

Razors Edge Magazine

Spring 2015

Esnavi

The Woman Behind
The Name.



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RazorSEdge Magazine

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the resurrection issue

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Model Victoria Miner

Dear Reader,

After being out of circulation since the end of 2013, we celebrate the relaunch of RazorsEdge Magazine, which we have aptly named, “The Resurrection” Issue. As we do so, I want to reflect on what was started by the magazine’s founder, Carolyn Gaither-Ellis, who passed away this year after battling with an increasingly failing heart. For days I thought long and hard about what I would possibly say. I decided that I would just start writing and let this letter come together on its own. You see, she was more than just the Publisher to me. She was my mother.

My mother embodied the true spirit of an entrepreneur. She was very self-driven, even a bit stubborn you might say. When she set her mind to doing something there was nothing or no one that could deter her from that. When she retired from her civilian position at the Naval Medical Command, she decided worked for herself to make a way for my family. She started a secretarial service, which eventually evolved into a full service desktop publishing company. It was this company that ultimately spawned the idea for REM.

So in 2004 she embarked upon a journey to start a quarterly lifestyle periodical with the idea to provide a source of information and inspiration for the many members of the haircare and fashion industries. When she first had the idea for REM I admit that I didn’t understand why she would want to do that, nor did I understand why hairstylists and barbers would even need that. I couldn’t see the big picture, but she obviously could.

She was focused on making it happen. So much so that in the beginning she did everything on her own. I mean everything. She wrote articles, edited the magazine, and designed the website (which she had no prior experience in doing). She was meticulous in her actions and a perfectionist in her vision. She was the type of person that would rather do it herself. She knew she would get exactly what she wanted that way. As her son, I was fully committed to helping her and in time I came to see the bigger picture.

My mother and I talked often about how the day would come when I would come to own RazorsEdge Magazine. I told her about the vision I have of taking the magazine forward. The one thing she wanted to be sure of was that I would continue on. She was very adamant about that in fact. I literally had to promise her that I would continue the magazine.

The plan is to take advantage of the current technologies to make REM available digitally as well as in print. While we will not be geared specifically towards the fashion and haircare industries, REM still plans to continue the core mission: information, education, entertainment, and inspiration. It is my hope that, moving forward, we will live up to what she wanted for the magazine.

Yours Truly,

DeWayne Alston
Publisher/Managing Editor

"One Man's Trash"

by
DeWayne Alston

When my mother passed the responsibility cleaning out her home, the home that I grew up in, fell upon me. It just so happened that I was perusing through a group that I belong to on Facebook when I came across a post from a man named Michael Walker. Michael Walker, a West Baltimore native, is the founder and owner of 426.Enterprises LLC, a full-service collection and recycling service. This "green" company offers free trash and waste removal services to all residential and commercial locations. There is nothing that they won't take. The best part about it is that they do this at no charge to the property owner. Michael will tell you that he's always been a collector of things. He says he "would just hold on to them and try to find things to do with them". His environmental consciousness lead him to study horticultural landscaping and agriculture.

When asked about his take on the green movement, Michael emphatically responded "First of all, my family is very green. We throw away very little. Very, very little." Being environmentally responsible is more than just the means to a successful business, but to Michael it is a way of life. You can go so far as to say he believes that it is a moral imperative that we all be more responsible. That's why he believes in educating the community. He's very knowledgeable about what he does too. During the course of me interviewing him, he educated me as to just how much of the stuff we use is actually recyclable in one way or another.

The goal of 426.Enterprises LLC is three-fold: to employ as many people as possible, help the community and help the environment. According to their website they "are able to offer jobs within the community to anyone, regardless of their disabilities, legal background, military service, age, gender, and ethnicity". Not only does 426.Enterprises LLC remove trash and recyclables from properties, they go out into the communities where they do business (currently Baltimore and Houston) and clean up streets and alley ways. The one thing that definitely comes across when you hear Michael speak is that he is very passionate about this. He also has a clearly laid out vision for his company, planning to expand to every state on the U.S. mainland. I believe he will make it happen.

Check out 426.Enterprises LLC on their website at <http://www.426llc.com/>, call (410) 366-4264, or email them at 426llc@gmail.com for more information or to acquire their services.



426.ENTERPRISES LLC
"YOUR TRASH IS OUR TREASURE"

IN TRIBUTE TO MY MENTOR CAROLYN GAITHER ELLIS...



This first issue of *GospelInPsalm* magazine is a tribute to my magazine publishing mentor for more than 4 years, and Baltimore's own publishing jewel, Carolyn Gaither Ellis, publisher and editor of *RazorsEdge Magazine*!

From 2006 to early 2014, I served in some capacity as a staff member of *REM*, which began as an intern writer, progressed to contributing writer, then a dual task of head writer and sales representative at-large, and in 2012, columnist, of *InsPARation*, and finally 2012 to early 2014 shadowing Ms. Carol on the assembling of approximately 6 issues, of the quarterly publication. During this time she taught me hands-on, the ins and outs and steps she followed in putting the *RazorsEdge* magazine together as it neared its 10th anniversary celebration.



From late nights assembling pages, and using the folding machine, proofreading and editing articles, assisting with layout and design, to having her refueled and attending events, calling herself my 'co-pilot' as we covered behind-the-scenes at fashion events, such as New York's Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, Atlantic City, New Jersey's first Fashion Week, charity fashion shows in York, Pennsylvania spear headed by Sha' Summerlin, of The PRIMP agency, Glenn Jackson's Silver Spring, Maryland show, Khalif Townes' The Gospel According to Fashion in Philly, and photo shoot(s) amongst other affairs – the social butterfly was always ready to hit the road.

To make sure I wouldn't be surprised later on at the work load and commitment level, she was fine with letting me in on the grunt work, the fun work, and the events, which gave me a true picture of the business and pleasure, as well as the craft that went along with creating, shaping and understanding the tenacity needed for publishing a magazine. Our longest trek was a 9 hour trip to NC for an event I co-hosted, that should have taken 6 hours, but knowing everything happens for a reason – this event happened to get caught with traffic enroute to honor Veterans, so we just switched gears, and got there safely. Not the slightest bit harried by the situation, and true to her jovial, and story sharing nature she kept the convo flowing all the way, but was dozing most of the way back, after being tired out from [net] working the room with her quick wit, engaging personality and genuinely curious manner about people. I witnessed her in action, showcasing her skills during an onsite impromptu interview with a featured designer at Atlantic City's Fashion Week, granting me a glimpse of the skills she's acquired over the years. I stood by with the recorder as 'we' yep, she let me talk - she was a listener and a learner as well – while she got an exclusive.

