

EMM

EMMETT MAGAZINE

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2ND ANNUAL DMV COMMUNITY AWARDS AND FASHION SHOW GALA



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On the Cover are Dr. Tauheed Burke and Brittany Ford.

Editorial Commentary

This is the first live fashion event we have covered in Washington, D.C. in a while. Shocker, this time I was available to come out and participate after a six-hour road trip. Shooting for **EM (EMMETT MAGAZINE)** was **Candi Williams/Candi Williams Photography as well as myself. I get a few good** shots in every now and then, and it tickles me when I do as I am more than willing to leave the real camerawork to the professionals. In the room were familiar faces, from the past 5 years of covering the DC Fashion Week scene. **Ean Williams a.k.a. Mr. DC Fashion Week** Director of DCFW, the Arrington's, **Kyle** and **Vashonda Arrington**, and of course **Derrick Rutledge Celebrity Make –Up Artist to the Stars**. All of whom were **Honorees** that evening. **Ean Williams** was honored with the **Fashion Icon Award**.

Other notable and familiar faces include Photographer **Phelan Marc**, and Model **Chris Deloatch**. Designer **Malcolm Staples** was also in attendance among the other incredibly talented Designers who gave spectators a tremendous show. Throughout the evening the audience was thrilled and impressed by the daring designs flooding down the super bright red carpet. A super-fit **Chris Deloatch** thrills the audience as he modeled designer swimwear. Fabulous skyscraper-heals stalked the runway in style. Some by **Sheila's Loft**.

Models Amina in a Black/Red Design, cape and boots, and **Miss Baduu** also thrilled us in a flared striped Pant, and Topper from **Malcolm Staples**.

A Who's Who of DMV Celebs

Clayton Jones



Ean Williams and Ms. DC.

Phelan Marc



Ron Cooke and Fashion Model



Damon Scott

I spoke with Co-Producer of the DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show Gala, **Damon Scott** about the behind the scenes efforts that go into pulling of a huge event like the one everyone in the room witnessed and agreed on how ‘Spectacular’ it was. Scott commented on the 2024 DMV AWARDS 1st held at The Murrow Hotel. The size of the crowd estimated at 250-300 attendees, and for the first event held a great was to judge future event venues. I asked Scott, how much time it took to prepare for the current 2025 event venue. “Planning began just two months after the 2024 event. A lot was right with the first event as it was held at a hotel, so everything we needed was there. The guests would have almost no issues, especially parking. “

The 2025 event was held at the historic Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library located at 901 G Street NW, Washington, DC.

Scott told me that this MLKJR venue, was around 500 plus attendees. So based on that, the events have consistently grown.

At a heartfelt moment Ms. Virginia Ali, owner of **Ben’s Chili Bowl** located on U Street NW, a local favorite since 1958, was escorted to the stage by Scott. Ms. Ali, who I met in the 1970’s as a regular patron, was an Honoree that July 19th evening. I asked Mr. Scott if she said anything to him. He said, “She told me that the event was spectacular and she was glad she could be a part of it, and that she was so grateful to be honored.”



Virginia Ali

Music



Keyona’ Lashawn and Eddie K. Jr.



As we gathered under one roof to celebrate the rich tapestry of the DMV through fashion and culture, there was a moment that truly touched my heart in the room, the recognition of our honorees. These incredible souls are the pillars of our community, each carrying stories, wisdom, and light that uplift us all. Their presence was a beautiful reminder that it truly takes a village to nurture vision, beauty, and collective strength. That night wasn’t just a celebration, it was a testament to how deeply interconnected we are, and how love, legacy, and culture continue to bind us across generations. - **Regan Jones**



Angelica Sheree, Ms. Universal Petite 2025 and Derrick Rutledge an Honoree receiving a DMV Beauty Industry Award.

Photo by Emmett Williams



“Celebrity Make-Up Artist to the Stars Derrick Rutledge” Courtesy Photos



DMV HONOREES 2025

Ean Williams Fashion Icon Award Winner and Ms. DC.
Brian Mitchell, Kyle Arrington and Vashonda Arrington.



DMV VIPs



Regan Jones and Ron Cooke (DMV Award Honoree 2025).



International Fashion Event Producer
Global Publicist | Fitness Industry
Trailblazer | Beauty Entrepreneur

Junda Morris

DMV

Community Awards Honoree



Hello Junda! Tell our audience your name and where from originally and also how you attained your current level of success.

