

OUR DIVAS & DIVOS STARS LET DS IN ON THEIR **BLACK HISTORY** HEROES

CREATE 'ME TIME' AND INDULGE **DivaScribe** ISSUE 5

NAOMI JOHN

Gives Us The
Sandstorm
Flavour
& a Good
Dose Of
Inspiration

**BLISSFUL
SAINT
LUCIA**

PLUS!

TALKING HEELS
WITH THE
BRAIN BEHIND
"WALTER STEIGER",
PAUL STEIGER
& MORE FASHION!

Kadija Kamara

Gives the 101 On
How To Make Music
That Defies Age
Barriers



AMY WINEHOUSE

Celebrating
a Virgoan
Sister & the
Legacy She
Left Behind
(RIP)



Getting A Sweet
Touch Of Hope From
Simone I Smith
(LL COOL J ANYONE?)



Eric Roberson
Borrows Our Time
Straight from
the Shower!

UK £3.25

ISSN 2045-466X



9 772045 466004

Brian White: *The Black Carpenter*

DivaScribe takes a closer look at this inspirational man, and his life-changing company BY PHOEBE PARKE

In the current climate of rioting, high unemployment and anti-social behaviour, it's comforting to know that someone is doing something positive to change the situation our young people are facing albeit in the US. While some people are busy demonising our young people, Brian White is trying to make a difference. Brian White is most recognizable to television audiences as Detective Tavon Garriss on the award-winning FX crime drama *"The Shield."* Other television credits include CBS' *"Moonlight,"* UPN's *"Moesha,"* *"The Parkers,"* and *"Second Time Around"* as well as MTV *"Spyder Games."*

He recently returned from touring the United States in David E. Talbert's stage show *"What My Husband Doesn't Know"* alongside Michelle Williams, Ann Nesby, Clifton Davis and Morris Chestnut.

He also has a philanthropic side to him and has co-founded a multitude of different ventures including: the Helping Hands Celebrity Weekend (HHCW) in St. Thomas, US VI which creates a unique arena where members of the entertainment industry, professional athletes and corporate leaders can unite and support one another's charitable efforts; a professional dance company/community youth outreach organization called Phunk Phenomenon Urban Dance Theatre. He is also a founding partner of a full-service film, television and broadband production company based in Los Angeles, CA. As well as all of this Brian is the cofounder of 'Black Carpenter':

'Black Carpenter' has a clear mission: 'to give today's youth the "tools" they need to build a solid, lasting, and successful foundation in life, as a carpenter builds a rock solid house.' That sounds like a fantastic aim! But how does the company realistically achieve this aim?

What exactly is 'Black Carpenter'?

Black Carpenter is a multi-platform youth development program that urges young people to build their future. Black Carpenter uses tools such as books, spoken tours, documentary films, products and services to empower young people and give them the tools to change their future. But why the name Carpenter?

The program for 'building' up young people's lives is divided into four main parts, which are named after tools used in carpentry:

STRENGTH (hammer): The hammer signifies strength through knowledge and education. Stay in school, graduate with a degree or certificate and build your future! At Dartmouth College, Brian studied Malcolm X and many of the great Black leaders who searched for strength. But anger didn't make sense to him. An angry boxer is going down. Anger was not a trait I wanted to latch onto.

BALANCE & EQUILIBRIUM (level): The level represents balance and equilibrium through life's tough moments. A steady head and heart will help you weather life's bumps and detours so you can get back on track.

ACCOUNTABILITY (tape measure): The tape measure represents accountability. Question everybody and everything, but with respect. This includes your parents, bankers, handlers, and even your friends. Take the lead in creating your bright future.

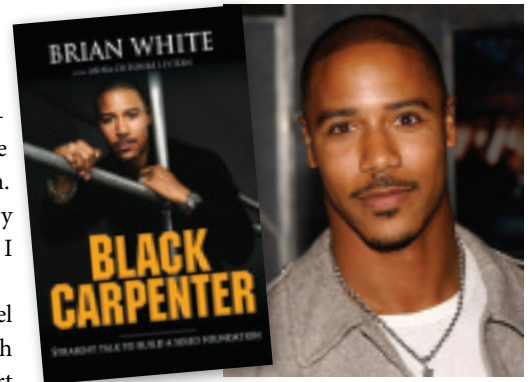
PERSEVERANCE (locking pliers): The locking pliers signify true grit determination to accomplish goals. Focus on the positive. Work through adversity and do not give up. Move out of harmful situations quickly. Lock, learn and move forward with your life.

These 4 tools, to be utilised in everyday life, allow young people to rebuild their futures in the right way. The idea is that by using these tools, young people can create a new life for themselves based on good, solid foundations.

The creators of this scheme are Brian White and co-creator Anna Cheshire Levitan along with the Director of Design and Production, Elaine Tate.

Elaine created the logo for Black Carpenter marrying the carpenter's triangle with a superhero theme to create something that would resonate with today's youth. Anna Cheshire Levitan is a producer, writer, and editor with an extensive background in publishing and celebrity media. She co founded the company with Brian White while he was filming in Boston.

Brian White, has given a lot of himself to the brand. Black Carpenter is based on lessons learned as a youth that led Brian White to successes in sports, business, philanthropy, and entertainment. Brian White is an Ivy League



graduate of Dartmouth College, a former NFL New England Patriots football player, a former professional Boston Blazers lacrosse player, a former professional Boston Blazers lacrosse player, a licensed stock broker, and an accomplished Film and TV actor. Phew!

Alongside the aforementioned accomplishments, he starred in the hugely successful film; *Stomp the Yard* as well as *Footballer's Wives* and *CSI Miami*. All in all Brian is a truly inspirational man, and with an increased decline in responsible father figures in the lives of young black boys, this Black Carpenter is a great role model who is helping young people build stable futures, brick by brick. For more information on Black Carpenter visit: <http://www.blackcarpenter.org/index.html>

Brian White's new book, explaining the principles of the steps towards a new future is now available! Brian says of the book:

"The chapters in Black Carpenter are divided into tools, metaphors for life's most important values, supported by personal anecdotes. Reading a chapter is opening the tool box of my life story. Lift out a hammer and see how choice affected me, mistakes made and lessons learned. Lift out a utility knife and read how overcoming fear taught me how to dance, ballet no less, which prepared me for a lead role in Stomp the Yard. Lift out a tape measure and meet the mentors in my life who pushed me to graduate an honor roll student from public high school and attend an Ivy League college. Most importantly, lift out any tool in these ensuing chapters and learn how to become your own Black Carpenter." - Brian White