

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

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2026

MARISSA CHANEL HAMPTON

+ *Roderick McClure. Chris Murdaugh.*

Mia Snow. Kwamé. Trizz & Mike Summers.

#Minneapolis.

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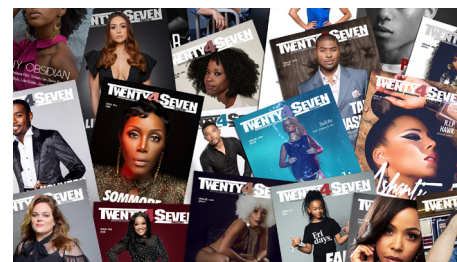
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Whoa! It has been awhile, I know. I originally aimed to talk a little bit about our absense, but I have something I need to get off my chest and it coincides, I suppose. I stopped by Publix earlier today and as I was getting out of my car (in the back of the lot) to head inside, a tow truck was grabbing a vehicle that was also parked in the lot, not too far away from me. Exiting the store with a single bag of groceries, the owner of the vehicle approached the tow truck driver and said something that I assumed would have been a plea of some kind to have his car released. I couldn't hear him but I did hear the tow truck driver respond, "Take that up with your finance company. I already got it."

That bothered me. The tow truck driver came off cold but was most likely just trying to survive. At the same time, so was the guy who was getting his car reoped. Obviously, he was already possibly having money troubles to be behind in car payments and now he had to find a way home and get his car back. I've never been reoped, but I remember domino effect type setbacks like that, vividly.

Setbacks can appear in many forms and over the last few years (pandemic and post, specifically), the world has changed drastically. En masse, we have loss friends/family, our humanity, financial stability, dreams, and peace of mind. There is a lot going on out here and while we all should show more empathy and help others where we can, ultimately everybody is responsible for their own stability, dreams and aspirations, and overall well-being.

So, with that being said, WE BYKE!

Tyrone Davis



TWENTY4SEVEN
ENTERTAINMENT EVOLUTIONS MAGAZINE

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MIA SNOW SOUL TIES

Mia Snow's new album *Soul Ties* slides in like the soundtrack that cuffing season has been begging for. It's warm, intimate, and heavy on late-night energy—the kind of project that feels purpose-built for dim lights and slow conversations. Snow leans deeper into her melodic R&B instincts here, and the production keeps everything silky without losing emotional punch. Her pen is sharper too; the themes of connection, vulnerability, and magnetic pull all hit with a grown, confident tone that shows she knows exactly who she's singing to.

The features elevate the project without ever hijacking it. Zae France adds smooth, polished chemistry, Paris Bryant brings a youthful spark that cuts through the slower textures, and BHM Peezy surprises with a vibe-driven verse that blends seamlessly into Snow's world. Together, they help *Soul Ties* feel like a full-season experience rather than just a playlist moment. It's an album built for keeping someone close—and if you don't have someone, this project might make you start reconsidering that.

Follow Mia Snow at @TherealMiasnow on Instagram.

For More Info, email contact@thegreatones.net

For Performances, DM @nathanielonline on Instagram.

Info courtesy of TheGreatOnes.

**COMING TO
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CHRIS MURDAUGH

FORMALLY
FAT PIMP

Q+A BY LUCKY SMITH



PHOTOS: @_BHF_ (INSTAGRAM)

The following is an excerpt of our chat with Chris Murdaugh (formerly Fat Pimp), who we first met in 2016 while he was on a press run. 10 years later, we linked back up to discuss what is new with him and his career. We chopped it up about a lot but for this piece, we've focused on the key matters at hand.

LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

It has been a minute since we last talked, so we want to get caught up with you, man. We see you have remained active, keeping things flowing.

I don't have a choice. We're trying to survive after the pandemic, man. That was the hardest time ever in my life because I wasn't able to do shows. We had a strip club open out here in Dallas and we ended up taking an L like right before the pandemic started. So, all my cash flow was gone and I can honestly tell you I was dead broke. But, I still kept record music. I started doing voiceovers for commercials, writing for people and stuff at the crib and the next thing I know, I get a phone call to go on tour with Snoop. That opened up the floodgates and the money started coming back in, all by the grace of God.

Writing for other artists, rappers in particular has often been frowned upon. What is your take on that being that you are actually doing the writing?

I'm going to let the cat out of the bag, bro. All of the hit records have somebody, man. When you are building a house, do you do everything yourself? Are you the painter or electrician? Do you do the landscaping? Nah, you hire people to get it done piece by piece until you have the dream home that you want. When it comes to a hit record, you may have a rapper who is amazing at lyrically

putting bars and metaphors together, but you may have this guy here who is great at production on the keys, or drums. You might be in the studio with somebody that says "Try it this way or that way". Now, he or she has writing credits.

