mind blowing because I grew up on all things west coast.

**What was the biggest thing you learned from that experience?**

The biggest thing I learned was that I was going to be a part of history and seeing how important the film was to Dr. Dre and Ice Cube and how serious they took this movie on set. I got to experience being on such a huge set and learned a lot from my amazing castmates.

**What other movies are you featured in coming up?**

I am going to Russia soon to film a movie called, ‘Maximum Impact’.

**Considering you are so multi-talented, which would you consider your biggest love at this point?**  
My biggest love at this point is acting.

**Do you have a 5 year plan? If so, what is it?**

I would love to be a lead male actor with lead roles in studio films and a series regular on a prime time show.

**What advice would you give upcoming actors, models, or athletes trying to get ahead?**

Hard work is undefeated. At the end of the day, we have to work on our craft. Continue to work. It is not all about short cuts.

**What would you say to the young black males who feel they can't get ahead to achieve their dreams?**

I'd say continue to work hard and do not take things so personal. Also, embrace being who you are and even if you are the token, embrace that as well instead of looking at it as a disadvantage. At the end of the day, we all have disadvantages.

**Lastly, how can you be reached?**

Follow me on my Instagram @KeithPowers or Twitter @KeithTPowers. My website is [www.thisiskeithpowers.com](http://www.thisiskeithpowers.com)



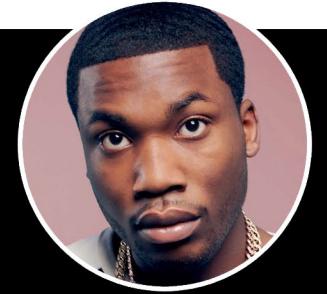
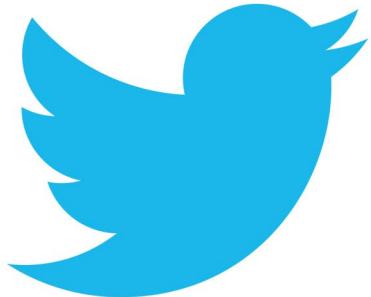


HOMETOWN: PASADENA, CA

CALI HAS BEEN ACTING AND DOING THEATRE SINCE THE AGE OF 5. SHE HAS BEEN MODELING FOR A YEAR AND ENJOYS PLAYING THE PIANO.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEKORTE  
[WWW.INFINIDSTUDIOS.COM](http://WWW.INFINIDSTUDIOS.COM)

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## TWEET DAT!

**@TAXSTONE:** Nigga pushed the stroller twice and said he don't wanna have sex now Yall declared him a good man fucking idiots

**@THEREALKIASHINE:** I love that @ MeekMill speaks what he felt. Know I believed drake didn't write his own music when I got my credit for #Bestievahad

**@DJBoogieBang:** My lil brother and his girl been together since like 2005. I be trynna get him to cheat but he not goin. Good dude.

**@YaboySkeete:** All we do is hashtag & complain about how bad white ppl treat us like some suckas

**@FollowTheLita:** Talk of surgical procedures, body morphing, waist cinctures, booty lifters, injections & fillers have become casual & common. We are failing

**@IntID:** Going to a job you hate at the moment isn't so bad when you got some shit up your sleeve...

**@lilduval:** It's funny how social media got regular people being politically correct. The fuck u trying not to get black balled from?

**@keemiemillz:** My cousin pregnant. She a stud, I asked what happened, she said "I was drinkin with my homie and he fucked around and got ya boy pregnant"

\*ALL CONTENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED EXACTLY HOW IT WAS WRITTEN.

SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE "TWEET DAT" SECTION TO [TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM) OR @TWENTY4SEVENMAG IN YOUR TWEETS.

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## #WANNAKNOW

**@JovitaMoore:** #WannaKnow how I can get those 4 minutes back I wasted listening to that response

**@ProduKtJRC:** This Hip Hop \$hit is a Ruthless Game. Meek Mill proved that just 1 mistake can crush all you've worked for. #WannaKnow is his 2nd.

**@karrineandco:** Sis, I would just dump homeboy, apologize to Papi, blame it on the D, then make a duet diss record like you never met dude. #wannaknow

**@acekwame:** All he wanted was a tweet. I #wannaknow how it came to this. @Drake @MeekMill

**@nuffssaidNY:** Fans of @MeekMill keep saying #WannaKnow was just a warm up track for @Drake. Well I'm not waiting another 7 business days for the next one.

