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WELCOME

This magazine is dedicated to empowering excellence, celebrating creativity, and amplifying hidden voices. In this digital realm, we embark on a journey where inspiration meets innovation, and where the extraordinary becomes the norm.

Through our captivating stories, thought-provoking articles, and insightful interviews, *'Empressive Times Magazine'* aims to ignite your passion, fuel your imagination, and propel you toward greatness. Join over 120, 000 readers as we explore the realms of art, culture, spirituality, and beyond, uncovering the hidden gems that shape impressive times in our culture connecting to the world around us.

Together, let's embrace the power of excellence, celebrate the beauty of creativity, and amplify our collective voice. Get ready to be inspired, enlightened, and uplifted - because the impressive times are here, and they're waiting for you.

*J. Primous*⁰¹
CURATOR & FOUNDER



FOUNDER

J. Primous

Prepare to be captivated by the extraordinary founder of "Empressive Times" - an emerging magazine that transcends boundaries and leaves an indelible mark on the world. With a pen as her mighty weapon, this powerful writer weaves words into masterpieces that ignite change and inspire countless souls. But her impact doesn't stop there. As a philanthropist, J. tirelessly champion causes close to her heart, using her influence to make a tangible difference. Staying to the embodiment of Empress energy - prepared to build, trailblaze, guide and influence, Ms. J's magnetic presence as an entrepreneur, advocate and civic leader draws people in, empowering them to amplify their voices and create a ripple effect of positive change, unapologetically. Brace yourself for a journey guided by the brilliance of our *Empressive* founder.

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Miss. Knoettal

INTRODUCING MISS. KNOETTAL! (PRONOUNCED 'KNOW IT ALL')

Greetings, darlings! I'm Miss. Knoettal, your guide to enlightenment in the pages of *Empressive Times*. With each article, I promise to share my personal knowledge, insights, and discovery. From decoding the mysteries of the universe to unraveling the complexities of human behavior, join me on this intellectual escapade, and let's explore the world together, one fascinating fact at a time!



"If you didn't know
- Now you do".

"THE POWER OF 12—A YEAR OF MAGIC AND MANIFESTATION!"

Oh, the number 12—what a powerhouse, what a diva, what a numerological legend! In the world of numbers, 12 is not just a number; it's the number. A number that struts into the room with its head held high, like a celebrity walking the red carpet. You've got your 1s, your 2s, and your 7s, all good and worthy in their own right, but 12? 12 knows it's in a league of its own. Don't believe me? Well, let's break it down, shall we?

In numerology, the number 12 is known as the "Cosmic Teacher." It embodies the energy of completion, wholeness, and abundance. It represents a cycle of growth, with its roots in both the spiritual and material realms. Think of it as the number that says, "I've been around the block, and now I know exactly what I want." After all, 12 is made up of the digits 1 and 2—fitting, isn't it? A little individuality and a whole lot of teamwork. Together, they make a sum greater than their parts. So, it's no surprise that 12 is considered the ultimate balance of opposites. Not to mention, it's a number tied to major cosmic events: 12 zodiac signs, 12 months in a year, and—dare I say it—12 issues in our first year of *Empressive Times Magazine*. Yes, darling, it's true!

Let's get real for a second. We've come full circle. Twelve issues deep, one year in, and we're still standing tall. Sure, we've had our bumps, our growing pains, but we did it. We survived. 120,000 readers later, and we're still pushing forward with big dreams for 2025. It's no coincidence that we're celebrating our 12th issue. In the grand scheme of numerology, that number signifies a moment of completion, a time when something comes to fruition. And trust me, this year of *Empressive Times* has been nothing short of a manifestation.

From our humble beginnings (oh yes, remember that?), to hitting major milestones like securing interviews with the crème de la crème of entertainment, culture, and music, we've been ticking off the boxes of success. Twelve issues down, and we've still got the fire to grow bigger, expand into digital media, and hit the airwaves with podcasts. We're taking this thing global, y'all. And don't think for one second that it's over; no, no, no. As 12 reminds us, it's a new chapter in the cycle. We're not just closing a book—we're writing the next bestseller.

Let's not forget the cosmic implications here. In numerology, 12 is a number of harmony. It's what makes the planets turn in their orbits, and guess what? *Empressive Times* is no different. We've created a space where creativity, passion, and a little bit of sass align perfectly. Twelve months, twelve issues—and it's all been about building that harmony between hard work, community support, and pure magic. You can't get to this point without a little cosmic help.

