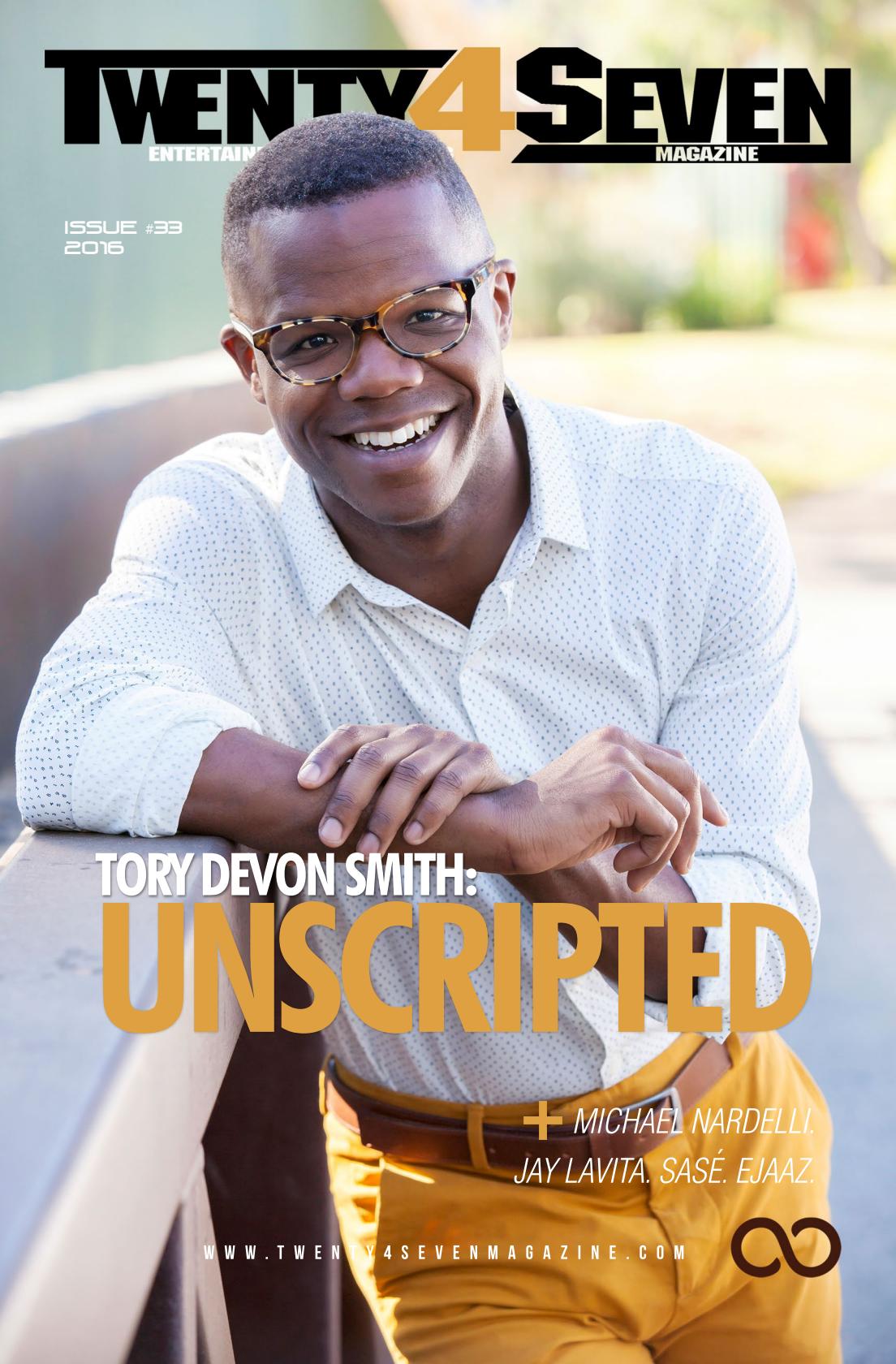


TWENTY4SEVEN
ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

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2016



**TORY DEVON SMITH:
UNSCRIPTED**

+

**MICHAEL NARDELLI.
JAY LAVITA. SASÉ. EJAAZ.**

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Hello World,

Just a quick update. Be on the lookout for Twenty4Seven Magazine: The App. It will allow you to read all of our past and current issues, view photos and the website, access all of our social media accounts, listen to hot new music, and even enter contests and get deals on advertising and placement. Expect the app late February/early March.

Also, I attended a lecture by Tariq Nasheed (Author and producer of the "Hidden Colors" documentary series) recently in Cincinnati, OH and the turnout was great. I met a lot of black entrepreneurs and people who were eager to be the change that they wanted to see. Tariq gave us a lot of good information, speaking about racism, black empowerment, African history, and more. Shout out to Elijah Williams of Deep Thawt Entertainment, who put the event on. I look forward to working with him more often and connecting with more like-minded individuals in the future. We have work to do. Also, if you missed it, check out our cover story interview with Tariq at www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com.

One Love,

Tyrone Davis

Pictured below: Tariq Nasheed with the owners of the venue, "Gallery VII" (Cincinnati, OH) where his lecture was held.



TWENTY4SEVEN
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MAGAZINE

Editor/Publisher:
Tyrone Davis

Lifestyle Editor:
D'annie Grandison

Graphics:
Brightwood Entertainment
Holla Creative

Photography:
Brightwood Entertainment
HollaGraphy
T4S Staff

Contributing Photography:
Lesley Bryce
Vince Trupsin

Marketing/Sales:
Jus Promotions

Writers:
SymptomUnknown
Tiny Cho
D'annie Grandison
Lucky Smith
T4S Staff

Magazine Reps:
T4S Staff

Contact:
twenty4sevenmagazine.com
twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com
youtube.com/twenty4sevenmagazine
twitter: @twenty4sevenmag
instagram: @twenty4sevenmagazine
facebook: twenty4seven magazine

Editor Contact:
brightwoodentertainment.com
brightwoodentertainment@gmail.com
youtube.com/brightwoodent
twitter: @brightwoodent
instagram: @brightwoodentertainment
facebook: Tyrone Brightwood Davis

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Is he a diamond in the rough or a musical prodigy? That is the question when hearing the melodious harmonies being crooned by Jeffrey Lynn Tabron. Jeffrey better known as Jay Lavita has been engulfed in music his entire life. As he was growing up, his parents played a major role in Jay's love for music by emphasizing hard work and expressing his talents. Every Christmas morning the Tabron family had a holiday ritual. His parents insisted that Jay and his siblings perform before they were allowed to open their presents. This early love of performing helped mold Jay into the vibrant performer he is today.

Jay Lavita discovered a love for music at an early age. With his parents playing the likes of Diana Ross and the Supremes, Deniece Williams, Sade the Temptations amongst other artists, Jay wanted to capture the magic of song that those artists brought to life. At the age of 10, Jay started to record himself with a microphone and a computer. By the age of 12, he was recording in professional studios and learning how to hone his craft.

Upon entering high school, Jay Lavita's talents had developed to a level in which he was offered contracts by various record labels. Unfortunately, Jay learned quickly that his hard work and passion for

music was not shared by any of these labels therefore, he decided to embark on his career by his lone some.

