

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT EVERYWHERE MAGAZINE

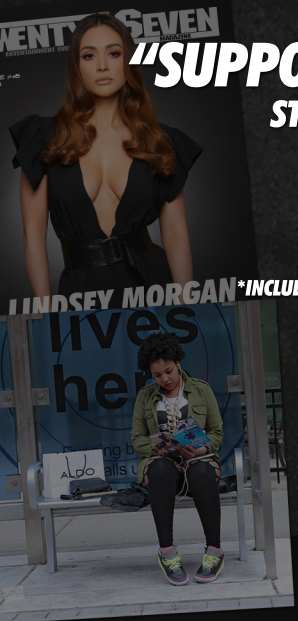
ISSUE #48
2018

OMAR J. DORSEY

+ *Kaalan Walker. Danielle Pinnock. Sky Katz.
Charmaine Bingwa. Sierra Nowak. #CharlamagneThaGod.*

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What's going on, people?

I just wanted to shout out all of the people who have been contributing to the success of our brand over the years, including our staff, contributing writers and photographers, publicists, customers and especially our fans. We couldn't do it without any of you.

Also, shout out to LeBron James for opening up his "I Promise School" in Akron, Ohio which was also a team effort. A little help goes a long way and we must be the change we want to see.

Lastly and as always, to stay up to date with news, new interviews, event footage and photos, etc., be sure to log on to www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com and follow us on all social media platforms. Thanks in Advance.

Tyrone Davis



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MENTALLY HEALING TOWARD CONTENTMENT

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CORLETHA NORMAN BEY,
MSW, LCSW



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NEED A THERAPIST?

BY CORLETHA NORMAN BEY, MSW, LCSW

New to the idea of therapy and have no clue where to start? This blog is for you!

Sometimes we may know that we need to go to therapy but have no clue of where to start. Start with finding a quality mental health professional. There are therapists (LCSW/Licensed Clinical Social Worker) and counselors (LPC/Licensed Professional Counselor) out there that can meet your needs. What do I do next you ask? Continue to read along to learn things you should consider when looking for a therapist.

KEEP IT REAL WITH YOU

You definitely want to find a therapist that is honest. There isn't much that is worse than trusting someone with intimate details that is dishonest. They should be professional but relatable, in that they can put themselves in your shoes to help guide you through your therapeutic process.

ARE LIFELONG LEARNERS IN THEIR FIELD

The mental health world is one that is constantly changing. There are new ways to treat various diagnoses, as well as new ways to conceptualize diagnoses. It should be clear that the therapist you are considering continuously seeks knowledge in their own field. This will show, as they will be confident in their own knowledge and skills.

DOESN'T RAISE COMMUNICATION TOO HIGH

In other words, they should be able to clearly communicate to you. Your therapist should explain your symptoms in a way that you understand. If you are a visual learner, they should be able to paint a picture for you with their words for example. In addition they should be able to explain medical or mental health terminology to you in a digestible manner. You should not be left in the dark about your own care due to their inability to break things down for you. Ultimately they should have your best interests at heart on all fronts.

WON'T TAKE OVER YOUR SESSION TALKING ABOUT THEMSELVES

You may come to find that you have a bit in common with your chosen therapist. They may pull from past experiences with other clients, friends, family members, or even themselves to assist you through your circumstances. Keep an eye out for the therapist that hijacks your therapy session. After all you paid for your own healing and not theirs.

UNDERSTAND YOU AND YOUR CULTURE

One of the major reasons I hear that therapy doesn't work for someone is that they felt their therapist could not understand them. If a therapist is not well versed with your culture, religion, gender, spiritual beliefs, etc., they will have a hard time connecting with you; and you will have a hard time opening up to them. In building a relationship with you, they need to be able to meet you where you are on all fronts.

If you would like to read the full article, please check out my blog at www.bonhomielc.com.



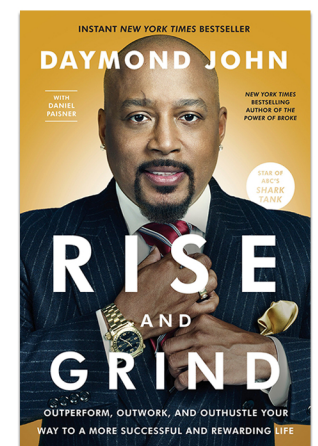
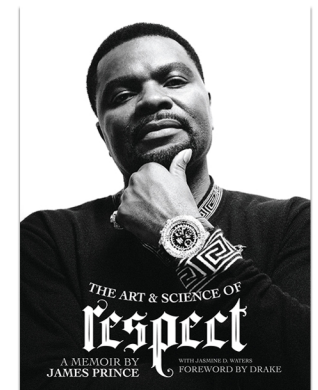
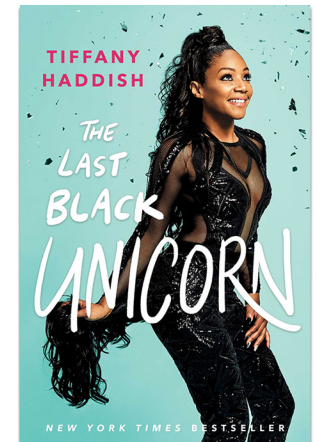
CORLETHA NORMAN BEY, MSW, LCSW

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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Danielle Pinnock

One Woman, One Voice, Endless Possibilities



PHOTO:
JOE MAZZA

Words and Interview By Krystal Luster

When Danielle isn't "in character", she is likely just being herself. In addition to acting, Danielle is a talented playwright, and acting coach. She has made several TV appearances, and has written and performed in her own body of work. From a young age Danielle was inspired to follow her dreams of becoming an actress, and she makes it a point to inspire similar dreams of others.

