

REMINISCE ON 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP WITH
CHARLIE MACK

URBAN X-PRESSIONS
MUSMAG

JORDAN

AYANA

TAB EDWARDS INTRODUCES

PENNY CUPCAKE

PHILLY'S NEWSET TEEN R&B GROUP



**NICK
CANNON**

Inside Nick Cannon's Superstar
Tour 2023 and Industry Seminar
with Charlie Mack, Mina Say What,
Mont Brown, and Jae Brown

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



Dear my fabulous Urban People,

We outside! Can you feel the excitement? I know I can! I know we've been out for a while but it's so official, I've been connecting with everyone I haven't seen in years. But we're back, and we're stronger than ever, gathering and celebrating our culture and community.

I've been attending so many events lately, and let me tell you, it's been amazing to see so many familiar faces and meet new ones. As the publisher of Urban X-pressions, I am so grateful for your continued support. Our third issue is out, and the response has been phenomenal. Thank you!

But in order for us to grow and continue bringing you the latest and greatest in urban culture, we need your help. Please support our sponsors, advertisers, and columnists. Let them know that Urban X-pressions sent you. Your support can make a big difference in helping these businesses thrive.

For those of you wondering where to get your hands on the latest issue of Urban X-pressions, it's available at various Sunoco gas stations and Shoprites in Cheltenham, Penn Cafe in Chester, as well as Lotus Beauty Spa. You can also download a copy from our website, urbanxpressions.com.

And as we move forward, I invite you all to become members of Urban X-pressions. For just \$48 a year, you can support our brand and gain access to all our exciting new offerings.

Plus, your membership fee is tax-deductible, so it's a win-win situation for all.

I can't wait to see what the future holds for Urban X-pressions. Follow us on Instagram @urbanxpressions, and listen to Urbanxpressionsradio.com for more updates. Together, we can make our community even stronger.

Thank you for your continued support, my Urban People. Let's keep shining!

Love and gratitude,
Shelly Shell Williams Phillys Oprah



PENNY CUPCAKE



From Tab Edwards and Philly's Kixx Records, the label that brought you Josephine Sincere, Ital Tha Ruffian, RuggedNess & Madd Drama, Redd Bull, Lyrical Terrorists, Black Key Beats, Solomon Trotter, Prophet (aka Ms. Dash), Nicetown, and others.

Who or what is "Penny Cupcake"?

Penny Cupcake is a pop and R&B singing group based out of Philadelphia. The group consists of three high-school teenagers: Jordan Webber, Ayana Ferguson, and Noelle Smith (not pic-

tured). Penny Cupcake is not the name of any one individual. The group's name was bestowed upon them by accident: when Philly's Big Homie Da O.G. relayed the group's name to a concert promoter, the two had a bad connection, so the promoter never caught their name. When the promoter asked who the group members were, Big Homie said, "Penny, Cupcake, and ..." The phone disconnected; that was all the promoter heard: "Penny Cupcake." So, the promoter announced that "Penny Cupcake" would be performing on the show, and the name stuck.

How were they discovered?

The three singers are multi-talented entertainers. They all sing and act. The trio will star in the second episode of the critically-acclaimed indie T.V. pilot "The Kingfish," which begins filming in June. During a script-reading session for the film, Tab thought Jordan and Ayana had tons of charisma and were engaging. So, knowing that the actors were also singers, he asked them to sing a song titled "Don't Forget" that would be featured in the film. He needed a third singer, and knew that another actor,

Noelle Smith, who had a small role in the upcoming episode of the film, is also a singer. He heard her sing and immediately added her to the group.

Where are they from?

Jordan and Noelle attend high school in Philadelphia, where they reside. Ayana lives and attends high school in South Jersey.

Jordan Webber looks familiar. Why?

Jordan was one of the leading actors in episode one of "The Kingfish," where she played the role of "Cupcake."

Do they have any songs yet?

Yes. The group's first single is titled "Don't Forget" (Kixx Records) and can be heard on their website (www.pennycupcake.com) and YouTube. The song, featuring vocals by Top-10 hit recording artist Josephine Sincere, is about self-love and self-acceptance. It reminds you to love yourself as you are, regardless of what others may say or think about you.

Tab Edwards has worked with many artists over the years. So what does he think of Penny Cupcake?

According to Tab:

"The first thing that got my attention about each of them was how charming they were. They are down-to-earth, all very smart, and—believe it or not—kinda shy. Well, I would say Noelle is less shy than Jordan and Ayana. They are simply wonderful young ladies who are super talented and grounded. Props to Tiffany, Cherelle, Kimberly, Dew, and others for doing such a good job.

Of the three, I would say

that Jordan is the quiet one, Ayana is the super polite one, and Noelle is the most outgoing. Other than that, they are all pretty similar; very talented actors, nice young ladies, smart, and neither have a bad attitude."

What's next for the trio?

As of this writing, the singers will hit the recording studio to finish the song. Then, they will begin promotional activities and guest appearances throughout the tri-state area. And when the school semester ends, they will be performing and promoting the single, taking a break in mid-June to film the second episode of "The Kingfish."

How can people connect with the group?

Fans and people interested in booking the group can write to the group members at info@pennycupcake.com or through their website. The singers will reply to all fan messages (except the weird ones). People can also follow them on Instagram ([@pennycupcake1](https://www.instagram.com/pennycupcake1)) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/@kingfishshow). And be sure to catch them in episode 2 of "The Kingfish" titled "Work" in September.



