

ISSUE #75
2024

MAKO GIRLS

+ Skyrrah Bliss. Tiera Lynch, MS.
T. Hill. Chance Austin. Tilly Kingston.
#MeaCulpa.

WWW.TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE.COM





MULTIMEDIA + CREATIVE SERVICES

• GRAPHIC DESIGN

Advertisements, Flyers/Posters, Banners, Brochures, Business Cards, Invitations, Logos, Restaurant Menus, Single/Album Art, Social Graphics, Stationery + more

• WEB DESIGN

E-blasts, Newsletters, Websites + more

• PHOTOGRAPHY

Commercial, Events, Maternity, Real Estate, Portraits, Still Life, Weddings + more

• VIDEOGRAPHY

Commercials, Documentaries, Events, Music Videos, Weddings + more

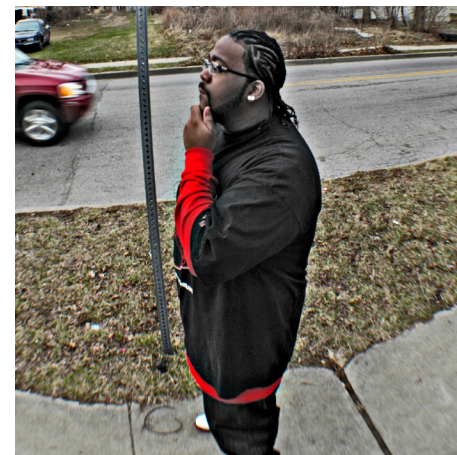
CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR CREATIVE NEEDS!

LIL FELLA

Multimedia Design and Creative Agency based in Atlanta, GA.



WWW.LILFELLA.COM



What up World?

Just a piece of unsolicited advice: Amongst all of the chaos going on in the world, please be mindful of how you move on a day-to-day basis, who you keep around you, how much time you spend wasting time, and of anything that serves no positive purpose in your lives.

It is easy to remain stagnant for years at a time and not accomplish much. I've seen it in all areas, from people I know in my personal life, people I know in business, folks that I've just observed online and even within myself at times. We are all human and trying to thrive out here but a lot of us are most comfortable running on a hamster wheel vs. actually getting to a particular destination. That is where the problem lies. Getting active can be tough but whatever aspirations you have in life, you have to understand that more often than not, you are on your own and no one is coming to save you.

Get in shape. Start that business. Build that tree house in your backyard. Book that flight. They say when people are on their death beds, the things they speak about most are those things that they regret NOT doing. Tomorrow isn't promised so do it today.

Health, wealth, and prosperity to all.

Tyrone Davis



TWENTY4SEVEN
ENTERTAINMENT EVERLASTING MAGAZINE

Editor/Publisher:
Tyrone Davis

Visual Communications:
Lil Fella

Photography:
Lil Fella
T4S Staff

Marketing/Sales:
Jus Mi Luck Promotions & Marketing

Contributing Writers:
Lucky Smith
Eric Alper PR

Contributing Photography:
Chase Gozy
Steve Williams (@SteveStylesPhoto)
Christopher Brown
Eric Alper PR/Handout

Stylists, Hair, and Makeup:
Myoshi Mona (Wardrobe Stylist for Skyrh Bliss)
Yaya Glammoguls (Hair + MUA for Skyrh Bliss)
MAKO Girls (Stylists for MAKO Girls)

Contact:
Website: twenty4sevenmagazine.com
Email: twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com
Facebook: Twenty4Seven Magazine
Instagram: @twenty4sevenmagazine
TikTok: @twenty4sevenmag
X (formerly Twitter): @twenty4sevenmag
youtube.com/twenty4sevenmagazine

CONTENTS

TIERA LYNCH, MS	5
T. HILL	6
CHANCE AUSTIN	7
MAKO GIRLS	8-10
#MEACULPA	11
SKYRAH BLISS	12-14
ALL-STAR INDY 2024	15
TILLY KINGSTON	16



Outpatient Mental Health Services



Schedule An
Appointment
Today!

We're Here For You!

Imani Behavioral Health (est. 2018) was started as a way to serve the community with a multicultural team of mental health professionals providing a wide variety of quality therapeutic services. In that short time, we have expanded our counseling practice to three locations in middle Tennessee and have added psychological testing and evaluations to our services. We provide a wide array of modalities while maintaining the warmth and safety found in a small office practice.

Our Core Values

Faith, empowerment and compassion are our core values therefore we offer our services in ways that are both accessible and affordable by taking most insurance carriers and offering income-based payments.

We offer a wide range of mental health services, both in-person and telehealth in the middle Tennessee area.

Mental Health Services:

- Individual Therapy
- Trauma Focused Therapy
- Alcohol & Substance Use Treatment
- Anger Management Education and Skill Building
- Couples Counseling
- Family Therapy
- Process Groups
- Psychoeducational Groups

Psychological Evaluations (Starting May 2024):

- ADHD Testing
- Alcohol & Substance Abuse Evaluations
- Autism Testing
- Bariatric Surgery Evaluation
- Learning Disability Evaluations & IQ Testing
- Parental Evaluations
- Court Evaluations
- Psychological & Personality Disorders Testing

**If you need a service that is not listed, it does not mean we do not offer it. Please contact us for more information.*

We are open **Monday - Friday: 8am - 7pm** and **Saturday: 9am - 3pm.**

Clarksville, TN

93 Beaumont St
Clarksville, TN 37040

Nashville, TN

406 Royal Parkway
Nashville, TN 37214

(931) 274-7588 • www.imanibehavioralhealth.com



PHOTO: LIL FELLA

TIERA LYNCH, MS

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Words + Interview By Tyrone Davis

Tiera Lynch, MS is a mental health therapist at Imani Behavioral Health, an outpatient mental health agency in middle Tennessee. Located at their Clarksville, TN location, Tiera specializes in anxiety, depression, and self-esteem in adults, as well as "play therapy" with children as young as 4-years-old.