Though she's now getting used to her new neighbors and adjusting to her surroundings, she's still got plenty of stories to share whenever I pop in. Take a minute and drop her a note and a photo to help her fill a new photo album, at Summit Nursing Home, ?, Catonsville, Maryland to tell her your latest news. I'm sure she'll get a kick out of hearing from you. For teaching me well, and making me see beyond just what's written on the pages – thanks Ms. Carol!



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FACE TIME

The Mineral Makeup Revolution

by
Sha' Summerlin

If you are like most women, you have heard the term “mineral makeup” by now. The cosmetics industry would have you to believe that this trend is new and innovative. Not so. Just as it is with fashion, there is nothing new under the Sun with makeup.

Mineral makeup may be at an all-time high in popularity, however, Bare Essentials started what it called “The Mineral Revolution” when it launched its loose powder foundations in the mid-1970s. Not long after, competing brands came out with new products, claiming that mineral makeup was a more “natural” option than conventional makeup.

The cosmetics industry also claims that brands labeled “mineral” are the safest and less chemically induced brands to choose versus the conventional makeup we have become so accustomed to. I, for one, have always felt it was a less about using the proper brand and more about choosing the right product for your skin tone and skin type.

According to Perry Romanowski, Author of *Can You Get Hooked on Lip Balm? Top Cosmetic Scientists Answer Your Questions About the Lotions, Potions and Other Beauty Products You Use Every Day*, this is no mineral makeup a revolution at all. “All makeup is mineral makeup,” he says. “You’ll find the same ingredients--titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, mica, and iron oxide in conventional products.”

In fact, what makes mineral makeup different from conventional makeup isn’t the ingredients it contains but the ingredients that are left out. Many of the leading mineral makeup brands lead out ingredients like preservatives, parabens, mineral oil, chemical dyes and fragrances. Therefore, many dermatologists recommend mineral makeup based on the fact that these left out ingredients are possible skin irritants.

So how do we distinguish the hype from the reality when choosing mineral makeup for ourselves? Fortunately, this beauty writer has friends in professional places. I reached out to some experienced and knowledgeable makeup artist for their opinions of mineral makeup. Read on, take good notes and know that the choice to go with mineral or conventional makeup is ultimately up to you.

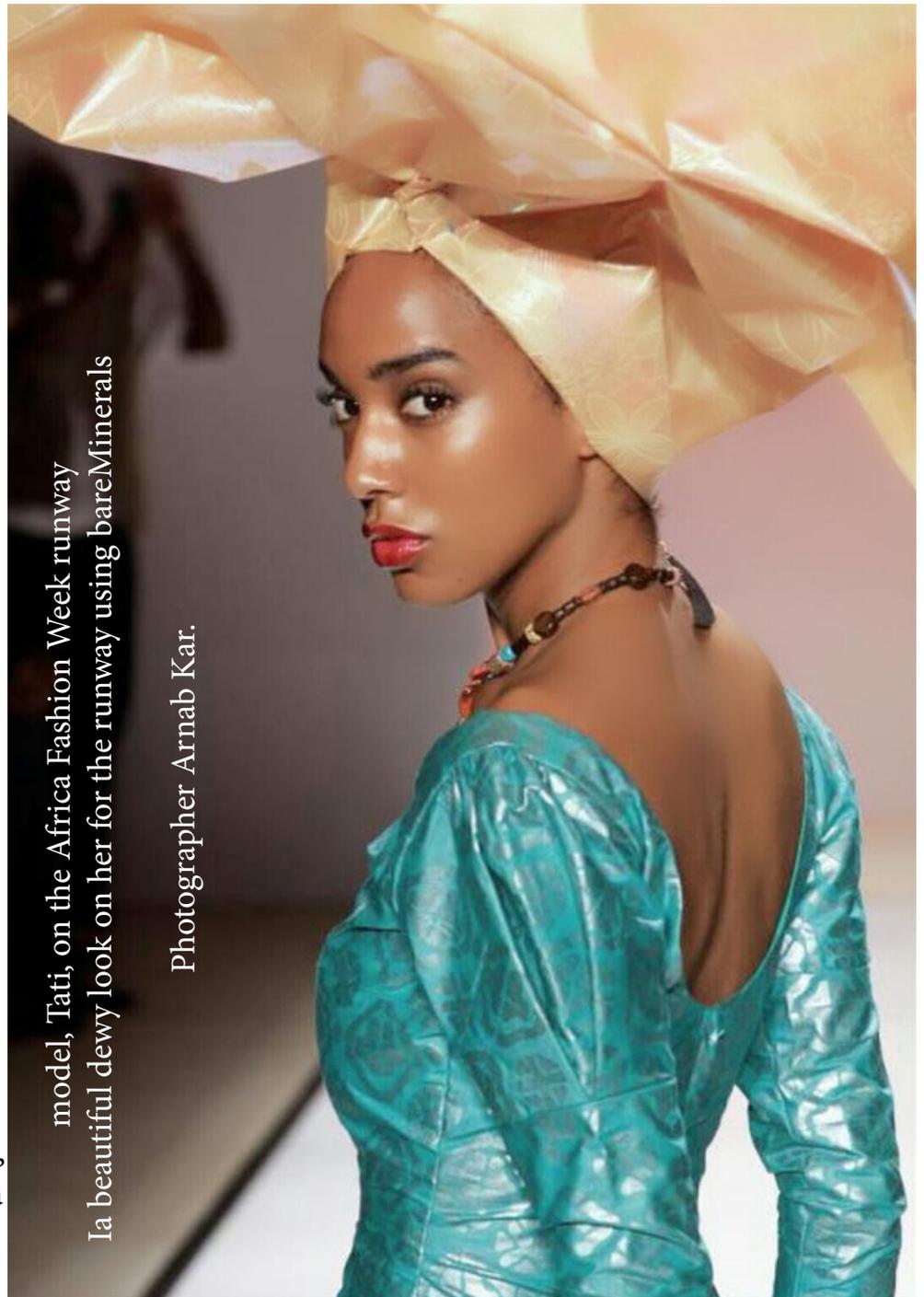
“I use bareMinerals. Make sure that your mineral make is actually all mineral like bareMinerals. If they have sensitive skin, aging skin, sun damage look for a product with botanicals that help repair, strengthen and moisturize.” Kimya Crawford, Lead Makeup Artist/PRIMP Agency



“ I don’t use it. For the most part (I feel) it wasn’t made for women of color and the application of it is not flattering to our skin tones...so I have never used it.” Lynette Evans, GLAM Enterprises.

“jane iredale’s Amazing Base Loose Mineral Powder is perfect to match a fresh, dewy look. Apply the powder with a chisel powder brush. Set the powder with your favorite hydration spray to get a long-lasting, perfect finish.” James Christian, Former Makeup Artist for Michael Jackson dancers.

