

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT EVERLASTING MAGAZINE

ISSUE #44
2018

YOUTH
EDITION

ASIA MONET

+ Xolo Maridueña. Can Cool. TJ Sauce Kid. Leah Willige.
Destiny Flemmonds. Aaliyah Scharkley. Morgan Sy.
Young Futures Inc..

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Zavior Mendez
Bronx, NYC

CHILL.

WWW.BRIGHTWOODENTERTAINMENT.COM



When I was growing up and would go places like school field trips, the skating rink or anywhere with my friends, my mother would always make sure I had more than enough money to be able to do whatever it was that I wanted. I had friends who would show up to go somewhere and would only have \$5 to spend for the entire day and I would have upwards of \$20-\$50. In some cases, it was overboard but for the most part, most of these places we were going definitely cost more than \$5 to even do the bare minimum.

The reason for this was that my mother had an unpleasant experience during a trip when she was a child and made it a point to ensure I never had to go through the same thing. I remember asking a friend of mine during senior year of high school, "Your parents didn't put any money away for you to go to college?" Unfortunately, they didn't and I didn't understand why they wouldn't.

As adults, parents, (I'm not old enough to be an O.G., lol), etc. It is our job to mold the generations that come after us and give them the proper knowledge and tools to become successful at whatever it is they want to become successful at. I mean, the children are our future, right?

With that being said, welcome to Issue #44: Youth Edition, which is covering those who are 18 years old and under. Enjoy.

Tyrone Davis

Pictured below: Students join local authorities for "Donuts with Cops" where they talk with law enforcement, ask questions and learn about what the police do. Location: Andrew J. Brown Academy in Indianapolis, IN.



TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT EVERLASTING MAGAZINE

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CONTENTS

CAN COOL	4
TJ SAUCE KID	5
DESTINY FLEMMONDS	6-7
LEAH WILLIGE	8-9
WHAT YOU DO.....	9
AALIYAH SCHARKLEY	11
ASIA MONET	12-15
PICS ON LOCATION	17
MORGAN SY	18-23
XOLO MARIDUEÑA	24-27
YOUNG FUTURES, INC.	28-29
SUPPORT A CAUSE	30

MAKIN'
NOISE

can cool

HOT COMMODITY

WORDS BY: KRYSTAL LUSTER

Can Cool is a multi-talented young man who is certainly moving in the right direction. From an early age, he was inspired by the likes of rapper T.I. who continually inspires his craft, alongside Chris Brown, Usher, Young Thug, Rick James, and Michael Jackson. Although he is from the small town of Chattanooga, TN, he is steadily taking big steps towards success. Can Cool is not afraid to put in the work needed in order to be the best artist he can, and to keep his fans in awe, so he is adamant about spending anywhere between 2-4 hours in the studio. Because of that amount of dedication, Can Cool knew it was necessary to make the transition from TN to ATL as his career began gaining momentum.

When asked what fans can expect for 2018, and he simply mentioned, "hit records, live shows, and tons of entertainment". Can Cool is set to release a new EP this year, and has recently released the visuals for his hit single "We Lit"; a single from his most recent EP 'Cool Season'. Can Cool hopes his music will make others want to have a good time, be drama free, as well as allow people to learn more about his life. Be sure to check out more from this singer, rapper, songwriter, and producer by following him on all social media outlets. His music can be found on Tidal, Spotify, and Apple Music.

Follow Can Cool on Twitter and IG @realcancool.

PHOTO:
CARLOS STEPHENSON

MAKIN'
NOISE

TJ SAUCE KID

INTERVIEW BY:
KRYSTAL LUSTER

When Tj Sauce Kid isn't busy finishing homework or watching the latest episode of "Phineas and Ferb", this young prodigy keeps his focus on perfecting his craft as an artist. Tj's work ethic and upbeat attitude are reflected in the music he puts out and it is no wonder he has a growing fan base. With the guidance from his father, mentor and fellow eXgang member T'Juan "The Mystery Kid", Tj is sure to continue down the road of success.

Why do people call you Tj Sauce Kid?
Lol, people call me Tj SauceKid because my nickname is Tj and I got the sauce. My dad came up with my name and I was like "Ayyyeeeee"!

What was the name of the first song you wrote?
I'm ballin' (Steph Curry) was the name of my first song. It was produced by Pluto. I wrote the hook and my dad helped me write the verses.

Who would you say is your biggest supporter?
My family because they are always there for me and my fans! I love all my Boss Kids; or BK Nation as I like to call them.

What is your single "Show You How To Do It" about?
The song is about inspiring others to show us how they do what they do. Anybody can turn up to it no matter who they are or what they do because it is a fun song people can dance to.

What is it like being able to work with your dad and fellow eXgang member, T'Juan "The Mystery Kid"?
It's pretty cool. I love working with my dad because he makes work fun. He taught me how to engineer so when he records, that's what I do for him. We are about to start a YouTube channel so that we can show people every thing that we do together. I think we're going to call it Tj and Tj.

How do you make time for school when you're busy working on your music?
Well, I only work on music after my homework is done and

on the weekends. My education comes first.

What is your favorite cartoon?
Phineas and Ferb is my favorite cartoon! It is sooo, sooo, sooo funny! Lol, I have a cartoon coming out pretty soon also!

What is it like being on tour?
It's fun and feels amazing every time! I really love being on stage. I get to meet all my fans, take a lot of pictures and do radio. I love the hotel's breakfast and swimming pools too! The food is always good! Lol.

Do you play any instruments?
Yes, I'm taking drum and piano lessons. I'm also learning how to produce beats.

What is your favorite sport to play/watch?
Football. I'm a 2 time MVP and champion quarterback with my team, MOT Cowboys in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. I like playing basketball and soccer and I have a MVP trophy in soccer also.

