

50

Continuing our celebration of 50 years of Hip-Hop

urban xpressions  
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july - august 2023

Plus!  
Unleashed Power:  
A Riveting Recap of  
Dr. Cheryl Wood's  
Stage Domination  
Summit

Meet your favorite  
cast member from  
the award-winning  
TV show  
*THE KINGFISH*

"Mr.  
Philadelphia"

CHARLIE  
Mack

HIS 50-YEAR HIP-HOP CELEBRATION:  
Epic Mixtape Live With DJ Jazzy Jeff & Dougie Fresh!



# LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



Dear Urban X-pressions Community,

Summer, summer, summertime! I'm certain you found yourself singing as you read that. Indeed, it's summertime, and here we are, proudly presenting our fifth edition of the Urban X-pressions NewsMag. We absolutely love to share the inspiring stories of our dynamic community.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for either picking up a copy or visiting our website to read all about it. Your support fuels our mission, enabling us to share our stories far and wide.

Now, I have a question for you. Did you grow up watching Urban X-pressions? If our content forms a part of your cherished childhood memories, I am eager to hear from you. We have some exciting new initiatives underway, and I can't wait to connect with

you and share these developments. Please take a moment to reach out and send me an email at [urbanxpressionsvideo@gmail.com](mailto:urbanxpressionsvideo@gmail.com) or follow us on Instagram @urbanxpressions. I look forward to hearing from you.

As we step into the future, I cordially invite all our followers to become esteemed members of Urban X-pressions. With a nominal membership fee of just \$48 a year, you can bolster our brand and gain access to all our exclusive new offerings. Plus, your membership fee is tax-deductible, making it a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Stay tuned to UrbanXpressionsRadio.com, as we have some exciting plans up our sleeve. I assure you, you won't want to miss out on what's coming up!

Finally, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your continued support of Urban X-

pressions. Please follow us on Instagram @urbanxpressions, and don't forget to tune in to UrbanXpressionsRadio.com. We have an exciting journey ahead of us, and we can't wait to share our vision with you. Together, let's continue to strengthen our community.

Best regards,

Shelly "Shell" Williams  
#PhillysOprah  
Executive Producer of Urban X-pressions



**ALL THINGS MUSIC**

**WAR**

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*Lady Alma*

*after 7*

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# WEBB PLAZA: A MONUMENT OF UNITY - HONORING THE LEGACY OF BRUCE WEBB IN THE HEART OF NORTH PHILADELPHIA



22<sup>nd</sup> and Ridge Ave, not only sold the latest gospel, jazz, R&B, and hip-hop music, but it served as a ray of hope and a beacon of light for the community and society at large.

Bruce Webb's family attended the reception with great honor in his stead. Forever, the Webb family stands on the shoulders of their beloved relative and

leader with the charge to build upon the legacy that Bruce Webb left behind. Two of his nephews took after their uncle as community mobilizers and social and serial entrepreneurs, Minister Dr. William Webb IV, hereafter Minister Webb and Shawn Webb. Together, they galvanized the Webb family. With a huge turnout, the family presented a letter of appreciation to the LNPCDC, as well as acknowledged other involved parties.

Moreover, Minister Webb gave a brief speech about the extraordinary life of Bruce Webb. He admonished all attendees to press through difficult times, keeping up the good fight. In one powerful statement, Minister Webb extorted, "This day marks significant progress in the people's ability to get things done when they unite and come on one accord."

Lastly, along with Minister Webb stood his wife and business partner, Pastor Dr. Latisha Webb, who plays a huge part in all their accomplishments. She loved Bruce Webb from the moment they met and exudes with gratitude for the publications in SCOOP USA spearheaded by Bruce Webb. Dr. Latisha Webb uses the process of creating art, YouTube videos, and other content to help prominent women and wives overcome, reframe, and recover from painful experiences. Follow Dr. Webb on all social media platforms @justlatisha. She and many others truly miss one of Philadelphia's greatest, Bruce Webb.



Contributing Writers: Dr. Latisha Webb and Minister Dr. William Webb IV  
Photo Credit: William Andrews.

On June 17, 2023, during the Juneteenth holiday weekend, something truly amazing happened in the Lower North section of North Philadelphia that went down in history. Business owners and community members erected the completed state-of-the-art plaza located at [2077 Ridge Ave](#). More importantly, they dedicated the plaza to a local black business owner and community leader, the late Bruce Cornell Webb, hereafter Bruce Webb, and therefore named the edifice Webb Plaza.

The Lower North Philadelphia Community Development Center (LNPCDC) largely holds responsibility for this achievement. Local community members effectively advocated to local developers, politicians, as well as the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), for this honor. Mr. Webb, the proud owner of Webb's Department Store, a record shop that sold everything from albums to CDs to record needles to all things music, passed away on November 23, 2017. Best known for his activism, love of his fellow man, mentorship, and the huge behind-the-scenes role he played in the Civil Rights Movement, Bruce Webb shared and received love from many. Webb's Department Store, located at

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**SHELLY SHELL WILLIAMS**

Billboard Award Winning  
Executive Producer of Urban X-pressions,  
NewsMag Publisher and Coach



# "CHARLIE MACK'S 50-YEAR HIP-HOP CELEBRATION: EPIC MIXTAPE LIVE WITH DJ JAZZY JEFF & DOUGIE FRESH!"



Charlie Mack did it, y'all! He promised us a night that would make history, and oh boy, did he deliver. The Charlie Mack Hip Hop "Mixtape Live" concert celebrating 50 years of hip hop went down in the annals of music history, not just as an extraordinary showcase of talent but also as a world record-breaking event. For one night, the heartbeat of hip-hop pulsed stronger than ever, echoing through the hallowed halls of Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic, New Jersey, as fifty hip-hop legends took to the stage in an unforgettable celebration.

