

DEEP HOUSE

THE HOUSE MUSIC MAGAZINE

15 Year Old

Jus The DJ

TALKS ABOUT HIS LOVE FOR HOUSE AND
SITTING UNDER LEARNING TREE OF THE
BEST

GET ALL THE
NEWS FROM
**THE NETTY
REPORT!**

Inside Look of Hope
Michelle Birthday
Gala

2022

Gail Campbell

Independent
Artistry
Talent
Grace

PLUS

David Castellano

Duce Martinez

Dennis Gregory

Crue Paris

Strafe



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DJ George A. has been the industry from nearly 30+ years. At a time when Hip-Hop was just something heard at a local party or local park jam to learning and working with his Brother I Law; Hassan Sharif with The Fugees, The Loxs, & A Boogie. He was able to work with Hassan to put on the first major concert in Irvington Park NJ featuring artist. Asford & Simpson, The Whispers, Floetry, Musiq Soulchild, Divian Green, Angie Stone and many others.

From Photography to creating a magazine for the Fashion Industry, to now creating a magazine dedicated to a genre of music that's worldwide, but hidden in the face and ears of mainstream society. Deep House Magazine will become a cornerstone in the House Music Community. Bringing the unknown to known.

This is not just DANCE MUSIC, But a music that is spiritual from the roots of Africa, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Japan, Chicago, to New York.



DEEP HOUSE
THE HOUSE MUSIC MAGAZINE

Millie Miz

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THE
DREAM
THE
HARDER
THE
GRIND**

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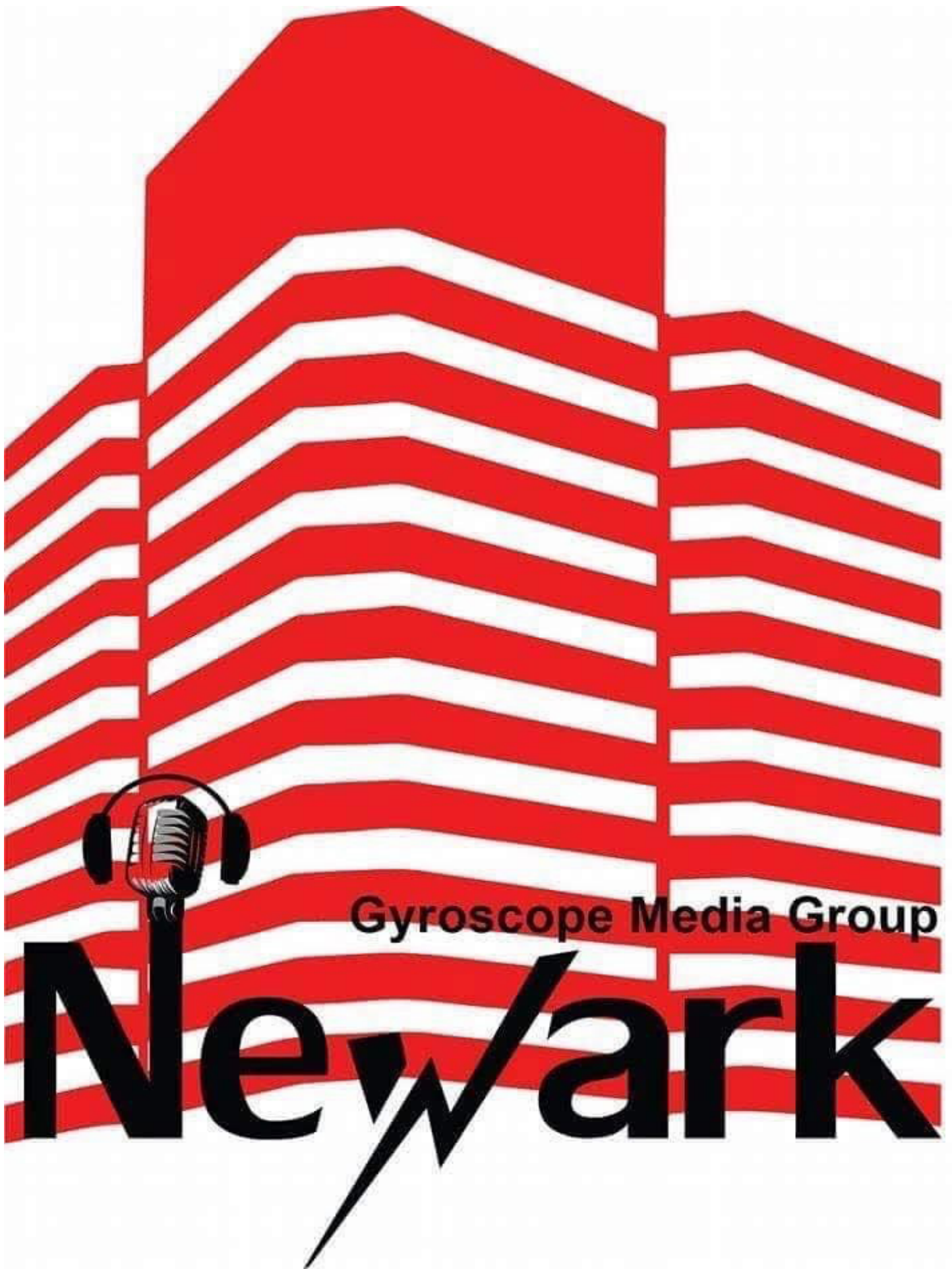
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**TRIBAL
EXPRESSIONS**

Setting It Off from Underground Artistry to Full Out Stardom

Strafe

Steven W. Standard known by his stage and group name Strafe, is a body of art with his credentials including being a producer, musician, composer, arranger, and recording artist of his generation. With his classic groovy sound and the charted powerhouse of his single and club classic “Set It Off”, he has been one of the pioneers of house and club music ever since his debut in the mid-1980s. His writing pen has gained the respect of those who followed the house music path and has continued to set the standard of what it means to have music magic at the fingertips for dance, rap, and music history. Strafe discusses his beginnings of being an underground house music artist, how his music inspirations led him to write many songs of different genres, and how his famous hit song “Set It Off” has paved the way for an impactful career that exceeds generations.

m!



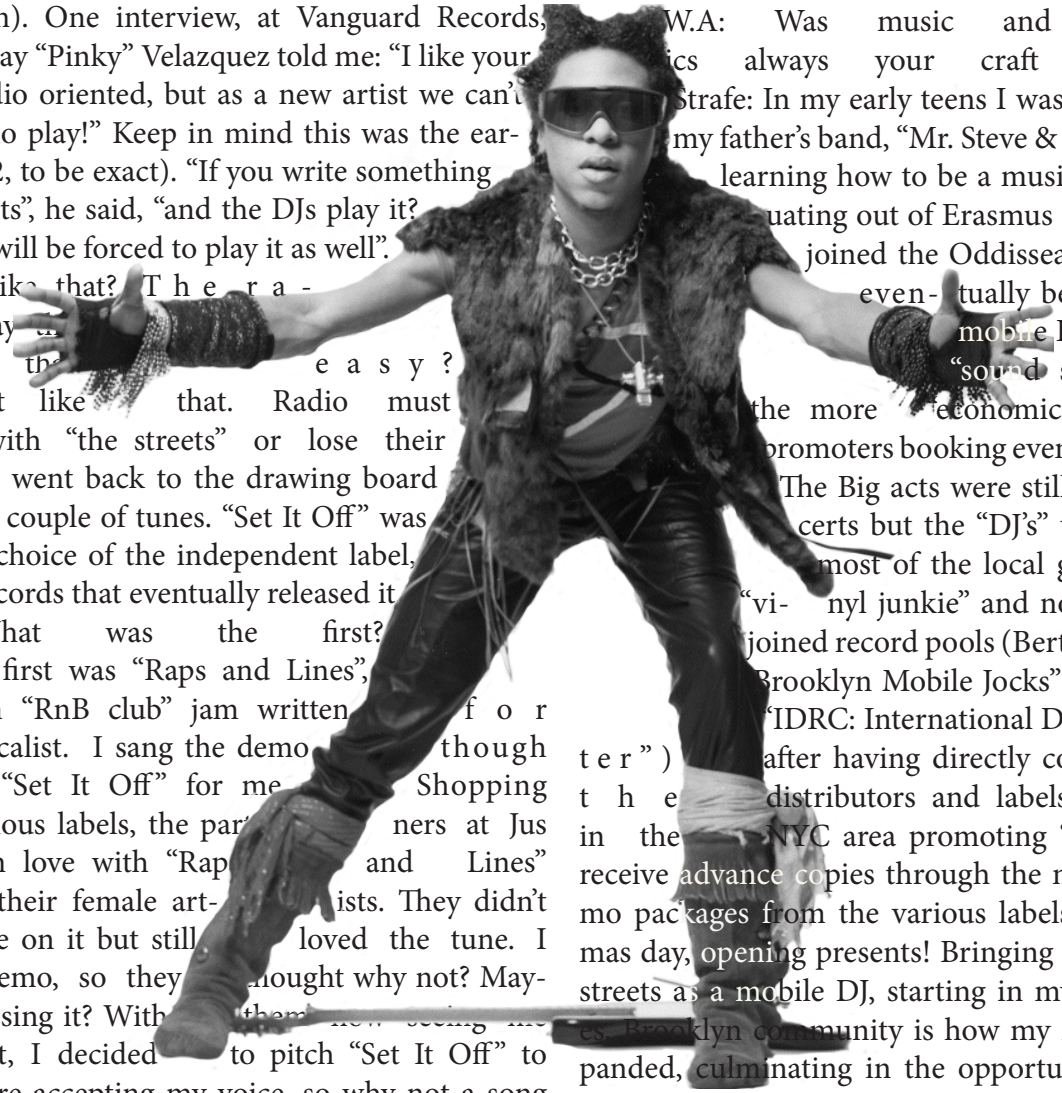
W.A: How did you know that your hit song “Set It Off” would get you to reach these musical heights that it has and be the beginning of a life-long career as an underground House Music Artist? Strafe: I didn’t know, and I actually enjoy being an “underground” artist. Off stage anonymity suits me fine. That’s probably why I’m so nonchalant about releasing new material even though I’m creating all the time! I was a DJ and am a musician, and at the time I was shopping for a record deal for my band, the Meugicians™ (2nd edition). One interview, at Vanguard Records, A&R man Ray “Pinky” Velazquez told me: “I like your stuff, it’s radio oriented, but as a new artist we can’t get you radio play!” Keep in mind this was the early 80s, (1982, to be exact). “If you write something for the streets”, he said, “and the DJs play it? Then radio will be forced to play it as well”.