Tell us about your book, "My GG and Me".
It is a really funny book that I wrote with my GG (my grandma). It is about our relationship and explains all the different meanings of "GG". Sometimes she's my "Godly Grandma" and sometimes she's my "Ghetto Grandma". You just have to read it to see! You can buy it online or on my merchandise website www.bknation.bigcartel.com.

How do you hope to change the world with your music and other talents?
I hope my music helps other kids like me to want to be Boss Kids. "Boss Kids" are kids who believe, overcome, sees and succeeds.

Follow Tj Sauce Kid on Twitter + IG @tjsaucekid. For booking: Houghton Talent Agency - 404.603.9454

DESTINY FLEMMONDS

THINKING AHEAD

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS



It's important for the kids in our community to understand that greatness doesn't always have to mean sports and entertainment. There are plenty of avenues one can pursue and for Destiny Flemmonds, higher learning and the military are in her future. What is it they say about proper planning?

Introduce yourself for us using only 4 sentences.

My name is Destiny Flemmonds and I attended Crispus Attucks High School in Indianapolis, IN. I'm a 16 year old Christian female who participates in lot of activities at church, school and more. I like to make opportunities for myself to make my life easier in the future and I try not to let school, people or other things stress me out.

What do you like/dislike most about high school?

I like the after school activities and the JROTC program along with all the opportunities Crispus Attucks offers to advance my future. I most dislike the unorganized events and lack of effective communication between administrators, staff, parents and teachers.

Tell us about "4-H". What is it's purpose and what is your role in the organization?

4-H is a program that introduces kids to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers and agriculture.

The program encourages good citizenship and healthy living. It is a national organization but it has many different smaller programs within itself that helps the youth who join make connections with people who have similar goals and interests while still helping their community in some way, shape or form.

You recently traveled to Washington, DC for the "National Youth Summit Series". How was the trip?

The trip to Washington D.C. was insightful and brought attention to different health problems that affect youth, along with many perspectives on how to fix and help solve these many different issues. We discussed nutrition education, physical fitness and mental health. Mental health was a huge topic. So many youth go through things and never get the help they need to cope. There were 4 of us from Indiana and we created an action plan to share what we learned with others in our schools and communities.

How do you maintain your GPA and why is that important?

To maintain my GPA, I do most of my homework at school before after school activities. Keeping my GPA up is important to me because it is my gateway to getting scholarships.

So, you plan on attending college. Where would you like to go and what are you going to major in?

My plan is to attend Purdue University and double major in a foreign language and either Biomedical Engineering or Biomedical Science.

Student loan debt is a huge problem for people all over the country. How important are scholarships and how can one go about finding those opportunities?

Scholarships are a big deal! My mom and stepdad are not rich so in order to stay away from student loans, scholarships are a must! Fastweb.com is a great place to start looking for scholarships. Students should ask their school counselors for info on new scholarships because colleges send them info all the time.

If you have a passion for something, there is probably a club or group that you can connect with that has scholarship opportunities. For example, I like biomedical sciences and biomedical engineering. I am in the Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis, 4-H and Purdue Bound. All of these programs expose me to biomedical sciences and offer scholarship opportunities.

What made you decide to join the Army vs. the other military branches?

I choose to go Army instead of any other branch of the military because most of my family went either Army or Navy. I don't really like Navy or Marines because I'd like to spend as little time as possible in the ocean or at sea. I don't want to have anything to do with planes or knowing how to fly them either so that cuts out the Airforce.

I would get to go to work with my mom when she would get extended orders and being around soldiers was a norm for me. Army life is what I know. It's what I am comfortable with.

How do you plan on using the experience to your advantage?

Joining the Army will pay for college! I will get paid to travel. In 20 years I can retire and start a another phase of my life. I will meet so many people from so many places. This will expose me to and help me understand the views of people who have views that may be completely different from my own.

I grew up a military (Army) brat as well and traveled a lot (especially in Europe). Being that you are joining, is there any place in particular that you'd love to go? Why?

I'd absolutely love to go to Japan, China, Russia, Germany, and France. I'd love to learn about the history and culture of the Japan and China and I'd like to learn the languages of Russia, Germany, and France.

Looks like you have a bright future ahead of you. Why do you think that doesn't happen for a great deal of people in your age group?

I think that the main reason it doesn't happen to a lot of people in my age group is because they are surrounded by people that aren't supportive. There is no one to push them and encourage them to use all of their resources to the fullest. There's also the chance that they aren't exposed to the opportunities that aid in their success until high school. The path to success has to start early. Waiting until high school to take advantage of opportunities is too late.

Who is your biggest supporter?

My mom is my biggest supporter by far.

Will you be attending prom this year? How do you feel about it?

I will be attending prom, although I don't want to go for the dance. I just want to hang out with my senior friends at a school function before they graduate.

What has been the biggest moment of your life so far?

The biggest moment of my life so far has been being able to see Michelle Obama speak when she came to Indy. She is so down to earth. I enjoyed hearing her speak about her childhood. It reminded me of the stories my mom told me about her own childhood. Michelle Obama was an average person just like you and I, who positioned herself to do remarkable things that impact our whole nation.

Name your favorite and explain why:

A) Film

Van Helsing. I like the gothic genre and this has a lot of action.

B) Artist (Music)

Marian Hill. They are different and I like different. They have this weird R&B vibe mixed with pop. They are pretty cool.

C) Book

The *Fallen* Series by Lauren Kate. I am really into the paranormal and supernatural. Lauren Kate gives us a different view of religion, reincarnation and fallen angels.

Which is your favorite social media platform and why:

I'd pick Facebook over the rest because most of the people that I keep in contact with either use Facebook or I have their phone numbers. Other than that, I don't really use social media because I get bored of it too fast.