What can you say about the stigma of mental health therapy?

There are a lot of clients that I've had that have come in and they feel like they don't really need therapy because they can't be fixed so there is no point. That is not true. Everything can be talked about and worked through. In our community in particular, I've found that a lot of us feel like we can just pray it away. We are fine. We are strong. We ARE strong, but it doesn't hurt to have someone else to talk to, to get a different perspective.

We all suffer from different issues but does that mean we're broken? What does "fixing" actually mean?

In my opinion, fixing is just making it to where one can function on their own. Therapy is not made to be a lifelong commitment. Clients come in weekly, work their way up to bi-weekly, then eventually come in monthly, where they have learned healthy coping skills, journaling, meditation and self-care skills. All of those things are very important to your mental health. Life happens and something is always going to come up, but eventually one will be able to function on a day-to-day basis without necessarily needing someone to talk to.

Explain "play therapy" for children.

With my younger ones and especially the 5-year-old, we do a lot of coloring. I have a doll house, Barbie dolls, etc. and I get them to draw different things like their family members, for example and then have them describe the drawing. I can get an idea from their descriptions about how they perceive certain family members. Even those not in the picture. With the doll house, I'll have them set it up like their own home. It is pretty interesting how they separate the dolls.

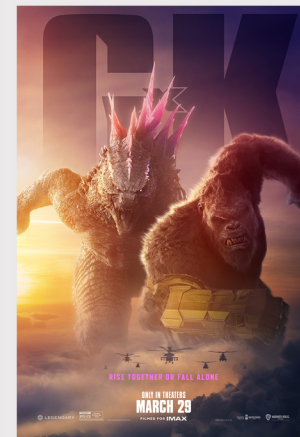
Lastly, if you could give 3 pieces of information for those who are unsure about receiving mental health therapy, what would you tell them?

- #1: You are not alone because more people struggle than you believe.
- #2: It is okay to try therapy. If it does not feel okay right away, take a break and try again later.
- #3: It is okay to not be okay.

To schedule an appointment with Tiera Lynch, MS, and/or to learn more about her, visit imanibehavioralhealth.com

COMING TO THEATERS

+ STREAMING PLATFORMS.





T. HILL

SHOW ME LUV

PHOTO: LIL FELLA | MODEL: @AMIYAHSHENELLE

Q+A By Tyrone Davis

Where are you from and how did you grow up?

I am originally from the west side of Chicago, Illinois. I grew up around a lot of love, as well as music. I was always a reader, a thinker, an artist, a creative and was very energetic being that wanted to reach my full potential and purpose in life.

How long have you been singing and what made you decide to pursue a career in music?

I have been singing since the age of five but then noticed that I was actually pretty good at it so I stuck with it. I always pictured myself in the shoes of the people I admired but then started to get encouragement and support from different people, which helped with my confidence in my decision to pursue music as a career, long term. Eventually, I was dared to end up stage and sing by people who discovered my gift and I ended up receiving a standing ovation from several people in the crowd.

You have released a few singles. Tell us about your latest records, "Roleplay" and "Show Me Luv".

RolePlay is a sexy, sensual, and erotic record, lol! It is a smooth R&B/Hip-Hop joint that puts you in the mood to be a little more adventurous and out of the box in the bedroom. *Show Me Luv* picks up where *RolePlay* left off, even visually. Check out my music videos for both!

Agree or Disagree: "R&B is Dead"

I don't think that it is dead but I do believe that it is on life support. Hip-Hop has really made a name for itself and it continues to evolve, in both a good and bad direction. We have rappers that sing, blending rapping with that R&B vibe and creating really dope

music. However, in my opinion, majority of singers are afraid to make real love music anymore, due to the fear of looking soft.

Social media has created a voice for the voiceless. How do you think it has helped within the entertainment industry?

Social media has given ordinary people, outside of the elite class, a chance at achieving success that is normally unheard of.

Originally being from Chicago, how do you feel about the current state of the city?

I pray for my city as much as I can. Growing up there was very challenging at times but it was nowhere near as dangerous as it is today. It makes it difficult at times to even go back to visit, due to the fear of something happening.

Name your "Top 5" artists from Chi-Town.

Twista, Donnell Jones, R. Kelly, Da Brat, and Kanye/Common.

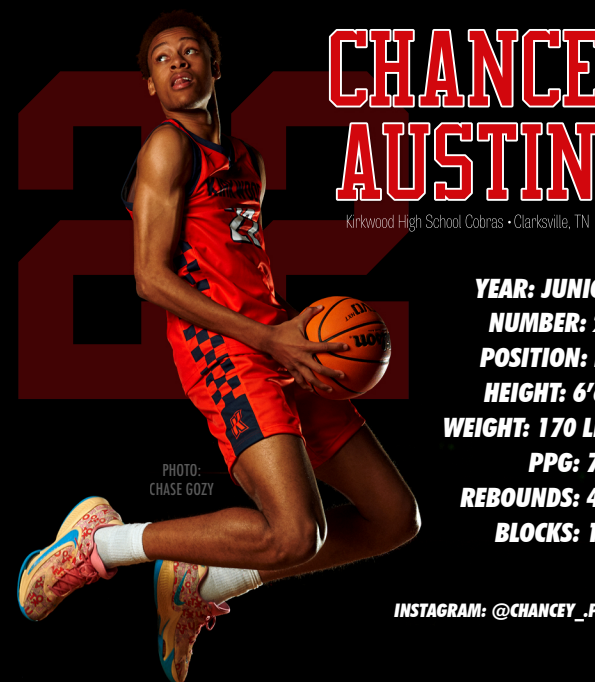
You're a Navy veteran. What did you learn about yourself while active and how did you change throughout the course of your service?