W.A: Just like that? The radio will play your song just that easy?

Strafe: Just like that. Radio must keep up with “the streets” or lose their credibility. I went back to the drawing board and wrote a couple of tunes. “Set It Off” was the second choice of the independent label, Jus Born Records that eventually released it.

W.A: What was the first?

Strafe: The first was “Raps and Lines”, more of an “RnB club” jam written for a female vocalist. I sang the demo though and wrote “Set It Off” for me. Shopping both to various labels, the partners at Jus Born fell in love with “Raps and Lines” for one of their female artists. They didn’t like her take on it but still loved the tune. I sang the demo, so they thought why not? Maybe I should sing it? With them now seeing me as the artist, I decided to pitch “Set It Off” to them. They’re accepting my voice, so why not a song I wrote for me? Upon 1st listen, they hated it? 2nd? Hated it still! Having fell in love with the first tune it was hard for them to hear, really hear, the 2nd. “SET IT OFF! Written for the streets! If the street DJ’s play it? Radio will have to play it! Plus, street DJ’s will buy two copies of the record so that they can mix it up!” This is how I convinced them to listen again and reconsider. The Jus Born principles, Willie Daniels & George Loggios, knew the challenge of getting radio play. Having worked with them previously on a project (as a guitarist and rhythm section contractor); a full pro-



duction with strings and horns that failed to garner any air play, the point hit home. The rest is history!

The rest is history and “Set It Off” is now an over 30-year generational hit song that anyone from anywhere can groove to. Strafe, with his talent and ambition to get recognized in the music scene, has shown that no matter what anybody else says, you can do it. You just got to believe in your craft and put in the hard work.

W.A: Was music and writing lyrics always your craft and passion?

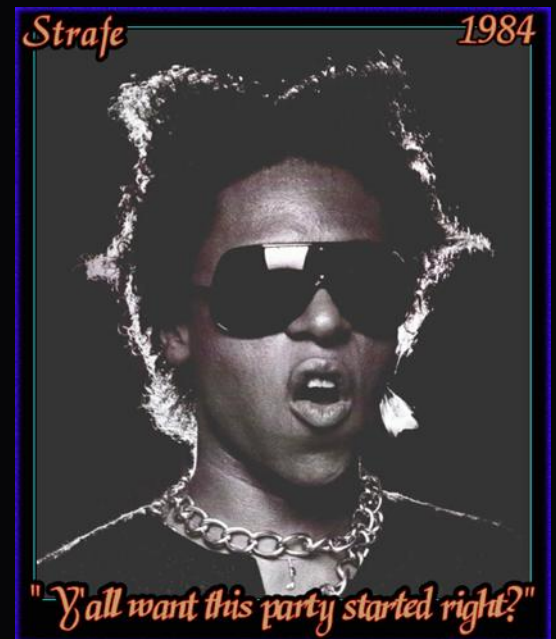
Strafe: In my early teens I was playing guitar in my father’s band, “Mr. Steve & The Young Ones”, learning how to be a musician. Upon graduating out of Erasmus Hall H.S. in ’73, I joined the Oddissea dance band and eventually became a full time mobile DJ as “Disco” and “sound systems” became the more “economical” choice for promoters booking events during the 70s. The Big acts were still getting the concerts but the “DJ’s” were now getting most of the local gigs. An avowed “vinyl junkie” and now music freak, I joined record pools (Bert Locketts’ “BMJ’s: Brooklyn Mobile Jocks” & Eddie Riveras’ “IDRC: International Disco Record Center”) after having directly connected with all the distributors and labels, big and small, in the NYC area promoting “dance music”, to receive advance copies through the mail. Weekly promo packages from the various labels felt like Christmas day, opening presents! Bringing new music to the streets as a mobile DJ, starting in my Farragut Houses, Brooklyn community is how my musical roots expanded, culminating in the opportunity and inspiration to write “Set It Off”. It is intentionally written to be a “tool”; a utility for the DJ! With Rap, Hip Hop and scratch technique becoming “a thing”? Jumping back into my musician/songwriter bag was a natural transition. Using the affordable technology, newly available (drum machines, multitrack cassette recorders, analog synths etc.) I was able to (without my band) compose and produce the demo. Continuing to get better as an audio engineer; recorder, mixer, remixer and composing producer; creating “relevant art”, is my passion!

W.A: Why House Music? Why that particular genre?

Strafe: I don't consider it house, I consider it club, I consider it international music. It's global. You can call it house but it's world and club music; written for the streets, "the clubs", for everybody!

W.A: Did any of the artists you listened to influence your music style in any way?

Strafe: Of course! From Sly and the Family Stone, P-Funk, Curtis Mayfield and too many more to mention; there were a lot of influences. As a musician, what Miles Davis did in terms of breaking the mold with his be-bop, jazz, and fusion style, I was one of those artists that was inspired to go beyond what was acceptable. Getting beyond what was expected and being a better musician. But also tapping into a vision beyond where your life's situation places you. Taking the music into a place that people can tap into as well, with you, the artist! Getting people dancing; being in a room full of people dancing; making them dance and dancing with them is a very special experience. A beautiful thing! A community thing! A tribal thing! A transcendent thing! That's why I do it! One of my favorite vocalists is Levi Stubbs of The Four Tops. The music of Motown, the songs, the artists, writers and producers left an indelible impression in me! As the 70's unfolded, I was introduced to Reggae, Rock, Classical Rock, Jazz-Rock-Fusion, The Avant Garde, Cinema soundtracks and film scores, the evolution of R&B/Soul into Funk and its morph into Disco capped by the inter-Eruption of Rap/Hip Hop and Punk! With New Wave becoming that "next thing", House started percolating as "Disco's" lo-fi replacement, keeping the underground







7



7

W.A: What songs have you written in rock thus far?

Strafe: I have a tune that I'll be releasing called "A Break in The Storm" soon. Edgy! Dramatic! It's actually a tune specifically written for my Freestyle audiences and it's my show opener!

W.A: With the release of new music, what would you say is most significant to your craft of writing and releasing music?

Strafe: We must be present and accounted for regardless of what has happened. The stuff I write is really activism and for the past 15 years I've been accumulating a catalog of pieces that are part of a new vision; "a musical" vision that I believe could become a "hit" on Broadway. Daring! Encouraging! Informing! Inspiring! "Street conscious". High, hopeful energy that a global audience can appreciate about the spirit that is New York! The hustle that is N.Y.!! The "fight" that is N.Y.!!

With all that is going on, we need to be forward and convinced about what it is we want, knowing what it is we deserve!



W.A: Do you think we have lost touch with what the messages music can really give us, especially in the times we are living in now?

Strafe: For sure. A lot of it is by design. I think we're definitely out of touch, in terms of what should be priorities. There are things we need to be aware of and can accomplish, especially as artists. Artists have an opportunity to inspire and inform, helping to create a momentum and focus that can bring folks together, capable of meeting goals and solving problems. The messages I write in my music are not mainstream, considering the climate

of division devouring us at the moment. But they could be and will be if I should have my way? It won't be easy!

W.A: Is there a message or saying that you live by as you continue to put out music?

Strafe: Our motto is: "We've who've never had it easy. Don't expect it to be. Yet still pursue. We do what we've got to do. Hard Soul® ...Never easy. Always Love!" In my music, it's about truth, integrity and purpose. The music we hear and share, because we care! It's more than just entertainment. It's how we contribute as we resonate, perpetuate and elevate! It's our love!

Breaking into the music scene can be a challenge, selling your music can be even harder but as Strafe says "You can cast the reel, but you got to be fishing. You got to hustle it. The hustle game is a whole other reality." Doing what you love is about putting in the hard work to succeed and stay diligent in your pursuit to high achievement, no matter the obstacles.

PROMO



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MORE TO LIFE



**INVEST IN YOURSELF FIRST
EXPECT NOTHING FROM
NO ONE AND BE WILLING
TO WORK FOR EVERYTHING**



DENNIS GREGORY



THE OFTEN UNSUNG PIONEER OF HOUSE MUSIC, DJ DENNIS GREGORY WAS INTRODUCED TO HOUSE MUSIC AFTER AN INVITATION TO VISIT A CLUB AND WHEN HE HEARD THAT HEARD THAT BOOM BOOM FROM THE INFAMOUS RICHARD LONG SOUND SYSTEM, SAW THE CROWD REACTING, JUMPING, SWINGING, TO THE INCREDIBLE MUSIC COMING FROM IT, AND THE FELT THE PEOPLE PARTYING AS ONE, HE KNEW WHAT HE WANTED TO DO.



Dennis came up under Tee Scott, Larry Leevan, whom Dennis was a roommate of, and still close comrade Tony Humphries. What he says was just by chance, we can say it was fate, that Dennis was asked by Tony Humphries to come up to the DJ booth and spin and the rest is House Music History.

Dennis then began playing on Wednesday nights at Zanzibar, and not too long after, the late Larry Patterson asked Dennis to play in his stead. Then to bless the airwaves of KISS FM on the invitation of fellow Zanzibar resident Tony Humphries.