From the moment the concert kicked off, you could feel the electricity in the air, a palpable energy fueled by the collective awe of witnessing something extraordinary. The lineup of performers was like a living, breathing timeline of hip

hop's evolution - from pioneers like the Sugar Hill Gang, Roxanne Shante, and Kurtis Blow to the titans of the 90s like EPMD, Monie Love, Onyx, DJ Kool, Tracey Lee, JJ Fad, Lady of Rage, and many, many more. The audience swayed, cheered, and danced, lost in a moment that transcended time.

Our hosts for the evening, Lady B of 107.9 WRNB, Patty Jackson & Mimi Brown of WDAS 105.3, kept the energy at an all-time high, their excitement radiating through the crowd. Each introduction of an artist was met with deafening applause, a testament to the love and respect for those who laid the foundation of hip-hop.

DJ Jazzy Jeff worked the turntables, perfectly blending the mixtape, expertly weaving the narrative of hip hop's journey with his inimitable mixes.

His words before the concert had foreshadowed the joy of the night. DJ Kool talked about meeting artists he'd only ever played but never met - it was indeed a 'class reunion' as Yo-Yo had predicted.

And speaking of Yo Yo, her comment perfectly summed up the evening. It was a like a class reunion, a gathering of old friends and legends, a celebration of shared history and the remarkable journey of a genre that had come to shape the world of music as we know it.

But among the exuberant celebration, an enduring narrative was beautifully woven. Media veteran Shelly Shell Williams joined forces with India Alston, the bright, curious, and impressively talented 16-year-old daughter of Charlie Mack. With Shelly's wisdom guiding her, India, armed with a keen sense of understanding, was tasked with documenting the monumental event, her interviews brilliantly bridging the generational gap between classic and new-school hip hop. India interviewed Dougie Fresh, legendary DJ Jazzy Jeff, as well as his son, Amir Mitchell-Townes, who had a recurring role of Isaiah "Zay" Babineaux in "Girl Meets World."

Charlie Mack brought the family. A few of his children and grandchildren, with his son Charles passionately working behind the scenes on Charlie's events since he was a young'n.

This profound mentor-mentee relationship reflected the evening's spirit, symbolizing the unbroken continuum of hip-hop's past, present, and future. As we honor the 50-year journey of hip hop, let's also celebrate the assurance of its future, safeguarded by passionate young talents like India Alston under the watchful eye of legends. **"Well, it feels great to be represented hip-hop when they started, they said it wasn't gonna last... here we are 50 years later standing strong."** - Crash Crew member discussing the longevity of hip-hop. This was a real Guinness Book of World Records type of vibe. 50 artists, one stage, one night - it was an audacious goal, but under the skilled orchestration of DJ Jazzy Jeff, Doug E Fresh, and the visionary Charlie Mack, it was a goal that we will see if achieved. **Charlie Mack fondly remembers the time when DJ Jazzy Jeff invited him to experience his life and travels. According to Charlie, Jeff said, "Come on, let me take you around the world with me."**

When the final notes faded away, the crowd erupted into thunderous applause, a standing ovation for the incredible feat they had just witnessed. The night was not just about the music, the rhymes, or even the record-breaking feat; it was a testament to the enduring power of hip hop, a genre born in the streets of the Bronx over 50 years ago, became a global phenomenon.

**"Dougie Fresh, celebrating 50 years of hip hop, remarks: 'Seeing them all come out, showing love for each other, was truly moving. It wasn't selfish; it was cooperative. They understood we had to cut back on time. That unselfish spirit, that's the essence of hip hop.'"**

So here's to Charlie Mack and his audacious vision. He did it, hip-hop heads! He gifted us with a night of timeless music, history, and unity. And for those blessed enough to have been there, it was a night we'll carry in our hearts forever, a perfect tribute to the art form we love. 50 years of hip hop - and here's to 50 more!









# WORD ON THE STREET

## STAGE DOMINATION SUMMIT 2023: A VOYAGE OF EMPOWERMENT AND METAMORPHOSIS



Picture this - a vibrant July day Washington, D.C., pulsating with zest and energy, and I am amidst a swarm of 400 eager minds. We all converged and walked the halls of the Capital Turnaround; we were greeted with each step showcasing a positive message, Step into your possibilities. You are worthy; You are called. Right from the entrance, we knew this wasn't just any summit but the "Stage Domination: Unleash Your Brilliance & Transform Lives," a unique event etched in the minds of those who attended, an unforgettable voyage of transformation.

Amidst this vibrant gathering, the atmosphere was electric with anticipation. We were about to share space with the titans of motivational speaking - Dr. Cheryl Wood, Lisa Nichols, Gloria Mayfield Banks, and Trent Shelton. The thought alone sparked a thrill, an exhilaration that was both awe-inspiring and deeply personal. We were on the brink of receiving wisdom and tools that held the potential to revolutionize our lives. It felt extraordinary, yet poignantly real.

Roll back to the COVID-era, when the world came to a standstill, many sought opportunities to evolve and reinvent themselves. This

was my introduction to Dr. Cheryl Wood, which happened at the onset of this transformation period during a free virtual summit led by Lisa Nichols. Dr. Wood's profound words resonated with me so deeply that I mentioned to God that I would like to meet her and be in her influential circle. Then our paths virtually crossed again through the computer the very next day at the Sisters in Business (SIB) event, where she was a speaker.

From that point onwards, our interactions evolved, which is why I now get to use my gifts to write about the Stage Domination Summit, and I had the privilege of interviewing her, along with Lisa Nichols, Gloria Mayfield Banks, and Trent Shelton. This is a testimony to God's divine plan and the fruitfulness of perseverance.