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REMINISCE ON 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP WITH CHARLIE MACK



If you love hip hop like we all do, then you're in for a treat at Charlie Mack's 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop Event. We are thrilled to celebrate this momentous occasion with Charlie Mack, a true icon in the hip-hop community.

I Reminisce, I Reminisce on Charlie Mack is not just a friend, brother, and mentor to me, but to many others who have had the pleasure of knowing him. Through my work at Urban X-expression, I have been fortunate enough to witness Charlie's incredible impact on the industry. From the unforgettable events at Club Gotham (my personal favorite) to the star-studded All-Star Celebrity weekends, Charlie has brought together the biggest names in hip-hop and Hollywood, always giving back to important causes and non-profits.

Charlie Mack truly lives up to his name as a Life

Changer. He has dedicated himself to making a positive impact in the world, and we are grateful for his many years of love and support. I want to share a special memory of the Weight Loss Challenge that Charlie sponsored between Snook Chaos and me. The winner would receive \$3000 to donate to their charity of choice. Although Snook Chaos lost almost 30 pounds and I lost 19 pounds in just 30 days, we both won because of Charlie's emphasis on health and wellness.

Charlie Mack has always been ahead of his time. I wish we had camera phones back then because I would have endless pictures of Charlie with everyone. He has been a trailblazer in the industry and an inspiration to all. We could go on and on about Charlie's incredible legacy, but it's best to experience it for yourself on June 17th.

Message from Charlie Mack

So Brothas & Sistas I humbly bring to you for the first time ever One Night Sat June 17th 2023, One Stage Broadwalk Hall in Atlantic City, NJ, One DJ The Magnificent @djjazzyjeff & One Host The Greatest Entertainer

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CATER 2U ENTERTAINMENT STAGE PLAY "SHOESHINE BOX"



play takes the audience on a journey through the eras, starting from the 1940s, and deals with hard-hitting topics such as PTSD from war, jealousy, family, being a father, and the passing down of the shoeshine box.

tainment, comedy, and dinner and dancing. Cater now owns a food manufacturing company that provides prepared meals for daycare centers and home health providers. "The Shoeshine Box" is her debut theater production.

Carolyn Hall, Adrienne "Sapphire" Hampton, Tamara Hawkins, Paula Holloway, Noah Johnson, Liam Klevence, Maximus Klevence, Elijah Lawrence, C. charming Legrand, Craig McLaren, Malachi Nisbett, Lenny Nutter, Kaylee Scott, Davita Stratton, Lee Trower, Kenny Ray Walker, T.C. Storm E. Weatherz" Caldwell, The Keystone Quartet. The team consists of Costume DEsinger Alonnah Washington, Stage Manager Donna Carroll, Stage Hands Deborah Smith, Melanie Boone, Caleb Boone, and Andre Miller. Music Arrangement, Sound Director Bryant Pugh, Makeup artist Devonda Dunn, Lighting Designer Tony Darrah, Color Lines lyrics by Nancy Gilliam, and Arranged by Adrienne Cater and Bryant Pugh. For You Lyrics by Nacy Marie Gilliam, Arranged by Adrienne Cater and Obadiah Outz, and Frank Lester.

I've had the pleasure of knowing the writer, and director Adrienne Cater for over 15 Years and have witnessed her incredible entrepreneurial journey. Thank you, Adrienne, for always supporting me and Urban X-pressions. Adrienne Cater has been passionate about entertainment since she was five years old when she performed in the community theater of her hometown in the Wynnfield section of Philadelphia. In 2002, she owned a performing arts daycare center named Reach for the Stars Youth Development Center for 17 years. In 2016, she acquired ownership of A's Place in Manayunk, which became a popular venue for live enter-

The play was a huge success, and the music, dancing, and acting were phenomenal. It is a must-see for anyone who wants to experience a heartwarming story of family, love, and the legacy passed down through generations. The play reminds us that no matter how small an item may seem, it can hold great significance and memories that can last a lifetime. For more information on upcoming shows, go to Cater2uentertainment.com.

The cast included: Renee Batts, Leroy Birtt, Angelita Byrd, Michelle Cunningham, Lashawn Elesie, Manwell Glenn, Kyle Glenn,



Contributing Writer: Shelly Shell Williams

The play is inspired by Adrienne Cater's father, whom she cared for before his passing and his shoeshine box that lasted through generations.

Cater 2U Entertainment and Reach for the Star Not-Profit recently presented a stage play titled "Shoeshine Box" at Venice Island. The play explores life lessons that come full circle through the legacy of fatherhood, determination, and love passed down through generations of a family of men.

Cater took to social media to see if anyone else still had a shoeshine box, and the response was overwhelming. This prompted her to write 21 pages of the stage play in one day. The

UXNM: LEGACY ARTIST TO WATCH



Contributing Writer: Shamar Ridgeway & Urban X-pressions NewsMag

Legacy Artist to Watch is Ganiér The Artiste, a multi-talented artiste who has made a name for themselves

as a choreographer, producer, writer, and songwriter. With hooks for days, Ganiér has proven to be a force to be reckoned with in the entertainment industry. In this interview, we'll delve into Ganiér's inspirations and what the future holds for this talented artiste.

Legacy: Who are your inspiration(s) in the music business?