Writing, recording and booking himself for shows was the task that Jay chose to take on himself. It was a daunting task but his accomplishments started to accumulate. Sharing the stage with the likes of Earth Wind and Fire, Flo-Rida and performing at the Apollo. Jay was on the road to success.

Now signed with Starr Media Group Jay Lavita has found a home where he can solely concentrate on what he fell in love with as a child.... the magic of music.

Contact Jay Lavita:
Twitter: @JayLavita

Contact Platinum Voice PR:
Ms. Carmen
312.870.0122
www.platinumvoicepr.com

MAKIN'
NOISE

Sasé

By D'annie Grandison

As we approached the New Year we pounded ourselves with New Year's resolutions and promises some of us already broke in the spirit of desired change. Although we strive for change within a new year we also strive to grasp those dreams that were deferred and those we put off for way too long. An R&B singer born and raised in North Carolina (by way of Atlanta) named Sasé (pronounced Sassy) is grabbing her dream and changing it to a reality as she enters the world stage with her soulful musical sound. Sasé has always loved music. "I've always been involved with music. It was always around me", she shared.

During an interview, Sasé and her manager Sid "Uncle Jamz" Johnson of M.E.C.A.P. shared some of her background, future plans, philosophy on love, romance, and heartbreak. With her first-ever single "If I Told You", Sasé is grounded in the ideas of love, heartbreak, and pain, which are some of the core influences to her music. "Music has brought me all over the world, performing in places like Australia, Spain, Germany, Canada and the Caribbean", she shared.

When asked about her musical influences she stated, "I am influenced by artists such as Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin, Babyface, Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston, and an array of others. I love the soul of music and that's what I do with my music. I tap into that soul where everyone has experienced emotions such as love, hope, heartbreak, pain, happiness, and sorrow. That message resonates with everyone universally."

Our full-length interview can be found at www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com where we go in-depth with issues such as love, the many aspects of love including the highs and lows of it, which are some of the focal points of her album titled, "UNCONDITIONAL 5.0", which is also the name of a featured track on the album. Sasé is currently performing weekly at various clubs in the Fort Myers, Florida area. Also, Sasé shared that she was proud and honored to share the stage with one of her musical favorites, Babyface on Sunday, February 14th, in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Old National Centre.

According to her manager Sid "Uncle Jamz" Johnson, when he first heard Sasé he felt a return of R&B with that tradition of love, romance, and heartbreak. "Sasé sings in a way that everyone can listen to and relate to" he said. Her music video to "If I Told You" was filmed in Atlanta, Georgia and features cameos from rappers Skyypp and Shank and R&B singer G. LaBeaud of "The Rude Boys".

He also shared that Sasé's second single, "Numb" is now getting some airplay in various markets as the first single is still getting love. Her debut album, "UNCONDITIONAL 5.0" was released on Friday, February 12th and features Rodney Stepp (formerly of "The Spinners"), Steve Cooper, Anthony "Peanut" Bush, "A.J.", Reggie Griffin (of "The Isley Brothers"), G. LaBeaud, and others. Sasé is living the creed of following your dreams while working hard to make them a reality.



Facebook: Sasé
For business contact:
mecapmusic@gmail.com
Twitter + IG: Saséthesinger



TORY DEVON SMITH: UNSCRIPTED

BY KRISTAL LUSTER



PHOTOS BY
LESLEY BRYCE

Meet "Zoe Ever After" co-star Tory Devon Smith! A talent both on and off screen, Tory is quite passionate about his career and looks forward to the future with high hopes and enthusiasm. Get to know Mr. Smith on a professional level as well as a personal one.

How did you prepare for your role in "Zoe Ever After"?

The blueprint for any actor in preparing for a role is the script. How to structure a performance, you must read and understand the tone of the script in which your character lives. Based on the script, it was obvious to me in terms of how to play Valente. He's designed to give off an oblivious, yet funny demeanor. I kept great supporting characters in mind when playing him, such as "Eddie" played by Eddie Griffin in "Malcolm & Eddie," or "Jack" played by Sean Hayes in "Will & Grace." Comedy comes natural to me and Valente is very much within my capabilities to execute.

Your character Valente is an assistant to Zoe Moon (Brandy Norwood). What would you want in an assistant?

I would want an assistant who is efficient, organized, and intelligent with great communication skills. With any great employee, he or she begins to think ahead to decipher problems that may arise and to always have your best interest in mind. Common sense and compassion would be great qualities to have as my assistant.

What type of audience do you think the show will attract

most?

It's surprising, after the show premiered, I was quite surprised at the type of people who watched and really enjoyed the show. A few days after the pilot aired, I walked into my local barber shop and every single barber noticed me from the show and thought it was entertaining. The power of television is incredible in terms of the number of people that experience it. The audience has surprised me, so now I find that anybody who loves to laugh will be attracted to the show. No one gender, race, or age can define true interest.

Would you say this is a show for any and every one?

Absolutely. There are many funny moments and interesting story lines that I find can and will interest a plethora of people.

What is it like working with Brandy and what has been your favorite moment with her on the show?

A joy. She's generous and completely

open as a scene partner. She comes prepared and ever so professional. My favorite moments were getting to know her in between takes, helping each other with lines, or making plans to have dinner with cast mates. There were moments where she would sing on set as a way to relax and become inspired and for those of us eyes dropping on that moment, it felt like mini concerts of an R&B icon being given only to you. She's one of the coolest people I've met in this industry thus far.

Would you say your talents came naturally or did you have to work at it quite a bit?

I'd like to say naturally, but I will say I feel most comfortable on stage. I've been performing theater my entire life so that's my foundation and where I truly shine. With film acting, I find I have to work at a bit more. There's a concentration that is much more stationed in your body when acting on film. However, the most prolific actors in the film and television industry are actors who come from the theater, so I find that I am in good company to reach a certain level of capability as a film actor.

Who have been your biggest supporters?

My biggest supporters are my closest friends who I have made my family. They are vital as I reach new heights in this industry. I need those people in my life who knew me

before the success to give me an honest perspective. My twin sister Torshea and her daughter (my beautiful little niece, Iyanna) are a great source of love and support.

Was there ever a point in time when you doubted yourself?

I'm human. Of course! I doubted anything like my current success would happen for me. However, I had the tenacity and the reality to know that I was going to be a working actor in some way, form, or fashion. There are a surplus amount of options that I could have explored in order to reach my goals and sustain a life of being a performer. Theater was always a goal; with Off-Broadway, regional, and Broadway. Theater is still a dream. There were the options of acting in different countries, obtaining my graduate degree in acting, producing a one-man show, and direct theater productions, or even starting a company. I don't have fame as a want or goal, and I find many actors desperately acquire that sort of validation. I want to create a life's work and survive at the same time. The fact that I'm in this position of such notoriety is unbelievable to me.

What was your best and worst memory growing up in the foster care system with your sister?

There isn't a best or worst sort of scenario, I feel. That was the life we knew. As children, you don't comprehend your situation until outside forces remind you of it. I would say there were challenges once those forces reminded me of my predicament. The toughest realization is that I was told

time and time again that I was invited in the home, and at a moment's notice I could have been kicked out of said home. When you are constantly told that you actually don't belong, no place ever feels like home. I created my own individuality and protected myself from anyone giving me the impression of being unwanted. One of the biggest accomplishments of my life is self-sufficiency; the fact that I do not answer to anyone for anything in my life was substantial to me. As a foster child, I formed a sense of independence very early in life. We foster children simply do not come from the same creed that most people do who have a true sense of family. We live an orphaned life so to speak, your perspective is heightened in various ways. I find that I'm truthful and can sense true love in people, which has a lot to do with selflessness.