In what ways do you think technology has helped/hurt your generation?

Technology helps because it keeps everyone in touch when separated by large distances and we have quicker access to information. However, I think technology hurts interpersonal communication. I am an introvert and I would rather text than talk over the phone. That makes for very awkward face to face conversations.

Why is your best friend your best friend?

Faith and I became best friends when we met in kindergarten. We went to the same schools through 8th grade, did almost everything together and were each other's support whenever something happened. We told each other things that we didn't want to tell other people.

In your eyes, what is it that adults don't get?

I would have to say that every problem isn't derived from video games, TV shows or movies.

If there was a guarantee that life would go exactly as you planned, what does life look like for you in the year 2031?

In 2031, I would be 30 years old. I would be a high ranking Army officer 7 years away from retirement. I would be well off, financially set for the rest of my life and for at least 2 future generations (if I happen to go that route as far as children are involved).

Let's end this with a quote.

"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly." - Morticia Addams

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: JULIAN NEWMAN





8TH GRADER, LEAH WILLIGE DISCUSSES SOFTBALL, HER TEAM “SOFTBALLONE” AND THE TEAM’S RECENT TRIP TO TAIWAN

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

Leah Willige is currently an 8th grader at Northwest CHS in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 14 year old athlete is passionate about sports and specializes in softball. Those talents recently helped earn her and her team a trip to Taiwan, where she learned about the Taiwanese culture. Having lived overseas as a child, I know the importance of an experience of that kind.

How long have you been playing softball and what position do you play?

I have been playing softball for close to 10 years. I am a pitcher and I play the corners, which means I also play 1st base and 3rd base when I'm not pitching. I'm also considered one of the power hitters because I can hit hard and I have put several over the fence.

Tell us about “SoftballOne”.

SoftballOne is a training facility located in Brownsburg, IN. I started pitching lessons with my coach Laview when I was 9 years old at the facility. I was 12 when they asked me to join their team for 12U, which is also called *SoftballOne*. I have played with them for 3 seasons. We are an A level, full travel team. The owner of *SoftballOne*, Cara and the coach, Laview were asked to participate in the tournament in Taiwan because Laview is a former Olympic softball player for Taipei and has lots of ties to the area. They are known for bringing the best players over to participate. This recent trip was their third invitation to play in the invitational.

What was the experience like? Was it your first time traveling overseas?

There were several different cultures represented at the tournament, including teams from China, Japan, Taiwan and our team from the United States. The food was definitely different! At our first banquet, I was served squid, head on fish and lots of other types of fresh seafood. They make it look very beautiful, but I wasn't interested. There's also a lot of rice and noodles. By the end of the trip, I got adventurous and tried several things, but I'm still not a fan.

When we were there, we went to a place called “Family Mart” and the 7/11 for snacks and stuff. They also have night markets, held right in the streets where you can find just about anything you could want. The food is so fresh and sometimes the animal is slaughtered right there in the market. I actually witnessed someone slaughter a pig right there on the street, gut it, slice it and hand it to a customer. The people of Taiwan are super friendly and helpful. There are some places that look like American stores, but a lot more like I said above. And yes, this was my first time traveling overseas. I

have traveled within the United States for softball, but never anything quite like this.

How long was the flight? Was it a straight shot?

We flew about 4.5 hours from Indy to San Francisco. From San Francisco, we flew 13 hours to Taipei and then a 2.5 hours bus ride from Taipei to Puli.

What did you learn about the Taiwanese people and culture that was most interesting to you?

I learned that they really care about family and their ancestry. They are much less materialistic than we are. They really use every resource at their fingertips, including all parts of an animal or plants that are edible, etc. If you order chicken at a restaurant you get all of the chicken.

Also, they don't have sidewalks or crosswalks. To cross the street, you have to stop traffic yourself. There is no tax on items. If it says \$80 that's what you pay. The money is way different and they are very cash driven. I never saw anyone with a credit card.

Teppanyaki Restaurant here in Indianapolis is one of my favorites. What was the Teppanyaki Restaurant like there?

They cook in front of you, which is what Teppanyaki actually means. It isn't a buffet like the ones here. All of the food is fresh. You get to choose your meat, rice or noodles and cabbage. Their soy sauce was also really thick. It was much better than the restaurants here.

How did the softball games go? Did you guys win?

We won several games outside of the tournament and won three games in the tournament. We beat China by a run rule, meaning we were too far ahead of them for them to be able to catch up in the time allotted.

How was the weather?

There was lots of rain at first then it got really humid. The last couple of days were really hot, sunny and beautiful.

What have you learned about “sisterhood” while being on your team?

Trust! You realize you really need each other. We were the only ones who could speak English so we had to stick together. You have to bond with and trust each other on and off the field. When we were selected for this team, we only had a few weeks to get to know each other and get to know how each other played so we had to trust the coaches decisions and trust that we would do okay in the games together. By the end, we were the best of friends.

Who is the funniest person on your team and why?

Paige! She would always fire us up, sing karaoke on the bus to get us going, crack jokes, dance and just kept us laughing and motivated the whole time we were there.

What is the best and worst thing about practice?

We enjoyed practicing at a different environment. The worst part is all the running. We run more than anything else. Our coach is a very firm believer that strong legs and the ability to run fast make a really good softball player.

Does “One Bat Per Player” mean something other than the obvious?

We could only bring one bat with us to Taiwan. Bats don't travel well and we had all of them in one special bag. There was only enough room for one bat for each of us. Most of us have several but had to pick our favorite to take with us.

Is your mother your “Number 1 Fan”? She seems to be a big supporter of yours.