After the closing of Zanzibar in 1992, Dennis stepped back from DJing on a regular basis, only to reemerge on the Tony Humphries label, YellOrange and Dennis became a part of that crew and they stayed connected there from 1999-



2005.

I did ask Dennis what it feels like to know that he was on the precipice of House, although at the beginning, the music and the style did not quite get its House moniker until a little while after the style started to then become a movement, and Dennis said to me it was the thrill of a lifetime. Being able to witness the greatness that came from his DJ friends and them become household names is like

being a kid in the candy store, just happy to be a part of something great that incorporates what he loves, music as a whole, and to feel the crowd reactions to what he puts together and brings forth from the turntables is moving for him. So much so that he himself would be moved to tears. I can say that being moved to tears is an experience one has to have for oneself, in an atmosphere of love, unity, and being free to be and move to some fire tracks, to truly understand

being moved to tears. His passion for all music as he was coming up not only shows he appreciates what he hears, he appreciates the way in which all the sounds of soul, rock, latin, all can be heard and worked well into a House Music sound.

Dennis has played worldwide with the likes of Tony Humphries, Larry Levan, Tee Scott, Duce Martinez, and venues like Ozone Layer 1981, Ice Palace 1982, Ones 111 Hudson Str 1982-85 as the Thurs-

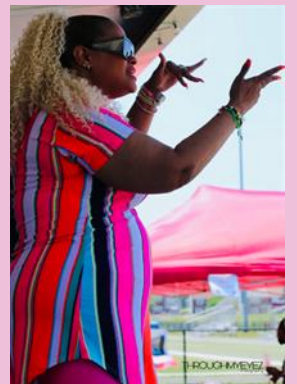
day night resident. Member of SURE Record Pool Thrillers-1985 Star Mileneum 1985 Club Zanzibar 1985-1992 Fill in 1999-2004 Yellorange Records. Internationally, he has graced Toy Club and Pineta Club in Italy, Ministry of Sound in the UK Angels of Love, just to name a few.

Dennis is still a connoisseur of the music, as he is the program director for DWild MusicRadio, where his sets can be heard. Check him out on social media platforms Mixlr, Twitch, Facebook, and Instagram to hear him put down some fire sets and see what he's doing next.

As long as there is House, I hope that Dennis still can shed tears of joy and release at the great things he has done for the Music and the people on the scene.









JUST THE

Justin Myles, is one of the most sought after Music DJs in the state of New Jersey. At the ri

"The Champagne Room"
By Tonia Champagne

ED J

young House
pe age of 15,



Justin who is also known as JusTheDJ has conquered numerous stages across the Garden State. A student at Union County Vocational Technical School housed in its A I T building, this future IT Tech is doing more than just getting good grades in biology. Growing up in a house with his grandmother it was inevitable that he'd eventually fall in love with this music genre called "House". Although he and the others in the home mainly played hip-hop, club and r&b his grandma was always what we call "A Househead" So During the pandemic he decided that dancing to Hip-hop and what we all know as Jersey Club music was just not cutting it for him any longer.

He wanted to learn more about this thing called "HOUSE" ... so he headed to social media. With his knowledge of computers and love for music he began streaming his online DJ software journey virtually to an audience of his peers. This proved to be working for the Jersey club and hiphop music for a short time but it was still not enough for Justin who was only 13 years old at the time. He still wanted more!

His knowledge of computers had grown and so did his hunger for a different type of music. He began to master the online DJ software after listening to some of his grandmother's favorite DJs play. He would listen for hours to the Live streams of DJs like Louis Vega, Jihad Muhammad, Antoine Qua , and many others referred to him by his grandmother. After listening to House music, the virtual Djing of Jersey club music eventually proved to be mediocre for this 13 year old. So at the advice of his grandmother, he decided to go to members of his family to request an investment of funds



to get the controller he needed to start his Live Mixing DJ Journey. His interest and growing love for the baselines and organs in House Music made it hard for him not to want to try it for himself. His go-to tracks are also those that include great vocals. Currently he does shelter remixes and educates the fans with new music. He also does HipHouse, Afrobeats and music for who he calls the "Old folks". LOL ... He says he chose house music because it's more fun to mix. He loves Djing House Music events more than doing Sweet 16 parties even though the sweet sixteens might have been more lucrative. He literally has a music library filled with songs for all ages. When Mixing , Justin pulls off the energy of the crowd which determines what music he plays.

I'm so glad he listened to what his Nana told him "JUS go on and do it" and like any Black Grandma who believes in their grandchild her response gave him the motivation to do just that.

Needless to say it was on and poppin from there. Mom and Dad joined the journey and supported the cause making sure he made it to all of the shows, stayed hydrated, well groomed and well equipped for them all.

"Having my Dad as my manager is a blessing" says Justin ... "He does everything for me and he watches over me like he's my bodyguard too ... lol"

"I know that's right Justin ... You Go Dad!"

JusTheDJ's Live stream videos are currently trending on the social media platform known as Twitch. After having various run-ins with Facebook, Justin decided to take his talent to a different site. Switching to Twitch had proven to be the best decision this young new disc jockey could have ever made. Justin says

His followers are very important to him and he wants nothing more than to entertain them without interruptions. As of this year this young man's following has grown tremendously. But don't get me wrong, This may not only be because of social media. It may have something to do with all of the outdoor stages he's had the opportunity to bless all summer long. And don't get it twisted, his talent has not only caught the eyes and ears of his peers. JusTheDJ has had the privilege of playing

alongside of some of the Biggest names known to House Music. The long listed Disc Jockey repertoire includes DJs like Louis Vega, Naeem Johnson, Jihad Muhammad, and Mark Francis, CEO of 201 Records where you can find future music from JusTheDJ. With major venues, cities and parks added to his resume Justin can now say he has bragging rights because he's played on stages many DJ's before him has not. His latest outdoor festivals and indoor platforms include Warnaco Park in Roselle NJ, Weequahic Park in Newark NJ, Charivari in Detroit MI, Taj Lounge in Newark NJ and Romero's Tavern in Rahway NJ just to name a few.



After high School Justin plans to go to college at NJIT or HBCU to further his education in Technology. He will also look into working from home as an IT Tech so that he can continue his career as a Disc Jockey.

Justin says ...

"I don't have time for a girlfriend so I don't have a relationship right now because my music takes priority." He went on to say his plan in the next 3 to 5 years is to travel a lot which would probably call for him to not actually attend college but have a traveling tutor and/or teacher along for the ride. His 1 to 2 year plan will include putting together an event with himself and all of the other young house music DJs all over the USA. He listens and supports the other young DJs who are also on Twitch and they do the same for him. There are definitely more youngsters joining the House Music scene more now than ever before and we look forward to hearing more from them all. I'm sure Justin will be able to pull it off with the help from his sponsors and family.

He says "as a DJ you have to have fun". If he was able to he would love to produce a house music track with SZA and Brent Faiyaz. Justin says "music has no age bracket". When asked the question "Have you experienced adults expressing their feelings about Youth and House Music"? Justin replied "Yes, but I don't think that just because I love House music that I have an Old Soul. Kids are just not really exposed to it and that may be why they don't like it or understand it." He's definitely a wise young man. He had no problem at all answering all of my questions. When I asked him "What would you do to

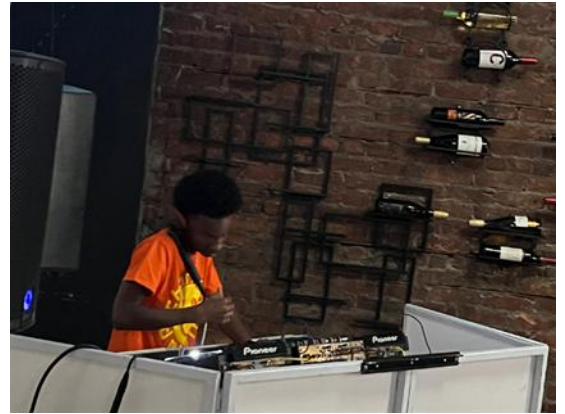
change that?" Justin's response was he hopes that what he and the others are already doing can change the narrative. He loves the fact that older DJs are pouring into his life and I urged him to be sure to take all of that advice and treasure it. He'd like to give thanks to so many who has already proven to be assets to his future career decision to be a Disc Jockey. People like The G.O.A.T himself ABSalute, Mo of MoMoTV, Butch Buchanan, David Morales, DJ Beloved and others who took a chance on him and are still providing great advice and helpful hints to the Young Prince of Jersey House.