I learned that I was a very hardworking, very ambitious, determined, outspoken and focused individual. I continued to grow in these areas of life, while also enjoying the journey on the road to greatness.

Name your favorite hobby.

One of my favorite pastimes is shooting pool. I learned how to play while in the military and got really good at it.

To keep up with T. Hill, visit thill4real.biz and for any and all business, contact sidviciousjamz@gmail.com.



CHANCE AUSTIN

Kirkwood High School Cobras • Clarksville, TN

YEAR: JUNIOR
NUMBER: 22
POSITION: PF
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 170 LBS
PPG: 7.9
REBOUNDS: 4.9
BLOCKS: 1.6

INSTAGRAM: @CHANCEY_POO

Words + Interview by Tyrone Davis

Clarksville, TN native, Chance Austin is a Power Forward for the Kirkwood High School Cobras and is a recent recipient of the program's First All-District Team Award.

How do you feel about being on the team and how things are going, currently?

I feel really good because they have given me the opportunity to show what I can do. I am a coachable athlete, but it is nice to have the freedom and encouragement from my coach (John Stigall) to do what I do, because he knows how I play.

Teamwork: How do you all ensure that everyone is on the same page?

Basically, everybody on the team is family or a close friend. One of my cousins is on the team and a brother of one of my friends plays as well. I've known him since the fifth or sixth grade. So, we all grew up with each other.

What has been the biggest lesson Coach Stigall has taught you since you've been on the team and what have you learned about yourself during this time?

Coach Stigall has taught me that nobody can teach effort nor grit. You have to already have some type of toughness to you. People can have talent, but can you finish out a game? Can you dive on the floor? About myself, I have learned that I have to be a sponge. I have to be able to absorb knowledge, not only in reference to basketball, but as a man as well, you know?

How do you handle pressure?

Pressure is a part of life so I just take it head on. I don't fret under pressure. Yes, pressure will obstruct my path at times, but I stay committed.

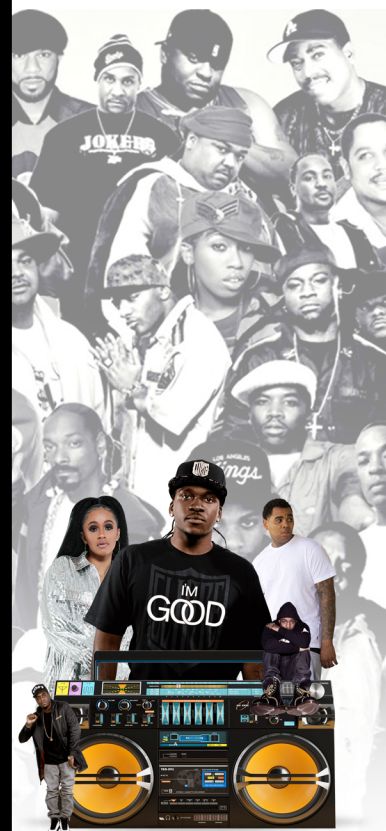
What plans for college do you have, if any?

I have 3 colleges in mind. They are Mississippi State University, University of California, Berkeley, and Alabama A&M. Alabama A&M and Langston University are real close to where my dad lives. I've been talking to one of the players on the team from time to time.

What do you enjoy outside of basketball?

I like combat sports (UFC). My favorite fighters are Jon Jones, Charles Oliveira, and Yoel Romero. I also like Horror films like, "Hereditary", "Annabelle" and "Skinamarink" and want to pursue computer technology and back end web design in the future.

DJS UNITED RADIO



THE HOTTEST STATION ON THE NET

★ DOPE SHOWS ★
 ★ LIVE DJS ★
 ★ 24 HR MUSIC ★

+tunein  

LISTEN IN ON THE
 "TUNEIN" APP, APPLE APP
 STORE, ON GOOGLE PLAY
 OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.DJSUNITEDGLOBAL.COM.

MAKO GIRLS

THE GLOW UP

Q+A By Lucky Smith



PHOTOS:
CHRISTOPHER BROWN

WARDROBE STYLIST:
MAKO GIRLS

COVER
STORY

For those who may not be aware, introduce yourselves and tell us about your background.

MAKO Girls are a trio sister girl group based out of East Atlanta that has been performing together for 10 years. We all are a triple threat with the skills to sing, dance, and rap. Each of our different styles come together to create a unique sound that we would describe as pop-rap, and urban pop.

Our first interview with you all was 4 years ago. How have things changed overall since then?

Things for us have changed tremendously! We have grown our audience across all social media platforms with 1.5 million followers on TikTok, 77k subscribers on YouTube, 60.4k followers on Instagram, and 34k on Facebook. As we continued to gain more fans, we had many amazing opportunities collaborating with major brands such as Nike Jdsports, Beats by Dre, Good American, ColourPop Cosmetics X Disney, IMVU, Dollskill, Sony Music, Taco Bell and IHOP.

