Interracial Relationships: When Opposites Attract

Flawless magazine discusses what seems to be the good, the bad and the ugly with couples who are involved in interracial relationships today.

By Karima Thibou



For years now, many people have been involved in interracial relationships. Whether long term dating, marriage or casual dating, interracial relations have been increasing, simply because of personal preference.

We've seen it in our neighbourhood, we've seen it within our family, and we've even seen it in movies/on TV and whether you agree with it or not, you can't stop it from happening.

When it comes to dating, each individual has their own 'type'. Blonde hair and blue eyes, tall dark and handsome, curvaceous, brunette... the list could go on.

For some, they find themselves attracted to another person because of looks, some because of personality and for others it is simply because they can bond over sharing a similar interest or lifestyle. Though when opposites attract, it can become a different story.

Not everyone is for the idea of interracial relationships, and marriage (involving a couple of different ethnicities) especially in the USA, was once illegal.

The Loving vs. Virginia Case 1967 is a prime example of a pair who were not of the same case, who found against prejudice and their battle to have the right to be married and live together in the same state of America despite their racial differences.

Although once taboo, many couples involved in different race relationships today, still face a lot problems. A difference in cultures, belief and traditions carried out are likely to collide, which can bring misunderstandings though even when all is resolved, there is still the possibility that both families may see different, and may not be pleased for them.

Some people see immediate failure at first sight with interracial relationships- thinking they will not last for long straight away.

Challenges faced can cause unnecessary conflict and problems though this is nothing new as this has happened in lot of relationships; those that are of different races and those that are not.

"MANY COUPLES INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT RACE RELATIONSHIPS TODAY, STILL FACE PROBLEMS"

There have been movies created such as Jungle Fever by Spike Lee, Save The Last Dance by Thomas Carter and Something New by Sanaa Hamri to show the trials, tribulations and results faced with people who fall for someone of a different background to them.

We can't help who we fall for and race should not be a negative factor, as it should be what's on the inside that counts. It should be the idea that if there's anything worth having, it should definitely be worth fighting for.

With some, there is a sense of jealousy when hearing about interracial dating. Topics like "why is that 'brother' dating a White woman?" or "why is that 'sister' dating a White man?" has been brought up in the past in different situations, including through internet email chain mail and on TV shows.

Opposites attract and there's no doubt about that. Mixed relationships are becoming more common nowadays and all you have to do is blink and you'll see it.

Just like with the 'average' person, there are many celebrities who have a partner who is of another race, including a combination of those who are married and those involved in a non-monogamous relationship.

Quick Fire Catch-Up

Chipmunk: The Take Off



The idea that the music industry is such a phenomenon, has no doubt, made a lot of young people aspire to either sing/rap.
As it has been proven on the news, the (music) industry can spit you up and swallow you whole but with others, it can only you make you better, after your first airplay.
Karima Thibou discusses the life of one rapper in particular.

England Born, London raised, Jahmaal Noel Fyffe aka Chip (formerly Chipmunk) seems to be on the tip of everybody's tongues these days.
The British rapper from Tottenham who became recognised in 2007 through his 'League of My Own' Mixtape, where a music video for featured track 'Who Are You' was produced & later aired on (music) TV channels including MTV Base, is now currently working on his third solo album.
Having entered the industry at just 16, Chip- who is now 21- already holds two MOBO awards to his name and was nominated for a BET award at the age of 18.
The grime artist who is now signed to T.I.'s record label 'Grand Hustle' record label, seems to have made a transition with the content/style he was once used to performing/recording under, as now, it seems as though Chip's music is sounding more mature, more R&B and less grime which we are frequently used to seeing from him.
With his music becoming more mainstream, there is no hiding the fact that Fyffe's presence is being welcomed across the globe, the US market especially and what is more to prove it than the success he has had from collaborating with various US stars, including Keri Hilson, Chris Brown and Trey Songz, for the hit 'Take Off'.
Now becoming more recognised, Mr Munk has shown that with hard work, talent and dedication, failure is not an option for anyone that wants to make it in the (music) industry and that anything is possible.
Chip's latest venture is moving to the USA to live, which he confirmed via twitter last month.