Let us start by saying "Happy Belated Birthday!" What did you do to celebrate?

Thank you so much! It was the most epic birthday celebration! My husband and mom planned the biggest surprise birthday party ever. My family and best friends flew to LA from the East Coast. It was the best birthday I've ever had in my life!

Tell us about the Danielle Pinnock before the stage. What was your home life like?

I started acting on stage when I was 10 years old and before that I have no idea what I was doing. Ha! I was probably watching Lamb Chops Play Along or Smurfs. I spent my childhood in Boston and moved to New Jersey when I was 10. I was raised by my grandmother and mother in a very Christian-Jamaican household.

Would you say your parents/family were your biggest supports when you began working towards an acting career? Absolutely! My mother is my biggest fan. She has supported me from the very beginning and allowed me to realize my dream of being an actor. My family would always come and see me in the school plays. I come from a very large Jamaican family. My mother has 12 brothers and sisters. All of my performances

would be packed with family as early as I can remember.

Who are/were you most inspired by?

Whoopi Goldberg, Lucille Ball, Viola Davis and my auntie Patrice Johnson are my greatest inspirations. My aunt is a phenomenal actor and I saw a production at the Shakespeare Theater in DC where she played Desdemona alongside Patrick Stewart. She is fiercely talented and a force to be reckoned with on stage. She is one of my greatest inspirations and seeing her work gave me the courage to start acting.

Tell us about Body/Courage. What inspired you to want to write about this particular subject?

Body/Courage actually started as my Master's dissertation in 2011 at the Birmingham School of Acting UK. We were required to create a solo performance piece. I wanted to interview men and women about their body image struggles and bring those stories to the stage. As an African American woman of size it was also important for me to play a diverse range of characters. The industry saw me as a certain "type" and my goal with Body/Courage was to break the stigmas against bigger bodies and bring attention to the body positivity movement.

Have you had your own struggles with body image?

My grandmother would constantly remind me of how chubby I was as a child. My mother used to diet frequently and many times I would diet with her as a kid. I have struggled with body image my entire life. However, interviewing all of the people for the project showed me that I wasn't alone in my struggle and that there is truly a light at the end of a very long tunnel. I've learned to love myself through meditation, prayer, therapy and positive affirmations. It's been a continuous journey but I've reached a great place where I feel love and gratitude for my body.

Was it a challenge putting on a one-woman-show?

It was not easy at all. There was a lot of blood, sweat and tears that went into creating that show. I was on stage, by myself, for 90 minutes in front of a sold-out audience most nights. It takes a lot of physical, mental and emotional training to have a successful one-woman show. I'm so proud of the work that was done on Body/Courage and so thankful for the team that helped me make it such a success.

Were the interviews used, interviews that you conducted?

Yes. I conducted over 300 interviews worldwide in a five year period.

What type of response did you receive for this project?

Were you ever doubtful of people's reactions?

The project received so much love. At the end of play, I would ask the audience... "Was there ever a time they were not at peace with their bodies?" The theater would keep a pen and post-it note under each seat. The audience would fill out their personal answers and stick the post-it notes on the walls of the theater. At the final performance, the entire theater was covered in post-its. I had no idea what to expect with this production, but I am so humbled by the fact that people loved it and it changed lives.

Are you currently writing another performance piece?

I'm actually writing a pilot and a short film at the moment.

Tell us about "Young Sheldon" (CBS). How long have you been a part of the TV series as Ms. Ingram?

Young Sheldon has been the biggest blessing that has happened in my career. My character, Ms. Ingram, has been recurring on the show since the pilot.

Describe the relationship between Ms. Ingram and Sheldon.

Ms. Ingram is Sheldon's math teacher and he is the smartest student in the entire school. Iain Armitage gives a masterful performance as Sheldon Cooper. Sheldon is always correcting Ms. Ingram on her math in front of the entire class and she gets a little stressed about it.

Were you ever interested in being an educator?

I've been acting and career coaching for eight years. I love teaching and helping artists reach their full potential. There is nothing more satisfying than to see the artists I coach realize their dreams.

What was your favorite subject(s) in school?

My favorite subjects in school were AP English and AP History.

Tell us about "Get Shorty". Have you read and/or watched the original book/ film the series is based on?

Get Shorty is a hilariously dark comedy and I'm so lucky to work

alongside some of the industry's most brilliant actors. I watched the film many years ago. The television show takes many unexpected twists and turns. It's an incredible show and everyone should add EPIX to their cable subscriptions stat!

What role does Nurse Pamela play throughout the development of the series?

Pamela is a live in nurse for Rick's (played by Ray Romano) father, Giustino. Giustino is played by the legendary director Peter Bogdanovich. Pamela is such a fun character to play, because she always ends up being the buffer between Giustino and Rick. Rick and Giustino have a rough past together and Pamela comically relives the tension between them.

You recently appeared on PlusThis! Show. Tell us about your experience as a guest.

Oh my goodness! PlusThis! was the best show I've ever been on to date. Those ladies are amazing and are doing such groundbreaking work in the podcast-radio world. Eva and Kathy made me feel so comfortable and those ladies are also a riot! We had a blast on the show and I'm so happy to know them.

What are your thoughts on the image of black women portrayed in Hollywood?

I need Hollywood to give black women the opportunity to flourish in this industry. Constantly we are given the same kinds of roles and thank God for writers like Shonda Rhimes, Issa Rae and Kenya Barris who are giving us the opportunity to play a diverse range of characters. Hollywood still has a lot of work to do, but what excites me is that more artists are beginning to create their own work!