How do you think that experience would have been different had you lived in foster care without a sibling?

My sister and I were actually separated in the early 1990s, so I did live in the



foster care system for the most part without her. However, we did have kind and gracious foster parents and guardians who made sure we saw each other on a regular basis. We endured the foster care system in the city we were both born, so she was never too far away from me.

Did you continue acting in school plays throughout your schooling years? Which role is most memorable for you?

I did. In high school I performed in nearly every production that was available to me, and I performed in several community theater productions in my hometown. My most memorable role was that of Templetion the rat in Charlotte's Web. I performed with the Stars Kid's Theater Company in Bakersfield, and we performed the play for youngsters, and to see their sensibilities enlightened as we performed these beloved characters was something quite profound to me. Theater is such an immersive experience, and the best aspect of it is the connection with an audience. When you have the audience participating with you in this sort of unsaid manner is thrilling.

Do you plan to further your acting career in tv shows or films?

Absolutely! This is now my job, so acting work is essential to my survival. And, it's an intense time to be an actor in the best way possible. There is an infinite amount of work out there, and at the moment, television reigns supreme in

terms of the most creative and profitable work for any actor in the industry. I'm a fan of independent films and that's where honest cinema lives. I would love a career where I bounce from series to series and film to stage. Intriguing work for actors of color is occurring more and more. I find that racial progression is happening as audiences evolve in wanting to see diverse stories.

Are there plans to produce and/or direct your own project(s)? What would your first project be about?

Not as of yet. The plan is to be an actor in as many greatly produced and directed projects I can. If I were to choose a project I would try my hand at something quite dense, like the infiltration of Caucasian Americans onto the Native Americans. There are most likely countless stories that involve that era that are not told nor taught. So many people have said I remind them of Carl Lewis, the amazing Track & Field star, so to produce, direct, and star in a piece about Lewis would be a wonderful undertaking.

Out of all of the films, and television shows you've been in, which was your favorite to be a part of?

I haven't been in many, but my current two shows are simply amazing to be a part of. However, I booked a pilot last year for NBC called "Lifesaver", and in terms of education, that particular show taught me a grand amount. It was a situational comedy with a live audience in tow. It taught me the fate of co-star and guest-star actors in that position, to watch the lead actors (Christian Borle, Lindsey Price, Harriet Sansom Harris, and Jonathan Ryland) was a study in how to imitate an actor's work on set; to be professional, prepared, and open. That week I spent on "Lifesaver" helped immensely for "Zoe Ever After". I'm very grateful for that experience.

The upcoming Netflix series, 'The Get Down', your character is described as being a "Joe Pesci from Goodfellas" type. Did you draw any influence from that character?

In college I remember one of my professors brought a clip from Goodfellas in class, and it was that classic Oscar-winning clip of Joe Pesci expressing his emotions about being "funny" to Ray Liotta's character. I didn't take anything more than that particular scene. Pesci's range of emotion in the matter of seconds is a fantastic example of film acting at its best. He easily slips from humor, rage, and back to humor again with such finesse. In "Little Wolf" (the character I play on The Get Down) I've had a few chances to imitate that sort of range. The thrilling part of The Get Down, is that I don't have the entire story of 'Little Wolf' known to me just yet. I only receive scripts as they are written, and I find out more and more about my character as I view each script. Every script is a new evolution for this character. This show will be massive once premiered. I pinch myself every time I'm on set to know I'm a part of Baz Luhrmann's epic hip-hop saga.

How was "stepping back in time" on 'The Get Down' set?

It's a wonderful exploration to wrap your mind around the era of the 1970's and the beginning of hip-hop. Most of my research came from watching clips of Blaxploitation films, clips of Soul Train, and watching a documentary on the dilapidated state of Brooklyn around that time. There is an outstanding hair and make-up department and wardrobe team whose work physically puts you in the era. Also, I ask the artists in hair and make-up about their experience in the 70's and what was said, how people reacted to violence, or how they took care of their hair and clothing. It's an immersive experience just being on set.

In your opinion, do you believe there will still be a need to fight for LGBTG rights in 5 years?

Rights are here, yet the fight is the ongoing acceptance of gay people in society everywhere in America. My experience as a gay person, I find there are places where I simply cannot be myself or I don't have the option of expressing an attraction because the actuality of homosexuality is still hidden. Much of the acceptance has to come from gay people themselves. We have an entire new generation who views homosexuality through a digital atmosphere, which is dangerous and misleading. We have lost a sense of identity, and honestly it still stems from the AIDS epidemic of the 1980's. However, to be a gay person in America today is an exceptional experience and the freedom of living a full life with marriage equality and the option of creating a family is pretty incredible when you put in the perspective of 50 years ago when egregious discrimination of gay people occurred constantly.

Homophobic perspectives feel as if there are too many examples of gay people in the media. However, that is actually needed so that a standard of normalcy enters so that possibly one day a person will not be labeled as "the gay assistant", but the "fun-loving, hilarious" assistant, and have many people everywhere who accept that notion without ever thinking about their sexuality. To be labeled by positive characteristics is the goal for everyone, no matter what gender, race, or sexuality.

Why do you believe animal rights are essential in today's society?

In psychology courses in college, I remember discussions over the fact that humans are the only animals on this planet who have the ability to think regardless of impulse. We have the power to change our minds and comprehend situations. We have a responsibility to protect and serve the creatures that we share this earth with. The plight of extinction for many animals is a threat in today's society, and we should fight to keep all animals and creatures alive and thriving to continue the well-being of our ecosystem.

How long have you been a Pro Choice supporter and what made you feel this way?

I find my childhood has a lot of influence on my support of pro-choice. Children should be given a fair chance to be brought up in this world with as much love and care as possible. To go through the foster care system is not a want I would like for any child to endure. As a man, it's important to mentally put yourself in a woman's position and child bearing is simply an experience we will never undergo mentally or physically. There are situations that a child simply should not be put through and logic and/or divine understanding leads that particular woman to come to a very difficult decision. Sex will always happen between the human species. There isn't a way to lessen that act of desire and the option of a child is high because of sex. There should be a safe procedure in a reasonable amount of time to have the option of not bringing in an unwanted child who simply will not have the advantage of a just life. And it's wonderful that we also have the option of responsible people who are willing to adopt and guardian the unwanted children who are here to live prosperous and ideal lives.

Do you plan to vote for the upcoming presidential term? Why or why not and if so, who are you in support of?

I will absolutely be voting, because there are various difficulties that directly affect me and it's part of the great system our forefathers designed to ensure justice and equality. I'm not very politically savvy, but the democratic candidates speak to me, in particular Bernie Sanders. He has a temperament that is direct and only about the issues facing many struggling Americans today. He gets down to the fact of the wealthy majority having and lauding most of the money in this country towards their interest. The "trickle-down economics" political system steamed from the Regan years have affected our economy for decades and has caused great strife within our system. Sanders speaks on racial strife against Black Americans, and doesn't put Black people in a separate category; he knows it's an American problem. Same goes for women's rights, various people of color, and our educational systems as well as our environment. I'm also impressed with Hilary Clinton. No one has more experience than her in terms of being a part of the White House and various political experience. With over thirty years of experience, I would feel safe with her as our new president.