**@iampaparious:** What I #WannaKnow is, how do you start a beef you're not ready for?

**What say you?** Email [twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com).

## DID YOU KNOW THERE IS AN ANCIENT PYRAMID IN THE USA?

**MONKS MOUND (NEAR COLLINSVILLE, IL/EAST ST. LOUIS)**





# Twista

INTERVIEW BY KYSHA LA-FAYE

*We caught up with Twista before one of his shows in Indianapolis and got the chance to talk to him about Chicago, his "Withdrawl" EP with Do or Die, and his future projects.*



***Tell us how it feels to be an artist who has stood the test of time.***

Proud, proud of myself; feeling like a tribute to being a true artist and not just somebody for the moment.

***At one time it was said you was going to sign to Kanye's Label. What happen with that?***

A lot of that stuff is just rumors. I have been an independent artist for a long time. I've been with Atlantic Records for like 10 years just doing my thing. I will always have respect for Kanye and what he does and vice versa. I know that we will work together in the future one day. That's the homie. Everything is all good.

***You've seen both sides of the industry 2 times over. Which has been the best situation for you? Being with a major or being independent?***

Like I just said, independent but each one has its perks. When you're on a major label, a lot of times (right now in the game) you are a newer artist. When you are a person who has been established for a couple of years, before what the game has changed to with technology today then it's better for you to be an independent artist because you are able to profit off yourself.

***It has been a minute since you and Do or Die had worked together. What brought about a whole record from you and whose idea was it?***

I think it was really us vibin' around each other and being with the climate of music the way it is today. We thought it would be a good idea to do an EP because you're only talking like 6 songs. So, we didn't have to go that hard to do a whole album but yet we were going to give them enough music to vibe to and really give them a feel to where we were at right now when it comes to us working together. It was the whole idea of us doing an EP that made us come with a sequel. Withdrawal...make sure y'all get it. Download it, ya dig!!

***How is Johnny P? Is he on the project?***

Johnny P is currently working right now. He took a small break for a minute, getting some things in order in his personal life but now, he's back on it and doing his thing. You will hear him on some future Do or Die projects.

***What is your take on the state of the industry right now?***

I love it! I feel like Hip-Hop is the dominate type of music right now. I was around when it was a baby and now it is involved with every genre of music right now. I feel like it's a tribute to the shorties and shows how creative we are coming from the hood. Hip-Hop is a beautiful thing that started from the youth. I love seeing it constantly grow and the artist constantly prospering and coming up with new, innovative ways to make music, drop lyrics, come up with harmonies, rhythms, and all that shit. Let's go!

***Would you change anything about it?***

I would make sure that artists are more educated about the contracts they are signing so they can maximize themselves and their careers.

***Do you feel there is something missing in the urban music scene today and if so what?***

What is missing from the urban music scene is more

positive messages. It's cool that we like to turn up and do our thing, but I don't feel like everything we have to do in the hood (when it comes to being from the ghetto or urban community) has to be something that is negative like popping off or talking about doing drugs. I feel like we still need to go back to be able to rock to the positive music the same way we used to do when Public Enemy and other artists were out.

***Chicago was once a music capital with a lot of artists coming from there and it's back on the rise again. However, the new artists are sounding like they from somewhere else. How do you feel about the lack thereof with the true Chicago sound?***

I feel like it is the true sound of Chicago. I don't feel like just because the kids are doing a music or sound today that's different from the sound that we were doing or what we were doing from the one before us is not the sound of the city. So, I definitely feel like it is still the sound of the city. It's just a new generation.

***Do you have a new solo project in the works and if so when can we expect it?***

I got a few things coming up! I have an EDM project coming up with a bunch of the crazy techno sound type of music to reach a whole different genre. I'm just being experimental and innovative right now because I have achieved a certain amount of success already, so is just time to try a little bit of everything. I have project coming out under an alias name too but I don't have it really put together yet. But, look out for it because it's going to be a scientific project. I'm going to be rapping about science and creation.