So, let's raise our glasses to this powerful number. Twelve isn't just a number; it's a symbol of mastery, completion, and the undeniable magic that happens when you put in the work. And let's be real, if 12 were a person, it'd be sitting at the head of the table, with a glass of champagne, saying, "Look at how far you've come. Now, let's keep it moving." So all the dreamers, to all the creators, to all the moguls-in-the-making, take note. The number 12 isn't done with you yet. Embrace it. Celebrate it. And when 2025 comes rolling in, let the world watch as you make your own magic with the power of 12 by your side. Until next time, darling. Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.

With cosmic love and 12-fold power,
Miss Knoettal

"If you didn't know
— Now you do."



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Join our mailing list to receive a personal copy, get insights on upcoming features and so much more!





12

FINAL DOESN'T
MEAN FINISHED!

Empressive Times are Here

As we present our 12th issue, *Empressive Times Magazine* is reflecting on a monumental year. Our journey from an ambitious digital magazine to a widely respected platform for engaging content has been nothing short of exhilarating. This is our final issue of 2024, but trust us when we say—this is only the beginning.

Reaching over 120,000 readers in our inaugural year, **Empressive Times Magazine** has proven that passion, creativity, and consistency can spark something extraordinary. This issue is a celebration of the progress we've made, the hurdles we've overcome, and the exciting future that lies ahead. What started as a dream is now a thriving digital publication, reaching audiences worldwide with content that inspires, educates, and entertains.

"We never imagined how far we could go in just one year," says Ms. J. Primous, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Empressive Times*. *"But here we are, with over 120,000 readers, and it feels like we've only just begun. The energy we've felt from our audience, the support from our team and contributors—it's been beyond our wildest dreams. We're just getting started, and 2025 is going to be an even bigger year for us."*

We began this journey not knowing how the world would respond, but with a commitment to offering something real. Throughout the year, we've stayed true to our mission: to provide content that resonates with people from all walks of life. From our inspiring features on rising stars to interviews with moguls and celebrities, our editorial vision has always been grounded in authenticity, empowerment, and innovation.

But our first year wasn't without its challenges. There were moments when we questioned whether we could continue producing at the level we envisioned, especially as we balanced the demands of growing a magazine with the realities of running a business. At times, the struggle felt overwhelming—but we stayed grounded, consistent, and focused on delivering quality content. With every setback came resilience. With every obstacle, came growth. Through it all, we remained unwavering in our commitment to you, our readers, and our mission.

"We were tested in ways we couldn't have anticipated, but what we've learned is that consistency and quality are everything," Ms. J. Primous reflects.



RED

velvet

CAKE

TRY IT

YOU MIGHT LIKE IT

by: Isaiah D.

Since it's the last month of the year, I want to share something truly special with you all—a recipe for one of my absolute favorite desserts: red velvet cake. There's just something magical about this cake that makes it stand out from the rest, especially during the holiday season. Red velvet cake is not just delicious; it's also one of the most beautiful desserts you can bring to the table. Its vibrant red color, creamy frosting, and rich, chocolatey flavor make it perfect for any festive occasion, whether it's Christmas, Thanksgiving, or a cozy winter gathering. This dessert is a showstopper in every way. The red and white colors are like Christmas decorations in dessert form, making it a perfect match for the holiday vibe. It's one of those cakes that doesn't just taste amazing but also adds a little extra sparkle to the table. And let's be honest, who doesn't love a dessert that doubles as a centerpiece? Red velvet cake has been around for a long time, and its history is just as rich as its flavor. It became popular in the 1920s and 1930s in America, a time when people were discovering creative ways to make their desserts more luxurious. Some stories say that red velvet cake originated at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, a place known for its elegance and high-class cuisine. Other tales trace its roots back to the South, where it became a beloved part of Southern hospitality. Wherever it began, one thing is clear: red velvet cake has captured hearts and taste buds everywhere. Now, let's talk about the “velvet” in red velvet cake. The name isn't just for show—it's all about the texture.