Growing on the relationship with Jdsports, we were made the face of the spring collection for 2023. On top of that, we have opened up for legendary artist such as Ja Rule, Ashanti, Chubb Rock, NEXT, 2Chainz, RSVP, Dondria, and the group that inspired it all, Mindless Behavior. Our music catalog has also expanded, releasing a new single every year and our second EP titled, *Lvls To This*. During that time one of the singles, *Aint Thinkin Bout You* started making a buzz on the airwaves and we received over 100k streams on that song.

Mimi and A-Ni, you were still in high school the last time we spoke. Are any of you three pursuing a college degree at this point or are you 100% focused on being artists? If any of you are attending college, tell us more.

Kena kicked it off by graduating college with her associate degree in marketing management, Mimi is currently in school for graphic design and media, and A-Ni took some time off schooling but would love to go for Videography/Film.

Being both siblings and group mates, explain your process when creating.

When working together, we brainstorm ideas whether it is for content, music, or even photoshoots. In the moments when we are discussing content, we always check how different videos have performed and what is trending to start creating. When we are creating music, it initially starts with the beat of a song, then we agree on a topic to talk about collectively. After we plan, we part ways to come up with our individual parts and present them to each other to piece the song together.

How do you all get on the same page and how do you resolve things when you are not?

Because we have good communication skills with each other, whenever conflict arrives, we are able to talk it out and come to an understanding. From there we can compromise, making sure that everyone's voice is heard. Or, if a situation occurs when compromising isn't the solution, we know that whatever decision that needs to be made is with the best intention for the group.

What has been your favorite music video you've shot to date?

Aint Thinkin Bout You is our favorite video, hands down and for so many reasons. First, we want to shout out KiKi Ely (the creative

director) for coming up with an amazing treatment that was fun and really captured the energy of the song, along with the fantastic choreography by Taylor Perymon. She gave us some of everything in the video from regular choreography, to stepping, and even majorette dance. Overall, we created a movie with that song and you all should check it out on our YouTube channel: Official Mako Girls.

Tell us about your latest single, "Snakes".

We are bringing the R&B girl group sound back with the melodic flow and harmonies! This song has a chill vibe, something you turn up to hear all the bass and backgrounds to get the full experience of the song. This track emphasizes "we can't relate" to the envious friend's "snakes" that are around just because they want what you have. The na's carry out the attitude throughout the song making it super catchy for you to sing whenever this song is played.

LoL, how did that photoshoot for the single go?

The photoshoot for *Snakes* has to be one of the craziest shoots to date. We contacted a company with real snakes to bring for the concept of the song. We'd like to thank Q's Animal Kingdom. He brought us a 6-foot python to take a photo with. It was very nerve wrecking on set to have a snake crawling on us, so it came with a lot of breaks and nervous laughter. But overall, the shoot was awesome, we got amazing shots and it is something we can tell people we were able to do.

Normally, when entertainers that have been at it since childhood get older, we see them "change". Sometimes it is a natural change and other times, it can seem forced, especially when it comes to one's sexuality. How do you all feel about your own evolution and what has been your strategy to show growth both as human beings and entertainers?

All of us value learning ourselves inside and outside of the group and being able to have time to get to know what we are into as individuals. With our evolution, it is really based on how we feel at the time or what we are currently experiencing at that point in our lives, especially when it comes to us maturing in the industry. We do what is comfortable to us which allows us to authentically grow into the women that we want to be without changing who we are to meet the demands of what is normalized in the industry.

The last time we saw you perform was during the summer of 2023. Being that you all have performed at several venues in several cities and countries, what has been your favorite performance of all time and why?

Performing in Jamaica had to be one of the best experiences. It was such a great blend of enjoying yourself while you work. We joined Saffron Giving, who was doing a back-to-school giveaway event for all of the children and it was so nice to perform along with giving out school supplies that the community needed. Plus, we were able to have fun while there, staying in a nice villa with a beach in the backyard doing crazy activities like jumping off of different cliffs into the water.

You have a big event coming up. Tell us about your annual, "Carnival Glow Party". How has the event evolved over the years and what can people expect from this year's event?

The *Carnival Glow Party* started out as our introduction into the music industry, letting people know who we are and to learn a little

more about our culture. Over the years, it became a platform where young artists like us were able to showcase our music and talents. We always gave the people an experience when they came, starting off with red carpet photos and interviews, face painting, a glow contest, and we would do a dance contest for grand prizes like an iPhone or \$1000 cash.

With the return of the *Carnival Glow Party* this year, we are going to switch some things up. First, we are no longer children so we have extended the age range for talent. We are adding more elements of our Caribbean culture to the event so people can learn more about how they can be a part of the events like carnival here in Atlanta, Georgia. Also, we are adding a TikTok experience, photo booth, and many more prizes. If you want to experience this yourself, buy tickets now on Eventbrite.



How did you all navigate the pandemic and in what ways do you think the world has changed since then?

During the pandemic is when we took to social media, making our presence most know there. The resolves of being on these platforms was more than what we could have imagined and it helped our career in many ways. It definitely has changed the world because people were isolated for so long, we had to get back into the swing of networking, talking to people in person, and even regain our stage presence for live shows since everything was virtual.

On a smaller scale, Atlanta has changed quite a bit as well. What is your take on the city and where it stands both culturally and as an entertainment hub in 2024?

The Atlanta entertainment scene has grown over the years, becoming one the prominent cities to get discovered in. There are many opportunities to be seen here along with running into the most legendary people from the city. Culturally, Atlanta has made an impact, especially with its own style and music.

