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ISSUE 2

## UP CLOSE WITH DJ MSSTAN

Fleet Model Of the Month

FIRST CLASSE

EXCLUSIVE Articles & Interviews

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## INDEPENDENTS DAY HOSTED BY DEOY SATURDAYS 2- 3PM CST

KLEQ LINCOLN,NE

## Go ahead and introduce yourself.

Dboy the Playboy, aka Dboy Jackson, Mr never not tapped in.

#### I like that, Dboy the Playboy, ok so tell me a bit more about yourself, what do you do.

I'm a jack of all trades, master of one, being myself. I do everything. I'm an independent A&R for Q96 The Beat. I also have a show on Q96 The Beat called "Independence Day" where I break all independent artists, upcoming and those already major. We also have a nonprofit called Divine Souls, where we help intersectional justice, preventions, and whatnots. I have a record label, side hustle records and we're a production company, translators, and I'm in the middle of my tv show Translator TV.

What drives you to do so much?

The fact that I'm from Nebraska and they don't even know Black People are there. But yet and still, we gotta Black every day in America. That by itself kinda geeks me. I feel like that's my way of giving back because the kids get a chance to see something. Because they've seen me before in the streets, and they have seen my transition and I feel like that's allowing them to get a fair shot or at least know they can build one for themselves.

## How one would become Master of Self?

I feel like I kinda had a cheat code. I've been with the Nations of God's and Earth, since 98 aka 5%. We believe in the knowledge of self. Pretty much what got you in, will get you out. Once you know who you are, your downfalls, your ups, your positive sides, and you're completely honest with yourself about it, you know right from wrong. Do you from there.

Back to your workload, while wearing so many hats, which one is your favorite? Your comfort zone?

### THE BEAT

My comfort zone is being A&R and Divine Souls, fighting intersectional justice. That's me being who I am naturally. I naturally woke up and naturally have evolved into something that I've been constantly working on, evolving more, focusing on mental health more, these types of things. Me seeing how that influences me, and the influence I have over others, so I can only imagine how many people are lost. So it's easier to be myself. The sun's going to shine no matter what. Even if you didn't see it.

Do you feel as tho one individual can make a change in the world? With you going so hard, do you see yourself changing the world? I do, mainly because I'm trying to make it more about the message than the messenger. Most of the time, the messenger ends up getting shot, the message never ever got delivered. So I focus more on the delivery because you're already judging me. As a messenger, I could give

a f\*ck less, I've already been judged. All I have is my message. To not give the message, any sacrifice I've made, any time I've spent away from my kids, my family, it was literally for nothing. And I'm sorry, I'm from Nebraska, I can't imagine, going to jail, or dying to be broke. I came in like that, mentally broke, financially broke, I can't go out like that on top of it.

#### What is the message?

What got you in, gon get you out. There's only one door. You came in one door, I don't care if you were influenced by the hustling, the money, the lifestyle, whatever it was, what got you in, gon get you out. You came in one door, there's only one exit.

Social Media: DboyJackson



# ARTIST CALL

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## Tell me about King Shaka, who is King Shaka?

I'm a music artist, mixed martial artist, I got the name coz he's an African King, he's also a warlord, and I bring that to music and how I fight. I got into music, I lost my memory playing football, then I needed something, or a form to get my memory back, so I kept at it, kept practicing, and somebody heard it and told me to "keep going" so I just kept going. They liked my voice.

#### Did that work for your memory?

Yea it did, it got me to 100 even back to training. I had to take like 5 years off, because if you can't remember nothing, you can't do nothing anyway.

That's amazing. How did you come up with that answer that music was going to therapy that was going to help? Smoking, a little bit. Self-Medication. Just trying to find myself by myself. Sometimes that's the only thing you have. I'm really quiet, ad I don't ask for help too many times, so I just really help myself.

In introducing yourself, you stated with your name sake, it seems you have that warrior spirit, who's first mind is going to be how do I fix it myself, versus asking somebody for help. I feel that warrior

#### spirit. Yes, Thank you.

When you say it translates into your music, tell me a little bit about your music and the message that comes through it.

