

CLIK

BLACK SGL LIFESTYLE, NEWS, FASHION, AND TRAVEL

The Sexiest Fall Issue Ever!

<<<< exclusive

Tyra's Top Model Eva Pigford

I feel so at home with the gay community

Project Runway's Michael Knight

Is He In Or Is He Out?

On The Rise
Michael Ashanti
Experience His Soulful Grooves

Noah's Arc
Patrick Ian Polk
Chats With Clik

Plus:
Kevin
Aviance,
Usher &
The Wire's
Michael
Williams

<<<< **50+**
**Grooming
Tips 4 Men**

DL Chronicle's Dynamic Duo

Quincy Lenear & Deondray Gossett
On Top Of
Their Game

15pg

<<<< **Fashion Editorial**

Printed In The United States
www.clikmagazine.com

\$4.95 USA \$5.95 CAN



7 20000 54800 4 09

Contents

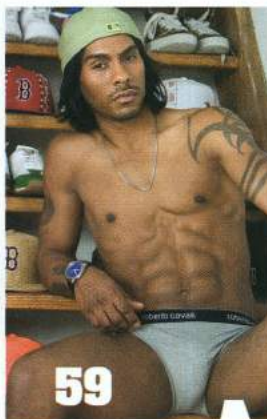
September / 2006 For The Hip & Trendy Black Gay Man

CLiK

56

I'm Not Gay

"Just because you support something doesn't necessarily mean that you participate. I'm not gay. I like big men. What would I do with a woman?"



59

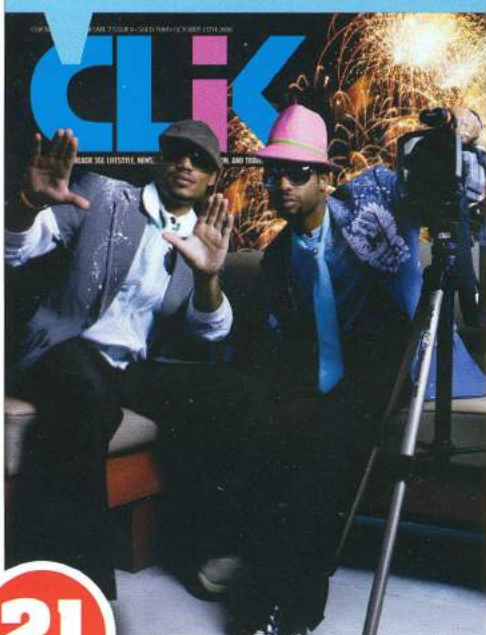
Hot Stuff

Come and spend a day with our sexy hot stuff model of the month.



30

On The Cover



21

Deondray Gossett & Quincy LeNear
Producers of the DL Chronicles
Photographer: **Voyuer Photography**
Cover Design: **Dwight Powell**



What Would Langston Say?

Frank Leon Roberts explores what Langston might think about the new Black gay Renaissance



20

Grooming 101

This issue of Clk Magazine offers dozens of grooming tips including 8 crucial tips for getting that perfect shave.

10 Editorial / Dwight Powell

12 Commentary / Looking For Langston

14 GLAAD / Look at Where We Are On TV

16 Brave Soul Sound-off / Join in on the conversation and discussion - This month, Erik, Monte and Tim'm tackles dating & Relationships

18 Mirror Check / From Juwan Watson

19 Grooming 101 / Cool tips on the do's and don'ts to grooming

28 Kevin Aviance / Get in the head of this talented soul.

30 Michael K Williams / HBO's The Wire's Gay Gangster Chats With Clk

32 Fashion Essentials / Fall for Fashion Essentials This Fall

36 Entertainment / Check out what new on the big screen

37 DL Confidential Fashion



Feature / Sex Intrigue & Fashion

52 Patrick Ian Polk / Creator and Co-executive producer of LOGO's hit series Noah's Arc chats with Clk

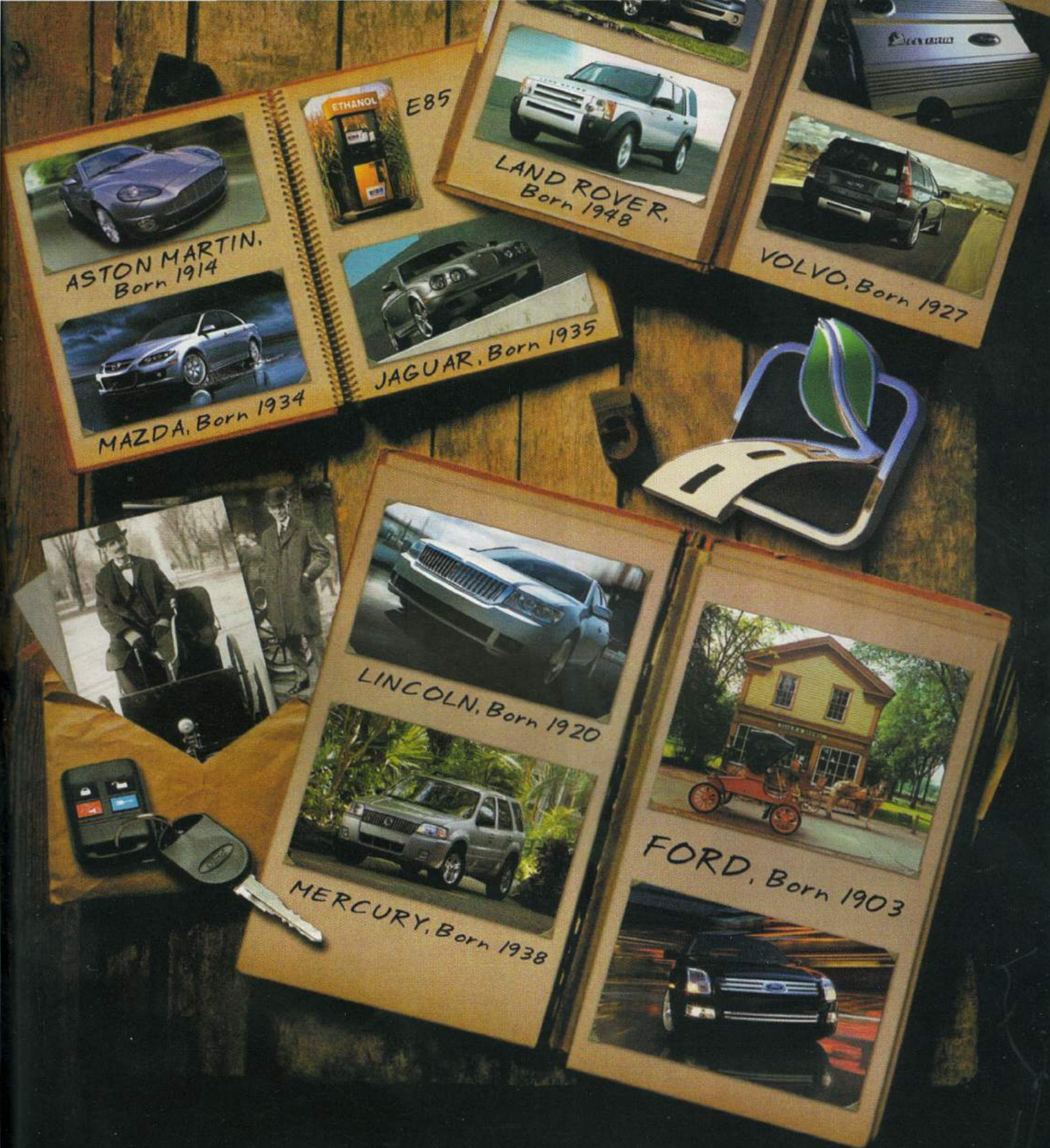
59 Hot Stuff

56 Eva The Diva

66 Seen Out / We offer a delightful



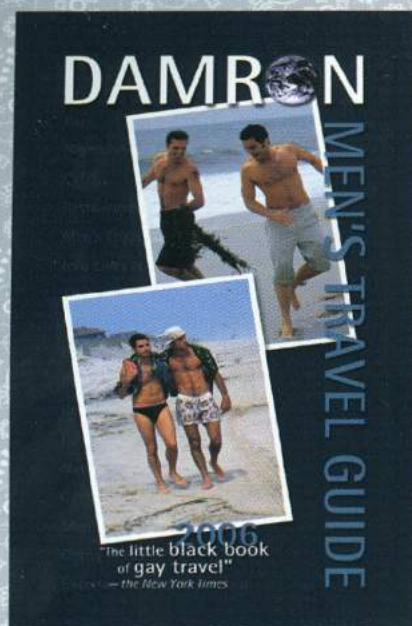
pictorial review of The Ummah Fund White Attire Affair in Wash, DC



Ford Motor Company, 2006
 Standing strong with America's families and communities.



Trip Out!



with Damron LGBT travel guides

Need to get away?
We have the perfect place.
Actually, we have 12,000.

Our guides are packed with LGBT accommodations, bars, bookstores, cafes & more, across the US, Canada, Europe & beyond.



800/462-6654

Call for a free catalog,
or log on to our online service.

www.damron.com

CLIK MAGAZINE

Editor-In-Chief **Dwight S. Powell**
dwight@clikmagazine.com

Managing Editor **Luis A. Medrano**

DEPARTMENT WRITERS / DIRECTORS

Fashion **Curtis Davis** New York, NY
Finance/Money **Jirard Von Washington** Miami, FL
Travel Feature **Michael Adams** Atlanta, GA
Ball Culture **Frank Leon Roberts** New York, NY
The Door **Erica Watson** New York, NY
Brave Soul Collective **Erik Chambers** Washington DC
Brave Soul Collective **Tim'm West** Washington DC
Brave Soul Collective **Monte Wolf** Washington DC
Blog Watch **Kenneth Winfrey** Chicago, IL

COPY EDITOR / PROOF READER

Staff **Claire Cohen** Tallahassee, FL

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

Stan Shaffer New York
Derrick Johnson New York
Voyeur Photography Los Angeles, CA

STAFF WRITERS

Senior Staff Writer **Scott Bogan** Atlanta, GA
Senior Staff Writer **Darryl Moch** Phoenix, AZ
Senior Staff Writer **Craig Washington** Atlanta, GA

Staff Writer **Michael Rochelle** Baltimore, MD
Staff Writer **Herndon Davis** Los Angeles, CA
Staff Writer **Juwan Watson** Portage, MI
Staff Writer **Kevin McNeir** Chicago, IL
Staff Writer **Lloyd Dinwiddle** Atlanta, GA
Staff Writer **Clay Cane** Jersey City, NJ

CONTRIBUTING WRITER(S)

Vincent Tolliver Atlanta, GA

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographer **Ricc Rollins** Tampa, FL
Photographer **Jerry Boles** Atlanta, GA

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT / Ad Sales: 954-455-3394

NATIONAL AD SALES Rivendell Media Company

DISTRIBUTOR / Ingram Periodicals Inc - 615-793-5522 / ACCOUNT ID 54800

SUBSCRIPTIONS / CONTACT

email@ClikMagazine.com or 954-455-3394

1001 North Federal Hwy, Suite 305, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

Visit Us Online At - www.clikmagazine.com

CLIK™ Magazine is published monthly by Clik Publications, a Florida corporation. The articles and opinions expressed herein are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily endorsed by CLIK™ Magazine. Names and pictures of persons appearing in CLIK™ Magazine are no indication of sexual orientation. All persons appearing in CLIK™ Magazine are at least 18 years of age. CLIK™ Magazine unless specified, does not endorse and is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. ©2006 All Rights Reserved. Volume 7, Issue 9 - 2006.

DOMESTIC SUBSCRIPTION RATES: one year (12 issues), \$20. Two years (24 issues), \$40. / INTERNATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: one year (12 issues), \$75. Two years (24 issues), \$160. / Single issues of Clik Magazine is available for purchase via mail at a cost of \$4.95 per copy plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling for the first copy and \$2.50 (S/H) for each additional copy

SIZZLE 2007

Make Plans To Attend The Nation's Hottest & Sexiest Circuit Event
Memorial Day Weekend, Miami, Florida
May 24th-28th

Taking Reservations Now / Hyatt Regency Miami
Visit Us Online @ www.sizzlemiami.com

viramune

taking on tomorrow

VIRAMUNE as part of combination therapy

Help fight HIV

VIRAMUNE as part of combination therapy has been shown to reduce viral load to undetectable levels* in HIV-infected men and women—and raise your CD4 cell count.

Talk about your options

Starting a new anti-HIV regimen can be a challenge—with different dosing times and restrictions, there's a lot to remember. Dosed just twice a day,[†] VIRAMUNE can be taken with or without food. Talk to your doctor to see if VIRAMUNE is right for you.

Indication and Important Safety Information for VIRAMUNE

VIRAMUNE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

VIRAMUNE does not cure HIV or AIDS, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

VIRAMUNE can cause severe liver disease and skin reactions that can cause death. These reactions occur most often during the first 18 weeks of treatment, but can occur later. Ask your healthcare provider about how to recognize these problems. Stop taking VIRAMUNE and do not restart it if you have these reactions. Call your healthcare provider immediately.

Any patient can experience liver problems with VIRAMUNE but women and patients who have higher CD4 counts when they begin VIRAMUNE treatment have a greater risk. **If you are a woman with CD4 >250 cells/mm³ or a man with CD4 >400 cells/mm³ you should not begin taking VIRAMUNE unless you and your doctor have decided that the benefit of doing so outweighs the risk.**

The dose of VIRAMUNE for adults is one 200-mg tablet daily for the first 14 days, followed by one 200-mg tablet twice daily. The 14-day lead-in period is important because it can help reduce your chances of getting a rash.

Other side effects that patients have experienced include nausea, fatigue, fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and myalgia. Changes in

body fat may occur in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Please see Medication Guide for VIRAMUNE on following page for more detail on these side effects and other important information.

*A viral load less than 50 or 400 copies depending on the test used.

[†]A 14-day lead-in period of VIRAMUNE once daily has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash.





www.parislasvegas.com • 800-625-5054

Everything's sexier in



CORRECTION:

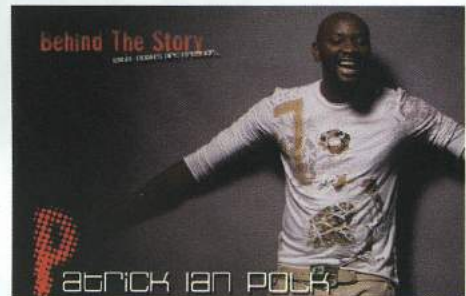


After printing the August issue of Clik we noticed a **MAJOR** problem with **Patrick Ian Polk** article.

What might have appeared as typos in that article really weren't. Please allow me to explain. Our proof reader used a feature in Microsoft Word called **TRACK CHANGES**. As she made corrections to the article, the errors are simultaneously posted in a separate column to the right.

After the article was proofed and correct, it was emailed to our office to drop-in the designed layout. Prior to dropping-in the article in, I was supposed to have accepted or rejected her changes - unfortunately neither was done, resulting in both the corrections and the error printing side by side.

This was extremely embarrassing for us



and I'm sure frustrating for you. Please know that the article was reprinted in it's entirety in this issue of Clik Magazine.

Thanks to all of our concerned readers that also brought this **HUGE** mishap to our attention.

Humbly Yours,

Dwight Powell
Editor-In-Chief

Style, Substance, Flare...

....Never A Dull Moment!

ONLY \$20.00 FOR 12 ISSUES WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe Online At www.clikmagazine.com
or Mail to Clik Magazine, 1001 N. Federal Hwy, Suite 305,
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009 or
Purchase at Borders and more that 750 other locations
nationwide. For complete list visit: www.clikmagazine.com

Order Here Or Online @ www.clikmagazine.com

12 Issue for \$20. Allow 10-14 days for first issue to arrive

Payment must be sent with this form. Orders are not processed with out payment

Name

Address

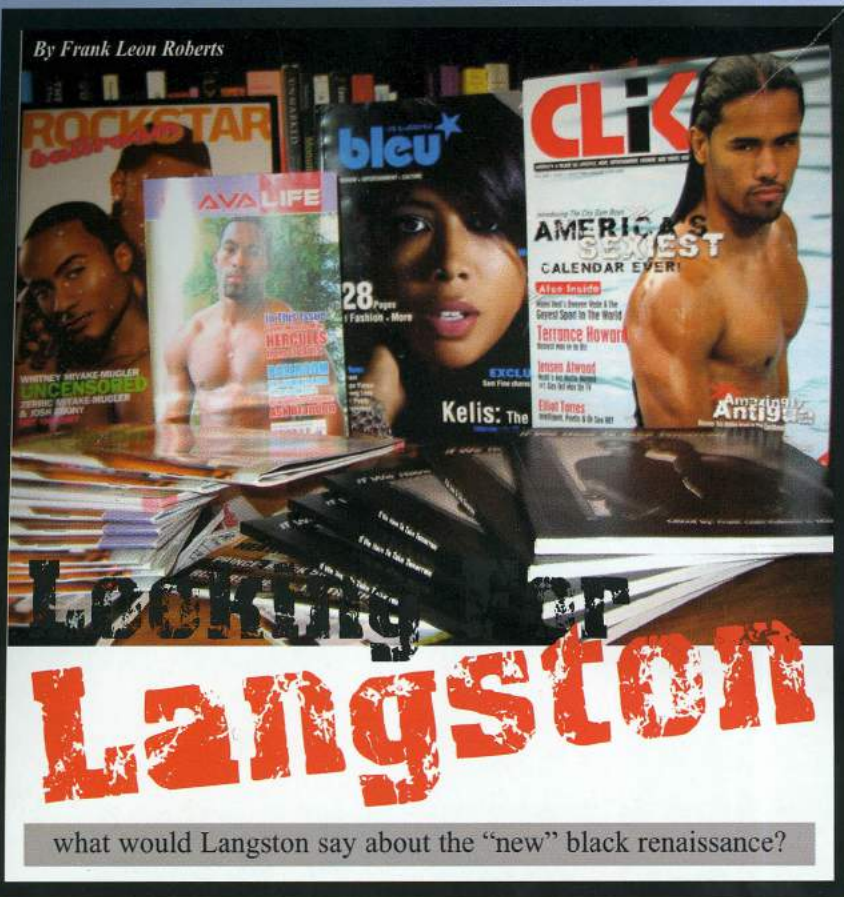
City State Zip

Email

Telephone (Optional)

Please mail with \$20.00 to Clik Magazine
1001 N Federal Hwy., Suite 305 Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

By Frank Leon Roberts



between this generation and the one that preceded it.