That doesn't necessarily mean I went in there and I penned the whole entire record, you know what I mean? You can. But, there is always somebody around who helps somebody when it comes to a hit record and it is rare that an artist does everything. Check the credits during the Grammys. It is a collective work. Even if you can finish a song and send it back to the producer, it might get sent to somebody else and then come back sounding totally different.

SWITCHING IT UP

I see you're in Atlanta Fashion Week. What was that like?

Listen, I was skeptical, bruh. I'm used to ratchets, man. Women in the club that get a couple of drinks and you can talk to them. I've never been somewhere where I saw all 10's. 10's, bro! You hear me!? 10's! Not only were they 10's but they got money, they smell good, and they sitting in the front row suited and bootied. I'm back there like, "Man, what I'm gon do?" So, I calmed down and found a little bar and got me two shots of Tequila, man. I threw my cologne on. Shout out to Sauvage Dior. When I walked back there was a group of women and one of them grabbed my arm and asked if it was Dior. I told her yea. Once she asked that, I went into rapper mode. I was walking on that runway and I saw women smiling, I hit a little dance or whatever. They were taking pictures and I was thinking, "Oh yea, I got this, man."

That was the first night and the 2nd and 3rd night was easy

because I realized that all I had to do was put the act on. Afterwards, I got so many compliments. Women were stopping me, asking me to come and do their fashion shows. I had one lady ask me to come to L.A. Another asked me to come overseas. It was a hell of an experience, man. It is the only time I've ever been nervous since I've been an adult.

INTRODUCING CHRIS MURDAUGH

So, what is going on with you now?

Well, here is the thing, man. I did a whole rebranding process. I changed my name. My whole life, everybody used to call me "Fat", you know? I got the "Fat Pimp" name when we were high school. Shout out to my homegirl April Ballard. She gave me that nickname. We're dropping the "Fat Pimp" and going with Chris Murdaugh, my government name. People were asking why I waited til now to switch names, it doesn't have the same ring, it's not going to work, etc. I coach baseball. I am in these schools. I am thinking about politics. I act now. If you go on IMDb (Internet Movie Database), you type in "Chris Murdaugh", you will see all the films that I am in. Why not merge all of that together?

Plus, I had gotten a booked for a film and was doing some PR work. The lady asked, "Are you really a pimp?" I said "No" and asked her why would ask that? She told me she had been human trafficked. I apologized for what she went through. She said the word "Pimp" was triggering. So, going forward, I'm thinking all positive. I don't really care if people don't like it, man. At the end of the day, I'm trying to get new fans and I just want people to understand that it doesn't matter what age you are or what you did in the past. It is about what you put into the universe now. When it is all said and done, I want my lineage to feel like I planted the seed for them to be successful. Also, I want other artists to see that if I can do it, they can do it.

What can we expect from Chris Murdaugh on the music side?

BARS! You can get bars, vulnerability, a lot more storytelling, and a lot more thought into whatever I put out. I'm not saying I won't ever do any club records or feel good music but I want people to understand that I'm not just going to go in the studio and say anything. I feel like I owe it to the universe, to my ancestors, to my community. I owe it to everybody who looks like me. Anybody who wants to do this music, I want them to understand we have a job to do.

Let's discuss your latest single.

Right now, I have a brand new single called *Right One* featuring my labelmate Khody Blake. The record was produced by super producer Terry "TA" Allen. We actually dropped it on Black Friday (2025) and about 10 stations picked it up.

ADVANCING THE CULTURE

Any advice for anyone wanting to get into entertainment?

We need to bring in more creators and people who are forward thinkers and want to push the culture forward. If you are not trying to push the culture forward to make it last another 50 years, get out of way. If you are from the old era that is bringing this culture down, you need to get out of the way. If you are stubborn, stuck in your

ways, get out the way. If you are young and reading this interview, when you wake up every day with the music, push the culture forward. That is all I can say. I am done with the gimmicks and done with the drill music. I'm so sick of anything that is making us go backwards. If you are not paying attention to what is going on right now, you have to get you some money, right now. You have to invest it and put other people on. Put everybody else in position. It is time to take it back, man.



GRATITUDE

Shout out to my L.O.U.D. Muzik family. Shout out to everybody. I don't want to namedrop everybody because I always be forgetting people, but shout out to everybody that is affiliated with L.O.U.D. Muzik, especially Tim Ned because when I am in my little depressed mode, in my sad spaces, I call him and we talk, man.