What do you have in-store for the remainder of 2018?

I've recently written an article for Shondaland titled, "Snatched Edges" dealing with unqualified hairstylists and makeup artists on set. I've also co-created an improvised Instagram series called @HashtagBooked and it's an inside look on what it means to be an actor of color in the industry.

Follow Danielle Pinnock on Twitter and Instagram @bodycourage.



PHOTO:
LESLEY BRYCE

SKY KATZ

SIXTEEN “BARS”

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: KRYSTAL LUSTER

Sky Katz plays the role of “Tess” in the “That’s So Raven” spin-off, “Raven’s Home”. She and her cast-mates wrapped up filming for the show’s 2nd season awhile back, which premiered June 25th of this year. In addition to contributing her talents to television screens, Sky is musically inclined and recently debuted the music video for “Fall Back” which currently has over 290,000 views on YouTube! Did I mention she directed the video herself?! Amazing! Be sure to follow her on social media for updates!

How did you get into acting?

So many artists that I admire are both musicians and actors and that made me think that I wanted to give it a try. I started taking acting lessons, went out on a few auditions and booked *Raven’s Home*!

What stuck out to you the most about your character on the “That’s So Raven” spin-off, “Raven’s Home”?

I love that “Tess” is such a loyal and loving friend. Those are qualities I admire in both real life and fictional characters as well!

In what ways are you similar to “Tess”?

Tess and I both love basketball, are close with our families, love our friends, and are adventurous.

What is your favorite episode on “Raven’s Home” and why?

My favorite one actually hasn’t aired yet but it’s a musical episode in season 2 which allowed me to do my 3 favorite things: rap, act and play basketball. I can’t wait for everyone to see it!

How would you rate your experience on the show overall?

My experience on *Raven’s Home* has been off the charts! I’ve learned so much and formed close bonds with my cast-mates. I feel so lucky to be here.

What else are you working on in the television industry?

Right now my focus is filming season 2 of *Raven’s Home* and being the best “Tess” that I can be.

Did you teach yourself how to rap or was it something that happened naturally?

My family is always playing Hip Hop (both old and new) so it’s definitely something that happened naturally. We’ve had dance parties and rocked out in the car to Hip Hop for as long as I can remember!

Who would you say has influenced your rap style?

Nicki Minaj is my idol. She influenced me to be strong and put out music that I love.

Who are your “Top 5” favorite rappers?

Nicki Minaj, Biggie Smalls, J. Cole, Lil Uzi Vert and Oddisee.

Are you currently working on an album?

When I go home to NY, I’m always in the studio recording music. I hope to put those songs all together on an album very soon.

Who encouraged you to audition for season 11 of “America’s Got Talent”? Were you ever nervous?

I sent my own audition tape into AGT. My family didn’t even know I sent it in until my dad got a phone call from a producer to talk about it! I wasn’t nervous at all actually, just excited to do what I love.

If you had to choose between rapping and acting, which would you pursue full-time? Why?

I could never choose. They’re two things that make me so happy and allow me to express myself.

Tell us about Sunrise Association Day Camp and your role with the organization.

This year I became an Ambassador for Sunrise when I learned days of summer fun are provided for kids with cancer and their siblings, completely free! I went to day camp and sleepaway camps for years. My time at camp was so much fun and special to me. What I loved most was that it was a break from school and I made a new set of friends for the summer. Children whose lives have been affected by cancer need that escape more than ever and I’m thrilled to help an organization that can offer that. We just had our annual SunriseWALKS where I helped raise money and awareness to this amazing cause!

How do you spend your free time?

I love to play basketball, listen to music, go out to dinner, hang with my family, friends, and 3 dogs.

What do you have in store for the remainder of 2018?

We’re going to finish filming season 2 of *Raven’s Home*, I’m going to continue to work in the studio on some great new music, film some exciting videos and continue to enjoy time with family and friends.

Any last words?

I just want to say thank you to everyone who watches the show, enjoys my music and continues to support what I love to do!

Follow Sky Katz on Twitter and Instagram: @skykatz and on Snapchat and Facebook: @skykatzraps.

PHOTO:
PAUL SMITH

CHARMAINE BINGWA: FOLLOWING BLISS

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY:
KRYSTAL LUSTER

Life is not guaranteed. You can do all the “right things” and still be faced with the hardships of life. Luckily for us, we have the opportunity to choose how we deal with these hardships and it is these choices that ultimately contribute to our peace and chaos. Deal with the chaos, focus on the peace. Find your own bliss and follow it.

You grew up in Australia, but your parents are from Zimbabwe. Tell us about your childhood.

I grew up on an Island-turned-mining town off the coast of Western Australia and am the youngest of three. The island was pretty chill. I used to skateboard, BMX, build cubbies and would lock myself away and read tons of books. Growing up with two different cultures, I learned to see value in most things and just accept people the way they are. It's cool. You end up with less of a fixed mindset.

Are there any similarities between these two cultures?

Not really! They are like chalk and cheese, ha-ha! They were interesting to navigate growing up. I'd go to school, copy all the things the Aussie kids said, replicate it at home and get in serious trouble! Australians are a LOT more liberal.

Was there a particular actor/actress or film that inspired you to pursue your own acting career?

Viola Davis...she is all about the craft and is a force both on and off screen. As another woman of color, she has shown me the possibility there is for a woman of color to have an acting career that is successful beyond measure.

Tell us about the film “Nekromancer” and the role you play as the “Possessed Finnigan”.