A Bajan Sensation

Rihanna Talks That Talk

Twenty three years old and a protégée of Hip-Hop mogul Jay-Z, Robyn Rihanna Fenty, better known as Rihanna sure knows how to Talk That Talk.

Written by Karima Thibou

Born and raised in the Caribbean island of Barbados, the recording artist who was first spotted at 16, and made her first hit single (Pon De Replay) at 17 has never looked back since.

The singer, who is associated with Def Jam Recordings and the Roc Nation record label, has now released her sixth album- Talk That Talk.

Not afraid to be raunchy and push boundaries, Rihanna has been listed in Maxim's Top 100 list several times and been voted in the top 10 category twice. Like her song says it itself- "Good Girl Gone Bad", Rihanna has not hesitated to try out different genres and be experimental, like with blending dancehall with R&B and frequently using raunchy lyrics.

A young woman who is renowned for controversial music videos, such as those produced for her hit singles Man Down and her more recent, We Found Love, she is definitely one to get the public talking.

Renowned for being different, the Bajan beauty is definitely not one to shy away from unique hair styles and fashion statements. The past two years especially has seen many people imitating the star tattoo the singer sports on her back, as well as the half-shaven Mohican hairdo (which she made more famous than Cassie) and the bright red hair style which became a popular trend with many females across the UK.



Earlier this month she beat British boy band JLS to reaching the number one spot, with her single We Found Love featuring Calvin Harris, which meant it had also gave her a fifth consecutive number one record, a record in UK chart history, which meant it had not achieved by another other female solo artist (yet).

With over 11 number one hit singles, including 'Umbrella' staying at number in the charts for 10 weeks straight in 2007 and a number one album in 2007, the superstar is definitely not a stranger of a good hit and success.

From 'Music of The Sun' to 'Talk That Talk', there's no doubt about it, Miss Fenty has not stopped to give the mic a rest. Having worked with many big names in the industry, including Jay-Z himself, The-Dream, Ne-Yo, Eminem and T.I., it is clear to see that she always seizes an opportunity to bring new vibes to the table.



However, music is not all that the superstar knows, as she has been wanted for featuring on a range of magazine covers, including Vogue and Rolling Stone.

She has also signed a contract to be the face of CoverGirl brand, appeared in an advertisement for Gucci and Renault Clio (alongside footballer Thierry Henry) and has also been a spokesperson for skincare brand Nivea, with one of her songs California King Bed accompanying the TV ad. One of her more personal ventures has been the Believe Foundation which she formed five years ago, to help give something back to terminally ill children. Performing at charity events and fundraisers, Rihanna doesn't hide away when it comes to helping those in need.

But life hasn't been all fun and games for the Bajan singer, as 2009 saw her relationship with then boyfriend Chris brown, spiral out of control and reports about how she was caught up in domestic violence and suffering abuse were allegedly made. Two years later and civilised, the singer has now been romantically linked to Hip-Hop, R&B star Drake.

In her prime, and not one to be out of the limelight since she first caught a piece of it, the young beauty looks as though she will someday be bigger and better than former Destiny's Child member Beyoncé. With great contacts in the industry, the Bajan Sensation looks like she is just getting started.

Street Dance Movies- Still Good or Just Plain Cheesy?

From Save The Last Dance to Honey, there is no denying that dance (especially street) movies have graced our cinema screens, but have they reached its peak? Karima Thibou discusses

In 2001, UK cinema was introduced to what would be one of the most popular and original dance movies of 'all time'- Save The Last Dance, starring the likes of Julia Stiles, Sean Patrick Thomas and Kerry Washington.

A movie about love, interracial relationships and dance had somewhat paved the way for many more movies of this type to come. Honey- released in 2003, Step Up, in 2006 and Step Up 2: The Streets soon followed (and that's just naming a few).

However, could it be that these movies that set out to excite, encourage and inspire, are now just plain cheesy and are no longer serving its purpose? Too many plots of the same sort, too many predictable dance styles, is there a chance that (street) dance movies have now expired?