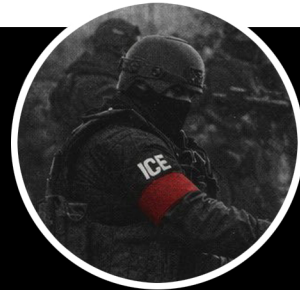
Also, shout out to Khody Blake for seeing the vision of this song and making it come to the light. Make sure you stream the record, download it, save it, buy it, whatever you want to do. If you want a vinyl, I will get one pressed up for you. I know everybody is in to vinyls and stuff again.

If you want to link up with your boy, man it is @iamfatpimp on Instagram, X, and Snapchat. On TikTok, it is @officialfatpimp. For booking, contact info@loudmuzik.com. Anybody out there that wants to collab, hit your boy up. I like working, man.

To read our full interview with Chris Murdaugh, visit us online at twenty4sevenmagazine.com.



THE BARBERSHOP



#MINNEAPOLIS

@emannymusic: For years I've been friendly, respectful, cordial & supportive of people I've met & connected with through the JBTV community that have found moments to downplay my character just to be a part of conversation. That's my blame to take.

@YoungBleed_: They murdered me

@_FloMilli: aint shit sweet but this pussy he eating

@MatthewACherry: Fuck everyone who voted for Trump. Every last one of you.

@sangobeats: Im sad yall. This Neptunes shit make me sad

@OfficiallyIce: This nigga dead ass climbing a skyscraper with no harness or anything live on stream right now.

@TheLifeUvJr: It's going to be interesting to see the effects of such over-sexualization on the next few generations. Like there is a pizza place on IG that has 1 of its female employees sliding pies into the oven everyday with her ass in some dfyne leggings lmao

@souljaian: Rocky Killed Yams, I Don't Even Care No More. Is What It Is.

@gleesh: Being a rapper used to be so cool mfs done made that shit the lamest thing a nigga can be now

@2855lim: Stu Pickles was a bum

@livewithnoregrt: i been pulling myself out of dark places alone since i was a child .. i'm built for anything

@BeyondBeautiful: Yall weird for eating no bake cheesecake anyways

@juhmeer: if it don't snow i'm returning all my groceries

@itskillakenz: Just found out you can clear up mucus eating pineapple & it worked.

@CooksonJoh88941: Fuck #ICE. They just murdered another person in Minneapolis. Multiple ICE officers were on top of 1 man. They could've just detained the man, yet, they decided to kill him in cold blood. They even pistol whipped him too right before killing him. #Minnesota #MinnesotaShooting

@mareshaw3: PLEASE REMEMBER DURING THIS TIME OF HATE AND PERSECUTION ALWAYS REMEMBER NO MATTER WHAT MAGA OR FOX NEWS SAYS YOU ARE NOT ALONE CAUSE THERE ARE NO ORPHANS OF GOD - #Minnesota

@shadyswanie: Maybe its time to just let #Minnesota go. Let Walz run the place into the hell hole its going. Pull federal funding. Hopefully Canada will annex the state. #ICE

@LieStronger: Intentionally agitating officers with threats or aggressive actions transforms the "peaceful protest" into an unlawful or violent assembly, which is not legally protected. #Minnesota #ICE

@HowTheWestWS: We are not going to get out of this by voting. Americans must withhold taxes to invoke a convention. It's time for a nationwide general strike. Alex Pretti was murdered by the state. The government has breached its duty. #Minnesota

@JoJoFromJerz: His name is Alex Jeffrey Pretti. He was 37 years old. He was a licensed nurse. He was recording ICE and defending a female protester from their aggression. And they executed him.

@isaiahthomas: 6 guys beating the shit outta ONE person then KILLING him!! Fuck the ICE agents. 6 against one and yall still shoot and kill somebody. Yall had him out numbered and decided to KILL him like it was a video game and he can just he his life back smh

@travisakers: The mass deletion of posts by MAGA influencers and politicians has begun following the release of the footage recorded by the lady in pink. They realize ICE has messed up big time.

@Hali: Alex Pretti was murdered.

@itsjwills: It feels like the entire purpose of ICE right now is to instigate a civil war

@talleyberrybaby: I just saw that video of them shooting that man dead in the fucking street and i wailed out loud. i'm literally so weary.

@Chuckisdope: White supremacy so ass backwards they killing white people now for no reason.. and calling them thugs.