What advice would you give aspiring entertainers out there?

To understand that you should always have a love of what you do over fame and fortune. We are now consumed in a horribly egotistical era, especially with the acceptance of social media notoriety. Everyone wants a slice of fame in some way and we now praise mediocrity. Aspiring entertainers should have talent to offer that they can be proud of and know that it can sustain interest because it is true talent. Success takes time and hard work but the love of what you do always prevails.

Last words?

Don't be desperate, be destined.

Contact Tory Devon Smith via Twitter @ToryDevonSmith or via his website www.torysmith.org.



ZOMBIE TITS: AS TOLD BY SYMPTOMUNKNOWN

Zombies are real. I'm living proof of that statement. No, I'm not walking around gray-faced, violently hissing at people, attempting to indulge into the flesh of my fellow man with an urgency I am incapable of controlling. I am a zombie due to the fact I am in the process of raising a 1 month old.

From the first night the nurses brought him into my room to feed, up until now, with the exception of 2 nights, I have not slept for more than 3 hours straight without interruption. For whatever reason, people hype up parental responsibility as if it is the most spectacular event in life. Don't get me wrong, I know it is a blessing to have a child, but realistically it is exhausting to say the least. Why is it; for the most part, that we only see babies as joyous bundles of toothless smiles, happily cooing every minute of every day? Yes, my child smiles his best gummy grin, yes he coos, and yes he can even be a bundle of joy. However, this is not the case every waking moment of every day!

Majority of the time he's grinning at things I can't see, instead of the countless silly faces I make at him, when he coos, its mainly due to the fact he's being nursed, or wants to nurse, and a bundle of joy is a poopy diaper after he's stained himself to exhaustion, and can finally relax. Some may take pleasure in all of these things, and may even be able to overlook their own exhaustion, but I can only see raising a child for what it truly is, whether those moments are heavenly or moments from hell.

All I'm saying is, don't get caught up on those commercial babies, or the million dollar model smiles we so often are exposed to on social media. If you want a child, prepare to be unprepared because truthfully, there isn't a "How to Guide". There isn't one method that gets the job done better compared to some other method. Having a child is

nothing more than responsibility on top of more responsibility, patience, love, and a overwhelming desire to give those things indefinitely.

With this being my second child, I see now that I took those things for granted with my first. Being 16, I wasn't nearly as concerned, nor did I put enough effort into raising my first born. I see now that I allowed my mother to take on most of the load, out of fear and laziness.

Being a mother was awkward, and I figured I had time to grow out of it and be the mom I imagined myself as being. But my first born died only having lived 4 months. Looking back, I wish I would have given him those extra kisses. I wish I would have cherished those gummy grins and found comfort in comforting him at his moments of distress. I wish I hadn't felt silly saying, "I love you". I wish I would have realized that the only time we have is time spent, and that there isn't a guarantee to "grow out of" awkward stages.

There's nothing like the present, and even though my second baby boy takes a lot of my energy and I often feel I'm an extra from The Walking Dead, I make sure to make the most of our time together, even if his only interest is which boob has the most milk in it. He doesn't realize it's 3 AM and I only just went to sleep 30 minutes ago, nor does he understand that waking up just as I'm about to eat, shower, pee, or pump is unbelievably inconvenient. But the one thing I do hope he realizes and more importantly understands, is that I do what I have to do because I love him.

SymptomUnknown is a contributing writer for Twenty-4Seven Magazine. You can check out her blog, "The Hairy-Vagina" on www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com. Also, follow her on twitter @Symptom_Unknown.



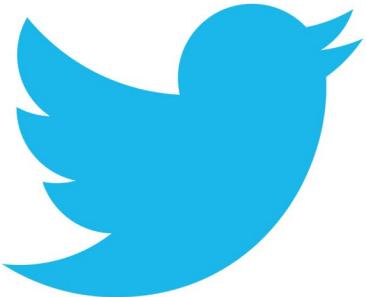
CONTACT:
FACEBOOK: KAMIYA QUARLES
TWITTER: @BLAZZINBEAUTY89
INSTAGRAM: BEAUTIFULLYOUNGTHANG

HOMETOWN: INDIANAPOLIS, IN

MEASUREMENTS: 34-26-32

THOUGH NEW TO THE
MODELING SCENE, KAMIYA
HAS BEEN FEATURED ON THE
COVER OF A NOVEL AND
VARIOUS CD COVERS. HER
HOBBIES INCLUDE EATING,
SHOPPING, AND DANCING.

PHOTO: BIG L PHOTOGRAPHY
TWITTER: @DAPROMOKING



TWEET DAT!

@UberFacts: In 2015, legal marijuana sale in the U.S. soared to \$5.4 billion.

@mattadorwilson: @UberFacts White men getting paid and the black kids still in jail, for doing the same shit

@50ShadesOfGray1: Girls are attracted to assholes because in elementary school girls were told "if he's mean to you that means he likes you" #boom/#Truth

@lilduval: But at least I'm still fucking a bitch tho RT @MsLeeLo: Trannys out here looking better than the bitch you rawin

@TAXSTONE: Just seen foxy on balla allert in a chinchilla who she stole that from ?

@vanessa_soto14: Today I'm focusing on my dreams. I used to be only focused on everyone else's

@MoreAndAgain: ain't no outside, bih. lol

@KaminaBlue: I believe the only person who wanted flav was New York

@psychological: Remember, the girls who say, "a lot of guys are after me", should keep in mind that low prices always attract many customers.

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

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"It is a trip how many well known folks have passed in such a short period of time: Dr. Frances Welsing, Maurice White, Natalie Cole, Vanity, etc. Time goes." - Anthony Haynes

"I was eleven when I first saw that face. Before Vanessa, before Halle, before Beyoncé & Rihanna there was Vanity... RIP Denise." - Craig Mack

"I was deeply in love with this woman, I used to rewind the last Dragon over and over just to see her dance! R.I.P. Vanity..." - Bryan Twel Ve Smith

"If there was a bigger purpose, she had shown that you can transform your life from the lowest depths to a Higher calling...I stopped seeing her as Vanity when she said that part of her past was over. One of the prettiest lady ever to GRACE the stage & screen...Denise Matthews; May your eternal soul forever rest in peace." - Joseph Zanders

"So sad, such a beautiful woman, amazing voice, and sexy as hell. I so wanted to pull off her look. Even fully dressed she just had that look." - Jennifer Robb

"Sad day grew up on her music, learned about her struggles and how she chose to change her life. she is defiantly in a better place. R.I.P" - Lizette Rice