Tasha Reiko Brown of the Style Network says, “I find it collects in fine lines and pores and accentuates dry flaky areas. If you’re a woman of color, it can be very difficult to find a shade that’s a good match for your skin.”

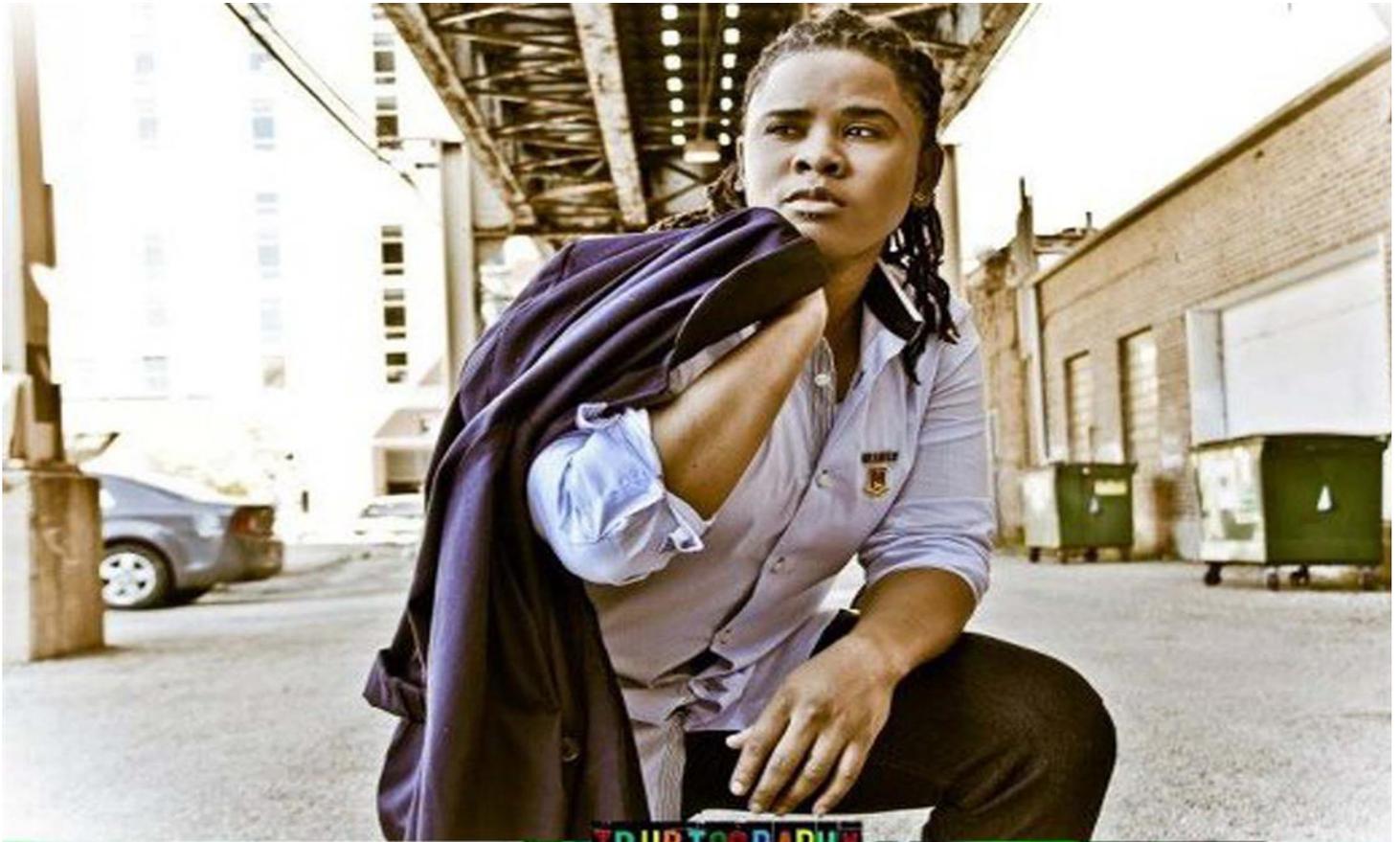


model, Tati, on the Africa Fashion Week runway
In a beautiful dewy look on her for the runway using bareMinerals

Photographer Arnab Kar.

Model Spotlight

one androgynous model's journey



Victoria “VJay” Miner

breaking down the barriers

Androgyny in the Fashion World
by Dana Cshanel Taylor

VJay Miner speaks out on her career as an Androgynous Model and how fashion is slowly moving forward.

The modeling world as we’ve known it was once full of models sizes 0 and 2 with the occasional size 4 being the “fat” model. These days we have grown to accept most plus size and urban models but what about androgynous models? Who are they and where is their place in the fashion world?

Androgynous Model Victoria “VJay” Miner says that although modeling wasn’t always her career choice she’s making stride and breaking down barriers and often proving some people wrong. This former basketball player didn’t always have modeling on her mind; Miner was thought to be headed to the WNBA when a devastating knee injury ended her career. Her big modeling break didn’t come until she participated in a calendar that featured models in 2008. Although she thought of modeling a few years prior she didn’t know exactly how to get into the business she recalls.

Miner is of an elite set of women models who wears both feminine and masculine clothing down the runway. Although VJay as she often prefers to be called models mostly in masculine fashions and she has graced the runways during Men’s Fashion Week in Chicago, The Walk Fashion Show in Detroit and has even won Androgynous Model of The Year during the Taking Over The Runway Competition. VJay joins a lineup of other andro models such a Milon, Andrew Pejic and AzMarie Livingston in her plight for equality.

“Recognition is definitely hard when you’re trying to cross over. Unfortunately some people look at your image and what represents you before they see the quality of your work. I’ve been turned down many times for opportunities well deserved due to my lifestyle instead of my work”

Oftentimes some see models and forget that even though this is their career that fashion can very well be their life. Sadly we judge models too harshly on their appearances, but validate it by saying “this is their job”. It’s true that every job isn’t for every model but why look over the ones who prove themselves over and over again.

If new genres of models never surfaced would we even have the plus size modeling industry? Where would that leave androgynous models like Victoria Miner? Miner is now on a show called the Model Idea; a model competition to find the next big model in which she is the only androgynous model. Grammy nominated John Hill is the host of this show which was recently picked up by Hulu. We here at RazorsEdge will be rooting for her and hoping that she takes the fashion world by storm and continues to be a positive face of the androgynous model genre. It is evident to some of us that her passion for fashion precedes her as she just walked in Mercedes Benz New York fashion week in Feb.

“Gay, isn’t the new black just yet and some designers and producers just don’t want the stigma that may come along with having an openly gay model represent their vision” Should it matter what her lifestyle is if it honestly has nothing to do with her work ethic? Why so we only worry about the masculine identified models? We don’t scrutinize the feminine models and their dating lives and lifestyles so we must ask ourselves “where do we draw the line?”