TWENTY4SEVEN

TOP 30 ALBUMS FROM NO LIMIT RECORDS

(EDITOR'S PICKS)

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER



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COVER
STORY

MARISSA CHANEL HAMPTON

MARISSA MAINTAINS IT ALL

PHOTOS:
STORM SANTOS

WARDROBE STYLIST:
ANNA SHILLING

MAKEUP:
JOSEPHINE BOUCHEREAU

HAIR:
TIFFANY DAUGHTERY

Words + Interview By Tyrone Davis

Marissa Chanel Hampton is a model, actress, audiobook narrator, and overall entertainer that uses a multifaceted approach to the arts, a knack she has had since childhood. She and I discussed her role as Gail in the new family drama romance series, "It's Not Like That", her experience starring in the indie adaptation of Eric Jerome Dickey's "Friends and Lovers", and why her role Claudia Aberlan in the TV series "Creepshow" was most memorable. She also expressed her love of reading, the curation of Ink and Paper Soul, the importance of family and community, and how she maintains it all.

Let's start off with your background. Where are you from and how did you grow up?

I'm originally a Californian, born and raised in Orange County. Early on, I started splitting my life between Indiana and California, so I consider myself 50/50 Hoosier and Californian with down to earth midwestern hard working values, with the open mindedness and adventurous spirit that so many of my fellow Californians share.

What started your creative bug and what area did you gravitate toward first?

I was raised around the arts; they were always encouraged. Even before I started theater and acting as a kid, I was in art classes, pottery, painting, you name it. I was signed up for it and I loved it.

Your professional debut was in the TV series, "Scandal". What was going on during that time and how did it feel to get your foot in the door?

My degree is in theater. After I graduated, I moved to L.A. and made it my singular focus to end up on a Shonda Rhimes show come hell or high water. I was networking my butt off, in every acting class, found myself right back in a long-term program at the Second City Conservatory in Hollywood and just really working hard at the time. I was auditioning weekly for every show in that TGIT block that dominated Thursday night TV at that time, and it just takes one yes. I eventually got my yes, and it was a special experience to have your first job be your favorite show.

Let's talk about the series, "It's Not Like That" and your role as Gail. In what ways was the approach to this role different from others and did you pull from your own personality for it or is Gail completely different from you?

Gail is great. She is funny, a straight talker, and someone who is going to be there whenever you call on her and let you know (gently) that you might need to reevaluate now and then. We are similar in that regard for sure. I do find that often there is a little piece of me in many of the roles I play. Not always, but often.

What is your take on romance as a whole and navigating it in real life vs. via social media?

Social media isn't real! So much of social media is a highlight reel. I don't really take it into account when it comes to romance! I like human connection and getting to know folks in real life to see if there is a spark. I consider social media more like window shopping. It is just a preview.

Over the last few weeks, people have been going crazy over Marvel's "Avengers: Doomsday" trailer leaks/releases,

especially after this latest X-Men reveal. Having worked on "Captain America: Brave New World" and having that credit under your belt, do you have any thoughts?

No, NONE AT ALL. I've loved comic books and the Marvel Universe my whole life. I'm so grateful I got to play a teeny tiny part inside of that world and would absolutely love to again but no thoughts at all, just a lot of excitement, and I can't wait to see what's next.

You have played a lot of different types of characters. What role has been most memorable and why?

Claudia Aberlan, on *Creepshow* (segment: *Public Television of the Dead*) was the most fun. I loved coming to work every day, running around like Scooby Doo gang on a soundstage, screaming, brandishing a sword. It felt like the full transformation down to the wig, the period clothing, and everyone involved was such a treat. I am a horror movie fan, and the original *Creepshow* movie is one of my favorites. It was five star experience as a fan and actor.

Do you have a genre preference? Which one has been the most challenging thus far?

Not really. I have gotten to bounce around quite a bit and I really like that as an actor, constantly mixing things up. Comedy is hard. It is a lot of fun but it is hard. There is a rhythm to it and when it clicks, it clicks and when it doesn't, it...doesn't.

When it comes to horror storytelling, what types of horror films are you most interested in? Slasher, supernatural, monsters, etc.?

I don't love torture porn; my favorite horror films are supernatural or monster movies. That spine-tingling, don't-turn-off-the-lights, something-going-bump-in-the-night, type of movie will always be my preference when it comes to horror films.

Atlanta has changed quite a bit and a lot of people who once lived there have tried other cities like Houston, Charlotte, Los Angeles, etc. Explain the similarities/differences between Atlanta and Los Angeles, culturally and as entertainment hubs for creatives like yourself.

Both cities offer creatives so much. There is a shared vibe of somebody you meet one day could the very next day be someone on the come up in the sense that the right opportunity could change your life in an instant. There is "dreams come true" energy about both places. L.A. really taught me my sense of self and bolstered my work ethic as it has a very particular level and type of grind in the industry. Atlanta taught me balance and helped me find a richer life outside of work.

What have you learned about yourself and how have you changed post-pandemic?