She most definitely is my number one fan, number one supporter and the reason I started playing softball in the first place. She makes sure I'm where I need to be and she's always there cheering me on!

Tell us something about yourself that most don't know.

I really hate peanut butter LOL. Most people don't know that when I mentioned that I play softball that I'm actually as serious about it as I am. A lot of kids who play organized sports are only in it for the fun and for the season but I play year-round and I don't think people realize that.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date?

As of right now, it has to be being chosen to represent the United States at this tournament in Taiwan. I'm also proud that I train for softball several nights per week and also work assisting younger girls in softball training, and I maintain A's and B's in school.

What is your most prized possession?

The Chicago Cubs memorabilia that I got when I saw them play at Wrigley Field for my birthday last year. We also were all given a flag that was hanging at the tournament in Taiwan. There was enough for each American player to get their own.

Outside of sports, what are you into?

As an athlete I really enjoy just watching sports. It doesn't really matter what the sport is, I just enjoy the competition. I am a die-hard Cubs fan. Otherwise, I enjoy laying in my bed and playing on my iPhone.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I'm not sure of my direct career path at this time but I think it's going to be something sports-related like sports therapy.

How can people get in touch with your team, watch games, etc.?

SoftballOne.com, SoftballOne on Facebook and SoftballOne Trip to Taiwan 2018

Any last words?

I have learned that softball may take me around the world but without the education to back it up, I won't go very far. I strive for perfection on and off the field. I have also learned to be humble. Hard work has gotten me here today but I don't let it go to my head. A lot of people have told me that I'm lucky but I don't see that. I see that I've worked hard to get where I am. I'm more concerned with getting into college and making myself into something than being the one with the best material things. Shoes make it a year, but my life and successes will carry me much further.



WHAT YOU DO SPEAKS BACK TO YOU

BY CORLETHA NORMAN BEY, MSW, LCSW

You have been asked time and time again to (insert chore). Each time you are faced with the same task you huff and puff, roll your eyes, stomp your way down the hall, avoid the task; take your pick. Per the usual, the expectation is that you are fussed at by a parent or another authoritative figure. What's the cause for the behavioral cycle? What is it that you are communicating to the person on the receiving end? What is it that you are hoping to communicate? All behaviors communicate a message to the receiver or observer of your behaviors. Does a baby not cry when it needs to be changed or fed?

As I mentioned, all behaviors communicate a message to the receiver or observer. You observe your own behaviors every day. What are you communicating to yourself? Are you telling yourself that you are not worthy by voluntarily taking less than you deserve? Could you be labeling yourself a doormat when you allow others to take advantage of you? Would it be fair to assign the title of punching bag to yourself from your self-inflicted negative self-talk?

Many times we are faced with reflecting back over our lives to think of what we would tell ourselves at a younger age. I would definitely tell my teenaged self to spend more time with myself in order to get to know me better. I know if that would have been done, the detrimental messages I communicated to myself about myself would have never been created. It is much more difficult to sway a person that is sure; in-tuned even, with themselves. Whether that is in their abilities, or who they are as a person, confidence is bae. That confidence communicates various messages to yourself and others that can be key in your ability to navigate the world around you.



CORLETHA NORMAN BEY, MSW, LCSW
is Owner and Clinical Director of Bonhomie, LLC. She has over ten years of experience in the world of social work. This includes mental health therapy, intensive in home therapy for high risk, foster and DFCS/DCBS clients, family and individual therapy, couples therapy, trauma focused therapy, juvenile justice intervention, case management, advocacy, and mentorship.

She can be reached at www.bonhomielc.com.



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AALIYAH SCHARKLEY

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

13 year old Aaliyah Scharkley has been playing organized basketball since she was in the 2nd grade and is now a Lady Giant at Lynhurst 7th and 8th Grade Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 7th grader tells us about her love for basketball, Stephen Curry and the importance of working together in both sports and life.

Tell us about your team. What position do you play?
I played for the Lynhurst Lady Giants. My team was full of hard workers that didn't get down on each other if we did something wrong. When we lost games everyone tried to cheer each other up. I played Small Forward, Power Forward and Center.

What was your team's record?
4 - 12

What are/were your individual stats?
I averaged 8 points a game.

You won the MVP award, correct?
Yes, I have my MVP award hanging high on the wall so everybody can see it.

How important has your dad's presence been in your life?
My dad has been trying so hard to help improve my basketball skills and he always has helped me since I started playing basketball.

Can you beat him one on one?
Lol, I could beat him if I actually tried to.

Name your top 5 NBA players of all time.
Stephen Curry, Micheal Jordan, Draymond Green, Klay Thompson and Carmelo Anthony.

Stephen over LeBron, huh?
I've watched Stephen Curry since he was in college. He works hard and is always the underdog because of his size.

What is your favorite basketball related film?
My favorite basketball related film is *Like Mike*, starring Lil Bow Wow.

You're playing in a 3 on 3 tournament and you have to choose 2 of your current teammates. Who are you choosing and why?
Brooklyn Palmer and Cristen Carter because Brooklyn and I are really good at working together and Cristen is

really good at keeping us focused. She also keeps us hype.

Is there any song that gets you hype before a game?
Curve by Gucci Mane feat. The Weeknd.

Which of your teammates make you laugh the most?
Brooklyn

What has being on a team taught you most about life?
It has taught me that working together is better than trying to go for a lay up and getting a turnover instead.

For any school team, maintaining a decent GPA is mandatory. Aside from that, why is education important to you?
Education can get you far in life. It can get you a scholarship. Even if you don't get a scholarship, you can still earn a degree.

What are you into outside of sports?
I like going to the park with my family or even just going out. I like being active.