What would **Melvin Dixon** say if he knew his novels were more likely to be featured on the syllabus of an graduate literature seminar at an Ivy League school than at a book club organized by and for twenty-somethings black gay men? It is just me, or can anything with a colorful book cover and a catchy, "sexy" title pass as black gay literature nowadays? Even though I'm not wishing for some old elitist "talented tenth" bullshit rhetoric that says the only people that are worthy of writing novels are those with master's degrees in creative writing, I am little uneasy with the quality of a lot of what ends up in print by black gay men nowadays. Why is that so many young black men and so much of today's black gay culture seem confined to references points which only go back six or seven years?

Case in point: with absolute and all due respect, something seems wrong to me when we have black gay men's books clubs that don't feature anything written past 1999. When someone can tell me who is **Keith Boykin** in a minute, but looks at me like I'm strange when I mention **Richard Bruce Nugent** or even **Bayard Rustin**, there is a problem. And sure, recently black gay men have been thrown a few bones: people generally know who Rustin is nowadays, and after **Rodney Evan's** *Brother to Brother* (still one of the most refreshing films I have seen in years) people are kind of in the know about Richard Bruce Nugent.

I think what bothers me the most about so much of what I have seen, read, and witnessed about the cultural productions (and by 'cultural productions' I mean everything from novels, magazines, films, discussions, and performance pieces) of young black men is that much of the sense of inter-generational exchange that was characteristic of the 1980s black gay crew, is no longer present.

When you think back to the eighties, you think about how a film like *Looking for Langston* by Isaac Julien was brilliant not only because it was a visual embodiment of a lot of what Essex and Assoto were writing about at the time, but also because it understood and imagined itself as a "call and response" to **Langston Hughes**, to Richard Nugent, to the Harlem Renaissance. How is this generation of young black men "calling" and/or "responding" to the in-roads left by people who were around ten years ago, yet alone seventy? In our emphasis on "party culture" has this generation of black men lost its sense of connectedness to the voices that came before us?

Now lets be clear. Frank Roberts is definitely a brother who likes to party, and likes to document black gay party/club/ball culture. But the difference is I believe that I have a critical self-reflectivity on what traditions these events uphold. So in a way, when I'm at Luke and Leroy's in Manhattan with friends, I'm aware of the ways in which this is and

So much of what I know about the critical culture of black gay life in the 1980s is only through visits to the library and stories and memories passed down by older, "fictive" kin. But I do know that it's not an exaggeration to say that the 1980s witnessed a "second renaissance" of black gay men's cultural production. We know this story well: it was the autoethnographic documentaries of **Marlon Riggs**, the photographs of **Rotomi Fani-Kayode**, the poetry of Assoto Saint, the watershed anthologies of **Joseph Beam** and **Essex Hemphill**, the performance art of **PomoAfro Homos**, the graffiti and love affairs of **Jean Michel Basquiat**, the Saturday nights at **Paradise Garage** with **Larry Levan**, the coded (queer) melodies of **Luther Vandross** and the experimental films of **Isaac Julien**, to name only a few of the figures that created and united what **Jose Esteban Munoz** has called a "black queer diaspora" aesthetic.

As someone who is always interested in historicizing the present, I'm puzzled by two questions. First, how will my generation (the 20s something crowd) be (re)membered? Moreover, how might the quality of this generation's cultural productions be enhanced if we listened to the sounds and embraced the sensibilities of the generation that immediately preceded us? I've been reading a lot of "new" black gay literature, as well as paying attention to some of the tendencies of this latest burst of urban black SGL magazines. And of course, at various recent

moments in my life i've participated in the production of both of these things. I imagine I will continue to. But lately, I've been wondering things like: what would **Marlon Riggs** have to say about Noah's Arc? How would **Audre Lorde** feel about "Black Gay Pride"? What category would Assoto Saint walk at a ball?

Does the new post-millennium phase of young, black gay culture, particularly media culture (the sitcoms, magazines, the parties), continue with or acknowledge the words and advice offered by those before us? Or are these figures and sensibilities absent from the contemporary black gay cultural imaginary?

I often feel alienated and uneasy when I am in the presence of other twenty-something black gay men and they've never read Lorde, never experienced a Julien work, never recited a Saint poem. My uneasiness is really more with myself than with them. You see, the only thing that bothers me more than the fact that so many of my peers don't know about these folks, is that I get written off as "privileged" or "academic" for knowing about them. I find it ironic and deeply disturbing that nowadays reading or having full access to the ideas of people like **Joseph Beam**, **Countee Cullen**, **Audre Lorde**, or **Pat Parker** is associated with the exclusiveness of "academic privilege", instead of as a basic tenet of black gay life and as a necessary on-going dialogue

is not different from Langston chillin' with Countee and Wallace up at the Niggerati Manor.

You see, I'm not calling for an erasure of "party culture" (a term I'm using here to describe not only the actual party/club scene but also the written publications that often come along with it, i.e. the magazines, entertainment guides, muscle calendars, etc.). But I wish our work was more nuanced, and perhaps even our parties, were more histo-referential in nature.

And no, I am not calling for a total erasure of black gay men's "hot boy" culture with its emphasis on muscles, masculinity, and respectability. I don't want erasure, I want negotiation and fluidity. This is one of the reasons that I am deeply moved by what goes on in the house-ball community that I belong to. Even though the house-ball scene is often misinterpreted as a superficial, "low" form of black gay culture, it's one of the only spaces where everyone in the community knows that the presence of muscle men ("sex sirens") and masculine dudes ("realness boys") does not mean that these same men cannot embrace excessive femininity, sexual submission (including by transsexuals) and gender fluidity. Awarding "perfect 10s" to the muscle queen (or desiring that body), doesn't necessarily suggest an endorsement of "no fats, no fems" rhetoric.

Marlon Riggs, as revolutionary as he was, bragged openly and freely about his penchant and intense desire for getting fucked by "white muscle queens", and Essex Hemphill commented on his joy of embodying the "black mandingo" stereotype for some of his sexual partners (including white men). These men, and the generation of artists, thinkers, and writers that they belonged to, understood that desire is ambivalent and we can work with it in a way that doesn't have to police desire.

What would happen if every black gay magazine placed a photo of **Countee Cullen** and **Harold Jackman** chillin' at **A'Leila Walker's** Niggerati Manor next to every image of Saturday Nights at "Krash"? What if *Ballroom Rockstar* featured a reprint of **Eric Garber's** "Spectacles of Color" next to every image of the Mizrahi's at a ball? What if Keith Boykin and **Camille Paglia** teamed up like **Jimmy Baldwin** and **Margaret Mead**? Of course, I'm being silly here. But my point is, even if these things never happen (and they won't), what is the critical potential of an imagination—and embodiment—of their connections?

Frank Leon Roberts is a writer, scholar and cultural critic from New York City. He graduated from NYU in 2004 with a B.A. in English and African American Studies, and again in 2005 with an M.A. in

Performance Studies (Tisch School of the Arts). He is currently a fulltime doctoral student at NYU in the department of performance studies. In his political work outside of academia, he has worked closely with community based organizations such as Brooklyn's P.O.C.C., APLA, GMHC, and NYSBGN, and is the co-editor of the anthology publication *If We Have to Take Tomorrow: New Essays on Black Men, HIV, and Same Sex Desire*. He lives in New York.



Logo to Launch Queer as Folk Network Premiere on September 21st



Following the tradition of other celebrated pay cable series that made the transition to basic cable, Logo today announced that all five seasons of the groundbreaking Showtime series *Queer as Folk* will begin airing in two-episode blocks every Thursday beginning September 21, 2006 at 10:00PM ET/PT. Logo is the nation's leading 24/7 cable and broadband channel and source of entertainment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience.



"LGBT viewers have a new television appointment on Thursday nights," said Lisa Sherman, Senior Vice President, General Manager, Logo. "Queer as Folk represented the first time that LGBT experiences were reflected in a traditional hour-long dramatic format and we're proud to make it available to the LGBT audience."

Queer as Folk, which aired on Showtime from December 3, 2000 until August 7, 2005, was a hit hour-long drama following the triumphs and challenges of a group of gay and lesbian friends in Pittsburgh, PA.

Gay TV network goes dark

Larry Buhl, PlanetOut Network



After lingering on life support for months and fueled by promises that solvency was just around the corner, the Q Television Network officially ended transmission Thursday.

Q Television CEO Lloyd Fan announced that funding would not come and that the network would be unable to meet its financial obligations and would commence bankruptcy proceedings.

"When I took over control of the network on March 7, 2006, the company was roughly \$7 million behind in payments to vendors; numerous lawsuits had been filed against the company and over \$600,000 was owed to former employees," Fan said in a prepared statement Thursday. "The financial challenges that the network faced proved too difficult and I was simply unable to turn around the network."

Firestone Communications, Q's master control center in Fort Worth, had for several months been sending a dwindling number of cable stations around the country a continuous loop of old programming. But Firestone had been in dispute with the network for months over nonpayment. The signal officially ceased Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Central time, QTV's statement said.

Fan said he would launch a full forensic accounting but did not provide details.

The demise of the network leaves two LGBT stations in the country: here! TV and Logo, which is owned by MTV.

Logo to Air World Television Premiere of 9/11-themed Film WTC View



Logo, the nation's leading 24/7 cable and broadband channel and source of entertainment for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience, will premiere *WTC View* on September 10th at 10PM ET/PT. The independent film is set in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and follows one man's journey to find a roommate to share an apartment with a view of Ground Zero.

"Stories of LGBT Americans who lost friends and family members on 9/11 remain largely untold," said Lisa Sherman, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Logo. "We are proud to present this film that continues to expand the diversity of LGBT stories in the Logo film library."

WTC View is based on a play of the same name that premiered at the New York International Fringe Festival in 2003. Brian Sloan wrote, directed and produced the film that stars the original critically acclaimed cast, including Michael Urie, Elizabeth Kappelow and Nick Potenzieri.

Wal-Mart Partners With Gay and Lesbian Group

Also Hires Gay-Marketing Shop as Retailer Works to Alter Image

In an unprecedented push, Wal-Mart Stores has hired a gay-marketing shop, joined the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and begun discussions with activist groups about extending domestic-partnership benefits to its employees.



The initiative comes as Wal-Mart aims to broaden its appeal and woo both upscale and urban markets, but this is not the first time Wal-Mart has attempted to appease critics in the gay and lesbian community.

"Wal-Mart is going about this in a very pragmatic way," said Justin Nelson, president of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, an independent organization with 24,000 members. "They have been viewed with some degree of skepticism by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, and it's important for them in terms of gaining market share to change that."

A Wal-Mart spokeswoman declined to comment on the trio of moves and would only confirm the company's partnership with the NGLCC.

The initiative comes as Wal-Mart aims to broaden its appeal and woo both upscale and urban markets, but this is not the first time Wal-Mart has attempted to appease critics in the gay and lesbian community. In 2003 -- after years of lobbying by activist groups -- Wal-Mart extended its workplace nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

Where We Are on TV:

11th Annual Study Examines Diversity of the 2006-2007 Primetime Television Season Conducted by GLAAD



Cast of the Fall 2006 season of Noah's Arc on LOGO

After a landmark year of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) representation in films such as *Brokeback Mountain*, *Capote* and *Transamerica*, the broadcast television networks continue to underrepresent their LGBT audience, according to an analysis conducted by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's LGBT media advocacy group. The number of LGBT scripted representations on the six major broadcast networks will comprise only 1.3% of all series regular characters on the networks' 2006-07 schedule.

"In the last year, we've seen a tremendous amount of visibility on the big screen, reach-

ing a large audience anxious to see our stories," says GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "The networks, though, are not tapping into this audience and are failing to represent the reality and the diversity of their viewers and the world around them."

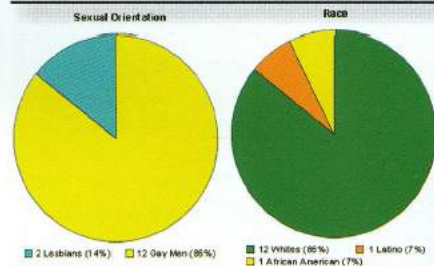
GLAAD analyzed the 95 announced prime-time comedies and dramas on the broadcast networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, The CW and MyNetworkTV. Out of a total 679 series regular lead or supporting characters, GLAAD counts only nine (9) gay or lesbian characters — 1.3% — appearing on eight (8) different scripted network programs. There are an additional five (5) semi-regular recur-

ring characters announced for this year. There are currently no bisexual or transgender representations on the broadcast networks.

One year ago, at the launch of the 2005-06 season, GLAAD counted 10 lesbian, gay and bisexual series regulars (representing 1.4% of all characters) with an additional six lesbian, gay and bisexual recurring characters.

While the year-to-year numbers are relatively consistent, the profile of the roles has been greatly reduced. CBS' *The Class* offers the only leading gay character on broadcast television. The exit of NBC's *Will & Grace*, CBS' *Out of Practice* and ABC's *Crumbs* leaves most of the characterizations of gays and lesbians as minor or supporting players. In addition, there is a lack of diversity among this season's characters, with seven out of nine representing gay white men.

NON-CABLE BROADCAST NETWORKS



Meanwhile, cable and unscripted programming, continue to raise the bar by exploring LGBT lives and families in multi-dimensional ways. On the mainstream cable networks, GLAAD counts 25 LGBT series regular characters that will appear during the 2006-07 season, one fewer than last year. Thanks to programming like Showtime's *The L Word* and HBO's *The Wire*, both enter-



1987
GLAAD gets the *New York Times* to change its editorial policy and begin using the word 'gay.'



1998
After the murder of Matthew Shepard, GLAAD goes to Laramie, Wyoming to help coordinate media outreach and vigils.

2002
GLAAD begins its 'Announcing Equality' project by persuading the *New York Times* to add same-sex union announcements.

2004
GLAAD's 'Announcing Equality' project marks the addition of its 504 inclusive newspaper.

Fair, accurate and inclusive...

1997
GLAAD's 'Let Ellen Out' campaign focuses unprecedented media attention on lesbian and gay TV representation.



2000
Prompted by Eminem's violently anti-gay 'Marshall Mathers LP,' GLAAD launches a national debate on hate.



1998/1999
GLAAD exposes the fraudulent claims of right-wing 'ex-gay' political advertising.

2001
GLAAD declares victory in combating the anti-gay rhetoric of 'Dr. Laura' Schlessinger.

2004
GLAAD and Nielsen announce joint venture to improve counting of gay and lesbian TV audiences.

2005
GLAAD helps lead a national coalition of LGBT organizations in creation of a landmark joint statement—*Civil Rights, Community, Movement*.

...see yourself in GLAAD

2006
GLAAD Media Awards expand to Miami and broadcast on LOGO and VH1, bringing a message of fair, accurate and inclusive representation to an audience of over 87 million.



The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

ing their fourth seasons, and the N's South of Nowhere, now in its second season, LGBT stories continue to be told in diverse and compelling ways.