I have always enjoyed solo time; I can go days without speaking. The pandemic really pushed me to maintain my friendships on a deeper level by really evaluating who I wanted in my life, and how important actively reaching out and maintaining those relationships was. I knew I was an introvert, but the pandemic made it very easy to disappear into yourself, and I loved that but learned how to balance that with being a good friend.



How did you manage your time during the SAG-AFTRA strike? Also, tell us about your “Strike Scrapbook”.

I was on the picket line in L.A. and at strike rallies in Atlanta whenever I could be, standing with my fellow union members. I also took a vested interest in creating art off screen during that time, just to keep myself sane. I got back into fiber arts, quilting, knitting, etc. I have a strike quilt that I need to finish!

I also used that time as a check in. What did I want as an actor, a human being, and what did I want my life to look like when we came back from the strike? Using that period for reflection helped make riding out the strike much more manageable!

What was the last book you read?

Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology. This collection is fantastic, it's thought provoking, haunting, funny at times and I even found myself gritting my teeth having a physical reaction to some of the stories. The audiobook is also excellent. I picked it up last November for Indigenous History Month and got behind on my TBR pile but recently I have been working my way through my purchased but unread books. This one is a keeper.

Tell us about “Ink and Paper Soul”.

It started as a place to write about what I'd read because truthfully, I really missed English class discussions and debates on books. I tend to post more photos these days more than anything but there is something so dear to me about talking about books and sharing what I loved or didn't love about them and connecting with people who love reading books just as much as I do.

We've interviewed several voice actors over the years and it's been interesting to hear how they approach it vs. on-screen acting. Tell us how you got into audiobook narration and

about some of those projects you've participated in.

A friend passed my name along to a casting director, that casting director had me audition for a few projects and ever since then I've hit the ground running. I've narrated quite a few romance titles, some thrillers, and scholarly essays. I've narrated for Kennedy Ryan, Farrah Rochon, Charish Reid, and many more. It is an entirely different art form and it offers the actor an opportunity to really be in the driver's seat creatively in ways that sometimes you aren't always able to be with on screen acting.

Speaking of books, you recently starred in the indie adaptation of Eric Jerome Dickey's “Friends and Lovers”. How did the project differ from the book and what was your experience like working on it?

Book to screen adaptations always differ a bit from their source material but I thought *Friends and Lovers* was so well and lovingly done. I was very familiar with Eric Jerome Dickey's work and was so glad he was honored this way. Working on the movie was a delight. Simone Missick is a favorite of mine and getting to be in scenes with actors that you love as a fan is always such a cool perk of the job. It was a very welcoming set.

How do you hone in on specific social justice causes when there is so much going on in the world today? Does it get overwhelming? Also, what are some of the causes you are most passionate about and why?

There is definitely a lot going on, but I think we lose ourselves and our souls when we let the overwhelm cause us to tune out. Social justice and civil rights are big issues for me so supporting the ACLU and the Innocence project whether that is by talking about them or donating to help support their work is important to me. I also think the work that Doctors Without Borders does is truly heroic, and aid workers must be protected in conflict zones.

Also food insecurity in the United States is heartbreaking and not something we have to accept in this country, so I try to donate or volunteer with food banks in all of the cities that have helped shape me (The Atlanta Community Food Bank, Gleaner's Food Bank in Indianapolis, Indiana, Second Harvest Foodbank of Orange County). There are more. That is just the tip of the iceberg. I firmly believe giving a damn is one of the most important parts of being a human being.

How important is community/family to you and how has it, along with traveling/nature been beneficial to your life and mental health?

Family and community are very important to me. I am the kind of person who voluntarily hangs out with my parents. Rick and Marie are a great time! I love cooking for my loved ones and sharing memories around the table. They are the most important thing to me. I spend as much time with my family as I can.

Traveling, getting to see the world, and meeting new people is something that feeds my soul. I enjoy flying, wandering new cities, and exploring museums. We all need a little adventure in our lives and traveling does that for me.

Getting outside is the difference maker in my mental health, hiking, walking, running you name it. No matter the season I try to get outside as much as possible to reset and clear my mind.

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

A) Colts

Immense Suffering. Being a Colts fan is pure suffering at this point, but I'm a ride or die fan for life. For the Shoe!

B) Marissa's Big Day

It's your parents' first time living too! My mom is a writer, and it's been amazing to see her live her own dreams, publishing her first book this past year and with her second coming out soon.

C) Rose Rollins

THE VERY BEST Rose is so talented and she works damn hard. I've had the pleasure of watching her work both as a friend and on set a tiny bit as a coworker on her show *Long Slow Exhale*, and she's a force. Grateful for her mentorship and friendship.

D) Kerry Washington

Grateful, for her example. She was the first person who looked like me to lead a show right as I was coming out of my undergraduate training and having conversations about where black women fit into the TV landscape at that time. It made this career path that much more real to see her every week in primetime leading a hit TV show.