***We understand you have your own label as well. What is it and who are some of your artist?***

We have a label called GMG ("Get Money Gang" or "Get Money Group" and we have a few artists that we have started to work with right now. We have my man Show Time that has been down with the label for a long time, doing his thing. We have a bunch of new artists that we are developing as well.

***How do you feel about all the violence going on in Chicago as well as around the country?***

It's been bad. People are paying attention to it more now because they are able to see it because of the internet. People have cell phones now and are catching people up doing shit so we are able to see the violence level on a whole other scale. But, I don't think that it should be tribute to one city because I think it's a worldwide problem. We are just focused on the U.S., but it's more than just a nationwide problem. We need to get our shit together and put some money in the communities. Everybody needs to stand the fuck up and speak more positive shit.

***How can people follow or contact you for booking.***

@twistagmg, that's all on my social sites. Hit me up let me know what you want to get poppin.

***Any last words?***

Get the Withdrawal EP with Twista and Do or Die. Listen for anything that's coming out GMG. Twista loves all the new artist that represent the Midwest.

***Thank you for taking time out your day to do an interview with us! Good luck on your show tonight!***

# RODNEY STEPP & THE STEPPIN' OUT BAND

*Featuring Steve Cooper*



Founded in March of 2014 in Indianapolis, Indiana by veteran keyboards player Rodney Stepp, this five member band plays smooth jazz with a touch of r&b. Their debut single, "Steppin' Out" from their debut album Second Chance, features guest vocalist Staci McCrackin as well as Hip-Hop artist Skypa on one of the mixes.

Rodney Stepp has played all over the world as the one-time musical director for the legendary r&b vocal group The Spinners. He even took a famed organ solo on their hit single "Mighty Love" on their live album. In addition to The Spinners, he has played for Sister Sledge of "We Are Family" fame and singer Ronnie Dyson to name a few.

Co-founder Steve Cooper is a graduate of the famed Berklee College of Music in Boston. Cooper plays EVI and trumpet in the group as well as doing a lot of the arrangements.

Additional group members are: Anthony Bush on drums. Bush was a member of the Def Jam Records act Dos of Soul that was featured on The Nutty Professor Soundtrack with the song, "Come Around"; bass guitarist Anthony "A.J." Jones, who has played with lots of bands and gospel groups and Tom Padgett on guitar has previously played with rocker Henry Lee Summer as well as other rock groups.

The sound of RODNEY STEPP & THE STEPPIN' OUT BAND featuring Steve Cooper is one of good music, good vibes and quality. A new single "Three Way" goes out soon.

Contact:

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IG: @rodneysteppjazz

Facebook: Rodney Stepp & The Steppin' Out Band

Featuring Steve Cooper

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*Rodney Stepp & The Steppin' Out Band featuring Steve Cooper are on Az Iz Records in association with M.E.C.A.P. Music (mecapmusic@gmail.com).*



## ALEX LATTIMORE ON THE FENCE

PHOTO BY DANIEL MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

A native of a city known for its great arts scene, Chicago, Illinois, Alex Lattimore is no stranger to the world of music. As a solo artist, Alex's vocal prowess has been compared to such greats as Luther Vandross, Will Downing, and Jon Lucien. At the early age of five, he began his musical journey starting with classical piano and trumpet studies which led him to perform with a host of phenomenal groups and orchestras such as the Chicago Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Sherwood Conservatory Brass Ensemble, Roosevelt University Jazz Band, and the University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra.

His journey continued to Atlanta, Georgia at Morehouse College where he became section leader and principle solo trumpeter in the Morehouse Marching, Concert and Jazz bands. His riveting and heartfelt playing style earned him a number of awards like the "Most Outstanding Brass Player" and the "Most Outstanding Soloist". From his Morehouse days, Alex's talents exploded later leading to serve as both a horn player and lead/background vocalist with a number of local, national, and internationally-based acts. This platform allowed him to showcase his countless talents as a songwriter, arranger, instrumentalist, and vocalist.

His amazing accomplishments did not stop there. Alex was both shareholder and artist at an independent record label, EarthSeed Music, LLC, where he used his plethora of musical talents in the areas of songwriting, producing, arranging, performing, and recording. The result was the Groovement compilation CD, a profound collection of soulful musicians, which included early songs from world-renowned artist, India.Arie. Alex also served as the male vocalist for such Atlanta-based groups as Sirius B, Transcendental Funk, and Jiva (led by Khari Simmons, former bass player for India.Arie).

