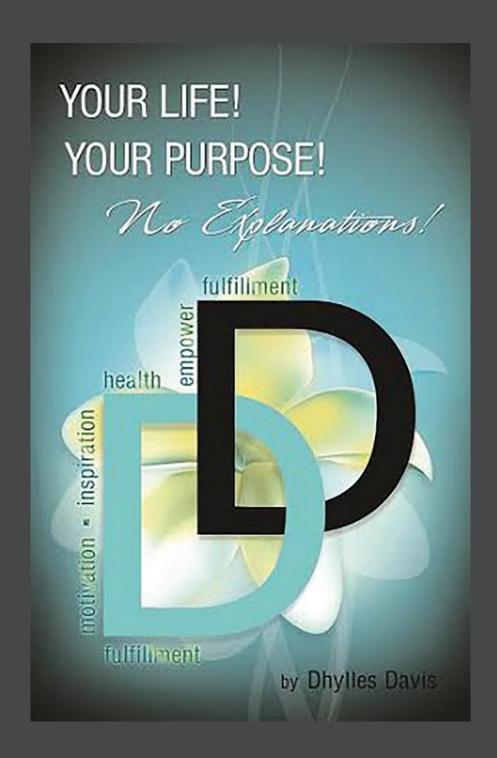


http://www.bronxfashionweek.org/



http://www.coachdhyllesdavis.com/

FROM THE EDITOR



Happy Spring!

This is a great time for new growth and moving ahead. We wish you all success in leaps and bounds!

Remember to keep growing and to keep moving ahead with your own hopes and aspirations. Remember to also celebrate the achievements of others. Doing that, genuinely, keeps the pathway open for you to thrive.

We are happy to keep sharing the success stories of hardworking artists and content creators. We hope you all enjoy reading the features as much as we enjoy bringing them to you.

Being in entertainment is often both a blessing and a jinx. There are always new opportunities to demonstrate why we choose to be in show business. Whenever the journey throws you for a loop, always remember UCAN! succeed.

#ByArtistsForEveryone

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OUR COVER FEATURE, PRODUCER TONI PARKER WITH HER CAST MEMBER (AND UCAN'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF) STAR DAVIS AFTER A RECENT TAPING.



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WARREN BUB was born and raised in The Bronx, New York City and still resides there today. Growing up, he was very athletic and excelled in hockey and football. He continues to coach football on the High School level. When Warren began his career in modeling and local commercial work, he met a local actor on a set of a project. This encounter inspired him and changed his mind set on acting, and he decided to take his acting to the next level. Warren's career quickly took off. In his first year he did over twenty independent films as well as national spots for Healthy Choice, The Grilldini and New Era Flooring. In addition he has also landed roles in two Off-Broadway productions, MARRY, F*** OR KILL and THE CAT'S CRADLE. As the consummate student, Warren contacted Terry Schreiber of the prestigious Terry Schreiber Studio to further hone his craft for film, television and theater. With Terry's guidance Warren enrolled in the studio's various classes, a decision that has benefitted his career. In addition to taking classes at Terry Schreiber, Warren has also been trained by Amy Gossels and by the very well known Page Clements. Very recently Warren booked a role in the Feature Film LOST CAT CORONA starring Ralph Macchio, Paul Sorvino, Armand Assante, Jeff Kober, Adam Ferrara, Gina Gershon, David Zayas, just to name a few.... And he just landed a role in the Off-Broadway comedy hit MY BIG GAY ITALIAN FUNERAL. Warren is a very family orientated man, and he is driven by loyalty. His biggest influence is his family. "Without family....who are you?"

http://www.warrenbub.com/ https://www.facebook.com/WarrenBubActor





After living through Super Storm Sandy in 2012, Tanya was so moved by the sheer strength and power of the ecosystem that she literally composed a symphony. Its title: ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH.

"Hurricane Sandy evoked very strong emotions in me. It was the emotion of vulnerability and the realization that the force of nature is much stronger and more powerful than all of us. It felt like the end of the earth," Tanya says, explaining how she chose the title.

The theme of nature has always been a strong muse for Tanya. Her very first work after moving to New York was aroused by Morningside Park, which is also the title of the piano piece.

Tanya credits composer Douglas Gibson with teaching her the basics of orchestration. She soon fell in love with using many different instruments in her music.

Her love proved to be an innate gift. So extraordinary is her talent that Tanya was among the finalists in the very distinguished Maurice Ravel International Composition Competition. (Bergamo, Italy 2015)

"I am truly honored and thankful to the internationally renowned panel of judges who selected my composition among thousands of works," Tanya says humbly.