What do you think is the biggest misconception about

“stardom” and what has been your biggest takeaway while on your creative journey?

That it is the brass ring, the be all and end all. What I have seen is that fame and stardom are a little bit both prize and cost. The biggest win for me in this journey is repeatedly getting asked to tell stories and have people say they resonated with my work. The “stardom” aspect is still something that I am more observing rather than living and it certainly appears to entail a high level of scrutiny.

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

I have the soap gene. Cilantro tastes like dish soap to me and I can taste it immediately in any dish. It ruins everything for me and it is such a tragedy.

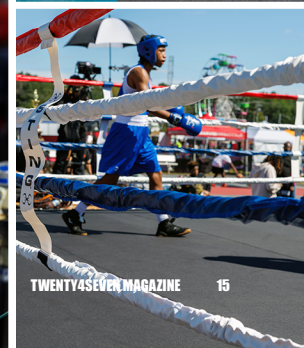
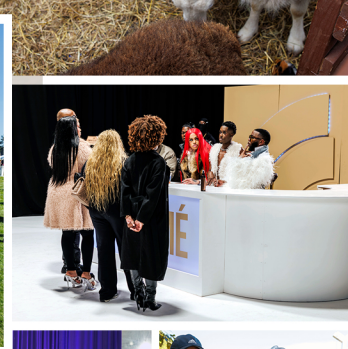
Aside from the upcoming It's “Not Like That”, what is up next for you and how will you make 2026 better than 2025?

I have got two more books in the *Bayou Dreams* series by Farrah Rochon that I have narrated coming out this year and I can't wait for folks to get to read/listen to the rest of this series set in Louisiana.

I am making 2026 better than 2025 by embracing what life throws at me and really taking the time to be present and notice each moment of joy.



Follow Marissa Chanel Hampton @marissachanelhampton on Instagram or visit her online at marissachanelhampton.com.



COVER
STORY

PHOTOS:
ERIC JORDAN

RODERICK THE RODFATHER MCCLURE

Words + Interview By Tyrone Davis

Passionate about storytelling and bringing talent together, filmmaker, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Roderick McClure is changing the game in the film industry. The Birmingham, AL native is founder of RodFather Productions, an Atlanta based film company responsible for the debut feature, "Both Eyes Open" starring Gail Bean, Taye Diggs, Joy Brunson, and Tristan Mack Wilds as well as the upcoming 90's rom-com, "Funny Feelings" starring Pretty Vee and Tristan Mack Wilds.

Our discussion consisted of the genesis of Mr. McClure's passion for film, the steps that it took to reach his goals, the importance of teamwork and keeping God in one's life, as well as his experiences working on his latest film endeavors and what to expect from them.

What was life like growing up in Birmingham, AL?

Life was very simple. Other than my mother, no one really expected much from us. Everyone around me seemed content just surviving where they were. There was little curiosity of life beyond our neighborhood.

What were your favorite films as a child or young man that helped you mentally escape your life's circumstances?

The *Godfather* franchise had a profound impact on me. This was the first movie I ever saw. I wanted to be a boss and in charge of things. I don't think I really understood that they were gangsters but I wanted to be Al Pacino. Wall Street was also equally impactful. Again, I was drawn to stories of strong, powerful businessmen. Of course, *Glory* is also on my list. I saw strength, independence, and courage in Denzel's (Washington) character.

Was there a pivotal moment in particular that made you decide to pursue film or was that always the goal?

My wife and I had a regular movie date nights. We dreamed of one day making a great movie. My first priorities were to raise my family, build businesses that created economic security for my family, and fulfill a personal calling to ministry and faith building. However, my movie dream was always in the back of my mind. I waited until the timing was right. I am blessed now to be able to fulfill that dream.

Being a huge film fan, what made you go the producer route instead of pursuing acting?

My strengths have always been more aligned with leadership, strategy, and bringing people together to accomplish a goal. I like the creative aspect of building. I may jump in front of the camera one day but I really like the idea of bringing various talents and skills together to create an entertaining product.

In music and Hip-Hop in particular, there has always been discourse about the difference between a producer and a "beatmaker" and the music and film world overlap in so many ways. On the film side, explain what a producer's role entails. How does the executive produced role differ?

The producer provides oversight and leadership on every aspect of the production from start to post. The executive producers help manage the process and approve expenditures and have the final call on most critical decisions.

Tell us about RodFather Productions and how it came to be.

RodFather Productions was established to fulfill the vision I had to create films with unique storylines and establish a platform for actors and crews who may have been underutilized in the industry. I want to give talented individuals opportunities to showcase their God-given talents and skills.