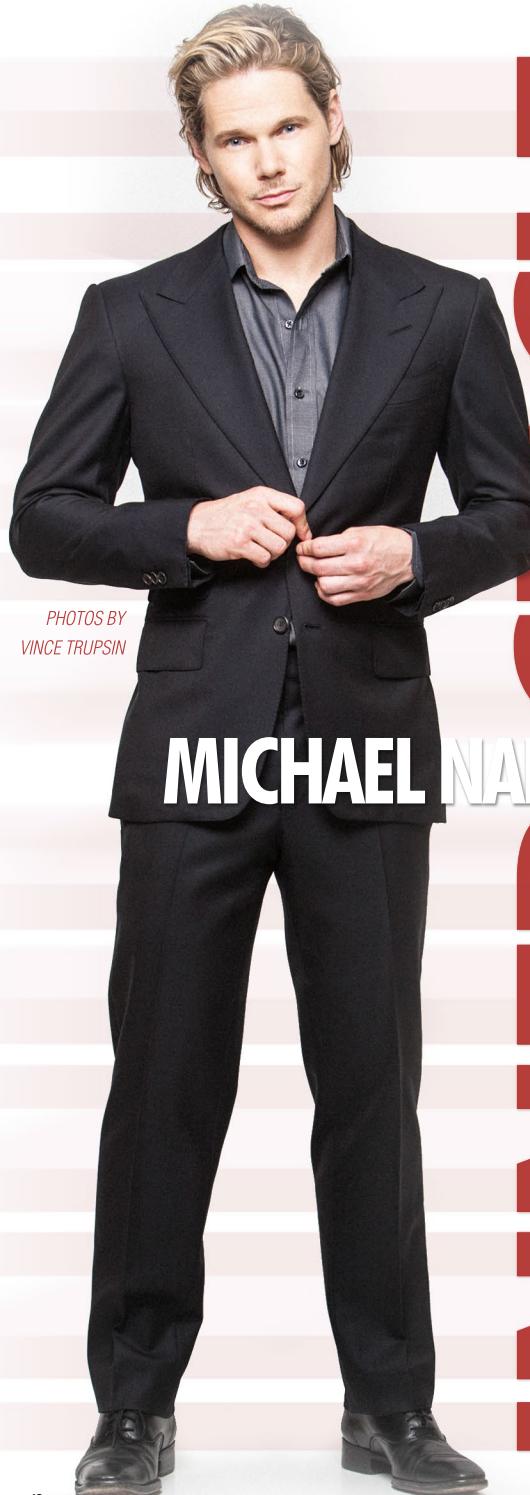
"It is really scary how many musicians we've lost in 2016 and it's only mid-February! Loved Vanity 6! It's heartbreaking - she was only 57!" - Jen Anderson

What say you? Email us at twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com. All content has been published exactly how it was written.

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PHOTOS BY
VINCE TRUPSON

MICHAEL NARDELLI

CIRCLE

BY KRISTAL LUSTER

Allow me to introduce Michael Nardelli, a talent in acting, producing, and directing. In his latest film "Circle" (available on Netflix), Michael plays Eric, one of 50 individuals who find themselves trapped in a twisted game of life and death. Learn more about Michael's views on "Circle" as well as who he is behind and in front of the camera.

What about "Circle" caught your attention and why?
The concept hooked me right away. 50 desperate people trapped in a room, battling it out for who deserves to live? I wanted to watch that. But then when I read it, I realized it sort checked all the boxes for what I want in a story: particularly a social relevancy. Why should this movie be made today? It's almost scary, but we watch "Circle" now and it's only gotten more topical since we made it. There's so much discussion about race, class, gender, politics, sexuality, etc. in the movie. With everything going on in the world today, it sometimes feels like all this pressure building up that's about to burst. "Circle" is very much a microcosm of what's going on in the world. And of course, it's all those ideas wrapped in a nice shiny sci-fi thriller reminiscent of "The Twilight Zone". So, I liked that it could hopefully entertain and enlighten, or educate.

How did you prepare for the role of Eric in "Circle"?
I took what was on the page and went backwards, which is what I normally do. This is what he's doing, how he's reacting... What in his past would make him that way? I decided Eric was kind of a chess prodigy when he was younger. I think a lot of gamers can relate. You can be a good, level headed person, but after the third hour of winning/losing in "Call of Duty", some of your other personality quirks might start coming out. Eric's a super smart, cerebral person. He's not a psychopath; he's just great at playing the game and the more he played and the more people competed against him, the more he wanted to win. And, I think he'll have survivor's guilt the rest of his life for what he did. It's not something he'd be glib about.

In what ways are you and Eric alike? In what ways are you different?

Eric can be quiet and withdrawn into his thoughts, which happens to me too. He'd definitely rather resolve a dispute without violence and I'm that way too. But, he has a better grip on his impulses than I. I don't know if I could keep my mouth shut in the "Circle" the way he did, especially when some of those characters started spouting really ignorant, stupid nonsense. He's probably calmer than I am too. I'd have a panic attack in that dang circle.

Do you believe you would be the last man standing in your own circle if such a thing were to happen in real life? Why or why not?

No way! I'd be gone in the first round. I'm not a good liar in those high stakes moments like what happens in "Circle". And, whenever I play "Mafia" with my friends, they always kill me first. I do like that the rules of "Circle" prohibit it from turning things into fistfights. These people all have to hear each other out, for better or worse.

By being involved with "Circle", have you changed your perceptions of people?

Well, I like to hope I've always been progressive as it pertains to people and being even minded and open to new ideas, cultures, etc. I mostly watch it now with audiences and think, "We kind of hit the nail on the head. This is the world we're living in right now. Everyone is on the defense. Everyone is scared and angry. Anything can happen at any moment. It's sad and scary, but that's what the best sci-fi does - shed a light on the world with a non-judgmental eye."

How would you see the film turning out differently if it were not for those prejudices influencing the character's choices?

It's hard to tell. How would our world be different if we didn't have those prejudices? Sometimes I think we always need a villain to exist, or a battle to conquer. The ending of "Circle" does suggest though that other circle's may have been more civilized. We see a lot more children and pregnant woman in the group of survivor's at the end which to me suggests other circle's had a lot more sacrifice. People giving up their lives without as much argument and volatility so new life would survive.

Was the intention of the film to bring awareness to how we see others, or to create shock value?

Not shock value at all. That's just the nature of being honest about conversations and archetypes that exist here on earth. Most movies skirt around that. The goal was always to create something entertaining that also talked about deeper issues. What's the value of a human life? Who really deserves to live? How do we resolve conflict? What does the concept of a "community" really mean in this day and age in the U.S.?

What is the message in "Circle"?

I don't think it's about hope or change. I think it's a cynical look in the sense of: this is what can happen in a high stakes scenario where lives are on the line if you're not careful. Little threads of conflict or disagreement can turn toxic real quick and destroy everything if you don't keep a level head. Things get personal really quickly too. It's more of a cautionary tale than a parable about the inherent goodness of human beings.

Did the directors seek out specific individuals for each main role? If so, why was it important to be specific?

A lot of the characters in "Circle" are archetypes. Some get the chance to develop into fully realized complex individuals, but some don't make it that far. And some just aren't that complex of human beings to begin with. Lindsay Chag (our casting director) did an amazing job of finding all these talented people who were really in it for the art and wanted to participate in something different that almost felt like theater at times with the whole company in the same room at one time hashing it out "onstage". Diversity was obviously a huge part of the script and a huge goal for us, so that was an important part. Making sure we were representing all walks of life.

Did any of the characters that died really deserve to be killed/sacrifice themselves?

Yikes, that's tough one. Not my call to make either. I know audiences always want certain people to go. Usually the lawyer and the businessman (who both played their roles brilliantly). But, that's the whole conflict of the movie: what's the value of a human life. Is it because you have family? Make a lot of money? Are a "good" person? Have had rough go of it? It's a good topic to discuss and I certainly do not have the answer!

Were there any films that inspired "Circle"?