I mostly talk about a lot of king stuff, a lot of warrior stuff. Like hand to hand combat, rebellion, knowing stuff, a lot of knowledge, that's just what you have to do.

I feel like we're in an era where the truth is not appreciated, and people want things dumbed down for them, and popped into the microwave. Do you allow that to affect your music at all? Or do you feel like you make music for a specific demographic.

I make it for father's. I'm a father myself, a single father, full custody. For the ones that's doing it, keep doing your thing. So I just make music for them, people like that. Kings. Warriors, people going through it, people going through depression. Feeling like they ain't got nothing, and it be truth. It's the best thing, because it's hard to keep up the lie. It get lame, it get wack after a while, just be you.



Since you were using music, as a means to get back to sports. You've conquered that. Are you leaving music for sports? I'm conquering both worlds. That what I'm actually doing right now. Also, my pops, he's also a trainer as well, he's been training me since I was 16. So, I'm just conquering both worlds, basically. I just actually made a post saying "It's good to see alot of people be in interested in mixed martial arts. Talking to somebody who speaks their language. Who've been through what they've been through. They've been through all that shit, streets stuff.

#### Are there any correlation between training for a fight and making music?

Yeah, definitely. Just preparation, proper preparation prevents poor performance. So you gotta know the weaknesses, how to attack, what they like, what they hear. Execute, study, talk to people. Closed mouths don't get fed.

Instagram Kiing\_shaka

## **DJ TYSTIX** THE ONE ARM ASSASSIN

Sitting here with one of our Fleet Djs, go ahead and introduce yourself. Dj Tystix, the one arm assassin.

#### The one-arm assassin, tell us a little bit about yourself as a DJ. What type of DJ?

I'm all of them, all in one. I grew up, my whole family's been into music. 70s, 80s, grew up listening to all the stations, Red Alert, up there in New York, Mr Magic Mally Mall, back in Philly, I'm from Reading, PA. Grew up down there, listening to Jazzy Jeff, Cash Money, Lady B and all them shows.

#### Did you always want to be a DJ?

At first I was a B-Boy, started off Breakdancing, I used to have DJs make my tapes for me to dance. After a while, since I did like music I decided to start making my own mixes. So I started from the ground. Helping Djs carry the crates of the records, helping them plug up, you know, staying on stage with them, grabbing the mic, even hosting a little bit here and here. And finally got my own set of turn tables.

#### With your DJ name, One-Arm Assassin, is this something that happened along the way?

I just lost my arm 5 years ago in an accident, so I had to fall in love again.

#### Where you already a DJ?

I've been DJing since 86. I used to go by DJ ShaunE, Double A Posse. We have a crew back in Pennsylvania. Then I started my own label, Double A Records, about 94, at about 23, 24 years old. Did that for a while, then we chilled out. Then started getting back into the Beat-box circuit, Big shouts to the Rock Steady crew. Then in the process, I lost my arm, about 2013, and my daughter came down and was like "daddy I know you love to DJ, can you still DJ with the one arm?" I mean, I can always rock! Basically that's how we got there.

#### When you lost your arm, was there ever a time where you felt like, you weren't going to be able to DJ anymore?

No, it was always, I gotta adapt.

This what it is now, the arm's not coming back? I'm gonna DJ regardless, I don't do nothing else, I don't play sports, games, none of that. Just music.

### What do you feel the DJ's role is n music in this day in age?

I feel like the DJ is the backbone, it's the bloodline. We're always important. That's me, SunDaGr8t and King Shaka, that's what we're trying to bring back to the game. The elements, with me Djing their sets, the live DJing, alot of these places out here, they are factory made, on and off. They don't have time for the DJ to set up. Alot of times, we premix it. But we're trying to get events where we can actually do a full show live with the MC and the DJ together.

Social Media: DJTYSTIX



I like the sound of your name, it sounds so foreign, so tell me where you're from and the meaning of your name.

The short version, I'm from Reading, PA, 6th Ward, but I live now in Georgia, Atlanta area right now. The name is from West Africa, the original Lion King name.