The judges considered her work to be worthy of being among best of the best composers, many of whom have decades of professional experience. Also, Tanya is the only female who made it to the final round – the top fifteen - in the symphony orchestra category worldwide. Her name is listed on the Competition's website.

What does the future hold for Tanya Dartson? Like most artists she hopes to continue creating.

"My dream is to hear my music played by symphony orchestras worldwide. I would also like to write scores for films, commercials and maybe produce music for artists."

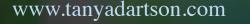
We appreciate the encouraging advice Tanya shares. She makes it a point to live by it herself.

"Never give up on your dreams. If you do something with all your heart and soul, it will undoubtedly be successful one day. Always believe in yourself."

Quite impressive for a woman who is not even thirty years-old. If her accomplishments are an indication of where she's headed as a music artist, then her career will be nothing less than gleaming.













ENTERTAINS US WITH HIS SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE AND TEENAGE ANGST

Nickolas Gavin did what only a few writers can do. He wrote and directed a film about teenage issues that is actually funny to adults. A GEEK'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND ROMANCE entertains us because we think about our own days of youth, and all the second guessing and insecurity that came along with it. GEEK'S GUIDE reminds us that we can grow in compassion and insight from the challenging times in our lives. UCAN! Magazine got to sit down with Nick and hear his thoughts firsthand.

UCAN! We know your background is more in music. What made you get into film?

NICK Music videos were my inspiration for first pursuing filmmaking as a career. Watching MTV on a daily basis when it first burst on the scene and being energized by these really creative visuals set in-sync to music was incredible. That was crazy sh*t to me.

UCAN! How has becoming a filmmaker changed you as a person? Good ways and maybe not-so-good ways?

NICK I think becoming a filmmaker has changed me in the way I view the world around me. I find myself more enlightened to local people. And worldwide issues have revealed things [to me] about humanity.

UCAN! And not only did you get into film, you jumped in head-first. You wrote and directed your first film. Did you have times when you were ready to pull out your hair? What was the most challenging aspect of this production?

NICK The most challenging aspect of this production was location scouting. Finding a school that would let us shoot inside. On the east coast and especially in the suburbs, they look at you side-eyed when you approach them about filming on their premises. But on the west coast, it's business as usual to use their schools for location filming. But, I do see signs of change as more TV/film productions are being shot on the east coast, especially in the NYC/Long Island areas. That's good news. (Smiling)

UCAN! Describe to us your inspiration behind writing A GEEK'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND ROMANCE.

NICK Once I decided to do a family friendly project for a young audience, I gravitated toward the age old story of unrequited love. A story I felt everyone could relate to. I wouldn't say Alley is a young me, but as I mentioned before, I definitely could relate to his plight at some point in my life. But I will also say for better or for worse that I can relate to all the characters' traits, even the ones who weren't so nice.

UCAN! OK. What would you say are the most rewarding aspects?

NICK It started in pre-production, when [I was] hearing the dialogue being performed by the actors during rehearsals. They really brought the characters to life. And then during production it was truly inspiring to see the crew working toward my vision. They were contributing ideas that actually enhanced the quality of the film beyond what I had originally conceived. It was amazing.

The night of the premiere of GEEK'S GUIDE I didn't know how the audience would respond. I was so nervous going into the screening because comedies are so reliant on the laughter of the audience to gauge whether it's funny or not, so when I heard the audience laughing at the jokes I knew we were on to something good and exhaled with relief. It gave me chills. A feeling I'll never forget.

UCAN! What were your teenage years like? Did you have an awkward time like the film's lead character?

NICK I wouldn't say that I was awkward as a teenager. In fact, I was pretty socially active. But because I did interact with various social circles, I did see how those who weren't popular were treated. As a result, I have developed some friendships that have lasted until this day and believe me they're not so unpopular anymore. Can you say ducklings into swans? Karma in full effect.

"The night of the premiere of Geek's Guide I didn't know how the audience would respond. I was so nervous going into the screening because comedies are so reliant on the laughter of the audience to gauge whether it's funny or not, so when I heard the audience laughing at the jokes I knew we were on to something good and exhaled with relief. It gave me chills. A feeling I'll never forget."

UCAN! Which facet of the creative process is most stimulating to you?

NICK The writing aspect of the production is the most satisfying and also the most important, I believe. If I think the script is good, that will carry me through the entire process. But writing can be boring and painstaking if you're forcing the issue. But when the juices are really flowing and you're in a groove, then it can be a very exciting experience.