This was my most fun on set experience to date! Kiah Turner-Roache (director) made it a multi-million dollar set feel, like a bunch of mates hanging out and being creative. I got to play a larger than life character and even got to do my own fight scenes! I live for that stuff!

What are your thoughts/beliefs on magic and demonic beings? Do you believe any of it to be real?

I only truly believe in what you can't actually see. People simplify things so much but ultimately we are all made of energy so I definitely believe in magic. I think Hell on Earth is not believing in magic and possibility.

Whose story/last statement did you portray on the short “Last Words”? What is it about?

Last Words really examines capital punishment by telling the story of eight convicts on death row and their last words. For me the quote at the beginning, “You know my name, not my story. You've heard what I've done, not what I've been through.” really reflects the film's bigger question. Is capital punishment actually a solution?

I enacted Richard Brimage, Jr., 42 who raped and strangled a homecoming queen. Being a drug addict since thirteen, he then appealed to the next generation to look after their children so they could avoid a fate similar to him.

If you were on death row, what would be your last words?

They'd be, “It's been beautiful” because it's my hope that I enjoyed it all. I believe we are here to have an experience, be joyful, love and create anything we desire.

You are the winner of several theatrical awards. How did it feel being awarded the 2018 Equity Award?

That was so amazing. I don't live for accolades but I'm a pretty hard worker so the acknowledgement felt so great. I also had such a good time on the Skype interview because I got to talk at length with people who are just as passionate about acting as I am. I almost didn't want to hang up! I'm so grateful for the MEAA and Foxtel for the opportunity that is really setting me up for success.

In addition to being a film and stage actress, you have also written, produced, directed and starred in the 7 episode series “Little Sista”.

Little Sista is a comedy about Charmaine, a thirty-something black lesbian played by myself, who is terrified of commitment and gives no f*cks. So, when a Judge with a sense of irony orders her to mentor an at-risk young girl, she identifies with the kid's difficult childhood and attempts to teach Lucy the life lessons her own parents failed to.

I was a mentor in the Big Brother, Big Sister program myself

and had always wanted to write something so with this mentor relationship at the heart, the adventures the characters could go on seemed limitless. I'm super proud that it normalizes ethnic diversity, LGBTQ+ relationships, substitute families and more. It's a boundary pushing roller coaster ride about dysfunctional people who have depth.

Is “Little Sista” your first major success as writer, producer, director, and star?

It is. It was a lot of work to write, produce, direct and star so I'm not sure I want to do all four tasks again in a hurry. The experience of being that immersed into something was so great. It's good to know that I can do it too.

Are you currently working on more projects that involve your writing, producing, directing, and acting abilities?

I am. I am writing a few projects, but I am currently working on a film called “Cairos” that I am producing and starring in. It's an amazing Sci-Fi script by Zach Paul Brown about two women who reunite during a rare celestial event.

Was your role as “Mrs. Muller” in the stage-play “Doubt: A Parable”, your first major performance in theater?

I had performed theater before but it was probably my first major performance. It was such a gift to perform alongside some of the most decorated actors in Australia and the beautiful direction of Dino Dimitriadis. It was a surreal moment when I later got to meet and work with the playwright John Patrick Shanley earlier this year in Los Angeles.

Is the movie adaptation significantly different in comparison to the play?

I think so. The narrative thread is the same but John Patrick Shanley really opened the world out in the film. He is truly a genius.

It's been said that this play was career changing for you. Do you agree? Why or why not?

I do agree. It really exposed me to Australian audiences in a unique way because production was highly praised. I received award nominations for it (2017 Sydney Theatre and BroadwayWorld Awards). But, it also changed things for me internally as it really cemented the craft of acting due to the discipline required to turn out such an extreme emotional performance night after night.

When did you first notice your musical abilities?

I had bought a guitar and a little workbook you could teach yourself from and within a week or two I had completed it and was ready for the intermediate one. You could not separate me from my guitar. Also, I think I inherited rhythm from my parents. They love to dance and sing around the house, even if not very well ha-ha. So, I have been playing since I was twelve years old. I started singing a few years later. I can play most instruments to a degree including bass, drums, piano and I can DJ as well.

Did you ever consider solely focusing on a musical career instead of acting?

That was actually always the plan for me. I imagined being a musician for the rest of my life but when I was at music school and needed to pick a few electives in order to finish, one of them was acting and I fell in love with it. It completely changed the course of my life.

Tell us about your performances on the tours of Demi Lovato, Fifth Harmony and Rachel Platten.

It was so fun! Australia is such a long distance away so international stars don't always stop through. It's exciting to say I was able to have the opportunity I had because so few individuals get to perform with them.

With a Bachelor in Music and Commerce, why is it that you continue to study improv at UCB?

I went to UCB on a recommendation. I didn't really have any desire per se but a few classes in, I loved it! That's one of my rules in life...to follow my bliss. Improvising is such a great skill to have and I think it helps you, not just with comedy but with drama too.

Any Last Words?

Never let anyone stop you from doing anything in this life.

Follow Charmaine Bingwa on Twitter and Instagram @charmainebingwa.



PHOTOS:
SEAN HAGWELL

OMAR J. DORSEY

RESPECT THE JOURNEY

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: L.M.W.

Omar J. Dorsey is an actor who has been seen in quite a few films and on television over the years which include "Drumline", "Django Unchained" and "Queen Sugar", which is currently on air via the Oprah Winfrey Network. "Queen Sugar" also happens to be one of my favorite shows right now.

What do you feel was your biggest hurdle trying to break into the film industry and what were some things you had to do to get things moving?