Say whatever comes to mind:

A) Black Panther
Wakanda

B) Drake
Jumpman

C) Florida School Shooting
Tragic situation. I'm praying for everyone affected by it.

Name something about yourself most don't know.
My nickname is Billy. I always said I was going to be my dad's first son so I gave myself the name Billy.

What is the thing most misunderstood about you?
People think I'm a total tomboy but I like girl things too.

Any last words?
Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be in this magazine. Shout out to my mom and dad for always being there for me and raising me correctly. Thank you siblings for helping at the house when I was out playing ball and thank you g mama for putting a roof over my head.



PHOTO:
ARAYA DIAZ

ASIA MONET

SPREAD LOVE. BE KIND. INSPIRE.

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

She sings. She acts. She dances. She even has her own clothing line. Asia Monet speaks with us about her reality show "Raising Asia", her love for cover songs and her own music, the importance of family and being multi-talented and more.

What did you like most about filming your reality show, "Raising Asia"?

Having the opportunity to get your own show is pretty cool, but of course does have its good and bad. I enjoyed being with my family and being able to perform throughout the 14 episodes. Also, the show was choreographed under the creative direction of Anthony Burrell. Having people that are close to me involved was the best part.

How important is your family in your life?

#FamilyFirst is definitely important. At the end of the day, my family is always here to support me and make sure I'm happy. Without them, I wouldn't be where I'm at today.

How do you balance life being that you are involved in so much?

I have always been fortunate to have my mom with me making sure my schedule is straight and that I have time to balance everything with my home schooling. Also, my mom makes sure I fit in downtime to recharge. You definitely need rest.

How was it working with Mariah Carey? What did you learn from her that stands out to you the most?

It was a really great opportunity to get the chance to be on the same stage performing with Mariah Carey. I am so grateful for that experience. Every experience is a learning experience and working with her amazing band and crew I learned a lot. I had such a great time...I will always remember it.

Tell us about your single, "Come Along". What inspired it?

"Come Along" was inspired by so many things that I see every day. Things that I think we can do better about as a community. I was fortunate to work with an amazing writer that put my thoughts into this song. That song really meant a lot to me. It is meant to reach out to people and to make a difference, whether it be big or small. It's also meant to empower one another to come together and make a difference every day. Spread love, be kind, and inspire. I'm so happy and grateful for the response from so many people about *Come Along*. It has really inspired me to work harder every day and be able to have a platform to give back with.

Which has been your favorite cover song you've done and why?

Yikes! That's hard. I've recorded six cover videos and I would have to say I really felt emotionally attached to *Mary Did You Know?* that I recorded when I was ten years old. Also, my cover *Rise* that I did when I was 11. I really loved those two covers because I loved the lyrics.

Why do you think being multi-talented is important for an entertainer?

I never thought about that when I was younger. I just always loved what I was doing and loved the challenge of growing and maturing in all areas. I always call it my "Happy Place". But now, I'm starting to see the importance of being multi-talented in the industry. People out here are crazy talented so you better be strong and have multiple talents.

Do you have any advice for other aspiring entertainers?

I get asked this all the time. I always want people to know it's not easy. You have to really love what you do and embrace the process of your journey because it truly is a lot of work. You need to be strong, work hard and keep pushing on even if there are a lot of let downs. You learn from every experience, good or bad and if you believe and are passionate enough, you will succeed.



I was a few years younger than you when I saw “Boyz N Da Hood” for the first time and became familiar with Cuba Gooding Jr. as a lead actor. That film was powerful, especially considering the time period it was released in. American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson was also received critical acclaim. What was it like being on set with Cuba and what did you leave with after the experience was over?

Yes, *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson* was the series to watch and received a lot of attention. I was so surprised and grateful to be a part of such an amazing cast. Though this tragic event happened before I was born, I was able to get so much information about it from my parents and news clippings. Being on set was incredible and of course having Cuba Gooding Jr. as my set dad was even better. He is so nice and funny and just so down to earth. I loved him. After this experience, I was so inspired and on a mission to work harder with my acting, so maybe one day I can be just as great as this cast.

Explain the thought process behind designing your “Art Class” line.

Well, it was a pretty amazing process working with the Target team creating and designing for “Art Class” 2017. The line started with sketches and designs that I thought would fit and then I had a chance to make my pieces from scratch.

Name 3 things on your “Bucket List”

- A) Be cast in a major movie
- B) Tour with my music
- C) Travel the world

When I was 12, the internet wasn’t a thing but fortu-

nately, I was able to live in Europe for a few years and travel while there. That alone let me know that the world was bigger than my neighborhood and that people lived completely different lives than I did. 12 year olds today have grown up with the internet so they’ve been exposed to more without necessarily having to physically go anywhere. Do you think that helps or hurts and why?

Wow, that’s a hard question. I think it is definitely a lot easier with the internet, but you can’t compare being able to travel, experience travel in person and learn about the world. So, I would say there is good and not so good things about all the internet access.

Tell us a weird fact about yourself.

So, a weird fact about myself is that I like strange food combinations.

Where do you think we will be as a society in the next 10 years?

I can only hope that we live in a society of love, acceptance and equality for all.

Being a part of “Generation Z”, how do you think you guys will be remembered? How would you like to be remembered?

I hope and pray that we are remembered as a generation of positive change and that we stood strong together to make a difference and had a voice. Also, that we continued to fight for equality and for what is right.

Follow Asia Monet on Twitter and IG @asiamonetray and her website www.iamasiamonet.com.