UCAN! What keeps you motivated in this challenging filmmaking process?

NICK What keeps me motivated in my pursuits are the plethora of stories that need to be told. There hasn't been a better time for filmmakers and content creators to get there projects out to an audience. I feel that I can bring a unique, sometimes twisted (smiling) perspective to those stories. That being said, there should be many voices and viewpoints for people to experience and enjoy the work of creative artist. Working towards diversifying the industry. That's a good thing!

UCAN! What's in store for this project?

NICK I would like to continue to develop the lead character and create a TV comedy series that features him, as a teen or even older, as the main protagonist. We rarely see a heterosexual, academically astute, black male lead character, and who actively pursues love interests, anywhere on television or any other platform.

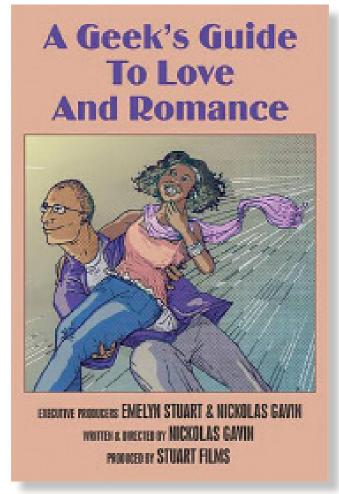
UCAN! What are your future plans?

NICK My immediate future plans professionally are to continue to develop and produce a slate of upcoming projects. A couple of those are "Mainstream TV," which is an edgy sketch comedy show and a short film entitled "The Meeting," which is a psychological drama centered on the hip hop industry. Those are in the queue as of today, but nothing's etched in stone.

UCAN! Say some inspirational words to motivate others...

NICK Follow through on your ideas and finish that first project. Start out with something small if necessary, to get you to the finish line, but finish it.

When writing, be open to constructive input and put the quality of the script as priority one. Check your ego and feelings at the door. Quality of script is priority one!



https://www.facebook.com/NickolasGavinFilmmaker https://www.facebook.com/AGeeksGuidetoLoveandRomance







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Contact me via email if you have any questions at mel@weharlem.com

FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS THE GIFTED SHOWCASE







THE GIFTED SHOWCASE is a super fun place to be on a Monday night. Chock full of talented singers, a cool ambiance, and a witty host—this event is sure to be an entertaining evening for all who attend. There's also a menu of tasty appetizers and drinks that you can order to make the night out even more enjoyable. For singers, come and show your skills! If you're good, enter the contest. You could win a \$200 cash prize! The next showcase: Monday May 11 at Le Reve - 125 East 54th Street, New York City. Doors open at 7:30 and the show starts at 8:00. Hope to see you there!

