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ENTERTAINMENT
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 2

From the
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Rap Masters,
Hype Hair and
Modelocity Online

QUEEN LATIFAH

50 CENT

HAS HIP HOP GONE
HOLLYWOOD?

4

RAPPERS SUCCESSFULLY
TRANSITIONED TO TV DRAMAS.
CAN YOU NAME THE SHOWS?

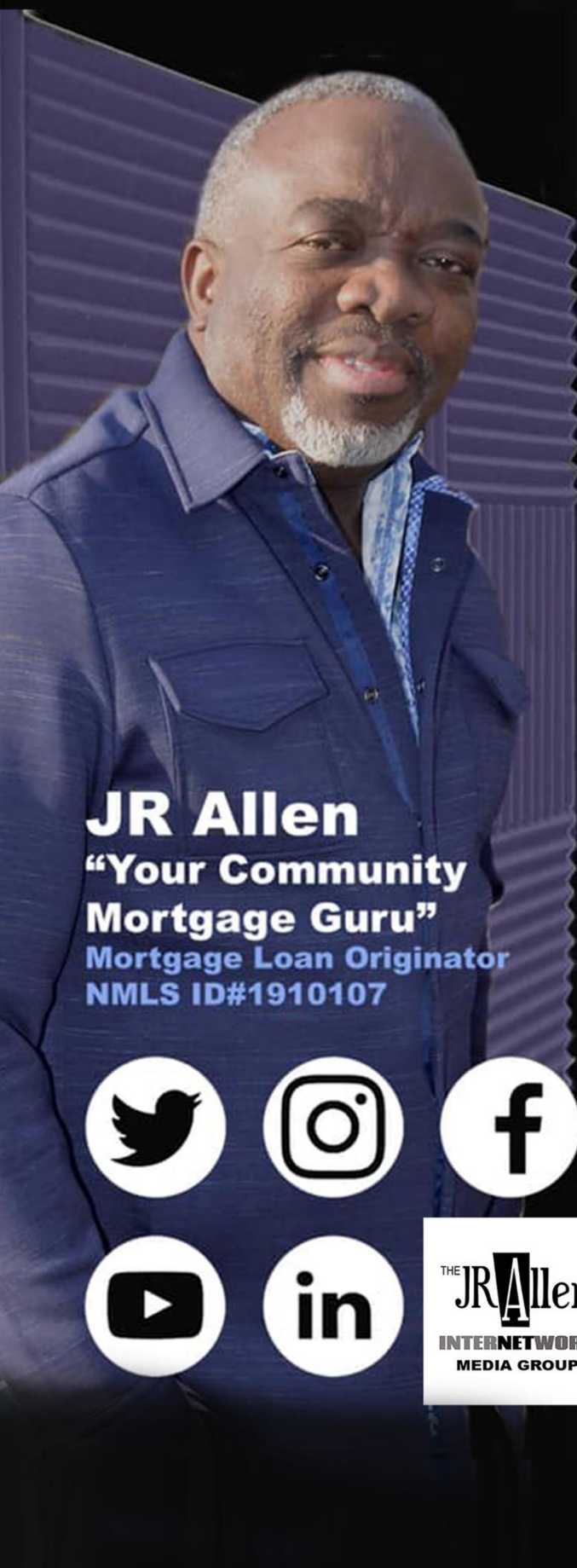
THE LEGENDARY
JODY WATLEY

CELEBRATES 34TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HER
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TELLS ON ITSELF



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Table of

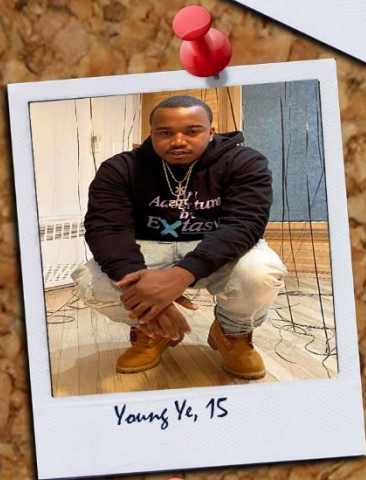


6 KID MELLO ...
TELLS ALL THROUGH HIS MUSIC



9 RUFF RYDER
OPEN LETTER FOR THE
RESCUE FOUNDATION

12 KARLA DAVIS-LUSTER...
NEW BOOK... THE WOMAN TELLS



**15 YOUNG YE...UP-AND-COM-
ING RAPPER OUT OF THE WEST SIDE OF
QUEENS**

**16 WOOFOLGY - LEARN
ENTERTAINMENT TERMS**



19 PRETTY DIJ
WHO IS SHE????
11 BURNING QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS REVEALED

Contents... Blown Woofers

20 GUN VILIESIOLNCE DESTROY'S
FAMILIES



21 NORTH PHILLY HAS A **LADY BOSS**



23 QUARANTINE MUSIC FOR ANY AGE

24 **JODY WATLEY** CELEBRATES
DEBUTE ALBUM AFTER 34 YEARS.

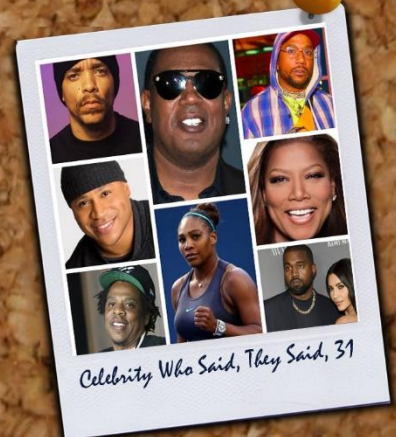


28 **SKY BANKS**
DABANKSWAY TAKEOVER



30 BOOK CORNER - BUILD
YOUR LIBRARY WITH WISDOM

31 WOOFER BLOWER.. THEY
SAID... WHO SAID... HE SAID... SHE
SAID...





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Belinda Trotter-James

Blown Woofer, Editor-In-Chief



Featuring underground artists, aspiring artists and legendary icons is what we love to do. There are millions of artists seeking fame and fortune. How do you stand out from the crowd? Is it who you know or, is it just talent that gets you from point A to point B? Maybe it's both sprinkled with a little bit of luck. Our Entertainment Correspondent, Tuesday has made it her mission to interview aspiring artists. You will get to meet a few of them in this issue and listen to their music.