Being from Atlanta, it is amazing what is happening from a film and television standpoint. I can remember having to move from there 16 years ago to pursue an acting career but many of my friends who stayed there have had thriving careers. That makes me quite happy and proud. I believe the reason that the industry has moved down there is two folds. One, the tax breaks that the state of Georgia provides for film companies. With the rising cost of productions in states like California and New York, those tax breaks are extremely attractive.

The second reason is because of Tyler Perry. He set the stage for having a production company in Atlanta with his Tyler Perry Studios in the early 2000s. His films and television shows were a huge success and Hollywood based studios finally saw the city as a viable place to set up shop.

What was your experience like working on "Django Unchained" and what did it do for your career?

My experience working on *Django Unchained* was probably the most important component in my career. I got to work with Oscar-winning director, Quentin Tarantino. I got to not only work with some of the greatest actors in the world, but I got a chance to actually watch their process and talking to a Walton Goggins, Samuel L. Jackson, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jamie Foxx everyday about their preparation was invaluable.

LoI, at what point in your career did you feel like you had "Blown up like some Mega Men" (Those from Decatur, GA will get that)?

Since I am nowhere near where I want to be, I cannot say I've blown up at all. It does feel good when fans and fellow artists come up to me and tell me how much they appreciate my work. Every actor has their own path. Some of them may start their careers with starring roles in movies or television series and

others may start off playing smaller roles. My career started later but I wouldn't change it for the world. Many of the stars or directors I worked with in my early days have seen the way my career has taken shape and they respect the journey.

Tell us about your role on OWN and Ava DuVernay's "Queen Sugar".

It has been exciting to see the growth of my character (Hollywood) over the last 3 years. When we first see him, he is the boyfriend and confidant to the matriarch of the family, Violet. He's lovable and loving. Now he is a member of the family with all of these layers.

What are some of the positive and negative effects of the age gap between your character's relationship with his older girlfriend?

The age range never concerned me. The love between Hollywood and Violet erases the age gap in my opinion.

The show is extremely relatable, especially within the African American community. Which episode resonated with you the most and why?

I think the show resonates not only in the African-American community, but in all families, because it shows how families truly are. I don't have any particular episodes that stick out to me. I think more in terms of scenes. There's a scene between Ralph Angel and Hollywood where RA tells Hollywood that he doesn't know what to do now that his relationship with his girlfriend is done. Hollywood gives him great grown advice. I also like many of the lighter scenes. Hollywood and Violet on vacation, the party scenes with the family...those are the ones I really love.

The main theme of the show is about family and legacy. How important is it for us as a community to have something to pass down to our loved ones?

There is a main theme about legacy on our show. I think in the

“...I LIKE TO MAKE MY WIFE, KIDS, PARENTS AND BROTHER PROUD OF THE IMAGE I PUT ON THE SCREEN. WE ARE FLOODED WITH SO MANY NEGATIVE DEPICTIONS OF BLACK MEN EVERY DAY AND I DON’T WANT TO PLAY INTO THAT.”

- OMAR J. DORSEY

black community legacy is truly important. We as people haven't had much to leave to the next generation, but what we do leave be it land, history or any monetary thing has to be protected.

In Season 2 of the show, you were offered a manager's position and turned it down because of the conflicts between the families. Would you have done that in real life?

In Season 2 when Hollywood turns down the job to work for a company that he had just recently realized that Sam Landry, the patriarch of the family that has oppressed his fiancé's family for generations is something that Omar J. Dorsey would most definitely do! I have quit jobs for less!

What was it like meeting and working with Oprah? Any cool stories?

Meeting Oprah Winfrey in the beginning was extremely surreal. I met her four years ago while I was shooting the film, *Selma*. She is a whirlwind of love, good spirits and fun. My favorite experience was going to her house when we were premiering *Selma*. There were so many civil rights dignitaries, African-American leaders in entertainment, religion and politics at the celebration. I was blessed to be a part of it.

Do you feel more "at home" working for a black owned network or is work just work? Elaborate.

I don't know if I feel "at home" working on a black network but I feel "at home" working on a network that treats our stories with complexity, humanity and grace.

Ava DuVernay is a brilliant woman and season 3 has an all-female directing team. How do you feel about the strides we are making as a people?

I feel like the strides we are making as a people in the realm of film and television is because we are finally able to tell our own narratives. We know our stories better than anyone else does because we live it, we experience it and it is in our DNA. So now, the stories we tell have a soul to them.

With that being said, do you personally choose film projects that have a message or do they find you?

I do choose to pick projects that uplift. NOW, there's nothing better than playing a juicy villain with all of these colors and levels but I can't make that the vein of my career. I might give you that once every few years because I am pretty good at it. But, I like to make my wife, kids, parents and brother proud of the image I put on the screen. We are flooded with so many negative depictions of black men every day and I don't want to play into that.

Tell us about your NAACP Award.

I'm lucky enough to have 3 NAACP Imagine Awards. One for *Selma*, one for *Queen Sugar* and an NAACP Theatre Award for the Robert O'Hara play *BBQ* from 2016. I think they like me over there lol.

You've worked with quite a few notable people in the

entertainment industry. Not counting Oprah or Ava, who has stood out to you most and why?

I have been lucky enough to work with many generous people over these last 20 years. The list is extremely long. I'll say that Todd Phillips, Reginald Hudlin, Samuel L. Jackson, Walton Goggins and Wendell Pierce and Danny McBride are people who have really given me the best advice on this journey.

How important is Afemo Omilami to you and why?

Afemo Omilami (along with his wife Liz Williams Omilami) is probably the most important person in my acting life. He was my first professional acting teacher when I was 15 years old. He took me under his wing FOR REAL! He taught me so much, not only about acting but about the business. I feel like I had a leg up on a lot of my contemporaries when I first started. Here was this man, a real deal-working actor with leads in movies showing me the ropes. What he did for me, I could never pay it back but I will pay it forward and I try my best to take as many young actors under my wing as I can.