For 11 years, GLAAD has reported on the state of LGBT characters on television. For the second year in a row, GLAAD has examined the race and gender in addition to the sexual orientation of the 679 series regulars

ters, male characters outweigh females 387 (57%) to 292 (43%) and that the faces on scripted network programs continue to be predominantly white at 513 (75%). African Americans make up 81 (12%) of the characterizations, down 2% from the previous season. Latina/o representation rose one percent for a total of 49 (7%). There are 18 (3%) Asian-Pacific Islander characters, 11 (2%) multi-racial characters, four (1%) of Middle Eastern

LGBT Characters For 2006-07

(The key w0rd here is Character - GAY ROLES ON TV)

Broadcast Networks*

Show	Network	Character	Actor	Orientation/Ethnicity
Lead				
The Class	CBS	Kyle	Sean Maguire	gay/white
Subtotal: 1				

Supporting

Brothers & Sisters	ABC	Bryan Walker	Matthew Rhys	gay/white
Desperate Housewives	ABC	Andrew Van De Kamp	Shawn Pyfrom	gay/white
ER	NBC	Dr. Kerry Weaver	Laura Innes	lesbian/white
Fashion House	MyNetwkTV	Harold	Garrett Swann	gay/white
		Hans	Tony Tripoli	gay/white
Help Me Help You	ABC	Jonathan	Jim Rash	gay/white
The Office	NBC	Oscar	Oscar Nuñez	gay/Latino
The Simpsons	FOX	Waylon Smithers	Hank Azaria	gay/white
Subtotal: 8				

Recurring

Big Day	ABC	Fred	Leslie Odom, Jr.	gay/African American
Grey's Anatomy	ABC	Joe	Steven W. Bailey	gay/white
The Simpsons	FOX	Patty Bouvier	Julie Kavner	lesbian/white
Ugly Betty	ABC	Marc	Michael Urie	gay/white
The War at Home	FOX	Kenny	Rami Malek	gay/white
Subtotal: 5				
Total: 14				

scheduled to appear on the broadcast networks during the 2006-07 season, based on information the networks provided by Aug. 18, 2006.

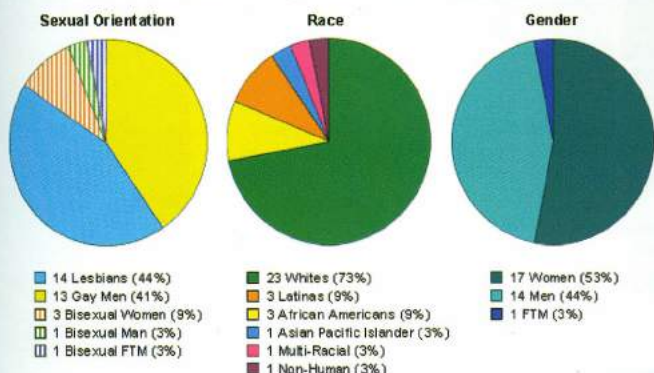
GLAAD's analysis finds that of 679 charac-

origin, and three non-human characters.

"When you look at primetime's dismal lack of LGBT characters — combined with the continuing under-representation of people of color, gay and straight alike — it's clear that the broadcast networks have a long way to go before they accurately reflect the diversity of their audience and our society," Giuliano says.

Report Conducted by
GLAAD

MAINSTREAM BROADCAST NETWORKS



October 27-29, 2006
"Changing Hearts & Minds"

Host Hotel: Quality Inn & Suites
2401 Brick Church Pk Dr, 37207
*Mention "Black Pride" for the special \$60, \$70, and \$75 room rates (615) 226-4600

NashBlackPride@aol.com
(800) 845-4266 x 269
(615) 974-2832

brothersunited.com/blackpride.htm
Proud Member International Federation of Black Prides Organization

Weekend activities include a reception, book signings, spoken word event, live music & entertainment, town hall meeting, benefit party, Black LGBT Film & Cultural Fest.



Sound Off

ARTICLE BY BRAVE SOUL COLLECTIVE

YOU ARE ENOUGH!

You are enough. There is more than enough. When thinking about the word enough, what does it mean to you? I constantly wonder if I truly comprehend what it means to BE enough, and realize that there is more than enough of everything I [need] in order to be healthy, happy, and productive. Life in general can oftentimes be hectic, stressful, and busy regardless of one's particular profession, routine, or activities they may be involved with. We live in a society that is driven by ambition, competition, and other [illusory] perceptions of what it means to be successful. While those things can oftentimes serve as motivators and can drive us to produce

needed to slow down. As a result of being so driven during the past six months, all of the activity I've consumed myself with has had an impact on my health as it relates to my being HIV positive. 'Burnout' (as we refer to it this month) has had quite an impact on my life lately, and it's something I've committed myself to changing. My life as a whole depends on my ability to maintain a healthy balance between work, and everyday necessities like sleeping, eating, exercising and relaxing.

Many black SGL men grapple with depression, low self esteem, and even suicide, which is another reason why we settled on mental/emotional wellness as our topic this month.

The Brave Soul Collective
Erik, Monte & Tim'm



Photo By Emile Benjamin

some of our most powerful work, the opposite is also true. When coming from a mind frame that is deeply rooted in lack, doubt, fear, and low self esteem, feeling the need to prove oneself as otherwise can oftentimes result in becoming slave(s) to those things such as competition and ambition. For any one of us as black SGL men, it could be a combination of any of the following that could serve as roadblocks to our mental and emotional well being: rent, bills, work, school, church, family, friends, romantic relationships (or lack thereof), sex (again or lack thereof), etc. However, problems do have solutions. Mental & Emotional Wellness is our topic for September 2006, and we believe that examining this topic serves as one of the biggest solutions to any problems we as black same gender loving men may encounter.

In the past six months, as the creator of Brave Soul Collective, my life has been more fulfilled mentally and emotionally than I think it's ever been before. However, in the process, I still have allowed myself to fall into some unhealthy routines and patterns of behavior. Somehow, while doing the work that has come with BSC, working two jobs, and freelancing as an artist, an actor, & writers, I forgot about me.

The most recent reminder I got was indeed a wake up call. I was told by my doctor that I

Unfortunately, too many of us have bought into the belief that we are unworthy of love & happiness, and therefore unable to move beyond the [perceived] darkness. Suicide can oftentimes seem like the only way out of all of the drama, sadness, loneliness many of us deal at one point or another in our lives. Not only our sexuality, but our race, and/or class play a huge part in how challenging our lives can oftentimes be. Being able to support each other individually as well as collectively is one of the only ways we can prevent ourselves from being negatively impacted by these issues. When I think about the untimely departure of one our

very own 'Brave Souls' recently, I'm saddened and inspired, almost in the same breath. Rickey Williams wasn't someone I knew personally, but he was a dear friend of Tim'm's. Yet when I received news of his untimely departure, I felt a loss that was just as full as if we'd known each other for years. That feeling clearly stems from the fact that I too have attempted to take my own life too many times to count. Instinctively, I felt the need to remind Tim'm of the support and love that surround him to keep him strong in lieu of this tragedy. As a result of this loss, there has been a rededication among us 'Brave Souls' to make sure we all are 'kept' and protected, nurtured and reminded of how special, how magnificent, how blessed and loved we are. It's that message which we seek to pass on to all those who read these words, and to all who visit the BSC website this month.

Know that YOU ARE ENOUGH, there is MORE THAN ENOUGH LOVE, SUPPORT, and MORE THAN ENOUGH OF US, who support you and are here to remind you should you ever forget.

Be good to yourself, first.

Much love from Monte, Tim'm & Erik
For more on Brave Soul Collective,
please visit www.bravesoulcollective.org

Fast and Easy. Guaranteed.

Orbitz makes it easy to find gay-friendly travel. Check out our Deal of the Month: Book a qualifying cruise on Atlantis or Olivia and get a free flight from Orbitz.

Sign up today for our free gay travel e-newsletter at www.orbitz.com/gaytravel and you'll get the latest scoop on the hottest destinations and exclusive travel discounts.

ORBITZ AND GO!

www.orbitz.com/gaytravel

The fast and easy way to find the trip you want.

**Quality Events
For Quality People**

SIZZLE MIAMI INC.,
The Nation's premier event presents three events that are sure to be the talk of the town in 2007

DENVER - MIAMI - LAS VEGAS
www.sizzlemiami.com

MIRROR CHECK

By Juwan Watson



Have you ever wondered why so many of us are breaking up, randomly hooking up and easily putting out? I have and after much contemplation (trial & error) I devised a new paradigm to eliminate those factors of confusion. In fact, I've used this epiphany as my new navigating system to clarify intentions and solve relational issues. You see, it's all in your perception and we all know that our reflections conceive various aspects of God's finest creations. God's conception of perfection has to be the gay man. They're everywhere with their big booties, thick shoulders and gyrating hips. They're suave and sexy, yet regal and rough. No matter if they're wearing linen suits with sandals or jerseys that match their timberland boots; they're always esthetically pleasing. In Miami they're easily bulging through their shorts and in Atlanta they're tearing off their tank tops without ever breaking a sweat. As shallow as it may seem, we must admit that most of us are very attractive. Beyond narcissism we still have other idiosyncrasies, a sense of individualism and our divine intuition that enables us to recognize relational patterns amongst our men. Hopefully, the following prototypes will empower you to define and determine existing relationships with other gay men. Ultimately the people and events in your life mirror some facets of what is going on inside of you. Before we find Mr. Right we must first decide and declare who or what we're going to be. It's time for someone new but allow me to reintroduce to:

The Buddy: Before you consider a relationship with this man remember that he is barely an acquaintance. Even if you haven't had him; sex is the only thing you could use him for. Actually without ego and emotions, everything is copacetic when you're helping him climax. Your common bond is based on buffoonery and booty calls. Relax because you'll only see this man when you're in the mood to party and screw. He is literally out of sight, out of mind. Your superficial connection couldn't withstand a commitment and you both live too far from each other to solidify trust. Great sex sends you to his city and after a few dick stops; you've realized that your lives are moving in different directions. Bed buddies are only good for orgasms and great times. You have an arrangement that simply pacts that he is the dude in your crew that you occasionally screw. Bed Buddies are shared amongst everyone because they're everywhere and easily replaced. Seriously, you and six other strangers could have him at once. Every time you satisfy his or their needs you're actually crippling your credibility, jeopardizing your health and denying your right to be unconditionally loved.

The Lil' Brotha': Now and then God sends people our way for us to just help and love. This is your chance to invest some quality time and undivided attention into a man's insubstantial existence. Clearly he is in desperate need of your wisdom, financial support and positive encouragement. No matter his age, remember that he is emotionally insecure and can't handle a sexual encounter. Do not have sex with him because he can't psychological comprehend "random play" or intimacy. At this point penetration would contaminate his self-concept and delay his progression. You must only contribute to his life by providing direction, sincere prayers and practical advice. This man may need financial support but he needs to learn how to trust, work and live for himself again. Ignore those lustful temptations and start sincerely listening to this brother. Your responsibility is to encourage him to live life more abundantly. This is your opportunity to minister to a fragile person that may someday become your best man.

The Best Man: Although the thrill may never come or has definitely died; this relationship has stood the test of time. Even without sex you and this man still vibe because you both have developed a special love for each other. You see each other different because both of you have grown up, slept with and dated other people. It's been years since you first met and both of you have drastically matured. With mutual morals you are friends that cherish, protect and celebrate one another. You know his fears and some of his dirty secrets that he tries to hide. You know when he is disappointed and being dishonest. With respectable boundaries you've accepted and tolerated the other's lover. You're there to help him move, throw

back a few martinis and get manicures. You have his back no matter what or who comes along. You're sticking around during the storm. Both of you are always acknowledging each other's birthdays and accomplishments. You trust him with your life because he has stood next to you beyond your trials and tribulations. He was there for you when you were fired and you never left his side when his mother passed. You have held him, fed him and stood beside him even when others told you to abandon him. When in need, he has a couch to sleep on and you can always borrow some extra cash. You will forever love this man through sickness, health and beyond death. He is your best man, thus this respected relationship is rare and everlasting. This relationship symbolizes your forgiving nature, enduring patience and nurturing spirit.

The Bachelor: The chemistry is electrifying and completely intoxicating because you're infatuated with this man. Now that you're spare time is his quality time you're not frolicking off to *Pride* or anxiously trying to get in the club. You're not discussing this man's business with your old bed buddies, insecure Lil' Brothas or Best Man. This endowed Adonis stimulates your creative expression, exposes your insecurities and allows you to experience new horizons. With him you are whole because you feel free to fail, live and breathe. With him you're succeeding and thriving in the moment because he encourages you to optimally achieve your dreams. With him you can do anything, say anything and be anything you want to be. You're mesmerized by his humanism, deep stroke and angelic spirit. You're a reflection of him and that is why you're undoubtedly confident, radiantly beautiful and safe. He wants what is best for you both. He is teachable, reachable and most of the time tries to leave you speechlessly shaking. He compliments your life because he respects your style, your time and opinion. God has temporarily shared him with you so that he can later embrace the Lords infinite love in heaven. Both of you have invested time into a sacred union that no one else can fulfill. It's rare that you'll find someone that loves you for you because many men aren't comfortable with themselves as he is. He can love you because he loves himself. He can trust you because he trusts himself. Every moment may not be cherished but don't take advantage of him. By loving and forgiving this man, you're actually loving and forgiving yourself.

Today you may be one, none or even all of the men above but who do you aspire to become? You may have to make a couple of phone calls and delete a few numbers but establish your grounds. Like, Adam you're ordained to name/define and claim who is what in your life. Most importantly you may magnify the presence of others that are actually contributing and contaminating your very being.

Scent or suffocate?

That is the question with cologne. The correct answer is scent. You want to have a pleasant scent, perhaps one to be remembered by, not the one that killed someone.

Fragrance should be your signature. It can also elevate your mood, enhance your confidence, increase alertness, or help you relax.

The number of colognes on the market is overwhelming. There are basic categories for fragrances and you may prefer certain ones over others. The true test though is how the fragrance works with your body chemistry. When you go to the store to try out various colognes, you really must spray them on your skin. You can begin your search by smelling the bottle to see if you like the scent. If you do, then spray it on your wrist. It is best to try only two per trial. Otherwise, your nose will get overwhelmed. You might bring a significant other to help you decide. Some people suggest bringing a sack of coffee beans to sniff in between tests to neutralize your nostrils. This may be a good idea if you can not make numerous trips to the mall to test fragrances.

The following categories describe the different cologne types available:

CITRUS describes fragrances with lemon, lime, and other citrus fruits and is usually associated with men's cologne.

FOUGERE means fern in French. These fragrances are mossy and herbal

FLORAL scents are those from flowers. Many types of flowers are used in preparations.

ORIENTAL describes a spicy fragrance, usually full-bodied.

MARINE describes an ocean **GREEN** describes fragrances from plants such as pine, juniper, other leaves, and herbs.

CHYPRE describes earthy fragrances such as patchouli. Chypre is the French word for Cyprus.

When applying cologne, the key is to be discreet. If you are using spray cologne, use no more than two sprays. If you are using a pour bottle be a "dabber" not a "splasher": apply it with one finger in various locations such as your neck, elbows, ankles, wrists, behind your knees and ears. These are the points where heat is generated. Applying cologne at these points will make it last longer because these pulse points create a "pump" effect. Spraying your clothes will probably stain them and your scent will be fleeting. Also, do not mix scents, as so many products contain scents - shave creams and gels, aftershave, toners, deodorants/antiperspirant, etc.

Some terms that you might want to know are:

EDC - Eau de cologne is the least concentrated form of a fragrance (2 - 5% perfume oil dissolved in water and alcohol)
EDT - Eau de toilette (4 - 10%)
EDP - Eau de parfum (8 - 15%)
PARFUM or Perfume (15 - 25%) is the most concentrated.

male BODY odor

We all know that sweating is a part of life. Some men sweat more than others. Sweating is what keeps our body temperature stable.

Apocrine glands make us sweat and some people have more than others. It is really not the sweat that smells so bad; rather, it is the bacteria that forms in the sweat that smells bad. The main idea is to be neutral, that is, your body odor should be neutral. Our society tends to frown upon strong body odor. It is a fact that some people smell worse than others but we all know that deodorant can take care of that.

Deodorant or antiperspirant?

This is a common question. A deodorant neutralizes the smell and has an antiseptic effect on the bacteria.

Deodorants do not interfere with sweating and that is a good thing. On the other hand, antiperspirant actually clog or block the pores so they won't sweat. Aluminum is used in these products and can build up in the brain.

There are many commercial brands of deodorants and antiperspirant from which to choose. There are also many natural brands that do not contain parabens or aluminum if you are worried about potential health problems. Deodorant crystals are an effective and safe alternative to traditional, commercial antiperspirant and deodorants. Deodorant crystals contain mineral salts and ammonium alum.

During the summer when it is really hot, you might think about trimming your underarm hair to reduce odor.

important too. Constant hand washing will dry out your hands.

You can purchase a manicure kit at many stores or online. It is not a bad idea to go and get a manicure to see how it is done and get some ideas on how you can do it yourself. Or, just indulge yourself once a week or so and get manicured! Usually, you will get a nice, relaxing hand-massage with it. If you are a nail biter, this could be your cure.

And don't forget your feet! Pedicures are available for men and your toes are important too! Don't forget about them! Your feet have a big job in life and your toes need some TLC too!

A MAN'S HANDS AND NAILS



- Trim each nail to a practical length.
- Using an emery board, file any rough edges on your nails.
- Dry, ragged cuticles should be softened and removed or pushed back. There is a tool for this if you have a manicure set. Overbearing cuticles are a major turn-off.
- Buff or paint your nails.