If you look up Sun-Dia-Ta, you'll see the original Lion King, where the spirit of the Lion King came from. But my whole name is Sundiata Mansa Musa, and my last name is Brown, funny right. But my entire life, I've been associated or linked to my African heritage, my African culture. I am a mixed breed there, but it's evident, when you look at me, my African heritage is first and foremost. From my cheekbones to my eyes, to my name. And I rep that, full fledge, wholeheartedly, unapologetically, but not over demanding, as if I'm crushing somebody else's culture. Because I have Irish in me, I have German in me, I got Indigenous people from this land in me as well.

I can imagine, understanding these different cultures allows you to embrace yours even more. How does that translate into your music?

First, I call it MuseThink. Because the term muse is basically thinking. So whenever we're listening to music, it's automatically affecting what we think, how we are, our emotions that day, that's what it. So when I call what I do "MuseThink", I want you to think about the things that I'm saying, even if you don't know what it is, or you don't get it. When I was listening to Public Enemy, Ex Clan, back in the day, I didn't know or understand everything. Til this day, I'm hearing things and saying "is that what you meant?" After I get the knowledge. We're in the Information Age where you can google everything now to find the meaning, back then you had to read books and go to lectures, now you can Google it. I call it MuseThink to keep the people, their subconscious knowing that we're doing something different here. And with that being the sparks, everything from my logo on, is about informing, opening up the eyes, the first eye, the

other 2 eyes, doing it from a spiritual aspect but as a warrior. I'm definitely on my warrior zone, King Shaka is on warrior zone, he's doing it a bit different than I do, but for me specifically we are pushing and promoting, who I am as an African man in a land that's been stolen. A land that's treated us like shit, because of what it is that they're afraid of. So I'm adding the strength of my African heritage, and the drum, and the warrior spirit. But I'm doing it in a way, what my ancestors want me to say over music.

And what is that message that the ancestors are crying out?

Most of the time it's FIGHT. I demand payback, revolt or die. And when I say that, it's not about going out there and killing somebody, or fighting somebody physically. First it's a spiritual revolt. Then it's a mental revolt, before you can get into any physical revolt or even economic revolt.

#### You have to get your mental right.

You have to get the spirit, then the mind right. You have to be in line with the universe, be in line with your ancestors, be in line with where you come from, and what it is. And not so much tagged into what they told you. Because they know if they control the spirit, they control the mind. So when the ancestors control your spirit, then your mind is more aligned with what the universe has for you. IG: Stgr8\_





FDM: We are here with a woman who walks in her highness as the Queen she is. Not only a 4-time award-winning model but also an award-winning radio personality, manager of the Fleet Models and there's never a dull moment with the First Classe experience. How are you? FC: I'm doing very well, thank you for asking.

FDM: Give us a bit of your history to set the tone for our readers. If they don't know how important you are to the culture, they're about to find out.

FC: Well, I've been modeling since I was a child, so I've been doing it all of my life. Not only do I model, but I'm also an

actress. I've also been an on-air radio personality for over 8 years now & my show is syndicated on 9 platforms which include FM & Iheart radio stations.

Aside from that, I'm a published author. I've also been an image consultant to the many A-list celebrities, DJs as well as athletes and their families. I own an online boutique and I blog for a few publications. Finally, I manage the fleet models. So you see with me, there's never a dull moment.

FDM: Wow, where do we apply? lol! Talk to us about your work in radio. How did you get into the business?

FC: Actually I stumbled onto the radio (lol). I started out doing just a segment on Dj Sean money's radio show. My segment was called "what's the 411". After doing that a short time I got with Dj Cisco and did a similar segment for his show. Not long after, the CEO of the Fleet DJs (Klassik) said he was looking for new radio shows. I anxiously said, "put me on the radio boss ". He did just that. That's when the radio show "Firstclasse is in Session" was born. DJ A graciously assisted me with the music and actually putting my show together, I'm so thankful for him! He's actually still on the show with me to this day! When I first started, I had a co-host, Dun. He relieved a lot of pressure from me and helped me not feel so anxious when speaking to people. I will admit I was very nervous. Radio is not as easy as people make it seem. But down the line, I got comfortable to hold it down on my own and we've been up and running ever since!

#### FDM: With the era of the podcast at its peak, which do you feel is a more effective tool to reach the people? Or do you feel both radio and podcasts are equally important?

