

TWENTY4SEVEN

ENTERTAINMENT EVERLASTING MAGAZINE

ISSUE #78
2026



BREE TAYLOR

+ *Mariah Dawne. Lei'Loue.*

Alivia Clark. Blackstreet. Simone Green.

#michael.

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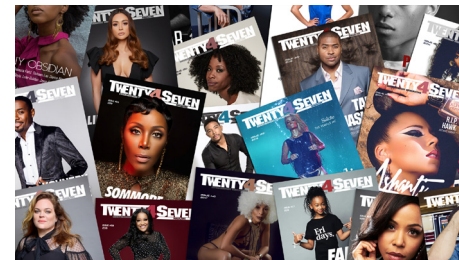


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Hello World,

On April 7th, we celebrated the life of Indianapolis native and comedian, Michael "Hawk" Harris, who was born on that day in 1968.

Going by the stage name, "Dopefiend Willy Hawkins", Hawk was most known for being featured in Master P's "I'm Bout It" and "I Got the Hook-Up" films, and also made appearances in both local and major projects like the music videos for, "Luv 2 Luv U" by Timbaland & Magoo and "Gangsta Nation" by Westside Connection featuring Nate Dogg.

Hawk was well known and loved in his city, released several comedy albums, traveled as a stand-up comedian, hosted many parties and events, and worked with tons of local and regional talent.

Michael "Hawk" Harris (4.7.1968 - 3.30.2014)

Fun Fact: He was one of our covers for our very first issue in 2009. I was on the other cover as an recording artist at the time. Time flies.

Anyhoo, we love and miss you, Hawk.

Tyrone Davis

TWENTY4SEVEN
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Editor/Publisher:

Tyrone Davis

Visual Communications:

Lil Fella

Photography:

Lil Fella

T4S Staff

Marketing/Sales:

Jus Mi Luck Promotions & Marketing

Contributing Writers:

Lucky Smith

T4S Staff

Contributing Photography:

Mike LB

Charles Benoit

Lee Dear, Mobile Photo Lab

Andrea Hunter Photography

Tray Cooper

Rell Edwards

Contact:

Website: twenty4sevenmagazine.com

Email: twenty4sevenmagazine@gmail.com

Facebook: [Twenty4Seven Magazine](https://www.facebook.com/Twenty4SevenMagazine)

Instagram: [@twenty4sevenmagazine](https://www.instagram.com/twenty4sevenmagazine)

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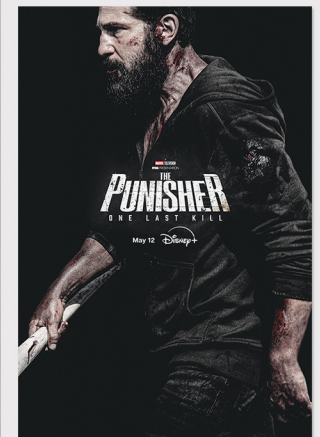
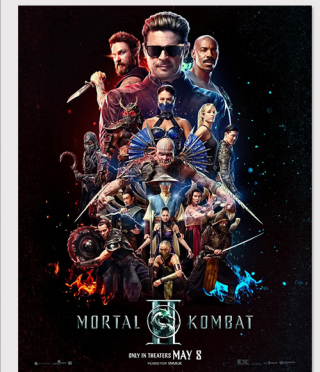
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LEI'LOUE

KEY TO MY DOOR

Q + A By: Tyrone Davis

Tell us about the name, "Lei'Loue". Is that your real name or your stage name? If it is the latter, how did the name come about? Also, how is it pronounced?

Lei'Loue is my stage name. Around 7 years ago, I was diagnosed with schizophrenia and during that time, I heard voices (which I believed to be higher beings or spirits) that told me I was chosen to be a vessel for the creator. I was chosen to use my music and art to help restore or enhance the love frequency in the universe and with that I would be named, "Lei'Loue" which translates to "Love" in the language that they communicate with me in. It is pronounced "Lay ee Lew".

Describe your music journey.

I have been creating music since I was a child. When I was a teen, I ran across a Lyfe Jennings album (I can't remember which one) that had an instrumental at the end. It was the first instrumental that I ever wrote a song to. After that experience, I fell even more in love with creating and as a young adult, I would write and record music in the small studios of friends. Some years later, I ran across an app called Bandlab, which allowed me to record music on my phone and it has been up ever since.

Explain your relationship with New York Records.

I have been a signed artist with New York Records for going on three years. The relationship with New York Records and myself came to be by chance. I can't remember who reached out to who first, but Power (CEO of the Label) and I have been locked in from day one, making some magic happen! I have released four singles with them so far, which are "Somethin' New", "Front Runner", "Alright", and the latest, "Key To My Door". They are all some bangers, if I may say so myself.