Dr. Wood, the curator of the Stage Domination Summit, is a living embodiment of the Fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, forbearance, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, underscored the significance of contributing to the world with our unique gifts. Her commitment to empowering the future generation was palpable as she offered complimentary entry to young people under 25. Her gesture spoke volumes, shown through her own leg-

acy and involving her children, such as her daughter Jayana Wood and two sons.

I had a chance to interview Dr. Cheryl's daughter, who is an author and aspiring speaker. Jayana expressed her deep admiration for her mother, "I love you so much. I wouldn't be the woman I am today without you...you're my best friend, I love you so much."

Lisa Nichols, renowned globally for her captivating talks, did not disappoint. I had the chance to interact with Lisa Nichols, which was especially enlightening. As attendees eagerly queued for photos in the VIP area, I opted to maximize this golden opportunity.

I suggested opening the floor to questions, to which Lisa responded positively, encouraging participants to ask about finances, mindset, or any lingering doubts. She advocated for seeking knowledge over pictures, saying, "Don't miss your time."

I asked my question; in answering my question about her tireless motivation, she eloquently replied, "I measure the results and how people's lives change. I'm an action-based coach. I coach

so that transformation occurs." Lisa's words were a testament to her unfailing dedication to empowering others.

Trent Shelton, the world's leading mindset specialist and self-worth mentor, stressed the importance of taking the first step. His potent advice, "Just start. Don't overthink it. Focus on your 'why,' your reason," was coupled with the announcement of his upcoming book "Protect Your Peace."

Gloria Mayfield Banks. Known for her record-breaking career with Mary Kay as the company's #1 for 6 years. In my interview with Gloria Mayfield Banks, she argues that network marketing can be a lucrative path, but not without skill and commitment. This dialogue emphasizes the importance of learning sales techniques and harnessing personal skills, with Banks asserting it's more about skill than personality.

In addition to interviewing these phenomenal Speaking leaders, I took copious notes while they were on stage; Trent Shelton said something that rang true for me and, I'm sure for many of us. His focus was on actionable change. He emphasized

that too many of us absorb motivational content without implementing it, stating that we're only a choice away from a new beginning and a commitment away from a new life.

In essence, the "Stage Domination" summit was a dynamic confluence of inspiration, enlightenment, and practical knowledge. Dr. Cheryl Wood's empowering words "Honor your gifts by telling your story and Unleash your brilliance that no one else can duplicate."

She urges us to invest more in ourselves, not on ourselves, nurture our dreams, take risks, and maintain adaptability in the face of detours.

The key message was clear and compelling: dominate your narrative, believe in your abilities, stay committed to your vision, and the stage will be yours to dominate. All we need to do is trust, commit, separate, nurture, invest, leverage, explore, and, most importantly, unleash.





# WORD ON THE STREET

## PHILLY ROARS: PHEL'S HIGH MOVIE PREMIERE TAKES THE RED CARPET BY STORM



"Philly's Finest Hour: 'Phels High' Premieres to Rapturous Applause, Reveling in Red Carpet Success and Audience Acclaim"

Lights, camera, action! The City of Brotherly Love was set ablaze as the much-anticipated movie "Phels High" made its triumphant premiere in Philadelphia. The Studio Movie Grill on 69th Street in Upper Darby, PA, transformed into a scene of fervor and cinematic grandeur on a memorable evening, June 25th. Director, writer, and producer Kevin J. Nelson of 1804 Films showcased his latest masterpiece, with the audience response solidifying its position as a tour de force in contemporary cinema. Omari Hardwick (*Power*) plays Principal Floyd, head administrator of Phels High, and is also the father

to Caesar Floyd, one of the four children trapped inside with the gunman. Elise Neal (*The Black Hamptons*) plays Sergeant Tina Lloyd, ex-wife of Principal Floyd and mother of Caesar Floyd. TJ Atoms (*Wu-Tang Clan: American Saga*) played the lead role of Beef, the bullied student. Marc John Jefferies (*Get Rich Or Die Trying*), Allen Maldonado (*The Wonder Years*), and Michael Hyatt (*Snowfall*) have also joined the cast. As well as a phenomenal ensemble of Philly first-timers and vets like Todd Anthony is an American Actor. He is a native of Philadelphia, Pa., who plays LT. Watkins.

Producers include Michael Arcell and Kevin J. Nelson, with Janelle Coleman and Rovelt Laforet serving as Executive Producers. This talented group contributed to the electrifying ener-

gy terpiece. Notably, of @Shellyshellwilliams conducted riveting red-carpet interviews that provided an engaging prelude to the film.

the premiere, illuminating the red carpet with their charisma and star power. Set and filmed at Shoemaker Mastery Charter's Fels High School, "Phels High" presents a compelling drama that skillfully navigates the complexities of friendship, adversity, and the courage to take a stand. The movie explored the resolute spirit of a bullied teen and his friends who band together, confronting their fears and battling the consequences that followed.

The evening was a whirlwind of excitement, as audience members had the opportunity to interact with the stars of "Phels High." The magnetic charm of the actors added to the thrill, their candid interactions and discussions revealing the blood, sweat, and tears that went into crafting this mas-

terpiece. Notably, of @Shellyshellwilliams conducted riveting red-carpet interviews that provided an engaging prelude to the film.

This extraordinary event was masterminded by James Washington, the founder of the Briefcase Group LLC, renowned for his talent in creating groundbreaking events. His expertise was undeniably showcased as he successfully hosted this sold-out event. As the crowd poured in, it was clear that "Phels High" had already won over Philadelphia.

All credit to the phenomenal team at 1804 Films, Kevin J. Nelson, Rashanda Nicole, and every person who invested their heart and soul into this film. Their collective dedication and passion translated into a moving cinematic experience, a testament to their hard work. The film has not only left an indelible mark on its hometown audience, but it

also promises to captivate worldwide viewers soon. And so, as the credits rolled on this unforgettable night, the anticipation for the worldwide release of "Phels High" has only amplified.