To vote for her during the Model Idea competition you can simply comment on the Model Idea official Facebook group page “I Vote for VJay”.

Instagram and twitter: @AndroVJay



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MY STORY

Pretty Girl Blues

I am Jearlean Taylor with a powerful story to tell. I grew up in a loving family with both parents in Southwest Baltimore, Maryland. I am a twin and the fourth child of my parents. I have three sisters and two brothers. I was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer (Rhabdomyosarcoma) at the early age of three years old. A Rhabdomyosarcoma, commonly referred to as RMS, is a type of cancer, specifically a sarcoma (cancer of connective tissues), in which the cancer cells are thought to arise from skeletal muscle progenitors. Rhabdomyosarcoma is a relatively rare form of cancer. When RMS does occur, it is most commonly seen in children aged one to five years old.

Because of the location of the cancer including multiply surgeries, chemo and radiation treatments I was forced to have permanent ostomy(www.ostomy.org/What_is_an_Ostomy.html), which aides my bladder and bowel functions that cause me to have ostomy bags. From that point on, my life would be nothing short of a miracle. My life has proven to be a journey of unexpected challenges. "Pretty Girl Blues" is a recollection of my journey. I give you an in-depth view of my life as I viewed it from the "inside out". My outward appearance is one of beauty, high fashion, grace and charm. My inward existence was one of low self-esteem, shame, insecurity and complex, chronic medical complications. While others appeared to be living a "normal life", I struggled with self-pity, unhappiness, depression, low self-esteem, not loving myself, and even suicidal thoughts. I found it hard, embarrassing and painful to be considered "different". Journal writing became the impetus of my internal healing.

"Pretty Girl Blues" is different from many autobiographies. My candidness and transparency will shock some, while inspiring and empowering others. The message I want to convey in my autobiography is that miracles still happen. I am a believer of Jesus Christ and lives by the scripture Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." By sharing my story, my desire is to inform readers that while life will "happen" to all of us, we all have the power inside to survive and overcome any obstacle that presents itself.

I am an author, motivational speaker, fashion model and owner of a modeling company. I have been a model for over 16 years (with two ostomy bags). My outer appearance does not show the physical condition that I live with daily. Because of my passion for modeling and my reality of cancer, I decided to open a Christian centered modeling company, J & Company Christian Modeling, in 2006. Our motto is "we build, train, and develop from the inside out".

In addition, I am founder of Osto Beauties. We are four women that have experienced different life altering medical conditions, which caused us to be PERMANENTLY left with ostomies. We have been through rough times and still have challenges; however, we are stepping out our "comfort zone" to help someone else's life.

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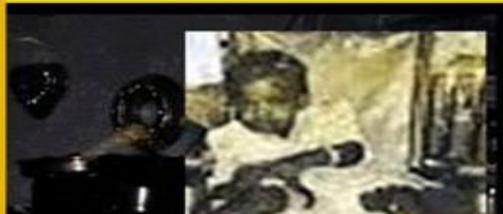
I am ever grateful for my faith in God, family, friends, my inspiration (mom), mentors, and spiritual father Rev. Dr. Thern M. James Sr.. Special thanks to doctors, surgeons, nurses, and the entire medical team that was involved in allowing her to live a normal and happy life.

“Secrets” hurt, so I told mine that others might release theirs. I hope to help those suffering with low self-esteem, depression, and other cancer survivors. I know I can, will, and is living a full and vibrant life and so can you.

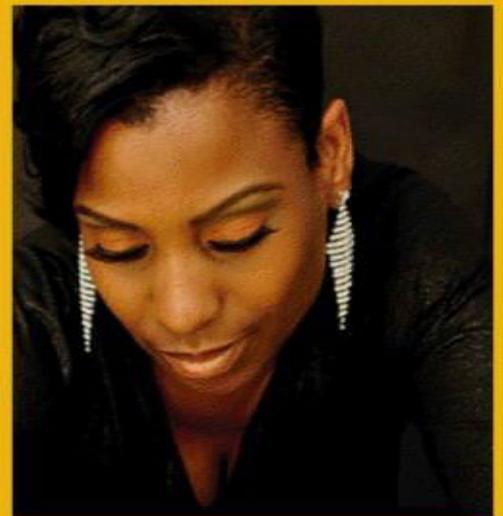
Pretty



Girl



Blues



Jearlean Alston-Taylor

Jeremiah 29:11



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The RazorsEdge Top Five

Every year a handful of fashion designers come along that make the fashion world stand up and take notice. Get real familiar with our top 5 up-and-coming designers for 2015. You'll be seeing them for many years to come!



BRANDON SUN

Brandon Sun is a luxury fur and ready-to-wear brand founded in 2011. Originally launched as fur accessories collection, Brandon Sun has since grown to encompass a range of fashion fur outerwear and ready-to-wear imbued with a sense of modern glamour, confident femininity, and cool.

www.brandonsuncollection.com

HARBISON

North Carolina born Charles Elliott Harbison began his professional career as a textile designer before moving on to womenswear at Michael Kors. He continued with stints at Luca Luca and Billy Reid, producing both womenswear and accessories. Based in Brooklyn, Charles launched HARBISON in 2013. We like him...a lot. His 2015 Spring Collection is impeccable. (Photography by Dan Dealy)

www.harbisoncollection.com



Emerging Designers

by Sha' Summerlin

PUBLIC SCHOOL NYC

Dao-Yi Chow's and Maxwell Osborne's cutting edge fashion brand was born and bred out of New York just like its creators. One Saturday I caught a television marathon of The CFDA Vogue Fashion Fund competition and got a lesson in the new school by the too cool for school kids and 2013 CFDA winners, Public School.

www.publicschoolnyc.com



5:31 Jérôme

Jérôme got his break interning for Baby Phat at age 15, becoming senior designer only three years later. However, his designs are more elegant than urban now. We cannot wait to see how his work progresses. Stay tuned!

www.531jerome.com



CUSHNIE ET OCHS

Carly Cushnie and Michelle Ochs are former Parsons School of Design classmates who are greatly responsible for the ever popular feminine, form-fitting, cut out dresses we've been seeing.

Their dresses have become a favorite on the red carpet, dressing an array of women from Reese Witherspoon to Rihanna and they will soon be a household name.

We can see why.

www.cushnieetochs.com



Q & A with Celebrity Stylist

Zoe Dupree

zoedupreeinc@gmail.com

It all started with sneaking into the BET Hip Hop Awards in Atlanta in 2012....a month later Zoe Dupree began the career of his dreams as a Celebrity Fashion Stylist. Zoe Dupree has a style of all his own and loves what he does and “Faith and Fashion” is the motto he lives by.