Your TikTok following is impressive. Do you ever feel pressured to create "content" on a regular basis?

We do feel the pressure to consistently have viral content on the platform. However, the pressure of posting on a regular basis isn't much of a struggle. During the years of creating on the app, we have made a schedule to make content in bulk so we aren't recording something every single day. It has become a system that works for us, not on just TikTok but all social media platforms.

How do you think social media has affected society?

Social media truly changed how society works across all industries by creating opportunities that was once never thought of and allowing people to become entrepreneurs because it gives them the platform to promote their own brand/company and reach

people outside of where they are from. Also, it gives everyone access to unlimited knowledge of anything and everything. But, with such access to everything and everyone, whatever you are interested in, there is also many others that are doing the exact same thing as you, causing people to not pursue their own dreams since so many are already doing it. The over saturation of content pushed everyday can create the feeling like there is no space for you or you are fighting to really stand out amongst everything on social media.

What do each of you enjoy doing outside of your careers?

Mimi enjoys reality TV and competition shows during her down time, from *Bad Girls Club*, to *Master Chef*, to *Survivor*. She also stays creative by doing different DIY Projects that she may see on TikTok or Pinterest.

A-Ni trains in Muay Thai/ JiuJitsu and enjoys studying different languages in her spare time.

Kena spends time playing video games, putting together jigsaw puzzles, crafting, and cosplay.

As individuals, what have each of you learned about yourselves over the last 4 years?

Mimi: I learned that I am a very efficient person, always coming up with ideas and making it happen along with acknowledging all my strengths from me designing the merch, to being mine and the girls' hairstyles at times, and even putting together concepts and ideas for us to create.

A-Ni: One thing I've learned over the past couple of years is to be firm in who I am and what my beliefs are. I even found a deeper connection as to why I have a passion for creating music and what my purpose is in this industry. It is a constant learning experience but I feel more connected to who I am more than ever!

Kena: Over the years, I learned how to be myself more when I am around people. The crazy thing is they tend to gravitate to me more or actually be into the same things I am into. I've also learned how to be more vocal in interviews and when networking with industry people by letting them know who we are and what we do.

What is the biggest piece of advice you can give other aspiring artists about the music business?

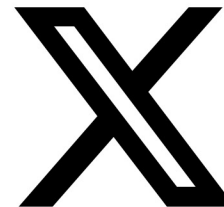
The best advice we can give is knowing who you are and owning it, down to all the weird quirks that you have and the way you dress is what makes you, you! Don't change for anybody and let people who love who you are, what you do, and gravitate to you. Also, learn the business to be secure with every decision made in your career and have fun while doing it.

Who are your "Top 5" girl groups of all time?

In no particular order for us we choose, TLC, Destiny's Child, Fifth Harmony, Danity Kane, and Little Mix.

Lastly, what can we expect from you all this year?

All this year you can expect new music from us so if you aren't following us on any streaming platforms, follow now @makogiris. You can expect our *6th Annual Carnival Glow Party* on April 6th and us performing in 5 different states throughout the year. Our marketing is about to be great where you can catch us everywhere!



@austerrewyatt1: You don't need to be a conspiracy theorist to know that something ain't f**-king right.

@odedanilo: Normalise shutting down conversations that involve hating on others

@JoynerLucas: I accomplished a bunch of shit that's way out of your reach and I'm still not at my peak. My project complete...03/22

@MDSoul: If you don't want to be held accountable don't be my friend lol I will hold you to it every time.

@tonejjetson: Rest in Peace, Eric Mays. The literal embodiment of standing on business.

@TerrellRay_: I would much rather be a loner than hang with people that secretly hate me. Some of yall biggest haters are people you consider a friend. Folks just aren't genuine anymore.

@MaadyBK67: Frank Sinatra was deadass drill music for Italian mobsters back in the 50s & 60s. They was committing drivebys with "New York, New York" blasting out the Lincoln Continental

@treylfive_: You in therapy lying to the therapist and wonder why it ain't working

@jonathanmena: I knew the music industry was shady when interns at the studio would take bottles of Duse and then help us look for them.

@BayouBun: Nobody over 65 should be running the country ... it just doesn't make sense ... shame on both parties for not doing their jobs

@iamzmtwtf: spent my whole life being a good girl to find out niggas love rats

@Kazeem: Some generational fumbling on Love is Blind



FOLLOW US
@TWENTY4SEVENMAG



THE BARBERSHOP



#MEACULPA

@Santie_ _xx: This movie went from romance to thriller to horror so quickly #MeaCulpa

@mareshaw3: Is #MeaCulpa is the worst movie ever to be on #Netflix? Yes, yes it is. 0/10

@iamnofacex: #MeaCulpa - imagine you sold my Piano to buy your momma a watch for her birthday. She's going to be dead soon right what/why does she need an expensive watch for ? Run me back my piano lol

@diajahk: I'm sorry but what is actually going on #MeaCulpa

@_DangerouzD: @tylerperry I gotta have a part 2 to #MeaCulpa .. Cause I know for sure @KELLYROWLAND suppose to be in the #DR today

@AlyssaBigbee: Tyler Perry doesn't know how to end a movie. That's his big issue. i was riding with #MeaCulpa until the last 30 minutes. It made NO SENSE!!!

@ana_flynn: The paint on their skin looks gorgeous #MeaCulpa

@BeYourOwnSpark: I'm reeeeeeally questioning people's judgment in movies. So we watched Tyler Perry's movie #MeaCulpa last night on Netflix.

