

YV **SHOP**

MAGAZINE

REMEMBERING

THE ARCHITECT OF ROCK 'N' ROLL
LITTLE RICHARD

MUSIC EXECUTIVE
ANDRE HARRELL
HIP HOP ARTIST & DJ
FRED THE GODSON

MODEL OF THE MONTH
KATHERINE
CHICAS

SINGER | SONGWRITER
VICTORIA
DENNIS

SINGER | SONGWRITER AND ACTRESS

MONTANA
JACOBOWITZ

MAY 2020

YV HIP HOP CONTENTS



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THE LEGEND LITTLE RICHARD

12/5/1932 - 5/9/2020

Written by B.T. Hudson

We mourn the death of a musical legend named, Richard Wayne Penniman, who was an American singer, songwriter, musician, writer and an actor. He died on May 9th, at the age of 87 due to his long battle with bone cancer.

He was nicknamed, "Little Richard" as a child by his family because of his small and skinny body frame. Throughout his career, not only was he known as Little Richard but many others called him, The Innovator, The Originator, and The Architect of Rock and Roll. He was an influential figure in popular music for seven decades.

I remember when I first noticed Little Richard's music. I grew up in a family where we liked to sing and play instruments, so music was second nature to us. But hearing him sing and play had me hopping around my living room. Anytime he appeared on TV we would all stop what we were doing and come to watch him put on a performance for us.



"I AM THE INNOVATOR. I AM THE ORIGINATOR. I AM THE EMANCIPATOR. I AM THE ARCHITECT OF ROCK 'N' ROLL!" - LITTLE RICHARD

I thought that he was strange (in a good way), the way that he was dressed and the wild things that he did, all while singing in his high-pitched voice. I'm sure that a lot of people who saw him perform stated how strange they thought he was and in the same breath said how great his music sounded, as they popped their fingers, stumped their feet, and clapped their hands to his beat.

Back in the 50's, his music transcended the racial barrier, so he became a legend to African-Americans with what he was doing and it was something that attracted national attention. His music and concerts broke the color line bringing blacks and whites together despite the attempts to sustain segregation.

Little Richard was raised by a very religious family. He enjoyed the Pentecostal Churches the most because of their charismatic worship and live music. He began singing in church at a young age. His musical inspiration came from gospel singers, such as Brother Joe May, Mahalia Jackson, Marion Williams, and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. He was inspired to play the piano when he heard Ike Turner's piano intro on "Rocket 88".

But his flamboyant personality and style on stage was influenced by Roy Brown and Billy Wright, who were Rhythm and Blues singers, who had a flashy style of showmanship and wore makeup and flashy clothes.

He always loved to be high-strung when it came to his music. He amped-up his high-energy antics by lifting his leg or climbing on top of the piano, while playing. He would also run on and off the stage and throw his souvenirs to the audience.

He received many inductions and awards for his key role in the formation of popular music genres from 1956-2019. He was inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame; the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of the first group of inductees in 1986. He was inducted into the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Apollo Theater Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, the Blues Hall of Fame, and the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame.

He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from both the Recording Academy and from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. He also received an award from the National Museum of African American Music for his role in helping to bring an end to the racial division of the music charts and in concerts, which changed American culture significantly. His unique vocaling over the irresistible beats with the combination of boogie, gospel and the blues, had announced a new era in music.

May he rest in peace.

Victoria Dennis

Singer/Songwriter

YVHH: We want to start off by getting to know you better.

- *Where are you from?* I'm from Westchester, NY
- *Do you have any siblings?* Yes! One younger sister. Her name is Bella, she's 15. She is my rock, my best friend and #1 supporter.
- *What is your favorite color, food, and movie?* Favorite color would have to be baby pink or gold. Favorite food is chicken nuggets or ramen noodles. And my all-time favorite movie is The Notebook.
- *What instrument do you play?* I play the piano and the drums! I started drumming in the 7th grade and fell in love with it since.

YVHH: *At what age did you start performing? Where are some of the places that you have perform at?*

Victoria: I started performing at seven years old. My first show was a school talent show in second grade and that is when I knew I wanted to be an entertainer. It started out as something I just wanted to do for fun, but I remember the feelings I had on the stage that night... it was magical and I felt that entertaining was what I'm supposed to do!