In your opinion, why was "Juwanna Mann" the "Worst Movie Ever"?

I have often said that *Juwanna Mann* was the worst movie ever. Lol. Of course, that's hyperbole but it was a really bad experience for me. I was a young actor still in college when I did that movie. This was off of the heels of doing my first movie *Road Trip*, a fantastic beginning to my career. I thought every movie would be as joyful as that movie was. Fast forward to 6-7 months later and I'm in Charlotte, North Carolina doing this movie *Juwanna Mann*.

Now maybe I didn't understand hierarchy or something but they treated me like trash during that movie. The director wasn't the nicest person to say the least but the lead actor (Miguel Nunez) was so helpful. He was just an overall good person. All I remember was coming back to school and telling my film professor Sheldon Schiffer at Georgia State University about the experience and he said, "Welcome to Hollywood, kid!" So, I try to make it my point to talk to everyone on set and introduce myself because I don't ever want to be the reason for making someone want to give up on their dream. Hey, a couple months later I was doing the classic movie *Drumline*...so there's that.

Outside of acting, what are some of your hobbies and life goals?

Outside of acting, my other goals are writing, producing and directing. That's the next phase in the career but after I've done that, I thoroughly plan on becoming a college professor and give back the information and the experience that I would've gained to a younger generation. Yeah, that's my future.

Lastly, how can people get in touch with you via social media?

You can find me on social media at @omarjdorsey.



PHOTOS:
SEAN HAGWELL



SIERRA NOWAK

TALKS MODELING, PAGEANTRY AND THE UPCOMING FILM, "UNINTENDED"

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: KRYSTAL LUSTER

Sierra Nowak currently holds 2 titles as "Miss South Bay USA" and "Miss Turismo Latino" and she recently placed 4th in the "Miss Jetset 2018" pageant for the West Coast region. With 2 crowns and a progressive career in TV and film, Miss Nowak still manages to handle her life gracefully. Be sure to be on the lookout for her upcoming film, "Unintended" alongside actor, Jamal Woolard. The following is an excerpt from her interview.

For starters, how did you grow up?

I grew up very humble. My mother, father and myself all shared a small one bedroom house. Two of us would sleep on the bed and the other on the couch and we would rotate. My mother was always a stay-at-home mom as she became ill when I was very young and my father is a disabled veteran so finances were always tight. Once I got older, I wanted to do things we couldn't afford like cheerleading and beauty pageants so I started working at Dairy Queen when I was 15 to create those opportunities for myself. I wouldn't change anything about my upbringing as it taught me independence, resilience and hard work from an early age.

How did you get into modeling?

My mom was a model when she was younger so it was always something I wanted to do. I started going on auditions at the age of 8, got my first talent agency at 11 and never looked back.

What was your first professional modeling gig?

I honestly can't remember my very first one as a young girl but when I was thirteen my first runway job was for a brand called Cupcake Mafia at a show in Cleveland, Ohio. I remember that show like it was yesterday.

Tell us about your upcoming film, "Unintended".

I am so excited about this film. Unintended is an action packed film about an unexpected love and how it impacted everyone it touched. It is currently in post production.

How is working with actor Jamal Woolard? Is there anything you've learned from him in particular that has stood out to you?

I was super surprised by how laid back he was. He was actually giving advice to one of the musicians in the jazz band for our gala scene, telling him about the importance of ignoring the women who are no good for you and not buying into the hype. He told him to find one good girl and get through life together, which I thought was really beautiful for him to say knowing this boy probably looks up to him and his career.

Speaking of Jamal, 2Pac or The Notorious B.I.G.? GO.

So this depends if we're talking about the movie or the actual individual, I love 2Pac but Notorious was a much better film, in my opinion.

How do you manage to split your time between your career and being Miss South Bay USA and Miss Turismo Latino 2018?

I don't get much sleep! It is not easy to balance two titles. I haven't done that in a long time but luckily they only overlapped for a few months. I work almost everyday but if I'm off early or catch a day off I make sure to get out in the community and make use of my title.

What are some of your duties as a winner of a pageant?

Everyone wants the crown but I don't think a lot of people truly understand what comes with the title. IT IS A JOB. There are photoshoots, appearances, charity events, you have a platform you communicate and fight for, it is a 24/7 job on top of your current life and none of these events are paid so you really have to be good at time management.

Over the years, pageant winners have been stripped of their titles for exhibiting behaviors that go against what some of these pageants deem morally acceptable. Being that we are living in the era of social media, are you more cautious about what you do and say online?

Yes, absolutely. I am so grateful I started pageants before I started social media. I have always been very cautious of what I post or even like. I know that as a titleholder there are young women watching me and my job is to be a role model. I don't even like posts with alcohol or profanity.

What was the funniest moment on set of Kevin Hart/Chocolate Droppa's music video for "Push It" featuring Trey Songz?

Kevin had come up to me and told me to take off my shoes and I laughed thinking he was joking because I was so tall with the high heels on. However, it turned out he was serious and he just stared at me waiting for me to take them off. I ended up barefoot in the entire video.

To read Sierra Nowak's full interview, visit us at www.twenty4sevenmagazine.com. Follow Sierra on Twitter @SierraNowak and on Instagram @sierra_nowak. Photos submitted by Aryel Nicole PR.



TWEET DAT!