Ganiér: My inspirations came from a vast list of Artists who played a part in my artistry coming to fruition. Such as "Phyllis Hyman, because of her soul on how it spoke to me, Whitney Houston her effortless freedom in her Runs, melody, Realness, Missy Elliott nev-

er letting anything keep her from being herself when obstacles were put in her way hurdles she leaped over, for barriers she Bust Down!! Busta Rhymes for taking no prisoners when he comes through, Betty Davis for her sexy, soulful Rock, Crystal Waters for songs like (Makin Happy, 100% Pure Love, Gypsy Woman), etc..... All steadfast in themselves!! Music has always been my Serenity!!.

Legacy: What are you working on, and what are your goals as an artist for 2023?

Ganiér: I'm working on bringing the singing chef to a city near you, kicking off my cooking show with artist unknown & known, bridg-

ing the gap, and letting the world hear our Artistry in true form all along while enjoying a fulfilling meal so when you slide through your soul will be whole from getting a taste of this Creole Soul!

Legacy: What are your goals as an artist for 2023?

Ganiér: One of my goals is to contribute to the evolution of the music industry by changing the state of mind to what has been the consistent formula of how or what a woman should be, how she should move etc.. in the business. To be recognized fully shows how we are truly a valuable commodity to the industry and have been even before now. We just been represented

wrong and exploited to someone else's liking in their eyes. Now we move through our eyes using our minds. Showing how music applies to so many influences & aspects of our lives. This, for me, is what I foresee in 2023. The energy that is within me has been a long time brewing. The Time has come to light it up & Im comin' in Hott!!



NICK CANNON, FUTURE SUPERSTAR



Charlie Mack emphasizes the importance of finding one's unique gift, the "it" factor, in achieving success. He suggests that everyone has a special talent that they need to discover and cultivate. He encourages people to surround themselves with a group of honest individuals, not the Yes men, but those who can provide constructive criticism and not just tell them what they want to hear.

Charlie Mack is a galvanizer who can bring people together and conceive and achieve great ideas. He stresses that success should be about serving others and not just about oneself. Finally, he underscores the significance of hard work in achieving goals.

Mont Brown: Discovering superstars isn't easy, but I'm up for the challenge as an A&R for Columbia Records! As I define it, a superstar is someone who puts in the work when the cameras aren't rolling.

Jae Brown: The Strategies for Adding Value.-- Find a way to make people look good. Ask how can you help them be better at whatever it is they're doing? How do you add value to whatever it is? Figure out how to make them look good. The key is to add value to whatever they are doing and help them become better.

Mina Say What: After 10 years on the air in Philly, I'm now taking my radio career to the next level by becoming a multimedia personality!

The event was produced by Live Nation and in partnership with the Black Music Action Coalition (BMAC), and it new talent discovery. These included a BMAC x Ncredible Next Superstar Grant, a Next Superstar Educational Seminar, and a Next Superstar show with headlining talent performing. The tour also featured performances by **Symba, 24kGoldn, Hitman Holla, JD McCrary, Traetwothree, Klondike Blonde, DW Flame, Big**

Boss Vette, Jilly, POP MONEY, and Philly's own Lay Bankz took to the stage. All incredibly talented Superstars!

Throughout the night, I had the chance to interact with some of the superstars, and they were all incredibly welcoming and fun. I was particularly impressed by Jilly Anais, who not only proved to be a superstar artist and performer but also an entrepreneur with her own cookbook and perfume line, "She Cooks Too" and Boss Babe Perfume. I also hung out with Mama Pop Money, my new Cali "cousin" by way of NYC.

Nick Cannon, you did that. I had a ball. Thank you to each of the artists, their families, and the team that helped to make the event a huge success, and I left feeling inspired and empowered. The Next Future Superstar Tour is definitely one to watch, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for these rising stars in the music industry.

Nick Cannon's Future Superstar Tour 2023 and Industry Seminar with Charlie Mack, Mina Say What, Mont Brown, and Jae Brown

cians but also for aspiring professionals looking to build a career in the music and entertainment industry.

Here are a few key takeaways from my friends on the Industry Panel:

Charlie Mack: 3 Keys to Becoming a Star: Hard Work, IT, & Happiness:

You ever walk into a room and feel like you'd found your tribe? Nick Cannon's Future Superstar Tour 2023 was just that! I immediately felt the energy in the air. The event was a whole vibe, and I couldn't wait to see what was in store.

The venue was filled with superstars ready to support each other and open to connecting with new people.

Each stop on the tour began with an Industry Seminar; the Philly stop of the tour featured Charlie Mack, Mina Say What, Mont Brown, and Jae Brown. The Industry seminar was empowering the community by giving the next generation of artists essential tools to elevate themselves. The seminar was designed not only for up-and-coming musi-

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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE DONAVAN WEST IS BEST FOR BUSINESS



By James Williams
Uptown Standard

I'm Donovan West, I've been serving the community for many years, in a number of different capacities, right, I, former president and CEO for the African American Chamber of Commerce. And I'm sure we'll get back to that in terms of talking about the business aspect of it all, but also former CEO of faith based community based organization, People for People, where I was that for over 16 years, certain programs like the pregnant parenting youth program, you know, the urban center, which stood for employment advancement and retention network center, that focus a lot on workforce development, the preschool, the charter school, fatherhood program, renewable

energy, re-entry program, so a ton of different programs and services to serve the whole family, not just a particular individual. And then also, of course, you know, working at ETSI, even back then, I think that's when we first met back in those days, early 2000s, working for the underserved and under employed, you know, community. So why am I running, I'm running because I did a gap analysis, James, and I realized what was missing in city council, and individuals, like myself, were missing individuals who have worked in the field in terms of, you know, from a programming standpoint, but also from an economic inclusion and economic development standpoint, individuals who have that experience and background in both spaces, being able to

actually, you know, represent those voices in City Council. So my goal at the end of the day, is to make sure that those communities are represented as we move forward. And this is a perfect time also, as I was doing that gap analysis, when you start to think about the amount of freshmen and sophomore legislators that will actually be in City Council.