The last thing Justin would like to leave his peers and all of



you reading this article is

“if you have dreams and aspirations you should go after them even if no one else believes in you”.
So with that being said I leave you with this one word to describe this bright young talent ... from
that famous Jaheim song “FABULOUS”





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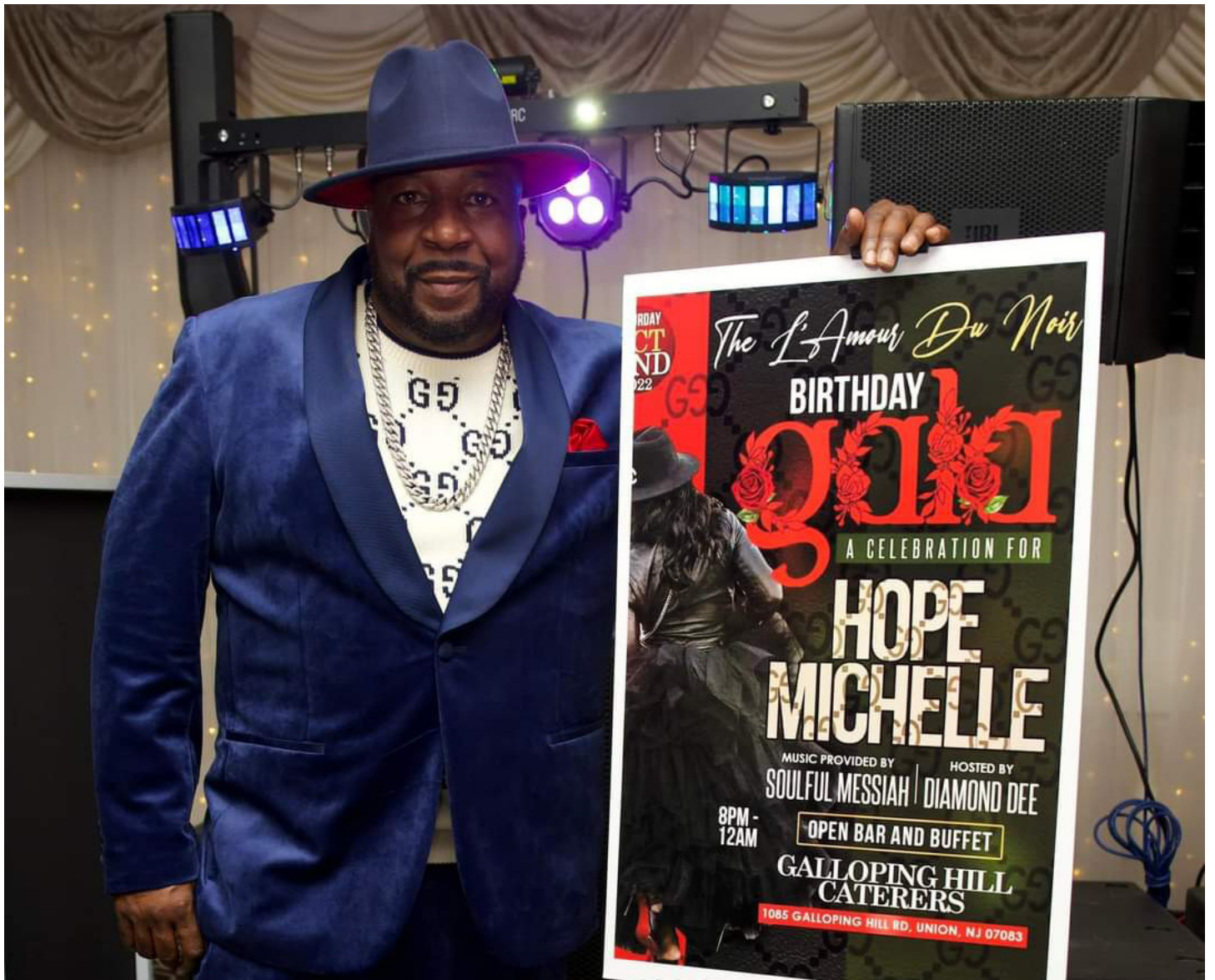
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DUCE MARTI

Spanish Harlem Born, Newark, New Jersey Bred, Julio “Duce” Martinez has traversed through music like a whirlwind. His start came with the break off group the Dynamic Breakers, from the larger B-Boy Break dance group the Dynamic Rockers, they made Hip Hop history with the group appearing in such iconic movies such as “Flashdance,” “Delivery Boys,” “The Exterminator” & “The Last Dragon,” performed on stages graced by Whodini, Run DMC and Grand Master Flash. Keeping up momentum while with the Dynamic Breakers,

he began DJing local parties for churches, neighborhood events and the like.

Duce’s blazed turntables and rocked parties throughout New Jersey and New York with all flavors and sounds incorporating free style, Hip Hop, Reggae.

While still a member of the B-Boy breakdance group, he moved into producing and engineering music, including the groups two songs, their debut record “Dynamic/Total Control, which peaked at #83 on Billboard’s Hot Black Singles chart, staying on the chart for 5 weeks and “Kim”.

Duce then teamed up Jose



NEZ



Burgos after meeting at a DJ battle and they birthed their production company, Soul Creation. This body of work gained him the producers title for rap artists T La Rock, Fearless Four, The Treacherous Three, Just Ice, and King Sun. Duce then worked on projects with hit makers in the music industry with his brand of engineering and producing that makes him sought after for his expertise and stylings. The lineup of globally recognized talent he has and continues to work with reads like the Who's Who of the Arts and Entertainment industry: Lurn Hill, Mary J. Blige, Stetsasonic, Redman, and many, many more. He moved into the House

music scene in the early 90's, when Duce and Jose started BassClef Records and received house music acclaim with releases by Dawn Tallman, Sandy Rivera, Michelle Weeks and the 3rd member of Soul Creation, Duron Tarrik. With his own unique mode and stylings, Duce let forth banged out hot productions and remixes for such labels as Defected, Nervous, Fruit Tree, Strictly Rhythm, Minimal, Real Time, DV8, Soundman on Wax, MN2S with artists like Kenny Bobien, Stephanie Cooke, Dee Holloway, Eddie Stockley, Gerideau. House music owes a lot to Duce. He has given much too. One of my go-to,

makes me feel better projects, is the mixed Kenny Bobien track, "I Shall Not Be Moved." And let us talk about the funkied-up Stevie Wonder Classic "Golden Lady"? Duce has been privileged to work with Louie Vega, Dawn Tallman, Kenny Bobien in the House Music scene. The way in which he hears sounds and turns it into magic strings make you want to reach and grab for it for them and wrap them around yourself. Why? Because it feels so good to hear what you feel come out from the speakers and Duce's loving handling of the music. He has hosted a plethora of events in his home town, New York, where people of all cultures can vibe, and just be. Duce allows that because he



is that he does that himself.

As we were talking and he is expounding on questions, he is an open book. I had read that he had married his longtime love in August 2022. And in his fashion of being grounded, and cool with who he is, he said you know were together for years, separated for five, then when we did get back together, we got married. It was not a nonchalant answer; not at all. I can only imagine what sounds he created around how he felt during that time, but I can almost say that it came out though the music he produced and engineered. We spoke as if he and I had talked before, as if were catching up, and he had a way of taking the nervousness and fangirl away.

Duce has created and maintained some good and honest pure music through his record label concentrating on DJing and music production, he launched the now, production company, Duce Is Wild and record label, D. Wild Music. He keeps busy, and rightly so, because he can move all crowds and keeps the party going moving, riding rhythms.

Duce is an all-round humble soul, down to earth person, and I can vouch for that in all honesty, “How is that?,” you may ask, well, I will tell you; during our interview, he was assisting a friend relocate from one space to another and did not skip a beat, getting directions to the new spot, all while speaking with me on his transcendent moves through music.

We salute You, Julio “Duce” Martinez. Keep It D-Wild style.

As a church girl, there wasn't much music thumping around the house unless my father's plucking on his guitar while crooning San Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come or Touch the Hem of His Garment" is to be considered. I can still conjure thoughts of those elongated trembling riffs that were overly done on his part if you ask me; which made you think that you were listening to a whole other song. When it comes to those beloved digital drum pads that those DJ's can't seemingly live without I haven't ever really laid eyes on one back then or even now; besides the kits that I played at our church in my role as the drummer. At my house, nobody was playing House or much of anything else for all that matters which defeats the purpose when it comes to writing articles for music enthusiasts for a music mag. So I thought why not introduce you to somebody else's house.

By Andrea Dialect



MY HOUSE

DJ KORTEZ

"First off, this is how I was introduced to house music because there are running debates on where House Music started. For me it has always been a Jersey/NYC Thing. My introduction to "House Music" was stumbling upon the mixes on late night NYC radio. I was listening to mostly Hip Hop DJ's like The Cool DJ The Red Alert before I turned on to the likes of Tony Humphries he was on Kiss FM and on the other Urban format radio station WBLS. You had Timmy Regisford

Merlin Bob, Naeem Johnson and my friend Tony Vaughn. These were the jocks I was listening to on the radio before I could legally get into a nightclub.

With music there is always a central point where it starts and I would say for Jersey it was Zanzibar in Newark NJ. Initially I would say New York, New Jersey and Philly

are connected in the same way Chicago and Detroit are connected. The reason that I bring up Philadelphia is because if we look at House Music as being a derivative of Disco. We have to look at Philly in some shape or form as

another connection to House Music.

House started becoming popular in the UK and DJ Tony Humphries becomes the first American DJ to get a residency at the Ministry of Sound which was a prominent house club in London. If you think about it England, is one of the great colonizers so of course the music is going to be picked up by Africans sooner or later and then you fast forward to the popularity of Afro House right now. That's nothing but Africans taking what they heard in America and the UK and putting their own twist on it.

The music coming out of Africa whether it be House, R&B or HIP HOP is some of the hottest music being released at this given time. A DJ named Black Coffee who is from South Africa has become very popular simply because of this different sound. Have you heard of that song Superman? That is Black Coffee and he is more less is one entry point to this to the genre of Afro House.

Afro House is an offshoot of afro Beat. Afrobeat is rooted in Nigerian based popular music and the person that we claim to have discovered Afro beats or made it popular was Fela Kuti. I would put it like this; Fela has been making music since the seventies. Fela was inspired by American music such as the FUNK James Brown made popular. Afrobeat became very popular in the states due to the desire to find new and exciting sounds by DJ around the world.

Besides the radio, hearing my brother's stories from the Paradise Garage, having access to his records, my brother's love for music and his love for the underground club scene is what sparked me and my wanting to participate. The Pegasus was a midtown NYC night club that would host kiddy discos on Sunday's. Parents would bring their

kids and it was our family outing after church going to the Disco. That I would say was my first real introduction into club culture and that's what sparked me to say "I wanna be a DJ!"

My seeing the atmosphere, seeing the energy, and seeing how people responded to the music was enticing. At that young age to see that guy in the DJ booth was so intriguing to me. This is all happening around 1979, at the time but I remember that song by Kurtis Blow "Christmas Rhyme" being played

And I'd never heard that song! But it was the atmosphere of the club itself that was so amazing. It's was in these moments that I realized that DJing was something I wanted to do. This was the beginning of Hip Hop and the last days of Disco as we know it.

