

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

ISSUE #47
2018



ALLEN MALDONADO

+ *Adina Howard. Tariq Nasheed.
DJ Paul. T-Rock. Jake Allyn. Z-Ro. Xolo Maridueña.
Asia Monet. Tori Devon Smith. Michelle Lukes.*

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What up and whatnot?

It's 9:30 am and I'm still up working so I'm going to make this quick. I know it's cool to say, "I Can Sleep When I Die" and "No Days Off" but damn that. When your body tells you that you need sleep, you get some sleep. I could also use a day (or 17) off as well. I can't remember the last time I actually had a complete 24 hours of doing nothing at all and sometimes, we need to recharge. Otherwise, we burn out.

Sidenote: be on the lookout for our first full length film project (currently untitled) that will cover our highlights from 2009-Present from concerts, never before seen video footage and interviews, events, etc. (See screenshots below) In the meantime, check us out and read a digital issue or two at www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com. Also, subscribe, follow us on social media, etc. Thanks in advance.

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DIGITAL DOPE

Check out some excerpts from some of our most memorable interviews. To read the full versions of these interviews, visit us at www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com.



"You have to understand commitment and be willing to commit. Again it's about being ready. Are you spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally and financially ready? You attract that which you are. We are magnets. We attract like energy all the time and if your mind isn't right, you're going to attract somebody whose mind isn't right. So, it's important that women set the standard. They need to set it and stick to it but also be willing to be flexible because some of our expectations can be unrealistic. Expectations ruin relationships, especially unrealistic ones. So, prepare yourself for your husband and be ready because it takes two. It's not a 50/50 situation. It's a 100/100 situation."

- **Adina Howard, Music Artist/Entrepreneur (Cover Story: Issue #40)**



"I don't think I ever fully comprehended the idea of racism within race until my time on *The Quad*. Racism is not literally just a black and white thing. Both in the world of *The Quad* and through cast mates and friends I've met in the last two years, there can be serious racism within the black community over how dark or light your skin is or simply where you come from. There's a wonderfully harsh line in the pilot referring to President Eva Fletcher's (Anika Noni Rose) character as "not black black", because she's from a wealthy back East family as opposed to the deep South. There's another line in the pilot when Cedric Hobbs (played by Peyton Alex Smith) gets into a fight outside a concert and gets called a "light skin". Seeing how deep names like that can hurt someone really informed me on just how many layers there are to racism. On my end, I hope I illuminated that white people can have great sneaker game too. I take pride in my Jordan and Nike collection, so hopefully everyone on *The Quad* knows I've got some serious shoe swag."

- **Jake Allyn, Actor (Cover Story: Issue #43)**



"This is an incredibly sensitive subject and one that I feel fiercely about. I'm not referring to sexual assault within the confines of Hollywood, I'm talking about sexual assault period. I feel incredibly sad that until recently, women felt powerless to ask for help because we as a community first ask, "Do you think she's telling the truth?" This is not ok and I firmly believe that "facilitators" should be held equally accountable for these atrocities. Yes, there will always be a few who "cry wolf" but this is not the majority. We should absolutely be working together to foster a safe and supportive space for victims of abuse to find solace without fear of being condemned."

- **Michelle Lukes, Actress (Cover Story: Issue #42)**



"You know us black men already go through enough and then to have the system turn our women against us, giving them avenues not to really fuck us over but fuck over the child. Or, giving them the opportunity....Well, let me retract. Not black women. It be the bitches. The motherfuckers who use their children as hustles or weapons against the father because the father isn't making enough money or like in my situation, the father just don't want to be your fucking husband or boyfriend so this is your reply. You're going to try to get all our money. If you're a hustler, that shit don't matter but know she got your kid looking at you all sideways cause it's only hearing one side of the situation all of the time. She'll tell the child, "Fuck your dad. He does this and that and don't come around." and when I'm calling to come fuck with my child, she's pressing "end" or not telling the child I'm calling to check on them."

- **Z-Ro, Music Artist/Entrepreneur (Cover Story: Issue #35)**



I watched the *Karate Kid* reboot with 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 *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.

- **Xolo Maridueña, Actor (Cover Story: Issue #44)**



"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."

- **Asia Monet, Actress/Music Artist/Entrepreneur (Cover Story: Issue #44)**



"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 you 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."