Hangnails can be annoying and cause infection so treat them carefully. To remove a hangnail, soak your hand for about 10 minutes in a soapy solution or one of water and olive oil so it will be easier to trim. Use sterilized nail scissors to clip it then apply some anti-bacterial ointment.

Many men have rough hands and they need their callused hands softened. Using an exfoliating scrub will soften rough, dry hands. A green tea soaking solution acts as an antioxidant and removes toxins. Keeping your hands well moisturized is



Nailing a healthy look comes from grooming your entire body: from your hair to your toes. So, a good manicure is essential to achieving an overall healthy look. More and more men are frequently spas and salons to have their nails manicured. Unkempt hands are a turn-off to anyone... an employer, a significant other, a stranger.

■ Hands and nails must be clean. Using a nail brush really gets the dirt. Lemon juice makes a good cleaner. Cut a lemon in half and twist each finger in it to clean each nail.

8

Great Shaving Tips For Black Men

Pseudofolliculitis barbae, better known to us brothas as, "razor bumps", occur on the faces of men with coarse, wiry, curly hair. Between fifty and eighty percent of African-American men live with the problem of ingrown hairs and razor bumps, daily.

These razor bumps appear when beard hairs, most likely around the neck area, curl as they grow and burrow into the skin adjacent to the hair follicle. Shaving sharpens the hair ends, making it easier for them to penetrate the skin.

Razor bumps itch, burn, can cause scarring, and make shaving virtually impossible. Many Black men have resorted to depilatory creams which seem to work significantly better than blades. However, some depilatories, if not used correctly, may irritate the skin.

Cortisone-based creams have also been available for some time, but many cannot be used long-term due to blood stream absorption and other side effects.

How Ingrown Hairs Start

Both men and women suffer from ingrown hairs. But men tend to suffer the most because of the coarseness, or thickness of the hair follicles on the face and neck. Ingrown hairs form after the hair has been cut or otherwise removed below the skin surface. As the hairs grow, they curl over within the follicle and fail to exit to the surface. The result is an unsightly, "bump" on the skin.

Some razor bumps also form when a growing hair exits the follicle and bends back towards the skin surface. When these sharp, shaved edges of coarse hair touch the skin surface, they burrow back into the skin causing puffy, pimple-like bumps to appear.

Fighting Ingrown Hairs

Many men have found that the only way to remove these irritating bumps is by tweezing their faces. While this isn't very comfortable, most Black men haven't discovered a better solution.

Model: Ruben
Photo By: Luna Luis Ortiz

Shaving Tips

Below are 8 shaving tips that may help ease some of the pain and more importantly, save your face:

- 1** Applying a shaving lotion after shaving will reduce the appearance of redness. This is also great for women after shaving legs, bikini lines and underarms.
- 2** Be sure to always use a clean blade when shaving with a razor. This can be best achieved by only using new blades and discarding ones that have been previously used three or more times.
- 3** If you use an electric razor, replace the rotary blades or foil after a few months. Of course if you're required to shave daily, you may have to replace them sooner. This can be a headache since many rotary blade components cost more than half of what the entire razor is worth.
- 4** While shaving with a handheld razor, always shave in the direction of hair growth. Most hair on men's faces, slant downward, so be sure to shave in that direction. This is also important around the neck areas since shaving against the grain is one of the main causes of pointy, sharp hairs that can burrow back into the skin.
- 5** Don't stretch your skin while shaving. Pulling your cheeks, chin or neck while shaving in order to get a closer shave, can cause darkness and discoloration of underlying skin tissue. This is especially true for light and fair-skinned Black men who have dark, coarse hair.
- 6** Watch what you eat. A lot of skin irritations may subside if certain foods are avoided. Fatty foods, foods containing oils, cholesterol and sodium, can make your skin more susceptible to damage while shaving.
- 7** Give up on razors and use a depilatory. Depilatories work well on most skin, but not on all. They can remove facial hair in a matter of minutes, but just like blade shaving, can cause a bit of irritation and redness. Be careful not to use alcohol-based aftershave or creams immediately after using a depilatory. Mixing the two is like throwing flames onto your face.
- 8** Grow a beard. This may not be the best solution for those required to shave daily, such as the military and other business professions. But if you can swing it, why not? You will totally eliminate the razor bump worries and ingrown hair issues.

GROOMING

Tips For Men

We live in a time when it pays to look younger, whether it's in the workplace or in the dating world. One of the keys to success is good grooming, experts say.

An increasing number of men are making grooming a priority because they want to maintain a youthful appearance and a winning edge. Statistics show that men in the United States are spending more than \$4 billion a year on grooming products, such as haircolor and facial scrubs, driven by their desire to look and feel their best. The growth in grooming products is being fueled in part by baby boomers entering middle age.

Consider Getting Rid of the Gray Hair

The fastest way to take years off of your look is to get rid of gray hair. It's less noticeable and more natural to begin coloring your hair when you first begin to go gray. An easy-to-use product formulated specifically for men, such as Just For Men Haircolor, can be used at home to cover gray hair with natural looking results.

If your beard and mustache turns gray first, the makers of Just For Men Haircolor have a brush-in gel in a no-drip formula that's perfect for covering facial hair.

Go Short if You're Balding

Balding is another common problem among men. Opting for a comb-over just dates your look. Get comfortable with your changing look and opt for a modern short haircut.

When men begin to lose the hair on their heads, they may begin to notice unwanted hair in other places, like their nose, ears or back. Be sure to trim or wax unwanted hair for a clean, contemporary look.

Protect and Pamper Your Skin

The best way to prevent wrinkles and skin cancer is to protect your skin from sun damage by using a daily moisturizer with sunscreen.

A good daily skin care routine includes cleansing, followed by a gentle facial exfoliant scrub, which also enhances shaving ease and comfort. Follow with a moisturizer containing sunscreen for day and at night a moisturizer with AHAs to encourage skin regeneration.

Pay Attention to Hands and Feet

Don't forget to include your hands and feet in your grooming routine. Well-manicured nails and toes contribute to good hygiene and grooming habits. Make time to clip and file your nails at home.

Foot odor is a common problem among many men, and is relatively easy to treat. Scrub your feet daily and dry them completely. Insert a pair of Odor-Eaters Insoles into your shoes, which will absorb wetness and odor.

Quick Grooming Tips

- If you don't iron your clothes, remove them immediately from the dryer so wrinkles don't set.
- In hot weather, wear light-colored, cotton clothing and socks. This will absorb less heat and "sweat stains" will be less visible.
- Consider trimming your arm pit hairs in warm weather. Less hairs, less bacteria, less smell. Think about it.
- Don't be reluctant to trim or tweeze any stray eyebrow hairs.
- Good dental hygiene means a dazzling smile.
- Open your eyes. If hair is the frame for your face, the eyes are the windows. Use eye drops to whiten the whites of your eyes for a fresher, younger look.

Extend the Life of Your Razor Blades

All you need is a bottle of mineral oil and some rubbing alcohol. After shaving, thoroughly clean and dry your razor blades and then completely immerse the razor head in a shallow dish filled with mineral oil. Use the rubbing alcohol to wash away the oil next time you need to use the razor.



On Quincy:

T-shirt: Sterling Williams
Tie: Sterling Williams
Blazer: Sterling Williams
Pants: DeVine
Suspenders: Trafalgar
Shoes: Vintage Originals
Hat: Christopher Michael
Sunglasses: Sterling Williams

On Deondray:

T-shirt: Sterling Williams
Tie: Sterling Williams
Jacket (wind breaker): Sterling Williams
Blazer: Sterling Williams
Pants: DeVine
Suspenders: Trafalgar
Shoes: B Boots
Hat: kool caps
Sunglasses: Sterling Williams

Photo: Voyeur Photography, Inc.
Stylist: Moonglow

DYNAMIC DUO QUINCY LENEAR & DEONDRAY GOSSETT ON THE PATH OF SUCCESS

There are millions of nameless and faceless African-American voices that have not been respected, acknowledged, or even heard. When it comes to the complex lives of black gay men many think our stories have already been told through sexually exploitive media outlets like articles in *The New York Times*, vapid BET documentaries, or books that are "written" to rake in money, but offer no truth. **Quincy LeNear** and **Deondray Gossett** are feverishly working to tell an untold story in their critically acclaimed short film anthology *The DL Chronicles*.

Article By Clay Cane

Quincy and Deondray originally began as actors and bonded through their love of film. They started shooting their own short films featuring themselves as actors, however, it was not until they moved behind the scenes did they receive all the acclaim they have now. Deondray jokingly says, "Once we decided to get on the other side of the camera we started to get all the attention. I don't know what that says about our acting!" Transitioning from acting to behind the scenes allowed them to have their own creative voice; offering other actors and black performers opportunities that were not otherwise given in the pale and hetero land of Hollywood. This bold step resulted in their production company, 2 Cents Production and the eventual birth of *The DL Chronicles*.

The DL Chronicles offers a fresh, provocative and thought-provoking perspective on the lives of black men who secretly have sex with men. The first installment, "Episode: Wes," received the Excellence in Media Award at the 2006 New York Black Men's Film Conference and chosen as an accomplished short film by the OutFest Film Festival. In addition, the second installment, "Episode: Robert", won Best Short Film at the 2006 Oakland Black International LGBT Film Festival. Other accolades include the 2006 Certificate of Honor from the City of San Francisco for Outstanding Contribution to the Black LGBT Community and two consecutive sold-out nights at the London International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Nonetheless, Quincy and Deondray's journey is not completed with *The DL Chronicles*; they are still looking to be picked up for a DVD compilation, or a possible television series.

Each episode of *The DL Chronicles* is created, produced, directed and written by Quincy and Deondray, who have not only worked together as filmmakers over the past five years, but they are also in a ten-year relationship. Only in their early 30's Quincy and Deondray have made an impact on black culture, or more specifically, black gay culture. In a one-on-one interview they discuss the hype of men on the down low, making *The DL Chronicles* and the social impact they would like to have in the future.

Men on the DL got its wave

Q&A Next Page





Men on the DL got its wave of media attention about a year or two ago. Why is this issue still important to talk about?

Quincy: It has been touched on by a couple of people, but that doesn't mean everybody's story has been explored or told. It is kind of like we did *Roots* so why do we ever have to talk about slavery again? There are so many different rich stories behind why so many African-American men have to hide their sexuality. The media has coined the term as the "down low" ... we're not trying to show the same story you've seen on Oprah, the same story you've seen on BET, which is the same story you read in *The New York Times*. We're going into different people's lives, different backgrounds, different situations and we're exploring their stories on why they are, so to speak, closeted, or afraid to be who they are in public in private. I think everybody has a different reason, there's not one reason ... that's why we feel it is a very important topic because there's a lot of people whose stories haven't been told.

Deondray: Although the media has been flooded with all these different documentaries and talk show segments about the "DL" no one ever talks about the why — it's always viewed as the predator or the victim.

They never talk about the catalyst, or the machine that keeps the whole DL thing running. With *The DL Chronicles* we are attempting to reconstruct, or redefine, what it means to be DL and also explore the participants and situations. Why they exist, the social pressures, particularly African-American men, are under to conform to this DL world. You can't blame any one community because everybody has their own negative view point of it ... so that's what we wanted to explore in the series.

In "Episode: Wes" the man on the DL wasn't a victim or a villain. You let the audience decide for itself. Are you concerned with straight women, because they are very interested in this, walking away from the film in a hyper paranoia about men on the DL, which is what happened with other forms of media?

Quincy: We were in the beginning but now the film has shown so many times in so many different environments — straight festivals, gay festivals, black festivals, white festivals and not once have we had that response from the women — even our test screenings with black straight women of different ages. Everybody had a different opinion of what they saw and no one was left feeling like, "Let me go check to see what are the signs I need to look for in my man!" Some of the women said they were able to identify with what the guy was going through, but at the same time they could also understand the women's position as far as what she wanted from her relationship ... they thought it was refreshing. It had its little scandal in it — of course we had to entertain people, but they really weren't expecting to see something that made them rethink what they already had come up with in their head.

There wasn't a HIV/AIDS aspect in that particular episode of Wes, which was good because in the media nearly every "DL" man has HIV/AIDS. How did that decision come about?

Deondray: When you think of the DL that's the first thing you think of and if we were going to get people to understand, try to identify, or begin to start having dialogue about this phenomenon we had to omit HIV/AIDS — at least in the first episode. With HIV the subject is not about a guy struggling with his sexuality, it then becomes the story about the guy with AIDS

that is about to give it to his wife. That is not in any way to deny that occurs, but again, the machine that keeps this type of relationship. So, to put HIV in it was going to distract you from the greater issue and that is men who are socially pressured in being the way that they are.

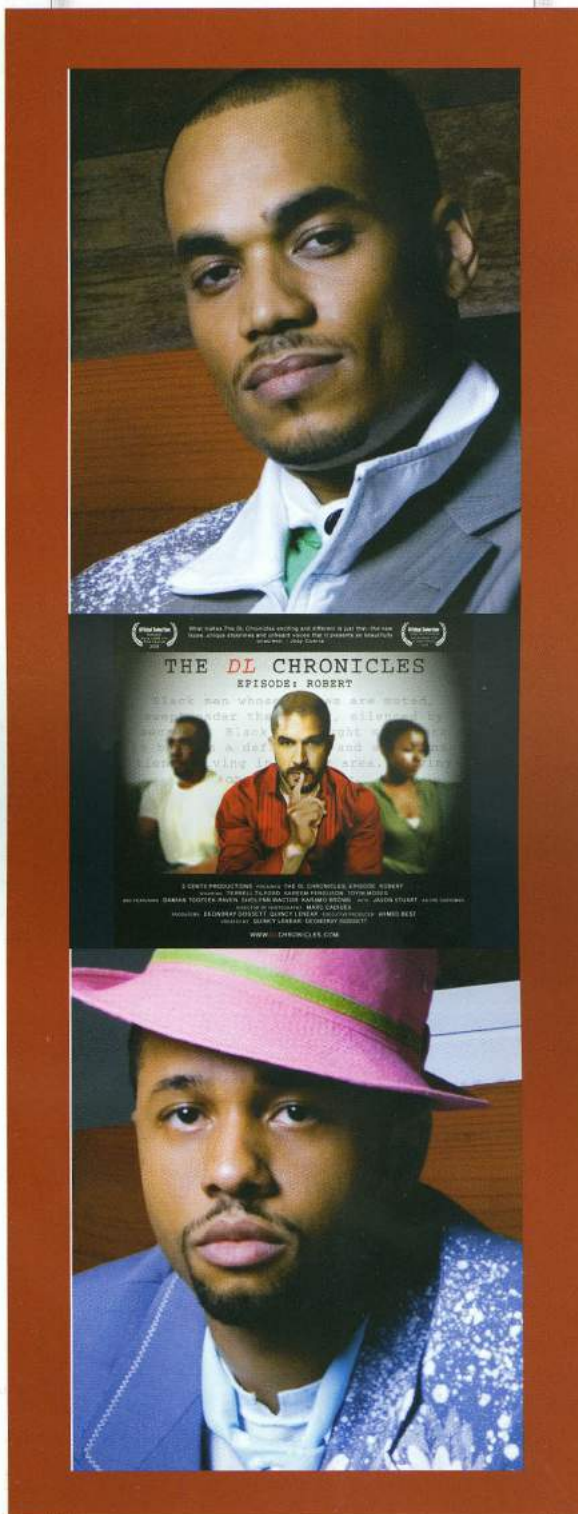
Quincy: One of the problems with the DL term is that it has become synonymous with HIV and ultimately if you dissect what the DL means it has nothing to do with HIV. It has to do with sexuality and the ability to, or not to, live honestly and openly. The disease is something that has been attached and now when you think DL you think black AIDS. In the first episode we did not touch on that. You have a movie by a particular director that was slated to come out and that's what that was about. You had the book by Mr. King and that's what Oprah Winfrey focused on. You had the *The New York Times* article and that's what they focused on ... AIDS is not the only story about the DL.

Have either of you lived on the DL as it applies to current media definition?

Deondray: No, we've never cheated on women; we've never been in relationships with women while sleeping with men. I used the term in a BET documentary that I so demonize now where we participated unknowingly and it was suppose to be a sympathetic view of the DL man. I was explaining to the interviewer that I wasn't lying to another woman — it was to my family, friends and co-workers. Yes, I was in a relationship with Quincy for five years before I told anyone — I was pretending to be straight. You know, yelling at girls with my boys, talking about girls, whatever it took to keep my cover and then I'd go home to him. In that respect I call that the DL, but the current media definition — I was never on the DL.

Quincy: I say the same thing because when I met Deondray I was not in a relationship with a woman. I had been in relationships with women in the past, but I was trying to be straight. The relationships never worked out, not because I cheated but because ultimately my heart wasn't there. My family and friends would say, when are you going to marry, when are you going to have kids ... there's an excuse for every question. Meanwhile Deondray is standing next to me and they just think he's my best friend, roommate and nobody knows this is my boyfriend and has been for years. I consider that DL because I lived a "straight" appearance in

my everyday life, I did not have a wife, I did not have a girlfriend and I was not deceiving women. I was deceiving myself and that is the most important part of the whole DL — the self-deception.



