

ENTERTAINMENT, FASHION, INSPIRATION & MORE

# Six Twelve

## MAGAZINE

JUNE/JULY 2010 • VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

EPIDEMIC:  
**AUTISM**  
**AARON'S**  
**VOICE**

INTRODUCING:  
**BOSS LADI'S**  
**JUKE JOINT**

NEXT 2 MAJOR ARTIST  
**STANZA**

WHO IS YUNG SMUV,  
**DAPHNE ALI**  
**& MORE!**

**REMEMBERING**  
**DOLLA**

**RODERICK ANTHONY BURTON II**  
11/25/1987 - 5/18/2009

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*Talent is not the same as skill. Talent is typically something one is born with while skill is a learned process.....*

## **Epidemic: Autism Aarons Voice**

***Roderick A. Burton II: Remembering Dolla***

**Next 2 Major Spotlight:**  
**Stanza**

**BossLadi Juke Joint:**  
**B.O.B. Music Review**

Who Is Yung Smuv??

**CJ Platinum:**  
Rockn From Zone to Zone

Summer Fashion

**Model on The Rise:**  
**Jenny Jones**

Everyone Has A Story:  
**Daphne Ali**

**ABS IN 30**  
**DIVA DELIGHTS**





# Remembering Dolla

## “Dolla & His Dream...”

*Talent is not the same as skill. Talent is typically something one is born with while skill is a learned process.*

There have been hundreds of artists who are developed and worked extremely hard to become skillful. In fact, skillful enough to be confused with talent, but they do say hard work pays off. In many cases, signs of talent are noticed in the early stages of childhood development. A child able to pick up dance moves at an extremely early age. A child speaking earlier than usual, a child using everything as a microphone singing or rapping in their toddler stages are all signs of possible talent we sometimes as parents ignore and think of it as “Ah isn’t that cute.”

We all heard the saying Life is too short and in so many circumstances with some of our most talented artist we see just how true this statement is with the demise of so many notable Musicians, Actors, Athletes, Singers and Rappers at such an early age. Young black men are some of the most talented individuals in the world. Rap music is and has always been a part of their lives since they could remember sounds be it directly or indirectly. Unfortunately, so is street violence, drugs, gangs and survival by any means necessary. This is not to say all young black men had to endure any of the above, but one way or another rap music was an influence usually at a young age, and for the most part rap music is all they knew, and it was used as a way out of their current situations.

The music industry has seen more than its share of talented entertainers reach the pinnacle of their career then violently passes away. None more popular than (Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G. Big L, Freaky Tah & Big Pun) to name a few! What about a rap artist just beginning his journey? A rap artist the entire industry all labeled as one of the most talented up and coming artist in the game and he had yet to scratch the surface.



It is extremely rare that you have an artist that has both natural talent and raw skills. He has honed his craft but never satisfied with perfection because that still was not good enough. He constantly worked to become a better artist, a better performer, a better writer. He took the time to learn the business and become the best artist he can be. He does this and still balances life, family and friends remaining humble and faithful to Allah.

*This was the type artist Bucc aka Dolla thrived to be each and every morning he arose.*

On May 18, 2009 Aubrey Louis Berry shot Dolla 3 times in the back which resulted in his untimely death. After three weeks of testimony and the actual execution played over and over via video surveillance and with Aubrey Berry admitting to shooting Dolla who was unarmed a jury of 12 decided on May 22, 2010 that Aubrey Berry was innocent of all charges (Murder 1, Murder 2 & Voluntary Manslaughter). Dolla's family, friends, and fans have been hit with the trauma all again. Leaving the family feeling like the system has murdered their loved one once again through the judicial system. This is a disgrace of justice. His family vows that the case will not end until justice for Dolla prevails.

Affectionately known as "Roddy or Bucc" to his family Six Twelve Magazine interviewed Dolla's mom and aunt to reflect on his legacy. Dolla has three sisters and three brothers Divinity 23, Sade Nicole 21, Akeem 22, Sas 17 and Angelika 16. Akeem, Sas and Angelika are his cousins but rose as siblings.

We asked "how did he become known as "Bucc"?" His Mom answered *"the name Bucc originated from the name Buck Lyte, which was his stage name when he was in a group with his brothers/cousins. Bucc just stuck"*.

We asked his mom to recall her fondest memory of her son, she answered *"There are so many, but when he was little and he would sit on the kitchen counter when I was cleaning the house. We would play Stevie Wonder records and, he would sing every song to me while I cleaned"*.