Alex opened for, and performed with internationally renowned artists like Tina Turner, Luther Vandross, Michael McDonald, The Impressions, Eddie Levert, Frank McComb, India.Arie, Earl Klugh, The Rippingtons, Groove Collective, Roy Ayers, Dwight Andrews and the Atlanta Jazz Chorus, Kindred The Family Soul, Loose Ends, and Maysa Leak. Alex's vo-

cals and trumpet have also graced the Julie Dexter and Khari Simmons Dome Records album release of "Moon Bossa," Jiva's albums "Sun and Moon" and "Day Into Night" as well as being a featured vocalist on the beautifully written duet entitled The Matrimony from Rhonda Thomas' album "Breathe New Life" and title track Once Twice from the Bugs in The Attic album release "Back in the Dog House." Alex has also collaborated with D.J. Kemit (formerly of the Grammy award winning group Arrested Development), releasing a single entitled Rush Hour (featuring Takana Miyamoto), which found its place on the P-Vine Records compilation "Sol Com Bossa". Alex worked with The Ananda Project, under the direction of Grammy nominated producer Chris Brann, completing tours both in Japan and South Africa.

Alex completed his highly anticipated first debut solo album "Promise" released in 2008. This album received critical acclaim, including consideration for Best Jazz Vocal album for the '08 Grammy Awards. He has performed at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, Villa Christina, The Rialto Theatre, National Black Arts Festival, the Capital Jazz Cruise, and a number of venues in and outside of Atlanta.

Alex's projects also include being the featured vocalist on a song entitled "Just Let Go" with Grammy nominated pianist Jeff Lorber and saxophonist/flautist Najee on Joey Sommerville's currently released album, the title track of EC Coleman's "Her Eyes at Sunset", the Japan release from the Ananda Project album entitled "Truth", as well as his features upon Gary Motley's album "Departure". His current projects are "A Father's Love" which is a soulful tribute to his Dad as well as fathers everywhere, and his latest release entitled "The Reason I Love" a soulful love song from the forthcoming album "On The Fence".

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## SHOULD YOU MOVE TO MAKE IT BIG?

BY ONYX, "QUEEN OF KILLEEN"



There's countless number of movies and true stories that depict the artists or actors who left their small town in hopes to "make it big." They hopped aboard that long bus...train ride, or even drove & arrived to their destination with nothing but two dollars, fifty cents and a suitcase. They headed north or west to embark on this journey for New York City, Los Angeles, or in today's time your Atlanta, Austin, and Miami. But is moving really necessary in order to "make it?" And if so when is the time to consider it? There are no set rules to determine when this life event should occur but there are some key factors you can consider before quitting your day job for the road to stardom.

### Factor number one:

For the sake of time, let's say your priorities are pretty much in order but you have yet to see any progress in your desired field. Your family or close ones may not be on board with your desire for a new setting, but you're able to transition and start fresh in a new city. You may even have arranged a job transfer and have nearby relatives, friends, or networks awaiting your decision. Seems like all checks and balances are in place. However, if all of your basic needs are already met and in order, why is it that you find you're unable to progress where you currently reside? Sometimes we can find ourselves blaming it on "the city" when in actuality, it's really us. This is what I like to call Self Reflection. What have I not done to ensure I am moving forward in the right direction with my goals? One should look to see what they have not yet tried and why. Business plans? More networking? Professional advertisements versus just the open mic nights at the bar and lounge? For Example: If an individual has a desire to lose weight, it is to not the blame of the Fast Food establishments or restaurants for why they haven't seen a change in their appearance or health. It is simply because they have yet to make the proper choices and invest the necessary time to

see the target goal all the way thru. This includes preparing the mind and having the mentality to stay motivated and focused among all curve balls thrown. Exercise would be ideal. One should remember that in any and all that you aim to achieve, if you do not put in the work, you will not only NOT see the results, but you will not reap the benefits either. In music you will not progress (the results), and you will not be noticed as you should (the benefits). If you didn't hustle in your own comfort zone, what will encourage you to branch out among the unknown and suddenly feel inspired to do any real work? When you are doing all that needs to be done, you will most certainly progress. It may not be overnight, but it will most definitely be a step forward.