So you said a couple of things that threw me off for a second, right. Renewable energy. You mentioned that. And, you know, with our commercial corridors going through what they're doing, tax is getting higher. PECO, you know, definitely being a private owned company. Now. It's a lot of things, renewable energy is in the future of Philadelphia. Do you think that benefits our local commercial corridors and seniors?

Well, I think the first thing that we need to do, especially as you start talking about our vulnerable populations, is making sure that we leverage our resources that we currently have, the biggest issue that I see is that there's not enough actual application or usage, or should I say, overall leveraging of those resources, so they're there. And often we, you know, we get to certain meetings, and we hear about this wealth of different resources that are available. So I think the first thing we need to focus on is getting them to the actual end user, those who they're intended for, as well as of course, talking about, you know, the overall process, the process does not need to be so complicated, or even be so restrictive. So I think the first thing we need to do is that and then at the same time, if those same resources can be applied to securing, you know, solar panels, or the installation or things along those lines, it is extremely important that we do an update and upgrade up level those those homes

in different spaces so that we can keep the prices down because it should not be a situation where you as a senior are thinking about where you need to move, especially at that point in your life.

So lets talk about the Chamber of Commerce, my fear is that we're losing individuals who were business focus. I believe City Council was moving more into an activist role. How do you position yourself on council? Will they be receptive to a business person like yourself coming from the chamber?

That's a great question. I think the first thing we need to do is we need to identify what's important to all of us, what do we have in common? So activist you know, a lot of times we think about an activist, you may think about the things that they are focused on as relates to their heart, right, you know, what their passion is. And from my perspective, obviously, if I'm looking at, you know, getting Philadelphia back to business, and often you'll hear me say that I want us to get back to business, I want us to get focused on, you know, how does this all add up? How does this actually serve all of us? And how do we actually get all of our all of our needs met, but those that are most important, and then we can look at what else we can add to that essential list, if you will? It comes down to again, just focusing on what's important to you, why are you an activist? What's the goal is it quality of life. Okay, so let's talk about your definition of quality life, or let's talk about your definition of safety. We can see what we may have in common, what's important to us, and we may be approaching it differently. I'm a business person, right? Because they may think that's devoid of moral or they may think is devoid of compassion or empathy. No, it's not at all.

It's about making sure that we can make a good business model, a blueprint for how we want to do certain things. And then also, more importantly, we can be we can appeal to other markets, in terms of what's our UVP what's our unique value proposition in a way that it's going to meet that triple bottom line, right? Not just good for society, but good for that bottom line, because what we have to admit, is that Philadelphia is the biggest business of them all. Right, Philadelphia itself is a big business. If no one wants to come to Philadelphia, it loses money, right? If no one wants to stay in Philadelphia, it loses money. If Philadelphia is a dangerous place to come to, to live to exist, to have fun, it loses money, right? So while you may say, Hey, listen, we need to do X, Y, and Z and you're coming from your heart with it. No problem at all. I think once we sit down, right, and we get away from this emotionally eliciting language and this, you know, things to all this rhetoric that's just to get people hyped, and we sit down, it's okay, no, really, what does that look like to when you talk about these things that you're so passionate about? What does that actually look like? Not just what we just need to do in a broad sense, but what does it actually look like structurally? How is it actually sustainable? Where are we going to get the money from? Right? Let's just have these conversations. And guess what? These questions are annoying to a lot of people I understand, but they still need to be answered.

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DYANA WILLIAMS RECEIVED THE PUFA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2023 PUFA WINNERS

I had the honor of presenting Dyana Williams with the 2023 PUFA Lifetime Achievement Award. Dyana is a living legend, an icon in her own right, a broadcaster for over 50 Years, a celebrity strategist, and co-creator of Black Music Month. She has made an indelible mark

on the music industry, and her contributions have been immeasurable.

Dyana's success story is an inspiration to many young women, and she is quick to credit the women who have had a significant impact on her life. Her mother, Dr.

Nancy Neuman, instilled in her great pride in being a Black Puerto Rican woman and gave her a rich foundation in terms of books and exposure. Her grandmother, a homemaker, was also a significant influence on her life, serving as her rock and foundation.

We want to take a moment to celebrate Dyana Williams for her incredible achievement and thank her for being a trailblazer for women in the music industry. Congratulations, Dyana, on this well-deserved honor.





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Seth is a Black working-class union organizer, dad, and Germantown resident running to represent Northwest Philadelphia on City Council. Join us in fighting for a future for the 8th District that we write, *together!*

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America By Artisticrain

Contributing Writer: 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, 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

Written by Leesa
@leesamedia





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STYLE & GLAM: THE LATEST IN FASHION AND BEAUTY TRENDS

FROM HOMELESS TO CEO, WITH ROSA NICE, SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AS SHE HOSTS THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW



Nice is proving that you can overcome abuse. Rosa credits her family, her community, and her education for helping her to climb out of the dark hole she was once in. Rosa Nice graduated from Community College of Philadelphia in 2019 and graduated from Wilmington University this past May of 2022. She is now working on a Master's of Public Health in Community Health Sciences Major at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

A look at the flower show: what's there to do?