Being a young creative talent is a hot commodity these days and so is Mr. Zoe Dupree. Mr Dupree is just one of the few young talents under the age of 35 chasing down their dreams every day and expecting the unexpected. Having styled everyone from Syleena Johnson and Trina to Mia Campbell and Fantasia, he is surely making a name for himself in the fashion field.

We dropped in to ask a few questions on who exactly is Zoe Dupree and what does he stand for....

How did you get your start? I snuck into the BET awards a few years ago in Atlanta and did some mingling on the red carpet and a month later it was history.

What’s your personal style? I dress however I feel that day, so if it’s a jeans a tee day then so be it.

What is your biggest accomplishment thus far? Styling for the Grammy Awards

What’s a personal goal of yours for this year? To maintain my business/brand and keep God first and just to be a blessing to other people.

Is there anyone in particular that you would love to work with? Lauryn Hill

Who has been your favorite client to work with? I love all of my clients but I love working with Love and Hip Hop’s Tahiry Jose.

Do you have any advice for those looking for styling on a budget? Thrifting is in right now. Try thrift store and high end consignment stores for your garments.

Do you have any other creative interests?Right now I’m really tapping into public relations, management and television corresponding.

Zoe Dupree is just now coming into the conclusion that he himself is his brand. Having been named an Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2014 from Allen University and sitting on a BET stylist panel are some of his most recent accomplishments and we look forward to seeing his work on the red carpet everywhere.

Esnavi

by
Pamela Nichols

Eclectic, Soulful, Natural, Authentic, Vivacious, Intriguing Esnavi is all of that laced with an abundance of passion and drive!

Milwaukee, Wisconsin is probably one of the few states that you hear of a music artist originating other than Al Jarreau and a few actors.

Esnavi has always felt like a bright light, big city kind of girl and thought that she was too much for the city in the sense of her desires and ambitions. There weren't many outlets in Milwaukee that permitted her to grow as an artist. Therefore, Harlem became her home after graduating college. Following the release of her current album, *Exit E* she has been involved with other entertainment and music related opportunities that allow her to shine in all of these areas she has embarked upon.

"I discovered I could sing in high school. There I sang with a couple of other girls and participated in a few talent shows. Since I had just discovered the talent, for me it wasn't a lifelong dream to be a singer; it was just a hobby." After graduating high school and on her way to college she said she would "figure things out". "Singing was never on the top of my brain and not something I took seriously but the one thing I knew was that I was going to be successful in whatever I pursued." As singing became a burning desire inside of her, Esnavi says, "If I didn't pursue singing, I would have regretted it for the rest of my life".



Exit E was released in 2011, and Esnavi feels incredibly blessed and happy to have been able to accomplish so much in what she considers to be a short amount of time. Esnavi is a beautiful spirit and that pretty face of hers has afforded her other artistic and business opportunities in the fashion and non-profit industries: she is using her talent with organizations like SoundAffects, to increase awareness through music-related incentives for cancer research, and the beauty company Dazzle Dry nail polishes—the Esnavi Collection, polishes after are named after tracks from her album Exit E: “Morning Dew”, “Oh My” and “Exit E”. She is also the first African American face for Alison Raffaele Cosmetics.

Esnavi, the songwriter and Michel Kunz, the composer/producer collaborated to bring Exit E to the life it has taken on since its release. She realized that the two of them had good chemistry as they became in tune with each other. “I am a songwriter and everything I write about, I’ve experienced from past relationships. I want to create when I have something to talk about”. Esnavi explains that her creative process is such that whoever she works with, they both have to love what they’re doing, “I can feel by the first or second verse and the first beat, whether or not it is going to work for me”.

Exit E is a concept album that is Esnavi’s “stop on the musical highway”, which was intended to be an EP. When she realized into the fourth song, that it was really coming together after listening to the lyrics and production, she knew the EP would transition into a full album. Every song that was recorded for Exit E is on the album. After it was completed, her goal was to be picked up by an independent label. Some of the obstacles she encountered, like many indie artists, was getting the word out about Exit E. Esnavi had the album printed on her own and sold cds at shows before she was signed to an independent label. In three years Exit E is still in rotation on several music outlets, and since early 2014 is in its second release that includes three bonus tracks, taking it to 19 tracks.

What Esnavi likes most about her career is the freedom as a creator, the path she’s been on, the journey and the learning process. “I love being independent, I like to refer to myself as “independently major”. I can’t imagine someone coming in on my recording process telling me their thoughts on my music. The thing she likes least about the music industry is how long it takes to make money. “I’m not driven by money but we all need it, and I do want to attain monetary freedom at some point in my life to where I’m not worrying about money, bills and things like that.

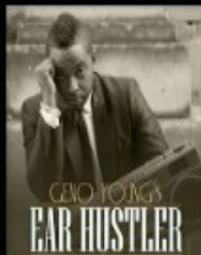
Just the way the industry is set up, the way things have to be done, the money it takes to do it... It helps that I am a songwriter so I am able to make money in more than one way”. Her advice to those who are interested in the business is not to do it unless they absolutely love it and are 100% passionate about their talent. Esnavi says, “It’s not about the paparazzi, being a celebrity or being famous. A percentage of people that make it to that level compared to all the people who have tried to do this is such a minimal fraction.” The trade off for her is that performing is like no other feeling in the world. “That feeling that I get for that moment or however long I perform makes all the things that aren’t so easy about this journey is what makes it all worth it.”

For the last four years she has been a full time artist and considers herself fortunate that her album’s single “What U Need” is still in rotation on Sirius XM. She is especially proud that last fall her music was featured on the premier episode of Love and Hip Hop (New York), and that she was recently awarded the Future Icon of Music award by the music organization, Rebel Life. As Esnavi has explored deeper into her craft, she is also a professional voice over artist, on-air personality, print model and actress, the next natural step to her aspirations would be to host her own TV show.

Besides shopping in her spare time, Esnavi likes to read, draw, play tennis, and travel. In 2015 she is looking forward to touring Japan where she has a following, and also plans to hit the London music scene. Global soul lovers, look out for Esnavi in a music venue near you!



Eclectic
Soulful
Natural
Authentic
Vivacious
Intriguing



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24/7 SOUL. ARE YOU A CITIZEN?

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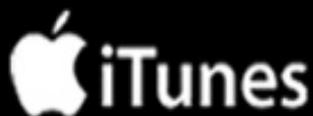
SOUL CITY RADIO

ARE YOU A CITIZEN?

NEW SINGLE | 03.31.15

ESNAVI

THINK ABOUT IT



Album Review



written by Epiphany Castro

Album: Stargazer by Carmen Rodgers

Label: Nia

Genre: Soul/R&B/Urban Alternative

Singer/songwriter/producer Carmen Rodgers-notable touring member of The Foreign Exchange and Road Warrior with Zo! Returns....and boy oh boy....