This cake is known for being soft, smooth, and fluffy, thanks to some clever baking techniques. Back in the day, people used cocoa powder and buttermilk to create a silky texture in their cakes. A splash of vinegar in the recipe enhanced the smoothness and helped the red color pop even more. Over time, bakers started adding red food coloring to give the cake its signature hue, and the result is the gorgeous dessert we know and love today. For me, red velvet cake is the ultimate holiday dessert. It's fancy enough to make any dinner feel extra special, yet comforting enough to feel like home. The combination of chocolate and vanilla flavors is subtle but irresistible, and the cream cheese frosting is the perfect balance of sweet and tangy. It's the kind of dessert that makes people smile the moment they see it. What I love most about red velvet cake is how it brings people together. Baking this cake is an experience in itself. Whether you're whipping up the batter with a loved one or decorating it with your family, it's a fun and memorable activity. There's something about the process—measuring the ingredients, mixing the batter, and watching the cake rise in the oven—that makes the final result even more rewarding. And when you place that beautifully frosted cake on the table, it's like a little gift for everyone to enjoy.

Now that I've hopefully convinced you of this cake's magic, let me share my favorite recipe so you can try it yourself. Trust me, it's not as complicated as it might seem. With just a little time and effort, you'll have a dessert that looks and tastes like it came straight from a bakery.

Ingredients for the Cake: 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour, 1 ½ cups sugar, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon cocoa powder, 1 ½ cups vegetable oil, 1 cup buttermilk, 2 large eggs, 2 tablespoons red food coloring, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1 teaspoon white vinegar. **Ingredients for the Frosting:** 8 oz cream cheese (softened), ½ cup butter (softened), 4 cups powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract.

Directions: Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and flour two 9-inch round cake pans to make sure your cakes come out smoothly. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking soda, salt, and cocoa powder. Mix them together until they're well blended. In another bowl, whisk together the oil, buttermilk, eggs, food coloring, vanilla extract, and vinegar. This is where the magic happens—the red color starts to come to life! Slowly pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, mixing as you go. Keep stirring until the batter is smooth and vibrant. Divide the batter evenly between the two prepared cake pans. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Once they're done, let the cakes cool completely before frosting. To make the frosting, beat the cream cheese and butter together in a bowl until smooth and creamy. Gradually add the powdered sugar and vanilla extract, mixing until the frosting is fluffy and easy to spread. Spread a generous layer of frosting between the two cake layers, then cover the outside of the cake with the remaining frosting. You can get creative with decorations. Sprinkle some red sugar on top, pipe fancy designs, or even add some holiday-themed cake toppers.

And there you have it, a red velvet cake that's as fun to make as it is to eat! What makes this cake truly special is the way it brings a sense of joy and celebration to any occasion. Whether you're serving it at a big family dinner or enjoying a quiet slice with a cup of cocoa, red velvet cake has a way of making the holidays feel even sweeter. So, if you're looking for something festive to bake this year, give red velvet cake a try. It's a dessert that's guaranteed to impress, and who knows when you try it, you might like it! Happy baking, and happy holidays!

-Isaiah D.

"Yes, there were obstacles. Yes, there were late nights, but every hurdle made us stronger. And each one brought us closer to the community we've built."

"I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved, and I'm even more excited for what's coming."

-J. Primous

As we wrap up 2024, it's important to acknowledge the incredible team behind *Empressive Times*. From our passionate advisors to our loyal supporters, the journey would not have been possible without their dedication. You have all played a vital role in helping us reach this incredible milestone, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Your belief in our vision has pushed us forward, and your unwavering support has allowed us to make a meaningful impact in the digital space.

In addition to our core team, we've been fortunate to interview some of the most influential and inspiring figures in the industry—people who have left an indelible mark on their respective fields. From artists like Chuckii Booker to thought leaders like Ella Feingold, we've celebrated the individuals whose stories continue to shape the cultural landscape. Their insights, experiences, and successes have been invaluable to our readers, and we are honored to have shared their journeys with you.

"But what truly excites me," says J. Primous, "is that we've only just begun to scratch the surface. The conversations we've started, the voices we've amplified, and the people we've reached—there's so much more to come. This is a community, and we're committed to expanding it with even more content, more voices, and more perspectives."