"12 Angry Men", "Twilight Zone".... A lot of people say it's similar to "Cube", so that's in there somewhere. I know Mario and Aaron (the writer/directors) talk a lot about being inspired by Tarantino's dialogue heavy scenes that slow build to a big finish. "Children of Men" is another one Mario talks about a lot. Between those guys and my brother and I (who also produced), I think we're a walking film encyclopedia.

What were some of the highlighted prejudices from "12 Angry Men" used to create the overall theme in "Circle"? Do you think they were accurately portrayed?

"12 Angry Men" was a big influence on "Circle", more than anything else really. I think the stakes are even higher in "Circle" with everyone fighting for their right to live and only getting two minutes each round to do so. And I think "Circle" very accurately portrays prejudices like

racism, sexuality, gender, class warfare, ageism, etc. It takes place in LA (or, above LA, as it were J) and I think "Circle" very accurately portrays prejudices like racism, sexuality, gender, class warfare, ageism, etc. It takes place in LA (or, above LA, as it were J) and I think you find a lot of those same arguments happening here on earth everyday. The movie's a bit cynical, but it does represent the conversations we're all having today.

If all of your favorite superheroes and villains were put in "the circle", who would be the one to leave?

Rorschach from "Watchmen" would survive. I wish I could see Captain America save the day, but the "Circle" is a perfect environment for Rorschach to manipulate and push people in the direction he wanted. He'd send them all into existential terror and come out the other side. Diabolical!

Was this an easy project to produce and act in? Which took most of your time?

Not easy at all, but very fun and rewarding and a great learning experience. Doing double duty is always a challenge. We only had ten days to film and most of it was standing in our circles and being terrified which takes quite a bit of energy. Eric was a challenge too because he needed to stand out, but not too much and he needed to appear scared and chivalrous but also have enough ambiguous moments built in that you buy the ending. That was real tricky and I hope I pulled it off. Post-production on the movie was a learning experience for me too as a filmmaker with all the effects and sound design. It took a lot of time and effort to get all of that just right on our tiny budget. And then just selling the movie to Netflix, getting to know them, and getting a better understanding of the way movies get seen in this day and age. The whole process was long, fun and enlightening.

Between producing films and acting in films, which would you say you are most passionate about?

Definitely acting. It is the most challenging and rewarding aspect of story telling for me.

Is it easier preparing for a television role or film role?

Sometimes, it is easier for film because you have a bit more time. Not always, but sometimes. With TV, if it is a show that is already on you can watch it to get a sense of the tone and the characters that already exist. So they both have their pros and con's.

How did you get involved with "FunnyorDie"?

I am friends with Mike Farah and some of the other writers there who I met through Groundlings. We have made some videos for them that they have promoted. It is always a fun, creative exercise and I definitely want to do more comedy.

How did your improv with "The Groundlings" inspire you to create an almost sinister Dennis Mitchell in your short film, "Dennis Doesn't Live Here Anymore"? Why did he take such a drastic turn in his life?

I was doing a lot of innocent, precocious characters and exploring that kind of thing. In college, people said I looked like a grown up Dennis Mitchell. I kind of combined the two things and always had this dream of a short about Dennis grown up and in the middle of a quarter life crisis like myself and a lot of my peers went through once they got out of school and were in the real world. It's sort of a dark thought, but I wondered what Dennis would be like now in a post-9/11, post-recession, post-everything world. It's all satirical and tongue-in-cheek, but the Dennis in my short couldn't really cope with being an adult, so he didn't.

Would you say you tie a lot of your own interests; Sci-Fi, gaming, Comic Books, into the projects you produce, direct, and/or act in?

I am definitely starting to! It can take a while to find your



creative voice and the things you want to talk about. I feel like that happened over the last few years. The two films I worked on this year as an actor and a filmmaker ("Circle" and "Dennis Doesn't Live Here Anymore") both sort of have all of the elements that interest me in story telling: complex characters, satire, social relevancy, etc. And, they're both wrapped up in that kind of pulpy/genre box you're talking about. I think we'll keep making stuff that has those elements.

Is "The Giant Mechanical Man" based off any life experiences you've had?

Sort of like "Dennis....", I think it appealed to the young adult in me. The lead characters: they don't have it all figured out yet, and that's ok. They know they have interests, they know they don't love their day jobs. I thought it was the most realistic romantic comedy I'd ever read. Most "romcoms" glamorize everything: "The beautiful newscaster who has everything but is still miserable." Mechanical Man felt real, but still hopeful. They don't figure everything out by the end, but they figure out what makes them truly happy and they can go from there.

"The Collection" is twistedly brilliant but you can't ignore the grim nature of the film's storyline. Is it difficult to shed light on the darker aspects of the human mind?

Marcus Dunstan and Patrick Melton (the writers/filmmakers) are definitely the ones to do it! They're awesomely brilliant, seem super stable, and have great senses of humor. I think because they have pretty normal lives and a great understanding of the genre they're able to delve deeper into the dark recesses of the mind and also subvert some of your expectations as they pertain to horror.

Do you have a personal interest in psychology?

Totally! I love it. I'm always reading books about the brain and how it works. What makes people tick and all that stuff fascinates me. I've been seeing a therapist for almost a decade now so that can't help but rub off on my interests into psychology, people, relationships, etc.

Would you agree or disagree that nothing is truly original, but instead based loosely off our own experiences in some way?

Point of view can always be original, because everyone's perspective on life and their experiences are different. That's why we keep going back and watching the same stories, but they still excite us or enlighten us in different ways. I had a teacher tell me once, "The only thing you can be to perfection is yourself." That stuck with me. If you're telling a story that's personal to you, even only slightly, then it has some originality to it. Because there's only one you in all the world.

Last words? How can you be contacted?

Thank you so much for the great questions and the interest in my work! I look forward to bookmarking Twenty4Seven Magazine and reading more of your interviews with young entertainers, filmmakers, genre fans, and just plain all around cool people you talk to! I can be reached via Twitter: @thenardelli, Instagram: @thenardelli, Facebook: Michael Nardelli, and Website: Michaelnardelli.com.



DEAR D'ANNIE,

My best friend and I recently went out for some drinks and this guy at the bar instantly showed his interest...in both of us! We talked and laughed until the sun came up and the bar closed and we kept walking and talking until we went home. My best friend is the "one-night-stand" type and I am the "long-term-relationship" type. We both fell for him and he seemed equally interested in both of us. There was nothing "douche-y" about him and he seemed like a relationship type, like me. My best friend claims she only wants to sleep with him and is willing to back down if I am really into him. The problem is that I have never seen her look at someone like that before. I am afraid that it is going to ruin our friendship if I pursue him but I really believe he could be the one. I have never felt like this before and I think my best friend feels the same way! He is so perfect. It feels like a complete waste to just leave it and never contact him again. What do I do?

Dear Relationship type,

I know I'm stating the obvious but you are between a rock and a hard place and that is never easy. On one hand you feel something for this guy but on the other hand you suspect your friend may feel the same way about this guy. I am not clear about the interaction times between you, your best friend, and the guy other than the initial meeting you mentioned. However, the fact that your best friend is your best friend speaks more to the most important of the two. While the guy may be the relationship type, friendships have a way of outlasting relationships so before you look at the choice, look at the friendship.