Was it hard to cast African-American actors for these roles?

Deondray: In a single word, yes! We had a lot of guys that came in and I guess hadn't read the full breakdown of the character. In the middle

of the audition process they would often say, "I knew he was gay but I didn't know he had to be intimate." They would back out ... the strange thing is some of these actors were friends of ours who we know are gay and they were afraid of playing gay.

Quincy: The African-American stigma is so prevalent in our community that even the person who is actually gay doesn't want to be seen in the public as being so — it can damage their whole career. So, we had a lot of that, but of course we found some brave ones that were willing to take chances.

The funny thing is the guy who actually accepted the role in the first one was actually not American — he was Australian. Although, he's black, he's black Australian so he had a different take on the whole homosexuality thing and didn't have any hang-ups about playing a gay character. The other guy he's black, but he's none descript black, he's multi-cultural so again the stigma was not as strong with him either. He is aware of the stigma, but it wasn't enough to keep him from doing a film and I think that had a lot to do with his cultural upbringing. A lot of the guys that were from the hood, as we say, were the very ones that refused — even the gay ones.

This has always been criticism of gay films, mainly white of course — in your film all of these actors are strikingly beautiful. When you see gay films everyone is so attractive and have the best bodies. Was that conscious to make them pretty enough for the audience to enjoy the characters and is there going to be some diversity, as far as body image, in future episodes?

Quincy: Yes, it was conscious, I won't deny that. There are no black gay projects, or were at the time. *Noah's Arc* was lingering in the background to be released on Logo. All of the gay projects have all been white and of course they use white gym boys, but we haven't had anything for us. This hasn't been done yet; we wanted to grab people's attention so of course we are going to cast very attractive men. It's like when people say; when you're looking for a relationship you're looking for personality first. I have not really met that person who can honest-

ly say they walk down the street and they are looking at people's personalities and not their physical appearance. So, I think one of our casting perquisites is that the guys had to be sexy. At the same time we wanted to cast very strong actors that are not only good-

looking, but they can act, which has been my issue. They cast these really good guys but they can't act themselves out of a bag. We had some guys that auditioned for us that were probably way more attractive in my opinion than the guys we cast, but they just didn't have the talent ... but yeah, we are trying to get viewers! (laughs)

Deondray: Down the road there are going to be your everyday average guys, but we're trying to get this out to the masses. To have the people you can see everyday ... I don't know how stimulating that will be. We put the poster out and we got immediate

her CD while I was writing. A lot of the visuals I wrote were actually images that her music conjured up in my head. It was organic for me to use her but at the same time if you listen to what she is saying in some of these songs they were perfect. The other thing is we want to lift the quality of black film making and storytelling. Everything does not have to be scored by 50 Cent; it doesn't have to be scored by some hip-hop track. We are richer than just that experience — I felt like the Nina Simone fit because it was still black music and a black artist. Her music opened up the film in a way that I felt like it became more universal.

Deondray: I have to add we still don't have the rights to Nina Simone so when the series hopefully gets picked up, the music score might change. We're really disappointed by that but it's really hard to get Nina Simone currently because she is suddenly popular again as far as scoring for film. Her price has gone way up and on the budget we are producing it is just difficult to try to get the rights.

Quincy: If anyone has any hook-ups contact us!

You guys recently did a music video with Jody Watley — how was that like working with her?

Deondray: It was our second time working with Jody. Jody trusts us and she basically gave us creative control. She said what she's looking for, what she was trying to accomplish and she just let us take it from there. She was in on the editing process so she was just as much involved in it as we were, but she gave us all the credit.

Quincy: I feel like there's an understanding between us and Jody because in many ways we are doing the exact same thing. Of course she has had way more success than we can ever imagine at this point, however, she is an independent artist and she is producing and creating her own content. She's not waiting on someone to tell her yes, or say this is going to work, or that isn't going to work. So many people tried to change what we were doing — saying nobody's going to watch that, add some white guys to it and we're like, this is what we wanna do. Once we do it, you'll see it and know we are right about our intention. Jody Watley is the exact same way; we meet on that same stage.

What can we expect from the next episode?

Deondray: "Episode: Robert" is a complete departure from the first without feeling like it's not part of the series. It's a romantic comedy of sorts and stars Terrell Tilford from *Soul*

Food. It's a romantic drama-dy, really dramatic but a lot of comedy. Explores another way a person can be on the DL that is not what you expect it to be. It's good because it shows how it's okay for two men to be in love, not in lust and how that can be beautiful.

Quincy: I think the first one was pretty much about a guy who had not acted on his desires so during one night of passion he went for it. This one is about can two black men fall in love and at the same time knowing that they have all of these social faces to wear.

What is the ultimate goal of *The DL Chronicles*?

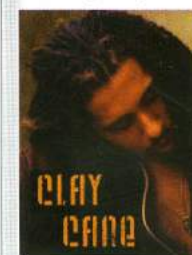
Deondray: First and foremost we would like to get, at the very least, some kind of DVD compilation that people can rent, or on television somewhere. Beyond that I would hope what this series does is puts a mirror up to black America and look at the roles they play in homophobia, the roles they play in deception. There is no innocent party; however, we do think there are reasons why the DL exists.

Quincy: I think exposure to black alternative sexuality will possibly help. In the beginning there is going to be a backlash. We have *Noah's Arc*, which I think is important because it's the first of its kind. It's opening a lot of doors and it's telling its stories, but there's so many other stories that can be told — we hope to be able explore so different stories. We want to give people a different perspective of what it is to be black and gay. I was talking to my family and even though they are aware I'm gay, they love Deondray, they love us, but every now and then they will say things to let me know they still have these beliefs on what gay people are. The *DL Chronicles* challenges so many of those different stereotypes — there's always going to be somebody that fits the bill in your head, but the next week there'll be a completely different story.

Deondray: Personally, we want to branch out from this particular project and be able to develop, create other projects and at the same time direct feature films. Of course we're directors so every director's goal is to continue to direct. Hopefully you guys can look forward to more from us indefinitely.

For more information on the DL Chronicles visit www.dlchronicles.com

Clay Cane is an established writer in the NJ/NYC area. He received his bachelor's degree in 2006 from Rutgers University in African American Studies and graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa. Cane is in the process of publishing his first novel *BALL-SHAPED WORLD*, which is a fictionalized account of the black and Latin ballroom scene. In addition, he is a freelance writer for various publications such as *Blackplanet.com*, *Men's Fitness*, *Vibe.com* and various other print/on-line publications.



responses just because of the guy's face without even knowing what it was about. Of course once the series is settled and solidified, yeah, we will start to explore everybody. That is the whole point of the *DL Chronicles* to get a well-rounded perspective. We don't have a regular cast, every episode is a brand new cast, story — it's an anthology series so there's a lot of room for different varieties to come through.

Quincy: Funny thing is the attractiveness of the men helped create a cross over audience. We don't just have a gay audience, we have black women and white women and the women find these men really attractive. Straight women come and say, "Wow, I never thought I would be attracted to a gay guy." What's more important is that we get you in the seat and we give you something that's worth a half hour of your time.

Why did you choose Nina Simone's music in "Episode: Wes" as the score and how do you think it adds to the film?

Quincy: I choose the music for the first one and I grew up on Nina Simone. My mom was a big Nina Simone fan and I'm a big Nina Simone fan. It just so happened that a lot of the story was inspired by listening to

WE MIGHT HAVE A WINNER



Last year around this same time we posed the question: Who should play Wonder Woman in the next big screen production to be released in 2007. It appears that none of the sexy vixens are in the running. The person rumored to play the lead of gays idol Diana everywhere is **Morena Baccarin**.

The Amazonian princess-warrior Diana left her lush tropical island to dwell in our urban cityscapes of glass and steel. Tutored in the ways of the Greek warriors, and outfitted with incredible gifts the Goddess bestowed upon her people, she becomes Paradise Island's emissary to civilization.



2007 RELEASE DATE
WILL SHE DO UNDER
CANDOR JUSTICE

Angelina Jolie



She'd definitely look breathtaking in the costume, but it's Jolie's powerful screen presence that would make her an ideal candidate to play Wonder Woman. Angelina comes to the table already knowing how to kick ass. She did most of her own stunts in both "Lara Croft" blockbusters.

Charlize Theron



The blue-eyed South African beauty radiates intelligence in each of her performances - we suspect she's a bit of a Wonder Woman in real life. And after her amazing transformation as lesbian serial killer Aileen Wuornos in "Monster," going brunette for a role would be a piece of cake.

Demi Moore



The long, dark hair, the perfectly buffed physique; the rumored \$600,000 on plastic surgery: Face it, Demi's been in training to play the eternally youthful Amazon princess for a decade. Need more proof? She managed to ensnare Ashton in an unbreakable magic lasso of her own.

Vivica A. Fox



On resemblance to Lynda Carter, Vivica A. Fox wins easily. They're from two different ethnic backgrounds, but the actresses look uncannily alike. Fox, who nearly stole "Kill Bill Vol. 1" as a soccer mom/kung fu villain, could convincingly take down a bad guy with a boomerang tiara.

Rebecca Romijn



With a turn in "The Punisher" and a three-time role as Mystique in "The X-Men," the former Mrs. Stamos is no stranger to comic book adaptations. But she usually plays villains and wimpy good girls. Let's see her fight on the side of truth, justice and patriotic hot pants!

Rosario Dawson



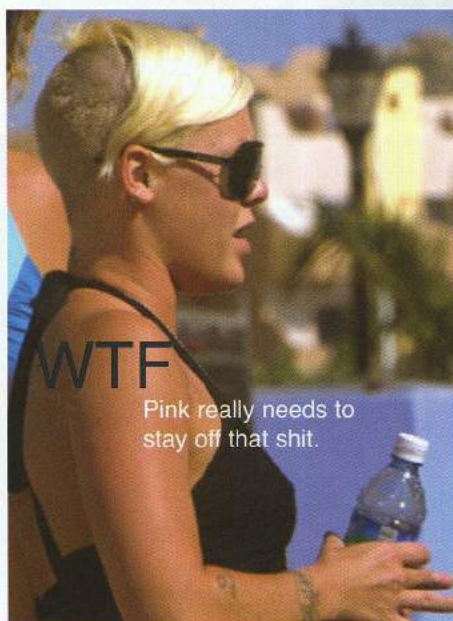
The "Josie and the Pussycats" star proved she's all grown up with this comment on her riveting role in last year's "Sin City," about which she noted: "The guys get their balls ripped off. The girls threaten to do it -- and will." Any questions?



82 lbs!
Her
Lowest
EVER!
Aug. 12,
2006

Nicole Richie:
THIN IS IN

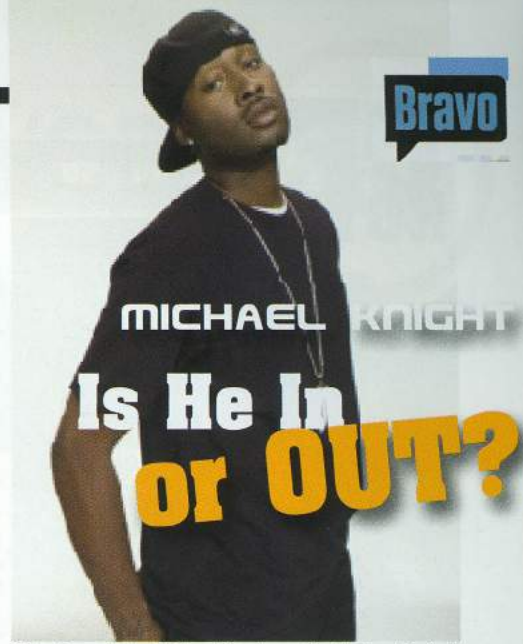
When I first saw this photo above, I was like what a great photo-shop job - then I came across another (Left), and realized that it was real. Please eat Nicole, eat.



WTF

Pink really needs to stay off that shit.

Bravo



MICHAEL KNIGHT

Is He In
or OUT?

Clips from Andy's Blog interview with Michael that all the question we pondered since the start of this season's Project Runway. We'll skip right to the juicy stuff.



OK EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW - ARE YOU SINGLE OR WHAT?

Well, first of all let me say I am straight! It's no big deal but everybody is asking me. They don't see me so maybe they wonder. I don't know.

WELL, I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT WHETHER YOU WERE STRAIGHT OR WHAT BUT I FELT LIKE ASKING IF YOU ARE SINGLE WAS THE RIGHT WAY TO LEAD TO IT SO I AM GLAD YOU ADDRESSED IT.

I am so glad you asked it that way, Andy. It's stupid and rude and I don't get why it makes a difference either way. The hood side of me wants to say, "Why - are you trying to screw me, is that why you're asking?" But that's what I want to say. But, yes I am straight and no I am not dating anybody. Wow, I can't believe we are really discussing this!

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT PEOPLE WONDER ABOUT DESIGNER S SEXUALITY PROBABLY MORE THAN ANY OTHER FIELD BECAUSE IT IS AN OVERTLY CREATIVE FIELD.

People would naturally assume that because the majority of the individuals in fashion are gay. I get why they would assume it. It really doesn't bother me. I don't care either way.

WELL THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS YOU ARE DAMN HANDSOME SO THAT S WHY PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW. SO ARE PEOPLE COMING ON TO YOU MICHAEL KNIGHT?

Thanks! Yeah, I personally don't read any of the blogs and stuff but my friends are telling me that I have some fans that want a piece of me! Yeah, I'm sure the panties will be thrown and fun stuff like that. This is all the fun part now! I accept it all...



for the complete interview visit
<http://www.bravotv.com/>

OF NOTE

UPCLOSE



Serve & Serve It Well Kevin Aviance

Part 1 of 2 Feature

Kevin Aviance does not fit into one category of entertainment. He is at once an entertaining performer, a recording artist whose songs top the charts and vibrate through the club world, an innovator of fashion and style, a model and muse of top designers, a talented and studied dancer, or, as he likes to call himself, an "Entity." Whatever one decides to label him, one fact is clear: everything he touches seems to turn to gold, and fans cannot get enough of this energy.

Kevin Aviance's music is a mixture of underground funk and bustling house rhythms, performed with such energy, fervor, and

wittiness that everyone is out of their seats, letting loose, and dancing when he hits the stage. Aviance's debut album, "Box of Chocolates," (produced by Wave Music) includes "Cunty," a club cult hit, "Din Da Da," which reached number one on the Billboard charts, and "Rhythm is my Bitch," which rose to number two on the Billboard charts.

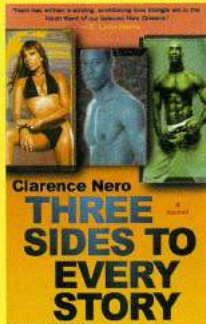
Aviance's style is unrivaled - he has the glam and funk appeal of Missy Elliot, the unique and unabashed gender-bending style of Marilyn Manson, and the avant-garde fashion sense of David Bowie in the 70's. Aviance has performed with a list of luminaries any up-and-coming artist would dream of, including Madonna, Whitney Houston, Cher, Lil' Kim, Mary J. Blige, Natalie Cole, Cindy Lauper, and Bette Midler.

Aviance, who credits Boy George, Grace Jones, and David Bowie as major influences, has such a fascinating and commanding presence that one has to see him perform live to truly understand the phenomenon. Aviance is constantly requested to host events around the world, because the raw energy and glamorous atmosphere that he creates seem to "make" the night. Aviance has worked with celebrated djs including Junior Vasquez, Victor Calderone, Basement Jaxx, Deep Dish, Francois Kevorkian, Danny Tenaglia, and Grammy Award-winners Peter Rauhofer and Hex Hector. With a fan base stretching from New York to Tokyo, Aviance has hosted events at legendary clubs around the world such as the former Sound Factory, Twilo, The Ministry of Sound, Roxy, Centro Fly, Arena, and Womb, and performed all over Europe, Asia, South America, and the United States.

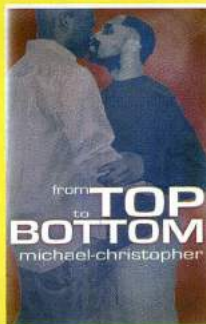
Kevin Aviance was raised in Richmond, Virginia, in a close-knit family with seven siblings. From a young age, Aviance dedicated himself to the study of music and theatre. Kevin's career as a performance artist and club personality began in Washington DC, continued in Miami, and eventually landed him at the epicenter of the club and music scene: New York City. Along the way, the House of Aviance was established. The House of Aviance is an entourage of talented artists, dancers, and singers who add to Kevin's mystique and make appearances with him around the world. Kevin Aviance is managed by Prova Group and is signed with Tony Moran at Emerge Records.

BOOK SHELF

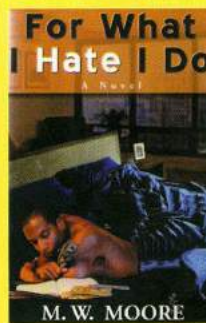
This Fall, find a cozy quiet spot, a tall glass of ice tea, and...