I interviewed Jody Watley and she gave the most insightful look into the music industry that most artists don't see until it's too late. There are many stories of artists selling millions of records and have nothing to show for it. The wisdom Jody Watley revealed is priceless.

Blown Woofer is here to assist you on your journey. Every issue will be loaded with information, wisdom, and motivation. Someone should tell you about the business of show business along with a little fun, and inspiration to keep you going. That someone is Blown Woofer magazine where the entertainment industry tells on itself. If you have career questions, send them to BlownWoofermagazine@gmail.com www.BlownWoofer.com

Belinda Trotter James

BLOWN WOOFER ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

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WELCOME TO KID MELLO'S WORLD



TELLING HIS
STORY THROUGH
MUSIC



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Kid Mello looks like any high school kid until you put him in the studio, on the mic or in front of an audience. "I've always wanted to be the center of attention," says Kid Mello. "Music has always been a part of my life. I'm always singing, rapping and I have been writing songs on my phone since I was ten years old. My writing has definitely evolved over the years."

Kid Mello did not put himself in a box by just listening to one type of music. He would listen to anything; however, he does have his favorites like Juice Wrld. Most of the songs Kid Mello writes about comes from his heart and the experiences he encountered in his young life. "I write about heart-break, day to day things, pills, drugs and things you shouldn't go through," says Kid Mello. "Through my music I want you to get over it and move forward with your life. I want you to get over the depression. Every lyric I write tells what I've been through. I try to put emotion in the words so that you can feel exactly what I'm talking about."

When you're a kid starting out in an industry that can be emotionally draining, your first line of support is your parents. They have to be on board 100%... "My mom was iffy about it at first," remembers Kid Mello. "She sees that I have the talent and I really want it, so she supports me all the way now. My dad and stepmom always support me as well."

Kid Mello's career is off to a great start with the help of his support team. You can enjoy listening to some of his music on YouTube. Singles include... My Story, Patiently, Green Light and there is also a short film of his journey behind the scenes that you will also enjoy. The songs are beautifully written and thought provoking. You can follow him on his YouTube channel.

*"I write about heartbreak,
day-to-day things, pills,
drugs and things you
shouldn't go through."*



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Ruff Ryders to the Rescue Foundation



A LETTER FROM THE CEO OF THE RUFF RYDERS TO THE RESCUE FOUNDATION

As the Founder and CEO of Ruff Ryders Entertainment, my company was built in 1988 from our Yonkers, New York headquarters, launching the careers of Platinum recording artists; DMX, Eve, Swizz Beats and the LOX, all of whom are still known worldwide today. Simultaneously, I created an independent platform that assists in developing several Ruff Ryder entities, while continuing to build a long-established global brand.

Our urban cities across the country are facing serious issues, due to the lack of educational efforts and very little support for our youth to become entrepreneurs and leaders. Many of these urban areas have been discarded as being not salvageable and the challenges in recent times are compounded with racism, income disparity and the COVID-19 pandemic. In hindsight I formed a non-profit foundation called Ruff Ryders To The Rescue. The organization was established to support inner-city communities, build programs that can be replicated within urban communities; to be a visible, reliable presence in the community and to develop leaders who will have an indelible, positive impact on our society. In other words, our goal is to engage the youth of these streets, teaching them better ways of communicating with one another and creating a positive dialog with everyone involved in the community.

Ruff Ryders To The Rescue's mission is to reach out to the youth with the offer of professional, entrepreneurial mentoring programs within their community where they can acquire the practice-based knowledge and hands-on experience, to ultimately build their own enterprises. These innovative programs give mentees the opportunity to work with professionals within the entertainment industry, as well as other fields of business; legal, medical, law enforcement and public service. The program ultimately gives them access to career professionals who are currently working in their chosen field. It is my belief that individuals simply need to be provided the tools that will enable them to control their own destiny.

In 2021, the Ruff Ryders To The Rescue Foundation is launching a series of entrepreneur seminars, talent shows as well as a 24-hour Community Watch Program, to assist in bridging the gap between the streets, the music industry and politics, beginning in cities within New York state; Rochester, Newburgh, Yonkers and Mount Vernon. We invite all youth to participate, regardless of race, creed, color or persuasion, as well as parents and guardians to be a part of this movement to bring our communities together.

For more information, please visit our website at www.RuffRyders2TheRescue.org or call our 24-hour hotline (929) 529-6828.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Dean
Founder/CEO



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THE WOMEN TELLS



By BTJ

There are many wonders of the world that you cannot put in a bottle to sell. One of the wonders of the world is love. How do you get it? Is there a way to box it and sell it? When you get it, how do you keep it from running away? How much of it can you have?

Author Karla Davis-Luster tackles these questions and much more in her tantalizing novel, *The Woman Tells*. This novel will tackle deep conversations you may have with family, friends, and colleagues on relationships along with their challenges, detours and roadblocks that come along with having a healthy loving relationship.

“I spoke to different races
and find that you must
understand your partner's
upbringing.”