In what ways have working with your family on these endeavors been most beneficial and how important has teamwork been thus far?

Working with my family has been a dream come true. There is always great synergy. When we come together, it becomes all about executing at the highest levels. We don't get caught up in the minutia. Morgan (daughter) and Josh (son-in-law) are very focused and bring extraordinary skills toward growing the company.

You have a new film coming soon. What can you tell us about "Funny Feelings", starring Pretty Vee and Tristan Mack Wilds?

Funny Feelings is a throwback to the 90's rom-com. It is about two best friends and comedy partners whose connection is complicated, magnetic, flirtatious, and emotionally loaded. The film was directed by Rhonda Baraka and penned by screenwriter Je'Don Holloway-Talley.

Let's talk about casting a bit. You have worked with a nice range of actors so far from newcomers, to veterans and those who are currently popular. Explain your casting process overall. Were these people picked beforehand, did you have casting calls, etc.?

We tend to look for the person we believe can perform the best job at bringing our characters to life regardless if they are seasoned veterans or first timers serving in various roles. There is a process we have in place to determine the best person and then collaborate with a casting specialist. We look at their gifts, career trajectory, visibility, attitude and energy level, availability, and chemistry with other cast members and crew. We want to maintain a positive, uplifting set at all times.

We are approaching the 1-year anniversary of the release of "Both Eyes Open", starring Gail Bean and Taye Diggs. What was your experience working on that film and what are your thoughts on it now that some time has passed?

Producing *Both Eyes Open* was an exhilarating experience. It was an incredible success for a first-time movie production. The cast and crew were phenomenal. Everyone was excited about the production and brought their "A" game which is the reason it became the number one movie on Starz. Gail Bean exhibited great leadership and assisted with the casting of Joy Brunson (*This Is Us*) and Tristan Mack Wilds (*The Wire*).

Out of the talent (of any kind) that you have worked with on your first few projects, which of them has been the most unique so far and why?

I honestly say that our entire cast on both projects understood the vision and opportunity of working with RodFather Productions. Each one gave their all to make the projects successful and to create memorable moments. I would not hesitate to work with any one of them on upcoming projects. We were able to create a family like atmosphere on both sets.

What can you say about your experience working on "Both Eyes Open" and "Funny Feelings" overall, being that they are different genres, directors, etc.? In what ways are these experiences similar/different?

We are talking about two different types of productions. *Both Eyes Open* was a thriller with many serious, intense moments whereas *Funny Feelings*, a rom-com, brought a lot of laughter on the set and probably more playful moments. Both Directors (Ariel and Rhonda Baraka) operated with a laser focus and managed to keep everyone attached to the daily goals.

Social media has opened the door for everyone to create and that has led to a lot of lanes being overcrowded. What do you think the biggest misconception about filmmaking is?

I think the biggest misconception about filmmaking is that people think they can make a lot of money after a couple of hit movies, and then just live off the residuals. That is not even remotely true. The margins are small, particularly in independent film production. You have to consistently put out new content to survive.

We hear a lot about numbers when discussing films today, especially when we have so much info at our fingertips. What is the reality about filmmaking in terms of budget and other yellow tape like permits, marketing, distribution, etc.?

This is where you have to use your business IQ and get educated about the backend deals associated with distribution, etc. It is one thing to formulate a budget for production, but that is only the beginning. If you don't understand how the back end works, then there is a great possibility of losing your investments.

What can you say about freedom/ownership when it comes to filmmaking?

We have the resources to finance our projects without waiting on

network approvals or having a need to raise funds. Raising production funds can sometimes take years. That freedom makes us game changers and provides the ability to stay focused on creating more content.

In your opinion, what makes a great film?

It takes a great script, talented director, and a committed cast and crew all coming together under a shared vision to create a masterpiece.

What role has your faith played in your life and career?

None of the things I have accomplished in my life would have happened without my relationship with God. Everything changed for the best after I submitted my life to Jesus. My faith and trust in God drive everything.

Random Question: What do you think about Trae Young's departure from the Atlanta Hawks?

Trae made some good contributions early in his career but it reached a point where the trade made sense for both parties.

What philanthropic endeavors are your most passionate about?

My wife and I spread our donations annually across a number of areas, including mission work in several countries in Africa, Atlanta-based non-profits focusing on homelessness, food insecurity, and the arts, and several church and ministry initiatives.

What has been the furthest distance you've traveled while cycling and how did that sport in particular become an interest?

I have done several cycling rides over 110 miles in one day. I try to average 125 miles per week cycling. Cycling and playing golf are my true passions.

What is up next for RodFather Productions?

We are excited about our projects in development including two powerhouse movies, a love story TV drama series, and an animated children's series.