Long ago and far away there used to be this section in records stores....YES I SAID RECORD STORES called, "Vocals". Now these select few filed away in this tiny, dusty little section earned their stripes to be placed in this almost never land of music. Why? Because they were SINGERS. No smoke, no mirrors no trickery. You wanted a vocal album? This was your spot! Sadly, this section has long since disappeared...but then...along came this..."Stargazer"

...the long awaited and highly anticipated new offering from Carmen Rodgers. The name in itself could not be more appropriate, as it is indeed the spark that lights up the musical sky. The album is an honest one. So honest and so true that one gets an almost uncomfortable feeling, like we are sneaking and reading pages from her diary. It's clearly personal. It is thoughtful. It is at times heartbreaking.

The title song starts somewhat cautiously and moves thru a few synth soaked tracks reminiscent of the Rod Temperton of yesterdays gone by. The production is nothing less than perfection, and having a 16 piece orchestra on board certainly does not hurt. Miss Rogers is the sort of vocalist that has the gift of musical weaving that's pitch perfect angel like, even seeming somber from time to time. She certainly cares and it's evident with every note she sings.

With soaring string arrangements ,lush harmonies and heart wrenching confessional lyrical content-we have little to no choice but to fall in love with this album.

There are some standout tracks including "Charge" featuring Anthony David, "Patience"-a more commercial than others offering, "Stay" which is destined to be THAT classic song and the unforgettable tragically delicious "Love Stories".

The journey of "Stargazer" is unpredictable and on occasion a bit uncomfortable, but absolutely a trip worth the taking so buckle up beautiful people. Any self-respecting soul music fan will buy it, listen to and love it. It is unlike anything out there, past or present.

Her voice is not unlike the breath of angels blowing kisses to us mere mortals. Maybe she will force the "Record Stores" to bring back that "Vocal" section, and me?? I will applaud, wildly as I did with this album..

The Revolution of Music and Social Media

by
Latoya Stegall-Collins

Today the music industry has been thrown into the Digital Revolution, where it has been one of the first to benefit from digital and social media marketing to have new ways of listening, distributing and connecting with consumers. It's true that social media has an impact on digital marketing in the music industry with the focus of Indie and Mainstream artists.

When artists adopt social media it becomes an integral part of their marketing strategy. However, social media is compromised by people engaging interactions to follow artists and their high quality content. In this digital age, artists are expecting to grow numbers of subscribers, as well as following them on social media platforms. Being active on social media and prioritizing digital marketing, it can improve artists' lives by providing accurate data by measuring success for what is working and not working for them.

Today we know that music artists have the reputation of producing high quality music to shine in the public's light on their works. Digital marketing and social media is a non-stop growing source to whatever that consumers are exposed to on different social media platforms. I have observed that having the proper data that shows statuses of social media and digital marketing where it determines how followers and fans discover and enjoy music of different types of genres. The Future of Music will always continue to deliver fast and better music in the digital revolution, which will give opportunities for Indie artists build their fan base and to continue to promote their music.

Emerging trends on social media through multiple channel engagement keeps the music industry ahead. For both Indie and Mainstream artists comes hand in hand to promote, market and to connect with fans and consumers far and wide.

Having social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube they are quickly becoming important to artists to promote their music it's one of the fastest and easiest way to get people to follow them and to believe in their crafts. All the sudden when artists advocate to continue to develop their craft becomes their greatest potential.

Digital marketing and social media is the most influential where consumers can have access to searches of information at any place and any time.



SOUL TRACKS

TRACKING THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOUL MUSIC

by Anne Marie Collymore

In this day and age, it's remarkably easy to find anything you need on the internet. If you're looking for fashionable gear, whatever tickles your culinary fancy, or gadgets galore - it can all be found at the tip of your finger. This especially goes for finding new music on the daily. With a plethora of music blogs and websites available online, you're bound to stumble upon something that may catch your eye for all of the wrong reasons. However, there are always a few that leave their mark and stand out from the rest.

Soultracks.com has been a soul and R&B music purveyor for more than 12 years. It is a website that has always taken great liberty celebrating the classic soul we were reared upon - such as The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, the Commodores etc. Yet, they also shine the light on modern soul artists continuing to carry the torch such as Lalah Hathaway, The Foreign Exchange, George Tandy jr. etc. Founded by Chris Rizik, Soultracks.com is known as one of the most popular soul music sites on the web. Chris started the site in his kitchen with one of his younger sons to hold the transcripts of a soul music biographies show that he was hosting on XM Satellite Radio. What started as a labor of love grew into a website that shares in the politics of music with hard-hitting thought provoking articles and opinion pieces, continually introducing new artists to readers, insightful album and concert reviews, the yearly anticipated Soultracks Readers' Choice Awards and so much more.

While we are bombarded with various avenues for listening and learning about new music, the thought of knowing that there is a site you can rely on without all the fluff is definitely gratifying. Over the years, Soultracks has amassed a solid following and foundation that is respected worldwide by readers and artists alike. So soul lovers, while you're tediously clicking and skimming through music sites that just don't cut it for you, remember that there is one that fits all of your needs right at the click of a button.

Another Way of Seeing Things
by
DeWayne Alston



I'm always searching for the next emerging technology when I research for topics for this column. I'm looking for that technology that's going to change the game. That Star Trek: The Next Generation stuff. That technology actually worth mentioning. I think I've found that technology in OLED.

OLED, which stands for Organic Light-Emitting Diode, consists of an organic compound that emits light when current is passed through it. The organic layer is situated between two electrodes (one of the electrode layers is more than likely going to be transparent). OLED technology is used to make displays. I was surprised to learn that OLED technology is being used in a wide variety of products currently on the market. If you have a smart phone, television, computer monitor, or other portable system that was produced within the past 4 years, there's a good chance that it has an OLED display.

There are two types of basic OLED architectures. Passive-matrix OLED (PMOLED) and Active-matrix OLED (AMOLED). The latter uses a thin-film transistor backing, which allows for higher resolutions and the ability to have larger displays. Seeing as OLED displays use no back light, it also allows for deeper black levels and give manufacturers an opportunity to create thinner devices.

While the potential applications for this technology are next to boundless, there are two that I'm pretty partial. The first, obviously, is its mobile phone application. Samsung has taken care of that with its flexible display called the Youm. It was unveiled this past January at the 2013 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) and has just recently hit the market. I caught the video of the unveiling on YouTube and I was completely blown away. As you can see from the images, their phones will have curved displays, which according to Samsung, will effectively increase the physical operating space of the phone's display. The officials at Samsung did not specify any particular time frame, but experts feel that it will hit the market sometime this year. I suggest go to YouTube and check out the videos for yourself. I think you will be blown away yourself.