My name is **Junda Morris**, and I'm proudly **originally from Liberia, West Africa**. I am an **International Fashion Event Producer, Global Publicist, and entrepreneur** with a deep passion for elevating African talent, telling powerful stories, and creating platforms that celebrate excellence across industries. Over the years, I've launched and produced several prestigious international events, including the **Africa International Modeling Competition, Runway Liberia International, Runway Ghana, and Runway Liberia**. My work has been supported by notable partners such as the **Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C., Watsup TV, and the Office of Councilwoman Wala Bagley, Miss Liberia Maryland Pageant, Miss International Pageant** among others. In the world of fitness and strength sports, I made history as the **second Black woman in the world** to organize a **Strongman competition**, launching the **Liberia Strongman Competition**. I currently serve as the **Director of Public Relations for the World Strongman Federation** in Dubai and proudly lead as the **President of the Liberia Bodybuilding & Fitness Association**, the nation's official **IFBB affiliate**. As a strong advocate for women's empowerment, I am also the founder of **Afriq Glam Nail Polish**, a bold beauty brand created to **empower women in Africa and across the globe** through color, confidence, and culture. Afriq Glam is more than polish—it's a movement rooted in self-expression and feminine power. I also serve on the **Board of the West Africa Fashion Council**, where I contribute to shaping the future of fashion and creative leadership across the continent. From fashion runways to fitness arenas, and now the beauty industry—I remain committed to **empowering, connecting, and transforming lives** through purposeful storytelling and impactful platforms.

As you developed your business, what inspired you and did you have the support of friends and family?

I've always been inspired by the idea of being a **trailblazer**—doing the unexpected and stepping into spaces where few women, especially African women, are seen. That spirit of boldness was passed down to me by my late mother, **Grace Morris**, who made history as the **first female Head of Office in the history of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC)**. She was a visionary woman—far ahead of her time—who believed in **women's leadership, education, and empowerment** long before it became a movement. Watching her break barriers taught me the power of resilience, excellence, and quiet strength. In my own journey, I've drawn inspiration from her legacy every step of the way. Whether launching global events or leading in male-dominated industries like Strongman sports, I carry her courage with me. I'm also deeply grateful for the support of **my children, my family, and close friends**—each of whom has supported me in some form, from words of encouragement to showing up when it counted most. Their belief in me has been the fuel behind my purpose-driven path.

Are there any clients you would like to mention who have events on the horizon?

Absolutely. Through my company, **JMK Production LLC**, I've had the privilege of working with a wide range of exceptional talents, brands, and platforms across Africa and the diaspora. In music, I've represented **African Hip-Hop Legend Scientific**, and collaborated with **Africori**, one of the continent's leading music aggregators. I've also provided strategic PR support to **WatsUp TV**, one of West Africa's top entertainment platforms, and the **international award-winning DJ Sly**, whose influence continues to shape the global Afrobeat and Amapiano scenes. In fashion and beauty, I currently represent **Tammy Garr**, an emerging model and entrepreneur, who is preparing to launch her debut fragrance line, **TG Paradise**. I also serve as PR for the **BEX Brand**, an International Platform redefining tech, beauty, confidence, and representation. In the fitness and bodybuilding world, I've proudly worked with top athletes, including **Former Man Ghana Godwin Frimpong, Current Man Ghana Charles Kumi, and Former Nigeria Strongest Man Kevin Powers**, for whom I serve as **International Publicist**. My work in this space also extends to global platforms as the **Director of PR for the World Strongman Federation (Dubai)**. These clients represent different industries, but they all share a common thread: **bold African excellence**. It's an honor to help shape their stories, amplify their impact, and ensure they receive the global recognition they deserve.

Tell us about your future plans for your upcoming Ghana/Liberia visit and beyond.

I'm incredibly excited about what lies ahead as we prepare for a dynamic and purpose-driven season across Ghana, Liberia, and the U.S. As the **Director of Logistics for USA 2 Ghana Basketball**, we're currently finalizing plans to bring **Team USA to Ghana this December** for an impactful cultural and athletic exchange. This initiative is about more than just basketball—it's about **bridging communities through sports, mentorship, and international collaboration**. Also in Ghana this December, in proud partnership with the **College of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management (CoCAHM)**, we will host the highly anticipated **Runway International Shows: "Fashion Meets Food"**. This signature event will celebrate African fashion, culinary excellence, and cultural diversity—showcasing designers, chefs, and creatives on one unforgettable platform. In Liberia, we're planning to host the **3rd Edition of the Liberia Strongman Competition**, a milestone for the growing strength and fitness culture in the country. As the **President of the Liberia Bodybuilding & Fitness Association (LBFA)**, I'm equally proud to announce that we will carry a **national delegation of athletes to represent Liberia at the IFBB Mr. Universe competition in Nigeria this October**—a major opportunity for global exposure. Meanwhile, in the U.S., we are gearing up to host the **Pre-Launch Soirée for Runway International Shows**, which will bring together influencers, creatives, partners, and media to preview the vision behind our December events and honor those supporting our international expansion. These upcoming experiences aren't just events—they are **movements**. Each one is designed to **connect, empower, and elevate African talent on global platforms**—from fashion and fitness to sports and business.