Tell us about your latest single, "Key To My Door".

"Key To My Door" is a sensual, intimate song that I wrote. It is not completely about sensuality and intimacy. It is also about love. The beginning verse says, "If I gave you my heart, would you take it and not break it? It's been so long since I done had somebody see me naked..." telling the story of a woman who has been alone for a long while and is now letting someone open up her heart before opening her legs. The record is all about love and making love.

What has been your most memorable performance to date?

My most memorable performance has been during the Queen's Showcase, presented by UrbnKc. It was dope having the opportunity to perform alongside many other talented female artists from my hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. It was definitely a night to remember. The room was full of bosses!

Have you released any music videos yet? Also, what does your ideal music video look like?

Yes! The music video to my single, "Front Runner" was released about a year ago and the music video for, "Key To My Door" was released on April 15th of this year.

My ideal music video is one that is crisp, creative, and tells a story, making the artist's vision come to life.

Who inspires you musically and why?

Erykah Badu and Chris Brown inspire me, for sure. They both make music that speaks to the mind, spirit, and heart and are amazing entertainers.

How did you spend your last birthday?

I spent my 34th birthday at home with my "Sister Cousin". We had drinks and

listened to music on the couch in my living room. It was just her and I but we had fun the entire night! I am looking forward to my 35th, this September!

What have you learned about yourself over the past 2 years and in what ways have you grown?

In the past two years, I have learned patience by understanding that everything takes time. There are days where I may feel that things are not moving fast enough for me but I now realize that The Creator is in control, not me. I have also grown to understand how I want to be loved and respected. I have grown in my writing, I have grown as a mother with my children, and I am still growing as a person.

To keep up with Lei'Loue, visit her on Instagram:

@Music.by.leiloue, Spotify: @Lei'Loue, Youtube: Lei'Loue, and on Apple Music: Lei'Loue.





PHOTOS: CHARLES BENOIT

Following a one-year hiatus, singer-songwriter and actress Alivia Clark makes her triumphant return, showcasing her sonic evolution through her new single, "Breathless". The booming, fun, and feminine anthem is a culmination of genres, which are most notably EDM/House and Pop, but also has an R&B/Soul flair which demonstrates Alivia Clark's versatility and immense artistry.

Alivia Clark's sultry, seductive vocals pair well with the song's thumping, up-tempo instrumentation. The jam is flirtatious, sensual and is a late-night bop that is both passionate and carefree. "'Breathless' captures the intoxicating feeling of losing control in a moment of desire." Alivia Clark continues, "The song lives in that space between vulnerability and power - where emotions hit harder than logic."

Representing a new era for Alivia Clark, she is the sole writer of "Breathless" with the production being handled by renowned producers David Mason, Harry Nelnick, and Maxim Laskavy. "Breathless" will leave listeners speechless and should be kept on loop as she prepares a slew of songs for release later this year.

Alivia Clark has graced the stage at countless renowned venues and notable events like Carnegie Hall as a featured soloist for seven years, Broadway, Rockwood Music Hall, as an opener for Mariah Carey at the opening of the World Trade Center, and more.

Aside from her musical achievements, Alivia Clark is also an accomplished actress with many TV and film credits under her belt. She is known for films, *Buttons*, *A New Musical Film*, and *18 to Party*, and her TV appearances in shows like *Law & Order*:

Organized Crime, *Saturday Night Live (SNL)*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, and the *Late Show with David Letterman*. She was also voice of the series regular role of Skye in *Paw Patrol* (all interactive media) on Nickelodeon and *Coco* in the US version of *Bing* on Cartoon Network and HBO Max.

Alivia Clark is a soon-to-be household name.

To learn more about Alivia Clark, visit her online at www.aliviack.com.



BLACKSTREET ANNOUNCES THE GLOBAL PASS:

THREE CONCERTS ON THREE CONTINENTS IN THREE DAYS

The iconic GRAMMY Award winning R&B group Blackstreet have announced *The Global Pass*, which is an unprecedented three concert run spanning Africa, Europe, and North America across three consecutive days this upcoming June.

Concert Dates:

- June 18, 2026** - Velodrome Park (Casablanca, Morocco)
- June 19, 2026** - The O2 Arena (London, UK) with *TLC* and *Jodeci*
- June 20, 2026** - Fort Worth Convention Center (Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas) where they will be headlining the *Freedom Vibes Juneteenth Festival*

Together, the three dates form a live music event unlike anything Blackstreet has done before. The run will also serve as the launch of a broader summer touring stretch that will extend through August of 2026.