PHOTOS:
ARAYA DIAZ





LISA MENDEZ
BRONX, NY





PHOTOS:
ROBERT N. JONES

MAKE UP + HAIR:
NICHELE HARDGE

STYLIST:
LASHAUNDRA ELLE MORGAN

MORGAN **SY**

RENAISSANCE GIRL

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS



PHOTOS:
ROBERT N. JONES

MAKE UP + HAIR:
NICHELE HARDGE

STYLIST:
LASHAUNDRA ELLE MORGAN

Morgan Sy is off to an early start in entertainment. At only 11 years old, the 5th grader is passionate about working on her craft and has a bright future ahead of her.

What do you like most about school?

Writing is my favorite in school. I am currently working on my first book called *The Text* and also a book called *Where it Burns*. They are horror stories because I love horror movies and books.

When did you decide you wanted to be an entertainer and why?

I was 6 years old when I decided I wanted to become an actress, singer, dancer, author and model. It felt good to pretend that I was in the shoes of my favorite actress, Skai Jackson and I wanted to be able to sing like Ariana Grande. They are great role models to me.

What type of dancing are you in to (Hip Hop, Ballet, etc.)?

I am into Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical and Acro dance but I do Ballet as well because it is the foundation of dance.

What do you like to do most when you aren't entertaining?

I like to write and make videos for Youtube.

What is your favorite?

A) Movie

Titanic

B) Book

A Dogs Purpose

C) Song

Let Me Love You - Ariana Grande feat. Lil Wayne

D) Teacher

Mr. Bell at Mathews Elementary (Midland, GA)

Have you won any awards for anything?

I won the "Rising Star Award" for my acting skills in the play called *The Bold Buckaroos*.

Who is your biggest supporter?

My mother (Rasheedah West) and my papi (Elijah Morish).

Which photoshoot has been the most fun and why?

My favorite photo shoot was in November (2017) with Robert Jones because he was nice and he informed me that I was his muse. He played my favorite artist while I posed for the camera.

If you could play any Disney character in a movie, who would it be?

It would be Zuri from the show called *Jesse*. Her real name is Skai Jackson.

Contact/Booking info?

Contact Rasheedah West at 706-536-7507 or by email at rasheedah.west28@gmail.com.





PHOTOS:
ROBERT N. JONES

MAKE UP + HAIR:
NICHELE HARDGE

STYLIST:
LASHAUNDRA ELLE MORGAN

XOLO MARIDUEÑA

TALKS HARDWORK, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE NEW YOUTUBE RED SERIES, "COBRA KAI".

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

For a lot of us, some of our best memories come from our childhoods. We had no bills/debt and some of the hardest decisions we had to make were what we were going to wear to school, who we were going to ask to the school dance or what kind of cereal we were going to eat while watching Saturday morning cartoons. For others, childhood may not have been so great and this could be due to growing up without, family issues at home or even being bullied at school. I think people hold on to those memories (both good and bad) and we love nostalgia because it reminds us of where we come from and where we are going.

My thing is entertainment, specifically film and music and I will turn on an 80's film that I've seen 1000 times in a minute, even if I'm not actually watching it. It's my "go-to" move when I'm designing, cleaning up the house, etc. I am a big fan of the first 2 "The Karate Kid" films and I believe a lot of us saw ourselves in Daniel (Ralph Macchio) in some form or fashion. That's what made those films great. They represented the underdog.

With that being said, meet Xolo Maridueña who stars as Miguel in the upcoming Youtube Red Series, "Cobra Kai". I feel like I can speak for a lot of people my age when I say we are excited about the project. Xolo is a bright young man who aims to change the world in more ways than one. I wish him the best.

What was childhood like for you?

I have a family that supports each other across the board. You know, the kind of family that doesn't tell you an idea is crazy (even if it is) and comes up with way to help you make those crazy ideas happen. That's pretty much the way we treat each other and even if only 1 out of every 10 schemes go right, it's still the learning process that counts. It's like my childhood was that bumper sticker that says, "It's the journey that counts..."

When did you decide you wanted to become an actor?

My dad and I bond over movies and I guess all that watching made me think, "Hey, I can do that!" and they figured out a way to put me in the position to help me achieve that goal.

Tell us about Youtube Red's series, "Cobra Kai". Is this a spin off or sequel type of series?

Ahhhh, I want to say so much but can't say much at all. Here's what I think I can tell you. It's both a spin off and a sequel and follows the trajectory of both Johnny and Daniel's lives and where they are now. You also get to peek back at their iconic relationship and realize that things weren't exactly what you thought they were. It's going to be so good!

Based on the original film, Kreese (Played by Martin Kove) ran the Cobra Kai dojo on "No Mercy" and he and his students were considered the "bad guys". Being that your character is a Cobra Kai student, can we expect the same from you?

No spoilers, but it does have that throwback feel. I can say that the producers (Jon Hurwitz, Hayden Schlossberg, and Josh Heald) have a great balance of both dramatic and comedic timing and they give my character Miguel his hero's journey.

Did you watch all of the original "Karate Kid" films? If so, what did you think about them and in what order would you rank them?

I watched the reboot of *The Karate Kid* (starring Jaden Smith) in theaters so the reboot was where my point of view on that franchise started. I loved that movie when I was a kid and at the time I was hardcore into Shotokan (shout out to Las Vegas Shotokan dojo) so you can imagine the kind of impact that movie had on me. I watched the original *The Karate Kid 1 & 2* before I auditioned for *Cobra Kai* and I think they resonated the same way watching *Ghostbusters* did for me. In my head, I know they are the originals but I still love the newer versions. Maybe that's just the consequence of what you know first? I can see why my generation drives people crazy.

Will any of the original cast members be in the new series? If so, is there anything in particular that you learned from them that stuck with you?

Not just "any" cast members but the big guys, Billy Zabka (Johnny) and Ralph Macchio (Daniel). I got to see them every day of filming this series. Billy was the complete opposite of his on-screen persona. He was warm and welcoming and he treats me like a fellow actor and not some kid on set. He worked through lines with me and he would drill and spar with me. Ralph, of course is just the man! Think of an actor who has been working since he was a teen and has kept working. That's the dream right there, being able to do what you love, forever.