The plot was like Swiss cheese, so many holes. Writing was a 2/10.

But the paint scene was a 10/10

@MalaysiaRei: the sex scene in #meaculpa OH MUH GAWHD.

@Tru_Powell: Still can't get over how bad #MeaCulpa was. The problem is Tyler Perry was the writer, producer and director. Jack of all trades and master of none. He needs to make space for emerging talent before he kills Lions Gate.

@almuhannad1032: Embracing accountability allows us to move forward with integrity. #MeaCulpa

@imanisgroove: This is literally the second time Tyler Perry has ripped off Addicted by Zane. If you don't know what I'm talking about, read the book and/or watch the movie #MeaCulpa

@senanur1335: Letting go of pride and admitting fault can lead to reconciliation and growth. #MeaCulpa

@MarquezG: Why da fuck isn't there a cancel Tyler Perry trending topic right now???? Like why or how???? This shit is ridiculous #MeaCulpa @netflix

@AY_WINS: We all enjoyed #MeaCulpa n y'all can stop lying

COVER
STORY

PHOTOS:
@STEVESTYLES PHOTO
WARDROBE STYLIST:
MYOSHI MONA
HAIR + MUA:
YAYA GLAMMOGULS

SKYRAH BLISS

THE COLOR PURPLE

Words + Interview By Lucky Smith

We met Skyrah Bliss for the first time during L.O.U.D. Muzik's Radio & Press Junket in Houston, Texas, circa 2020. She caught our attention immediately because she had her hair in purple afro, lol. 4 years later, we caught up with the Houston native to discuss her humble beginnings in sports, the state of the entertainment industry, mental health, the importance of staying in one's lane and more. This young lady is a star. Pay attention.

Tell us about yourself.

I'm from Houston, Texas, where legends are made baby, you know what I'm saying. Lol? I actually grew up playing sports, but I've always wanted to do music. When I was like 5 or 6 years old, I would hide in my closet and write songs and then became brave enough to share my songs when I was a teenager in high school.

Tell us a little bit about your sports background.

When I was a little leaguer (2nd and 3rd grade), I played baseball and then in middle and high school, I played volleyball, basketball, track and softball.

Were you a letterman in any of those sports?

Oh yeah. I only played softball one year because during Freshman year, we had to choose between softball or track and I chose track. So, I only lettered in volleyball, basketball, and track.

When did you decide to make a career out of music?

I was in a group in high school and I loved the girls to death, but I seemed to be the only one that was really serious about everything. Lol, I was definitely Galleria from *The Cheetah Girls*, always getting us to rehearse, writing the music, getting us to the studio etc. and was very serious about it.

Whenever we would have our studio sessions and we would work with other producers and songwriters, they would be like, "Wow, she is your songwriter right there". That is when I knew I had something because of course you're going to think you are good but when other people start telling you that you're good, that means something.

When did you get your "big break"?

I think my big break was when I was working with Brian Angel (of Day26) when I was younger. He was just coming off of the *Making The Band* show and he let me know that I was a really good songwriter and if I kept working at it, I could be one of the best in the business, which is my goal.

Also, from a business standpoint, joining L.O.U.D. Muzik has been the best decision of my career. I am the type of artist that can do everything and sometimes it can be a little overwhelming to people who want to become fans because I do all types of music. I want to do rock, and I can do R&B, and Pop, and Country. I can do everything. L.O.U.D. will bring me in and tell me to just give them a little bit at a time because it is confusing.

We have heard a lot of your music and it is very versatile. What do you think has been your best record thus far?

I think I have gotten the best reception from, *Hype Me Up* but my favorite record I've ever done so far was before L.O.U.D. and was

called, "I I I". I just really love that song because I was in a headspace of just creating freely and I'm most connected to it on an emotional level rather than how it is being received by the public.

You write, sing, perform, etc. Which of those is your favorite?

Performing is my favorite. I absolutely love the opportunity to transcend the audience to a higher frequency with me. I always have this really cleansing prayer or mantra (however anybody wants to say it), but I always pray that my mind, body, soul, and spirit is cleansed because music is very transferrable.

I am I'm a firm believer that one should watch what they listen to because it transcends into your body. So, I always want to make sure that everyone comes to the higher frequency of being in a better place, mentally, physically, and emotionally with me. If it is a song that is emotional that I am singing, we are going to get through this pain together. So, performing is my favorite and I'm also a little Diva on stage too, honey. I need my fans just like Beyoncé, OK!? Lol.

I have noticed that you are very colorful and your wardrobe selection is unique. Tell us about your look.

The truth is that it is so simple. I just want to look like the cover of a magazine. I want to look so cool, like a walking art piece. Sometimes, it is really hard to find what I am looking for and what is in my head, but I just try to find really cool patterns. I mix and match color and am really big on colors because during photoshoots, it pops really well. At the same time, I also love a really cool all black outfit too because I am a little rock star in my head, sometimes.

When I mention the color purple, what does that mean to you?

To me it means happiness. Lol, it genuinely makes me happy. I grew up with an older brother and just like any young girl who has an older brother, you want to be just like them growing up. So, everything that he liked, I liked. We even had matching Allen Iverson braids, the same clothes, shoes, etc. and so whenever I started liking purple, I became my own person.

So to me, the color purple is happiness and individuality but when you dig deeper into it, it means royalty. It is the color of your blood before it touches oxygen. It is the color of your head chakra as well. Mm-Hmm, Lol.