The second potential application for OLED technology is in the area of lighting. Of all the applications, lighting is the simplest use of the technology as well as the easiest. I say the easiest because there's nothing else to be done to put the technology to use, but to add current and create light. It's also the safest because unlike traditional incandescent and fluorescent lighting, electric current is not being passed through gas or some metallic filament to create the light.

Philips is leading the way in this application with its Lumiblade OLED lights. The uses range from the practical to the artistic. There's no way I can really describe the possibilities of uses with Lumiblade. I only hope to give you an idea from the images in this article. Again, I suggest you hit good old Google and see for yourself.

Being that OLED technology is still in its infancy, there are a few downsides. One being that it can be expensive. That will change as the technology becomes more and more widespread. I see it becoming widespread because it's efficient. This could, in my opinion, lead to lowered energy costs and that will help all of us see a better future.



orange chicken with wild rice
www.kouturekatering.com

Cooking & Kitchen Tips

from the Chefs of Kouture Katering and Events

If you're cooking for someone important never try a new recipe and a new ingredient at the same time. Always do a trail run.

French fries will be deliciously golden brown is sprinkled with flour before frying.

If you put onions in the freezer 15 minutes before you chop them- your eyes won't tear when you cut the onions.

To tell how old an egg is, place the egg in a pan of cold water. If it lies on its side, it is fresh – if it tilts on an angle,, its approximately 3-4 days old – if an egg stands upright, it is probably about 10 days old. If an egg floats to the top, it is old and should not be used.

To easily separate an egg yolk from whites, poke a small hole in the end of an egg and drain the white through the hole. After you have drained the egg white, just crack the egg open for the yolk.

To keep meatballs from falling apart when cooking, try placing them into the refrigerator for 20 minutes before cooking.

To tenderize chicken and give it a unique flavor, try basting it with a small amount of white wine while it cooks.

When mincing garlic, sprinkle on a little salt so the pieces won't stick to your knife or cutting board.

Use a gentle touch when shaping ground beef patties. Over handling will result in a firm, compact texture after cooking. Don't press or flatten with spatula during cooking.

Butter pie pastry scraps: sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar, and bake like cookies.

Pole Fitness



the trend and one competitor

Kayra Lee Velez has a strength that most have not attained. Not only is her core strong but her arms are a force to be reckoned with. Kayra's two year anniversary of poling will be this coming June! She started with one class on a whim with one of her friends, and the rest is history! We dropped in with Kayra for a Q & A on just how beneficial the poling industry can be and the rise in the trend.

Do you go to a studio or practice at home?

I spent over a year being self-taught because the studio I started classes at closed, but I now attend a new studio in my town called the Up Factory!

What's your niche/favorite move?

I'm all about a good pole split, no matter the entry or execution. It's a surefire way to wow anyone.

Do you compete in pole competitions?

I competed last year in the Southern Pole Championships in Atlanta, hosted by the Pole Sport Organization. I'm looking forward to competing again this year at a higher level!

What are your goals? Is this a hobby or something you want to make a career out of?the business side of it. I'm grateful now that I get to volunteer for the International Pole Sport Federation on their Marketing Committee, and I'm also a Brand Ambassador and Social Media Coordinator

for Mighty Grip. Hopefully my roles with these two organizations can take off over time!

Did you do any workout preparations to get prepared for pole fitness?

I cross train with aerial conditioning exercises on silks and aerial hammocks, and I also practice yoga.

What health benefits and changes have you seen since you started? Pole has done so much for my body. I have toned up so much and developed a lot of shoulder, back, and arm muscles. It also was the driving factor in my adopting a paleo diet—I eat whole, unprocessed foods (lots of good quality meats, fruits, nuts, and vegetables) and don't consume any gluten, dairy, soy, or grains.

What brand of pole do you prefer?

I'm a huge fan of the Titanium Gold Xpert Xpole. It's great if you need a little more grip to practice moves.

What made you get into pole fitness? Has it changed your life?

I got into pole because I wanted to do something for myself. At the time I started, I had just gotten out of a long-term relationship, and I needed something to lift my spirits and get out of my rut. I wasn't expecting for pole to change my life in the capacity it has, but it has most definitely become my passion. It's made me happier, healthier, and given me a sense of freedom like nothing else has.

Do you feel like the poling industry/polers get negative attention because some equate poling to exotic dancing?

Oh, absolutely! It's very hard for some people to separate the two. It's sad because the negative judgments makes several individuals feel like they have to hide what they do-- I used to be one of them. But now, I realize I have nothing to be ashamed of. I think good strides are being made to show that pole, no matter the style (sexy, acrobatic, fit, etc), is helping to empower women (and men!) across the world in a multitude of ways. That's something to be celebrated!

More information about Kayra can be found online at: IG: @kayleacruz (Kaylee Cruz, The Paleo Poler)

by Dana Cshanel Taylor

FITNESS SPOTLIGHT ON ALI JOHNSON

By Juanita Ritter

We all know that most of us that make those New Year's Resolutions have lost our vigor, determination and commitment by now and as of today March 17th, it's only Day 76 of the year! It's not necessarily because we're lazy, sometimes we become overwhelmed with our everyday commitments and feel like exercise just can't fit into the schedule. Well, you'll be happy to know that this is not true! We spoke with a fitness buff and expert, Ali Johnson. With spring right around the corner, Ali was kind enough to share some words of wisdom that will help re-light our fires and get us all moving again!

About Our Fitness Expert

Have you ever heard that to discover what you should do as a career, is to think back on what you enjoyed as a child? Well, it would seem that this is very true to Ali Johnson. Ali Johnson is a fitness trainer that has been working out and lifting weights since he was a child. He received his first set of weights (Hulk Hogan weights to be exact), from his father when he was only 7 years old. Sports and fitness has been a way of life for Mr. Johnson ever since.

After earning a football scholarship to college, Ali attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, then transferred to Millersville University where he earned a teaching degree. Ali told me, "I knew I was either going to be a teacher or an NFL football player".

Well, after training for the Pittsburgh Steelers practice team but never receiving that final call, he went on to teach. Although he was disappointed to not receive that call from the Steelers, he didn't allow himself to give up on his love of football so he also played for the Minor League Football Team, The Central Pennsylvania Piranha's on which he is ranked as one of their top running backs and has just been nominated for their hall of fame.

He says it's like when you're doing what you were meant to do and everything falls into place. "God put me on earth to do this. The feeling is priceless, gratifying and exciting. I feel a sense of pride to see the growth my clients experience."