Taking an original and spoiling it- it seems as though there is now no originality when it comes to producing music related movie these days.



Each storyline similar; each setting near enough the same, there is nothing unique about these movies that are being created!

With some of these movies, a vast amount of sequels are being created, but the question to ask is:

"Is there a need for so many?"



It seems as though for each (street dance movie) there is at least one sequel to follow, i.e. with Honey, Honey 2 soon followed, but for others such as Step Up, there was not one or even two, but three sequels produced and a fourth is now in the process of being filmed.

The thought alone of Step Up 4 just sounds plain silly and do you really think that there is going to be something fresh/ new being brought to the table that the audience hasn't seen in the other three? Probably not!

With these sequels that are being made, there is no link between them and its original, and as these characters are forever being changed, it looks as though they (the follow up movies) just lose their meaning.

A possibility that this wouldn't be the case if the characters in the original film were kept throughout (until their journey ended)? Probably so.

Once upon a time ago it seemed as though the directors





and writers of these street-dance movies were trying to create a message for their audience-in hopes that it would be understood.

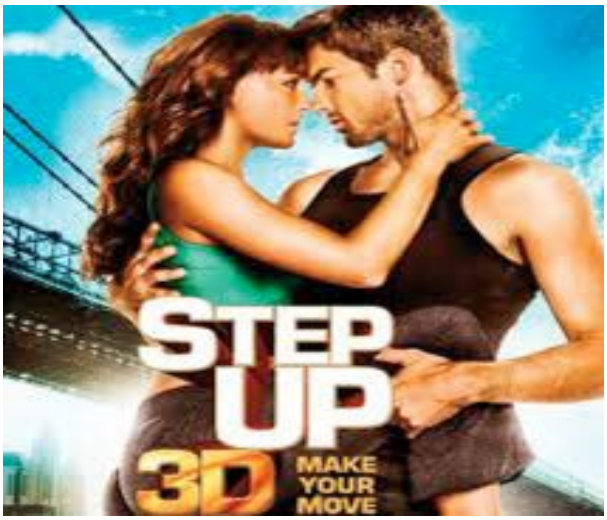
But now, it seems like the storylines for these movies are just being written for the sake of it- in other words, the content is being made to simply 'fill up' the line-up in our cinemas.

Movies that were once full of attitude, integrating different ethnicities cultures and or lifestyles with the medium of dance, were overcoming/tackling other important issues (such as racism) too and now, it could be said that there is little to no significance with some of the current street dance movies on the market.



Before time, the soundtrack was carefully thought out and the script was beautifully written, making the audience want to quote it, but now it's a different story, as these soundtracks that are near enough uninspiring, doesn't compliment storyline and at times boring.

The scripts that were made and the soundtrack to support it had also made the audience want to quote and relive the moment.



The writers made you want to watch the movie 10 times over and movies like 'Save The Last Dance' in particular, were considered to be 'classics' by the majority. However, would you class some of these sequels as your favourites? Street Dance 3D for example, would you be proud to call it one of your favourites of all time or would you consider it odd?

Whatever you feel, it is entirely up to you because as the saying goes, each to their own!

However, it is possible that the UK & US markets especially, could fully well see a decline in the amount of people interested in the street dance movie genre, if writers/directors don't re-evaluate their content, and stop producing movies that just seem to be a 'copy-cat' of each other.

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Let Me **Up!**Grade You!

What's the big deal about another new Volkswagen car ?
Karima Thibou fills us in.



Compact yet spacious, different yet desirable, the 3.54metres long Up! from Volkswagen is the only small car that you should be thinking about right now.

Able to fit 4 passengers comfortably, this new model and design is said to appeal to the city person as you can park up! in the smallest spaces and the 1.2 litre engine allows you to stay up! with other traffic.
A car that's set to compete with the Fiat 500, Toyota Aygo, Ford Ka and Hyundai i10, the new UP! is found with an automated manual gearbox and appears in 3 stylish models- The Take up!, Move up! and High up!