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"This book talks about real life things that happens in a relationship when you're in love and then everyone else steps in," says Karla. "We look at how both people can step out on the relationship with a revengeful attitude only to circle back to see that it wasn't the right thing to do." This novel is so juicy because the reader gets to explore what goes on deep inside each character's psyche. They reveal how they got to a place of infidelity. You are also forced to look at the side of the "other woman", "the side chick", "the home wrecker" or whatever you want to call her... However, we also see that it takes two to tangle. Karla also explores which love is best and which is also a tough nut to crack depending on your upbringing. Karla didn't just pull experiences from her own encounters, but she also talked to a lot of her friends about their relationships and how love plays a big role. "I spoke to different races and find that you must understand your partner's upbringing," explains Karla. Something as simple as how food is prepared or what foods you eat can be an issue. Therefore, if you have a common bond, it makes love stronger."

This is the perfect type of novel to read if you need to work on having a loving, fun, committed relationship. Most of the TV shows people watch today show a betrayal of love, honor, loyalty, and support. "You must learn to love yourself first and know what you want before you can love someone else," explains Karla. "There must be a level of maturity to have a successful relationship and you also have to look at the lifestyle of your partner. The more one is exposed to temptation, it will open the door to step outside the relationship. You must also ask yourself if the person wants to be single or in a committed relationship. If these questions do not get answered at some point, there will be a buildup or an explosion. This is why you must communicate your feelings. Be honest and upfront.

This book is for someone thinking about getting into a relationship, those who just got out of a relationship or maybe you're someone who just does not understand how relationships work. This is a must have Covid-19 quarantine novel. Curl up with your favorite pillow, blanket, snacks, and that person in your relationship. It will definitely spark some lively conversations after each chapter. Pick up your copy today at www.thewomantells.com

For media inquiries, contact Angelo Ellerbee at Double XXposure Media—angelo@doxny.com

Author Karla Davis-Luster tackles relationship issues in her tantalizing novel, *The Woman Tells*.



The Woman Tells

by
Karla Davis-Luster

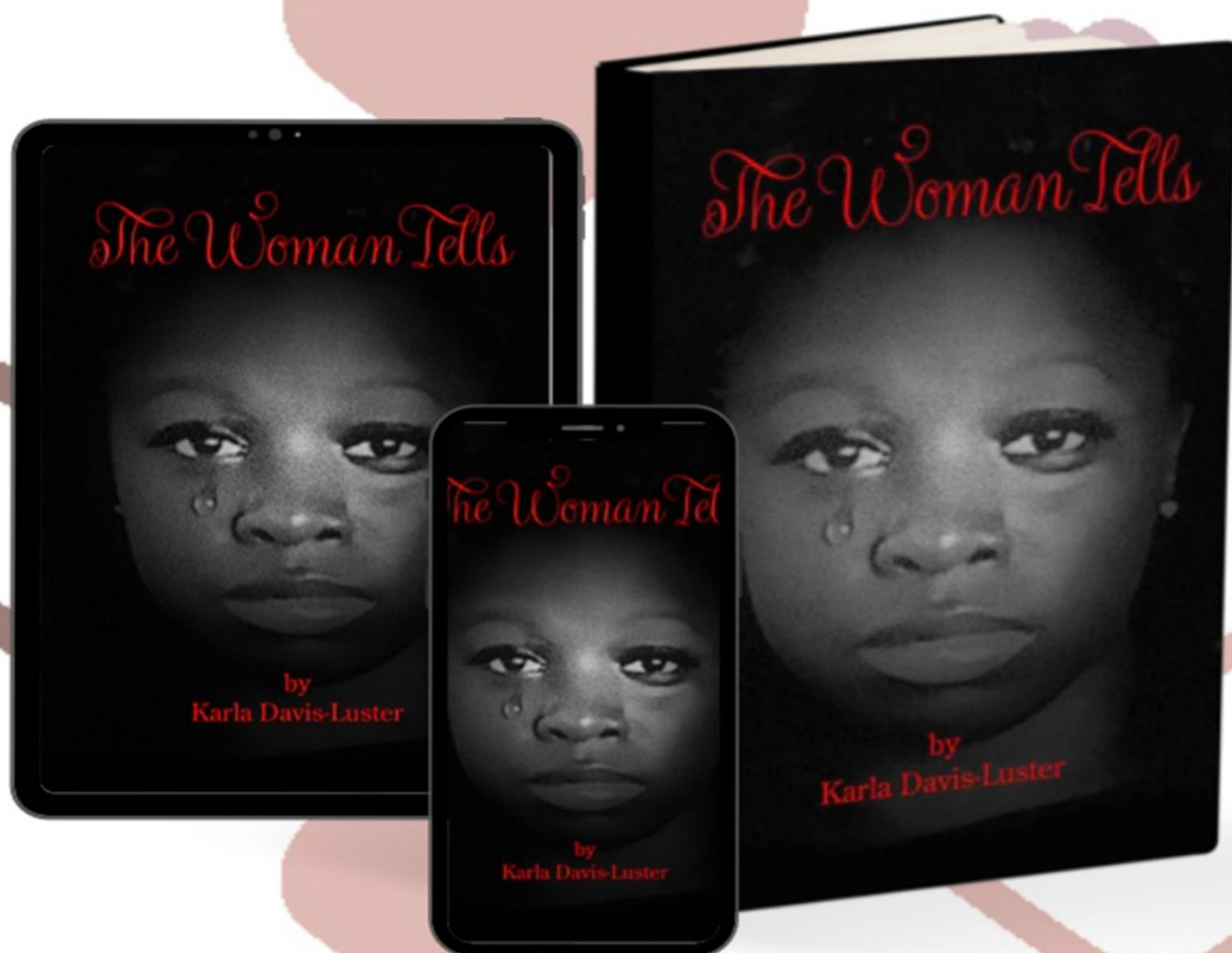


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Catching Up with The Lyrical Style of **YOUNG YE**

By Tuesday

The Ye has been grinding for some time. He had me listen to some hidden records that he's sitting on. Young Ye is a star before his time and I can't wait to see him show the world the life of The Ye.