But despite everything we've accomplished in this first year, we know that we're only scratching the surface. *Empressive Times* is evolving, and we are poised for something even bigger in 2025. As we close out our first year, we are already working tirelessly to expand our platform to include even more content, guest contributors, and exciting new features. Next year, we will transform into a full digital media platform, where you'll find not only our signature magazine but also podcasts, video content, and more. Our goal is to build a space where diverse voices are celebrated, where creative professionals, artists, and entrepreneurs come together to share ideas, tell their stories, and empower others.

One of our main priorities for the upcoming year is to engage even more with our audience. We want to hear your stories, your ideas, and your feedback.

BREAKING NEWS

Empressive Times Magazine is growing at lightning speed, and we're thrilled to share the news with you! In 2024 alone, we've gained over **120,000** readers worldwide, and that's just the beginning. With this incredible expansion, we are seeking **new contributors, artists to feature, and businesses to partner with** as we continue to elevate the platform.

This is your chance to be part of an extraordinary movement that connects creative minds, showcases dynamic talent, and delivers fresh, compelling stories across the globe. Whether you're an **aspiring writer, a musician, a visual artist, or a business ready to align with a cutting-edge platform**, *Empressive Times* wants YOU!

We're not just a magazine anymore—2024 marks our evolution into a full-scale entertainment platform featuring **exclusive interviews, inspiring stories, music reviews, podcasts, and more**. We want to collaborate with passionate creatives and businesses looking to make an impact.



What We're Looking For:

Writers and contributors with unique perspectives on culture, entertainment, and the arts.

Musicians and **artists** ready to be featured on an international stage.

Businesses seeking partnership opportunities to align with a vibrant, growing brand.

Join us as we take *Empressive Times* to new heights and expand our reach across the world. This is your moment to shine!

Reach out to us today! Let's grow together and continue to leave an *Empressive* mark!

We're not just a magazine; we are a community, and that community is at the heart of everything we do. By expanding our platform, we'll be able to offer a more interactive experience—giving you greater access to the content and personalities that matter to you.

“As we move into 2025, we want to connect more deeply with our readers,”

-J. Primous

Ms. J. Primous explains, *“The next phase of Empressive Times is all about interaction. It's about building a space where we can engage with you in new ways, whether through podcasts, video content, or even interactive articles. We're not just publishing content—we're creating a dynamic platform that invites you to be a part of the conversation.”*

As we look ahead to 2025, we are fueled by the passion that has brought us this far and the excitement of what's to come. We're not just entering a new year; we're entering a new era for Empressive Times. We're expanding our reach, increasing our content variety, and continuing to showcase the voices and stories that resonate with our audience. And we're doing all of this with the goal of not only maintaining the high standards we've set but of constantly pushing ourselves to do more, do better, and do it with heart.

In closing, we want to thank each and every one of you who has supported us throughout this incredible year. From our readers who have trusted us to deliver quality content, to the artists and visionaries who have shared their stories with us, to the partners, advisors, and sponsors who have helped us make it all possible—this journey wouldn't have been the same without you.

“Thank you for believing in us,”

“You've been a part of something special this year, and I can't wait to show you what's next. Together, we've created something beautiful, and I know we'll continue to do so in the years ahead.”

Remember: *final* doesn't mean *finished*. This is just the beginning. The future of *Empressive Times* is bright, and we can't wait to share it with you. Here's to 2025—where the possibilities are limitless, and the *Empressive Times* are just beginning.

Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we will continue to make waves, break barriers, and redefine what it means to be a digital media platform - Empressively.