The scale of The Global Pass reflects the scale of Blackstreet's legacy. Their iconic smash "No Diggity" held the No. 1 position on the Billboard Hot 100 for four consecutive weeks, has surpassed 25 million units worldwide across physical sales, digital downloads, and streaming equivalents, and entered Spotify's Billions Club in December 2025, underscoring its enduring place in global music culture. Across their career, Blackstreet's catalogue has earned Gold and Platinum certifications in ten countries, with more than 7 million physical albums sold worldwide and over 4.6 billion streams globally to date, while the group continues to command more than 7.6 million monthly listeners on Spotify alone.

"We are excited to bring the Blackstreet sound to this worldwide event," said the group. "Getting to connect with our fans across three different continents is a blessing, and we are ready for this marathon of music."

XOXO Entertainment Corp., which is presenting The Global Pass, added: "Blackstreet is globally iconic, and three concerts across Africa, Europe, and North America in three days is a powerful reminder of exactly what kind of group this is. Their legacy is real, their fan base is global, and this run is built to match that scale."

Connect with Blackstreet online at www.blackstreetofficial.com.

Image courtesy of Lee Dear, Mobile Photo Lab

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COVER
STORY

Bree Taylor

PHOTOS:
ANDREA HUNTER
PHOTOGRAPHY

WORSHIP ERA

Words + Interview By Tynone Davis

Bree Taylor is an award winning country-rock artist and visionary who is currently burning up the Spotify charts with her latest single and album, "Worship". Born in Canada and based in Toronto, Bree and I discussed her latest release, heartbreak and relationships, the importance of quality visuals, what it means to be in her "worship era" and more.

OK, let's start here. "Worship" is both a single and the title of your project? Tell us about the two.

"Worship" is a song that I wrote after healing from a toxic relationship with a narcissistic partner. Through my healing, I entered into my "worship era" where I fully stand in my power and will never again tolerate what I did before. "Worship", the album, is a deeply personal record that traces my path through love, heartbreak, and the hard-earned lessons that led me back to my own self-worth. The album captures a turning point, moving from settling and self-doubt to confidence, clarity, and knowing exactly what I deserve. The song aims to empower women, reminding them that they deserve to be treated like the queens that they are and to never settle for less. I am inviting women into my world and challenging them to step into their own power along the way.

What are the biggest lessons you learned about yourself while experiencing heartbreak?

I learned my self-worth. This was the biggest lesson that I have learned through all the heartbreak that I have been through in my lifetime. Heartbreak has helped me self reflect, look inwards, and to not only learn from my mistakes - but to heal myself. If we don't do the work to learn and heal from our past then we cannot move forward or attract the right partner.

What do you think causes most mismatches in relationships, whether intimate or platonic?

I think the big one is lack of communication or differing communication styles. If you cannot communicate honestly and effectively, be heard, and listen to a partner, then this will cause more problems in your relationship. Two people, whether in an intimate or platonic relationship, need to be able to not only listen effectively to each other, but be able to communicate their feelings in a healthy manner. I feel that miscommunication and differing communication styles has been the biggest piece that I have personally experienced and also witnessed causing the most problems in relationships.

Given past experiences, how do you approach relationships today and how has creating music, specifically songs like, "I Regret You" been healing?

How I approach relationships today is that I don't tolerate any of what I have in the past. I know very clearly what I am looking for in a partner and if anything pops up that gives off any red flags, I am out. I don't waste my time anymore. I no longer see "projects" or "potential". I am looking for someone who can meet me where I am at and be an equal partner.

Creating music has always been healing for me. It is why I am an artist and what I have always loved about creating music. I always

used music as my creative outlet to heal through my pain and to express myself. "I Regret You" was definitely one of the most therapeutic songs to write, create, and release, considering what I went through to feel that emotion.

What has it been like working with producer Grady Saxman?

Grady has been great to work with! He has helped me explore my sound through production and really experiment with my country rock sound in the studio with each of my songs. He is a truly talented producer and drummer and is so present in the Nashville scene and knowing what is current and fresh. I have always had the best time working with him and his entire team at Saxman Studios and bringing my songs to life. It is a safe space for artists to get a top quality product and feel heard and supported through every step of the process.



Prior to hearing your music, what caught my attention in particular about you was your visual presentation. Your press kit was well put together and your images were high quality. What can you say about that as a whole, along with your thought process working on the visuals for this latest project?

Thank you! That is a high compliment and I really appreciate that acknowledgment and praise. I have always aimed to raise the bar and keep my quality as top notch as possible with everything that I do. I am a very visual person and I think how people see you as an artist says a lot about you, so having high quality images and

branding has always been important to me. I love every part of being an artist so everything from writing the song to producing the song to marketing the song or album through visuals is very important to me.