With one touch indicators, two tone horn, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, an option of choosing from eight different wheel designs plus a choice of eight highlights and paint finishes (including Candy White and Dark Silver metallic), there are a range of interior and exterior designs to suit the customer, no matter what their age. But that's not all?
Excluding these enjoyable and updated gadgets, safety also comes into play with Volkswagen's latest creation.
For a small car that seems to fit so much, there is also an emergency breaking feature installed on the car too.
"If the driver does not respond to the threat of a collision, or does not break trongly enough, the city emergency braking provides brake support at any level up to emergency breaking."
On the personal finance side of things, because the car emits lower C02 levels, customers of the up! will not need to pay road tax in the UK during their first year.
On the personal finance side of things, because the car emits lower C02 levels, customers of the up! will not need to pay road tax in the UK during their first year.
So, let's get this straight, for a car that's so small but can do so much, it really seems as though its manufactures had you in mind (yes you, their customers) when they planned and designed the car.
Whether you decide to Take UP!, Move UP! or High UP! you will definitely be satisfied with your purchase, so let's go UP! in this world and never back Down!





Launching in Spring 2012, the Up! starts from £7995

Where Are They Now?

With the constant rise of new artists (both bands and solo singers) on the scene, it can be so easy to forget many artists that were once 'current'.

Here, Volume gives you a run down into just what exactly some of the artists that were once on the tip of everyone's tongues have been getting up to since they *faded away*.



• Natasha Bedingfield- Sister to Daniel Bedingfied, Sussex born Natasha first made her debut appearance in 2004, with an album called "Unwritten" reaching number 1 in the UK album charts and debuting at number 2 in the US.
Hit singles from the album such as Single, These Words and Unwritten were also released that year.
She has now moved to United States, and has been trying to make it big there, working with artists such as Lloyd, Sean Kingston and Nicki Minaj.



• Daniel Bedingfield- Known for hit singles such as Gotta Get Thru This – which peaked at number one in the charts, If You're Not The One & James Dean (I Wanna Know), Daniel Bedingfield who became a UK success faded away after the year 2004 after releasing second album- Second First Impression.
Seven years later, Bedingfield released a single under the dancehall genre called Sometimes You Just Know, under the 'Overproof Riddim', associated with other dancehall acts such as Beenie Man and Mavado.



• Fatman Scoop- Renowned for his single Be Faithful (a remix of Faith Evan's Love Like This that appeared in hit movie Save The Last Dance), which became a number one hit in the UK in late 2003, Fatman Scoop has been collaborating with many artists including Missy Elliott and Kat Deluna. He has also had a TV show called Man & Wife, which aired on channels such as MTV and a podcast of the same name, which he featured in with wife Shanda.



•Mel B- Ex Spice Girl Mel B (Melanie Brown) aka Scary spice and Mel G, now resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with husband Stephen Belafonte and three daughters- Phoenix Chi, Angel and Madison.
The England born singer, song-writer and TV personality has worked on projects such as Dancing with the Stars, Dance Your Ass Off, Mel B: It's a Scary World and The X Factor (Australia) and is now in talks about moving down under too.



• Craig David- The rise and fall singer-song-writer from London, found great success when his first album- 'Born to Do It', sold over 7 million copies worldwide in 2000 and reached the number 1 spot in the UK albums chart, that year.
In 2008, the artist who is originally from Southampton received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from the Southampton Solet University, in Southampton, England and a fourth album by the artist- 'Trust Me' was also produced & released.
Other ventures the R&B sensation has been involved in include being appointed a 'United Nations Goodwill Ambassador' against Tuberculosis in 2010, releasing a fifth album- 'Signed, Sealed Delivered' in 2010 (covering & sampling hits from the Motown era) and performing at a Michael Jackson tribute concert at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff in 2011.
Craig now resides between London and Miami and is now working on designing/re-developing a hotel as well as releasing yet another album.




•Lemar- Lemar Obika, better known by stage name Lemar, rose to fame at the latter age of 2002/beginning of 2003, after finishing third place on UK talent show Fame Academy. The singer/song-writer's most notable hits include Dance (With U), 50/50, Time to Grow and If There's Any Justice.
2008 saw Lemar become a father for the first time, after his long term partner gave birth to a baby girl- Nyeima Obika, in 2010, an album called 'The Hit's (the first greatest hits album by the artist) was released, was an opening act for several UK shows of Mary J. Blige's Music Saved My Life tour and in early 2011, he was a special guest act for singer Enrique Iglesias's UK tour.