You mentioned you never saw her look at someone like that before; while your assumptions could be correct it is a possibility that you saw something else. Perhaps she has never wanted to conquer someone that much before which you could be reading as her wanting a relationship. Past behavior is a predictor of future behavior so your interpretation of her feelings may not be the same as her reality of her feelings. You said "she claims she only wants to sleep with him" which implies that you may not believe her. You also stated that "she says she can back off if I like him" but you also said that she looks at him giddy eyed.

I wish I could say it won't ruin your friendship but I can't. It could ruin your friendship and here is why. No matter what happens, the other person could end up feeling like they were denied the chance and end up resenting the other person consciously or subconsciously. Additionally, once she sleeps with him (even if she does not have a relationship with him), that would limit your future possibilities with him and if you have a relationship with him, she won't be able to have sex with him. I is a choice, but like so many other tough choices we face, the choice simply has to be one which you can live with.

Best of luck,
Dannie Grandison

For advice, contact Dannie on Facebook or Instagram at Dannie Grandison or email her at dannie.grandison@gmail.com.

Valentine's Day: Celebrating The Love Of You. Be Your Own Valentine Everyday This Year.

By the time I was a mother, I had not even completed the process of becoming a woman first. I didn't know who I was, what I was, what made me the way I was, or who I wanted to become or not become. I was simply a list of particles floating around, trying to find a wholeness that I often looked for in everyone else except myself. I was not enough for me and so I thought that a great love could give me answers, complete me, and fulfill me in a way that would make me feel just as grown as I thought I was. I was a kid, with a kid. No grown adult could tell me that I wasn't grown.

I was 19 and that legally made me an adult. I was a broken one but one nonetheless. I knew everything; which in hindsight meant I knew very little. At the time, I didn't realize that I was broken. One has to know what feeling whole is like before they can realize they are broken. Wholeness for me was an abstract concept that wasn't real because I had no frame of reference to that state of being, wholeness. In a way, we all feel broken at some point; and quite often the source of that brokenness comes from either loving someone more than we love ourselves or never getting the love we so desperately wanted or knew we deserved.

February is often known as the "mother of love" because of Valentine's Day. Candies, chocolate, flowers, gifts, and cards often fill our hearts with validations that someone loves us and thinks that we are special. We watch, wait for, hope, and sometimes envy those whose loved ones have showered them with gifts, showing others how much they care while showing some how little they do. Some people hate Valentine's Day more than any other holiday because it either reminds them of the great love they don't have, love they have lost, or simply love that they have not been lucky enough to discover. In the words of Scrooge, "Ba humbug".

This Valentine's Day I want to challenge you to celebrate the greatest love of all. In the words of Whitney Houston, "Learning to love yourself it is the greatest love of all". Allow yourself to love you this Valentine's Day. If you are sharing the day with someone, then love both you and them. Don't pick them over yourself and most importantly, don't let their love for you be more important to you than the love you have for yourself. If you are spending it alone, then embrace the things that you are certain of, the things you haven't compromised, and celebrate loving yourself enough to not just settle to prevent being alone on Valentine's Day.

There was a time when I hated being asked the question, "Why are you single?" Now I only answer, "No one has given me a convincing enough reason not to be." This is a far stretch from the responses I use to give. I used to feel like I had an emotional fanny pack that I would issue justifications as to why I no longer wanted to settle, negotiate my non-negotiables, and worst of all wake up next to someone I knew I was settling for. At times, we crave the love of someone so much, we neglect the most important relationship that is the cornerstone of any successful relationship. That is the relationship with ourselves.

"If you are not able to understand who you are, what you want, what you need, what you deserve, what makes you a better person, or what makes you, then you may not necessarily be in a position to love or to be loved in the context of a relationship. If you are just a part of your best self, you may never get your whole best love. Being just a part of your best you may limit your options. Without your whole self, you may not have the right tools in place to measure, decipher, weigh, or accurately determine if what you are getting is what you need or just what you are getting".

As you think and reflect this month on love, past lovers, future possibilities, and soul mates, take some time to nourish your soul, love yourself, and learn from your reflections. Lessons of the past can be used as an opportunity to prepare you for future desires, needs, and wants. Use your reflections in your pursuit of finding someone who adds to you, not someone who completes you. This year be your own Valentine, not just in February but every day of the year. "Happy Valentine's Day" from your greatest love; you.

Dannie Grandison is an author and practicing life enhancement specialist who is available for sessions, speaking engagements, and consultations. Contact her via email at danniegrandison@gmail.com or via phone at 1.888.988.8331.

BECAUSE IT'S A THING.

BY TINYCHO

For the past three years, I've worked for a certain Forbes 200 retail company that specializes in the selling and trading of video games and gaming consoles. Let's leave the obvious nameless for now, they get really sensitive when you write about them too loudly. But yes, I've worked for this company, selling personally, tens of thousands of games over my tenure.

It is a literal cash COW. I use cow because well, this article is going public right? Right. So. Translate that however you want.

Video games aren't just associated with the pimple faced, pocket protector stereotypes anymore although I did get to interact with that type quite often. And might I add that they are the EASIEST customers to do business with. They know exactly what they want, how they want it, and what add-ons they're looking for. They know about every new game release before I have to pitch it to them making my job that much easier.

But back to my point. Video games have gone from that weird box thing similar to what Steve Jobs invented in his garage, to a sleek box that sits below your television set that controls your tv, cable, and sex life. Netflix and chill, am I right? I'm sure some meme would be appropriate at this point. Just use your imagination for now.

An example of how insane video games have become. Some games have become so powerful in their demand, that they've

made me dread whole days at work. A year beforehand. See at my "place of work," when a top tier game is released, they have midnight releases. Meaning, I'm not getting home 'til at least 2:00am. Oh and for the huge titles, the ones you see the commercials for during the Super Bowl, yeah I'm not getting home until 3 or 4. When Madden comes out, I can sell 200 copies at a midnight release. NBA 2ksomething, 300. And let's not mention Call of Duty, where any game in the franchise could keep me at the store 'til 5am. Thank god I didn't work in this industry when Grand Theft Auto V came out and it made 2 billion dollars in 2 days...

These are console games. There's a whole other genre, the most powerful one of them all: the PC game. World of Warcraft. My personal favorite (I lost 6 years of my life to this game). At its peak, this game had 12 million subscribers at 15 dollars a month! Hold the hell up, I've GOT to do some math on that. That's 12 months at 15 dollars times 12 million subscribers that equals...180 million dollars. This is me giving my laptop a pointed stare right now.

What is the point of me talking about all this? Well besides the obvious reason that I'm a gamer myself and because I simply can, but because it is actually a thing. So often I hear people turn their noses up at the thought of games and how they're so silly or all they do is create criminals. First of all, I resent the comment that they're silly when that is merely one category out of many and I very happily enjoy the silly ones...so there!

And two...games don't create criminals, that's bad parenting.

 **TINYBUTTERFLY20**

APPLE WATCH: PART DEUX

BY TINYCHO

With the Apple Watch 2 brewing in the distance, the rumor mill has been spewing different theories on what the second generation Apple smart watch is going to bring in 2016. Not too much is known, which isn't a surprise as Apple is notorious for leaving you on the edge of your seat. Then, leaving you breathless with an almost religious experience called a keynote speech.

But if the rumors are true, we could potentially expect FaceTime. Probably the most requested feature for the device. Along with that, upgrades to the workout app that includes reading oxygen levels. Is there a Fitbit that even does that?