I thoroughly enjoy bringing my art to life in each stage and want to continue to elevate as I progress in my career. I always look to raise the bar on my last song or project and push myself creatively. "Worship" needed to drip eleganza so I spent the extra money to make sure that was brought to life. I also have to give a huge shout out to my photographer, Andrea Hunter for helping make that all happen when it comes to my visuals and bringing my visions to life with this album and all these singles.

Black/Black leather is a good look on you. What made you go that route vs. the stereotypical look that most would assume a country artist should look like?

Thank you! I honestly just is me embracing my true self and curating my own style that feels me. I have always been an alternative girly since I was a kid so it just feels like me. I let others tell me how to dress for SO long in my career and it never felt like me so the more I embraced my true self, it helped me curate my personal style and build my brand identity. I am NOT your stereotypical country artist so neither is my style.

I spent a large portion of my life not too far from Nashville (Clarksville, TN/ Fort Campbell, KY) so I know the area well. What is your relationship with Nashville?

I love Nashville! I travel down several times a year and love the city so much. It is such a great town and the drive down is also one of my favorite road trips to do. I write and record when I am there and have done photoshoots and writer's rounds when I am in town as well.

What do you enjoy most about performing and what has been your most memorable show to date?

Performing my music is one of my favorite parts of being an artist. It is so much fun to bring my songs to life on stage and bring my energy to audiences and connect with them live and in person.

We have curated a high energy live show and I love elevating and building the show and challenging myself creatively in a live setting. My most memorable show to date has to be performing at Country on the Bay in Thunder Bay, ON in 2024 because it was the first major festival that gave me the opportunity to perform, they treated us SO well and took such good care of us and the experience was a true core memory driving up crammed in a van with 5 boys. Blake Shelton headlined that festival and we got to open for Sawyer Brown, Josh Ross and High Valley. My upcoming shows opening for US country rock band Lakeview, however, are quickly taking that spot because they are one of my favorite bands and being their direct support for their Ontario tour date's is truly a dream come true.

When I was in college and making music at the time, I had a recording session with a fellow student/artist I had known for some time and while I was recording his vocals, I noticed some small discrepancies in his voice. I originally thought we were having technical difficulties but he then told me he was hearing impaired. I thought that was interesting because I hadn't noticed at all prior to. As someone who is also hearing impaired, how have you managed, both in your personal life as well as musically?

I wear hearing aids so they've allowed me to adapt and adjust over the years and be able to hear myself better. My hearing impairment has never hindered my vocal ability but has pushed me to do better, work hard, and keep it from holding me back. I am living

proof that you can do whatever you put your mind to and you do not have to be a victim of your circumstances. Just because life dealt you a set of cards, doesn't mean it defines you or is your final hand. Wearing my hearing aids helps me to hear on a day-to-day basis and most people don't even notice I wear them. It is definitely more challenging when it comes to my live show and performing but I am constantly working to improve those challenges and navigate hearing better on stage with in-ear monitors and proper sound.

OK, here are a few random questions: What part of Canada are you from originally and what was your childhood like?

I moved a lot growing up so we lived in various parts of the GTA

but mainly the west end of the city most of my life. I have been in Mississauga for a huge part of my life and music career and it has been a great home city to live in and a great community to be a part of.

Give us an example of a time you've done something that you would consider "impulsive".

Getting some of my tattoos were impulsive moves but they are all meaningful to me and I love each one of them. Most of them were thought out and intentional but there were some that I just felt called to get and just went and did it but I have zero regrets.

What are you most into outside of music?

I love to read! I've always been a big fan of fantasy fiction novels. HUGE ACOTAR fan! I've also been loving the *Fourth Wing* series lately. I LOVE dragons. It's either fantasy novels or self-development novels like *The Power of Now* or *Atomic Habits*. I also am a big fan of audiobooks because I am always on the go or multi-tasking. I will crush listening to an audiobook on a drive down to Nashville!

Who is Aria and Rebel and why are they the best?

They are my two dogs. Aria is a 17 year old Chihuahua and she's been with me through everything! I am so grateful to still have her by my side. Rebel is my latest puppy, she is a year old and truly lives up to her name! She is my wild child but is the most friendly, loving and outgoing Chihuahua you may ever meet. They are both complete opposites but are truly the best dogs and companions.

What do people not get about, "Pineapples on Pizza"?

LOL, that it tastes DELICIOUS? I feel there is a time and a place for pineapple on pizza but it adds something sweet to such a savory food.

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

My guilty pleasure is reality TV. I LOVE watching reality shows like *Love Island*, *Temptation Island*, *Love is Blind*, *Vanderpump Rules*, *Jersey Shore* - all of them. Reality TV is just a great escape when I want to zone out from the world and forget my own problems and just get lost in other people's lives and their drama.