DANIEL THEPHOTOGRAPHER SERRETTE HTTPS://www.FACEBOOK.COM/ZEN1914

FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS THE GIFTED SHOWCASE



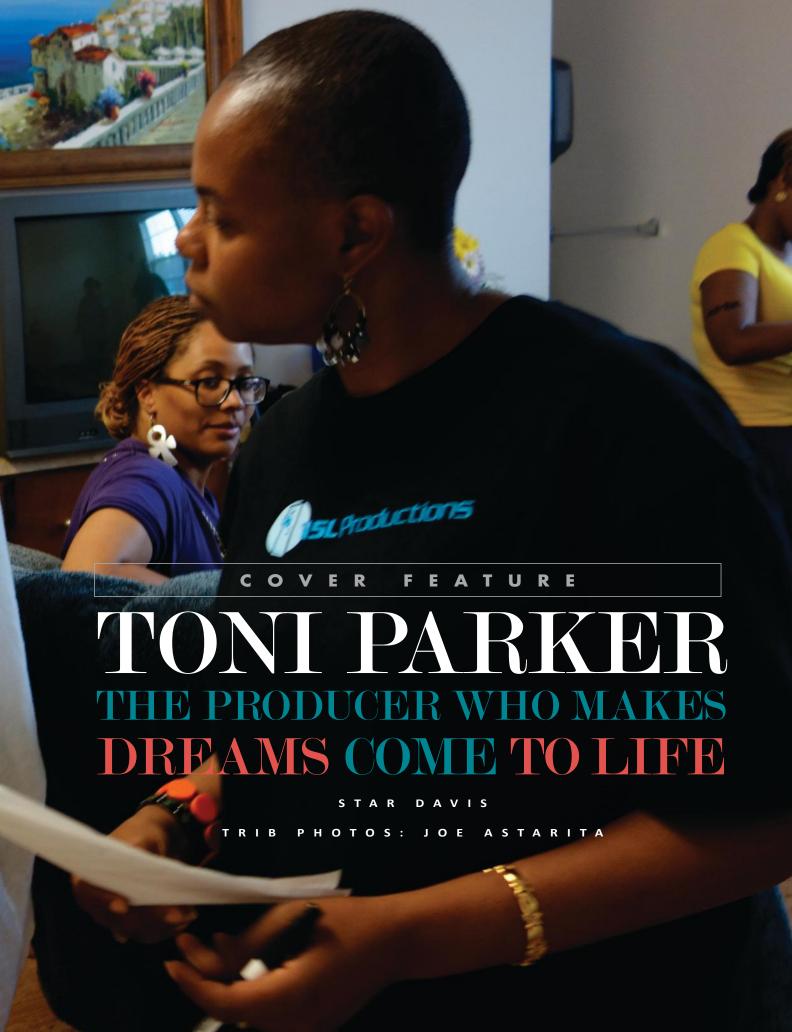












Toni Parker of 15L Productions is the type of producer who every filmmaker hopes to know, and every actor hopes to work for. She is compassionate and caring. She has a keen knowledge of billion dollar business practices, and no fear of taking risks. This combination makes for a producer who is destined for many great successes.

Having started as an actress gives Toni a special caring for actors that I experienced first-hand. When I first met her in the spring of 2013, it was with the hope of getting a role in her film. I'd been recommended by one of the film's leads, and based on that alone Toni was willing to give me the part. Such an opportunity motivated me to work even harder to prove her choice of me right. Toni would later talk of an experience she had, that may have actually benefited me some thirty years into the future.

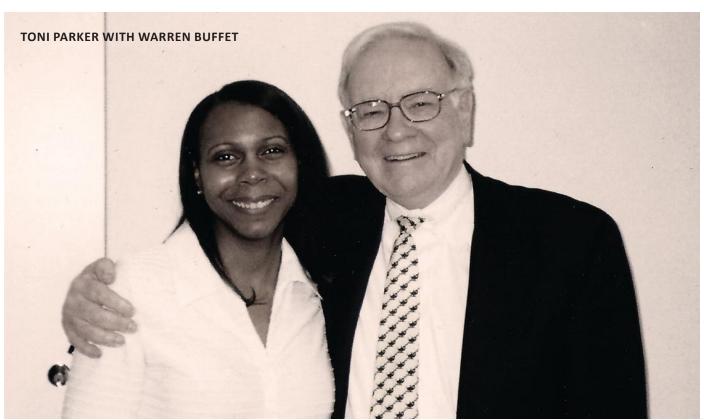
She'd had three callbacks for the 1980s movie, FAME.

"I'd waited around for the entire day for the second audition," Tony starts.

"For the third audition, I had just gotten back to Brooklyn, and I had to turn around and go right back."

That was to audition with Alan Parker, the movie's Director. By the way, that's the Alan Parker who also directed EVITA, MISSISSIPPI BURNING, and MIDNIGHT EXPRESS.

After waiting for what seemed like forever, Toni got the news that producers decided to go comedic with the role. For those of you who remember the original FAME movie, it's the part of the girl who goes in to audition - with Leroy as her sidekick. He ends up



getting accepted into the school, and she, the original hopeful, does not. The choice by producers did make for memorable movie watching, but to Toni the news was heartbreaking. Soon afterwards she realized acting was not for her.

"It broke me. I didn't have a thick enough skin."

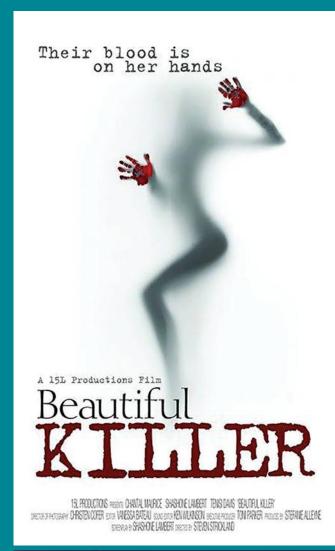
Yet, the need to be around the arts never left Toni's heart.

After college and living life as a wife and working mother, Toni wanted her son to be involved with the arts. He was shy and excelled in behind-the-scenes aspects of video production. He worked and held his own with crew colleagues who had many more years of experience. It was for him that 15L Productions was created.

Another quality that makes Toni Parker remarkable among producers is her absolute willingness to take big risks.