"The Karate Kid" franchise is special to my generation, with the first 2 films being 2 of my favorite films of all time. I think that "Cobra Kai" will be something that my age group will be interested in and can enjoy along with younger people. Based on your experience, what have the reactions been like in anticipation for this series so far?
Ok, so you have two different camps here. There is the audience like you, like my dad and tio who grew up watching this and they are firmly in the "don't mess this up" camp. Then, there are the younger viewers who are going to like the action

PHOTOS BY:
TIM SCHAEFFER

GROOMING:
JOSEPH ADIVARI



(and there's a boatload of action) and the cast members who they can relate to. Those viewers are going to judge the show on the now and vintage viewers are going to tune in for the Johnny and Danny dynamic and hopefully agree that we did this important franchise justice. We have 10 episodes to get this right.

What was training for the series like?

Oh man, it was soooooo difficult. My main trainer was Hiro Koda. This man is a legend in the field of stunt and fight coordination so right away, no pressure. I mean, as in he was an original Power Ranger so here I am, skinny kid with a few years of karate at age 6 under my belt and all of a sudden I'm training 3-6 hours a day. Not just punching and kicking training but yoga, stretching and core workouts. I cried in my pillow that whole first month but it paid off. By the 3rd or 4th episode I was doing the majority of my own stunts. I also want to mention that the skills I learned from Noah Garrett (my stunt double) were the kind of secret squirrel things that these guys just share amongst each other. I really feel fortunate to have worked with both of them because they are at the top of their field.

What has been your favorite acting experience to date?

I guess *Cobra Kai* has been the fullest acting experience to date. *Parenthood* is my favorite in the sense that I got the experience of being welcomed into show business by the warmest and most loving production ever. *Twin Peaks* was a mind trip in working with Mr. David Lynch. I can't even describe what an almost out of body experience it is watching him work and having him direct me. It was amazing. I know that's the "non-answer" answer like when you ask a mom who here favorite kid is but every acting experience I have had (even the commercials) have allowed me to take a step closer to my end goal.

What are your "Top 5" favorite films?

Up, *The Usual Suspects*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Shawshank Redemption* and *Oceans 11*. Not necessarily in that order, but I could watch those movies till the end of time.

Pick one and explain why.

Kendrick Lamar, Chance the Rapper or J. Cole?

Chance the Rapper. He's been one of my favorites since I started listening to him in 2012. I love how philanthropic he is and his earlier music has a really great feel to it. It was a hard choice Kendrick and Cole are such great storytellers but it'll always be Chance at the top for me.

Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat?

Instagram purely because I use it the most often. I feel like it's the easiest way to connect with the biggest range of people but Snapchat will always be up there for me just because I love sending ugly pictures of myself to my friends.

Lil Pump, Lil Uzi Vert or Lil Yachty?

Lil Pump is my favorite for one of two reasons. The first is that I'm just not a big fan of the other two choices and secondly, I can't knock the hustle of someone who's touring the world at 17. Not to mention he has some great hype songs.

Who/What inspires you?

I am inspired by hustlers; People that go out and grind their way in this world from the fruitero guy on the corner selling delicious bags of fruit with lime, the hair and nail ladies who create tiny works of art, Elon Musk to my mom. People who don't let challenges tell them they can't make a buck.

Aside from acting, what other activities are you into?

I play the drums. I like to spin music and produce beats. I enjoy jumping on a train with my best friend Anthony and just exploring LA. I play Dungeons and Dragons every other week with a crew and I'm getting into writing screenplays.

What social issues are you most passionate about?

I come from a family of social justice warriors. My dad works for MALDEF (Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund) and mom runs a non-profit (Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory). So, let's just say that my DNA is made up of lots of passions, even before I knew they were issues. I've been marching since I was wrapped up in my mom's rebozo and continue to put in that boots on the ground work.

But, if I had to narrow it down for a soundbite, I care about economic equity. I care that people be given the opportunity to make a reasonable living and not live under the fear of becoming homeless because they get sick or miss a paycheck. I care that our foster youth are left on their own once they turn 18. I care that kids who are "American" in every single way are now being told to get out for a piece of paper. I think that we all need to be advocates for those who can't or won't be heard by those in power and I think we need to stop telling actors and creative people to shut up and just entertain. I don't imagine that being in front of a camera makes me any less passionate about what I care about and I don't plan on changing that focus.

I'm going to throw a few names out there. Say whatever comes to mind.

A) #UNselfie
#givingTuesday

B) Rihanna
My future wife.

C) Malcolm X
G.O.A.T.

I thought your tweet, "Is MC Eiht name spelled incorrectly because he is the G?" was interesting to see. Lol, I have to ask. What do you know about MC Eiht?

Full disclosure: I come from Hip Hop royalty, lol. My mom was the first VP of any Hip-Hop record label, the first Chicana on Hip Hop radio in LA and the producer and on-air personality for *The Wake-Up Show*. I had a nursery in their studio so.... "GEAH"!

Lol, tell us a weird fact about yourself.

Is it weird that I don't like my foods to touch?

What do you hate most about being a teen?

Waiting to drive is what I hate the most. Dude, I just want to get my license and be on the road like Jack.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I should have a Masters in a creative or science field. Also, I would like to have hit up at least 4 continents by 25. I really want to write the kind of stories people want to film and I hope in 10 years to be able to have the freedom to keep taking chances and making mistakes that I can come back from without much damage.

Any last words?

Eat more bananas. They're high in potassium.

Follow Xolo on Twitter and Instagram @Xolo_Maridueña.