The flower show has two main areas, the Exhibit Hall and Artesian Row. From floral crown making, plant potting, and flower jewelry creation to live Butterflies, live music, and lively guests, the Philadelphia Flower Show offers an amazing, family-friendly experience. This is all in addition to the amazing flower exhibits.

Rosa Nice, a North Carolina Native who grew up in the West Philadelphia Suburbs, took over the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Instagram at the Philadelphia Flower Show for their pre-opening and press event on Friday, March 3rd. This year's theme? "The Garden Electric." Clad in all pink with a floral crown and a Kent Stetson handbag, Rosa definitely understood the assignment.

When asked why she wanted to host the Flower Show's Instagram stories for the day, Rosa said

"I have some very fond memories at the PHS Flower Show. I used to come here as a young girl with my grandmother, mother, and sister. I was always fascinated by the colors and smells. When I first started to establish myself in Philadelphia in late 2016, I quick-

ly turned to gig work to make a living. I worked on two flower shows in the past, pre-covid, at booths. At one booth, I sold jewelry, and at the other, I sold art. It means so much to me, my family, my fans, and for every abuse victim out there to see me flourish after the worst thunderstorms of my life"

Who is Rosa Nice? Self-Confidence is InStyle

Rosa Nice is a singer, songwriter, plus-size social media influencer, and the owner of NSNRP, Not So Nice Records & Promotions, one of the premier woman-led and woman-owned Record labels and publishing companies in Philadelphia. Since leaving an abusive marriage in late 2016, Rosa Nice has dedicated her life to uplifting and helping other domestic violence victims and their families. By sharing her testimony and success, Rosa



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“IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” 1 CORINTHIANS 11: 24-26

Dear Heavenly Father,

Who gives us life, breath, and all things. In You, we live and move and have our being. How could we forget, even for a moment, that we would not exist without You? For You created our frame and know that we are dust. Our days are like grass. Here today and gone tomorrow. But,

Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, to those who remember Your commandments and do them.

Great is Your faithfulness! If we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. When we come to Your table, keep the memory of Your death before us as we break the bread of Your adversity and drink the cup of Your suffering. You did it for us so that we might live and not die. Lord, lead us in the way everlasting! For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever...

In the name of Jesus, I pray.

(Amen)

ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.” (1 Corinthians 11: 24-26)

The Lord's Supper was an integral part of early Christian Worship. Gathered around one table, fellow Believers met with the Lord and with each other in unity. (Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-23)

I would venture to say that Memorial Day celebrated annually in the United States on the last Monday in May, may not be the First Memorial Celebrated. This day was set aside to remember American heroes and loved ones who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. They died having done no wrong to their brothers in combat. It reminds me of what I would call the First Memorial Supper Established, to remember another who died and did no wrong to His fellow man. All the more heroic is that Jesus willingly left paradise and endured separation from His Father, for the first time, to suffer and die the curse of the cross. Our Lord's Supper, however often we celebrate, is a solemn memorial of our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection; “till He comes.” There is no grave to decorate. He has risen, and He lives for you. And, because

He Lives, life is worth Living.

The Lord's Memorial Supper reminds us to look back to Christ's death and to look forward to His second coming. “...In Remembrance of Me, Till He Comes”



“THE FIRST MEMORIAL DAY” - *The Forgotten Black American*
Contributing Writer: *Helena Williams*

“On May 1, 1865, a parade to honor the Union war dead took place here. The event marked the earliest celebration of what became known as “Memorial Day.” The crowd numbered in the thousands, with African American school children from newly formed Freedmen's Schools leading the parade. They were followed by church leaders, Freedpeople, Unionists, and members of the 54th Mass., 34th, and 104th U.S. Colored Infantries. The dead were later reinterred in Beaufort.”

(A sign posted in South Carolina describing the circumstances of the first Memorial Day in Charleston, SC)

A procession of friends, mourners, and freed slaves, in the first ever Memorial Day Tribute, which is not remembered, is characteristic... As the struggle African Americans still fight to be fully recognized for their contributions to American Society continues to this day.

“INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER” - *The First Communion*

“...Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. ...This cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as

“THE MAN WITH THE PLAN”

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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-Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

Original picture credit from Philadelphia Inquirer article by Anthony R. Wood Updated on Jun 10, 2023. Wording has been revised for this advertisement.

MAYOR THADDEUS KIRKLAND

“He seems to be the only candidate that has a plan that will help Chester soar again, and the only one fighting to Stop Dis-Incorporation, Bankruptcy, and resolve the on-going pension problems, that could cause hundreds of families to lose their homes.

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CHILDHOODSLOST CHRONICLES



"Childhoodslost Chronicles Theatre Group's Powerful Production on Gun Violence Draws Over 500 Engaged Youth at Suzanne Roberts Theatre's 10th Anniversary"

Contributing Writers: Kaliek Hayes & Shelly Shell Williams Brothers Kaliek Hayes and Stephen Gardner are the founders of ChildhoodsLost Foundation and co-producers and was written and directed by Playwright and director Bilal Islam. Sponsored by, Children of the Arts Foundation, The Urban Art Gallery, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, and Executive Produced by Put It Down Philly.