YVHH: *Tell us about your latest single "When I Fall". Did you write it and what is it about? Can we expect an EP soon?*



“

VICTORIA DENNIS:

YOU MUST BE
WILLING TO
DEDICATE 110%
OF YOURSELF
INTO YOUR
CRAFT.

You either give it all you got, or don't give anything at all. You must be able to
work hard and never ever give up no matter what anybody tells you.

”

VD: Yes! I co-wrote the song with Josiah Bassey who is also the producer of the song. "When I Fall" is a song about falling for someone as you're still learning to get to know them and you're kind of asking them "If I fall for you, are you going to catch me? And do you feel the same way about me too?" The song was written out of a personal experience about the "beginning stages" of the relationship that I am in now. I love writing through personal experiences because I feel that I can connect with people so much more that way. As far as an EP goes, I'm not too sure if that is on the horizon right now. I'm mainly focused on releasing singles.

YVHH: What are some of your career goals?

VD: My ultimate goal is to spread my music and messages throughout the entire world. I want to go on a world tour, I want to meet and interact with fans, and I also would absolutely LOVE to do a song one day with Post Malone. I love him and his artistry and his music so much.

YVHH: Can you share with us how you have been managing your musical career and having Juvenile Arthritis since being diagnosed in 2018?

VD: When I was first diagnosed, there were days where I literally couldn't move my arms to get myself out of bed. It was really scary and hard to cope with until we found Rheumatologist Dr. Hom who has guided my family and I through every step.





She prescribed my medication to reduce pain and inflammation and is so knowledgeable on the subject. I couldn't have asked for a better doctor. In the beginning when my joints were very stiff, I couldn't play the drums for a while, but now my joints feel perfectly fine as long as I stay on top of taking my medicine.

YVHH: What advice would you have for anyone who wants to be in the music industry?

VD: You've got to have super thick skin because it is not an easy industry at all. There is always circulating competition, so you need to find out within yourself what makes you

different. Is it your look? Maybe your sound? Differentiating yourself from the millions of other artists in this world will broaden your chance of becoming successful. I like to use the example of Billie Eilish. Her look, sound, and music are so different than anything mainstream pop has ever heard... and look where she is today. Now of course her stardom didn't happen overnight which brings me to my next piece of advice. You must be willing to dedicate 110% of yourself into your craft. You either give it all you got, or don't give anything at all. You must be able to work hard and never ever give up no matter what anybody tells you.

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YVMEDIA



MONTANA JACOBOWITZ

Photo Credit:
Greg Doherty Photography

Tell us about the first play that you wrote at seven years old?

I was very young at the time, but I sometimes was seen as a mother figure to my brother. When people find it difficult to understand him, they misjudge him and start to talk bad about him. I learned to step in and speak up to people that are being mean or misjudging him. It was a playwriting contest about

showing an act of kindness and accepting people. My mom said I should enter it at the time, so I decided to write a play about my brother and how some people are accepting of his differences and how others are not. As one of the winners of the contest, the play was originally performed in front of students and staff at my elementary school. My play portrayed the storyline that we should accept

"MY PLAY
PORTRAYED THE
STORYLINE THAT WE
SHOULD ACCEPT
EVERYONE, NO
MATTER THEIR
DIFFERENCES; WE
ALL HAVE OUR
FLAWS".

everyone, no matter their differences; we all have our flaws. The director of the contest decided to put it on YouTube so that everyone around the world could see it.

You are a singer, songwriter, and dancer. When did you discover that you had an interest in them?

Yes, I am, at a young age I had a passion for the performing arts. My parents knew I always loved singing and dancing around the house, and I was extremely outgoing. It first started when I was in the 2nd or 3rd grade, it was my first time in an actual school because most of my life I was homeschooled. I was a very shy kid, but I loved performing, singing, acting out shows I saw on TV, etc. My parents decided to sign me up for a theater production at my school and I loved it and booked one of the lead roles in the production.

You released three songs. Tell us about them and what they are about? Where can we find them?

Yes. The inspiration for my first song, Let Me In, came from someone very special in my life and a previous "almost" relationship experience. Some inspiration came from my brother, his name is Arizona, he's autistic. He was the one that truly inspired me to write the song. During Arizona's early years, the most difficult challenge for my family was identifying what he wanted, his needs, and assisting him in expressing his needs. For example, Arizona's face might show that he is happy, but he may be sad inside. My song asks Arizona to let me into his world and not to be afraid.