YOUNG FUTURES, INC.

BUILDING A LEGACY

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

It seems the masses are no longer living by the phrase, "It takes a village" but for James Mitchell, that's not the case. Founder of Young Futures, Inc., based in Albany, New York, James believes in supporting his community, building a legacy and being the change he wants to see.

Give us a little background information about yourself.

My name is James Mitchell and I'm from the Bronx, NY (Bronx River Projects to be exact). I believe this is where a lot of my spirit comes from. I have a desire to achieve more but I also understand that we all were doing what we could with what we had. I'm a father, businessman and activist who believes if we are going to make change in our community then it has to start from within.

How did you end up in Albany and what is the difference between it and NYC?

I moved to Albany in 2007 when my daughter Leila was born. As a man, it was important that I be involved in her life. Her mother lived in a town called Troy, which is right outside of Albany and because I needed a bigger city to feel at home, I moved "over the river" as the folks here say. Albany is very different from NYC in the sense that no place is like NYC, but this city does have its own highlights. The love of arts, community, education and collaborative support is special. We are still working on the diversity part, but in due time.

What is Young Futures, Inc.?

Young Futures, Inc. is an organization that brings art and educational activities to children, in short. We want to bring in the young people to participate our program's activities that would not usually have that opportunity. This is why our programs are free. We want the children that participate in our programs to know how creative they naturally are and what they are capable of. We also want them to see individuals that look like them. Young Futures, Inc. is an organization that is of the community. We feel responsible for showing these children something great from people that look like them and we show up for them on time and every time.

What made you start it?

I wanted to build a legacy. I wanted to have something to give to my daughter once she grows up. The only way to do so was going to be to build something of my own. I also knew that the community I came from lacked artistic extracurricular activities. It was a void I knew needed to be filled.

Do you have any partners? If so, who are they?

Young Futures, Inc. is run by myself and my partner, Matthew Blackman. We are both passionate about serving our community and partnering with like-minded individuals. This brother is the definition of a great support system both in business and personally. Together, we have advanced the Young Future's brand but also this great city of Albany. Matt

is also a father of a little girl so we share a familiar story.

What does fatherhood mean to you?

Fatherhood is very special because it has taught me many things. Fatherhood has taught me to hold myself accountable and to respect my responsibilities and educated me on how to truly care for someone other than myself.

Fatherhood has also taught me patience and helped me to identify with my emotions, which I had never allowed myself to do before. It is humbling, showing me that I do need help and I should never be ashamed to ask for help or learn how to accept things from others.

Tell us about the "Paint and Sip: Kids Edition" event.

It was phenomenal. The children loved it and the parents appreciated what we were doing. The "Paint and Sip" concept is loved by adults throughout the country and Matthew and I thought it would be a great idea to give the children here in the capital district that same opportunity without an alcoholic bar. At our bar we had water, strawberry and chocolate milk and various organic juices.

Elaborate more on the parents' feedback.

The parents loved it and were excited about this opportunity. Because of the exposure from the "Paint and Sip", we were able to invite a lot of the parents to our weekly classes. We also do "Urban Art" held at the Albany Barn, where we are again doing new innovative art activities. We have made soaps, candles, Kenta clothes and melted crayon with lanterns.

Did any media attend?

Yes, an amazing production company called *Youth Fx*, who shot the entire event. They produced a short video about the program that will be up on our social media website @youngfuturesinc and we will be collaborating with them some more in the near future.

Who was the DJ?

We had a member of the Chill Smith Collective, which is a group of collectives from the capital district. Her name is DJ Session who can be found on IG @session_time.

Lastly, how can people get involved?

People can get involved by contacting myself or Matthew Blackman or reach us directly through our social media handles. My name is James Mitchell on Facebook and our IG is @youngfuturesinc. You can also send us an email at youngfuturesinc@gmail.com. Thank you.

**Photos are from both the "Paint and Sip: Kids Edition" and "Urban Art" events, both held in Albany, NY.*



SUPPORT THE CAUSE

NICKELODEON STAR AND COUNTRY MUSIC ARTIST TEAM UP TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS WITH THEIR NEW SONG "STRONGER TOGETHER".



NEWS/Raleigh, NC. - North Carolina natives Sheldon Bailey, star of Nickelodeon's hit TV Show Game Shakers and recording artist Kaylin Roberson have teamed up to give back to Children's hospitals with the gift of music and their new duet Stronger.

Bailey has always had a passion for giving back to kids and is blessed with the opportunity the show has given him to be a youth advocate and to connect and visit with so many children from hospitals and make-a-wish through acting, singing and youth basketball programs.

Kaylin Roberson makes it her mission to give back to

children's hospitals, as she herself spent time in one after surviving a horrific dog attack at the age of 9 years old. Kaylin Says "I know what it's like to be where they are, laying in a hospital bed with scars and being scared. I know how important music was in my healing process and I want to be able to give that gift to them." Kaylin also wrote and recorded a song called "Fighter in me" for the families of St. Jude and performed it at National Music gives day to St Jude in Memphis this past fall.

Bailey and Roberson decided the best way to continue giving back was to write a song that would inspire everyone going through hard times and remind us that we are all "Stronger together." 100% of the proceeds of this song will be donated to UNC Health and St. Jude Children's hospital. The Song is now available on Spotify and iTunes.

To learn more visit www.kaylinroberson.com and www.sheldonbailey.com.

For media, contact Cathy Cardenas of Cathy Cardenas PR at www.cathycardenas.com.

COMING SOON



APRIL 13
RAMPAGE
NEW LINE CINEMA



APRIL 27
AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR
MARVEL STUDIOS



JUNE 22
JURASSIC WORLD: F.K.
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ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE #44
2018

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