In sum, "Phels High" set the bar high - a testament to the strength of the human spirit, the power of friendship, and the magic of cinema. A true masterpiece, it offered a potent blend of drama and authenticity that promises to resonate with audiences around the globe. @phelshighmovie



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SCAN FOR CLASSES



# WORD ON THE STREET

## CONNECT WITH YOUR FAVORITE ACTOR FROM THE CAST OF "THE KINGFISH"

"I came to see Flip, X, and Cupcake. Where are they?"

Members of "The Kingfish" cast made various public appearances, meet & greets, autograph signings, and general promotional stops throughout the Philadelphia area over the past several months to meet the fans, promote the show and thank everyone for their support. Regretfully, not all the cast members were available to attend these events, leaving many fans frustrated. That is understandable. People travel to a venue to meet their favorite actors, take pic-

tures, and get their signed merch. But when the people they came to see are unavailable, it is disappointing.

This year, several of the leading actors in "The Kingfish" Part 1 were in high school. As students, Britt ("Flip"), Xavier ("X"), Jordan ("Cupcake"), and McKayla ("Lucy") were overwhelmed with schoolwork, school plays, athletics, other extra curriculums, and family obligations, leaving little time available to make public appearances for the show. Of the high schoolers, only Xavier was

able to attend a few events. For the forthcoming "The Kingfish 2," even more of the eight lead actors are high schoolers; with the addition of Noelle ("Penny"), Ayana ("Freddie"), India ("CJ"), and Brandon ("DJ"), the challenge could continue.

So, to give fans of the show an opportunity to interact with their favorite actors from the series, the production company is giving everyone a chance to engage directly with their favorite actors. Here's how it works: If, for example, someone

wants to interact with Jordan ("Cupcake"), the person can (1) go to the website [www.kingfishshow.com/cast](http://www.kingfishshow.com/cast), (2) find their favorite actor, (3) click "Connect," (4) add your message for the cast member, and (5) click "Submit." Your message will be sent to the actor and once they receive the message, they will personally respond to you by email at their first opportunity. This is a terrific way to engage one-on-one with your favorite cast members, and it is free!

For "The Kingfish 2," the

actors have committed to making themselves more available to attend events and get out to meet their fans and supporters. In the meantime, supporters and fans of the show can go to the website and engage with any of the actors one-on-one.



MEET YOUR FAVORITE CAST MEMBER

TAYLOR THE KINGFISH 2

JORDAN

AYANA

NOELLE

INDIA

BRITT

GO TO: [WWW.KINGFISHSHOW.COM/CONNECT](http://WWW.KINGFISHSHOW.COM/CONNECT)



# WORD ON THE STREET

## OLDHEAD MOVIE PREMIERE LIGHTS UP PHILADELPHIA: A NIGHT OF STARS, AND THE LAUNCH OF APEX



the glittering array of attendees. The film, starring hip-hop artists Anthony "Dappa" Samuels and Sloan "D4M \$loan" Morgan, premiered on the new network APEX on July 28th, serving as the platform's first feature film debut.

"OLDHEAD," which began as a series and is now a movie filmed entirely in Philadelphia, concluded the story of the award-winning Oldhead web series. The plot follows a young man named LA, navigating a world of challenges while attempting to make the right choices, embattled by the allure of friend Kareem's illegal ways.

The premiere left attendees buzzing with excitement. The narrative's unexpected twists and the remarkable authenticity of the storyline

were lauded by viewers. The stars of the show, Samuels and Morgan, received praise for their compelling portrayals of characters navigating a tough neighborhood. The rest of the cast was equally lauded, adding depth and complexity to their roles.

The event also marked the launch of the new network APEX, a platform specifically designed to host content presented exclusively by and for music artists. We urge you to download the APEX app, available on all Apple and Android devices.

Following the screening, the cast and crew hosted an engaging Q&A session. Attendees were offered a deeper look into the creative process behind the film. In addition to the Q&A, a photo session was held with the

cast and crew, capturing the excitement of the evening. Attendees expressed their gratitude for the complimentary popcorn and drinks provided by the event organizers.

In conclusion, the event served as a reminder of the film's official release date on July 28th on the APEX network. Attendees and the broader public were encouraged to download the APEX app to access this original and music-centric content.

Make sure to download the APEX app and join us on July 28th for the official release of "OLDHEAD." This thought-provoking drama promises to be an unforgettable exploration of life in North Philadelphia, and you won't want to miss it.



The red carpet premiere of the gritty crime drama "OLDHEAD" was a hit. The evening was filled with the presence of celebrity guests, including Freeway,

Revive POC, Skate with Big Cuz, Urban X-pressions, and many others. MiKEJAY, APEX, CLTHEAI, and Tiner Yowein were also among

## "SUPREEM AND FRIENDS AT MILKBOY: A PHILLY HIP HOP REUNION



stage on fire, leading the dynamic lineup.

The reunion show saw memorable performances from a diverse range of acts. Ram Squad member Boy Backs, Keyshanna-K, Aul Purpis, and Sonofjan Zipgang Jan Son were all in the house, leaving the audience in awe with their talent. There was also a notable appearance from Boy Fred Backs, Judah Priest and 144000 Chosen Few LLC, whose performance stood out as a high point of the evening. Leese B and Riverside Odds added another level of energy, enhancing the already electrifying atmosphere.

Hosts Mike Howard and Shelly Shell Williams, known for her work on Ur-

ban X-pressions, ensured the night ran smoothly, engaging with the crowd that turned up in large numbers. The audience's enthusiasm was palpable as they reveled in the performances, celebrating Philly's local music scene.