"Hoodrat St" is my favorite record of yours. What are your "Top 5" records that you have done?**

*Hype Me Up, I I I. Natural, Hoodrat S**t*.....um, I have only mentioned the songs that are out but I perform records that are unreleased too like, *Pretty Girl Problem*. Everyone really likes when I perform that. I also have a record called, *Make It Out Alive*.

That one is all about mental health. I wrote that about having an episode and praying that you make it out of that alive. So, it has a deeper meaning to it. It is kind of like Andre 3000's, *Hey Ya*. A lot of people don't know that *Hey Ya* is actually a sad song. That is why he says, "Y'all don't hear me, y'all just wanna dance", lol. So, I have favorite songs that aren't out that I consider really great as well....Mm-Hmm.

I'm glad you brought up mental health because I was actually going to touch on that because there is a lot of pressure on people nowadays. How do you cope?

I had to do a lot of soul searching because in the beginning of my career, I was told that I would never be good enough to do it (just like everybody else, of course, lol). I used to over rehearse, over perform, I would pick the hardest songs to learn from the hardest artists, and I would rehearse for like 8-10 hours at a time. So, by the time the show came, I was singing and performing so hard, but looking back on it now as I have been on my mental health journey, I know that I was doing that for the wrong reasons. I wasn't rehearsing because I loved it. I was rehearsing to prove people wrong. I was singing that high note that Whitney (Houston) does to prove people wrong and that is a very unhealthy way to live your life.

Now, I do it because it is my passion and I love it. If I write a song and nobody on my team loves it but I do, it doesn't bring me down. I don't care because I'm not doing it for the approval of others anymore. Who cares what they think? It's all about what you think, lol.

The entertainment industry is in disarray right now. Artists are beefing with the DJs, DJs are beefing with the artists, artists are beefing with media and even the film industry is going through it. What is your take on that?

It is crazy because I see both sides of it. I think that everyone should pick whatever they are best at, do that and stay in their lane. Of course, you can cross over here and there to help others in the lane that you're not necessarily like the best in, but pick what your superpower is and do that. You know what I mean?

Every Ninja Turtle has a different set of skills, lol. So, I feel like everybody wanting to do everything is watering down the quality of things. I'm all about quality over quantity, any day. The artists that I fell in love with that inspired me were quality. They could sing, they could dance, they could perform, and they had style. That is what the industry is missing and the fans are feeling it now too. It is all over social media. What is going on with the music industry? What is going on with the music? There is no feeling anymore and everything sounds the same.

Speaking of industry woes. How do you navigate the entertainment businesses as a woman?

When you are a woman in any industry, you are definitely going to be challenged. But, you have to make sure that you are strong enough mentally to handle it and speak up whenever you need to speak up because it happens to us all.



Outside of music, what are some of the things that you like to do and are involved in?

I absolutely still love to play volleyball and basketball with my best friend. I love fashion as well so that is definitely an industry that I want to get into. I love to spend time with my God babies. They are my heart and soul. I like to eat and go out to eat. Seafood is my favorite. Mm-Hmm....and shopping. I love a good shopping spree, and shoes, lol.

Name a few of your influences.

My biggest influences are Michael and Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, and Beyoncé. I also absolutely love Brandy. I love Jasmine Sullivan. There are so many people. I am inspired by Missy Elliot. I don't necessarily consider myself a rapper, but

whenever one of my rap records needs kind of like a rap flow, I definitely pull from Missy Elliot a lot, lol. Pharrell, Timbaland, Ludacris..... game changers. I love people who come into the game and shake things up.

That is what I want to do. When people hear my music, I want them to be like, "Who is that!?" I really want to make an impression because I don't want to sound like anybody else at all. Tina Turner too. Love her.

How would you describe yourself to someone who doesn't know you and how would you like to be remembered?

I would describe myself as energetic, fun, a mental vacation. That is what I am aiming for when I am creating music. I just want people to be free. I would like to be remembered as a breath of fresh air. I am light, I am loving. I am kind,

gentle and encouraging.

Last question: What can we expect from you, careerwise over the next few years?

You can expect me to be at the Grammys next year because I'm not playing with nobody no more. I am writing these songs and I am writing the hell out of them. Can I say that? I'm sorry. I am trying not to curse, lol. I am writing the stuff out of them and everyone is really excited. I feel like I have grown into a seasoned artist. I know I am still a new artist to a lot of people, which is fine. I am always going to be a new artist to somebody, but I feel like I am going to be at the Grammys next year for sure with the new music I am writing and the people I am collaborating with now.

Any final words?

Yes, a shameless plug. I would like people to download my latest single, *Hype Me Up*. It is an HBCU inspired song. I am really excited about it. Add it to your playlist and please follow me on Spotify and check out linktr.ee/SkyrahBliss as well.



ALL-STAR: INDY 2024

CHECK ME OUT

TILLY KINGSTON

YOUTH IS WASTED



*who look down on me and say I am wasting my life and having too much fun. Well, if this is wasting my life than f**k yeah, I am, and loving every minute of it!"*

ABOUT TILLY KINGSTON (AN EXCERPT)

Tilly was born for the stage – a good thing, too, seeing as she has spent her whole life sleeping in a bed just a few feet away from one.

Having grown up living above local Feathers music venue in the unassuming city of Lichfield, 15 miles north of the Rock'N'Roll epicentre of Birmingham, UK, it's little surprise that the charismatic 17-year-old cannot remember a time when music was not the dominant fixture in her life. With a '60s- and '70s-loving dad, and an older brother obsessed with the punk and emo of the 2000s, her musical education was both thorough and varied, making her a home-schooled student of classic songwriters such as David Bowie and The Beatles as well as of modern-day iconic frontmen like Slipknot's Corey Taylor and Ghost's Tobias Forge during field trips to gigs and the legendary Download festival. "People ask me what growing up around so much music was like, and I don't know how to answer it," she laughs of a life soundtracked by the downstairs hum of amps and applause of a crowd. "I've never known any different."