House music didn't hit my radar until late 1985 heading into 1986. Supposedly, the first house record was by this guy called Jesse Saunders and the song was called "On and On". But I'm just finding out actually in the last few weeks that his version was a cover of a NYC DJ's song. You can in a way say that House started in New York Because House got its name because of DJ Frankie Knuckles playing his brand of music at the legendary night club called Warehouse in Chicago. Originally the DJ that was supposed to spin at that club was Larry Levan. Levan and Frankie were friends and they were in NYC spinning at a place called The Continental Baths. Frankie was the one that went to Chicago. Larry stayed in New York and ended up spinning at the NYC nightspot The Garage.

If Frankie's playing this music and they are calling it House Music at this club Chicago, one must understand, Frankie is a transplant from New York and he basically brought that New York sound to Chicago. So many people debate these details but I really don't care where it comes from I just love the music. For me it really doesn't matter. I clearly remember Songs like Denroy Morgan's "I'll do anything For U", Sharon Redd's "Beat The Street" and so many other songs like that being played during that time and it wasn't quite disco, it was more like straight up R and B.

Fast forward to my cousin Mark's graduation or a birthday party. It was the first time that I'd seen two turntables and a mixer up close and I remember they were playing that Denroy Morgan song and back spinning it more in a Hip Hop style. This is also my first time seeing scratching up close and personal. Keep in mind as a kid I'm seeing this from the aesthetics of early Hip Hop. So my first vision of a DJ is happening up close at a family

function. That triggered me to go into a search to find out more about DJ Culture.

I didn't get close to spinning until my friends John and Kier Minor got the equipment. But, the real hands-on experience didn't come until I moved to South Jersey in 1984 when I moved to a town called Manalapan. Ian Francis was the one who physically taught me how to DJ. It wasn't until around 1986 that I got my first residency at a local Elks Club in Freehold NJ. It's so funny because I'm trying to get a gig there now. I used to do Classic Sundays with this other DJ named Acie Daniels and his Brother in law Bryant Humphries who remains one of my closest friends today. They more or less had the equipment that I didn't have. We would go over to Acie's house and we could play our music, and chill out and it was pure fun! This was around the time that we got the gig at the Elks Club. I remember distinctly being underage and keeping that information under the radar. My mother was aware but for all, she knew I was just DJing and I wasn't getting into any trouble. I was just hanging out with my friend Bryant who my mother adored. For us, it was a fun way to meet women, chill and most importantly play the music.

Another high school student named Neil Olliviera was from Detroit. He was the one who schooled me about Detroit Techno. Keep in mind, at the exact same time I was learning about House Music, I'm also learning about Techno. For me at the time it was me trying to spin something different because everybody was doing Hip Hop, New Jack Swing, and Disco which is now being called CLUB in Jersey. I wasn't getting into Bobby Brown's "My Prerogative". I didn't like that stuff and even the Hip Hop stuff started getting kinda corny. I was into Public Enemy, Eric B and Rakim, EPMD, and other underground Hip Hop.

I wasn't feeling the path that Hip hop was going because it was becoming more commercial. All the DJs that I knew were

spinning the same music. I wanted to stand out so I started spinning house music and I started getting gigs because I was one of the few DJ's in the area spinning House Music. Over the years I've made a modest mark and I have spun in NYC, The UK, and all over New Jersey. I'm simply a local DJ who is very passionate about what I do.

Fast forward to today, I'm still spinning House music but I also appreciate other genres of music. For 3 years I was spinning out of our boutique in East Orange

called House of BAV. It was an upcycle boutique that focused on sustainable fashion. After the pandemic, one of the vehicles we used to get people into the shop was DJ Culture and we started this monthly event called Born Again Vinyl. Since the shop closed in June of 2022, I started a monthly event hosting an Open Turntable event at Four City Brewing Company in Orange NJ, we call it Gathering of Tribes. I wanted to create an event that would bring together DJ's, share my love of vinyl, and also share DJ culture. We set up the DJ equipment and invite patrons at the brewery to play either our records or bring their own. This happens every first Sunday and you can find out so much more at www.esotericurbanism.com. “

Andrea Dialect is a creative strategist , writer and photojournalist whose life purpose is to inform, motivate and inspire.







MCM Roasted Pecan







David Castellano

House Music isn't only about the beat and vibe of a tune, it's more of the way your body moves and the way your soul connects to sound and artist. David Castellano, in his love and passion for all things Afro House and Soulful House Music, he's taking New Jersey and New York by storm, captivating souls and hearts of the classic genre, one music set at a time.

Wynter: How did your journey into house music initially start?

David: I have a friend and family in Edison, NJ. And, by me coming every year to see my family, my friend would also show me videos of house music. My friend had initially started late at just 29 years old. When I would watch the videos, I'd think "Wow this is cool, who is that I want to be apart!". My friend Jihad Muhammed was the one

to introduce me to it. House Music became the love of my life. It became a feeling, love of my life, and something that I really wanted to do especially in New York and New Jersey. I learned on my own and in 2008 I saw the parties to see house music. The parties made me realize that this is what I wanted to do in my life. I started to practice and really dive in.

Music is different for everyone. It's all about connection and pure vibes, feeling the beat from within and for David, his style of house music transcends beyond a simple instrument.

Wynter: How would you describe your music style? Is there a big house music community at home for you where you can spread your love and talent for the genre?

David: It is soulful house music. It is a lot of wood instruments, especially real music, real instruments, and real vocals. It's AfroHouse/Afrobeat's. I am from Tenerife, off the west coast of Africa



and the music speaks to our land. Unfortunately, there is no house scene which is why I travel over here. It's more of EDM music over there. When I'm home, I'm with my family and friends, but I'm thinking about the music and that is what keeps me here in New Jersey/New York mentally.

Wynter: Was house music always something you were into even at a young age?

David: In the past I played soccer but when I met my friend, I knew nothing about house music. I researched on my own and later I entered the house community through radio. I later met NuNu Rox, Rescue Poetics, and many others that have had a impact on my career.

Wynter: How have you been able to build the community that you have?

David: I have a special relationship with DJs of the

community from New Jersey. I studied them and they influenced me and when I contacted them about the radio-Cyber Jam, Base to Base, and CyberSoul Café in late 2012, I met more people and my first travel to the U.S.A was in Miami 2012. I also have my own radio show-Deep Spirit Radio that airs every Wednesday.

Wynter: How has your music been able to reach across thousands of people at a time?

David: I own my own label-Deep Spirit Recordings. When you love something, you put all your patience and I have my own team. I have a vision of my music and my producer Zogli produces all the music under the label.

Wynter: How you ever thought about expanding beyond the genre of house music? Perhaps going

into different styles of music?

David: I am known as the “Deep Spirit” and will not explore any other genres of music. Soulful House Music is my life and love.

Love is all around us, in different ways. House Music, for David, is a love that can't be separated or changed. As he says “It's the love of my life. When I first heard it, it's been with me always.”

Wynter: When your audience is hearing your beats, how do you know they are connecting to what you're putting out?

David: Everyone feels what I feel when I play, and this is the power of New Jersey and New York. It has a special energy especially the people. DJing is only one part of this movement, we need the promotors, the music, and the dancers. All are involved not just me. My music has even brought tears to people's eyes. When you connect all and all is together, we will all feel the power of the music.

Wynter: How do you think the younger crowd can get more into House Music, especially since it tends to be brought out by an older generation?

David: The music is more for the older people than younger because as the music has a spiritual influence, the older people resonate more with it because they have more experience than the younger people. JusTheDJ who is featured on the cover is one I look forward to seeing grow. He's working really hard. He's a good example who can influence a younger crowd, more even than me. When you're older, you're more selective but when younger, you have free reign to listen to anything that resonates with you.

Wynter: How do you want your music to be seen around the world? It touches souls from all walks of life, how do you want your music to be remembered?

David: The music is the language of the soul. This music can be global around the world and needs to be spread to the people. My music is my music and when people hear it, it touches a part of them and remains.

Wynter: Have you traveled anywhere else around the world to play your music? How do you think house music is received in other countries?

David: This is the capital of house music but there are other places like England, Greece, and South Africa but this is where the heart is, especially for the people.

Wynter: Where have you done events thus far? Where can people go to hear your music?

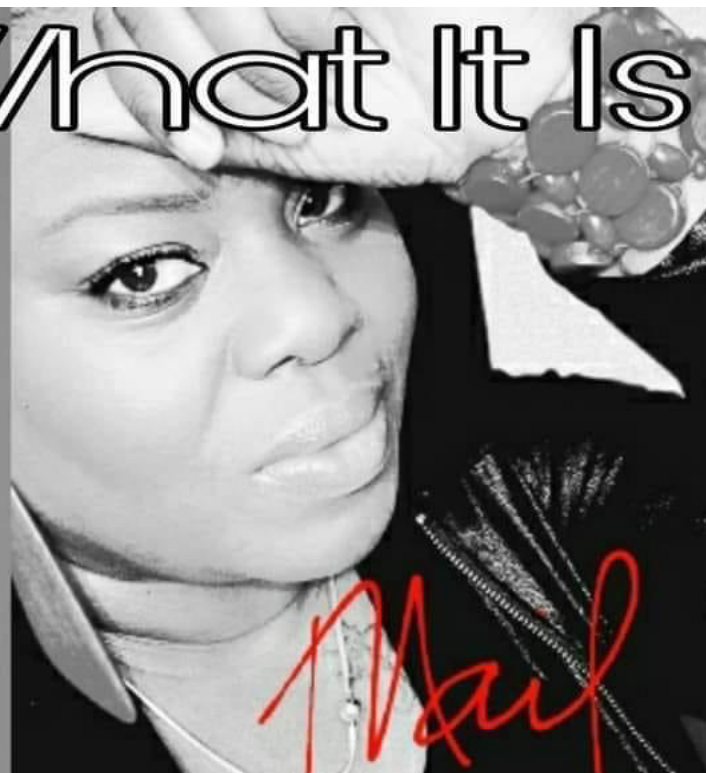
David: I am in places like New York, Miami, New Jersey, Boston, and Philly, but mainly here in New Jersey/New York.