Suprem Da Rezarekta' himself was part of the musical spectacle with his band, The New Experience. With Anthony James aka Sunshine on the drums and DJs CL Smoov and DJ Xzotic D on the decks, they brought a remarkable display of musical synergy, garnering praise from the crowd and fellow artists. The band expressed gratitude to MilkBoy for the exceptional hospitality and the amazing platform they offered.

The event was a grand showcase of Philadelphia's diverse and dynamic hip-hop talent, a night that ended on a high note with a promise of more to come. Indeed, it was an amazing time on stage for all involved, one that Suprem Da Rezarekta' referred to as "an amazing display of blessings." As the hashtag #funkthat trended, it was clear that the evening was a monumental success, hinting at more exciting reunions in the future.

Pre-order Suprem's new book, "Where I'm From Pas IZ History," Now available on Amazon. The official release date is September 15th @supremedr

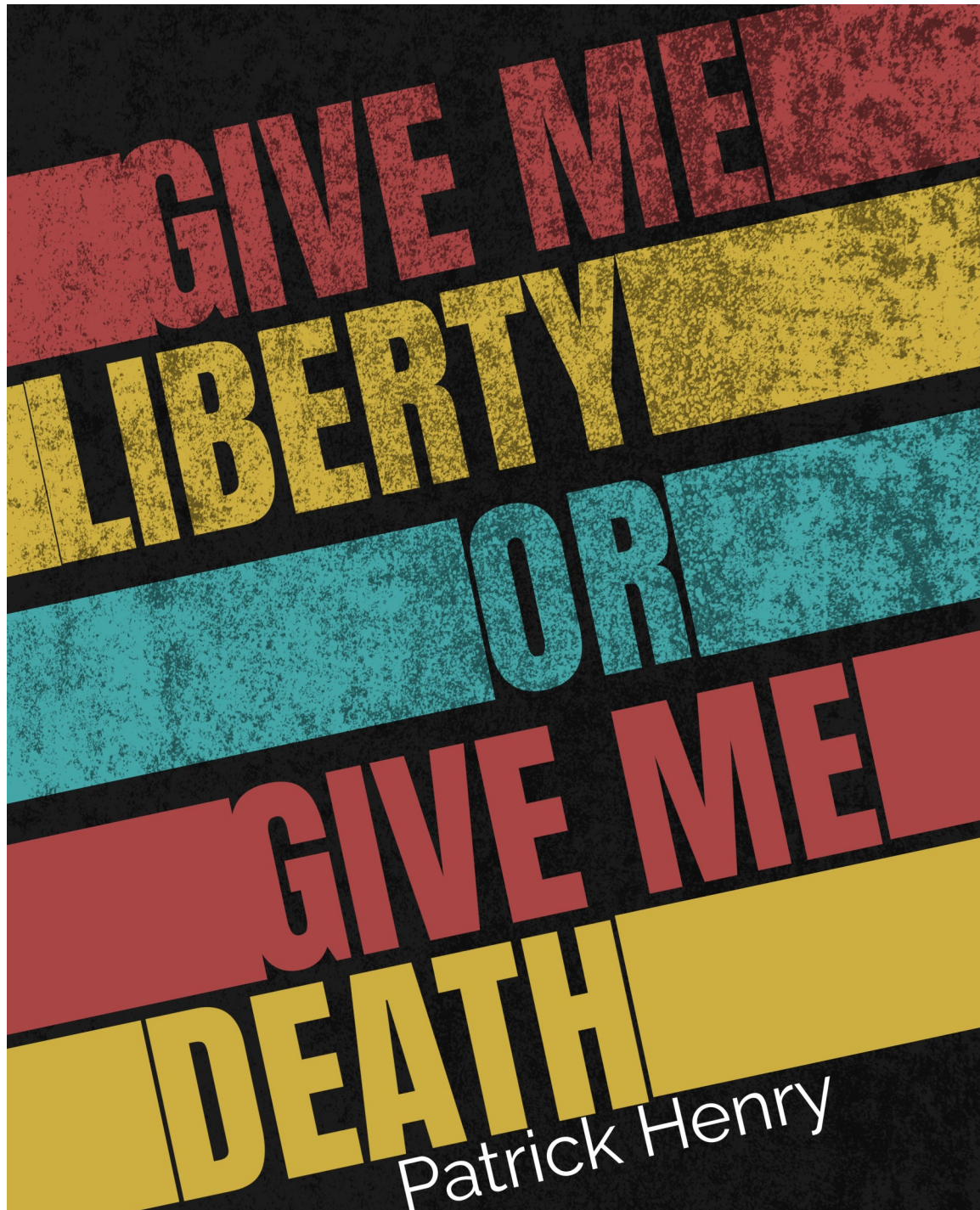
In an unforgettable night of music and camaraderie, MilkBoy venue in Philadelphia was buzzing with energy as they hosted 'Suprem

Da Rezarekta' and friends. Philly's vibrant hip-hop scene was in full bloom, with Suprem And The New Experience band, setting the



# "FREE AT LAST!" - JOHN 8:31 – 36

## "GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!" – PATRICK HENRY



**"Give me liberty, or give me death!"** is a quotation attributed to American politician and orator Patrick Henry from a speech he made to the Second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, at St. John's Church in Richmond Virginia, which became the war cry of the revolution. Henry presented a proposal to organize a volunteer cavalry or Infantry in every Virginia County. War-like preparations were being made against Great Britain after 10 years of talks for reconciliation and/or justice for the colonies, which, thus far, had not been achieved. Patrick Henry is credited with hav-

ing swung the balance in convincing the Convention to pass a resolution delivering Virginia troops to support The Revolutionary War. Among the delegates were future U.S. Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. The American Revolutionary War, 1775 – 1783, was a revolt against British colonial rule. The Declaration of Independence, a formal document adopted on July 4, 1776, tied the 13 rebel colonies together as a unit, fighting for their independence from the English monarchy.