Young Ye is an, NY in his neighborhood Astoria Houses. He has an all-original style which allows his music to range from UK drill style all the way to R & B. He is the perfect combination of heavy hitting punchlines and swagger as he can effortlessly dance all over an instrumental.

He has been all over the industry including appearances on VH1's Love and Hip Hop and having features with big name artists like Remy Ma. The MC began to gain major recognition after his performance at New York's Irving Plaza, and gracing the stage in SOB's for Hot 97's Who's Next. After dropping three freestyle mixtapes, two original projects, and the viral hit single, "Comer Store" Yé is looking to take things up a notch with his next single "Everything Swish." The bass heavy UK drill style record is a certified street anthem with a stunning visual to match it. Be sure to follow this young phenom as he is sure to be applying nothing but pressure for years to come in this industry. In this exclusive interview we find out what he has been up to during quarantine.

Question: What have you been up to since COVID-19 started?

Young Ye: Staying productive. I've been constantly recording trying to decide what's the right record. At this point I'm realizing that the only way to find out is to release it and let the fans decide.

Question: What's your latest record and/or projects you're working on?

Young Ye: I've got the Intro video which I just dropped. I have a record called, Ain't Me that I'm looking to drop next.

Question: What's your goals for the next six months?

Young Ye: To build my brand into a household name. If I'm not nationwide then at least let my brand be recognized in NYC.

Question: What's your social media handle so everyone can find you?

Young Ye: @2dt_ye on Instagram & Snapchat.

Question: Is there anyone you would like to Shoutout?

Young Ye: My Family, 2DT, Blown Woofer Magazine and Tuesday for a dope interview.



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WOOFLOGY

WHAT ARE THE KEY TERMS YOU
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE EN-
TERTAINMENT INDUSTRY?
TODAY WE'LL JUST GIVE YOU 5



MANAGER – A PERSON WHO CONTROLS THE ACTIVITIES, BUSINESS DEALINGS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CAREER OF AN ENTERTAINER.

PUBLICIST – A PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICIZING A PRODUCT, PERSON, OR COMPANY.

BIO – AN ACCOUNT OF SOMEONE'S LIFE WRITTEN BY SOMEONE ELSE. IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY MANY REFER TO YOUR BIO (SHORT FOR BIOGRAPHY) WHEN THEY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU AND YOUR EXPERIENCES. PEOPLE WILL NEED YOUR BIO WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO HIRE YOU FOR A GIG OR WHEN A REPORTER WANTS TO INTERVIEW YOU.

ONE SHEET – IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY A ONE SHEET IS A SINGLE-PAGE DOCUMENT THAT SHOWCASES A SPECIFIC TALENT WITH THE GOAL OF GETTING HIRED FOR A GIG OR TO GIVE OUT TO PRESS SO THEY WILL KNOW WHO YOU ARE. IT IS NOT MEANT TO SUMMARIZE ALL OF YOUR TALENTS BUT INSTEAD TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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Pretty DIJ Who Is She???? 12 Burning Questions And Answers Revealed

By Tuesday

Pretty DIJ is an artist with style and not scared to speak her feelings and deliver it raw through her music. She's ready to bring the hype and noise to the industry. She has so much to offer her fans as she ensures she's unstoppable.

1. Tell us about how you got started rapping in the music world?

Pretty DIJ: Originally, I started rapping as a hobby. I was on vacation and decided to make a rap and post it to Facebook. To my surprise, people really liked it. I got a lot of good feedback and have been working ever since.

2. How was your name created?

Pretty DIJ: My stage name is a mix of my real name, Kha'dij'ah, and my looks.

3. Where were you born and raised?

Pretty DIJ: I was born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, New York.

4. How has the pandemic affected your musical growth?

Pretty DIJ: The pandemic hasn't really affected my musical growth. It forced me to work smarter and be more creative with my social media when it came to marketing myself because I could no longer rely on hosting gigs and events. Musically, I'm getting better every day.

5. How is it affecting your creative process?

Pretty DIJ: The pandemic hasn't really affected my creative process, but it has given me more time to work on my craft.

6. Who inspired you to do music?

Pretty DIJ: My circumstances were my greatest inspiration but growing up I received inspiration from Lil Kim, Queen Latifah, and Biggie Smalls.



7. How long have you been rapping?

Pretty DIJ: I have been rapping seriously for about two years now.

8. What type of message do you want your audience to get from your music?

Pretty DIJ: The message I'm trying to spread with my music is to be yourself. That is your superpower. Be yourself, unapologetically. Be comfortable in your skin and forget what the haters say.

9. What's your process for creating music? How do you come up with concepts?

Pretty DIJ: My creative process is simple. I take bits and pieces from my day and it all comes together as a song. I could get content from a conversation, a tv show, or social media; every song is different.

10. What is something most people don't know about you?

Pretty DIJ: One of the things most people don't know about me is that I am prone to overthinking and over analyzing.

11. Do you have any shoutouts?

Pretty DIJ: First and foremost, I would like to shoutout my label Feed The Family Entertainment. Also, I would like to shoutout my LTD team and most importantly my family... my mother and my daughter, Brooke.

12. Do you have any upcoming projects or music out right now?

Pretty DIJ: I have my single out called "S.M.D" streaming on all platforms and I'm promoting my EP. So, check me out on my social media platforms for all updates... Instagram @iamprettydij, and Facebook & Twitter... @iamprettydij. I can't wait to share what I'm working on.



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GUN VIOLENCE DESTROYS FAMILIES



Since the beginning of 2020 there have been over 1,000 shootings and almost 300 murders in New York City. In response to the uptick in NYC shootings, the Entertainers 4 Education Alliance / I WILL GRADUATE PROGRAM has teamed up with the parents of slain rapper Bashar Barakah "Pop Smoke" Jackson to warn youth about gun violence. Together, they will release a powerful public service announcement entitled "Gun Violence Destroys Families" featuring Audrey and Greg Jackson - mother and father of rapper Pop Smoke. The PSA will provide a deeply resonant message aimed to discourage the youth from shooting each other.