Lastly, I sent "Worship" to a relative of mine for feedback and she said, "I'm feeling this and I am adding it to my playlist". How can new supporters keep up with you, hear your music, or catch any of your upcoming shows?

Thank you so much! That is great to hear - I am glad they loved it! I am most active on my social media channels, specifically Instagram is my number one and then I would say TikTok is my next most active platform. That is a great place for people to connect with me and stay up to date and my Broadcast Channel on Instagram called my "Dauntless One's" is my inner circle where my superfans get the inside scoops first and more one-on-one connection with me. I also post all my show updates on my website www.breetaylor.com/tour.







 **THE BARBERSHOP**



#MICHAEL

@carynannharlos: Lest we forget. WE. ARE. STILL. GOING TO. NEED. TO. SEE. THOSE. EPSTEIN FILES.

@covergirl153: Everybody at the gas pump looking sad as hell.

@kayzywizzy: Your friend probably pulled away because their life is falling apart. It's not always about you.

@mainey_maine: 404 Day definitely made me miss the old Atlanta. Ain't perfect but there was a lot of community. Now that community doesn't exist anymore due to gentrification, displacement, and goofy Beltline

@Dfw_ping34340: After a threesome, is the other girl supposed to leave or lay there with us

@S_johnson_voice: Any restaurant using AI pictures of food to promote their business needs to be shut THE FUCK down.

@thesportscuz: Azzi Fudd had NO business ever being discussed as a potential number 1 pick.

@stephlova_: Jeepers Creepers had potential to be a long saga franchise but after the 2nd movie shit went downhill .

@LadePlatinum: Freddie Gibbs loves them racially ambiguous women with the pixie cuts and tattoos that look like they stink a little bit

@offbeatorbit: okay but really why did melania make that speech?

@AramideOyekunle: The fear of the unknown makes people stay at a Job with no Salary increment for up to 5yrs and above

@1of1Jones: You know a chick use to being treated like shit when she think she getting over cause a nigga being nice to her

***ALL TWEETS ARE PUBLISHED EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE WRITTEN.**

@EmpireCityBO: It seems that the audience watching @michaelmovie is speaking loudly already in both audience ratings and ticket sales headed into the weekend. Now to see how much that WOM spreads and how high it can go. At the least, will smash the opening weekend record for a musical biopic.

@raptalksk: surely the Michael Jackson movie isn't as bad as y'all are saying

@_iamjamila: Listen to me now. When these lame ass niggas start to drop their negative reviews about the Michael movie... IGNORE THEM!!!! I wouldn't lie to you & im overly sensitive about him. This movie was 10/10! Them mfs are just tryna be different, you already know it's coming.

@GriseldaDaily_: Just waslkd out of Michael. As soon as they had Freddie Gibbs in the studio with the Jackson 5, I knew this movie was a lost cause

@tadjackson3: Sorry media, u don't get to control the narrative anymore of who Michael Jackson truly was. The public gets to watch this movie...they will decide for themselves.

And you can't handle that.

@2kSin: Just finished watching that Michael movie and MTV really was the enemy at one point

@BombshellCole: Going to see the Michael movie tomorrow by myself because this is something I gotta do alone.

@ryrytoofye2: Just saw Michael and ohmygod THAT WAS A MOVIE! I CRIED FROM START TO FINISH FUCK WHAT THE CRITICS SAY OH JAAFAR YOU LEAVING WITH THAT OSCAR

@monicontenda: i'm gonna say it: if micahel was a pedo hollywood would've protected him like they did to all the true pedophiles

@crownmespecial: Michael movie. Was legit 9.9/10. I would watch it again.

@_Proj3ctManager: Michael movie was on for a few seconds and as soon as I heard his music my eyes got watery!

I didn't cry but damn the movie good

@NostawSV: Jafaar did great playing Michael I just wish the movie was more personal

@RomaniFenix: Outside of the one issue with Michael at the start, the movie is amazing. The critics can stuff it, we can tell that story later, and we can tell the critics to stuff it since it's the elites that caused all that.

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COVER
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PHOTOS:
TRAY COOPER

MARIAH DAWNE

DOING ALL THE THINGS...

Words + Interview By: Tyrone Davis

The multi-talented Mariah Dawne has been active in quite a few endeavors over the course of her life and has no plans of slowing down any time soon. Aside from music, the Shreveport, Louisiana native has participated in everything from theater, 4-H, praise team at church, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and more.

My grandmother got me involved in church activities early on and growing up as a military kid brought on activities like Elementary Book Clubs, Karate, Boys Scouts, etc. So, I see myself in her a little bit but on a bigger scale, a lot of the kids I grew up around. I support children being introduced to a wide range of knowledge and opportunity as they develop into adults as the introduction to different environments, knowledge, and experiences made me who I am today. I enjoyed her conversation and I hope you all feel the same.