**"If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"** – John 8:36

Chains which bind people are not always on their bodies but on their souls – hate, pride, envy, fear and selfishness. (1 John 2:16) True freedom is of the spirit and mind, and Christ alone can make souls free from the slavery of the Law, sin, death, and hell. Christ spoke of Spiritual liberty.

The United States of America celebrates the freedom won from British rule, "The Declaration of Independence, AKA, The 4<sup>th</sup> Of JULY," annually, with literally tons of fireworks and parades! A freedom so desired that war was declared, with the urging of Patrick Henry's famous speech...

*"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, 'Give me liberty or give me death!'"* Patrick Henry was a wealthy slave owner, making his speech astonishing.

In today's world, there are numerous voices surrounding us. Informing, selling, preaching, teaching, entertaining, annoying... Various communication methods are used such as Television/ Cable networks, Landlines/ Cell Phones, Automated/ Robo calls, of course Social Media, as well as places of Worship. Many/maybe most, telling you what you need to be happy and content or their way to get to heaven. Which voice are you listening to?

The Bible warns us of false teachers who only want to gain more sheep. Jesus came that we may have life, and have it more abundantly, something else is out to kill, steal, and destroy us, (Jn. 10:10). Jeffrey Curtis Poor calls it selling, "Salt Water". It wets your mouth, but it doesn't satisfy your thirst. The salt leaves you thirsting for more!

*Dear God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, All Glory, Honor, and Praise belong to You. There is none worthy but, You! All of heaven praises Your Holy Name! You redeemed us from sin and death by the blood of Your Only Begotten Son. And now the Son of God, heir of all things, who is forever with God, and who has, therefore, the right and power to liberate mankind from Satan's servitude, shall make us free! Truly and really free! Free indeed!!!*

*Lord, You didn't promise us an easy life on earth, but You did promise Peace and*

*Joy in the midst of whatever we're facing (John 16:33) And If we confess our sins, In the Name of Jesus, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins... (1 John 1:9). And, Eternal Life! "O Death, where is your sting..." (1 Cor.*

*15:55). God, we Thank and Praise You for Your unconditional Love demonstrated at Calvary, for while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

*Thank You, Jesus! Amen...*

***"Eternity is not grand because it's long, but because it's rich."*** - Jeffrey Curtis Poor

***"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."***

- ***The Declaration of Independence – Philadelphia, Independence Hall – 1776***
- ***Was signed by 56 delegates. The Great and Small of 18<sup>th</sup> Century America.***
- ***Who came to be known as the nation's Founding Fathers. The majority of which owned slaves.***
- ***Rich: deep, full, abundant, much. Perfect!***





# SUPREME GOSPEL ENTERTAINMENT BY SHERRI Y. JOHNSON

## 38TH ANNUAL STELLAR AWARDS — WINNERS & HIGHLIGHTS



Contributing Writer: Sherri Y. Johnson - Supreme Gospel Entertainment  
 Photo: Top Left to Right: Melvin Williams, Marvin Sapp, Patrice DeLisser (Indie Go Inspire); Middle Left to Right: P. DeLisser, Pam English (English Bridge Media), Lucinda Moore, Travis Greene, Photographer Dr. D; Bottom Left to Right: Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham, Zacardi Cortez

Fresh off the oppressive heat in Las Vegas are the winners and highlights from the biggest Gospel music awards show. The 38<sup>th</sup> annual **Stellar Gospel Music Awards**, hosted by **Jonathan McReynolds** and **Tasha Cobbs Leonard**, was held in July and opened

with a power packed performance by **Kierra Sheard Kelly** and eight-time Stellar winner, **Pastor Mike Jr.** singing "Miracles" and "Impossible."

Nine categories were awarded on the television broadcast while the others were announced and winners received their statues during the pre-show. Pastor Mike Jr. won *Album of the Year*, *Contemporary Album of the Year*, *Song of the Year*, *Artist of the Year*, *Male Artist of the Year*, *Contemporary Music Video of the Year*, and *Rap/Hip Hop Song of the Year awards*

**Maverick City Music** and **Kirk Franklin** won two awards, *Duo/Chorus Group of the Year* and *Contempo-*

*rary Duo/Chorus Group of the Year* from *Kingdom Book One*. Tri-state area's own **Tye Tribbett** celebrated his two awards wins for *Producer Of The Year*, and *Recorded Music Packaging Of The Year* for his project "*All Things New*," released by *Motown Gospel*.

Former member of the group *Forever Jones, Doe*, won the *Albertina Walker Female Artist of the Year*, *Contemporary Female Artist of the Year*, and *Urban/ Inspirational Single or Performance of the Year* for her album "*Clarity*." Continuing with the success story was **Lena Byrd Miles** who earned the *New Artist of the Year award* for her *My Block Records* project "*Brand New*;" **Bishop T.D. Jakes** won *Special*

*Event Album Of The Year* for his project "*T.D. Jakes Presents 'Finally Loosed'*" on *Dexterity Sounds* and **Tasha Cobbs Leonard** won *Praise And Worship Album Of The Year* for her work on "*Hymns*."

**Zacardi Cortez**, some consider to be one of the most talented but unsung artists in the industry, walked away with three awards for *Traditional Male Artist of the Year*, *Traditional Album of the Year*, and *Praise and Worship Song of the Year* for his album "*Imprint*." Other winners were **Lecrae** for *Rap Hip Hop Gospel Album Of The Year*; and **Keith "Wonderboy" Johnson** was honored posthumously with *Quartet Of The Year* for "*Restructure, Renew Reunion*."