The idea for the PSA came from Tonya Lewis Taylor, the executive director/-founder of the Entertainers 4 Education Alliance/I WILL GRADUATE Program, who was distraught after seeing consecutive news stories about teens being shot across the city. "We needed to get our youth's attention fast and saw Pop Smoke's polarizing music, life and death as a catalyst for positive change," says Ms. Taylor. "We reached out to his parents who wanted to honor their son's legacy by participating in the video."

We want the youth to considerably weigh the cost of their actions. There is no going back after that trigger is pulled. One moment of anger creates a lifetime of pain and anguish for the loved ones left behind".

The goal of the Gun Violence Destroys Families PSA is to bring more media attention and awareness to the most recent shootings, killings and violence that have been rapidly increasing in New York City since the COVID-19 pandemic. The PSA gives a chilling reminder of the pain of a mother who lost their son to gun violence. Audrey Jackson says, "I'll never see my son run up the stairs, taking them 2 stairs at a time. I will never dance with my son again", showing the cruelty left behind in place of a lost one.

In conjunction with the "Gun Violence Destroys Families" PSA, conversations about preventing further shootings spawned an initiative geared toward educating the youth through an 8-week anti-gun violence program called the "Stop the Violence" program. Middle and high school participants will create and implement different solutions to combat gun violence in their communities.

Link to PSA here - <https://vimeo.com/479021286/361d69341c>

Feel free to call (201-224-6570) or email angelo@dxnyc.com for inquiries.

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**NORTH
PHILLY...**

**THE
HOME
OF...**

LADY BOSS

There's a clear distinction between hearing someone and actually listening to them. Make no mistake; LADY BOSS is definitely someone that people need to listen to. Hailing from North Philly, the lyrical dynamo pulls no punches on the mic and is as deep as her name suggests. The meaning behind the name is simple – "I am a lady who just happens to be a boss".

Born in Philadelphia PA, LADY BOSS has lived in the war-torn North Philly area all her life. "Struggle has always been part of my reality says LADY BOSS, but it is the struggle that has made me who and what I am today". At the tender age of 10 she completed her first song, "Knowledge Is Power" and would perform it all day long on the Karaoke machine that she had received for Christmas that year.

Fast forward to age 13; LADY BOSS took on menial jobs in fast food joints to make a little money to pay for studio time while at the same time, attending school. LADY BOSS spent most of her teen years preparing to be the best female rapper that she could possibly be. She would rap and dance at local events as well as entertain her peers in school. Influenced by some of the greats like Queen Latifah, Da Brat and many others, it was LL Cool J's "I need love" that made her want to write real life stories which consequently shaped her sound. "I've loved music since I was a baby but when hip-hop caught my attention, I couldn't get enough," she says. "I just listened to different styles—from artists having fun with it to those that spoke their minds and painted real life stories of their reality.

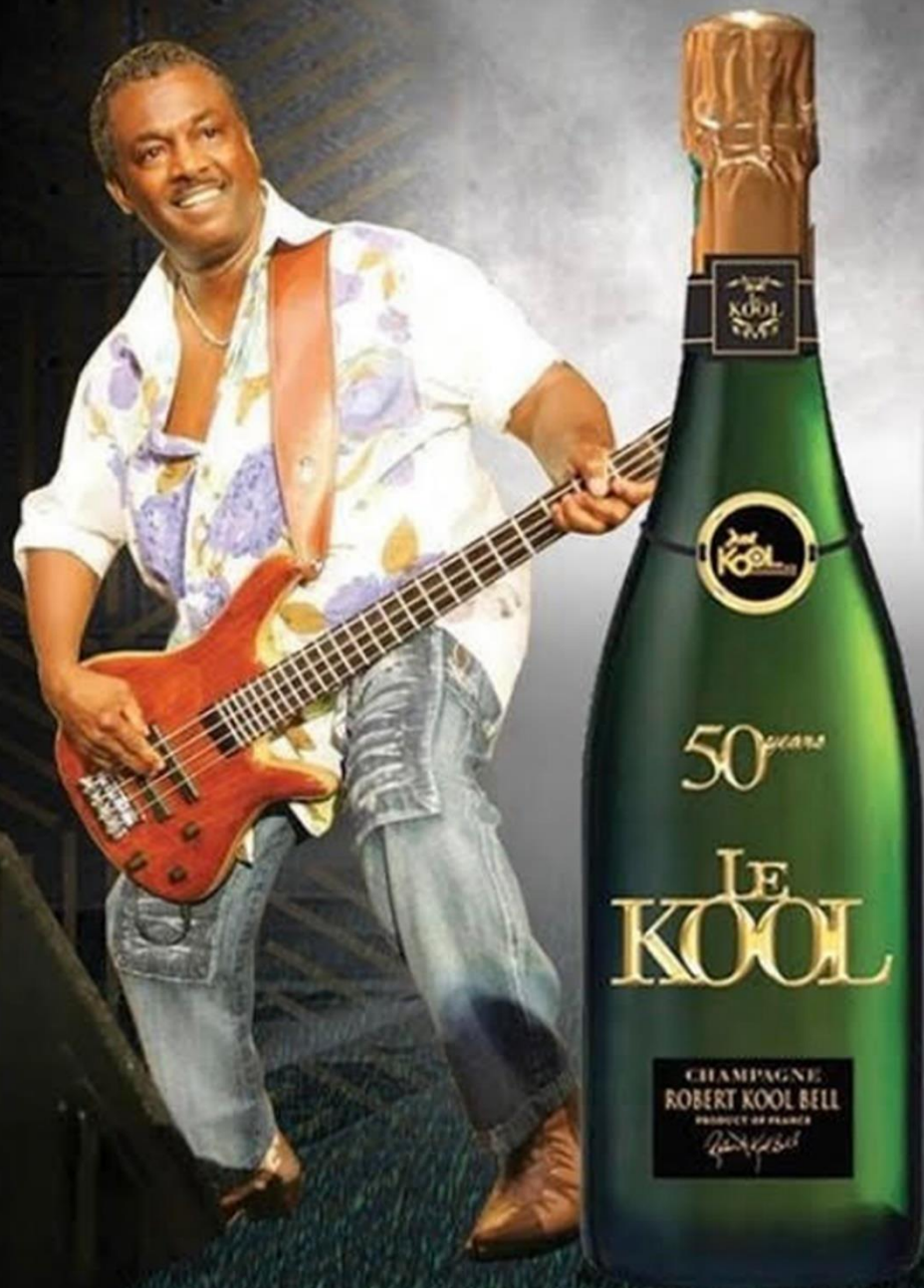
As her skill developed, LADY BOSS realized that rappin' around the way was fine, but her talents needed to be heard by the masses and began hittin' bigger studios with better sound. In January 2004 she recorded and distributed her first mix tape entitled, "Real Boss Talk". She sold well over 2000 copies that year at \$5.00 per copy, solely by word of mouth and hand to hand sales. Since then, the femme fatale rapper's buzz continues to grow as she uses the internet and live performances to solidify her name in today's entertainment industry. "I feel like, if music is your passion, your life, you have to grind hard no matter if you're male or female," she says. "My approach is 100 percent, whole-heartedly, either I do it with everything that I got, or I don't do it all."