### Factor number two:

Progression has taken place, your ego cup is overflowing and you've got a fan base established. That's wonderful! You could abandon ship and get out of dodge, but you've worked so hard for what you have. Is it time to move on just yet? Sure why not? But it is very possible to garner the attention of industry executives or investors right outside of your front door. You are your brand, you become the product, and if you can be sold you won't have to look far and wide searching for that "one", because they will be looking for you! Once you've accomplished much within your town or city, focus on building the region. See if you can get the same support system and fan club going. See how receptive the DJs are to your music. Now you are working your actual Market as far as the map concerns. When referring to market in mainstream as it relates to genre that's another article to come at a later date. For now, it looks like you've got something. And you may even want to consider remaining or becoming solely an independent artist/label. Keep Working.

### Factor number three:

You've done all you can do. You've exhausted all means, resources and networks. You could leave for five years, return to your city with no problem and still having a piece of the pie percentage because you've made your mark. Well now you're ready to travel into a new region and see how well your projects do. It's time to see if you have what it takes to generate a fan base who knows nothing about your groundwork laid, and willing to give an outsider a chance. Keep in mind you'll be among a sea of competitors. They will be more advanced, talented, among other "ups" over you. Learn the area and research tirelessly before you arrive. Network and link up with the major players in that area. If you come in with a mindset that you are going to "take over," they will shut you completely down and force you to go back wherever it is that you came from. You can't just go into someone's hood and post up on their block without speaking or permission first. When you do it the smart way, you can work with them, not against them. You'll easily gain fans and much more this way.

### "Should You Move To Make It Big?" Continued

In conclusion, there is no floor plan in which you should determine when moving is right for you. My rule of thumb is that once you have thoroughly mastered a market/region, it is perfectly fine to try for another. Also, when opportunity or money calls, I am all for a trip or move. Once you do arrive in the city, don't expect them to know who you are because they won't...and when you tell them, they won't really care. The internet has helped much, but without an online presence or radio spins, the local or underground fame can only stretch but so far. Remain humble and be ready to work from ground up all over again. Make decisions that are best for you and yours. In the end what is for you, is for you. I'd like to leave you with this anonymous quote — All movement is not progress; just as all motion is not forward.

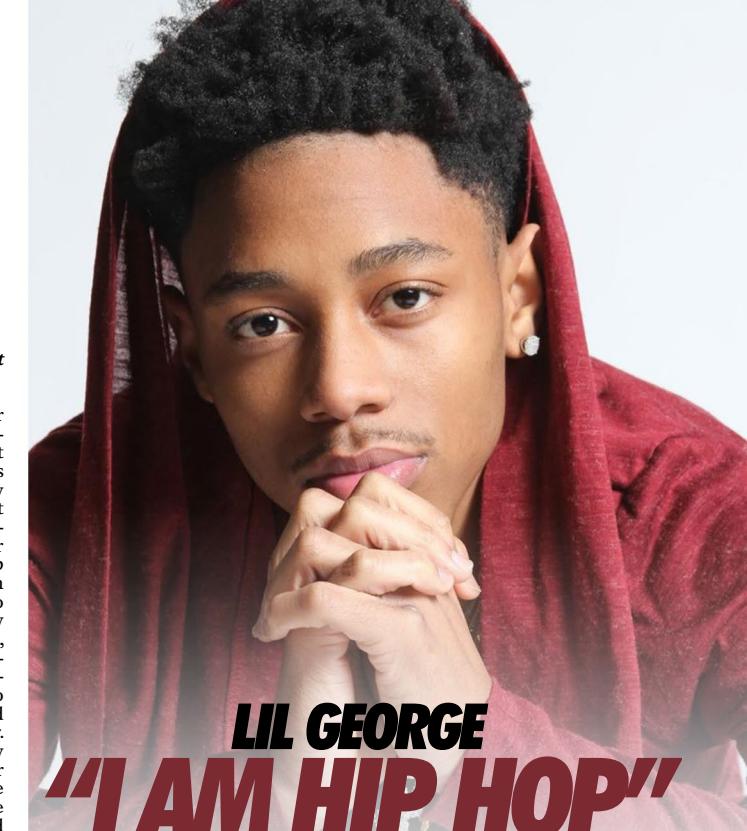
-Onyx, Queen of Killeen, Singer/Songwriter | Music Professional | Executive Producer & Host of *Jermaine Dupri's Global 14 the Cut* 2014 SEA Internet Hustler of the Year