Dolla's Aunt had her own unique memories; she says *"as a little boy he always wanted me to be all-around quarterback when he played football with his friends or pickup games at the park. I think he thought it was cool that I could play being a girl"*. Dolla's aunt describes his relationship with his family and friend as being *"Phenomenal!!!"* She says *he was such a loving and caring young man. He always made sure he kept in touch even though he was extremely busy'*. His mom continued adding *"I have the best relationship with my son. He is my hero. He is extremely close with his sisters and brothers. He has always held a special place in everyone's heart. He is so unique and exceptional. It was our time."*





We also caught up with the \$ilent DJ who recalled some of the time he spent with Dolla or as he says *“I never got used to calling him Bucc or even Dolla. He was always Roddy to me. I remember when he was around 11 years old I would take him and my son to Hammond Basketball Gym where I used to play ball. He was an extremely talented basketball player for his age and extremely quick, probably so fast he sometimes was out of control. The funniest thing he did I remember one day we were at the gym, and one of the goals near the benches all the kids were jumping off the bench dunking.*

*I walked over to Roddy (Dolla), and I told him neither your mother nor aunt is going to kill me because you got hurt jumping off this bench trying to dunk”. His response was “Man I’m Penny Hardaway, and this may be the only time I’m going to dunk, because I’m going to be a rapper and if I get hurt I’m 11 that’s what boys do”. This was a typical smart answer that you grew accustom to if you spent any time around anyone in the family. All I remember is walking away saying “he at least could have said Michael Jordan”.*

That was typical Roddy (Dolla) once he put his mind to do something there was nothing stopping him. He put 100% effort into it and did not stop until he had accomplished it. Ironically the same little boys he used to play with at the gym before he and his brothers became Da Razkalz Cru were B5 (Dustin Michael, Kelly, Patrick , Carnell and Bryan Breeding) before their careers launched and signed to Diddy and Bad Boy Records a few years later. The crossing of path between the two future artists led us to reflect on “Dolla’s” Career and how it all began. Dolla’s Mom Explained, *“Bucc was about 5 years old rapping to Ice Cube, and Public Enemy with his dad. Bucc began doing show cases with his brothers Scrap and Sas in a group called Da Razkalz Cru. He loved it. He spent those days recording with amazing producers like Diddy, Missy Elliott, Polow Da Don, Akon and countless others. They saw the country while on the B2K tour and the Literacy Youth Summit. They signed to Elektra, and when their single “SO FLY” was to be released. The label shutdown. The entire artists on the Elektra roster were dropped. After the boys (Da Razkalz Cru) lost their deal, Roddy (that’s what I call him) say’s his mother wanted to continue pursuing his career. While other boys were starting to gain interest in acting, BuckLyte transformed into a solo artist named Dolla.*





Dolla has made an impact on many lives. We asked his mom and aunt how massive of an impact do they believe Dolla has made. His mom answers, *"I know he has made a profound impact. Not only with us have his family but daily I got e-mails from fans. Telling me how they met him in Utah, Dallas or Detroit at a show and he talked with them like a regular guy. He was just that a regular guy with an awesome job and a big heart".* His aunt added, *"He was always humble, sincere and grateful. Immeasurably! Those that have had the opportunity to meet him and converse with him came away knowing that there was a difference in DOLLA the brand and the man, such a genuine and humble spirit."* She continues, *"Dolla's greatest inspiration was his family and Allah. He loves us a lot and often told me that we were his inspiration. I learned so much from my son,"* says his mom. *"I learned that life is beautiful, struggles make you stronger and wiser and Keep your head up and smiles more, never fear death. In case you notice by now, I never speak of him in the past tense. None of us does. He is still here with us. I will continue to release his music and preach his legacy to whoever will listen. His dreams will come true. I'm going to see to it. "We've opened a BBQ restaurant in 4th ward/ Grant park area of Atlanta and named it **Bucc's BBQ** in his honor. It is something his brothers always wanted to do. Open businesses to empower their family and community. We are currently working on a foundation in his honor called **"The I Speak Life"** foundation. We are hoping to one day develop the foundation into a charter school. Something he said that he would someday do. We're going to see to it that it happens!"*

This is much more than a dedication issue, tribute or homage. This is about **FAMILY** rather it be by blood or association you are a part of the family because you were a part of Dolla's life either on a personal level or through his music. He wrote not just to better his surrounding, condition or his family situation. He wrote and performed for all his fans and his loved one's. His sole purpose was to reach and touch as many people as possible with his generosity, knowledge, wisdom, foundations, schools, business and love through his music and lyrics!

In conclusion Dolla's mom says, *"The people that loved Dolla would be pleased to say that it was never about him it was always you, we or us. He loved us more. Dolla would tell his fans these words "Find your passion and pursue it. Never give up. Do something for someone else. Appreciate every blessing. "I SPEAK LIFE!"*

*The Family would like to say thank you for being a part of Dolla's life then as well as now!*

*Special thanks to The Family, Akon & Konvict Music, Scrap De Leon, Sas, Dj Shabazz, The GANG ENT., T.I. & Grand Hustle, T-Pain, Young Cash, Tyga, Lloyd, Cy Hi Da Prince, Starlito, Jim Jones, CThug, Dubb and all the countless others who are then and now involved in Dolla's life and music.*



**Right:** T-pains SS Impala air-brushed with the image of Dolla in his Honor.

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