FC: I feel radio at this time is still more effective. Podcasts are good too, however, everyone and their momma's have a podcast. So now you have to pick and sift through a lot more just to see where you can get good content. Just because people are talking, don't mean they are providing good content. I can see podcasts shifting in the future and radio will eventually be "old school " but for now radio still wins. It's easier to access stations but hey, that's just my opinion.

#### FDM: Ok. Very informative. Talk to us about the Fleet Nation Podcast. What are you guys serving up over there?

FC: We got some big things cooking, everyone has to stay tuned to find out. Our aim is to please. We got some heavy hitters chopping it up with me. I'm getting some good answers to questions most aren't comfortable or bold enough to ask. Just stick around to see.

#### FDM: Of course, we will. Tell us about your experience as a model. To have longevity in that industry could not have come easy.

FC: Well I've had many experiences both good and bad. I only focus on the good. I've met some amazing people and have modeled in some of the most beautiful places. To be in this game, you just have to have thick skin. You can't let what people say negatively about you impact you in the least.

#### FDM: Good advice. What is your expertise in the modeling realm? Runway, fashion, etc.?

FC: I've done runway, high fashion, music videos, eye candy, etc. Whatever the client wants I bring it! FDM: Can someone say "Slay Queen"? As the manager of the Fleet Models, is it a challenge to work with a group of models from different backgrounds? FC: Yes it is challenging at times, however, everyone's pretty much on the same page. Our communication is good and that's one reason we are a success.

FDM: That is good to hear and shows us that it's possible to work together without getting catty. What was it from the experiences that helped you develop model management capabilities?

FC: Plain and simple, just being a model. Since I've been doing it all of my life I can help guide the models giving them various tools to use with the artistry. Modeling is an art. It's not easy. I can also help to encourage them as everyone needs a push here and there... That's what I give ( that little push).

#### FDM: You have to have a certain level of patience to do that job we're sure. Is there fulfillment in guiding the new talent?

FC: Patience is definitely needed. I am glad that I'm more of a laid-back person so we get the job done but I don't stress much. This job is so fulfilling! I absolutely love to see everyone progress. It makes my heart smile. When you work closely with people for years, naturally a bond is formed. You just want to see everyone win!

## FDM: How long have you been with the Fleet and what made you want to join the coalition?

FC: I've been with the Fleet for 11 years. My brother Cool V actually introduced me to Klassik. He told me to get some pictures together and I did. From that moment on... The rest is history. I'm fleet all day!!!

### FDM: How has being a member of the Fleet Nation helped your career?

FC: Being in the Fleet has helped me tremendously. My brand has been recognized all over the world. That's thanks To fleet.

#### FDM: We here at Fleet DJs magazine can agree that it's a great move! What can we expect from First Classe and the Fleet Models in the near future?

FC: Fleetmodels are working on a few projects. Everyone make sure to follow @fleetmodels ig for details. We have a 2022 calendar that we will be releasing, virtual fashion shows and so much more!

FDM: Well you know it's always a great moment with you. We'd like to thank you for sitting down with us as we are on the same team. The Fleet DJs magazine team appreciates you and all of your hard work. Please let the people know where they can follow and get into your world.

FC. It's my pleasure, thank you for having me. For everyone that wants to follow me, everything is @ firstclasse.

My Facebook is Dawn Classe. Thank you all again! Fleeettttttt

#### Interviewed by

Antuan Wright Apex Coture mag ApexCoturemag.com

## DJ Ms -1-1-(ACCOUNTION ACCOUNTING ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA ACCOUNTINA å. 60. 1 **I** () 00 00 8 . ۲ •

FDM: Well we are here with the always lovely DJ Ms. Tan. This woman is always a vibe and THE life of the party wherever she's rockin. We are honored to have you as our cover feature. How are you?

DMT: Blessed and Highly favored, don't let anyone fool you FAVOR is fair.

FDM: Tell our subscribers about you. Tell us where you from what area you represent and what got you started on your journey as a DJ.