Wynter: Is there a particular ritual that you do, to decide on the set that you will play for a particular event?

David: I select the music I think is going to be good. I usually play what I feel good about and have people connect to it. The energy always changes from older house music to younger, and in the end, it's all love and connection to the people who hear my and our house community's music.

*Written by: Wynter Aiken of Rahway Girlz Publishing/RGP Muse Magazine
Contributing Writer*

This Is What It Is



Tune In Every Tuesday Night 7pm With Dawn Souluvn Williams & Tanya Tan Nail Facebook Live

A NEGATIVE
MIND WILL
NEVER
GIVE YOU A
POSITIVE LIFE

Peace and positive vibrations good people. My name is Yasmin I am a house head, and I will be a House Head until...

House is me and I am House music.

Most people in the House music community and on social media know me as Ms Yazz Roar. What most people don't know Is ROAR stands for (Reach Out Addiction & Recovery)

I am also a recovering addict whose drug of choice is alcohol. Just for today relapse is not a part of my story. My story is one of addiction, recovery, bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, sextortion, child abuse, Intimate partner violence, bulimia, spoken word artist and House Music.

All these traumatic experiences are what led to my substance use disorder and mental health.

Names have been changed to protect the identity of the real characters in my story

Addiction is perceived as something a person grows up with, something "inherited," whether by nature or nurture.

There is a STIGMA associated with drug abuse and mental health. Stigma is negative attitudes, beliefs or behaviors about or towards a group of people because of their situation in life. It includes discrimination, prejudice, judgment and stereotypes, which can isolate people who use drugs.

House music gave me the FORTITUDE and strength to be able to open up and talk openly about my story and the details of the trauma I went through that created my purpose, when most people would not.

I am she and she is me. Who am I?

I AM FORTITUDE

I am a driving force. I never give up. I move forward with grace and ease while I hold the vision clearly to rise up.

I am Fortitude I drive and push forward with momentum.

I am endless as I grow in the face of uncertainty. I bridge gaps I move ahead while facing adversity I move toward the goal...toward the Truth I seek; I am strength I connect with belief, I am an agent of change

I tie the future to the present.

I am reminder of what is possible which is grand. achievable. I

speak change into existence., I be my life change to change

who I be

I AM FORTITUDE

I am sure some of you will hear something in my story that's familiar to you.

It is very important that you "DO NOT COMPARE" any part of my story to yours. Instead try to identify with or relate to how you feel while reading my story. I

can guarantee you that you will hear or feel something that I call the "ME TOO'S". You will find yourself saying. " You too? /Me too, I went through that too or that happened to me too".

(All of the following poems are my truth)

ME TOO

So, you want to know who I am today
yeah, yeah alright ok...

First let me tell you who I used to be,
Before my Music Therapy.

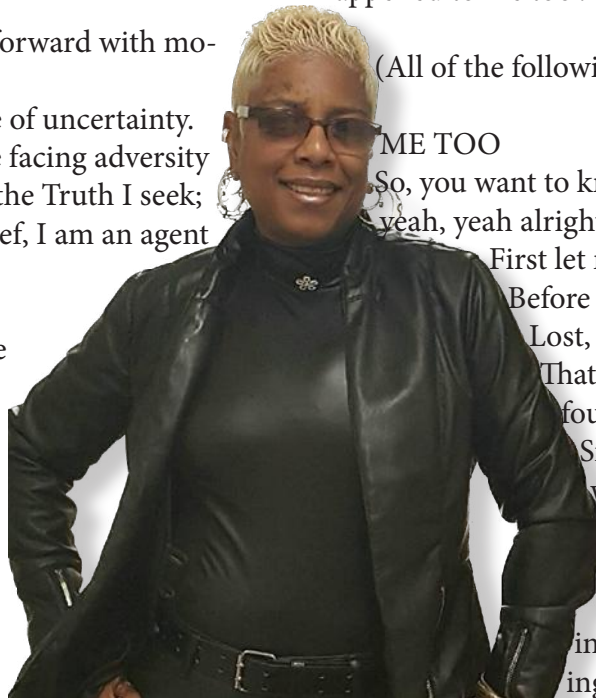
Lost, broken. lonely and scared.

That's who I be before House Music
found me.

Sick as my secrets. I didn't know
what to do. Did I hear one of you
say... ME TOO

Hostile, resentful, self-centered
and self-seeking, stealing, creep-
ing, misleading and beaten drown-
ing my pain in liquor, drugs and
binge eating.

Not knowing where to turn or what to do. HOLD UP
Did I hear one of you say...ME TOO
Now I'm a complicated Virgo queen with the disease of



upside down thinking you know what I mean.

I'm a little extra this and a sprinkle of extra that with a whole lotta extra in my diseased tit for tat.

You see house head family I lived in fear and self-doubt. Lacking direction and definitely had no faith to talk about.

Searching for hope in religion, drugs, men and the bottle. Doing things my way or the highway was my motto.

Getting high and staying high I thought was cool to do.

Now I could have sworn I heard one of you say. ME TOO

Chile I was having so much fun with my negative friends. I don't know when the problem started, and the fun

came to an end. But just when I thought I can't take this pain no more. House Music led me to the dance floor. Now

the dance floor is where I found my therapy, my joy, my peace, my serenity. Ok so that's enough about who I used

to be before my House Music found me. So, you wannna know who I am today? I'm a house head in recovery baby

Can I hear you say? ME TOO?

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SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

@YOURDIGITALDESIGNZ

MY HOUSE MUSIC JOURNEY WITH

DJ CRUE PARIS

By: Tonia Champagne

“At the time when most people were listening to music, I felt that music was listening to me” Those were the words that stuck with me after interviewing Jersey City, NJ native DJ Crue Paris. After losing his best friend in high school to suicide, music became the therapeutic outlet for the young Crue Paris who needed to find a way to express himself. And

“Growing up in the Garden State (NJ), there was absolutely no way you weren’t going get a taste of this spirit filled music genre known as “House Music”.

(Now Let’s rewind)



At the age of around 9 or 10, Crue remembers watching his cousin Eric, who lived with him at the time, getting dressed to go to the club and listening to these funky sounds that always made him curious. Over the years he made strides to be a producer of Hip-hop music, and though it was ok for him in the beginning he was still curious about the music his cousin was playing. So as time progressed “Curious Crue” would call Eric to ask him names of the songs he heard him playing by mimicking the sounds and the lyrics.

Once he had a significant amount of music, it was time for him to start his journey to becoming an official House Music Disc Jockey. But it wasn’t that easy. “Curious Crue” found himself alone. None of his friends were willing to switch from Hip-hop to House. So “Curious Crue” embarked on a journey to find like-minded people who had a love for House Music as he did. One night he and Eric decided to go to a club called “The Shelter” there he was able to finally find his tribe. With CDs in hand, he and Eric separated and began to work.

Remember what I said now ... “Getting these people to listen to the cd of a newcomer was NOT an easy task”. People were not as forthcoming as Crue expected. But Eric, who was working the other side of the room was able to put the cd in the hands of a well-known Icon in the House Music family. He gave the cd to Mark Francis, CEO of 201 Records. Days later “Curious Crue” got the phone call that changed his journey into House Music forever. Even then he almost missed it! He never believed that Mark Francis would ever call so when he heard the voice on the other end of the phone, He thought it was a joke and hung up on the icon. LOL ... Thankfully Mark called back, and the rest is history. Since then, he has played at Mark Francis Birthday Bash and many other venues alongside of some of the biggest names in House Music history. There was no more reason for us to call him “Curious Crue” any longer. DJ Crue Paris is now one of the most sought-after Disc Jockeys in the State of New Jersey. Not only

because of his skills on the turntables but because of his production skills. Being a producer of Hip-hop music was just preparation for what GOD truly had for his production career.

Crue has produced records for not only Mark Francis and 201 Records, but for various artists and record labels such as King Streets, Conway Kasey, Quantize Records, Doug Gomez and Mericumbe Records.

I asked him why he chose House Music instead of Hip-hop and his answer really rocked me. His response was “When I was playing Hip-hop I felt empty, like something was missing, but House Music filled me up.”

WOW ... That's Powerful!

During his life Crue not only fell in love with House Music but found himself feeling all fuzzy inside for a young lady named Melissa. This was a different feeling for a young man who never really wanted to allow anyone into his world. He said it was hard for him to trust people and let them in his space. But he's so glad that he took a chance on love with this Beautiful Black Queen who eventually would become his wife of 10 years and the mother of his soon to be 3 children. They currently have a son and daughter and She's due to have his 2nd mas day.

“What a Blessing”

There is so much more to Crue Paris than meets the eye. Although he's producing, he is his first love. He says “I ... I know what it's like for your mood or to change just changes that ... You don't are going through when hear you. I try my best not people and always play hard but music can literally save purpose of DJing is to reach I love the DJing aspect, but pect doesn't do that for me so motivated by money. It's but touching the people will motivation.”

When thing the right song know what people they come out to to shortchange the ... It may sound crazy somebody's life. The the people that's why the production as-because it's more cool to make money always be my true



Crue feels that its necessary to teach our youth the craft. He says passing the baton and giving them advice is mandatory. He gave props to JusTheDJ whom he had the privilege of playing with this past summer. He also says that Hip-hop and House should not coexist inside of a House Music Party, but it shouldn't be a problem at all if there is a mixed audience at an outdoor festival. “It's about the intent of the event ... If the intent is to party & dance, then you probably don't wanna mix the 2” Says Crue.