RECAP by Kaliek Hayes On March 10th and 11th Childhoodslost Theatre group put on A production called Childhoodslost Chronicles; the play focused on Gun violence and its effect on our youth—the play debuted at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre over two days with three shows. The production highlighted the destruction caused by a gun once in the hands of our youth. “Our objective with this production was to seat as many youths as possible with the hopes that young people could see the cause and effect of many choices similar to those in the show, hoping they would make better decisions.” In the two days and three

shows, we accommodated 8 Philadelphia schools, three bringing out 7th and 8th students and 5 bringing out 9 through 12th graders. We also had nine different youth groups. We sat approximately 500 plus kids throughout the two days who were utterly engaged in a two-plus hour production; we believe the presentation was successful because the characters looked like them, talked like them, and were dealing with issues they see often; the relatability was crucial to the success of the show. We were at or very near capacity for every show. We did not have a single incident with youth in attendance, and we had numerous outpourings about how much they enjoyed the performance. I also have over 75 letters from students expressing how the play made them feel and what they learned. That's roughly 15 percent of our youth audience. Thank you to Shawnette Wilson of FOX 29 News for attending the play and for highlighting our youth. We plan to bring the production back to the stage on Memorial Day weekend before kids get out for the summer in hopes that it also reinforces a stay-safe summer initiative for kids. Said Kaliek Hayes I had the pleasure of hosting the Play Childhoods Lost Chronicles, a powerful and

emotional play that deals with the issue of violence in our communities. The play was performed by a talented and dedicated cast of youth


actors, and I was truly impressed by their skills and commitment to their roles. From the moment the play started, I was drawn in by the intense and emotional performances of the cast. The story tackled some difficult topics, including death, family issues, and violence, and the young actors handled these themes with maturity and sensitivity. Throughout the play, I was struck by how well it captured the realities of violence in our communities. The dialogue was raw and honest, and the performances were powerful and moving. It was clear that the young actors had put their hearts and souls into the

production, and the result was a truly memorable and impactful performance. At the end of Childhoodslost Chronicles, the cast gave a Brittany Glover portrait by of Nas to his mother. Sadly, Nas, one of the youth stars, fell victim to gun violence in Philadelphia on March 22, 2022, at the age of 22. Childhoods Lost honored his memory with the painting. Rest in peace, Nas.







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The Rise of Ms. Political Disrupter: How Wanda Walker is Changing the Game in Philadelphia Politics

Wanda Walker, a frustrated Community leader tired of pay-to-play politics that denigrates and decimates black and brown communities, decided to make a community ballot. The political-corrupt faction in Philadelphia are often people who hold political positions in their own communities, like committee people and ward leaders, who often benefit financially for endorsing candidates that can pay over quality candidates with experience and integrity they know would be better for the community.

Selling the city to the highest bidders has black-and-brown children dying at record numbers in Philadelphia and generational wealth being stolen and lost through systematic political gentrification designed to force black and brown seniors homeowners and small landlords owners to sell.

One community leader/block captain got other community leaders to help and was able to convince quality candidates to meet and interview for a chance to be a part of an informed, trustworthy ballot printed in 2-3 community papers for the entire city to apply on E-day; May 16, 2023.

A special thanks to: Yolanda Taylor, Tina Collins, and Tom, owner of Julz Bar and Grill, 7719 Crittenden St.



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Wanda Walker



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← **Christopher Gladstone Booth**
Ballot #78

Donavan West →
Ballot #68



← **Ogbonna Higgins**
Ballot #64

Dr. Deshawnda Williams →
Ballot #59



Judges



← **Natasha Taylor-Smith**
Ballot #8

Qawi Abdul Rahman →
Ballot #14



← **Joe Green**
Ballot #16

Rania Major →
Ballot #25



← **Caroline Turner**
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PHILLY NATIVES DUANE AND ANTOINETTE MCCOY BRING NEW WORLD ORDER: DARK PRINCE MOVIE TO PHILLY



Contributing Writer: Sherri Johnson Roye

This past April, power couple and independent movie producers/directors, Duane and Antoinette McCoy premiered their new movie New World Order: Dark Prince. The meet and greet took place at the North Wales, PA AMC Movie Theatre, followed by an introduction by Antoinette McCoy about the movie and a brief history of their journey.

New World Order Dark Prince is on its way to becoming a fan favorite with its adrenaline-rush suspense thriller based on the book of Revelations in the Bible. The film is written, composed, and executive-produced by Duane McCoy; inspired by the prophetic events that happen throughout the Bible is written with

the intentional purpose to win souls for the kingdom.

The movie follows a troubled LAPD sergeant struggling to move on after losing a child to violence. Dark Prince embodies accuracy of current events including COVID-19 then it propels you into a mind boggling saga of a new government with a new way of living after an event that leaves the world missing millions of people in an instant. This film shows how when a “god” takes on the form of a man, a grief-stricken sergeant must battle his internal demons to defeat an evil empire.

The McCoy's, who now reside in Arizona are currently on an eight week tour across the country promoting the film at various premieres. Their goal is to get enough funding to have a

full release of the movie by the fall of this year. We caught up with them to ask them a few questions and find out what's next.

Sherri: You are both from but walk us through the transition to uproot your ministry to Arizona.

McCoy's: A situation occurred and we had to move. Rather than moving somewhere else in the city, the Holy Spirit directed us to relocate to Arizona.

Sherri: What challenges have you had since the onset of COVID in producing this film & how have you navigated through such?

McCoy's: Many challenges, most of all were finances, which we navigated by us wearing many hats on set to help offset the cost; such as catering, medic's, talent transportation, production assistants etc.

Sherri: What has living in Arizona taught you vs living in Philly as it relates to ministry and how are you using it to propel you into more awesome productions?

