

# Throwback: Mista Grimm-Indo Smoke



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Mista Grimm is a California rapper who had a deal on the Epic Records subsidiary 550. “Indo Smoke” is from the 1993 “Poetic Justice” soundtrack and it was Grimm’s first release. Nate Dogg and Warren G had guest appearances on the track that described the glories of green smoke. The rapper made a contribution to the “Higher Learning” soundtrack in ’94 with the song [“Situation: Grimm.”](#) Grimm’s debut album, *Things Are Looking Grimm* got shelved after an aborted ’95 release date. He last appeared on DJ Pooh’s ’97 album *Bad Newz Travels Fast* and Warren G’s *The Return Of The Regulator* in 2001.

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# Throwback: Whitney Houston-Queen Of The Night (CJ Mackintosh Mix)



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Whitney Elizabeth Houston was born in Newark, New Jersey and she started singing when she was a child at the New Hope Baptist Church in in her hometown. Cissy Houston, a successful back-up singer, is her mother and was very involved in helping

Whitney develop her singing voice. As a teenager she began singing in nightclubs with her mother and by 15 she sang back-up for Chaka Khan on the song ["I'm Every Woman."](#) She became a model for magazines and had an appearance in a Canada Dry commercial. Her first recording was the ballad ["Memories"](#) on the Bill Laswell produced Material project. Clive Davis discovered her via Gary Griffith in a New York City nightclub and had her signed to Arista in 1983. The following year she recorded the duet ["Hold Me"](#) with Teddy Pendergrass. *Whitney Houston*, the album came out in 1985 and became a smash within a year of its release with help from the singles, ["You Give Good Love,"](#) ["Saving All My Love For You,"](#) ["How Will I Know"](#) and ["The Greatest Love Of All."](#) The album started her award winnings and dominance in an industry that never had a Black female pop star on her level. Houston's pop fortunes were criticized by some Black fans who saw her as an uber-talented sellout but her moves gave opportunities to other Black female performers like Janet Jackson, whose brother Jermaine had produced some of Houston's first album, to excel in the industry. When she appeared at the Soul Train Awards in 1989 some members of the audience booed her for this reason. Critics label her third album *I'm Your Baby Tonight* as an attempt to appease the urban audience. "Queen Of The Nile" is from the hugely successful soundtrack to "The Bodyguard" which came out in 1992. Overall, Houston continued to have achievements in music and film with all of her recordings ultimately selling almost 200 million records in her entire career. When she appeared in "The Preacher's Wife" in 1996 her 10 million dollar paycheck made her the highest earning Black actress in Hollywood at the time. At the time of her death she was planning a follow-up to 2009's *I Look To You*. Whitney Houston is the first Black female pop icon to dominate the mainstream globally. Diana Ross is the only Black woman to come close to the level of recognition that Houston achieved. Houston's legacy is not only one of tremendous commercial treasures but an artistic one that displayed a voice of elevated strength and versatility that few artists possess.

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# R.I.P. Whitney Houston

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Superstar singer and actress Whitney Houston has died. Houston is one of the biggest singing stars of the '80's and '90's. Houston's voice was a defining one of her time only rivalled by Mariah Carey. She was instant music royalty with the pedigree of Cissy Houston for a mother and Dee Dee Warwick and Dionne Warwick for cousins. The New Jersey native racked up 415 career awards including 2 Emmy Awards, 6 Grammy Awards, 30 Billboard Music Awards and 22 American Music Awards. All six of her studio albums are platinum including her work on the soundtracks to "The Bodyguard" and "The Preacher's Wife." Before her singing career she was a successful teen model and was one of the first women of color to be on the cover of *Seventeen* magazine. Houston's looks, voice and success were only overshadowed by a stormy marriage to Bobby Brown and her battle with drugs and drink. But her influence and stature in American music can never be underestimated. Her version of "The Star Spangled Banner" at the 24th Super Bowl set a new standard and was released as a single. She had many hit singles including ["You Give Good Love,"](#) ["So Emotional,"](#) ["I'm Your Baby Tonight,"](#) ["It's Not Right But It's Ok"](#) and ["Heartbreak Hotel"](#) with Kelly Price and Faith Evans to name a few. It was during her appearances on ex husband Bobby Brown's reality TV show "Being Bobby Brown" that the world saw the troubled person behind her well-crafted image. The singer who was also called "The Voice" also had success as an actress in "The Bodyguard," "The Preacher's Wife" and "Waiting To Exhale." She just finished working on a remake of the film "Sparkle" last year.