- **Tori Devon Smith, Actor (Cover Story: Issue #33)**



"During slavery, everybody didn't want to get off those plantations. This is why so many slave rebellions where thwarted by other slaves telling and foiling the rebellion. If slavery is all you know, if being under the thumb of white supremacy is all you know, you become comfortable with what you know. Psychological and financial freedom and doing for yourself becomes foreign and scary for people with a slave mentality. Black people with that scary mentality will try to sabotage black people who are trying to get freedom. We have to get with enough psychologically free black folks who want to be in power and group with them so we can have a network so we can close our ranks and not be totally affected by the plantation slaves, so to speak."

- **Tariq Nasheed, Activist/Author/Filmmaker (Cover Story: Issue #29)**



"I was like 19 years old. Then we had, "The End", which came out the door, selling 40 something thousand copies and once that happened, they saw. Sony was the same label that had turned us down when we had tried to get them to sign us after Mystic Styles but they didn't like our music because it was so different. It was crunk and we were talking about cocaine and killing people and crazy shit. After "The End" came, they were like, "Oh shit. Now, we got to do something," so they flew us out to New York right after that album came out and gave us a record deal. When we walked in the door, we already had money so I was like, "I'm not about to take this crap you're trying to give me. This \$200,000 up front, core budget." We told them how much we wanted, then we got up and left up out the door. We went right up the street to Jive Records, which was offering us more money but we ended up getting it right and going over to Relativity Records."

- **DJ Paul, Music Artist/Entrepreneur (Cover Story: Issue #23)**



"The whole reason for the album (Untold Truth) was to see if I could put everything out there and squash the beef. With DJ Paul saying what he said in your interview, I had already been hearing some things in the street and small things had been going on with our business situations because we deal with some of the same people. It is the Untold Truth of my story, my career. I'm sure he didn't know it was my album title, but he basically sold it for me. Personally, I AM the Untold Truth. I'm the only nigga STILL bussing, still selling records. Everybody say I'm legendary but none of the mainstream rappers act like they fuck with me. When they see me in the streets, they all know me but when they get on TV, none of them know me. So, the title fits and I will be talking more about Three 6 Mafia on the album. It's all positive, nothing negative. I'm not doing no diss records and I'm moving forward. I hope they do the same."

- **T-Rock, Music Artist/Entrepreneur (Cover Story: Issue #27)**



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STEVEN GERLICH
WARDROBE:
DARALYN CARTER
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ALLEN MALDONADO

MALDONADO IS EVERYWHERE

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

If you've seen any of the more popular films or television shows of the last few years, you're probably a fan of Allen Maldonado's work. With a professional career that exceeds 15 years, Allen has been an actor, writer, producer, composer and has even launched an app. During our interview, we spoke about various topics which included the importance of paying dues, Allen's experiences working on set, music and living everyday like it's your last. His social media handles fit because "Maldonado is Everywhere", literally.

I was first introduced to you in Rick Famuyiwa's film, "Dope" (2015). That's one of my favorite films and when your people reached out to us, the first thing I thought was, "Hell yeah! That's my guy!" How did you get the role as Allen the Bouncer?

I auditioned and went through the normal process of a first read followed by a director's read. I love Rick so much because when we began shooting he really let me bring my own flavor to the role and improv and be free. Because of that, I think we got a really funny scene out of it. I truly appreciate him trusting me as an actor and allowing me to do that. I also had the pleasure of working with him in a huge Kevin Durant (Nike) campaign and once again, he trusted me and let me have my freedom as a comedic actor. He is an actor's dream director.

There were a lot of talent (old and new) in the film, so screen-time has to be shared by multiple people. What is your thought process when approaching a project like that? I'd imagine you want to go hard in the paint to ensure people remember you. The scene when you blocked Malcolm (Shameik Moore) and crew from getting in the club had me crying-laughing.

When we began the film, I don't think any of us really knew it would get the type of response we got. I approached this film like any other film I've been blessed to be a part of. I gave it my all. I often write extra jokes and setups for almost every line, so on my shooting day(s) I can be ready for whatever is thrown at me.

The film did a great job at adding that nostalgia of the 80's & 90's, but also bridging that gap between those of us who are older and the younger generation. I think that would help relations between us (ages) all across the board if treated that way, especially in the music business. What say you?

