



Darren "Buttahman" Brin Courage Award



Who knew that when **Darren "Buttahman" Brin** left his birth place of St. Thomas, USVI he would be one of entertainment's "Movers & Shakers." Inspired by the images and sounds of the day's musical artists and movie icons, Darren knew that someday he would be walking amongst them all. That chance came when he moved to Baltimore, MD to attend Morgan State University. After graduating, he took an internship at the local radio station WERQ in Baltimore and quickly fell in love with the free music and concert tickets. Literally starting at the bottom, Darren worked his way to the top and became a full-time On-Air talent, where he received his name

"Buttahman" due to his over usage of the word "Buttah" used to describe everything when he was on the radio. His love for music always found him looking for new artists and sounds, making his show one for the top rated for the station and ultimately earning him the position of Music Director.

In 2001, Buttahman was recruited by MTV to join the Music and Talent department. He launched the network MTV Jams and successfully built the brand into one of the most recognizable for breaking hip hop. Buttah also developed hip hop programming for MTV2 by brokering TV deals for major hip hop events/properties such as Mixshow Power Summit (MTV2), the first National Video Mixshow "Monster Mix" (MTV2), and developed the hip hop battle event "Fight Klub" as an MTV2 Series.

In 2007, Buttah created, produced and hosted the first nationally televised hip hop game show "Hoodfab" which aired on MTV Jams, MTV2, Mobile and MTV.com. The concept of pitting rap fans against their favorite hip hop stars in a battle of "Hip Hop Wits" was a hit.

As a result of the recession his position was eliminated from MTV in 2008. After two years of exploring different career directions, an opportunity came to Buttahman and in March 2010 he became Director of Music & Development at BET Networks where he oversees the music for the long running show "106 & Park" and other music properties for BET. Buttah is able to flex his creative juices by developing long form/reality programming for BET's expanded music department.

Airing in October 2010, his first project "BET's Top Ten Rappers of the 21st Century," a controversial list of the biggest rappers of the 21st Century composed by some of the most credible bloggers, artists, and DJ's in the industry, received top ratings for the network .

Buttahman's decision to publicly embrace his sexuality is a continuation of the evolution of a "Mover and Shaker" in the entertainment field. Better Brothers Los Angeles and The DIVA Foundation are proud to present **Darren "Buttahman" Brin** with the inaugural "**Courage" Truth Award**.