• JoJo- 21 year old Joanna Levesque, better known by stage name JoJo, first came on the scene in 2004, at the age of 13, gaining recognition from singles such as 'Leave (Get Out)', 'Not That Kinda Girl ' & 'Baby It's You' (which featured American rapper Bow Wow).
Since then the pop/R&B singer has since produced her first mixtape- entitled Can't Take That Away From Me, is working on releasing her third solo album- Jumping Trains (due for release later this year), has graduated from high school, and is the spokeswoman for HeartSoul Clothing, as well as for Clearasil's latest product- Perfectawash.




• Christina Milian- Somebody hit the lights, so we can rock it day and night. The AM to PM singer of Cuban decent, who was previously signed to Def Jam, then Interscope, in year 2009, announced in February of this year that she is now the newest member to be signed to the Young Money Entertainment label. It has been said that she will release her fourth studio album with them- her first since 2006.
Milian, who is also an actress, starred as Catalina in Bring It On: Fight to the Finish, in 2009, a TV movie called 'Christmas Cupid' in 2010 and is set to have more TV work lined up. Besides being caught up in the music and acting industries, Christina is also mum to Violet Madison Nash, who she gave birth to in February 2011, for ex husband Terius 'The-Dream' Nash.




• Nina Sky- American twin duo Nina Sky, consisting of sisters Nina & Natalie Albino, are best known for their 2004 single 'Move Your Body Girl'. The sisters who have a Puerto Rican heritage have collaborated with various artists such as Sean Paul (on his Trinity album) and American rapper Rick Ross, on track Curtain Call, producing songs in a variety of genres, including Reggaeton and R&B especially.
The girls are now back with a 2nd studio album- ready to be released later this year & a music video has already been produced for first single off the album, called 'Day Dreaming'.




• **Bobby V-** Slow down singer/song-writer Bobby V, also referred to as Bobby Valentino, rose to fame in 2004 after featuring on a single with Ludacris called Pimpin' All Over the World. The artist released a solo single called Slow Down the following year (taken from the album Bobby Valentino), and more recently, 2011 saw him release the album- Fly on The Wall (featuring artists such as Plies and 50 Cent).
At present, Bobby V is working on his 5th solo album called V5, set to be released this year.




• **Tyrese**- Known for hits such as How You Gonna Act Like That and Sweet Lady, and acting in movies such as Waste Deep and The Fast & Furious series- American R&B singer, song-writer and actor Tyrese is back on the music scene with a new (& fifth) studio album- Open Invitation, (since his last album- Alter Ego was released in 2006), this time, with a slightly more mature, grown & sexy content.




• **Eve-** Best known for tracks such as Let Me Blow Your Mind (with Gwen Stefani), Who's That Girl & Satisfaction, and starring as the lead role of Shelley in TV show Eve, Rapper & actress Eve can be found in a recent documentary called Good Hair, (produced by Chris Rock) and in 4.3.2.1. – (a movie by Noel Clarke), as Latisha. Another album by the rapper can be expected for release later this year too.




• **Mase-** Mason Better, better known by his stage name Mase (often stylized as Ma$e) is an American rapper, now turned pastor who was previously signed to Sean Comb's record label- Bad Boy Records. His last studio album, 'Welcome Back' was released in 2004.
If you want to find out more Pastor Mason and his ministry with wife Twyla, check out: www.borntosucceed.org

Notting Hill Carnival: Still a Cultural Event or Just a Bank Holiday Occasion

The annual event of Notting Hill Carnival takes place every August Bank holiday but there is thought that it has lost its meaning. Here Flawless discusses this view further.

By Karima Thibou



Known to be one of, if not the largest street festivals in Europe, The Notting Hill Carnival is an annual event, which takes place in London during the August bank holiday.

An event that came to England in the 1950s, rooting back to the island of Trinidad where the first Caribbean carnival was held in 1833, The Notting Hill Carnival was founded by activist Claudia Jones.