@BrotherMob: Class act on and off the court Lebron James made a move EDUCATION IS KEY

@therealstylesp: I may quit twitter because of stupid people!! Shit is exhausting

@ShaunKing: It is amazing, again, how frequently dangerous white murderers are taken into police custody without being shot or Tasered or beaten or choked.

@_WordSmiff_: "It's not about making sense" literally describes Twitter to it's core.

@kydashh: You drop a toxic friend everybody think you the bad person

@_therealkatiee: I hate that older black generations don't fully understand the concept of natural hair. Now every time I wear a fro you asking me "WHaT YoU goNE Do With ThAt heAD!?"

@Mouse_Jones: If its "fuck you" today, i just ask that its fuck me tomorrow. All energy shall remain the same...

@Cyn_Santana: Today is my anniversary can't believe Joey was able to escape the friend zone.

*ALL CONTENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED EXACTLY HOW IT WAS WRITTEN. SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE "TWEET DAT" SECTION TO TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM OR @TWENTY4SEVENMAG IN YOUR TWEETS.

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THE BARBERSHOP



#CHARLAMAGNETHAGOD

@TheBlastNews: Charlamagne Tha God's rape accuser had no DNA evidence from him, according to the rape kit officials performed.

@Cajunwealth: So #charlamagnethagod is a whole #rapist out here. Yet tryna school others on morals and labeling others #DonkeyOfTheDay.

@jarednotjarrod: The only woman violated by @cthagod was @chanelwestcoast rap career. He assaulted your bars, abused your punchlines, then turned round' and blamed the victim. #charlamagnethagod #chanelwestcoast #TheBreakfastClub #LeaveHimAlone

@Jada_Blaze04: Angela Rye is a dumb Bitch for defending #charlamagnethagod a man that is into drugging and #raping teenage girls, Angela Rye doesn't value her womanhood. #AngelaRye #Metoo

@itsjustcristin: i am confused as to why people are really jumping on this and continuing to say he raped his wife. did you not hear what she said? did i miss something here? #charlamagnethagod #rapeculture #rape #consensualsex

@blackcelebrityc: Not surprised to hear about #charlamagnethagod I always thought he was garbage. The other two hosts on the Breakfast Club aren't bad but I miss sophisticated black interviewers like Donnie Simpson. #TheBreakfastClub

@iam_skyyhii: Ppl are really trying to drag #charlamagnethagod like he hasn't been 100% authentic since day fucking 1 #SillyRabbit

CAPTION THIS!

SEND CAPTIONS TO TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM





PHOTOS:
ELTON ANDERSON

KALAAN WALKER

IN DUE TIME

WORDS + INTERVIEW BY: TYRONE DAVIS

KALAAN WALKER, BETTER KNOWN AS "KR" TALKS ABOUT HIS LOVE OF MUSIC, BATTLE WITH DEPRESSION AND HIS ROLE AS JUJU IN THE SONY FILM, "SUPERFLY".

First off, I want to say congratulations on your role as Juju in Sony's "Superfly". Tell us a little bit about the film, your character and how you got the role.

Juju is a jealous and aggressive member of a collective called "Sno Patrol". Their main goal is to run the city (Atlanta). I got called in last minute to audition for the role, not really expecting anything. Then, I got a call within that same week saying the casting director was amazed with my performance and flew me to Atlanta to start filming that weekend.

I've always assumed that when acting, showing sadness, crying, etc. would be one of those emotions most difficult to pull off on screen but I hadn't thought about how much it would take for one to not only show anger, but rage as well. After a certain point in the film, I thought to myself, "He's pulling that from somewhere personal". How true is that?
I had a very rough upbringing that was full of aggression, jealousy and lies. I took all that pain and frustration and gave it to my character.

I can only remember you smiling on camera once during the film. How did you get in and out of character in between takes?

I stayed in character the whole time. I didn't want to switch back and forth. I felt like it would take me out of my zone.

Which scene did you have the most fun shooting?

My favorite scene to shoot was definitely jumping through the fire. It was an adrenaline rush for me.

You guys did your own stunts, correct? If so, were there any moments where something may have been more difficult than you thought?

I did all of my own stunts and it was actually a very smooth experience.

Which of your co-stars made you laugh most on set?

Trevor Jackson (who plays the leading role of Youngblood Priest). That guy is full of energy. You just gotta love it.

I'd like to think people build friendships with some of their co-stars after filming has completed, similar to how some people maintain friendships with co-workers after one of them has left the job in the regular world. Did you vibe with any of your co-stars enough that you think your friendships will continue down the line?

Definitely all of them. We are all very busy but we still check in on each other, continuously.

Cool. Let's take it back a bit. How was your childhood?

Very quiet. I didn't really have a lot of friends. I spent a lot of time alone.

My mother was in the military and I remember finding out that we had to move and I was going to lose my first set of friends (2nd grade). I cried, lol. We then moved to Germany, I met some new friends, then we moved again and I met some new friends again. Fortunately, by the time I hit 7th grade, we remained stationary for the most part and I was able to rock out with a few people all the way through high school. How did you handle moving around early on and what was the cause of the moving?

My mom managed a lot of different buildings so I was always switching schools. I never really had time to develop a specific group of friends.

How old were you when you discovered you suffered from depression? What caused it?

I became depressed when I started middle school. People always made fun of me for being overly hyper, girls would never talk to me and people always made me feel like I wasn't good enough.

When I was around your age or a little bit younger, I had just gotten my heart broken for the first time and a few of my closest friends were going through the same thing. We laugh about it now, but it damn sure wasn't funny then and some of us took it harder than others. I believe one of the biggest obstacles we face as teens is dealing with the opposite sex and from what I've researched on you, was one of yours as well. Please elaborate.