Tell me about your latest single, "Won't Let Go".

"Won't Let Go" is just an intimate moment that really speaks about a time had between two individuals that really love each other. It is not only the physicality of the moment, but the intimacy of the love and connection between two individuals and not wanting to let go of it.

You just released a music video for the record, correct?

I did! It is really a different aspect into what the MARIAH. brand is. I love to keep my listeners on their toes and I don't like to subjugate myself into a box at all. I consider myself to be an eclectic soul. I love bringing new energies and new vibes, and this heightens the more grown and sexy aspect of who I am.

How did setting the mood for the new vibe go?

I usually like to write ballads but I love to write from the storytelling perspective as well and I think I definitely did that with this single. Telling stories will captivate the listener and give them an answer that they were probably searching for. I wanted to do a fun spin with this and invite new listeners that might be fans of a more "grown and sexy" type of music. I wanted to introduce that, especially with me almost turning over a new leaf in my life. I'll be turning 30 years old this year. Lol, I know I still look like a baby, but I wanted to showcase a new grown side of who I am. So, I am really excited about that.

Let's go back into your journey as a musician. How did you get your start?

I have been making music and pursuing this dream since I was 2 or 3 years old but I have been in the music industry in this capacity for almost 10 years now. I stand on some very broad and strong shoulders. My mother (Dr. Sonya D. Hester) is very heavy in the

gospel sector and when I told her as a teenager that I wanted to go the secular route, she gave me her blessing and has been by my side ever since. I was a part of school plays, 4-H, talent shows, and was a part of the choirs and praise teams at my church. I am still doing that to this day. I knew music was my calling and I am thankful that God has been able to see me this far and continues seeing me through.

Awesome. So, you are from Louisiana, correct?

I am! Born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. Top of the boot.

I don't have many personal ties to Louisiana for the most part and majority of the time that I hear about the state, it is either the cities of New Orleans or Baton Rouge since they have made a lot of noise on the music side and I am a big fan of artists from those areas. Coming from Shreveport, what can you tell us about that area and your upbringing in regard to the music as a whole and the city being the backdrop for that?

Oh, wow. I tell people everywhere that I go about Shreveport. Our area code is 318, but I consider us to be 31Great. There are so many different heavy hitters musically that are from there. We are a musical city like Nashville, Dallas, Los Angeles, California, etc. I am thankful to be one of the individuals that have come from Shreveport, Louisiana, and I continue to represent that part.

You said you were involved in quite a bit growing up. Let's talk about "The Red Light" stage play.

I am so proud of that stage play and the individuals that were a part of it. Mr. Demario Tyson was very instrumental as the writer, producer, and actor in the play. It really opened the door for me to pursue creative and performing arts again as I was very heavy in theater in my middle and high school tenure and even going into college as well. I was a theater kid, through and through, and for me to actually have a full circle moment was simply amazing.

It was a gospel dramedy that focused on understanding what you may hear and feel when the Holy Spirit is trying to warn you not to go down a particular road because there are consequences with not following through with those nudges. So, she definitely went through some things in her life but at the end of the day, she was able to be triumphant and became stronger from that. I am so thankful that I was able to play that lead role of Ms. Shaina Delaney Tracey.

What was most memorable about that role?

The preparation phase of it was most memorable. A lot of people don't realize that the actual show is maybe 2% of what happens. It is the 98% of what you don't see leading up to the 2% of what the world sees. I have learned that how you prepare is how you will be displayed.



MODEL: JELANI (IG: @BIG_BODY_LANI)

I learned I was getting the part around November (2025) and we rehearsed two days a week, every week from January up until this past weekend. So, that is three months of preparation that consisted of learning about 86 pages of lines, three songs from top to bottom, what a character is, what she looks like, how she carries herself, and resulted in me putting myself into something that nobody has ever seen before.

How can I portray a character to its fullest potential? The preparation phase had me really pushing myself and the boundaries of who Shaina was, blending myself and her was beautiful and amazing to see over time. The expectations of that role cannot be achieved over a couple of weeks alone.

This entire play was streamed live and is going to be available on www.demariotysonexperience.com

Let's discuss "Love Music Stop Cancer".

Oh my goodness! On top of being a full-time recording artist, I am actually a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) nurse full time as well. I deal with premature babies from 22 weeks all the way up to the chronic, unstable or stable type.

Children are very near and dear to my heart so it was a win-win situation for me to be able to be a part of the, "Love Music Stop Cancer" campaign with Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital. It is a beautiful marriage of music and how that could assist with those that are fighting childhood cancer so I love incorporating my gifts of music and medicine to bring more awareness to the cause.