McCoy's: We discovered that things are very different when it comes to ministry from the east coast compared to the west coast. For us it was good grounds for us to establish our ministry. We also found the state of Arizona to have such a great passion for filmmaking which turned out to be such a blessing to us when it came down to needing extras. Everyone young and old person wanted to be an extra in a movie. The passion the people have for filmmaking in this state is amazing and being an extra in a movie is something they are proud of as much as leading roles. That in-

turn helped us complete our projects, allowing us to move on to the next production. Much love to New World Order extras! We couldn't have done it without you!

Sherri: What has been the most rewarding part of this journey?

McCoy's: They say in the film industry getting the movie in the can is a miracle; so the most rewarding part for us is seeing it on the silver screen.

Sherri: What can we expect from Legind Studios this year?

McCoy's: You can expect the release of the best faith-based story that hasn't happen yet New World Order: Dark Prince distributed on our distribution platform Legind+.

Sherri: Finally, what is your favorite scripture and why?

McCoy's: Matthew 19:26 KJV But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Faith in the Lord make all things possible and by such faith in the Lord is how we were able to produce “Dark Prince” film.

We thank Duane and Antoinette McCoy for taking time to talk with us. We wish them continued success as they prepare for New World Order: Dark Prince to be distributed worldwide. If you would like to connect with the McCoy's or find out when the premiere is coming to your city, check out their social media pages. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: Legind Studios and Dark Prince Movie.

Connect with me! Facebook: Sherri Y. Johnson and Supreme Gospel Ent. | Instagram/TikTok: @sherrisupremegospel – until the next column, remain encouraged!

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CONTINUING EDUCATION: AS THE MARKET EVOLVE, SO SHOULD YOU



Nathaniel Lee

As the global pandemic wanes, people are going back to their lives and, as a consequence, back to their jobs. But not everyone. Some have decided that their “new normal” will not include their old jobs. They are done working for people they don’t like, doing things they don’t want to do for less than they’d like to make doing it.

They have moved on to form their own businesses and/or work in the growing gig economy, which allows them more flexibility and potentially more income.

Others have made their side hustles their main jobs and now work for themselves as entrepreneurs. This is changing the way America does business. Corporations are using perks like offering remote work to entice employees to come back; others are offering financial incentives or increased vacation time. Still, “Quiet quitting” or doing only as much as necessary for as little time and effort necessary to do it has become much more common among those who returned to their jobs. They have detached from their workplace duties.

Then there are the millions who have resigned from their jobs altogether in what has been called “the great resignation.” After social distancing policies ended, they decided they weren’t going back to their jobs. They resigned.

I’m ready to bet that there are a significant number of

you reading this article who also desire to leave their workplaces for the freedom of entrepreneurship or, if not self-employment, a professional remake, a change in vocation, or a professional metamorphosis.

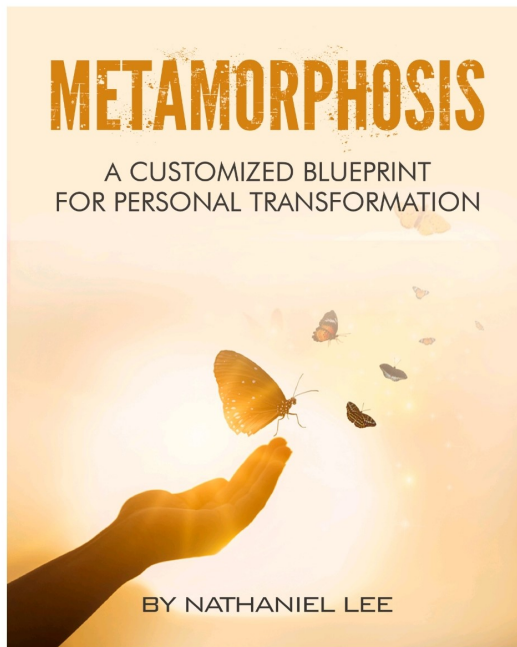
Unfortunately, it is easier to dream about leaving than it is to do so successfully. The world is changing rapidly, and with it, so are the ways we do business. Technology is making life easier, but it is also eradicating some jobs, minimizing the need for human labor, and replacing human creativity and innovation in the process. We are not only competing against other humans, but we are also competing against advanced technology that threatens to replace us altogether.

My point is this; we can no longer afford to become lax professionally. Continuing education is no longer an option but a necessity. As whole industries metamorphosize, we must do so also to stay occupationally relevant.

Complacency can kill your entrepreneurial or occupational dreams. Yesterday’s professions require today’s skills and training. Refusing to evolve can be the death of your hopes of becoming and remaining viable in your field or market.

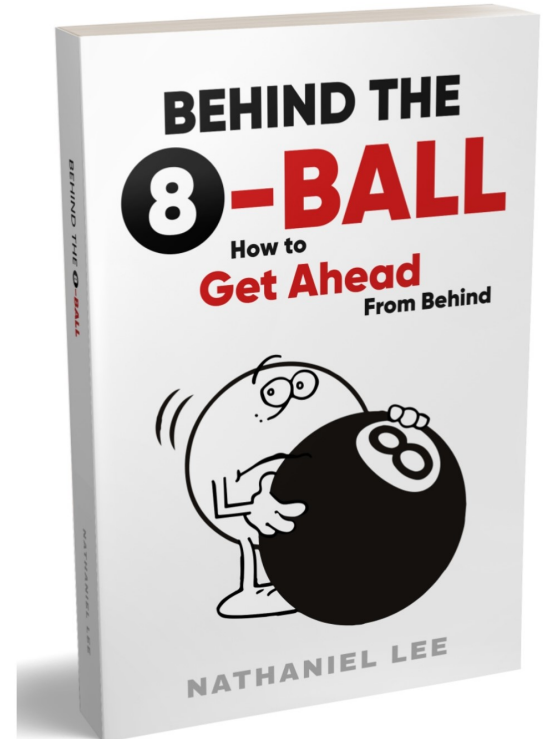
Here are some suggestions you might wish to consider to become and/or stay in demand either at your job or in your business:

- Adopt the idea that you are either growing or you are shrinking. In business, there is no staying still. You are either moving forward or going backward. Be mindful to keep moving.
- Take advantage of opportunities to learn. Regardless of how long you have been in your



business or profession, markets, like people, must evolve. Many community colleges, universities, recreation centers, and organizations and agencies provide continuing education classes. You might do well by periodically enrolling in those that are suitable to your needs.

- Be innovative. Schools and classes are good but there are also other creative ways of continuously learning



and growing in your career or craft as well. Volunteering in places where you can learn while providing a service is one way. Self-learning is always ideal. YouTube, HubSpot, Skillshare, and other sites provide free or low-cost ways to learn and increase your skills and knowledge.

- Getting ahead is one thing; STAYING ahead is quite another. To best serve our clients, we must continue to

grow. Continuing education is how we ensure that we are best able to provide optimal goods and services for our clients.

What say ye? Have a comment, criticism, or suggestion? I’d love to hear them. Email me at nate-lee1008@live.com. I’d love to hear your thoughts.



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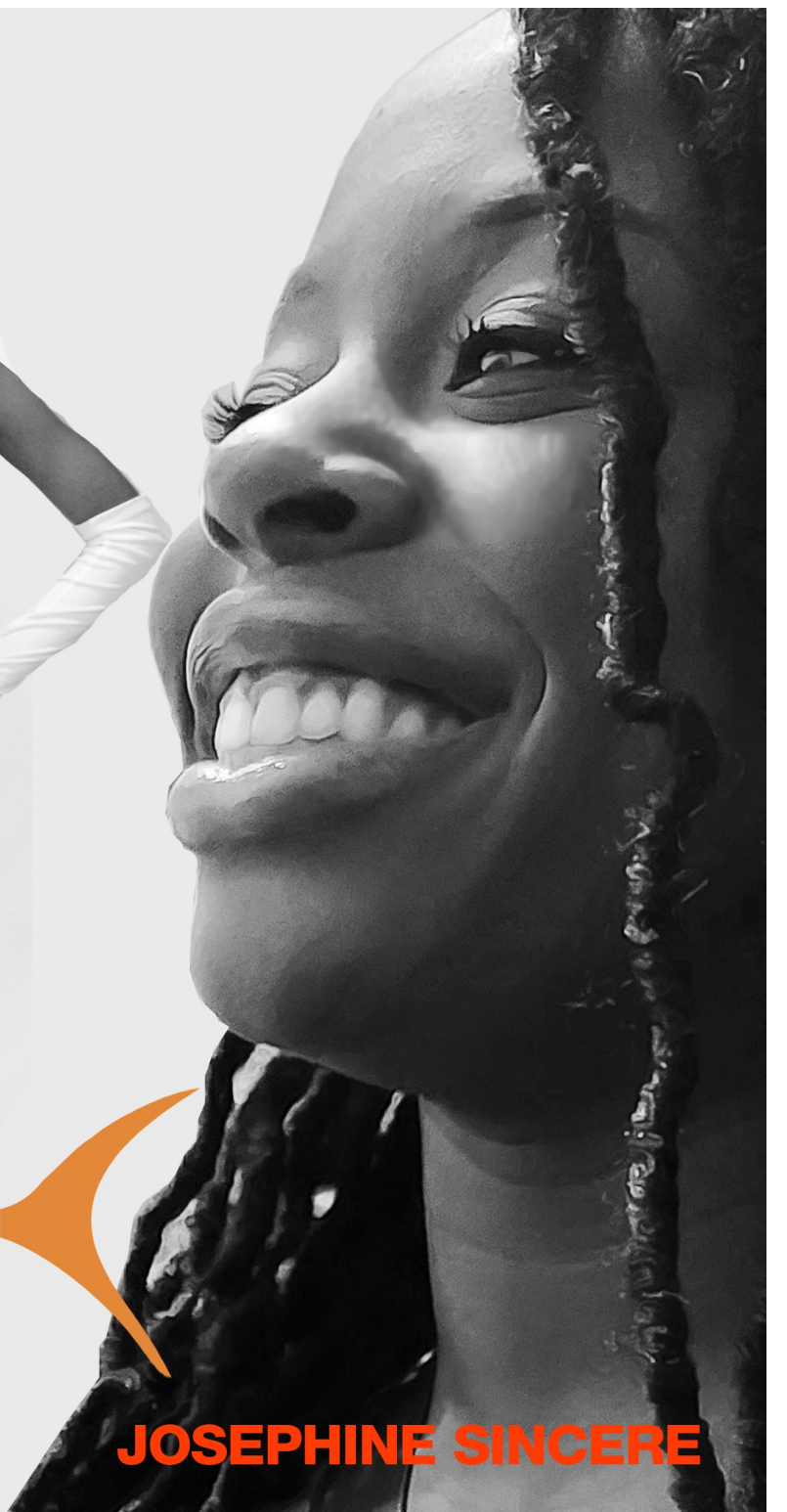




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