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THE JODY WATLEY EXPERIENCE

By Belinda Trotter-James

It has been 34 years since the release of Jody Watley's debut album. If you don't know who this legendary icon is, keep reading and I will take you down memory lane when I interviewed her a few years ago. She told me, "It's a blessing to still be able to release quality music."

Jody Vanessa Watley is a legendary Grammy award winning singer; songwriter; record producer and fashion style icon. What makes Jody's career so unique is that there are so many genres and so many facets to it. She was one third of the group Shalamar and was the first in 1989 to collaborate with Eric B and Rakim to include a rap verse on one of her R&B records. The rap, dance, pop, R&B collaboration entitled, "Friends" crossed over on the top 10 charts.

Before going solo her time with Shalamar taught her a lot about the business. "I think that it taught me how to be on stage and what to do when things don't go right," remembers Jody. "When we started out it wasn't glamorous, it was all about paying your dues and performing in places where there were only a few people. I learned how much work it takes to be a professional artist and how to be adaptable". Jody was so talented that she was the groups choreographer; she did the wardrobe, costuming and the album cover design. The entire Shalamar look was conceptualized by Jody. As her solo career grew, you could still see the continuation of her strong sense of style throughout her career. "I also learned how to work with men being that I was the only woman as a teenager starting out with Shalamar", reveals Jody. "It was very difficult at times to deal with things such as sexism, verbal abuse and sometimes physical abuse. I had to learn how to deal with it and how to move on in life and have joy. Life is too short to not enjoy it. Now I am always trying to find ways to enjoy it. Even through trouble times you can look back on it and say, 'Wow, I learned from that'. It is always about moving forward".

If you talk to Jody's mom, she will tell you that Jody has been a performer since the age of four. Growing up in Chicago Jody knew that she was always going to be something. "I always wanted to be a singer; performer; writer and fashion designer. Now I get to do all those things through my career," remembers Jody. "I was the child that was a go-getter. I would always be looking for opportunities. At one point I told my mom I was going to have my own modeling school and have my own business. These were things I said to my mother as a little girl and I was able to build upon all of my dreams". As a child, Jody would write poetry to escape from the challenges she was having as a little girl growing up. The family life she had with her mom and dad ended in divorced. "My dad always said I was going to be a star", remembers Jody. "Before I knew what a star was, I used to think he was talking about the stars in the sky."

R&B singer Jackie Wilson is Jody's godfather; therefore, show business was something that she was always around. Her parents knew Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin who have known Jody since she was a little girl. Her father and grandfather were ministers, therefore the family moved around frequently and lived in a few states. For some people moving around can be traumatic especially for children who may have gotten comfortable with their surroundings and made friends. However, it looks like the constant moving prepared Jody to be very adaptable with life and how to deal with all types of people from all ethnicities and income levels. At one point her dad had lost everything and he was trying to get the family back on track. They ended up moving to LA which was perfect for Jody because she was the type of child that was always looking for an opportunity. It paid off because her career has taken her all around the world. She even lived in London for a few years.

When you talk to musicians and artists who started years ago, they will tell you how much the music industry has changed. "The music industry as we know it is gone," says Jody. "When I first started out as a professional recording artist, you went on tour or performed at clubs. Independent promoters would book acts, but now everything is really difficult if you're not associated with some of the big corporations who control all of the venues", recalls Jody. "When I first started there were independent privately owned radio stations all around the country. You could drive from the West Coast to the East Coast and hear different types of music. It was original music because stations could play what they wanted to play. They would make a playlist, a double-play, or a triple play list. DJ's could play an entire album of an artist if they wanted to. I remember when Stevie Wonder's song "In The Key Of Life" played on the radio. I sat in my mom's car and listened to the whole thing commercial free. That would never happen today." In the 90's everything became deregulated and that made it more corporate. You cannot call in to a radio station to request a song; it's already automated. The DJ's don't pick what they play; they get told what to play. The freedom to choose what is played is over and therefore the diversity in the music is gone as well.



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Today there are major changes on how people get their music and Jody realizes that she had to change the way fans can get her music. "People don't really buy music the way they used to because there is more competition for their time. The Internet, video games and television can take up a lot of an individual's time. With the attention span of fans being so short, it's all about quality over quantity. Nobody needs to listen to 20 songs of filler. Just give me the good stuff", laughs Jody.