**Reverend Dr. Milton Biggham** was honored with the **James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award Presented by Verizon** in recognition of his lifetime dedication to spreading the Good News through Gospel music. The prestigious **Aretha Franklin Icon Award Presented by State Farm** was awarded to the remarkable **CeCe Winans** and her stirring performance her hit song "Goodness of God," literally brought the room to tears. Additionally, **Ambassador Dr. Bobby Jones** was presented with the **Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award**, acknowledging his outstanding contributions to Gospel over several decades. **Dottie Peoples** was honored during the pre-show with the **Ambassador**

**Dr. Bobby Jones Legends Award.**

Audience got to see a quick snapshot into the *Reunion Tour* performance featuring **Kirk Franklin**, **Tye Tribbett** and **Israel Houghton**. Other performances that literally had everyone rejoicing was that of **Charles Jenkins**, **Dottie Peoples**, **Isaac Carree**, **Kierra Sheard-Kelly**, **Naomi Raine**, **Natalie Grant**, **Maranda Curtis**, **Tim Bowman Jr.** & **Faith City Music**, **Zacardi Cortez**, and Philly's own **Zak Williams & 1 Akord**. **Lena Byrd Miles**, **Victory** and **Bishop S.Y. Younger** all were featured on the *AT&T Emerging Voice* stage.

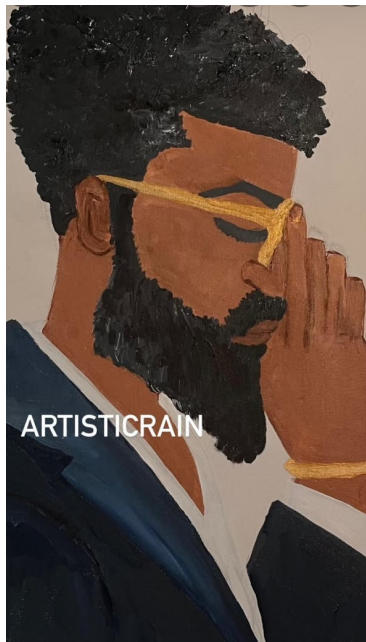
Award show presenters included **Erica Campbell**, **Isabel Davis**, **James Fortune**, **Shirley Caesar**, **Adrienne Bailon-Houghton**, **Lady Tramaine Hawkins**, **Marvin Sapp**, **Brian Courtney Wilson**, **Koryn Hawthorne**, **Jason Clayborn**, **NOTKARLTONBANKS**, and **Travis Greene**. This year's ceremony will premiere on **BET** on **Sunday, August 6** at **8 p.m. ET/PT**.

For more information about the *Stellar Gospel Music Awards*, please visit [www.stellarawards.com](http://www.stellarawards.com). Get social with us! Facebook: **Supreme Gospel Ent.** and **Sherri Y. Johnson | Instagram/TikTok: @sherrisupremegospel** -- until the next column, remain encouraged!



# STYLE & GLAM: THE LATEST IN FASHION AND BEAUTY TRENDS

## CULTURALLY CURATED -ARTISTIC RAIN'S MEDIUM



Written by Leesa  
@leesamedia

We can all agree that [art] is the most silent but loudest of expressions. Art, like words, has a way of speaking to your soul and channeling your inner thoughts. It can make you feel happy, sad, or inspired. The creation of artworks includes several [mediums]; the

question is, “*What’s your style?*”

I personally prefer oil and pencil medium based works. In my opinion, pencil is a different dynamic within itself. An artist drawing sketches to recreate a person, place, or thing is super dope to me. I can’t draw a straight line! It fascinates me, literally. My other is oil. The blends, the shapes, and the story behind how it was created. I’ve heard a few artists say working with oil paint isn’t the easiest thing to do. I appreciate the work behind it.

In 2018 I added [art] publicist to my CV. Due to my love of artworks and most mediums, I love curating events for expression as well as publications and placement of works. I recently caught up with Mary Lowery, owner of (**Artistic Rain**) to chat about a few

upcoming projects. Read more below on Artistic Rain’s *Medium*.

**Q.** What are your mediums in art and what inspired you?

**A.** I use acrylic and watercolor with fabric to create. My inspiration originally started with drawing pictures from coloring books and painting them. Now my *inspo is from God, based around my life experiences.*

**Q.** How often do you paint and are there things you don’t paint?

**A.** I try to paint twice per month or if someone is looking for a custom piece. If I’m inspired I may paint 3-4 times in a week. I also love a challenge; I don’t limit the painting.

**Q.** Can someone buy an original painting, and do you involve yourself with the community?

**A.** Yes, you can; pricing

varies, of course. I’ve been involved in several community-based events with Girl Scouts, Juneteenth Celebrations and recently Hancock Middle School to speak to students about black artworks for Black History Month.

**Q.** Do you have any upcoming projects and have you thought about going pro with your work?

**A.** Yes, I’m currently working on a poetry and art book, which will be released later this year and my goal is to have my works displayed in a few major art museums.

**Q.** What form of expression do you believe your art is and why?

**A.** Art is all types of expressions. It’s a feeling for me. I always say everyone is an artist. You can express art in any form. My Mantra is “Visualize and Believe.”

**Q.** Lastly, where do you see your art in the next 3-5 years?

**A.** A dream of mine is to have my own art gallery. I want a space where I can inspire people, mainly women. My work brings about healing and that’s what I would like to offer. I want to be known nationally. God did not give me this gift to only share with the people in my area he wants it to be international.

Mary’s publications include *Black Minds Mag (Multidisciplinary Arts Magazine), VoyageATL Magazine, and was displayed during the We Are Here -Stories of Expressions Exhibit in City Hall (Philly).*

Follow @artistic\_rain1 on IG or visit her website at [artisticraincac.com](http://artisticraincac.com)



# UXNM: LEGACY ARTIST TO WATCH



Contributing Writer:  
Shamar Ridgeway & Urban  
X-pressions NewsMag

Legacy: How long have you been rapping, and what inspired you to become a rapper?