A response to race riots, this was an event which celebrated culture, diversity and freedom was born.

Spread over two days (Sunday- the children's day and Monday-the main parade), the carnival which is filled with West Indian food and drink, parades, sound systems, steel bands and brightly decorated costumes and floats never fails to show a vibrant atmosphere.

But when the jerk chicken and coconut water has gone and the reggae and dancehall music has stopped playing, one thought remains in many people's mind, how Notting Hill Carnival is not the same these days.

What had started as a celebration to help create a closer relation between communities after the 1958 race riots, and to celebrate the freedom black people now had, after the abolition of slavery has now appeared to be a festival that looks as though it has lost its meaning.

Welcoming all tourists, those who are fully unaware of the true meaning behind the event, simply see an opportunity to join in a two day street party, full of food, dancing and drink. An excuse to have fun, many who attend the event from in and around London are clueless towards the cultural yet political reasons associating with why it takes place.

What had also started as a gathering of about 500 people has now attracted millions of all ages, and ethnicities- an event that does not involve the black communities any more

Riots at the carnival are also on the rise, including a result of 5 death reports since 1987 because of it, 2004 being the latest.

When asked what she thinks of it, one woman from the county of Berkshire said:

"I feel as though it has lost its meaning. What started as an event where black people can gather together and celebrate something 'for us', has now turned into a regular yearly occasion like Party In the Park, that has no true meaning where people get excited about for no apparent reason. Yes, Notting Hill Carnival should be a fun event that brings people together, but at the same time, its history shouldn't be forgotten."

Sharing similar views, a man from the city of London said: *"It was a Caribbean thing but now it's an international thing. It's good that all nations communicate and interact."*

What has now proved to be a multicultural event that many get excited about, the Notting Hill Carnival which has never rejected any one outside of the black race looks as though it needs to give a reminder of what it really is about, before its identity is truly lost and is classed as yet another festival open to the public.

Words from the editor
Our little bundle of joy has arrived



WELCOME

Royale, Bianco, Prosecco, Ice, celebrating 150 years of the Italian delight! Out in the bar or sitting at home, a sophisticated drink, a cocktail for one.

It's the season of fun and like Cyndi Lauper rightly says, girls just want a piece of it. Embracing what we call the 'playful hour' (4-7PM), here at Vermouth M we want our readers to have a good time, experiencing that luxurious vermouth taste, all while encouraging them to do so responsibly.
As the editor of a new born magazine on the market, it's my job to make sure I'm telling you what you want to hear, as well as what you need to hear.
Educating, informing, entertaining and inspiring, our content is like no other that's arrived before us. From recipes to party games, beauty advice to seducing tips, there's something for everyone in our magazine.
So when your working day is done, why not take a moment, enjoy a good read and take a sip of Martini?

Cheers!

Karima

Karima Thibou
Editor-in-Chief

40 WIN Tickets to Italy!



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How Martini got its Groove Back!

Say Hello to the Martini Royale

A new style of Martini, a new image and design, meet the latest edition of the Martini family... the Martini Royale.

Karima Thibou fills us in.

Drunk as a vermouth or a cocktail, there is no denying that the Martini is stereotyped as the sophisticated 'Bond' beverage for women.

Classy yet appealing, the brand has definitely been known to seduce, with its seductive taste rather than appeal of the bottle.

However, it has become clear that the drink wants to draw attention with the eye as well and why shouldn't it?

Without having to revamp its original style, Martini now has a new addition to its family. A big flirt, the new life of the party, say hello to the Martini Royale.





Shaken not stirred, the Royale is best enjoyed with ice and can be found in the Bianco or Rosatto form, each with a variety of flavours to suit the individual.



Designed to appeal to the female audience especially, the new Royale will surely be found in many bars and nightclubs, on offer during what will now be called and embraced as the 'playtime' hours of 4-7PM.



A chance to let loose, show off your wild side, an opportunity to mingle, let's leave the work behind.
You may say Apéritif, you may say Aperitivo, let's just enjoy it, now!

Could the Royale be the New Alizé? ■