The second story shown in the music video is about a boy that I

liked, who ended the "almost" relationship way too soon and never told me why. I created a scenario around why he walked away from our relationship without telling me a reason. My music video shows that my "almost" boyfriend had an abusive father that drank a bit too much and the parents always got into fights. I try to tell the boy that he doesn't have to hide his feelings from me, he can open up to me and not be afraid to show me his pain, because I care about him and I am there for him. I feel that many people that listen to my music can relate with their own stories and they should not be afraid to open up to the people who are trying to help them.

My second song, Ask Me Why I Cry, focuses around various social issues that people in the world face, such as, bullying, foster care, homelessness, abuse, etc. The song pretty much explains what me and my family went through and why I (we) cry. My third song is called Reckless and focuses on women empowerment and shows that women can do the things that men can do. The setting is going to be centered around three stories between three girls and their boyfriends. The girls all have a passion to do something that only most men were allowed to do in the past. But now these three girls want to step up to their boyfriends and show them that they are capable of doing anything that men can do. My music can be found on all music platforms and the lyric videos for all singles, as well as, the music videos for Let Me In and Ask Me Why I Cry. The music video for Reckless will be released later this month.

Beside music, you are also acting. What are some of the shows/films that we can find you in? How do you feel about acting?

"When I was about 6 years old, my brothers and I started an organization called, Children's Voice, where we encourage people to help out in their town and advocate for social change, such as, homelessness, poverty, bullying, and education, etc. My dream is to become a UN Goodwill Ambassador."



Yes, some of the projects that I was a part of was the CBS film, *Middle School: The Worst Years Of My Life*, *Teenage Critic* (PBS), *2Real4U* (Amazon Prime & TV Networks in LA & NY).

I truly love acting so much. Growing up I was bullied a lot for loving performing arts and for accepting all people; other people didn't like that and did not accept me because of this. Acting allows me to truly be myself on and off camera.

Do you consider yourself to be an activist? If yes, why?

Yes, I do. As I said previously, from young I was always a person to give and never really care about receiving. When I was about 6 years old, my brothers and I started an organization called, *Children's Voice*, where we encourage people to help out in their town and advocate for social change, such as, homelessness, poverty, bullying, and education, etc. My dream is to become a UN Goodwill Ambassador. My brother is autistic,

and I love volunteering every Spring and Summer for his baseball team, I love seeing the children thrive and have fun playing!

I also do volunteer work for a girl empowering organization in NYC. I love to perform for different charities to raise awareness, as well as, now during this hard time. Next week, I am volunteering to do a virtual hospital tour, where I perform for various children that are in the hospital and do not have much interaction with anyone or entertainment. I can't wait!

What can we expect from you in the near future?

Definitely new music! I'm hoping to have either an EP or album by the end of this year. Definitely more acting projects. Recently, for my two songs, *Let Me In* and *Ask Me Why I Cry*, as well as, an acting project I did, I just received 3 nominations for the Young Entertainer Awards which will be held in LA soon. I am very excited to be going to LA hopefully again soon. I'm hoping to travel the world for fun and of course to perform at shows.

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Founder of Uptown Records

ANDRE
HARRELL

9/26/1960- 5/7/2020

We have lost another great man, Andre O'Neal Harrell who was an American rapper, record executive, record producer, songwriter, and producer and screenwriter for film and television.

He was one of the leading entertainment entrepreneurs and cultural ambassadors of our time. The founding father of Hip Hop Soul and he had influenced and created urban and millennial cultures around the world.

Andre died from heart failure, during the time he served as the Vice Chairman of REVOLT TV and MEDIA, the music-oriented digital cable television network.

He was born in Harlem, NY but was raised in Bronx, NY. As a teenager, Andre and his friend, Alonzo Brown formed a hip hop duo called Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. They rapped while styling designer suits and ties. Their singles were successful but the 'Genius Rap' single became the most notable.

Later in 1983, Andre met Russell Simmons, who brought him into his label, Def Jams Records. Andre became Vice President and General Manager within two years.