I totally agree as we are often saying the same things, just in a different way. More times than not, a lack of communication is the biggest problem we have in society. To be able to reach a large and diverse audience is the goal most filmmakers attempt in order to spread a message with their film.

"Dope" also introduced me to Bitcoin. I never did get involved in it and I don't have any regrets, but I just thought it was funny that it was being talked about in the film, then we had the big Bitcoin craze a few months back. Did you ever invest in Bitcoin? Why or why not?

No, I never invested in Bitcoin. I didn't know much about it to really get involved and I would never go into any

investment blindly, but more power to those who took the opportunity to make a profit off of it.

You've played a wide range of characters in your career. Which one of them is most like you in real life and why?
Hmm. I'm not exactly sure as I am a very multi-faceted individual. I grew up in California and as a child but I spent my summers in New York and Alabama. I was a Boy Scout, active in the church choir, played basketball, performed with the salsa club and ran the street with gang members from my neighborhood. I'd have to say a piece of me lives in all of my characters so far.

What do you think about during scenes that you have to cry in? Is it just acting alone or do you have to tap into something in particular?

I can't give away those secrets but the idea is not to think. You have to feel. If I can understand the perspective of the character, I only have to stay true to their feelings and everything just comes out naturally.

Which do you enjoy more, the comedic roles or the more serious ones? Please Elaborate.

I love to do both. Similar to food, it all depends on my mood. Early in my career I could only land dramatic roles so I was able to really work on my craft and become a solid dramatic actor. Comedy was always easy to me as I was the class clown in high school so making people laugh always gave me an amazing feeling. Once I cut the waist-long hair that I used to have, I began to get my comedic roles and my career really began to take off. An action-comedy would be the perfect blend of both worlds for me.

Why is it important for people in the entertainment field to wear more than one hat? What all are you involved in?

I think it's important for all creative people to not limit themselves to just one form. As a person of color, I think it's in our best interest to step up to more things than just being in front of the camera. The real change in diversity can come from being a producer, writer and/or director. I'm currently working on all facets of the game as a television and film writer, a show developer, a director, a creator, an actor AND I sell fish plates on the weekend! Lol! But seriously, I think it's important for every actor to understand that it's almost insane to think someone that doesn't know you or what you like will write the perfect role for you. Why not write it yourself?

What did being a writer for the Starz series, "Survivors Remorse" entail? What was your creative process?

Survivor's Remorse was a life-changing opportunity for me as it was my first time writing for a major network. Shout out to my writing mentor, Michael Kane! He wrote, *All the Right Moves* for Tom Cruise and I've been working with him since I was 17. He's the one who taught me how to write. His work ethic is what prepared me for the writer's room being that we would write together from morning to night for weeks at a time. Being in a writer's room is like being an attorney in front of a 12 man jury; the ideas you pitch are the defendant



PHOTO:
STEVEN GERLICH
WARDROBE:
DARALYN CARTER
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BETHANY GARITA

and it's your job to convince everyone that your idea is innocent, i.e. works for the story you're pitching.

About a year or so ago, you launched the "Everybody Digital" app. Break that down for us. Also, has it worked out the way you planned?

We launched Everybody Digital in October of 2017 and in 6 short months, we have been dubbed, "The short film version of Netflix," which is an incredible honor in such a short period of time. We have continued to grow our catalog of amazing films and have gained more exposure for our filmmakers from numerous film festival partnerships. We have original short films and digi-series starring big names such Affion Crockett, Peter Mackenzie, Noel G, and Kali Hawk, just to name a few.

We also have upcoming films starring Deon Cole, Miles Brown, and Omar Dorsey. I urge all of my short film makers to submit their films to www.EverybodyDigital.com and catch the wave of this amazing platform creating a new road and prestige for the short film world. Also, to all my short film and short-form media lovers, please download the app for free, then upgrade to receive a free month of premium content.

One of my graphic design professors in college was the first person I had ever heard refer to my generation as "millennials." How important are millennials to you and what you do?

Millennials are the present and the future. They're ushering us into this new world of technology and I'm excited to be a part of it myself. We are currently living out *The Jetsons* and *Back to the Future*. This model of life is fascinating as the world seems smaller and we are able to further understand the different countries around the world in split-seconds. It's a great time to be alive.