To learn more about Tilly Kingston, visit her online at tillykingston.com and on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube @tillykingstonmusic.

Info/Photo courtesy of Eric Alper PR.
Contact Eric at Eric@ThatEricAlper.com

MIX PICKS



SCHOOLBOY Q
BLUE LIPS
SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES, CA



UNCLE MURDA
LENNY GRANT STORY
EAST NEW YORK, BROOKLYN



JOOSI GOT BARS
HEAVY: R&B RAPPIN II
INDIANAPOLIS, IN



ON LOCATION

THE plug

NETWORK ONLINE

EDUCATION ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE CULTURE HEALTH FINANCES SPORTS AND MORE



facebook.com/plugnetworkonline



youtube.com/@theplugnetworkonline



THE NEW ERA OF TV



PowrdUpTV

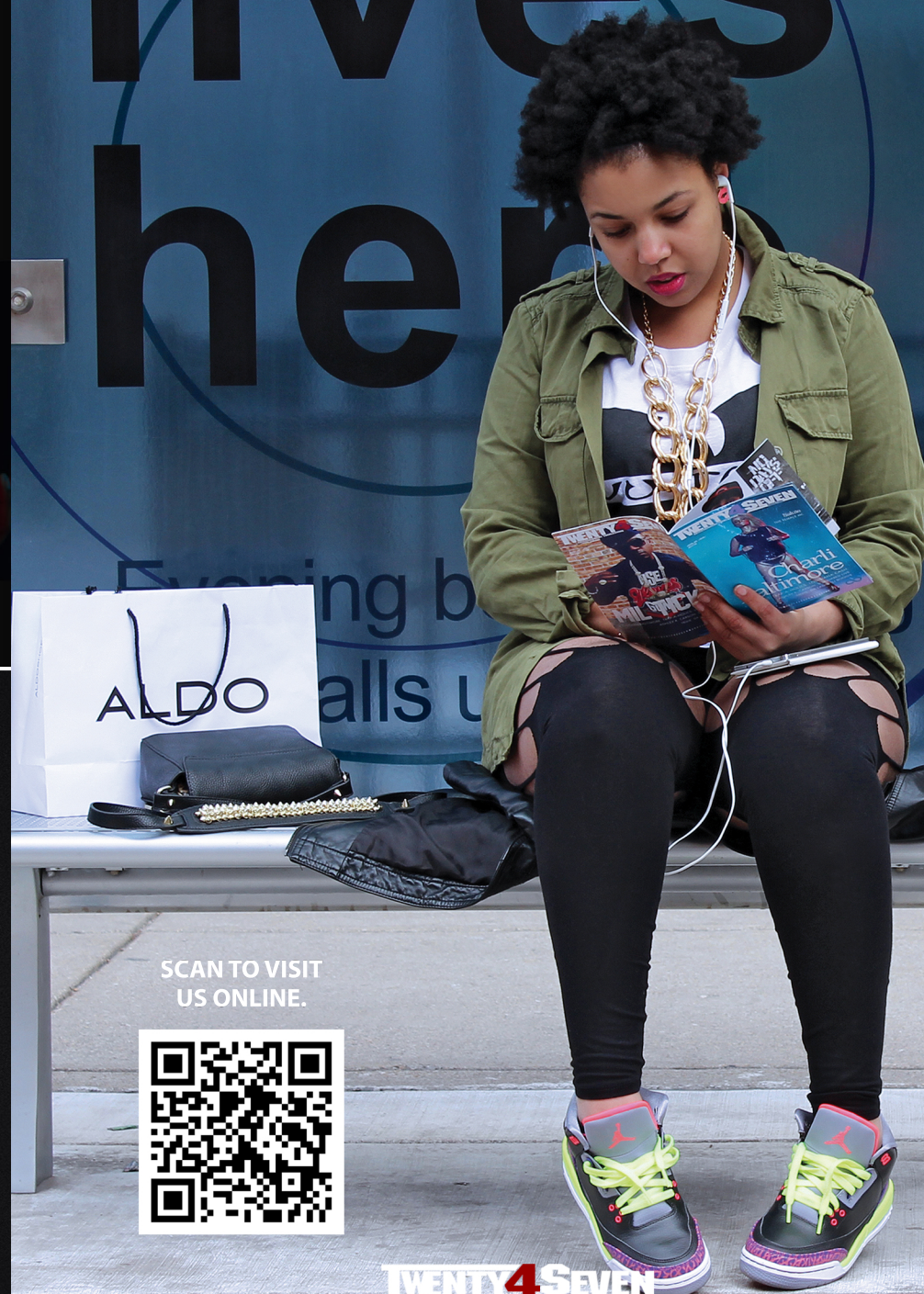


PowrdUp



PowrdUpTV.com

lives here



SCAN TO VISIT
US ONLINE.



TWENTY4SEVEN

WWW.TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE.COM

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT EVERLASTING MAGAZINE

ISSUE #75
2024

SKYRAH BLISS

+ *MAKO Girls. Tiera Lynch, MS.*

T. Hill. Chance Austin. Tilly Kingston.

#MeaCulpa.

WWW.TWENTY4SEVENMAGAZINE.COM