Jireeh Turner: Well, first, I'd like to say I stopped being a mere 'rapper' some years ago. I can truly say now that I am an ARTIST. Because I cannot be put into

a box. There is not a genre nor sound that somebody else can give you that I can't.

Legacy: Do you feel that being a rapper from Coatesville is a little harder than being a rapper from a bigger city, like Philly or New York? Do you really have to prove yourself and show people that you can go toe to toe with the best of them you can really do this and stand with any rapper in the game?

Jireeh Turner: Yes and no. Yes, because there's limited opportunity in a small city like Coatesville, whereas there's more opportunity in a city like Philly or New York. Another reason why I say yes is also because, for

some reason, it be your OWN CITY that shows you the least amount of love, sadly. And No, it's not hard, at least not for me, because I'm the best where I'm from. I always been the type to openly admit when people are better than me, and I can confidently say there's things I do that NO ONE from where I'm FROM can do. And there are things these guys do that I CAN DO excellently. It's not even a thought.

Legacy: What are you currently working on, and what are your goals as an Artist for the future?

Jireeh Turner: I am currently working on a mixtape titled "4 All The F\*ckBoy'z". That drops

September 13th; SAVE THE DATE! Lol. And after I drop that, I'll be able to work on another mixtape of mine, Which I TRULY BELIEVE will be the one that blows me up, not only because of how good it is, but because of how much promoting and pushing imma put into it. — if u don't know me now, you will. Trust me.

Legacy: And who are some of the artists that you look up to in the music business that inspire you?

Jireeh Turner: Some artists that inspire me: are Tory Lanez, Drake, Lil Nas x, Jack Harlow, and Doja Cat. In no particular order except for Tory Lanez, he definitely is in my top 5 because

he's an incredible artist.

But yea, thank you for having me! It's been a pleasure!

To Listen and Lear More, Follow on  
INSTAGRAM: @Jireeht  
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## Mindful Meditation Moments w/ Monie

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# CULTURE & CURRENCY: THE INTERSECTION OF MOVIES, MUSIC, MEDIA, AND MONEY

## BEDFORD MARKETING



### Bedford Music Marketing Presents Hollywood Records' kenzie "anatomy"

Singer/songwriter **kenzie** debuted her intimate new single "anatomy" via Hollywood Records. Listen on [Amazon Music](#), [Apple Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), and [YouTube Music](#). The emotionally powerful track is about navigating your way through life in the wake of an absent parent. Written from deep, personal experiences, the song is also a love letter to her fans and those with similar stories.

The track was written by Kenzie, Ellen Murphy, Elizabeth Jane Murphy, Bill Maybury and produced by Lenii.

On today's release, kenzie

shares, "'anatomy' is a very personal record to me, because it's the first time I've publicly opened up about the absence of my dad while growing up. The team I wrote it with gave me the safe space to finally share my story, and that was a really empowering moment for me. When I listen back to it now, I'm just proud of what we made because I think a lot of people can relate. If you grew up without a parent, I hope you know that you are not alone, and I hope this record can provide some type of peace and safe space for you all." In tandem with the new single release, kenzie also premiered the video for the track today. Watch it [here](#). The video was directed by Henry DaCosta and choreographed by Madie Ziegler. The dynamic visuals showcase kenzie intertwined with a younger

version of herself (played by Kendall Ryan Krajewski) and features shattered frames that come back together to become whole again.

The deeply intimate new track follows previously released singles, "sickly sweet," "paper" and "100 degrees," and continues to showcase kenzie's redefined sound, teasing what's to follow musically on her forthcoming album.

### Bedford Music Marketing Presents Roc Nation's HDBeenDope ft. Fergie Baby

"Can't Get Rid of Me"  
Directed by Erikson Corniel, the electrifying video has a playful edge yet provoking tone showcasing two sides of New York City meeting in the middle. With

HDBeenDope and Fergie Baby's high-energy chemistry revolutionizing the sound and look of New York rap where drill is dominating, the two are captured through dynamic shots of each rapper playing off each other's energy lyrically and visually. Shot from a bird's eye view, HDBeenDope and Fergie tease viewers "Can't Get Rid of Me! Ah haaa!" through the camera lens across various locations in New York, using the city as their backdrop and playground.

HD and Fergie Baby are seen running across a bridge overlooking the city's main overpasses as they exchange bars before switching to dark, blue-light close-up shots of HD in the studio. All throughout, the visual embeds easter eggs paying homage to films like *Belly* and *Baby Boy*. The video closes out with final scenes capturing the duo performing in front of the squad who helped produce the track with a quick cameo from the executive producer of the project, Dizzy Banko on the corner of a hometown block. Between the lyricism, movie reference, and the boroughs brought together, the video further cements Hip Hop culture on its 50th year. You can catch HD's Genius-like breakdown of dynamic wordplay on *Citizen Kane* embedded within the track here.

The new track and video precludes the Brooklyn rapper's extended project release of *What Can They Say* slated to drop this past June. HD has amassed critical acclaim with co-signing

recognition from DJ Khaled and Rapsody and the culmination of a decorated performance history on massive national stages like the BET Hip-Hop Awards, Rolling Loud, and performing alongside peers such as Lola Brooke, King Combs, among many others. The single and music video release follow HD's widely popular breakout tracks, "Locked In," and marquee track "Mamba" from his debut EP *What Can They Say* which has quickly become an anthem championed by stars such as actress and entrepreneur Tia Mowry, NBA Miami Heat player Jimmy Butler, Kansas Chief Quarterback and Super Bowl Winner Patrick Mahomes, shared by LeBron James, and featured on major networks like ESPN, sports stadiums and radio stations across the country.

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