Then he left me with these last words ...

“The most important thing right now is Love & God ... whatever God you serve, Whatever God you believe in ... Something higher than yourself. Love and something higher than yourself ... put those things into practice. Every time you walk out the door take Love with you ... Take them with you every day ... Take something greater than yourself with you and put it into practice. Think before you react”

I'm so glad I set my zoom for an hour because we had so much to talk about. It was a pleasure interviewing this talented King. I look forward to seeing and hearing more from him in the summer of 2023.

To learn more follow DJ Crue Paris on social media. Much of his music can be found on [Traxsource.com](https://www.traxsource.com) 10 to 15 productions (Record Label Projects) and [Bandcamp.com](https://www.bandcamp.com) (2 volumes of Tempo Edits/Remixes & Edits) Follow Crue Paris: Facebook page @crue.paris.9 and IG @crueparis



The Netty Report On Summer Events/Festivals 2022

New Jersey House Music “free” summer

outdoor events , festivals, and series starts at the end of May and ends in the middle of October. There are over 100 events during the summer and almost one every single day . There are big major ones , small ones , summer series ones , and after work ones. Most of them are located in parks , but some are at train stations , in parking lots , on blocked off streets , or at public libraries. The major big ones usually starts at 12pm and ends at 9pm , and the after work ones starts at 5pm and ends at 9pm. I attend an estimate of 80 events during the summer , so these are the New

Jersey House Music “free” outdoor events and festivals that celebrates culture , history , community , art , and House Music .

Lincoln Park House Music Festival is located on Broad Street in the heart of Newark New Jersey history district. The park is surrounded by architectural houses , a historical Presbyterian church , Newark School of Arts , and the Integrity House . Lincoln Park House Music Festival started it all in New Jersey and it has grew bigger each

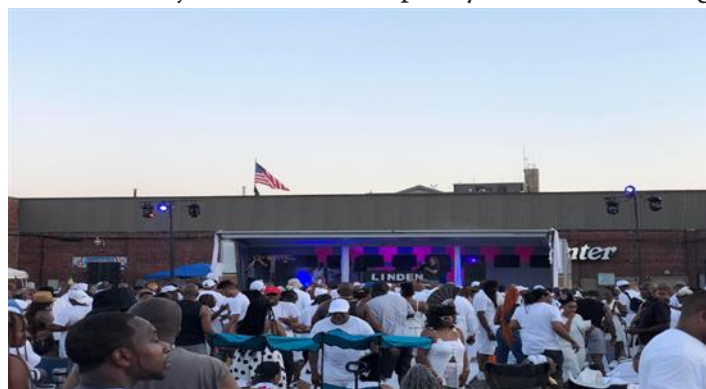


year . It has plenty of food and merchandise vendors , activities for children , a health wellness tent for senior citizens, educational services and job employment programs for all attendees. The festival has always given back to the community every year so the community attends the event loyally bringing chairs, coolers , and tents . Attendees get to enjoy listening to a full day of house music from a variety of deejays that come from Chicago, Detroit , and New York . The festival is held on the last Saturday in July from 12pm to 9pm and it never has a rain date .

Military Park House Music Summer Series is located at Military Park on Broad Street in the downtown area of Newark New Jersey . The park is a historical park and is right across the street from the Robert Treat Hotel , and accessible to all public transportation. It starts in June and ends in September. Each month on a Saturday from 12pm to 9pm DJ Tim Wise of “Ubiquity Soul“ gives a “free” house music event with a clear crisp loud sound system from huge big blue speakers and with a large wood dance floor . Every month there are different deejays who come to spin on the wheels of steel playing different genres of house music . Residents, workers and visitors come to this event regularly.



Warinaco Park House Music festival is located at Warinaco Park on St. George Avenue in Roselle New Jersey . This festival has always attracted a large crowd attendance every year . The park is absolutely beautiful with a boathouse for duck boat rides , playgrounds , an ice skating rink , and picnic areas . The house music event is usually located in the middle of the biggest area in the park . This festival is always on a Saturday in July from 12pm to 9pm. The festival is so big that it has an area sectioned off just for tents and plenty of vendors selling



food and merchandise. The stage is huge with a great sound system that you can hear from far away and at night the lights on the stage gives you a concert feeling.

Bang The Drum House Music Event is located at Mulberry Commons on Mulberry Street across from the Prudential Center in Newark New Jersey . This “free” event is given by DJ Jihad Muhammad twice every summer on a Sunday from 12pm to 9pm. The event has food trucks and merchandise vendors. Tents are allowed but must be put in the back area of the park while chairs are allowed up front close to the dance area. Parking is easy to find and it’s only two walking blocks from Newark train station. Attendees get to enjoy a full day of listening to afro beats and drums mixed with House Music.

Linden “All White Affair” House Music Event is located at 400 North Wood Avenue “Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade “ in Linden New Jersey. This “free” event is given by DJ Tamir of “FamilySoul” every year on a Saturday in June from 12pm to 9pm. The event has two dance areas one small one in the front and a huge one in the back parking lot area. They have big white tents on the side of the stage for attendees to sit under for shade and well maintained clean bathrooms. All the attendees dress up or dress down in all white attire and dance on a big white wood dance floor every year.

Peaches Platinum Productions Wall-B Entertainment

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3rd Annual Capricorn & Aquarius

Celebration of Life



KESHIA

DOOR HOSTESS



I'M DONE



DOORS OPEN
730pm - 1:30am
Light Buffet
FROM 8 TO 9
BYOBB EVENT
NO Coolers
NO Brand Wear
NO Work Boots
NO Athletic Wear

WINTER WHITE PINK & WHITE SNEAKER BALL

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL 1st 50
TICKETS \$25
UNTIL OCT 15TH



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RAS ATHONY



DJ CHILL-X



DJ STEVE DAVIS



DJ MARK FRANCIS



DJ WALL-B

JAN 14TH 2023

TICKETS ON SALE \$30 DOOR ADMISSION \$40
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3rd Annual Capricorn & Aquarius
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WINTER WHITE PINK & WHITE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL 1ST 50
TICKETS \$25
UNTIL OCT 15TH

DOORS OPEN
7:30pm - 1:30am
Light Buffet
FROM 8 TO 9
BYOB EVENT
NO Coolers
NO Brand Wear
NO Work Boots
NO Athletic Wear



PEACHES



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CASSANDRA



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Wall B Entertainment

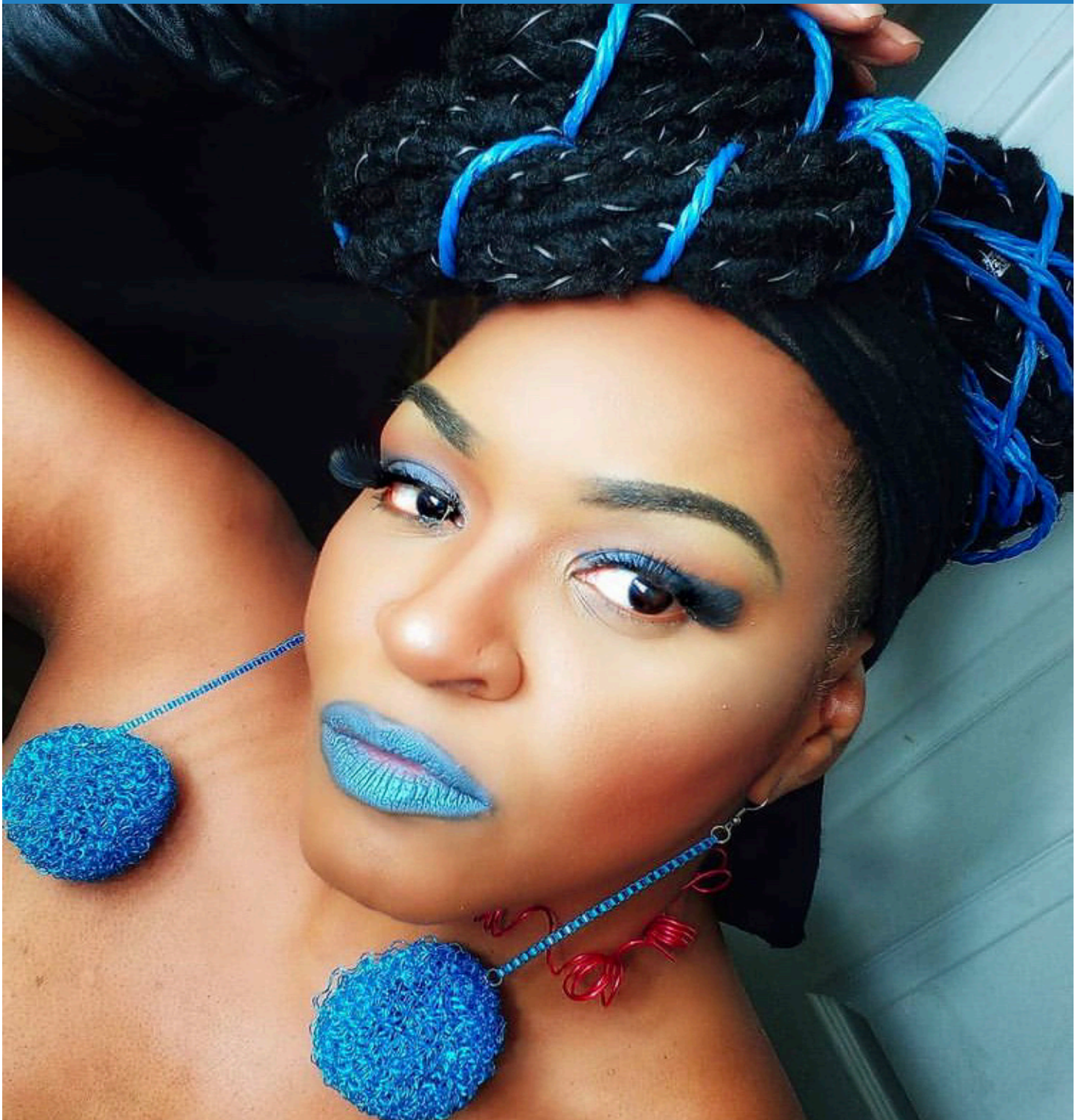
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Dandelion Productions

GAIL CAMPBELL

By Dawn Monique Edmond



Gail Campbell classifies herself as a “multi-genre” artist - House, Hip-Hop, Soul, Neo Soul, Gospel - she’s a plethora of styles that combined made this phenom. No one category describes her. She has a distinct vibe; her lyrics, melody, and rhythm draw you in and captivate you, moving you in a way that not too many artists are capable of. I had the pleasure of seeing her perform her song DOT and I was blown away! It gave off afro soul and house, infused with rock star. There was a point in her performance when her brother Shawn “Get Rite” joined her, and she turned up 10 notches as if that was possible. It was such a great performance, the hairs on my arms were standing up and, at that moment, I said to myself, “I have to interview her!” Months later I finally got the opportunity. Deep House Music Magazine is a great space to feature this interview because just like Gail, the magazine is “multi-genre.” A multi-genre of music - mixing, mingling, and intertwining to create a vibe that’s all its own.