DMT: I was born in Riviera Beach Florida, I represent all areas, but Jacksonville, Florida is my home! Music got me started on my journey to be a dj, Music allowed me to escape and I found I had a love for it in middle school. I would take cassette tapes and record mixes from the radio and give them to my friends and if there was a little big head boy I liked I would make him a mix with love songs. I went to Edward Waters University and earned a BA in Mass Communications and my first job out of college was as a morning show radio announcer and I loved it. The only thing I didn't love was the radio station chose the songs so that made me want to be a DJ.

I realized radio didn't pay that much so I gave up that dream to get a job in corporate America but I would still do karaoke with my kids "JoColby and Jada" and my nieces and nephews and I saw how music made us all so very happy. Jada was the singer and JoColby was the actor when it came to music. I still have videos of all of them and it makes me smile. Fast Forward twelve years and One Day JoColby said mom will you dj my birthday and I was like no baby mamma is too old and he was like my friends think you are cool, I purchased my Karaoke equipment and laptop and that was all she wrote

for the start of my KJ/DJ Career. My son and God knew I would need music to survive.

#### FDM: Talk about your affiliation with the Fleet DJs, what made you join the organization and the benefits thereof.

DMT: I joined the Fleet Djs after they pushed me to greatness by taking me out of my element of DJing "preplanned" events. With the Fleet Dj's I was challenged to play impromptu on other DJs' laptops. This is when it hit me that I really know music because I had to think about the songs instead of having them preselected. The

brotherhood and sisterhood in the organization are just the cherries on the top. There is love and bickering then love again just like a real family. Then with the fleet CEO Klassic, I became the creator of the female division of the Fleet DJs. We wanted a group that highlighted females in the industry that acknowledged and gave them a safe place to vent and receive support amongst other women who knew what they were going through. The division is called 2Fli (Focused Fleet Ladies who are Inspired, Intelligent, and Incredible = 2Flix3 . Being a part of the Fleet Dj's has blessed me beyond just being a DJ! Without Fleet Djs I would not have made it through the murder of my son in 2018, my sister was murdered in 2020 and my mom passed was 2021, they have been there to check on me, feed me, pray with me and check on me to let me know I have not been forgotten, for this, I will always be grateful for the Fleet Dj's!!!

### FDM: When did you realize you had an ear for music?

DMT: I realized I had an ear for music in the 7th grade. I realized I was moved my Music in the 5th grade.

#### FDM: How do you stay up-to-date with the latest music trends?

DMT: I stay up to date by listening to online radio stations in different areas. I have access to a DJ Pool that has a countless number of tracks. I use google to track Billboard, and top 40 hits as well. However, my love is rooted in old-school music.

#### FDM: What techniques do you use to engage your audience?

I use a personable technique by reading my audience and complimenting them. I play music that was popular during their young adult years and I talk about how it made us feel.

#### FDM: What are some of your do's and don'ts for artists who send you music? Do send the Music , Don't send un mastered , unapproved music tracks.

#### FDM: What type of events do you play?

I do Corporate events, church events, women's conferences, weddings, birthday s, Bar Mitzvahs, Quinceneras , and Divorce parties. I do Karaoke and comedy shows in the club. I have learned to stay in my lane.

#### FDM: What skills do you feel DJs need to be successful in the industry?

DMT: First and Far most VERSATILITY. Don't take everything personal, some people are going to love your style and some are not. Be open to suggestions so you can grow. Don't just play what you like. STAY IN YOUR LANE! Confidence is Key and Practice Practice Practice!

#### FDM: What would you say is the most rewarding part of being a DJ?

DMT: The most rewarding part of being a DJ for me is seeing people dance and having a good time and forgetting all of their troubles. There is another rewarding part which is a 'happy customer "!

#### FDM: What gives you confidence in your ability to connect with people using music as a tool?

DMT: Knowing how music moves me, heals me, and makes me dance then seeing music do this to others, gives me the confidence in my ability to connect with others using music as a tool.



#### tapes? also, where can we find your mixes or listen to your mix show?

DMT: I am on several mixtapes, but I will start hosting my own In 2022 if not sooner, you can find the links on IG @2fli and @Fleetdjsgospel

#### FDM: After all you've done so far this year including being featured as the Fleet DJ Magazine cover story, what do you have in store for the people in 2021?