So now that we know we're dealing with a real deal expert, what did he have to say? "Either you come see me or you'll end up needing to go see a doctor", is what Ali said when asked about the importance of working out.

Start Off Easy

No professional trainer expects anyone to be able to jump right in and perform at the level of someone that's been working out for years. If you can't afford to get started with a trainer, get moving at home. He even offered a specific plan to start off with: 10 push ups, 10 sit ups, 10 burpees



Do ten rounds of these three exercises and as you get stronger, add more reps. Finish off by either taking a walk or run around the block. This is very doable and no equipment is needed.

In the Gym

When asked about the gym Ali said, “so many people waste their time in the gym by not using the equipment correctly or by not using the correct routine to see results”. His advice is to either of course, hire him as a trainer, or if you’re not in the area to please see a professional on how to use the gym equipment. There is usually someone available to help and answer questions at most gyms, why not take advantage of this service so that you can get the best results out of your gym time? Once you have the correct form and use of equipment down, make sure to never get stuck in the same routine. According to Ali, “always split things up, keep changing the routine because the body adapts quickly so you need to keep “confusing” the muscles.” For example:

Day 1

Chest Day

Day 2

Abs/Back Day

Day 3

Leg Day

The Moral of the Story

The moral of this story is that it doesn’t take much to get started, you just have to do it. Everyday research is released that proves how eating well and exercising is the best thing to do for your health, physically and mentally. Ali stressed several times “just do something, anything, get your body moving and you’ll feel so much better.”

Johnson is owner of Max-I-Mus Performance and Fitness Company in York, Pa.

@Max_I_MusFitness on Instagram



Product Review

Iaso Detox Tea

One day I happened to run across a woman online who sold this particular product IASO DETOX TEA. I wanted to know how it would work for people with IBS like myself. After reading her posting about a client of hers with Chron's Disease I wanted to know how the product would work for me. Miss Holley was an ever so friendly representative who provided for with more than enough information and quite a few customer testimonies from other men and women with gastro intestinal issues. Shortly after speaking with her I ordered a monthly supply and began my journey.

If you suffer from IBS or similar issues you know how sensitive that your stomach can be when you eat or drink anything so you get extremely cautious. I drank this product for a total of two weeks to see just how my body would handle it. Although I felt like the first two days it wasn't safe for me to leave my house because I wanted to be near my own bathroom, I can actually say this product has done wonders for me and my health overall. My system which was holding on to so much had been relieved. I noticed I slept more soundly. I lost weight and inches from my mid-section. I felt more energy throughout my day which made me emotionally ecstatic. As we speak I am doing another round of Iaso Tea this time for 30 days to see if it will help me continue to get down to a better weight for my height.

The product is of a high quality all natural herbal blend of just a few simple ingredients. It is easy to use as you just boil your water and steep your tea bags....make sure you read the package instructions with any product.

Other client experiences have included: people who no longer suffer from migraines, people who no longer have Chron's Disease, people who know longer suffer from high blood pressure or no longer have to take their prescribed medication, people who have lost between 5 and 50 pounds, people who have less high blood sugar spikes. As with any product individual results will vary. I think this product is great if you're trying to clean the toxins out of your body, ease your IBS and or constipation, lose a few pounds, sleep better, gain more energy or fight any gastro intestinal issue. I urge you to try it for a least two weeks and see if it doesn't change your body and how you feel.

Pros : great for those who want to refresh their body,
Cons: it is not recommend for breastfeeding mothers or pregnant women
Price \$39.95 plus shipping for your monthly supply.
Interesting Fact: you can give 4oz to your child if he or she is constipated

Reach out to a representative or attend a Iaso Tea Party....get in someone's email or find someone's website and figure out how the tea can best suit you.

iasotea.com/3001091 or totallifechanges.com/danacshanel



Selfie Nation: The Naturalistas

“I Love Being Natural Because...”



Gladys Artis

My curls remind me that I can be sassy, sophisticated and free!



Serena Bush

Student, Auburn University

With practice and maturity I've learned to embrace every curl. My natural hair represents self love and how proud I am to be not only African American but, an African American woman.



Tiffany Lynne Hatchett

Non-profit CEO/Founder

Going natural made me examine natural self, in my natural state, the way God intended.



Kiwana

Retention Coordinator/Freelance Makeup Artist
I LOVE my natural hair because it is..... ME,
ALL ME!



Shenika Burney

It allows me to embrace all of me.
And (I'm) not trying to fit in and
look like everyone else.



Grace

It's free, its liberating, its fashion forward, its who I
am, it's empowering, its simplicity at its best.

Carolyn
Minister

This is who I am. What you see is what you get.





Style Files

By Sha' Summerlin

res-ur-rec-tion

n. The act of bringing back to practice, notice or use; revival.

Indeed. Style trends are revived from past decades and made modern all the time. Some styles we welcome back with open arms and others make us cringe at the very idea of a comeback. Well, in reference to the recent revival that the state of Alabama has been receiving since the award winning movie Selma, we made lower Alabama our backdrop for some of the more welcomed styles of decades past and made them modern once again...the RazorsEdge way.



Because it is as cute today as it was at the 1950's sock hop the "Poodle" skirt remains an epic style staple.

From the 1960's to the 1970's, when African Americans sported large and in charge afros, it was just as much of a political statement as it was a fashion statement. Now, in 2015 there is another beautiful and powerful statement being spoken with the resurgence of the afro aka "the natural". One thing remains as clear today as it did back in the day--it takes confidence in ones self to nonconform and brazenly display your natural self with both pride and grace. Beauty is confidence...and confidence never goes out of style.



You know you're an 80's Baby if...

You rocked a banana clip in your crimped hair, slap bands on your wrist and big hoop earrings.
You had a kid in your class with a spiked mohawk or greenish blue hair.

You were the kid in class with a spiked mohawk or greenish blue hair.

And you recognize that this is punk made pretty. A funky mohawk, graphic print, moody black and a little attitude in a big Ford truck.





The bodysuit of the 1990s is back! And ladies? This is not your mother's bodysuit/leotard contraption. Well, not unless your name is Blue Ivy.

CREDITS

Styled by Sha' Summerlin

Makeup by Kashea Antoinette for PRIMP Agency

Photography by Myra Bush, www.triplesthreatmedia.com

Pitbulls Nino and Tenacity courtesy of Kissimmee Bound Kennels



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Spring To Life

*It has been a long Winter hiatus for all of us, but
RazorsEdge Magazine has begun to Spring to life
and become active once again...your turn!*

This Spring I will...

Smile...in spite of.





A woman with curly hair is sitting outdoors, leaning against a tree trunk. She is wearing a black and white striped dress. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The text "Be undeniable." is overlaid in the center of the image.

Be undeniable.

Live ON PU



PURPOSE.



Be



e fearlessly fly.



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