There's A Huge Buzz about this one. Set in New Orleans, Clarence Nero writes about a love triangle that will even make E. Lynn blush. Sensational Read. \$12.95 - 266 pages ISBN 0-7679-2136-4 harlemmoon.com

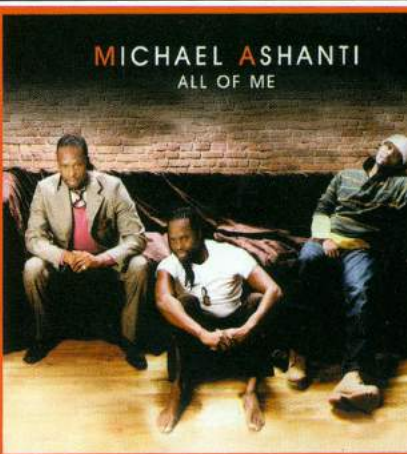


Who's on Top Michael Christopher offers a timely novel that highlights opportunities for gay men to engage in honest conversation about intimacy \$15.95 - 208 pages ISBN 0-9170398-4-4 fromtopbottom.com



Powerful A life that should have been a glorious path to Olympic gold is traded for Silver handcuffs as former NCAA track star and model Miguel Morris leaps from the devils den into the state pen. \$14.99 - 296 pages ISBN 0-9776116-0-4 forwhatihateido.com

MUSIC



Hold On Michael Ashanti is coming for All Of You!

If you're a big fan of **Rashan Patterson**, you'll find comfort and enjoyment in Michael Ashanti's debut album "All of Me". The CD delivers a fresh soul assortment of original tunes from Ashanti and a couple of flashbacks that are sure to keep your heads bobbin'. Michael's style of music has been appropriately branded as soul fusion to signify the core presence of soul and gospel-influenced vocals that soars over backdrops of R&B, house, dancehall/raggaton, jazz, gospel and more. — Yes, all of that in just one album.

Few are able to put together such an assortment of sounds and have them so well received. This New York native born with Jamaican parents has done just that. "You I'm Born Again" and "Cry" are great tracks, but our favorite here at Click is Michael's rendition of **Martha Wash** smash hit "Hold On". If you're a lover of house music this track alone makes the purchase of the CD worth in weight of gold. Visit www.michaelashanti.com for a list of locations where the CD is sold.

This CD is also available at
www.CDBaby.com

ON BROADWAY

Usher Wins

Broadway role in
Chicago Musical



R&B star signs on to make his Broadway debut as lawyer Billy Flynn in the long-running musical revival.

Q: What do Huey Lewis and Usher have in common?

A: Not much, other than that Usher just joined Lewis on the hilariously diverse list of people who have played conniving lawyer Billy Flynn in the Broadway revival of the musical *Chicago*.



As Flynn, Usher will be forced to keep his shirt on.

Chicago producers Barry and Fran Weissler announced today that the 27-year-old Usher will be joining the cast of the musical August 22 and will appear through October 11.

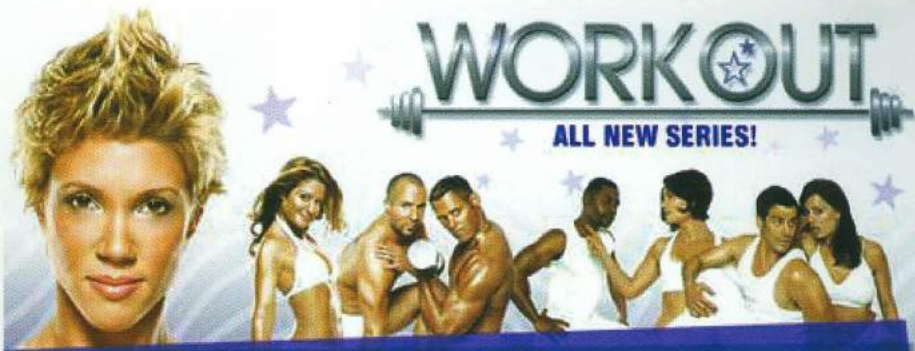
"I have always admired Broadway actors for their showmanship, dedication and focus that goes into performing live on stage every night," Usher, a five-time Grammy winner, said in a statement. "Being on Broadway allows you to connect to audiences in a whole new way that's different from music and movies."

It won't be Usher's first acting role, as he's appeared in the films *In the Mix* and *The Faculty*, as well as TV shows like *Moesha*.

Chicago, which has garnered six Tony Awards, opened in 1996 and has been seen around the world.

The Many Faces of Billy Flynn

Since James Naughton first took the stage as Billy Flynn in the current Broadway revival of "Chicago" in 1996, the silver-tongued lawyer has been played by movie stars and TV stars, singers and dancers, and George Hamilton. Here are 20 of the more-or-less familiar faces who have taken on the role.



Re-run Alert

If you missed the Six Episodes Of *Workout*, Kick yourself, then go to www.bravo.com to get the rerun dates and times of this FABULOUS "reality show"

Jackie works with a team of trainers that not only love working out, but who look good doing it. Even better, three out of eight of these trainers are gay. However, all of them are very sexual beings which isn't surprising as few thing go more hand-in-hand with pumping iron than sex (especially in Los Angeles gyms). *Work Out* plays that up to a maximum. Girls flirt with boys. Boys flirt with girls. Boys flirt with boys. Everyone really just wants to hook up. And there's nothing wrong with that, right?

The best part about *Work Out* though is that it doesn't include just one "token gay" as do so many shows. In fact,

Work Out showcases three different types of gay folks.

You have the "straight-acting" Doug Blasdell. At forty-three, he's older and more mature than most of his co-workers, frequently dishing out advice to everyone else whether it be

personal or professional. Doug is also in a committed relationship and lives what he refers to as a "normal" life.

Then there is twenty-five year old Jesse, a flamboyant pretty boy from Seattle who is more of a club kid. He represents the young, fun, sexual side of being gay. He's hot. He's sly. And he's the teacher's pet who immediately steps on



Jesse

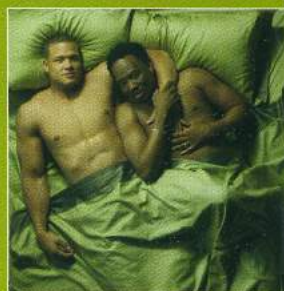
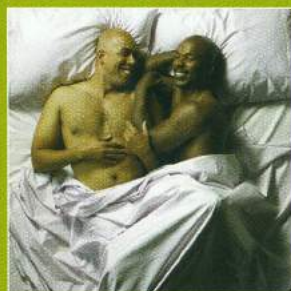
everyone's toes.

Finally, you have Jackie herself, who runs her own business and doesn't take crap from anyone. Lipstick lesbian all the way, Jackie's tough love gets her respect and success.



Jackie

Web Poll My Favorite Couple On Noah's Arc Is



Cast Your Vote At: www.clikmagazine.com

MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS

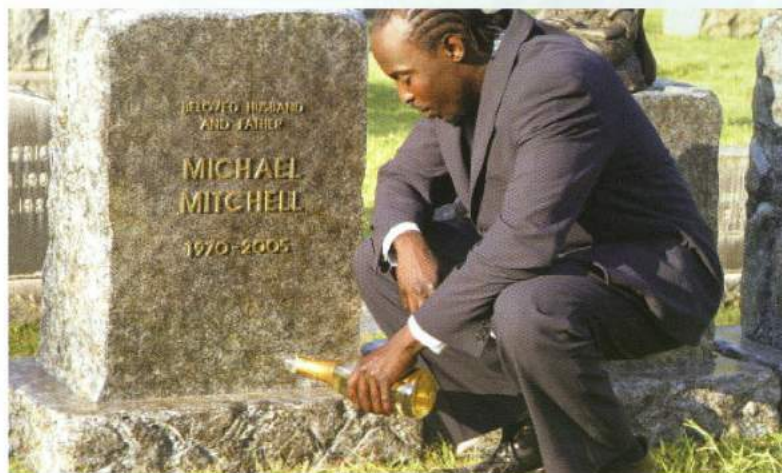
Complex Gay Drug Dealer Brings Sizzle To His Role In The Wire

BY VINCENT TOLLIVER

homosexuality like a surgeon's scalpel through thick epidermis. And equally as precise.

How? As the pendulum swings to the right, his character provides straight folks a rare glimpse into the underground world of homo thug life...Slice! As the pendulum swings high up in the air on the left, his character offers gay folks seeking a meaningful relationship the oft-allusive emotional vulnerability component. In that moment you stop breathing and your heart stops while watching the pendulum freeze (suspend) in midair, just before it swings back to the center, Williams' character offers up a refreshing boldness, a rooted courageousness, and a liberating openness about sexuality seldom seen in black gay men in real life, let alone on television...Slice! Slice!

Director Clark Johnson "got nervous" when he decided to rewrite the script to include the infamous kiss between his character Omar and boyfriend Brandon (Michael Kevin Darnall). Originally the kiss was not written in the script but Michael decided to write it in. Williams is savvy and realized the importance of developing the intimate storyline of his gay character, even if the writers and directors didn't. "From that day on, there was a shift in energy [on the set]...a new level of respect." For those of you who didn't



Michael K. Williams is extremely hot right now. I caught up with the actor early one Saturday morning in late August at his hotel in Atlantic City, where he was on a weekend getaway from NYC. His career is on fire. You can see him in his 4th season on HBO's award-winning series *The Wire*, which has its fall premiere on Sunday, September 10, 2006.

Williams (Omar Little) plays a defiant gangsta who just happens to be gay. He succeeds in the role in part because of his brilliant acting, which is at once believable and engaging, but also because of his uncanny ability to engender street [cred]-i-bility and hood swagger in a character who kills in one breath and defines his own moral center in the other. Don't sleep; it takes a badass actor or a badass nigga to pull that shit off. In MKW's case, both are applicable. F\$#k what you heard.

And no matter what your sensibility, or sexual orientation for that matter, be it straight or gay, Williams' character Omar slices through tightly held stereotypes on

see it, go to Blockbuster this very second (Season 1, Disc 2, Episode 5). Go on, you'll thank me later. Take Clk with you so you can keep reading.

Friedrich Nietzsche, the German philosopher famous for his Good vs. Evil treatise, came up during the interview. Surprised? Don't be. Michael K. Williams will spit some philosophy for your ass, and not the kind of shit you can't access. "I feel that we are all one. There is good and bad in all of us. And everyone wants to be loved. It [love] is a very vulnerable place to be. A naked place." Switching up, Williams adds, "There is something that everyone would kill for. Your paternal instinct will cause you to kill someone. It's in all of our nature. And I walk that line with

Come & See What The Fuss Is All About



**Make Plans To Attend The Nation's
Hottest & Sexiest Circuit Event
Memorial Day Weekend, Miami, Fl.
May 24th-28th, 2007**

**Taking Reservations Now
Hyatt Regency Miami
Visit Us Online At
www.sizzlemiami.com**



Omar."

No surprise there, right? "Omar don't scare," Williams' character tells a female detective after he decides to cooperate with the police after the brutal murder of his boyfriend Brandon.

Whistling is a significant aspect of Williams' character. He employs it deftly. In the final episode of season one, Omar goes on a shoot-

ing spree where he kills Stinkum and maims and scares the hell out of others and afterwards whistles a tune, "The Farmer in the Dell." And just like the "cheese," Omar is standing alone. Well not exactly, an internet-based fan club for Michael K. Williams has gotten together from different parts of the world and calls themselves "The Cheese-Aholics" and stands in solidarity with Williams. "Crazy, right?" Williams comments on the fan club. "But I appreciate the love."

According to Williams, his character Omar is actually "singing a co-opted version of 'The Farmer in the Dell,' which is based on Elmer Fudd's (the cartoon character) 'A Hunting We Will Go.'" Laughing, Michael adds, "Omar whistles while he works [and hunts]."

A final note about *The Wire*, "HBO released the cast of [our] contracts in May," confides Michael. This means there may not be a 5th season. Not to worry, he already has a new gig.

Exactly eleven days after HBO's fall premiere of *The Wire*, Michael K. Williams can be seen in *Six Degrees*, a new series on ABC which premieres Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 10PM. The character he will play is also named Michael, who is a street mogul trying to look out for his family, particularly his little brother played by Dorian Missick. "I am

ecstatic about the role. It's a stellar cast."

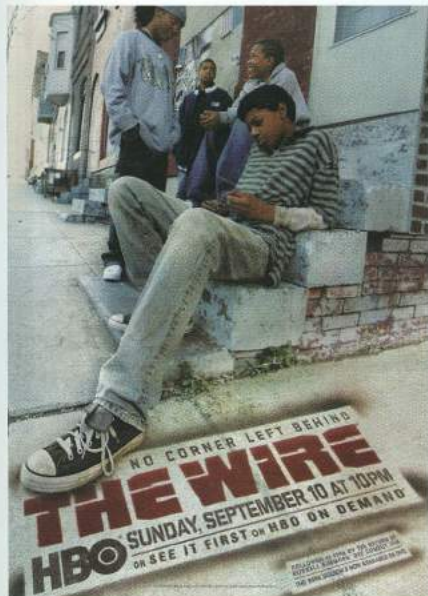
I got personal and asked if he'd ever had any non-traditional sexual experiences. "Sure, I'm a freak in the bedroom," he freely admits.

Presently, Williams is reading Don Miguel Ruiz's "The Four Agreements." Asked about the writer James Baldwin, "I love Baldwin. The Baldwin story will be my award-winning role," he confidently forecasts. Stayed tuned.

Williams has just finished two major film projects which have 2006 and 2007 releases respectfully: (1) "I Think I Love My Wife," directed by Chris Rock, and (2) "Gone Baby Gone," Ben Affleck's directorial debut which also stars Morgan Freeman. He will also appear in a guest episode of *Law & Order: SVU* this fall.

In the past, Williams has worked with the likes of Tupac Shakur ("Bullet"), Martin Scorsese and Nicholas Cage ("Bringing out the Dead"), and has appeared in "The Sopranos," "Third Watch," "Law & Order," "Alias," and "CSI."

Prediction...in five years or less, Michael K. Williams will win an Academy Award (Oscar).



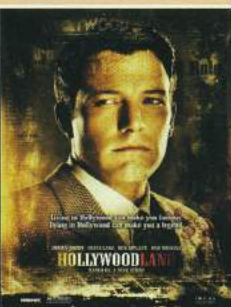


COMING THIS FALL AT THEATRES



SEPT 1ST
The Wicker Man

A sheriff investigating the disappearance of a young girl



SEPT 8TH
Hollywoodland

Adrien Brody, Diane Lane and Ben Affleck star in a compelling exploration of fame and identity, inspired by one of Hollywood's most infamous real-life mysteries. The story follows a 1950s private detective who, investigating the



mysterious death of "Superman" star George Reeves, uncovers unexpected connections to his own life as the case turns more personal. The torrid affair Reeves had with the wife of a studio executive might hold the key to the truth.

The Covenant

Four young men who belong to a supernatural legacy are charged with stopping the evil force they released into the world years earlier. Another great force they must contend with is the jealousy and sus-



picion that threatens to tear them apart.

SEPT 29TH
Open Season

Boog, a domesticated 900lb. Grizzly bear finds himself stranded in the woods 3 days before Open Season. Forced to rely on Elliot, a fast-talking mule deer, the two form an unlikely friendship and must quickly rally other forest animals if they are to form a rag-tag army against the hunters.

PICK OF THE MONTH



THE GUARDIAN
Sept 15th

After losing his crew in a fatal crash, legendary Rescue Swimmer, Ben Randall (Kevin Costner), is sent to teach at "A" School, an elite training program for Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers. Wrestling with the loss of his crew members, he throws himself into teaching, turning the program upside down with his unorthodox training methods. While there, he encounters a young, cocky swim champ, Jake Fischer (Ashton Kutcher), who is driven to be the best. During training, Randall helps mold Jake's character, combining his raw talent with the heart and dedication required of a Rescue Swimmer. Upon graduation, Jake follows Randall to Kodiak, Alaska, where they face the inherent dangers of the Bering Sea. In his initial solo rescue, Jake learns firsthand from Randall, the true meaning of heroism and sacrifice, echoing the Swimmer's motto..."So Others May Live!"

What follows is a raunchy ride on the bumpy road to butt love. Along the way, the film spoofs not only American Pie and gay movies from Trick to The Broken Hearts Club, but also the entire gay lifestyle.

After the end-of-summer blow-out bash at Muffler's, the boys' lives (and asses) will never be the same...

Will Andy decide he's not ready for sex after all? Will Griff act on his raging crush for best friend Jarod? What is Nico doing with MUFFLER'S GRANDPA? Will Andy get that gerbil out of his ass?

Beneath the film's sex-romp exterior beats the true heart of the story - one of friendship and loss of innocence. Each character experiences his own rite of passage on a journey that spans from boys to men.