I thought you were "new" to the business prior to doing the research, but your acting career actually started in 2002 with a small role in "Friday After Next". How did you land that role and what made you want to become an actor?

Yes, that was my first major role. Once again, I just auditioned and went through the normal process, ending with my auditioning with Ice Cube in the room, and I booked it. Basketball was my first love, but I wasn't exactly great at it. I played varsity on my high school basketball team, but I was a late bloomer and had to work extremely hard just to find minutes on the team. I also discovered you can't teach height. It was my senior year when I signed up for theater as an elective and it was like a fish to water. I quickly realized that this was my gift.

Let's take it back a little bit before that. Where are you from originally and what was life like growing up?

I lived in Compton, CA until I was 7 then we moved to Rialto, CA, where I grew up and became the man that I am today from a huge apartment complex known around town as, "The Vineyards".

Piggybacking off of my question about your resume dating back to 2002, does it ring true to you that people don't see all of the hard work one has to put in prior to "blowing up"? What were some things you had to do that you would consider "paying dues"?

Definitely. This game is a marathon and I wouldn't change anything as all the obstacles that I've endured on this road have only made me stronger for all that is to come. When I first started, I worked two jobs while attending college for business. I would take two trains and ride a bike from Rialto to Hollywood just to get to my acting classes and that was before I booked one role. I've paid a lot of dues in the process of living my dreams.

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

- a) Denzel Washington* - Smoothest man on Earth.
- b) Honey Nutz* - Shitstain and Sam - Top 5 rap group.
- c) Donald Trump* - Two thumbs down.
- d) Demo Nerds* - Helping kids is everything.
- e) Black Women* - Queens of the Earth. My mother is my heart.

What have you learned from Anthony Anderson while working on the sitcom "Black-ish" that you will carry with you the remainder of your career/life?

How to be a leader and set the tone of family (on and off set) with your cast. He is always on and prepared no matter how long the shooting schedule. I couldn't respect a man more as he has been able to maneuver from comedy to drama throughout his entire career. That's something I look forward to emulating in my own career.

Tell us about "Get It Done Records".

Get It Done Records is a music production company that I've been building for the past 8 years and have had over 100 placements on TV shows and films. We've had songs placed on shows such as *Ray Donovan*, *Lie to Me*, *NBA TV*, and *Access Hollywood*. We've also had songs placed in films such as *Don Jon*, *Next Three Days*, and *Acts of Violence* starring Bruce Willis, just to name a few. It's been a passion of mine as I've written and performed on more than 300 songs over the years. We will continue to build our catalog and expand our relationship with networks and production companies providing a library of costume music to fit all our clients' needs.

Your "Top 5" rap artists: Go.

- Jay-Z
- Tupac
- Biggie
- Nas
- Jadakiss

"Straight Outta Compton" is one of the most important films of our time in regard to Hip-Hop. How did landing the role make you feel and how do you feel about the project, overall?

Again, I auditioned my ass off for that role! I went in for a variety of roles and am happy I was able to be a part of such and iconic film. This is another film I don't think anyone knew would have the impact and box office success that we were blessed to have. #1 for four weeks in a row is just remarkable!

*I think it set the bar super high for any film that comes out afterward. What did you think about *All Eyez On Me*? I thought Demetrius Shipp did an excellent job, especially for a first timer and honestly, I can't see anyone else playing that part. That's probably the closest we're going to get. I had an opportunity to meet Demetrius on the set of *Where's the Money* as my cast-mate, Kat Graham, was also his cast-mate in the film. He was a really cool dude and I'm happy he had the opportunity to showcase his talent. He did an incredible job in the film.*

There were a lot of issues getting that film made and although it wasn't the greatest film of all time, I understood and gave it a shot and ultimately appreciated it for what it was. Can you shed some light on how things can go wrong when creating a project of that magnitude, especially regarding behind-the-scenes issues and paperwork? I don't think the fans get it.

In every production, big or small, you have to overcome many obstacles, so I commend anyone who is able to



PHOTO:
STEVEN GERLICH

WARDROBE:
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BETHANY GARITA

complete a film and sell it. The journey from conception to box office is a long and incredibly hard job, no matter the outcome. What can happen will happen, as you often have to act on the fly and problem-solve as you go so. It takes a special type of person to endure all the obstacles.

Being from Cali, what are your thoughts on a lot of the younger generation of artists dissing 2Pac today?