My first girl friend and I dated for four years. She was cheating on me and I had no idea. That's a sensitive subject for me, so I'll just keep it there for now.

Why do you think a lot of people in our community avoid therapy? In what ways has it helped you?

I feel like people don't like expressing themselves to strangers but it was actually a mental release for me. I think people just want someone to be there for them at the end of the day.

Tell us a little about Marvel Inc.

I was a part of a dancing group called "Marvel Inc." in 2009 and that's where my career started. We started to become very well known via YouTube and we built a fan base from there. I started rapping about 2 to 3 years later.

How did being a dancer evolve into you becoming an artist?

I just like creating cool things overall. I explore a lot and music came very natural to me.

Who inspires you musically?

It's hard to answer that at this point. I literally get inspiration from everywhere.

Your music is dope. "Party", "You Deserve Better" and "All Goes Down" are standouts to me off the head. "Play My Shit" and "Westside (Ayy Yaiy) is dope as well. I need to catch up, I see.

Explain your creative process. You do a good job at beat selection. Honestly, all I do is walk around my room in circles and ideas just start flowing. I can't quite explain it.

I would like to say that while it's true and I completely understand that "people don't like you until everybody likes you (paraphrasing)", sometimes we just don't know. If I hadn't been doing this interview, I may have never heard your records. A win is a win, right? I agree.

How does one become a ghostwriter? What does that entail exactly? What are the pitfalls of that? All ghostwriters didn't want to be one but were pushed into it. Break that down for us.

Long story short, I pretty much record a lot of songs and I left a lot of my unreleased songs in a lot of studios. I'll just leave it at that, lol. I feel like my creativity was taken advantage of but it's all good. I know better now.

What is the biggest misconception about the entertainment business?

The biggest misconception is that it's all fun and games.

Tell Halle Berry I said, "I love her". I'm just kidding, unless you're going to tell her. Lol, how did you land the role as William in the film, "Kings" and what did you learn most from veterans like Halle Berry and Daniel Craig?

I auditioned like everyone else and the director saw something in me I didn't see in myself. Halle and Daniel taught me to be aware of my surroundings and to always be a respectful and good person.

How did participating in a film dealing with that subject matter resonate with you based on what is happening in our country today?

I grew up in a rough area so it related to me 100 percent. I'm already used to those types of areas so it came natural for me to dive into the subject matter and that character.

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

- A) Kidd Future - Loyal
- B) J. Cole - Intelligent
- C) XXXTentacion - Soul Searching
- D) Kendrick Lamar - Legend

How did it feel to finally get your VIP invite to the BET Awards? Why was that special?

I told myself back in 2013 that I was going to take my mom to the BET Awards. I finally did it 5 years later so it was very special to me.

In your opinion, how is LA and ATL similar? How are they different?

Atlanta represents teamwork and Los Angeles represents hard work. They are both important cultural settings that influence the masses.

Tell us about your project, "In Due Time" and the meaning behind its title.

The title, *In Due Time* is a steady reminder that patience is key. It's something I continuously tell myself over and over to keep me calm-minded and help me understand that everything is a process.

Elaborate on the following tweets:

A) The "hey big head" text been coming non stop lately.
Girls that didn't care are trying to hit me up now.

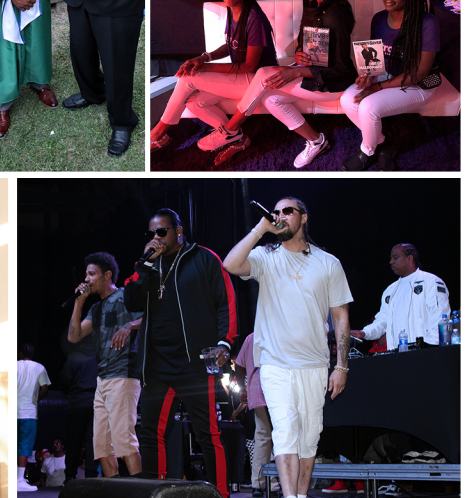
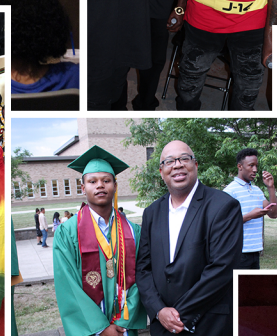
B) The microphone doesn't judge me so the mic is what I confide in.

I can always be myself when I'm making music.

C) There's been a lot going on in the world these past few months, I'm just sitting back observing learning what not to do.

Learning what to do and not to do based on the things that go on in media.

Follow Kaalan "KR" Walker on Twitter and Instagram @WhoKR.



CHECK ME OUT

SHONTE RENEE

SEX SYMBOL



Big Oomp Records presents Shonte Renee's freshly-released R&B EP "Sex Symbol." The 8-song project offers top-notch production partnered with Shonte's sultry voice and infectious lyrics. The Atlanta songstress hit the spotlight with last year's "Want This" video featuring T-Pain and her motivation hasn't slowed down yet.

Stream the EP on soundcloud at <https://soundcloud.com/shonterenee/sets/sex-symbol>.

Follow Shonte Renee on Social Media:

Twitter: @shonterenee

Instagram: @iamshonterenee

Facebook.com/shonterenee

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shontereneebookings@gmail.com

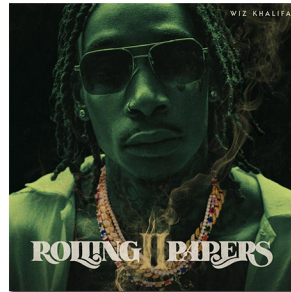
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