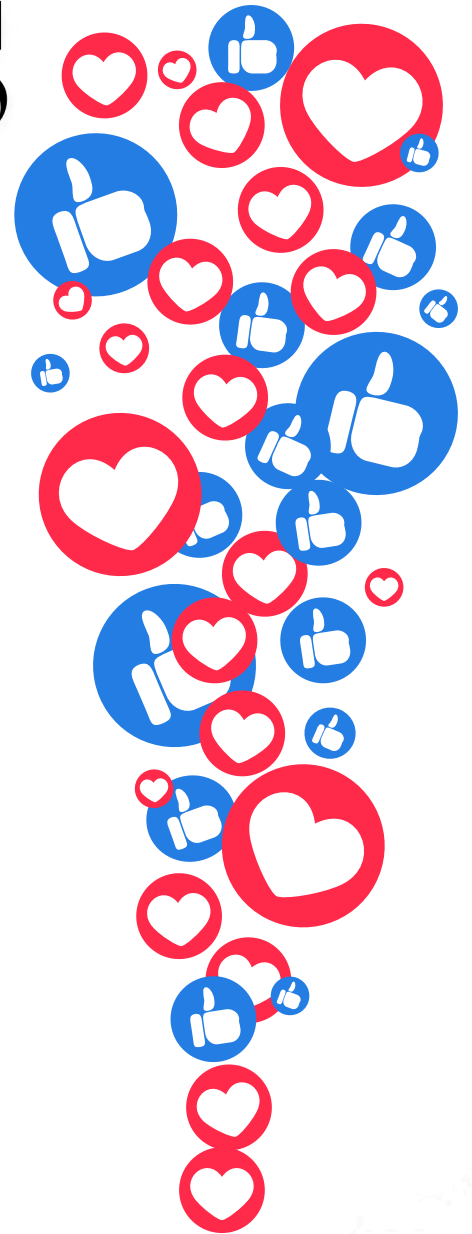


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REVIEWS

**Where
True
Talent
Shines
Bright!**



1500 likes

Ballet Theatre of PHOENIX



The Nutcracker

The Ballet Theatre of Phoenix stands as a beacon of excellence and inclusivity in the dance world. Founded in 2016 by Jennifer Cafarella Betts, this institution has become a hub for nurturing talent, blending traditional methods with cutting-edge approaches to pedagogy. Betts, with her extensive background in dance and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has redefined ballet training through her emphasis on neuro-athletic connections and somatic exploration. Her commitment to fostering each dancer's highest potential is evident in the culture she has cultivated at Ballet Theatre of Phoenix.

The company's Ballet & Performance Director, Lainie Seretis, brings over two decades of expertise in the classical Vaganova method. She was the first certified Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) teacher in Arizona and has developed programs that have produced dancers accepted into elite institutions such as American Ballet Theatre and the Bolshoi Ballet. Together, Cafarella Betts and Seretis have created a thriving environment where dancers of all ages and abilities can flourish. The Ballet Theatre of Phoenix offers a wide array of classes and services, including classical Vaganova ballet, Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT), pointe, contemporary, and adult beginner classes. Additionally, the school provides specialized training programs tailored to individual needs, ensuring every dancer can achieve their highest potential. During my time with Ballet Theatre of Phoenix, I also participated in their stretch class. It was a fun and invigorating way to reconnect with my body—though I certainly felt it in the days that followed! This experience reminded me of the importance of self-care and how dance can bring joy and physical renewal to all ages. Community engagement is also at the heart of their mission, with outreach programs and scholarships that make dance accessible to underserved populations, furthering their impact beyond the studio walls.



OWNER & DIRECTOR - JENNIFER DURING INSTRUCTION
PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BALLETTHEATREOFPHX.ORG

This year, the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix's production of *The Nutcracker* will take place on December 14-15 at the Herberger Theater Center. This beloved holiday tradition, originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, is set to Tchaikovsky's enchanting score and tells the magical story of a young girl, Clara, who embarks on a fantastical journey with her Nutcracker Prince. From battling the Mouse King to visiting the Land of Sweets, the ballet captures the imagination of audiences young and old, solidifying its place as a holiday staple worldwide. As always, this production promises to be a mesmerizing spectacle, epitomizing the company's commitment to artistry and technical excellence. Under their guidance, the theater will be transformed into a winter wonderland. Lavish costumes, intricate choreography, and spellbinding performances bring this timeless holiday classic to life. The Snow Scene, with its delicate flurries of dancers gliding across the stage, and the vibrant energy of the Spanish and Russian dances, left audiences in awe.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BALLETTHEATREOFPHX.ORG

Among the standout performers this season was Stasia Mobbs, whose journey to the spotlight is as inspiring as it is unconventional. Stasia reignited her passion for ballet during the pandemic, embarking on a challenging yet rewarding path. For adults, returning to an art form often started in childhood can be an intimidating endeavor. Yet, with unyielding dedication and perseverance, Stasia embraced the rigors of training, balancing her renewed passion with the realities of adulthood.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



STASIA MOBBS 2ND FROM THE LEFT (ACT 1 - PARTY SCENE)
PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BALLETTHEATREOFPHX.ORG

After nearly five years of relentless effort, Stasia has not only earned a principal role in *The Nutcracker*, but she has also become an integral part of the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix. Her contributions extend beyond the stage as a stage designer for the company's productions, showcasing her multifaceted talents. Stasia's creative vision has elevated the aesthetic quality of performances, and her work has become synonymous with the company's commitment to excellence.