ALSO SHOWING

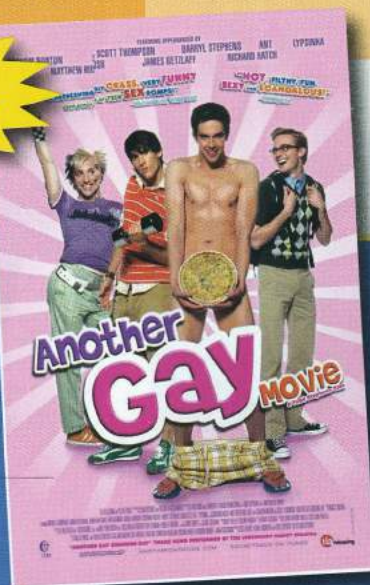
For Release Cities & Dates Visit

<http://www.anothergaymovie.com/>

ANDY is your typical All-American seventeen-year-old gay virgin. Like everyone else, he's dying to have sex. Totally out of the closet and mad-crazy horny, this naive high school senior is caught in that awkward vortex between child and adult. Much to the dismay of his MOM (who wonders why all her carrots and cucumbers keep disappearing), Andy spends much of his private time practicing for the big moment when he'll finally take the plunge.

Andy is not alone. He attends high school with his three best friends, all of them totally out-loud-and-proud. **JAROD** is a buff, blonde varsity-jock stud. **GRIFF** is the valedictorian, sinewy sexy, and a closet romantic. **NICO** is the pierced alternative-kid gay-cinema expert. The guys all have one thing in common - they're all booty-virgins.

MUFFLER, 18, the boys' buldyke Casanova stud bud, delights in pointing this out. Muffler is a cheerleader-magnet with loads of sexual experience under her mullet. The final straw for the guys comes at Muffler's graduation party, where everyone is having sex but them. That night they make a pact to do "the big A" by the end of summer.



Quincy LeNear & Deondray Gossett Presents

The DL Confidential

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

A STORY OF SEX INTRIGUE & FASHION

STARRING DAMIAN TOOFEEK RAVEN as Chadwic / DARREN SCHNASE as Wes / TY VINCENT as Trent / TERRELL TILFORD as Robert / KAREEM FERGUSON as Austin / TAMARA BRANCH as She

LOCATION: Shot at The Farmers Daughter Hotel, & TART Restaraunt, LA ' www.farmersdaughterhotel.com - 115 South

Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90036 **ORIGINAL CLOTHING DESIGNS** by DeVine. - www.DeVineNY.com

UNDERWEAR by V-Qube <http://www.v-qube.com>

ADDITIONAL CLOTHING PROVIDED BY: STERLING WILLIAMS, INC - <http://SterlingWilliams.com> **PRODUCES/DIRECTORS:** Quincy Linear &

Deandre Gossett / The DL Chronicles / www.dlchronicles.com / www.myspace.com/dlchronicles **PHOTOGRAPHY** by Voyuer Photography Inc.

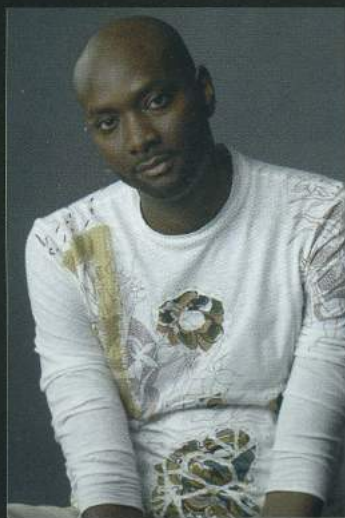
HS HOT & STEAMY
RESTRICTED
Suitable for all audiences over 17
CONTENT FOR MATURE MEN

DESIGNED by Dwight Powell **STYLIST:** Moonglow. **WRITTEN** by Quincy LeNear & Deondray Gossett

www.dlchronicles.com

Behind The Story

WITH NOAH'S ARC CREATOR...



It's the show that has been creating a steady buzz in the African American Gay community on the newly launched network *Logo*. With the success of the first season, *Noah's Arc* returned on August 9th to answer all the questions, that left everyone on the edge of our seats after an emotional, and explosive season finale. So, who is behind this first all gay Black scripted television series? Recently, I got the opportunity to sit down and talk to Patrick Ian Polk. The reclusive and reserved Director took time out of his busy day to reflect, engage, and share the wild ride this year has been. Our conversation was interesting, candid and honest. Who is Patrick Ian Polk, you're about to find out.

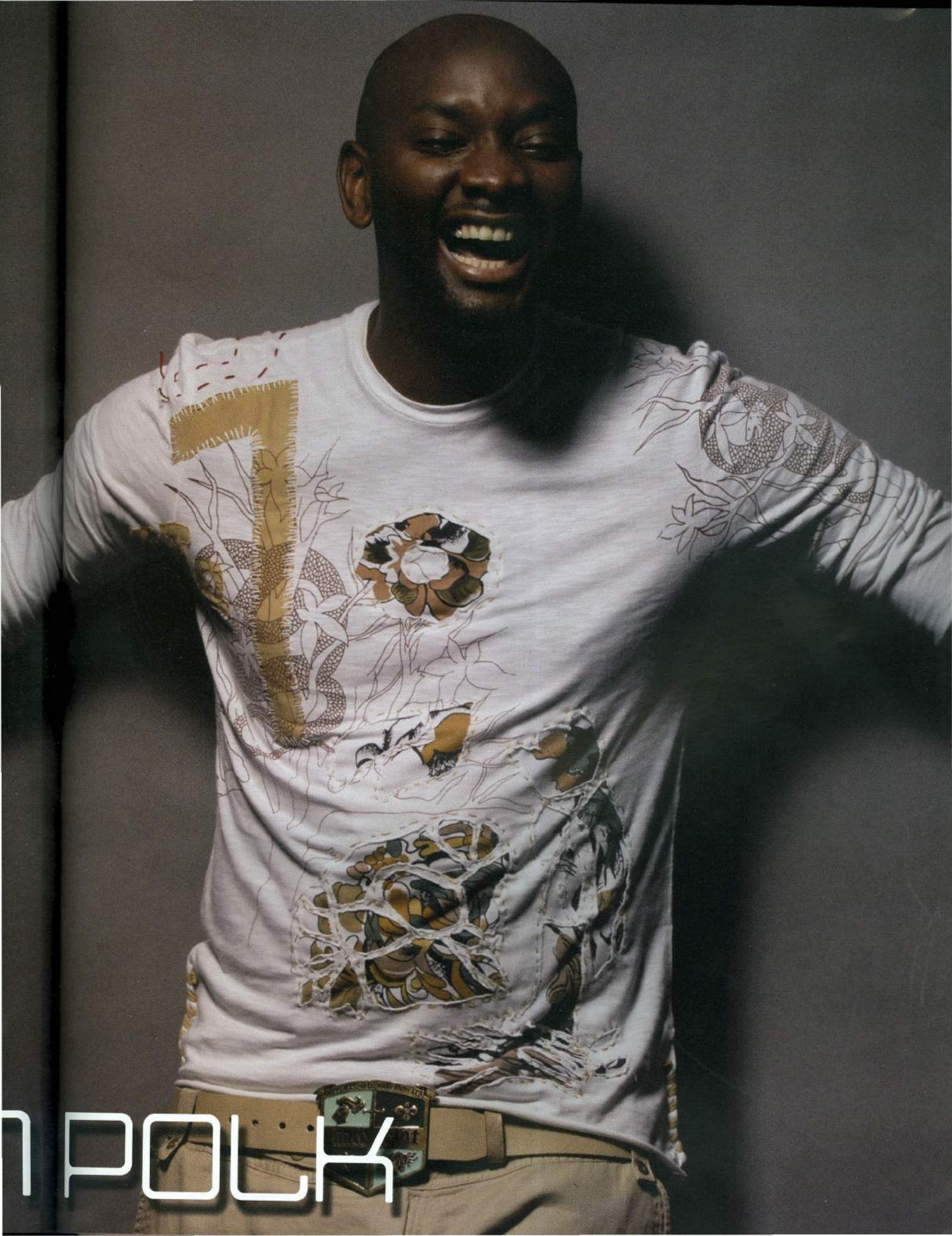
Patrick Ian Polk was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi on July 29th 1973. *"I always knew I wanted to be involved in film"*, Patrick says as he reflects on his childhood. At a young age he was always fascinated with television and reading. *"Growing up in rural Mississippi there weren't a lot of resources related to the film industry"* Patrick explained, but he didn't let that stop him from going after his passion. At the time, being an only child (he now has a baby brother), his parents were very supportive as he pursued his dreams to become a film maker.

Patrick attended Brandeis University in Massachusetts and graduated film school at the prestigious University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television, where he wrote and directed a number of short films. When I asked him how his parents felt about his success, he replied very humbly, *"its localized success. Logo is a very small network, and its expanding slowly, but they are proud and excited for me"*. Patrick isn't a rookie when it comes to visual creation and the entertainment industry. He was a producer's assistant at Amblin Entertainment, a development executive at MTV Films. Patrick also held a position as the vice president of production and development for e2 Filmworks and has contributed to a number of Edmond Entertainment projects, like *Soul Food* and *Have Plenty*. Patrick decided to pave his own way by establishing his own production company-Tall Skinny Black Boy Productions. Soon there after, he wrote, produced, and directed his first successful independent film *Punks*. After receiving critical acclaim for this film, Patrick set his goals even higher by writing, producing, and directing *Noah's Arc*.

The idea of *Noah's Arc* came to Patrick at a local gay event in California in 2003. Patrick was attending an event called "Boy Trade", and a group of guys caught his attention. Patrick recalls, *"I was struck with the notion that this was a group that didn't have any programming developed for them. That's when it hit me. I was going to do a show and it was going to be about black gay men."* Originally Patrick called the show *"Hot Chocolate"*, but he knew that wouldn't work. So he thought about the name for his show long and hard; trying to come up with a name

Story by Lloyd Dinwiddle

patrick ian polk



h POLK

that was elegant. "Noah was on a very short list of possible names. I wanted something elegant, something that rolls off the tongue, that's why I went with Noah!" Because Noah is a screenwriter, a common term in screenwriting is the "story arc," or "character arc" which is where a character goes, or a story goes from beginning to end. Since he was a writer that popped in my head, but "A-R-C," not "A-R-K," it's sort of a play on *Noah's Ark*, but has no biblical significance to the show. It's all about Noah's story arc, and if you also notice his three friends are Alex, Ricky, and Chance, so they complete the arc."

Hate it or Love it, *Noah's Arc* has been rolling off the tongues of fans since its debut a year ago on the brand new all gay programming network Logo. It seems with the series finale of *Queer as Folk*, *Noah's Arc* couldn't have come a better time. As society becomes more and more comfortable with gay themed programming, especially with the popularity of gay shows like *Will and Grace*, *The "L" Word*, and *Queer as Folk*, it seems Logo picked the best time in programming to debut a show that caters to the black gay community.

Noah's Arc has gained tremendous momentum over the past year and it's well deserved. With this being the first African-American gay series, it's giving the community a voice. It's telling networks, advertisers, and society that there is demand for shows like this and more shows like this. Patrick and Logo have been successful in capitalizing on the demand for fresh, new African American gay programming. If you don't have Logo, have been spending too much time in the gym, or still have dial-up internet service and can't watch the online clips provided by <http://logoonline.com>, *Noah's Arc* is about Noah Nicholson (Darryl Stephens), a struggling screenwriter embarking on a new love affair with newly out and much more successful screenwriter, Wade (Jenson Atwood). His friends include Alex Kirby (Rodney Chester), an HIV/AIDS counselor who is the matriarch of the group and is struggling to keep his seven-year relationship with his anesthesiologist boyfriend Trey (George Keith) intact; Ricky Davis (Christian Vincent), the owner of a trendy clothing store and the playboy of the group; and Chance Counter (Douglas Spearman), a recently married college professor who was skeptical about moving into a new home with his partner Eddie (Jonathan Julian) and his three year old daughter. The four men live in the fabulous city of Los Angeles and try to survive the pressures of dating, relationships and often friendships.

Season two of *Noah's Arc* is expected to

be more exciting than its predecessor. Patrick has added new cast members to its roster. With guest appearances from Rockman Dunbar (*Prison Break*), Victoria Powell (*The Young and the Restless*), former B2K member "Raz B", and Keith Hamilton Cobb (*The Young and the Restless*) making there *Logo* debut, it's a positive reflection of the show when you add higher profile actors to the roster "Once something gets going and people can see that it has a profile, and it's not just this big unknown it's always easier the more popular a show becomes", says Patrick. This season's *Noah's Arc* is also being moved to Vancouver Canada. Last season was shot in Los Angeles, but with rising production costs, Patrick and Logo decided to move the show to Vancouver, "For a show like ours that is on a smaller network, and doesn't have a big budget that shows like *"Sex in the City"*, and *"ER"* have, there was a big concern so we had to move the show up to Canada to keep it going so that we could afford to do more," explained Patrick.

The four main characters Noah, Alex, Chance and Ricky are somewhat effeminate and some feel that they don't accurately reflect the majority of black gay men in America. Although there are masculine portrayals such as Wade, Eddie and Trent, the masculine to feminine ratio doesn't appear to be balanced. "I didn't have an agenda when casting", Patrick replies. "It's a part of our community. We have feminine guys and we have masculine guys, and everything in between. As long as the characters are fully realized, well-rounded, and are real people, then the level of femininity and masculinity doesn't really matter. We're in a very weird place when it comes to that whole issue of masculinity versus femininity and I think it's bullshit. When you think about all gay characters on TV, what we see more often than not are these hyper-masculine gay characters that if they didn't tell us they were gay you wouldn't really know. There are no other indications. From the Black guy on *Six Feet Under* (Matthew St. Patrick), the trend has been to have overly-masculine portrayals. The reality is that I put this show together completely independently, without major network support, and without a lot of money", he adds.

Many view his success as just the luck of the draw. There is a perception that being a person of color in Hollywood can prove to be difficult, and even more if your gay and of color, but Patrick disagrees, and dismisses that notion. "It's not necessarily hard being black or gay, it's hard being in Hollywood in general. It's incredibly competitive. You've got lots of people fighting for very few jobs. If anything gay people are embraced in Hollywood, being a black gay show in fact helped us secure a spot on Logo because *Noah's Arc* is something different from *"Queer As Folk"* its unique. The problem is it just depends on what your project is. It's all about the scope of your project. Your skin color can be green; it's all about your

project. Sexuality and color doesn't matter. If someone in Hollywood sees value, and a potential audience from what you're pitching, then they will buy it. Married with Children was created by a black man. Hollywood doesn't care if you're black; they just care if it's a good TV"

In the midst of all the success of *Noah's Arc*, and previous cult classic *Punks* Patrick-Ian Polk is humbled. There was no ego, or attitude through out our conversation. If anything he seemed like a genuinely nice guy. I wanted to know what it felt like for him to watch his show on national television live for the first time, and he said "I enjoyed the idea that, wow I'm watching a show that other people are watching at the same time that I'm watching it!!" But one thing that he doesn't do is watch it with the cast: "Actors and performers entire focus is on them. "How did I look?", "Did I turn my head right", "I know my nose was too big in that shot" they're way to self conscious, so I don't watch it with them anymore. But he admits "it feels good!!" Patrick isn't just limiting himself to television. With the second season for *Noah's Arc* nearly completed, he is also working on a new feature film called "Black Birds". He's pretty mum on the project when I inquired, but did say, "It's a high school movie that has a gay element to it." He has written a special part for ultimate 1960's diva Diana Ross, and he is currently in negotiations with her and hopes she comes on board. Patrick is extremely open when it comes to his work, his successful series, and anything else work related, but when our conversation shifted to his love life there wasn't much he was willing to share. When I inquired about whom is keeping his late night attention, he casually mentioned that he has a boyfriend, who is an actor, but quickly, and jokingly followed it up with a "and that's all you going to get!!" Patrick did express however that "Having a long distance relationship can be difficult."

With homes in California and London, *Noah's Arc* has proven to be a steady success and Patrick obviously isn't hurting for money. Despite the fact that he sold the rights to *Noah* to Logo, he still owns a percentage which gives him leverage, and creative freedom to take *Noah's Arc* in the direction he feels it should go. The one thing that makes this show such a hit with fans is that it's relatable. Black or White, masculine or feminine we all know characters like the ones played by Darryl Stephenson, Douglas, Spearman, Christian Vincent, and Rodney Carter. Though some feel the certain scenes are over acted, *Noah's Arc* is no different than any other new series on bigger networks. As the show is given a chance and grows, it will get better, and better. "The reality is that I put this show together completely independently without major network

support, and without a lot of money. It's a gay series so obviously we aren't going to be able to go out and get Denzel Washington, and people like that to perform in this show. We used a lot of newer actors, without a lot of acting experience. But I also think that's a part of the appeal of the show that gives it a fresh feeling for me, and makes it a less Hollywood flick feeling. I think the guys did a great job in season one and I think they are improving and have done a better job in season two. You're always going to get criticized. You're never going to be able to satisfy everyone who watches the show. Every show isn't for every person, but I think that the overwhelming emails and letters that I get have been incredibly positive." Logo isn't offered to everybody just yet, but it can still be seen in over 20 million homes, and is supported by 50 top-tier advertisers. Everyone who tunes in to watch *Noah's Arc* gets the opportunity to see gay love, life, and all the drama through the eyes of African American characters that are relatable, identifiable and interestingly complex. *Noah's Arc* is here to tell everyone that being different is "O.K. and Fabulous!" No matter what your feelings are for the show, at the end of the day, Patrick-Ian Polk is a pioneer, and should be commended for finding a way to get the black gay man on television, a weekly series. He's the first one to do it, and that marks a spot in history for him, the show and the network. We are all enthralled with the characters of Noah, Eddie, Chance, and Ricky.