Nurses put in a lot of hours and you have a lot going on outside of that. How do you go about balancing everything?

Honestly, God has given me the strength to be able to withstand

two careers that are very demanding. I actually told my mother and my grandmother when I was a wee little girl (about 4 or 5 years old) that I was going to be a singing pediatrician. Well, you better be careful what you speak over yourself, because sometimes God will see that and it will turn into a prophetic moment. I have always had a love for helping people, whether that be musically or medically and God is really blessed and breathed on both of those.

You definitely have to have a finite sense of time management. I am old school when it comes to my books, I don't really focus on phones, and I carry a physical binder with me at all times that outlines my day to day, my appearances, and when I am supposed to be at the hospital to work and take care of those babies. So, he has given me a fine motor mentality when it comes to my time and the ability to dive deep into both realms.

You have mentioned your faith in God, growing up in the church, and getting your mother's blessing to pursue music in the secular world. A lot of times, when people in the church mention "secular music", they are referring to the worst of it. How do you manage those worlds without offending one side?

God has called us to be the light of the world, especially in the music industry. We are called to be sheep amongst wolves. I think it is all about how you carry yourself and how you can use the light that God has given you to be able to shine a light to show others the way.

I believe that I have been called to be a change agent and to be a thermostat and not a thermometer, I believe that with my music that I can in some shape, form or fashion still tell a story that will open up the heart of someone that may be going through something by just meeting them where they are.

Sometimes, if you come at it from a different angle and make the people you are trying to reach feel comfortable, I believe that you can sow a seed. One cannot change a person immediately, but that person can be helped to change over time. If it is the will of the Lord, then it will create something that will bear good fruit.

Understandable. Random question: Lol, have you ever strolled through and interrupted a crowd at a college party?

Oh my goodness! Absolutely! I was the stepping stroll master (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.) when I was going through college. So yeah, I was putting the stuff together and we were playing not a game! Spring 16', Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, Louisiana), Club 6. My name was "Maestro". We strolled. We danced. We did all the things.

During your college experience, what did you learn about yourself while pledging and also as a student?

I was always very heavily involved in school. Thank God my mother never had that type of issue with me. I was always very self driven and even in college, I knew that I was there to get my degree. I actually finished my baccalaureate degree in nursing in less than four years.

When I came into college, I was already a sophomore because in high school, I took a lot of collegiate opportunities like Advanced Practice Courses, dual enrollment, etc. So, the mindset was get in and get out. I was also blessed with a full ride scholarship at Northwestern State University. So, I was not going to take that for granted.

What I learned about myself is that I can do anything that I set my mind to. Those that have gone through either trying to become a nurse, are currently going through it right now, or have completed nursing school know and understand how rigorous that is. Do I want to focus on my career and my life long term or do I just want to sit here and party and have fun?

Sometimes, a lot of people go to college to have that college experience. I went through my all of my prerequisites so quickly, I understood that it was about to get serious. God can put you in any ordinary situation and make it extraordinary for your preparation to your calling and him putting me in position to be a nurse has helped me so much. A lot of people think they have to be in their

calling to gain lessons in that but that is simply not the case. Learning time management, keeping up with the long hours, and learning how to continue functioning without a lot of sleep while in college and nursing school has helped me with my music career today.

It sounds like your upbringing and all of the above has made you a pretty well-rounded individual and you have done some dope things so far and still have a lot of time, Lord willing. (Amen!) What is next?

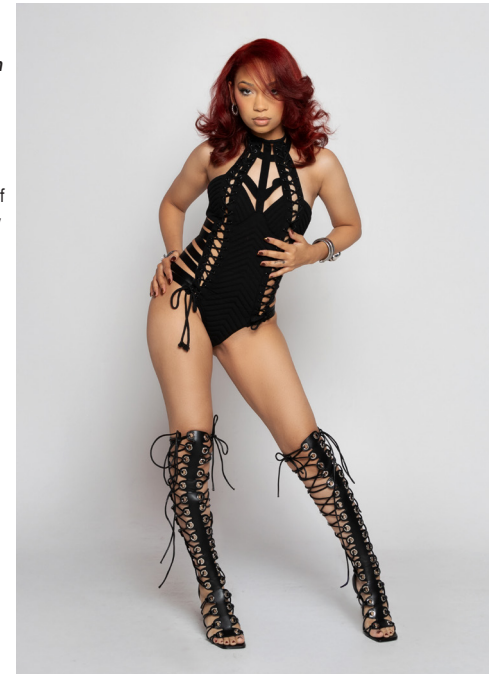
Wow! I am doing so many appearances. This is really a season in my life where I am so thankful that I am able to go out, meet people, and be touchable. I am working on my EP, which is called "Love Phases" and I'm excited about that. I am also working on some more singles that are going to be released this year and some amazing collaborations that are forthcoming. I am in the passenger seat, I am letting God take total control, and I am thankful for what he is doing in his perfect timing.