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# A New Chapter With Actor DE'Aundre Bonds (Interview)



"I just want to be able to show people not to always look at things as necessarily being bad but as something to show how strong you are how powerful you are"

Eleven years ago DE'Aundre Bonds struck fortune and tragedy at the same time by gaining the most important role of his career and becoming convicted of manslaughter. Bonds' zeal over learning from Denzel Washington that he acquired a co-starring role in "Antwone Fisher" clashed with the disposition of an aunt's boyfriend and the confrontation between the men proved fatal. Bonds had already escaped a series of ghetto tribulations to get an auspicious career start appearing in movies like "The Wood" and "Get On The Bus." The prison time seemed to return his life to a script written around the Republican party's sociological assumptions about Black people. Bonds' significant opportunities in the film industry could not snuff out the specter of the hood but it did not envelope him. He lived liked many locked-up artists and used his creative undertakings to guard his sanity. His catalog of emotional references realized another layer of organic depth and his other ambitions gained urgency.

Post-prison life is already looking promising with a role in "Gangster Squad," the Sean Penn flick about the special LAPD unit that worked to keep the East Coast mafia out of Los Angeles in the '40's and '50's. Newfound excitement about his second chance also has an autobiography in progress,

a clothing line and a rap CD that needs greater promotion. But his discussion of all these things lacks the passion he expresses about wanting to find the ultimate platform for his personal truth telling.

**Tell me about your new role in "Gangster Squad"?**

Sean Penn is the star of the movie. Ryan Gosling, Anthony Mackie it's called "Gangster Squad" I have a co-starring role as Duke Del Red and I was fortunate to be able to come home and right away to work with such prominent people. The movie will be out in October of this year. It's kind of top-secret so I can't say too much about it.

**By the time you had your first big break with the agent that you tried to sell candy to, had there been any actors you had studied? Did you know that was what you wanted to do with the rest of your life?**

As far as studying no, I was looking at all kinds of movies and was inspired by different actors but there was no one that I was studying it was something I wanted to do.

**People have commented on your ability to pull emotions out of nowhere where does that come from?**

Life experiences. I grew-up in a single parent home the oldest of six children. My mother was on crack for twenty something years we were in foster homes and separated. I just go within myself I think it's all accumulated in me. After so long experiencing so much and not really having a way to let it out once you have a channel to let it out it's easier to go within yourself and let it out by way of acting, music, I can get up in me I can feel it. I'm not talking from inexperience. The only thing I never experienced was shooting heroin or getting raped. Other than that playing in "The Wood" and "3 Strikes" it's all fun, it's really

acting to me.

**With all that being said how come those experiences didn't make you angry and bitter? Why did you choose to sell candy instead of drugs?**

Because it's not in my heart to be that way I wanna be what I want to see. Whatever happened in my life was meant to happen. Why? I'm learning and understanding now better than I did then. I couldn't sell drugs because my mom was on that stuff and I saw her suffering and her family suffering. The sad part about it is that a Black man or even a Brown man who is a member of the have-nots is destined to see prison or jail in some way or another. I don't know why or how check the statistics of the ratio of Blacks that enter prison against maybe Asians.

**How do you see your experience with incarceration?**

I was only able to digest it because of God. That was the only way and my family support. Other than that it was the worst experience in my life. I never want to dream or wish none of that on anybody I don't care if it was my worst enemy.

**Did you find in prison that laws treated people differently based on their color?**

The law is absolutely imbalanced. How can a system based on lies and stealing, forcing slavery be fair? That's why I respect Tyler Perry so much because the brother did not let somebody tell him no.