Along with their super sexy boyfriends Wade, Eddie, and Trent, the series has addressed every issue from safe sex (or lack there of in some cases), to infidelity, even addressing masculine, and feminine issue's that are very prevalent in today's gay social society. *Noah's Arc* is edgy, original, fresh, and youth spirited. From eye popping foreplay, to flamboyant dialogue, people have taken to the show at a rapid pace, and with the explosive cliff hanger from the last season; we're all ready for more. Presently, *Noah's Arc* isn't confirmed for a third season, but with the success of the DVD (in stores August 8th), and further releases on *Itunes*, it's looking extremely positive that we will have our guys around for quite some time.

No matter what Logo's intentions are for the third season, something tells me that Patrick will continue to bring us ground breaking media. Weather it be full feature films, or televisions shows, his light is so bright it will continue to burn for years to come. From the rural state of Mississippi, to the Hollywood hills of Los Angeles, Patrick-Ian Polk's success is the result of hard work, dedication, independence, and putting together a fantastic project. He brought us the cult classic *Punks*, and is bringing us even greater television with *Noah's Arc*. Can we handle more drama from the second season? Of course we can we're gay! We all have at least one dramatic friend that keeps our lives interesting and fun much like the characters on *Noah's Arc*, but Patrick did want me to tell everyone that the first episode of season two, particularly the first three minutes is a "do not miss!!!"



Eva

The Diva

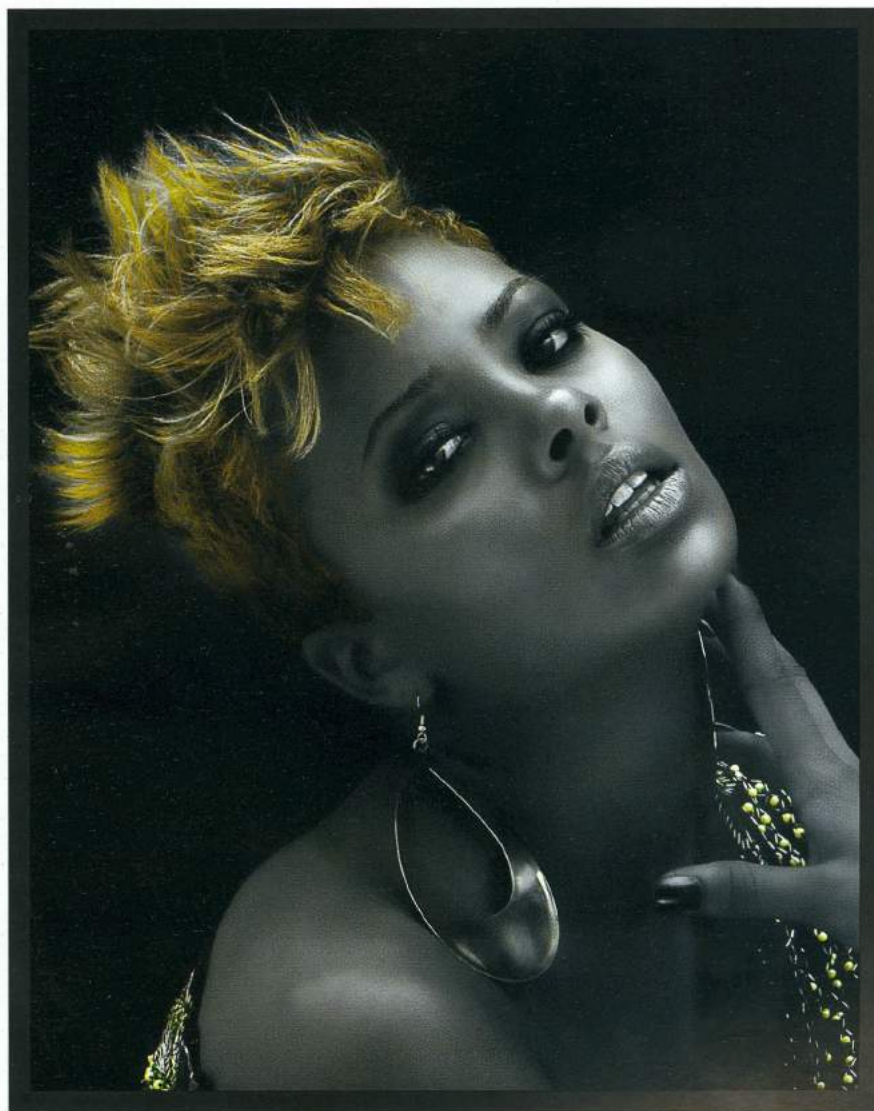
Exclusive



Written By Michael Rochelle



There are many words that could be used to describe the 21-year-old Eva Marcille Pigford: beautiful, intelligent, open-minded, hard working and surprisingly down-to-earth would be just a few. The third season winner of "America's Next Top Model" (ANTM) went into the show with several obstacles — mainly her height. Despite being 5'7, which is short for a model, and being labeled a "diva", she remained a fierce competitor and successfully tackled every challenge presented to her—including an amazing photo of herself with a spider although she is arachnophobia. Two years later, Eva continues to be one of the most highly recognized and successful participants on the show. With several movie projects, a possible television series in the works, and continuous modeling assignments, in addition to being the focus of juicy gossip and rumors, it would be safe to say that there's something about Eva.



by various high-profiled designers, Eva prefers the tomboy look. "My job requires something different. I like the tomboy look because it's comfortable. If I could wear cargo pants everyday, I would. I'd rather wear a dope pant suit than a dress if I could." Although she prefers a more boyish look, she still feels feminine. "I'm not mad at a dress. My femininity is different," she says.

According to her mom, Eva was given the name "Eva the Diva" at an early age due to her diva-like attitude. However, Eva feels differently about the label. "I think it just happens to rhyme with Eva...in addition to my outgoing personality. My teachers used to call me that." She goes on to say that she doesn't look at herself in that way. "Diana Ross is a diva. Aretha Franklin is a diva. I think you have to establish more in your career to call yourself a diva. It's about being at that certain pentacle of success with whatever it is that you are doing. In the dictionary it more refers to music and I can't sing to save my soul," she says with a laugh.

Since winning the show, Eva has been keeping herself busy by continuing to model and, at times, doing up to three auditions a day for various projects. At this point in her career, she feels blessed to have the opportunity to do what she loves. "I love going to work in the morning. Even if it is strenuous and painful and you ache when you wake up, it's great. I'm very happy with my success." She feels that the most exciting aspect of her accomplishments is her ability to take care of herself. She is grateful to be able

Born in Los Angeles California, Eva has always been used to the spotlight and being the center of attention. She is the only girl out of four children. With her hazel eyes and light caramel complexion, she's been said to be the female version of Academy Award nominee Terrence Howard. "I get that all the time. I've met him before and worked with him briefly, but we aren't related. It's flattering because he's a very handsome guy." Unlike Howard, who was born to parents who were both mixed (African-American and Caucasian), Eva is not bicultural. "That's the beauty of our race and culture in that we come in so many colors, shades, textures, shapes and contours," She continued.

Living in the house with 13 other female finalists on ANTM proved to be a very different experience for Eva who was more accustomed to a house full of boys. She considers the show to have been a good experience overall and still continues to work with the head diva, Tyra Banks, as part of her management.

"The beauty of our generation and the culture that we live in is that we get to embrace who we are with whatever it is that we support."

However, she offers a different spin on her feelings regarding the always critical and over-the-top former judge Janice Dickinson, "No comment," she says. During the five-month period between the time Eva won ANTM and the actual airing of the show, Eva returned to Clark University where she had been working on a degree in speech communication and theater while minoring in criminal justice.

"Butch" was the term Eva used to describe her fashion sense during the third season of ANTM. Despite the many photos of her in dresses and gowns

to write a check and know that it is going to clear. "Being self-sufficient lets you sleep very different," she adds.

When Eva isn't gracing the covers of magazines or strutting down a runway, she enjoys spending time in her new home in Jersey City, NJ with her teacup yorkie, Aida. "I do corny things. I like to crochet and color." One of her favorite activities is sleeping. "It's like a pastime for me. I'd rather not go out so I can go to sleep." Judging by her slender frame one would think that she rarely

eats. Quite the contrary, Eva assures that she hasn't fallen prey to some of the eating disorders associated with the modeling industry such as bulimia and anorexia. "I love to eat. I love to go grocery shopping because there is a lot of food there," she explains.

For the last several months, rumors have been circulating regarding her alleged break off engagement to 36-year-old former "NYPD Blue" actor Henry Simmons. According to several websites such as sociallifelife.com, Eva allegedly found out that the actor was bisexual which caused her to end their relationship. Although there are several photos of the pair together at various functions, Eva claims they were never engaged. "I don't know where that rumor came from," she says. "Henry and I are friends, but we were never engaged—ever. I'm very single and have been for a while. To focus on love is not a priority for me. Some people want to have kids and be a wonderful mom, but I don't want to settle down right now and get married. That never comes to mind."

Oddly enough, Eva has been battling rumors regarding her own sexuality. In addition to being linked to singer Ray J, and athlete Michael Strahand, who is also fighting off bisexual rumors of his own regarding an alleged relationship between he and medical/diet expert Dr. Ian Smith of "Celebrity Fit Club," she's also been said to have dated singer/rapper Missy Elliot. Although some celebrities seem to go out of their way to disassociate themselves with the gay community when questions of their own sexuality arise, Eva embraces the lifestyle. "It's a reality. The beauty of our generation and the culture that we live in is that we get to embrace

who we are with whatever it is that we support. It's the world in which we live in and I'm not one to run away from that." She went on to say, "I love the kids. I'm one of them. I try not to queen out all the time. I think that if I was to die, I would come back as a little boy."

Despite her love for the gay community, she adamantly denies being either lesbian or bisexual and is frustrated by the accusations.

“Just because you support something doesn't necessarily mean that you participate. I'm not gay. I like big men. What would I do with a woman?”

"That's why a lot of people don't speak out. Just because you support something doesn't necessarily mean that you participate. I'm not gay. I like big men. What would I do with a woman?" she says. Despite this revelation, she ensures that she has no problems with lesbians. "I like the fact that there are a lot of [gay and bisexual] women out there who support me." Despite the frustration of being inaccurately labeled, she realizes that it's a part of being a celebrity. "People are going to associate you with something one way or the other. Everybody gets a charge—whatever the charge is. [Even] if you are married, [people think] you have a secret life and they say whatever they think you are."

On September 1, 2006, Sony Pictures released Eva's first feature film,

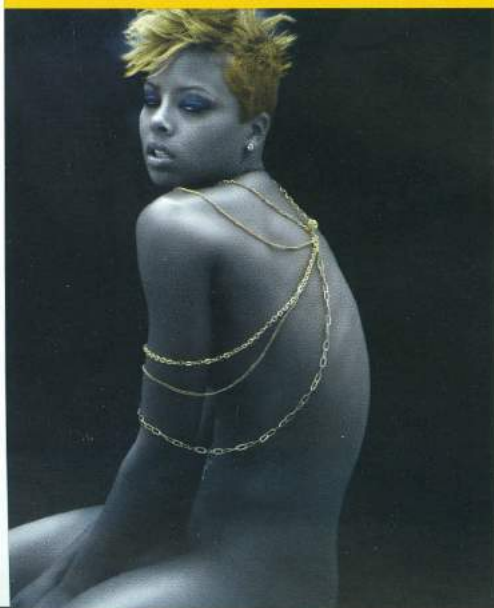
"Crossover", which is an urban drama that delves into the underground world of street ball. "I'm excited about it. I have a pretty big lead in it." She has also worked on a film with comedian Chris Rock that is slated for release in February of 2007. With everything going on in her life, she looks forward to a very promising future. "I love life. I love happiness and the pursuit of happiness—whatever that is. Life is good. I look at the day and

look at the silver lining and the beauty in it. I really can't complain."

One of the biggest lessons that Eva has learned is to be herself and that is the same message she passes on to others. "Be who you are. Who you are is so beautiful naturally because you can't deny that. Everybody is so individual and that's why God made us the way we are. The beauty and the light that we have, no one else has." Obviously passionate about the subject, she goes on to say, "If you aren't [being who you really are] you aren't allowing your light to shine and it becomes pointless. Allow your light to shine—whoever that is and whatever that is. No matter what the reality is, whether you try to deny it or not, you have to live with that. Don't allow yourself to live in torment." Beautiful words from a truly beautiful person.

Photo by Celebrity Photographer

Stan Shaffer



Stan began his career as a professional fashion photographer in New York in 1967. In his 30+ years in the field, Stan has contributed to many major fashion magazines in the U.S. and Europe, including covers for *Vogue*, *Elle* and the *NY Times* *Fashions of the Times*. He has photographed some of the most beautiful and famous women in the world.

His credits include major commercial clients such as The Limited, Express, Victoria's Secret, J.Crew, Bloomingdale's, Spiegel, Revlon and Sears. His industry awards include The Art Directors Club of NY, The Society of Publication Designers Award of Excellence and the CINE Golden Eagle as Director/Cinematographer for Best Short Film done by an amateur filmmaker. As a result of this award, he was chosen to represent the United States in numerous festivals here and abroad.

In 1997 Stan was asked to be

involved with an Internet startup in the Business-to-Business sector of the fashion industry. Stan was executive VP and creative director, a board member and a founding partner of what was to be known as E7th.com.

He was responsible for the front end of a very complex transactional web business that was designed to be the vortex for trading between manufacturers and retailers. This includes online catalogs; translation between backend systems and web based ordering.

He was responsible for bringing in first money (5 million) from McAndrews and Forbes (Ron Perlman) and was active in raising the second round of 13 million from Morgan Stanley and Charles River Partners.

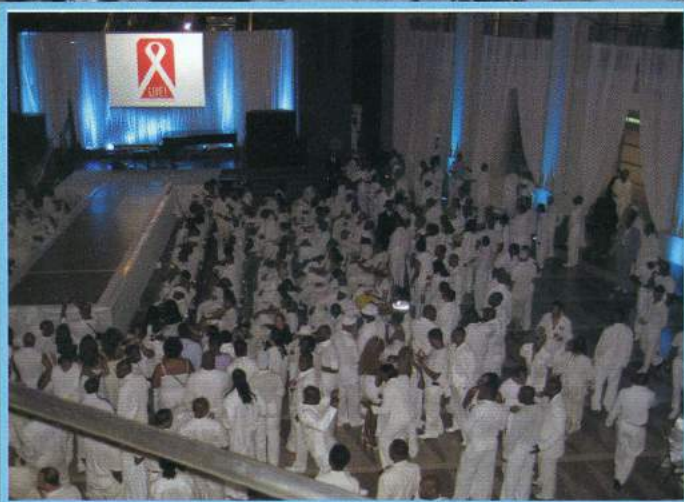
Both Fortune and Forbes both wrote articles on E7th stating that they believed it was at the forefront of the business-to-business industry for the

fashion marketplace.

After a total of 18 mill in two consecutive rounds of funding the company employed 95 people, Elected Jay Margolis as Chairman of the board and was to receive an additional 25 mill for the 3rd round when the internet IPO market fizzled and no additional funding was available anywhere for internet startups.

In 2001 Stan and a partner opened Blue Digital Imaging Group to capitalize on the new photography technologies and digital services for both fashion and product photography for the magazine, advertising and catalog industries.

Mr. Shaffer has been deeply involved with digital imaging for the past 9 years and is now continuing his career as a photographer to the advertising, celebrity and magazine editorial markets.



Welcome to the world of champagne wishes and caviar dreams!
This year was all about glamour, glitz, fashion, fame and most importantly, HIV Testing

Was it New York, Milan, or Paris? No!! It's the White Attire Affair!! Many came as Fashion Week was brought to DC for One Night Only... a full runway, gorgeous models, bright lights, flashing cameras, red carpets, velvet ropes, and celebrity sightings! Fantasy became reality

GREAT JOB to all at the Ummah Endowment Fund. Clik Magazine is proud to have been an official media sponsor of this sexy event



Style, Substance, Flare...



....Never A Dull Moment!

ONLY \$20.00 FOR 12 ISSUES
WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe Online At
www.clikmagazine.com
or Mail to Clik Magazine,
1001 N. Federal Hwy, Suite 305,
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
or Purchase at Borders and more than
750 other locations nationwide.
For complete list visit:
www.clikmagazine.com

FIND OUT.

BORDERS
BOOKS • MUSIC • CAFE