In 1986, Andre left Def Jam to create his own music label name Uptown Records, which turned out to be not only one of the biggest R&B labels of all time but it became the home of R&B and Hip Hop, where the styles of both genres had an

influence on both rappers and singers. His label featured artists like Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Sean Combs, Al B, Heavy D and the Boys, just to name a few.

He was the CEO of Motown Records, the President of Bad Boys Records and he founded Nu American Records. He then became the Vice President of REVOLT, a music network and media company managed by Sean 'Diddy' Combs. Andre also became a producer and screenwriter of film, television and soundtracks.

His goal was to bring African-American culture to people everywhere and have coined the phrase 'ghetto fabulous' through music, films, and everything that we do.
May he rest in peace.





YV COSMETICS

Fred the Godson

02/22/1979 - 04/23/2020

Frederick Thomas aka Fred the Godson was born on February 22, 1979 and grew up in the Bronx, NY. On April 23, 2020, he passed away at Montefiore Medical Center after contracting the virus COVID-19. He was 41 years old.

Frederick was battling a few health issues throughout his rap career including asthma, kidney failure, high blood pressure, and diabetes. He was married for 13 years to the mother of his two daughters (Sophie and Sadie), LeeAnn Jemmott, who is a freelance make-up artist.

Frederick received his nick name from his doctor who compared him to Jesus after he saw Fred rhyme. He got his start in the Hip Hop world in the early 2000 as a freestyler who rhyme over beats of other rappers' songs. He also released two mixtapes, "Armageddon" in 2010 and "City of God" (a part of the DJ Drama's Gangsta Grillz series) in 2011. His father was a bouncer for the NYC legendary Tunnel nightclub during Fred teen years which allowed him to visit it frequently.

In 2011, he received recognition after appearing on the 2011 XXL Freshman List with fellow artists Kendrick Lamar, Mac Miller, Lil B, Meek Mill, Big K.R.I.T., and YG. He also signed a deal with eOne the following year.


Frederick net worth was \$4 million (approx.) in 2020.



LCM

LEONARD CROFT MANAGEMENT

@LEONARDCROFTMGMT

A full-body portrait of a woman with long, straight black hair, wearing a teal-colored bra and matching underwear. She has a large, intricate black tattoo on her upper abdomen and a small nose ring. The background is a plain, light blue-grey color.

YVHH MODEL OF THE MONTH

KATHERINE CHICAS

"I would also love to create some of my own makeup one day."

VICTORIA'S SECRET





*"I would love to work
with @nyledimarco
towards a goal of more
awareness of the deaf
community."*

KATHERINE CHICAS

YVHH: We want to start off with asking you 5 basic questions?

- **Where were you born and raised?** Born in El Salvador and raised in East Boston, MA.
- **Do you have any siblings?** Yes, two brothers and one sister. all older than me.
- **What is your favorite dinner and desert?** I love FOOD. My favorite food is like shrimp pasta and favorite desert is cake or chocolate ice cream.
- **Do you prefer Netflix or Hulu?** Netflix.
- **What is one of your hobbies?** Travel, Makeup, Exercise, Arts and Crafts, and Cooking.

YVHH: What inspire you to become a Model and MUA?

Katherine: Growing up my mom was very fashionable which started my interest in fashion, modeling and make up artistry.

YVHH: How has your experience in the modeling industry been? Do you find it challenging at times?

KCM: I haven't encountered too many issues with modeling. I have been lucky that I have had friends recommend me for jobs or people find me on my social media. On set, things go smoothly as long as people have open minds and don't see deafness as a disability.

YVHH: What are some of the things that you are passionate about and how have you chosen to make some of them a career?

KCM: I'm very passionate about fashion. I have worked as a visual merchandiser. I really like

styling and putting together cool funky outfits.

YVHH: Can you share with us some of your dreams when it comes to your career?

KCM: I would love to amass a larger following so I can share my passion for makeup and fashion with the world. I would also love to create some of my own makeup one day.

YVHH: Being born with the inability to hear, do you find that you want to be an advocate for those with hearing disabilities within your career?

KCM: I would love to work with @nyledimarco towards a goal of more awareness of the deaf community. He is a great activist and role model and I love how he uses his platform.

YVHH: What are some of the things that you have been doing to get through your time at home during the quarantine due to the Covid-19 pandemic?

KCM: Lots of cleaning, helping my parents, exercising, cooking new things, and adding content to my Instagram.

YVHH: What is your social media information?

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