Are you currently looking for talent? If so, how can one get in touch?

The door is always open for gifted individuals to come in and be a part of the RodFather experience. The best way to connect is through our website, rodfatherproductions.com or on Instagram @rodfather_productions.



Multi Award Winning Platinum Artist/Producer, KWAMÉ Releases Visuals For His Latest Single, "LEMME GIT (ALL OWT)" From His Recently Released Album, "THE DIFFERENT KIDS"

The latest single release, "LEMME GIT (ALL OWT)" from multi award-winning platinum artist and producer, KWAMÉ is lifted from the recently released critically acclaimed album, "THE DIFFERENT KIDS". The album is globally available on all streaming and download platforms now, via the SRG-ILS Group/Virgin Music/UMG) label imprint.

In the fall of 2025, Multi award-winning platinum artist, producer and Mr. Polka-dot himself, KWAMÉ, returned to the forefront of the music industry, sending true hip-hop heads into a frenzy with the release of his anticipated album, "THE DIFFERENT KIDS". The 15-track project is a powerful, high-energy, and layered self-produced project that showcases several facets of the multi-hyphenate's artistic personality. "The album title explains how I always felt as a person," he explains. "I didn't necessarily align with mainstream life. I've always felt different. Putting the Kids part of the title as plural, it's a double thing. It speaks to the people who used to get into my music. I would refer to them as The Different Kids."

LEMME GIT (ALL OWT) was written and produced by KWAMÉ and the animated visuals were directed by Tony Reams. The song is an upbeat bop laced with a cultural message. "It's about the want for quality black-culture and questioning whether or not we are all out of it. Have we reached our limit?" asks Kwame. The Video showcases Kwame as four versions of himself playfully and stylishly addressing the underlined serious tone of the song in typical "Kwame fashion."

Follow KWAMÉ on social media:

Instagram: @kwamevision | TikTok: @kwamevision1 | X: @kwamedidit
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Scan QR Code to the left to view the music video for "LEMME GIT (ALL OWT)".



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Info courtesy of Ra-Fael Blanco at 2R's Entertainment & Media PR.

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TRIZZ & MIKE SUMMERS

LEATHERFACE III (DELUXE)



"LEATHERFACE III" was released on Halloween of 2025 by rapper Trizz and producer MIKE SUMMERS. Last Friday on January 16th, the deluxe version of the album was released and it comes with 5 new tracks including a feature from T.F.

Trizz's storytelling is combined with the dark haunting production of MIKE SUMMERS. A mixture of West Coast Hip-Hop, Gangsta Rap and cinematic soundtrack instrumentation inspired from classic horror films. Guest features are from Brotha Lynch Hung, Twisted Insane, X-Raided, Cal-E-Clipz and Bleezo.

This collaboration between Trizz and MIKE SUMMERS is their third album release and started more than a decade ago. Back in 2013

SUMMERS (then known as Seven) was already a prolific producer signed to Tech N9ne's Strange Music label and Trizz was part of horrorcore legend Brotha Lynch Hung's Madesicc Muzic roster. The two connected while working on Lynch Hung's "Mannibalector" album and a spark for future work was laid. The duo released the albums "BASELINE CAVI" in 2022 and "Cavi en Cursive" in 2024.

As of the "LeatherFace" album series, the first album by Trizz was released in 2014 and "LeatherFace 2" in 2016. Notable guest features joined Trizz on these albums such as Brotha Lynch Hung, Bizarre of D12, Futuristic and Twisted Insane.

To listen/buy the project, visit <https://bsr.ffm.to/fmb>. Follow Trizz and Mike Summers on Instagram @babyripgut and @mikesummersallcaps.



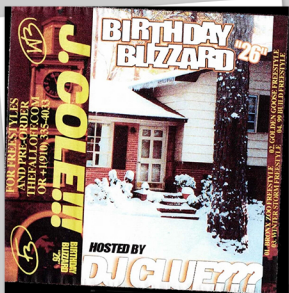
Info/Photo courtesy of Below System Records



The wait is over. The next chapter of the Turnt universe is officially here and this one hits harder than anything we've done before. Starring Jamal Woolard, Torrei Hart, Ché Mack, Jason C. Louder, Neil Carr, and more. Written and directed by Mann Robinson. Set your reminder and don't miss the first drop. Once this episode airs, the entire franchise steps into a new lane.

www.mannrobinsonstudios.com

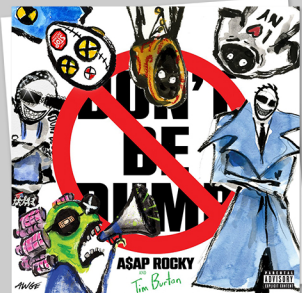
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