Future Plans: Africa Basketball Festival – Ghana 2025

As the **Director of Logistics for USA 2 Ghana Basketball**, I'm honored to be leading preparations for an exciting and impactful initiative—the **Africa Basketball Festival**, taking place this **December in Ghana**. Our goal is to bring **Team USA to Ghana** for a week-long celebration of **sports diplomacy, youth engagement, and cultural exchange**. This event will not only feature high-level basketball games between USA and African teams, but also **clinics, mentorship sessions, school visits, and community outreach programs**.

From logistics and media to player relations and sponsorship engagement, my team at **JMK Production LLC** is committed to delivering a world-class experience that blends **fashion, culture, and purpose**.

The Festival will also be aligned with our other December flagship event in Ghana: **Runway International Shows "Fashion Meets Food"** in partnership with the **College of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management**—showcasing how fashion, food, and sports intersect to empower youth and promote economic development.

Thank You for speaking with EM!





Carmen Felder and Brandon McLaughlin.



Dr. Lance London



Ron West Honoree and Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award Winner and Anna Dolan.



Photographer Phelan Marc and Fashion Model.





Adot Designs

















Fran Dez









Shop The Runway













Swaiton Designs















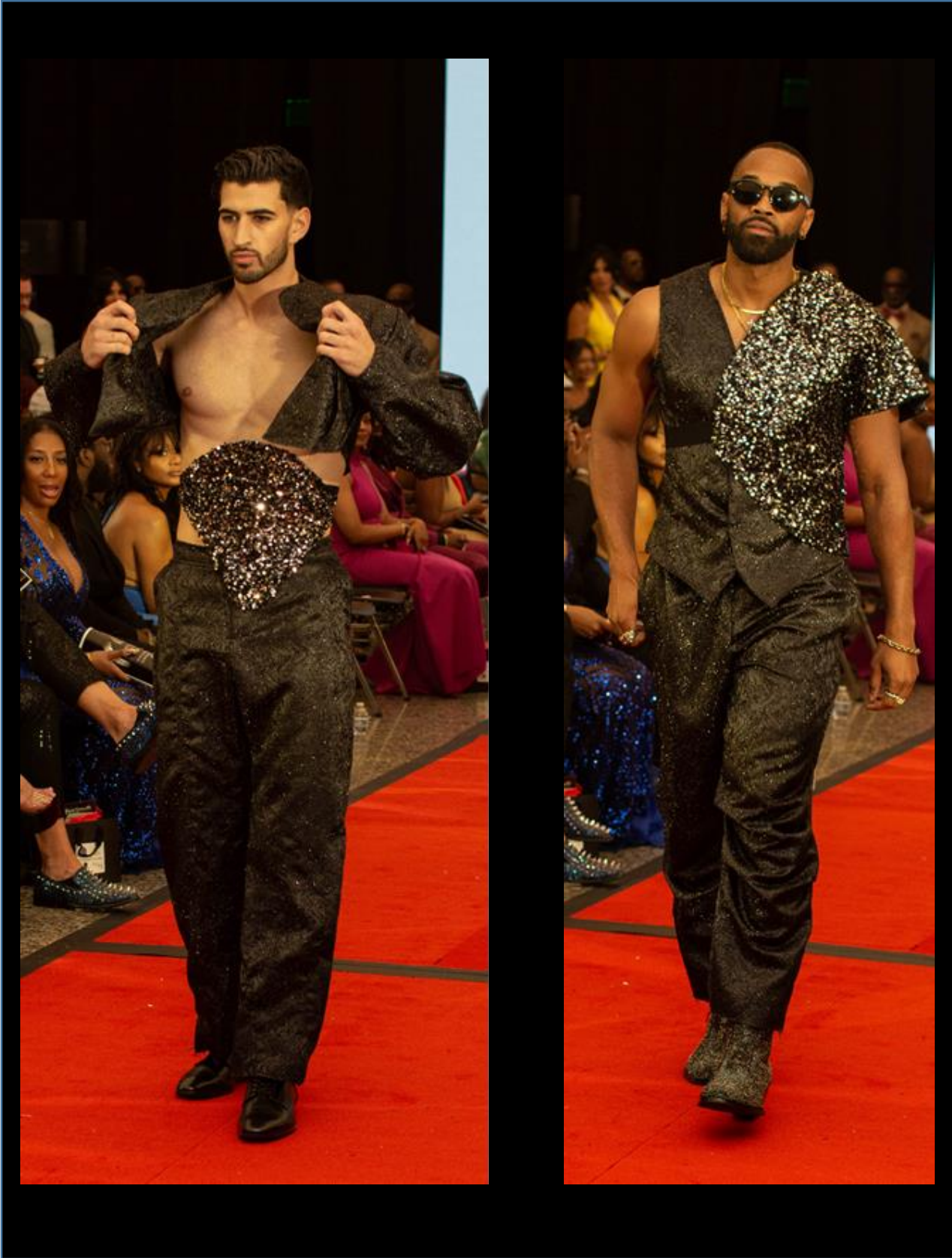
88 Spades















Juan & Erin







Blue Topaz Swimwear











Malcolm Staples







”””





















Malcolm Staples Interview

Hello Malcolm! Tell our audience your name, and where from/ located and give them a little background info on your work.