Lastly, tell me something about yourself that most people don't know.

Let's see. I was a gymnast growing up and I was also in JROTC when I was in high school. So, I developed a lot of leadership skills during that time in my high school experience. With JROTC, there is a whole ranking system that mimics the military and by my senior year, I was actually one of the brigade commanders in charge of Caddo Parish in the state of Louisiana. They called me, "Cadet Colonel Mariah Hester" aka "Mighty Mouse". That is who I was.

I was a 5'4" little thing barking orders at people, but having a fun time with it. Lol, I miss those high school days and those times where we were dressed all the way up from top to bottom in green. We called them, "Pickle Suites" and they had all of our different pins and things like that on them. I did unarmed drill team, I was the national colors for Color Guard, and I used to do all of those commands. Fun times.

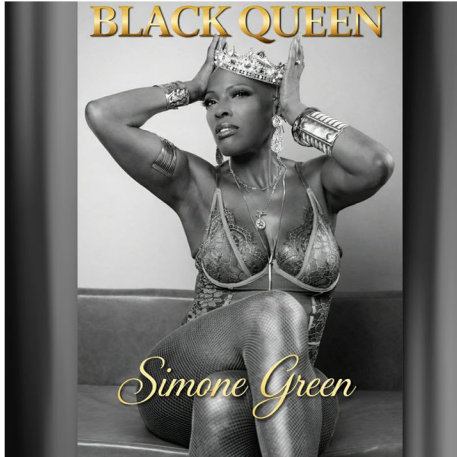
To keep up with Mariah Dawne, visit her on Instagram @iammariah.official, on TikTok @mariahdawne, and on META/Facebook @mynameismariah (Mariah Dawne Hester).



CHECK ME OUT

SIMONE GREEN

BLACK QUEEN



radiant and real. It is powerful on its own terms. Rooted in soul, shaped by lived experience and standing firmly in truth.

Available to download and stream now, the visuals for "Black Queen" were directed by Tiffany Ray and Arnell Newman. "The video was inspired by my real life—an authentic, unapologetic glimpse into what it means to walk in my shoes as a Black woman. I wanted to show the balance of my worlds: leading in my career as the director of a legal staffing firm, prioritizing my health and discipline in the gym, and embracing joy, love, and connection with my husband and friends. Every scene reflects the fullness of who I am—a modern Black Queen who moves with purpose, grace, strength, and celebration," shares Simone Green.

Based in Chicago, vocalist, songwriter, and cultural storyteller Simone Green has created a body of work that spans decades and genres, including a #1 independent radio hit, "We Could Be", award-winning campaigns for Walmart, Toyota, and the Illinois Lottery to placements on Dance Revolution on CBS Networks and the television series Ugly Betty on ABC Networks. Her voice is woven into the fabric of American media.

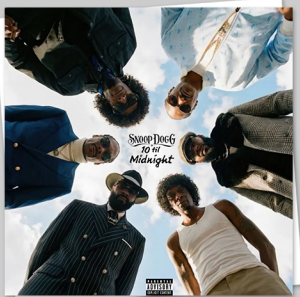
Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Simone relocated to Chicago in 1997, where she co-founded the beloved band Soul Sanctuary, performing to sold-out crowds and becoming a respected fixture in the city's music community. Her work bridges soul, R&B, and contemporary music with emotional precision and cultural truth.

To learn more about Simone Green, visit her at www.simonegreenlive.com.

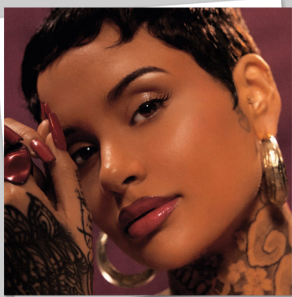
"Black Queen" is the latest single to be released from powerhouse vocalist and culture-activist, Simone Green. The female empowerment anthem was written by Simone Green and Jeffrey Dillard and produced by SFR and Arnell Newman. Simone's forthcoming album, "Black Queen" will be globally released on her birthday, August 8, 2026.

"Black Queen" is a breakthrough, a release and return to self, reframing strength as something you don't perform, you embody. The single was released towards the end of Black History Month, and it honors Black womanhood as lived truth - resilience, tender,

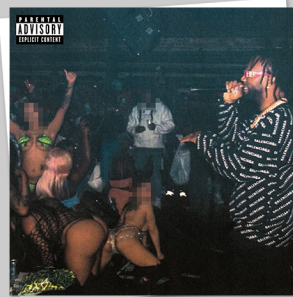
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