"Another way technology has changed the industry is that fans no longer have to wait for a record company to tell them when an artist will release new material. All you have to do is Google the artist name to get your update", Jody adds, "If I'm curious about certain artists, I would just Google them and find their Twitter or Facebook page. I don't have to wait to see if the video plays on BET or MTV anymore. I can just go to YouTube. It's all about reality TV now therefore, everything is more accessible and older fans must go on You Tube because they will not hear certain songs on commercial radio anymore. Technology is just changing the habits of how people discover music."

With the Internet and social media dominating the way we live, fans, colleagues and artists can interact with each other easily. "I met Erykah Badu on Twitter", says Jody. "She is one of my twitter friends and has given me high praises. It's great because you can hook up directly with the artist. Back in the day you had to go through a manager and hope the artist got the message that someone wanted to collaborate with them."

With the popularity of the Internet Jody has been able to independently market her music directly to her fans. "I just love my fans", says Jody. People love Jody's music and that's why she tries to find new and innovative ways to get her music out to the fans. In the past her music was primarily dance, electronic and house. "I've been doing house music since the 90's. I really wanted to find a way to bring together some of the modern sounds that I've been doing over the past decade and blend that with those classic grooves," explains Jody. "I am very active with Twitter and Facebook along with my blog writings on my website. I've been able to expose fans to different types of music, not just my own". Fans always tell me their favorite songs. I love to sing my classics in my concerts because it is like a musical journey. I give the fans the classics and I put a new twist on some of them to keep it fresh for me and for them. I mix it up with the new music because I am an artist who is progressing. I don't want to keep people thinking about the good old days. I want them to make new memories and think that the good days are now. You're alive, we're alive, we're all breathing so be fabulous now and don't keep thinking that you used to be fabulous; be fabulous now."

Jody has always marched to the beat of her own drum whether it's with the jumbo earrings or high fashion outfits. Jody revealed to me that back in the day the record companies didn't understand the bridge between fashion and music. When Harper's Bazaar asked Jody to be in the magazine, the record company couldn't understand what a fashion magazine had to do with selling records. Jody had to pay her own way to get to New York for the shoot because the record company wouldn't pay for it. Now the record companies understand and that's why you see Beyoncé, Rihanna and other girls inside the magazines." I can only guess that Jody Watley helped to open that door. The labels were only worried about crossover backlash or what the urban audience was going to think.

The advice Jody leaves for those following in her footsteps is to know who you are. "Know yourself and don't wait for somebody to tell you who you are; know who you are", advises Jody. "You have to be strong and don't be afraid to say, 'no'. I've never been afraid to say 'no' no matter what the repercussions would be. Stay true to yourself and hold onto that because when all is said and done, you will have to live with yourself. This industry will chew you up and spit you out. We have seen sadly enough artists who became self-destructive losing the balance between show business and life. Living your life is number one and you must keep that in mind. Don't just aspire to be famous and/or rich; aspire to be joyful and great in what you do. This industry can make you lose yourself and you might end up doing all kinds of things out of your character. I've never written or recorded a song that I felt I couldn't sing 25 or 30 years later and feel good about it."

Jody's last words of advice for aspiring artists was like getting a golden key. "You have to always hold onto your authentic self in this business and watch your own back. Never believe that someone is going to watch your back better than you."



Jody's debut album 34 years ago.



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THE BANKS THIS WAY

By Tuesday

Rap artist Sky Banks is an aspiring female rapper from Brooklyn, NY. She is known to be lyrically gifted with a versatile flow. As she is not new to fame, Sky Banks was born into the limelight. Her father is the legendary Jojo from the R&B group Jodeci. Sky Banks is the next big thing out of NYC. Her talent has landed her to hit stages with artists such as Dream-doll, Chinese Kitty, and Lou Got Cash just to name a few. She also signed her first record contract at 18 years old however, she is currently an independent artist. As she makes her way in this male dominated industry, she is stamping her logo everywhere she goes as "DaBanksway".

If feels good to hang out with Sky because she's been working so hard to showcase her craft not just because she's a celebrity child, but her grind is all her. Sky Banks has made her own lane and she's on the rise to be the best she can be and she's not going let anyone get in the way of her creative space.

Who is Sky Banks?

1. Tell us about how you got started rapping in the music world?

SKY BANKS: I always had a passion for writing. In school we used to have cyphers singing and rapping in the staircases. Then one day my cousin asked me to come to the studio with him to lay down a track. It was up from there.

2. Is your name something you created or is it your birth name?

SKY BANKS: My Name is Skylah and I was always called Sky for short then I just added the Banks when Facebook first started, and people called me that, so I ran with it.

3. Where were you born and raised?

SKY BANKS: I'm from Brooklyn, NY; Flatbush to be exact.

4. How has COVID affected your musical growth if it has or not?

SKY BANKS: I will say COVID-19 actually allowed me to tap into my creativity, make a lot of music and learn more about myself as an artist. It actually helped.

5. Who inspired you to do music?

SKY BANKS: My mom and dad inspired me to do music. Growing up I remember my mom bringing me to the studio, (she used to rap as well) and my dad is a celebrity singer.



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6. How long have you been rapping?

SKY BANKS: I have been doing music for years but as for me branding myself in the industry, I came in around 2017.

7. What type of message do you want your audience to get from your music?

SKY BANKS: I want my audience to bump to my music and be able to relate to whatever they're going through. I want them to be fearless and be unique. I say that because I have so many different types of music with different meanings and stories behind it.

8. What's your process in coming up with concepts for your music?

SKY BANKS: Sometimes I write it out, or I freestyle my songs.

9. What are a few things most people don't know about you?

SKY BANKS: What people may not know is I love to cook, I have a soft spot for babies, I like writing short stories, my dad is a celebrity, I love swimming and I come from one of the largest notorious families in Brooklyn.