**Since you've been in the business has there been anyone that you've especially taken note of?**

Absolutely. At the top of the list Denzel Washington is second to none. He got his own circle. He got his own 360 degrees of this is all him and can't nobody fade him. Leonardo DiCaprio is another one who is separated in a class of his own. I'm

liking Marky Mark Wahlberg. Terrence Howard there's so many different actors today that I feel that have that real gift they stand out and you know who they are.

**How did it feel to get pulled to the side by Denzel after your "Antwone Fisher" audition?**

When I first saw him come out I got quiet when he called my name I kind of knew but when he told me "You got the part" and gave me a hug I was elated. I had to hold it in because he told me I had to go back out there because people were still auditioning. I went out there and acted like nothing happened and kept a regular face. I was glowing inside I was so happy.

**What do you remember most about your experience working on "Get On The Bus"?**

Just being around all my brothers. All of them I mean Spike Lee, Gabriel Casseus, Mr. Ossie Davis, Harry Lennix and Hill Harper. Just being on the bus just traveling and having fun, laughing, making money doing it and history. I think, if I'm not mistaken "Get On The Bus" was written by Reggie Blythewood in a week or two and it was filmed in less than 30 days. So it was like one of the quickest movies filmed and done in history. And it was wonderful and came out great the message just being able to be with people like who I just mentioned and work with them.

**What kinds of roles do you consider to be ideal for this new chapter in your career?**

To give a performance that's worthy of us as a people. As a Black man especially playing roles selling dope because our people are better than that. I'm looking to play like maybe Eazy E real life characters. I would love to play Billy Dee I could slick my hair back because he has a wonderful story. I want to play challenging substantial roles that gives us a positive portrayal. We need to do more for ourselves as a people. I don't care who it is these people take care of

themselves. If you can't fix your own house or build your own home how are you going to try to help someone else?

[youtube]0s22PZ7X3aw[/youtube]

**What do you feel is the state of Black film?**

We're coming up I see light and positive growth and independence. Brothers that's making these movies such as Tyler Perry, The Hughes Brothers still even though it's so few. Jada Pinkett, Will Smith their production company and movies then you have Rick Famuyiwa, the director of "The Wood," the director of "Training Day" the brother Antoine Fuqua. We shining.

**Do you have an interest in anything beyond acting such as writing and directing?**

Yes I would love to direct. I've been kind of dabbling in that with my videos. I directed a couple of my videos. It's given me a taste of a sense of direction. The first one I did got like 300,000 hits on Worldstarhiphop in less than two days. I'm writing and I wrote a book it's about my life story but I still need help as far as a professional writer is concerned to put my book in its proper perspective. I'm writing it like I'm talking to the paper and the people is the paper so I'm letting them know this is what happened. I'm going to get it made because I have a story that's real.

**What are you doing with music and what other projects do you have coming down the chute?**

I was actually in a rap group before I had an agent or ever acted. We were going to be the next N.W.A. we were young doing shows and kind of cool. It didn't work out because doing something new as far as a group is concerned and you have people going into it together and then egos you got other stuff to come with that. I had to walk away from that I



started auditioning and doing movies I said I didn't want the troubles that was coming with it at the time. Now that I'm able to be out and have another opportunity I was when I was incarcerated once I got out I got into the studio and starting laying it down. The name of my album is [Real Life](#) and you can get it on iTunes under my name DEAndre Bonds and you can go on my [Youtube](#) page and check out my videos or you can go to Worldstarhiphop and just type in DEAndre Bonds. Right I'm doing this music because it was a dream of mine and I'm doing this clothing line and whatever I have a dream or a passion for I'm going for it. I want to have a platform to speak to our youth, our sisters to tell them the truth because I have really been through it. I've been shot three times, I seen my mother get raped multiple times in the bed with her as a child. The dude went to prison and did like ten years for that. I forgave the guy because it is what it is. I just want to be able to show people not to always look at things as necessarily being bad but as something to show how strong you are how powerful you are how resilient you are and how indestructible you are.