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\*originally written for *The Connect* via [centexhophop.com](http://centexhophop.com)



## LIL GEORGE "I AM HIP HOP"

When you think of Hip Hop, think of Lil George. The Detroit native has been causing quite a stir in his native town that's arguably known for being the birthplace of black entertainment culture as we know it. So, it's of little surprise that the Hip Hop boy wonder is widely regarded as one of the most successful Hip Hop entertainers in all of Detroit and is now aiming for the global crown of Hip Hop. As he preps for number of international performances all cross the globe, the presence of Lil George will undoubtedly become a trending global phenomenon.

On his latest hit, "I Got the Sauce" (BMB Records 2014) Lil George has proved once again that his rightful place in Hip Hop is more than solidified. As one of the most requested songs on radio, one has to agree that the Detroit native has definitely held his own. With so much buzz around his new single, it was only a matter of time before Lil George would be rocking out stages alongside some of the most notable names in Hip Hop, opening for national recording artists like Charlie Baltimore, Rich Homie Quan, Young Thug, The Migos, and many, many more.

With a stage presence and lyrical delivery that's the absolute turn up, Lil George leaves a lasting impression wherever he goes and continues to acquire a slew of new fans along the way. Lil George is the epitome of hip hop and is rapidly establishing himself as the quintessential hip hop influencer. He's creating a legacy that will forever change the course of hip hop, one hit at a time. Lil George is currently prepping for the release of his "I Got the Sauce" video by blessing the hip hop community with the digital visual that complements his hip hop masterpiece.

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# IT'S THE 21ST CENTURY AND WOMEN AREN'T DOING WHAT!?

Words By: Royce Todd

*Here comes the bride, or so to speak. As 2015 passes it's midpoint we notice the young people are tying the knot. Well, fellas before you agree to a lifelong commitment I suggest you make sure your lady is not so caught up with herself that she forgets about you. Here is a short list of the five things women in the 21st century are just not doing.*

#### ***Understanding their man and his needs.***

Now, let's be honest here. Every man has needs and women are just not understanding how to satisfy them. I understand that you just don't want sex. You want excitement, adventure, and even love. Well, I hate to tell you this guys but those type of women come with a price. You're going to have to understand the kind of woman you're getting involved with before you can expect too much from them.

#### ***Taking care of the household***

It takes a lot more to being the queen of the kingdom than just being the woman in the house. Fellas, I know you can agree with me when I say women are just not owning up to their womanly duties of taking care of the household. Yes, I know we are in a new age where women work as hard as men do and I am totally for a working woman. But, as women they can't forget their natural intuition.

#### ***Fixing their man's plate***

This may seem simple but this simple task says a lot about a woman and how she takes care of her man. When a woman makes her man's plate she is saying, "I take care of my man in and out of our home." She lets him know that she cares more about him than she does herself. Now, if she cares more about you then she does about herself then it's only fair that it is returned. Think about it with me. If the man cares more about his lady than himself and the lady thinks more about her man than herself nobody gets left behind and everybody is thought about.

#### ***Supporting and encouraging him***

He may not show it but he gets discouraged and down sometimes. Men need a support team too. Women you are there to encourage them and support them and whatever venture or crazy idea they have as long as it's not illegal. If you feel as though he is making a bad decision then you let him make that bad decision but as his woman you need to have a backup plan. Have a back up plan so if he fails you can be there to pick him up. After saving him from his failure there is no need to gloat or beat him down about it. Instead, encourage him to keep trying and let him know you are behind him 100 percent.

#### ***Acting appropriate in public***

Ladies, it's one thing to get into a public argument, but it's another thing to act outright foolish in public. No man wants a woman who constantly argues, cusses, and yells in public. Some things just need to be left alone. Real men want a classy woman, someone they love bringing out in public. It's okay to be "ratchet" at home but when you walk out into the public it's time to be a woman with class.

*Standards were created to encourage greatness. One problem with some of the women today is they do not have standards. Men don't think you're all peaches and cream because you're not. Women act off of men and men act off of women, so men if you demand better women will do better and women if you demand better men will do better. It's a cycle and both parties have to be equally involved.*



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