My name is Malcolm Staples, an award winning internationally published, fashion designer residing in Washington DC. I design custom garments for discerning men and women.

I came into this fashion game in a non-traditional manner after leaving a six-figure corporate job, to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a fashion designer and owning my own business. In 2009, I took a proverbial leap of faith to pursue a dream and 16 years later, I have not looked back.

Please give us an update on any major shows since we covered you in March 2024.

I have been an active and highly engaged fashion creative since 2024. I was able to take my collection to Paris Fashion Week. That showcase catapulted my brand in such a profound manner that truly solidified my status as an internationally acclaimed entity. In addition, I continued to create a global presence in the published arena, garnering my 150th front cover on national and international publications. I also continued to participate in both New York and LA Fashion Weeks, respectively .

Tell us how it felt to be among the Honorees in our city (DC) at the DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show?

It was amazing to be an invited featured designer. It was an honor to be among so many influential and impactful individuals from the DMV who have served as pioneers in creating a standard for fashion. The individuals honored , represented excellence and I'm proud to have a connection to a greatness hard to describe.

What's next for Malcolm Staples?

I continue to live in the grind. Never satisfied trying to grow my brand more effectively on the global stage. I will be showcasing my new collection at NYFW in September and a goal to present at LAFW, Paris and Milan. An ambitious agenda but I aspire to simultaneously be timeless and fashion forward.

Comments

Kerri Baduu

DREAMING BIG

My name is Carolyn Armstead born in Landover, MD and raised in Hyattsville, MD and graduated from Northwestern High School. From the start of me being able to walk, I always wanted to be a Supermodel, walking in my mother's literally shoes and modeling her outfits to now walking for different Designers is everything I ever wanted.

WALKING HER WALK

I started modeling back in high school, from the support of another model by the name of Ashley Bennett I started modeling for our high school team at Laurel High. To be frank I'm not sure what fashion show I walked in when I first started, I started back in 2018 and while I was supporting a friend, someone at the practice wanted to see my walk and loved me from there. Ever since then I've been getting booked and chosen by different designers for numerous shows this year.

LIVING THE DREAM

Being a part of The 2ND Annual DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show Gala was a great experience, I enjoyed walking for everyone but especially to my new favorite Designer Malcom Staples. He brought out the bright, bubbly and confident side of my personality. Everyone highlighted it as; "The Ring Leader" or "Beetlejuice Queen ". I love them both lol Future plans for me will be walking in NYFW this September *Crossed Fingers* also catch me in The Baltimore Met Gala September 13th...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE SHOW!!!!

Instructor Tonia Coley, Author

Beautiful Braids by Tonia/Owner Tonia Coley Instructor in **natural hair and** braiding. I have 40+ years of experience, with all textures and styles. This was my second year styling hair for DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show Gala. This year, I was a featured hairstylist for the event. I'm always in awe of the new direction the show takes each year, from the production, hmu, designers latest fashion its always next level. The behind the scenes creativity from hair, and makeup it top notch. It begins with the hair and make-up, then the designers fashion, and then to see the confidence and beauty we've created take over the runway is the Tea. Lead Loctician at Department of Corrections male population @beautifulbraids2014 I'm located at

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It's always an honor and pleasure working with @roetheagency @dmvawardsgala

MariEve Carmona Castillo

“I’m proud to have participated as a makeup artist in the fashion show (2nd Annual DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show Gala).

It was an excellent opportunity to apply advanced editorial makeup techniques, collaborating with stylists and designers to achieve the desired aesthetic. This experience clearly strengthened my teamwork skills.

What an electrifying experience being part of the makeup team for the recent 2nd Annual DMV Community Awards and Fashion Show Gala. I love the backstage energy, the creativity that flows, and the opportunity to transform a vision into reality on each model’s face. A special thanks to the Executive Producer, Dr. Tauheed S. Burke for the opportunity. Already looking forward to the next one!”

Thanks for speaking with EM!

“You’re Welcome.”

Emmett Williams,

Editor-Publisher





Derrick Rutledge and Emmett Williams

Photo by Candi Williams

DMV COMMUNITY AWARDS



FASHION SHOW GALA

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