My conversation with Gail did not disappoint. I got the Gail experience, she’s everything that I thought she would be. She has a soothing personality, she’s very pleasant, modest, humble, and easy to talk to. I was curious about how she got her style, and what influenced her. She told me that her diversity in music comes from her parents.

“I grew up in a home with some household, we listened to every-
ed singing in High School my taste because in school we focused on Broadway.”

Was either of your parents’ musi-
“My mother is a singer. She she is known for her singing voice. years old, she won on Show Time ly always talks about is when the from Harlem, was performing at with my mother that they wanted get started. My grandmother said daughter is not going on tour with couldn’t leave her other kids to go “I’m living my mother’s dream. to do but didn’t because life hap- had children, and never got to see me singing professionally and do- derful and exciting things hap- her, but she’s happy for me.”



real, serious music lovers. In my thing, all genres, and when I start- in music broadened even more classical, musicals, standards, and

cians?

doesn’t sing professionally, but She told me that when she was 15 at the Apollo. The story my fami- group Black Ivy, a 70’s R&B group the Apollo and they were so taken to take her on tour and help her absolutely not! My 15-year-old a bunch of men. My grandmother with her so, that was that.”

I’m doing what she always wanted pened. She got married young, her dream come true. So, to see ing what I love and so many won- pening for me, it’s bittersweet for

One of the things I was curious about, is if she wrote her songs because the energy she’s able to generate when performing, in my opinion – being an orator myself – was of someone who connected with the lyrics, melody, rhythm, and the emotion of the song. She confirmed that she does.

“Yes, I write all of my songs, unless I’m being featured on a (rap) song and he/she already has the hook written out, but in some cases, I write on those too, but everything on my albums I wrote myself.”

Is your writing based on your life experiences?

“Yes, everything is from a personal place.”

Tell me one of the songs that you like to perform. One that you wrote that resonates with you when you’re singing. “Every song is personal; I like performing all my songs. But, the Bloody Water songs, some of them are hard for me, they bring back memories. I have to remember when I was in a dark place, a sad and angry place. Specifically, the song Fairy Tales was such a heartbreaking song, it used to be very difficult for me to sing it because I’d feel the pain all over again, but now I don’t feel it in that way because I’ve healed so much.”

What is the song about?

“Fairy Tales is about how growing up as a little girl, you’re fed a steady diet of fairy tales so you grow up with expectations of living out those fairy tales. But instead, you go through some things and you’re like, man, to hell with all those fairy tales! The song resonates with people because they can relate to how I was feeling. The song goes like this;”

“It’s a shame how you love me then you turn around and leave

You have no idea how you fractured my self-esteem my pride don’t wanna believe how bad I was deceived How could something so right go so wrong, I prayed so long, my love was strong God, you have some explaining to do, I know my pain ain’t entertainment to you Look at my dream, my fairy tales

Now he and that b**** want to laugh at Gail, and wanna be friends like all is well. But you don’t know how I feel inside

I was the one who was by your side, and it hurts when I think about how you lied. When I knew I was the one that was by your side, and now I’m here just holding on. Praying that the Lord will keep me strong. I’m a different woman, can’t you tell? To hell with all these fairy tales.” “That’s the first verse. I used to cry when I would sing it, the people would cry too, it’s such a powerful song. Now I’m strong enough to be able to sing it without feeling bad or sad. One of the songs I love singing is “Let My People Go,” because it comes from a place where I’ve experienced things and I’m sharing what I’ve experienced. I also love singing “DOT” because it’s such a happy, dope song. Every song I’ve written is my baby, I love performing every one of them. I love all of my songs, they all mean something to me.”

Although she has been performing for years, Gail took a hiatus from music after she got married and had children. She met her ex-husband when she was actively pursuing her dream of becoming a musician. The performances and meetings with executives to shop her demo tape was a fun and exciting time. Then she got pregnant, and things changed. She stopped working on her music to raise her children. During that time, she got saved, went into ministry, and started growing in the Lord. Gail believes that was the beginning of the breakdown of her marriage, her ex married a woman who was going after her dreams, then a change happened It was not what he signed up for. She had planned to go back to pursuing her dreams and living her life - whether it

was music, education, or a different kind of career - when her children got a little older. I asked her how she felt when she wasn’t performing music. Did she miss it? I went through a stage where I was depressed. I couldn’t watch award shows on television, it was heartbreaking because down in my soul I felt like I had what it took, I knew I could do the things that I was seeing on the shows. When I did get back into music, for a short amount of time, I ended up getting back into a relation-

ship with my ex and getting pregnant again. During that time, because my relationship with the Lord was growing, I was finding peace. I started singing in church every week and that filled the hole and the need that I had to sing. I was happy with that, I was content. Then, I was asked to perform at a showcase. I was conflicted because I didn’t know if it was of the Lord. I was questioning it, and then the holy spirit spoke to me and said, “God is pushing you back out there. God is doing this, He wants you to share your gifts.” And I was like, really? OK, is this supposed to be gospel, he said, “No, it’s not supposed to be gospel. I want you to go out there, I want you to sing. I want you to express who you are.” So, I went ahead and jumped back in.

I read that you’re ordained.

Yes, an Ordained Reverend. I’m a member of New Beginnings Ministry in Irvington and my Pastor is Tami Christian.

Did it cause any type of conflict for you at church?

“The conflict existed within me, more so than with others. Some looked at me with a side eye because they had never seen anyone like me before. Somebody who is serious about God and has an anointing, but also sings secular music. They’ve never seen that before, I’ve never seen that. I used to let that bother me. I would ask God over and over again, ‘Are you sure? Are you sure God?’ It took me a while to come to grips and accept that God was doing a new thing with me.”

Do you still sing in church?

Oh yes, every Sunday. I’m singing in church and then I have to rush out of church to get ready for a performance, or I have had a performance the night before. My church family understands that I’m a professional singer, it’s kind of funny sometimes.

Since you’re a “multi-genre” artist, I’m not going to ask who your favorite artist is, I’m sure you have a list, but give me one, who inspires you?

I used to be head over heels, crazy, enamored of Aretha Franklin, and I still am. My love for her started when I was a little girl, it was kind of weird because Aretha Franklin wasn’t who my generation was listening to, but I loved her. I put her on a pedestal, a well-deserved pedestal, I’ve always known that she was special. I saw her perform, 15 – 20 years ago and her performance was stuck in my head. I walked around thinking about it for days. I said to God, “you gave Aretha a little bit more than you gave everybody else.” The holy spirit spoke to me and said, “I didn’t give Aretha any more than I gave you. The difference between you and Aretha is that she believes in what I gave her, and you don’t.” That’s when

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my journey began

to try to believe in myself and my gift. It took years for me to stop doubting myself. I would always compare my voice to others because my voice is so different. I don't sound like the voices that are celebrated. God said, "No, you don't sound like them, you don't sound like anyone else. I wish you could believe that I gave you something different and special." God had to drill that in my head and finally, after all these years, I'm in a place where I believe that God gave me something special. He gave me a gift and no, I don't sound like everyone else, and no I don't do certain things with my voice that other singers do, but he put something in my voice that hits the heart of people. He had to show me that over and over again for me to believe it.

Gail has the privilege of recording her music in North Jersey's premier recording studio, DML Productions, Inc., owned by Danny LaPorte. LaPorte is also the engineer who mixes her music. Gail

Gail's self-doubt was surprising to hear. There is no doubt that she is blessed. God gifted her with an amazing instrument (her voice) and surrounded her with the people she needs to be successful.

credits him and her producer, Stanley Ipkiss for taking the time to make sure that her music and lyrics are mixed just right so that they feel right to her so she's able to deliver them vocally and in her performance with the emotion intended. She has a unique sound, she's versatile, she's a great performer and a wonderful spirit. My final question for Gail was does she believe it now? Is she confident in her gift and the journey she's on right now?

Every day I immerse myself in what God has said about me and that strengthens me. I have to feed myself a constant diet of what God has said, not what the voice of the enemy in my head says. I'm excited about what God is doing. I'm so ready. I never felt more ready. I've never felt more confident in my gift. It took me a long time to become confident that God gave me something worth something. I believe him, hallelujah. I believe him. I believe that he gave me something that would be of value in the world and that he wants to use. It's a really exciting time. You can follow Gail on Instagram @gailcampbellmusic, on Facebook @ Gail Campbell, and Twitter @gailreneecampbl. Her sophomore album, "LET MY PEOPLE GO", and debut album "BLOODY WATERS, are available on all streaming platforms.



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