10. Any shout outs?

SKY BANKS: Shout out to all the DaBanksway supporters. Shout out to T.M.E (Talk Money) Gang, my mom and family.

11. Are there any new projects or songs you're releasing?

SKY BANKS: I'm currently working on my EP that I'm extremely excited about.

12. How do you feel about being a female in a male dominated industry?

SKY BANKS: I feel like being a female artist in this industry is not as challenging as it used to be especially when you are a hot artist and people respect you as an artist.

13. Where can people find your music or follow you on social media?

SKY BANKS: People can find me on Instagram: @skybanksmusic
Twitter: Skybanksmusic and my music on all music platforms.



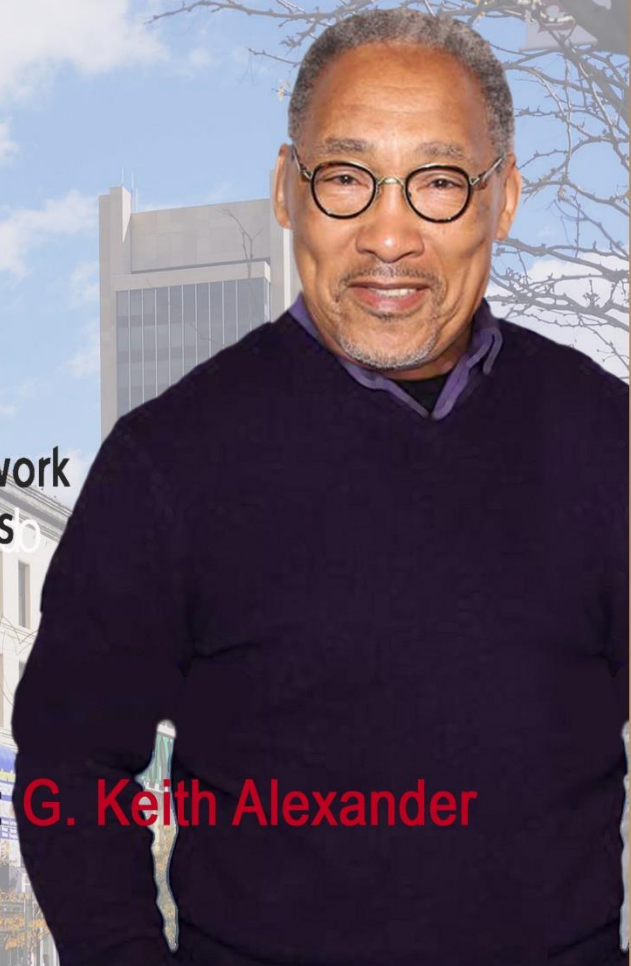
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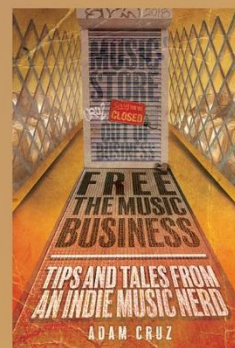
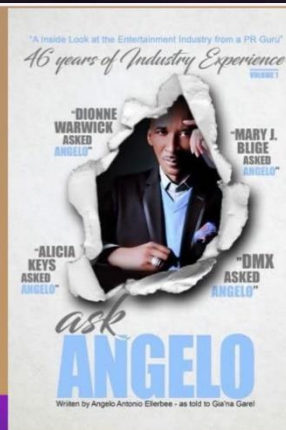
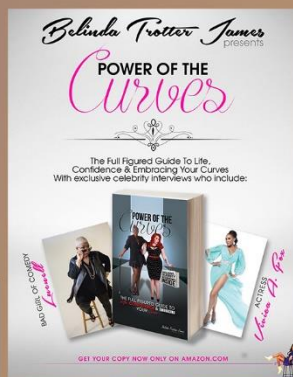
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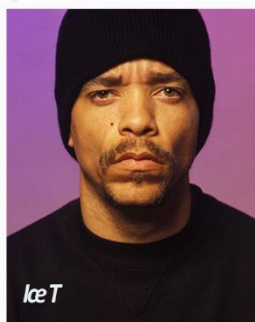
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WOOFER BLOWER



Some of our most popular rappers have got the acting bug and are very believable characters. **Ice T** stars in *SVU* and *The Mediator*; **Queen Latifah** is *The Equalizer*; **LL Cool J** stars in *NCIS Los Angeles* and you can see **50 Cent** in *For Life* and *PowerBook III: Raising Kanan*. Check your local listings for to see for yourself how good they are in their roles. **Kim Kardashian** filed for divorce from **Kanye West** after nearly seven years of marriage. **Serena Williams** has been chasing her quest to win her 24th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open. Unfortunately, **Naomi Osaka** stood in her way and will move on to play American Jennifer Brady.

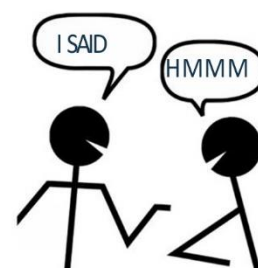


Rapper **Cyhi the Prynce** was involved in a highway shooting. The suspects shot at the car Cyhi was driving. Cyhi doesn't know if this was a case of mistaken identity or revenge for something he did years ago. Cyhi says he wants whoever tried to kill him to know that he does not want revenge. He just wants to understand and get closure. Check out Cyhi's Bar Code Digital Series coming to you on music streaming services.

Jay-Z teams up and sell half of his champagne brand to the luxury brand LVMH. **Philippe Schaus**, CEO for Moët Hennessy is a major organization, support and distribution power. This is a good look for Jay-Z as he once again adds a wealth of opportunities to his empire. **Percy "Master P" Miller**, Founder of No Limits reveals his plans on purchasing Reebok and creating other brands including his Moneyatti brand.



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