With the Apple Watch 2 coming, a iMac refresh, the iPhone 7, and the iPad 3 amongst other pieces Apple is dropping this year, 2016 might be one of Apple's most dominant years to date.



Apple Watch 1 pictured



COMING SOON...MAYBE: TOM CLANCY'S THE DIVISION

BY TINYCHO

The Division has been a long time coming. Literally. It was announced at E3 back in 2013, but before that, production on the game began back in 2012. In 2014, it was delayed to 2015 and low and behold, 2015 has come and gone so....but good news! It has an official release date for March 8th of this year. For now at least.

Another title under the umbrella that is Tom Clancy, The Division is based in a form of post-apocalyptic United States after a disease pretty much destroys the United States in less than a week. Ironically, the day the disease spread was on Black Friday. Makes perfect sense to me. Want to go straight to the beginning of the line? Biological warfare is the easiest way to do it.

So far, The Division has been well received and at this point, highly anticipated. The graphics are gorgeous with the lighting effects, ad plot line creating enough depth to draw the player in. There's still a lot of information yet to be released in detail, but some of those questions



for sure will be answered in the coming weeks as the beta gets played through by those who pre-order the game.

The game looks promising, but there's still many weeks of game leaks before the final product hits shelves.

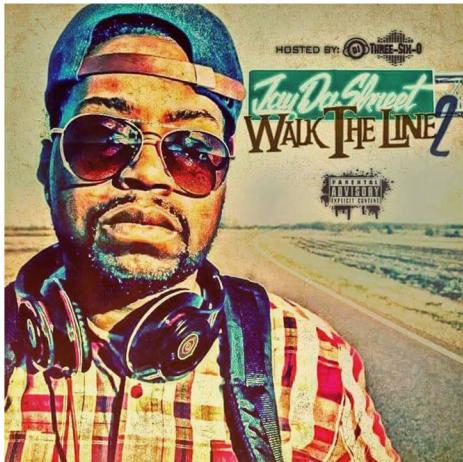
Platforms: Xbox One, Playstation 4, PC

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MIXTAPE REVIEW

WALK THE LINE 2

JAY DASKREET



BARS	★★★★★
AUDIO QUALITY	★★★★★
BEATS	★★★★★
SONG CONCEPTS	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★

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CHECK ME OUT

EJAAZ INDIANAPOLIS, IN

EJAAZ is a 22 year old music artist from Indianapolis, IN. With a love for visual art and music, he began to venture into a creative lifestyle. Currently, EJAAZ is fresh off of tour with fellow Indianapolis native, Mark Battles and about to release a project called, "Lil Darling". Soon after, he will be embarking on a nationwide tour with Skate Maloley and Derek Luh.

When it comes to the music, there is a thoughtfulness to EJAAZ's work that is evident as soon as his plainspoken lyrics hit your ears. He favors quiet production and soundscapes that are often stark and cold, full of empty space, and he warms up with his willingness for introspection and adaptable, melodic flow. He can go in or pull back, with an impressive handle on how to treat different beats and create diverse sounds.

EJAAZ has been a featured artist on the cover of Pattern Magazine in 2014 and has also been casted in Indianapolis based commercials to promote the city and the arts in 2015.

This year, EJAAZ has helped create a film based on his experiences in Indianapolis to further brand the culture of his home state, which was sponsored, funded, and approved by the city government.

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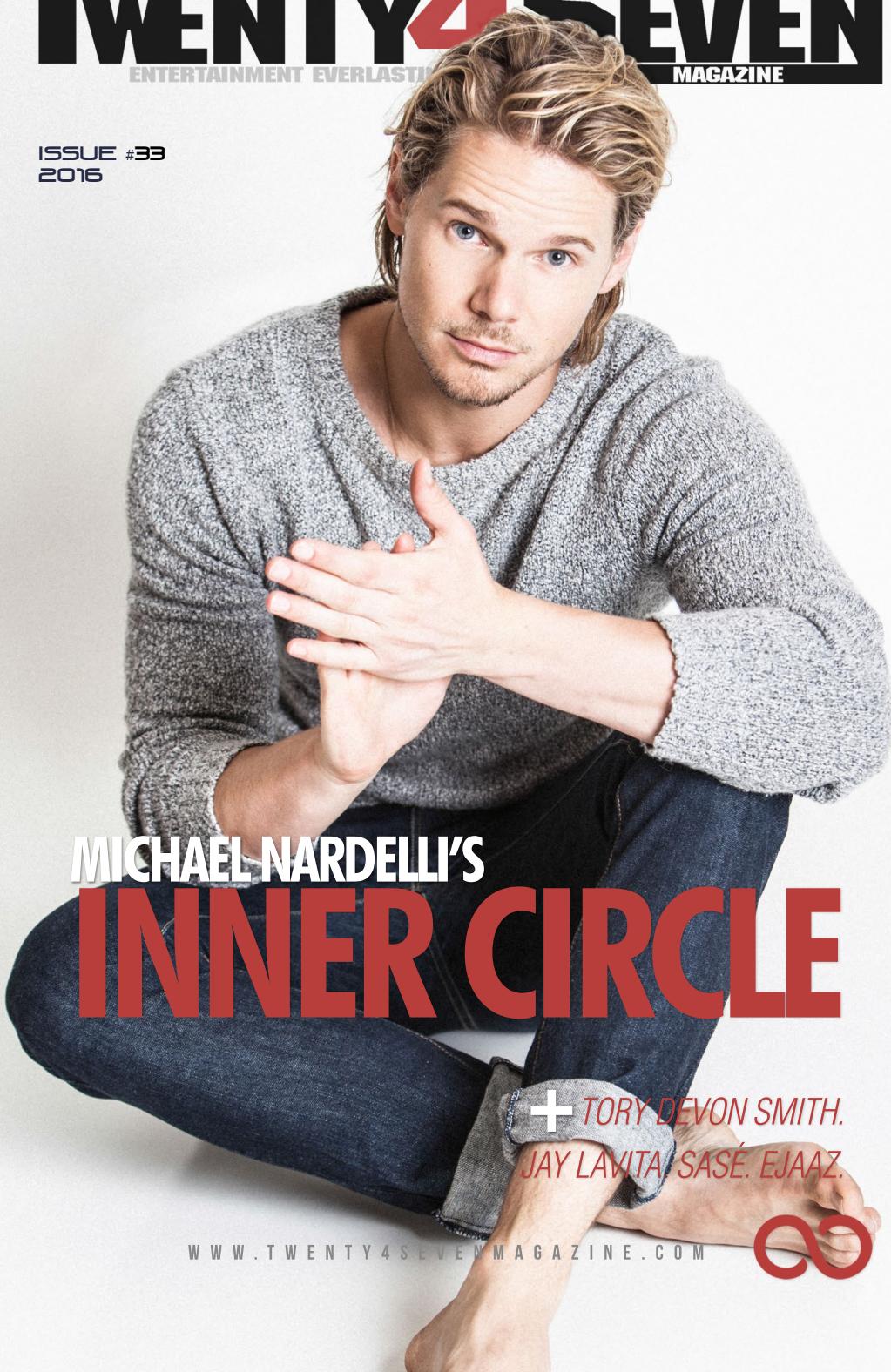
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MICHAEL NARDELLI'S INNER CIRCLE

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