15L's debut production, THE RHYTHM IN BLUE, was not only a feature-length film, of which Toni is also the Director. It has a cast of twenty-four actors, and was filmed in many different locations throughout New York, Washington DC, and South Carolina. In fact, my introduction to Toni was at one of the film's locations: a luxury townhouse 15L had rented in Manhattan's Upper West Side just off of Central Park West.











FEATURE OPENER: TONI AS DIRECTOR OF THE RHYTHM IN BLUE DISCUSSING A SCENE WITH ONE OF THE STARS STEVEN STRICKLAND AND AD PORTIA KNIGHTS. PRECEDING SPREAD: WITH WARREN BUFFET DURING A VISIT TO THE STAMFORD, CT OFFICE. ABOVE: POSTER FOR BEAUTIFUL KILLER, A SHORT FILM PRODUCED BY 15L PRODUCTIONS. ABOVE: THE CREW: VANESSA BATEAU, CHRISTEN COFER, GAVIN BORDIN, PORTIA KNIGHTS AND MALIK PARKER ON LOCATION IN WASHINGTON DC. JUST ONE OF THE SEVERAL FILMING LOCATIONS FOR THE RHYTHM IN BLUE. ABOVE: BEHIND THE SCENES OF FILMING IN NEW YORK CITY.

While Toni does have access to one of the richest and most generous investors in the world, she says he's about working, not necessarily giving to the arts. I guess Toni knows to dispel any hope of one day having a script on Warren Buffet's desk.

Such generous spending would make most first-time producers shudder at the mere thought. Not Toni. She's had an education on investing that money couldn't buy.

Toni is used to seeing big risks reap big rewards. She works for Warren Buffet. While she refers to herself as "a glorified secretary," Toni has assisted with the underwriting for several billion-dollar deals.

Often Ajit Jain (Mr. Buffet's likely successor) would tell Toni that taking risks is essential for getting rewards. "He specified to be smart about it, but without risk there could be no real gain," she tells me.

What else makes this producer destined for success in entertainment? Her sheer need to give. 15L Productions was created to provide opportunities for not just Toni's son, but for others who have artistic dreams.

"I have a good job. This is for them. And it keeps me surrounded by young folks. I love to help them grow."

What's more, THE RHYTHM IN BLUE (TRIB) was made after Toni heard the film's writer, Crystal Senter-Brown performing spoken word. 15L's second project, BEAUTIFUL KILLER is a short film written by a TRIB cast member, Shashone Lambert. Toni really does keep it that simple.

What's on the horizon for Toni Parker?

"I want to establish enough of a reputation to get others to invest in our projects and to get different grants," she states.

However, that won't be including her employer.

While Toni does have access to one of the richest and most generous investors in the world, she says he's about working, not necessarily giving to the arts. I guess Toni knows to dispel any hope of one day having a script on Warren Buffet's desk.

"He knows business, but he doesn't really know how to give. So instead he just pledged thirty two billion dollars to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation because they know how to give."

Toni believes there are important stories that need to be told for the next generation. "How will they know about these stories if films aren't made to show them?" she asks.

Her big dream is to produce a million-dollar film with known actors, that's well received and discussed.

"I want to be a part of something that's big conversation, that makes people talk, like the next MIDDLE OF NOWHERE or a documentary."

Toni Parker has the combination of caring, business sense, and willingness to take risks that can easily make that dream a reality. With her need to give and to educate, I would bet money that million-dollar film gets made much sooner than many would expect.

THE RHYTHM IN BLUE https://vimeo.com/126325083

BEAUTIFUL KILLER https://vimeo.com/126325084

15L PRODUCTIONS ON FB https://www.facebook.com/15LProductions

FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the UCAN! team were thrilled to be in the same room with so many legendary Freestyle artists. In the late 80s and 90s these same entertainers had all of New York City singing their songs and dancing to their beats. Many of us even had their posters on our walls. George LaMond, Freedom Williams, Aaron Hanson of Hanson & Davis, Nayobe, and K7 of TKA were all in the same room! Nayobe performed her classic hit, Please Don't Go. The documentary to be directed by Steve Stanulis and produced by JT of JT Talents, Fever Records' Sal Abbatiello, Aaron Hanson, and Freedom Williams is slated for release later this year. To get a sample of what's in the movie, be sure to check out the FREESTYLE AND OLD SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA on June 27 at the NYC landmark, Radio City Music Hall.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL CUNNINGHAM OF WWW.THEIMAGEMAKERPHOTO.COM

LEGENDS OF FREESTYLE DOCUMENTARY LAUNCH PARTY





















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