DMT: I have started my organization named Jo-Colby's Heart which is in honor of my son who was murdered in 2018 it focuses on siblings who have lost siblings. I am currently taking a certifi-

cation class to become a life coach and I will use the skills I learn to host retreats where one can heal with music and counseling, the focus will be to encourage people to Live through life's tragedies the best way you can with the help of music. I have started a foundation which is called JoColby's heart in honor of my slain son. I hired a talent agent and have been cast in a couple of movies and I am doing a play in October. I have been cast for a Fleet Reality show (I can't spill all of the beans on that one just yet lol ) I have many business ventures in place so basically, I am on a path to be a millionaire! Whew, I ran out of breath typing all of that!

FDM: We'd like to thank you for taking the time out to chop it up with The Fleet DJs magazine. Now is the time for you to give any shout outs let the people know where they can follow you.

DMT: I would like to give a shout out to My firstborn my son in Heaven, JoColby Cummings who always told me " YOLO Mamma" My Beautiful Smart always supportive Daughter Jada Cummings who thinks I can do anything reminds me of that all of the time, and she says everything happens for a reason. To JoColby's daughter, Ava who brightens my day every time she calls me GMa. My sister in Heaven Tanisha Haynes who gave me the nickname Super Woman, ALL of my Cheerleaders the team captains right now are Tomiko Carter and Kadijah Campbell. Last but not Least to Klassic the CEO of Fleet DJs for starting an organization that is so friggin AWESOME!

Interviewed by Antuan Wright Apex Coture mag ApexCoturemag.com

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PLEASE STOP THE MENTAL ILLNESS STIGMA IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

perfect lives - when you're rich and famous what problems could you possible have. Mental illness is very prevalent in the enaddressed until the person is in a very bad place or has never been addressed at all. Working in the entertainment industry, you have to work evenings and weekends at irregular and unpredictable times often. There are other factors as well that contribute to mental health such as no privacy and imposter syndrome. These conditions have been identified as being "risk factors" that affect sleep patterns and the maintenance of social relationships, further causing depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Truth is stars can suffer as much as anyone. Mental illness, ,sex, alcohol and sometimes hard core sues so they wont be judged by their peers because, there's such a stereotype where

kind of shortcoming, there's a bunch of stigma attached. We see what happens to celebrities when they act out when suffering from mental illness, as a society we are almost unforgivable as if they are not human beings first. People become internet trolls and say the most awful things about them which has lead to more mental illness and even suicide. When these things occur it doesn't just affect the celebrity it affects everyone they come into contact with in the industry and even in there homes.

Lately we have heard stars like Halle Berry ,Tariji P Henson , Justin Bieber and even DJ Laidback talk about their struggles with mental health, helping to end the stigma that once surrounded conditions such as depression anxiety obsessive-compulsive disorder and bipolar disorder. DJ's even have physical ailments that can exacerbate mental illness such as back issues and tinnitus. When we are ill we can see the doctor , or simply take some medication, but matters of the mind are much more difficult to fix while still trying to have a

combatting mental illness. A common and very real fear of many people admitting to mental illness or seeking help is being prejudged or finding themselves stereotyped and having concerns about stigmatization. Lessening the stereotyping surrounding mental illness can have a positive long If we allow one to get the help they need without judgement . When we stereotype we are prejudging someone as belonging to a certain negative group of people and no one wants to be in that group. We are not allowing them to admit that they need judgement and this is just not fair because general population and celebrities are now slowly beginning to understand that

mental health is as important as physical health, if not more. We shouldn't judge because Mental Health can run in families like diabetes, people may also inherit genes that make them susceptible to mental disorders. People may lack coping skills mental illness appropriately. When this happens we should rally with them and not against them. I hope that we can go easier on our celebrities and those who inspire to be celebrities and help end the stigma on mental health. Celebrities already have curveballs that are thrown at us in this life like the death of a love one, financial ruin, low self esteem and aging all while trying to entertain YOU. Why wound them further by stereotyping and judging them.

DJ Ms Tan ~ Fleet Djs Florida



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**DJ MICHAEL WATTS** 



### **BIG DADDIE THE DJ**