I just think it's just a lack of understanding the impact that he had not only in hip hop, but the world. His work affected an entire generation and still continues to. It's unfortunate for any who can't see the beauty and brilliance that he was able to get across at a young age. It's blasphemy.

You have quite a few new projects coming up, with the most recent being Jordan Peele's, "The Last O.G." alongside Tracy Morgan, Tiffany Haddish and Cedric the Entertainer. What can those who haven't seen it expect?

You can expect to laugh your ass off. Tracy Morgan is back and everyone will be quickly reminded why we all fell in love with his work over the years. Tiffany Haddish is just beautiful and magical along with Cedric the Entertainer, another veteran whose talent is unmatched. I'm blessed to round out the cast and bring my flavor to the show. And let's not forget the Oscar award-winning Jordan Peele who is our fearless leader along with Tracy. I am so excited and anxious for everyone to see the hard work we put into this show!

Who made you laugh the most on set?

Tracy as most of my scenes were with him. He's always on no matter if the cameras are on or not.

You and Tracy Morgan have both been involved in serious car accidents. What happened in your situation and how did you feel afterward?

Well, I was hit by a drunk driver going 65 mph in a BMW while I was walking. I flew in the air landed on my face, broke my leg, and curved my spine. Even though I had a long and tough recovery, my faith in God and my fearlessness in life couldn't have been stronger. I am a better person for it as I approach life like every second could be your last. When it's

my time to go and I look at myself, I can honestly say that I gave it my all to achieve my dreams.

Tell us about the upcoming "Superfly" remake. What role do you play?

I play a trap rapper named Litty who's in business with Superfly. I'm excited to see what Director X and all of his talents have put together for this remake. It's yet another iconic film I am blessed to be a part of.

Are there any upcoming projects you're working on that we haven't discussed?

Yes. I have a horror film I'm executive producing called *Mimesis: Evolution* that I am very excited to have released this fall. It's the sequel to *Mimesis*, which was one of the first leads I had in a feature film. I'm excited to continue to build on this franchise.

Having a passion for something and actively pursuing it is challenging for most. Do you have any advice for those pursuing or wanting to pursue their dreams?

Understand that this not a career but more like opening a small business. You're not going to make millions on day one of opening a business. It's a slow process. It's going to take every ounce of energy you've got to get it off the ground but it's all going to be worth it in the long run. Run your marathon with all you have and never quit.

I'm happy for you, homie. How can people get in contact with you on social media?

Please follow me on Instagram @maldonadoiseverywhere, on Twitter @amiseverywhere and just search Allen Maldonado for my Facebook fan page.

Any last words?

God bless and happy hunting, my fellow dreamers!



PHOTO: T4S: COSIGN



MENTALLY HEALING TOWARD CONTENTMENT

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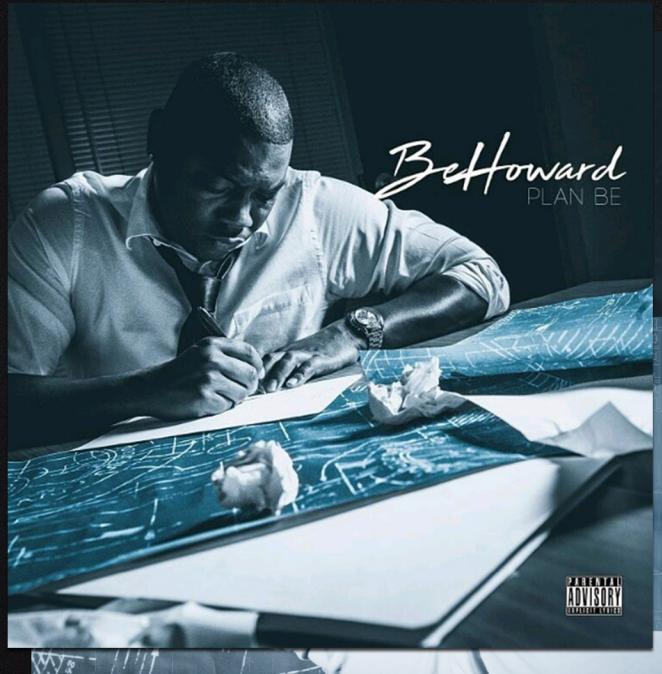
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