Stasia's impact doesn't end there. Her TikTok platform, BalletMyWay, has become a source of inspiration for thousands, proving that it's never too late to pursue one's passions. Through heartfelt posts and practical advice, she encourages others to take bold leaps—whether that's lacing up pointe shoes for the first time or reigniting a long-lost dream. Her authenticity and positivity have made her a beacon for those navigating their own journeys in the arts.



THE MICE TAKE OVER IN SCENE OF THE NUTCRACKER
PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BALLETTHEATREOFPHX.ORG



PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR, LAINIE DURING INSTRUCTION
PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BALLETTHEATREOFPHX.ORG

Jennifer Cafarella Betts' and Lainie Seretis' leadership, combined with stories like Stasia's, illustrate why the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix is a standout institution. Two years ago, I had the privilege of volunteering behind the scenes for their *Nutcracker* production. With nearly 100 dancers ranging from preschoolers to adults, I witnessed a well-organized and compassionate team working in harmony to create magic. Their dedication to ensuring every performer felt supported and valued was remarkable. It was awe-inspiring to see such professionalism and care, even in the most high-pressure moments. Their dedication to fostering talent and enriching the community is palpable, from the transformative power of their performances to their impactful community programs. For me, this production holds special significance; I have flown out from Georgia to Arizona for three consecutive years to witness this enchanting performance. Each visit reaffirms the magic of dance and its ability to unite and inspire.

So here's my friendly challenge to you: Attend this year's *Nutcracker* and let the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix work its magic on you! You'll not only experience a world-class performance but also become part of a vibrant community that values artistry, inclusivity, and heart. Parents, this is your cue—don't just enroll your kids, dive in yourself! Whether through volunteering or taking a class like the stretch program (trust me, you'll feel it in all the best ways), there's something for everyone. The Ballet Theatre of Phoenix isn't just a school—it's a place where dreams take center stage, connections blossom, and the transformative power of dance comes alive. Why not let it inspire you, too?

THE
DO
PLAYLIST



LET'S KEEP IT FUNKY

THE
DO
PLAYLIST

The DOA Playlist: Derek 'DOA' Allen and Jessica Jolia Illuminate the Art of Music

Derek 'DOA' Allen is no stranger to the spotlight, having carved out a remarkable career in the music industry as an artist, producer, and mentor. His name has been synonymous with some of the biggest names in music, from Grammy-winning collaborations with Janet Jackson, Lionel Richie, and Whitney Houston, to his work as a bassist, producer, and songwriter. Over the course of his illustrious career, Allen has proven that success in the music industry isn't just about talent—it's about dedication, hard work, and an unyielding passion for the art of music.

As a mentor and advisor, Derek Allen's influence extends beyond the studio. His podcast, The DOA Playlist, has quickly become a vital platform for shining a light on both emerging and established talent in the music world. More than just a podcast, The DOA Playlist offers an immersive experience for listeners, providing engaging interviews, insightful discussions, and a deep dive into the challenges and triumphs of building a career in music. The podcast is as much an education as it is entertainment, with Allen using his platform to share the invaluable lessons he's learned over decades in the business.

In its inaugural year, The DOA Playlist has already left an indelible mark. Allen's ability to draw out the most authentic and compelling stories from his guests—many of whom are industry legends themselves—has made the show a go-to source for anyone looking to learn about the true art of music. For Allen, it's about more than just creating music; it's about fostering growth, creativity, and perseverance in those who are just starting their journey in the industry. His impact on listeners, both personally and professionally, has been profound. His mentorship has not only helped shape the direction of the podcast but also influenced the creative vision of many, including our own team. Through his guidance, we've found clarity and confidence in pursuing our own work, and for that, we are endlessly grateful.

A recent episode of The DOA Playlist featured an extraordinary guest, singer-songwriter Jessica Jolia, whose career is a testament to resilience, versatility, and the importance of combining creativity with professionalism. Jolia's music career spans a diverse range of collaborations, including memorable singles like *Sometimes* and collaborations with icons such as Stevie Wonder. Yet, it's her latest achievement that has her listeners buzzing—Jolia's role as a background vocalist for none other than pop sensation Katy Perry.



