

Dream Chasers Chronicles Issue 1

Toya Marie is a wife, mother, author and film-maker. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and currently abides and thrives in her native city. Her success lies within her ability to focus and go after her dreams. Attributes such as these make her a perfect candidate to be featured in the "Dream Chasers Chronicles." Join us as we travel down the path to finding out what makes Toya Marie an unyielding dream chaser!



VR: Tell me about your early childhood throughout your teenage years (for example, family structure, neighborhood, school life experience, friends, etc.)? How do you feel these details played a significant role in the road that you have traveled?

Toya: As a child, I grew up in the projects and my mom worked so we actually had it better than most of the kids around me. I was spoiled and got just about everything I needed but not everything I wanted. As a teen, we moved into a better neighborhood and my mom kept everything I didn't have a lot of friends because I was smart and most of the kids in the neighborhood didn't take school seriously. I didn't have a lot of people to look up to growing up, I was the first person in my immediate family to graduate from college. I was always perceived as the project girl because of where I came from and with my urban look a lot of teachers would try to be little my dreams saying that it wouldn't happen. So, I took all that in and vowed to make sure my dreams became reality. It made me work harder to prove everyone wrong even my family and friends. The road was hard because I had a lot of hurdles to get through but with determination it all paid off.

VR: When did you first become seriously committed to bringing your dream to fruition and why?

Toya: I first started becoming serious about writing in 2009. I was laid off and I had a knee surgery that kept me in the house for a while and I got bored and figured I might as well write and pursue my dream. I had started writing a book the year prior but it was just a couple of chapters. During that year, I was off I picked up my pen daily and would write several chapters at a time. By the end of that year I had written my first book " Who said life was easy" and

published it through Amazon with a tremendous response and I thought to myself "I have arrived"

VR: What keeps you motivated to pursue your dream?

Toya: My kids keep me motivated. They say I inspire them. They see that I am chasing my dream and not giving up and it makes them work harder towards their goals. My job motivates me as well, because I am so unhappy with working for someone, it makes me go hard to get what I want.

VR: What advice would you give to other Dream Chasers to help them accomplish their goals and dreams?

Toya: I would say to never give up and don't be scared to just go for it, sometimes you may fail, but you must start somewhere to eventually get the results you want.

VR: Who inspires you the most?

Toya: I am inspired by a lot of people but I am mostly inspired by Tyler Perry. He shows that hard work pays off. He was once homeless but still kept pursuing his dream until it paid off. He never gave up despite the obstacles that came his way.

VR: How can we support your project?

Toya: You can support my projects by helping promote and volunteering for different events we may have. I also invite volunteers to come in to speak to my group because a lot of them are scared and timid, any positive inspiration would be welcomed.

Toya Marie has published three (3) books, "Who said life was easy," "Life doesn't know easy," and "Memoirs of a broken life." Her first film "Who said life was easy (based off the book) was debuted at Tower City Cinemas in Cleveland, Ohio in April 2017. It was a sold-out event which has given her even more motivation to complete the project she is currently working on – the sequel to "Who said Life was Easy."

Be sure to support Toya Marie in her future endeavors by following her projects at www.toymariproductions.com. She can also be contacted at toymari.inc@gmail.com.