During the interview, Jolia took a deep dive into her experiences as a background singer, offering a masterclass on the art of vocal performance. For aspiring artists, especially those looking to break into the world of background vocals, Jolia's insights were invaluable. She shared tips on how to approach auditions with confidence, the importance of adaptability, and how one's professional reputation in the industry can open doors. It was clear that Jolia's success wasn't just built on talent—it was the result of years of hard work, self-discipline, and an unwavering belief in her craft.

What's perhaps most remarkable about Jessica Jolia is her ability to balance her music career with other pursuits. In addition to her vocal achievements, Jolia is currently pursuing an MBA in finance, embodying the modern artist who understands that creativity alone isn't enough to sustain a long-term career. It's this combination of artistry and business acumen that sets Jolia apart and serves as an inspiration to those looking to build a multifaceted career in the industry. Her journey, shared so candidly on The DOA Playlist, was as much about personal growth as it was about musical success.

For Derek Allen, bringing guests like Jessica Jolia onto The DOA Playlist is more than just an opportunity to highlight their talents; it's a chance to showcase the multifaceted nature of success in the music industry. Each episode is an exploration of not just the music, but the behind-the-scenes dedication and persistence that fuel a career. Through his mentorship and the stories shared on the podcast, Allen continues to prove that the path to success in the music world is never straightforward but always rewarding for those who stay true to their craft.

Ultimately, Derek 'DOA' Allen's The DOA Playlist is more than just a platform for music—it's a beacon for aspiring artists and music lovers alike. It's a reminder that success in music is built on more than just hits and chart-topping singles. It's about learning, evolving, and surrounding oneself with those who push you to be better. Through his podcast and his partnership with talents like Jessica Jolia, Allen proves that the future of music is not only in capable hands but in hands that are committed to nurturing the next generation of artists.



POLITICS

"The BOI Battle: Texas Court Blocks Transparency Act's Impact on Small Businesses—What It Means for You"

The Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) was designed to bring transparency to U.S. businesses by requiring them to disclose their beneficial owners—the individuals who control or profit from the business. The aim was to fight financial crimes like money laundering and the creation of anonymous shell companies. However, in December 2024, a Texas federal district court issued a nationwide injunction, temporarily halting the enforcement of the CTA's Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) reporting requirements.

Kegler Brown

This decision came after a lawsuit filed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), which argued that the CTA infringes on constitutional rights, placing burdensome reporting requirements on small businesses. The court sided with the plaintiffs, agreeing that the CTA might exceed Congress's authority under the Commerce Clause. This means the January 1, 2025, deadline for compliance has been delayed until further legal decisions are made.

NFIB - NFIB Small Business Association

The ruling has garnered national attention, especially from businesses concerned about the impact of such transparency requirements on their operations and privacy. New businesses, especially those formed in 2024, may find relief for now but should be prepared for possible future changes.

What Does This Mean for New Business Owners?

While the legal battle is ongoing, new businesses should keep their ear to the ground. The Biden administration's efforts to promote financial transparency face a serious challenge in the courts, and business owners, especially those in the small and minority-owned sectors, should stay informed about upcoming rulings. For now, you don't have to rush to file your BOI reports—there's a delay—but that doesn't mean you should forget about them altogether. Keep an eye on the case, stay organized, and be prepared to act when the legal dust settles.

Kegler Brown


NFIB - NFIB Small Business Association

For new Black business owners, this is a pivotal moment in an ever-changing regulatory landscape. Don't be discouraged by the hurdles—remember that each challenge offers an opportunity for innovation and growth. As you build your empire, know that navigating regulatory shifts is part of the journey. Stay adaptable, and always look for the bigger picture. The path to success doesn't come with a straight line, but the effort you put in today will create the foundation for tomorrow's legacy.

For more information on the Corporate Transparency Act and updates on the Texas court ruling, visit the official NFIB website.

NFIB - NFIB Small Business Association

CommUNITY Hub

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a circle, palms facing down. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers slightly curled. The background is blurred, showing parts of people's clothing and faces, suggesting a group of people gathered together. The overall tone is warm and positive, emphasizing unity and community.




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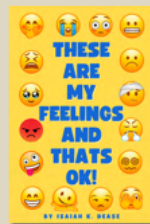
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