

Students at Bertha Sadler Means Young Women's Leadership Academy Participated in Tour of Troublemaker Studios



Bertha Sadler Means(YWLA) and Elizabeth Avellán, producer at Troublemaker Studio

(AUSTIN, TX) - Students enrolled, in Film and Media at Bertha Sadler Means Young Women Leadership Academy, experienced a close-up view of the filmmaking industry at Troublemaker Studios. Founded by renowned director Robert Rodriguez and producer extraordinaire Elizabeth Avellon, Troublemaker's films include familiar names as *Spy Kids*, *The Faculty*, *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl* and most recently *Alita: Battle Angel*. Students and staff of Bertha Sadler Means (YMLA) were hosted on a walking tour through the property by studio executives Kevin Dartt, Nixon Guerrero and Elizabeth Avellán. The students observed workspaces and the green screen studio. They viewed movie props, story

boards and numerous film posters. A highlight of the tour was the enthusiastic encouragement of owner Elizabeth Avellán. She generously shared her story of how she became involved in the industry and her responsibilities as a producer. Elizabeth described the multi-faceted responsibilities of the producer; the individual who "brings the possibilities to reality." Finally, she offered guidance to the students on steps to take if interested in the film industry. Anita E. Dabney, Co-Chair ARTS FACET of the Austin Chapter of the Links, incorporated, stated, "This event supports one of the Links Incorporated's goals to sow seeds of creativity and facilitate opportunities to enrich the lives of youth through engaging arts and arts-related experiences."



Edited by Naomi Richard

(NEWS) - Hip-hop legend and multi-platinum artist **Pusha T** premiered his live radio show on **Amp**, the new live radio app from Amazon, to stream music from his new album *It's Almost Dry*. On his show, "It's Almost Dry Radio," Pusha took calls from listeners and revealed details about the new album on the day of its release during a live virtual listening party moderated by respected media and music executive, **Noah Callahan-Bever**.

Joined by longtime manager and music executive **Steven Victor**, Pusha T spent time breaking down some of the album's most notable tracks and sharing the stories behind them. He also talked with fans about what it was like working with **Pharrell** and **Kanye West** on the project.

When asked about working with Pharrell and Kanye West he spoke about how the project came about.

"The project got started from me playing 'Hear Me Clearly' for Pharrell...And he told me that, it was okay. He shrugged...He said, 'Man I just think that you need to be more of a character.' I told myself, once it was etched in stone that Pharrell and Kanye would each produce half of the album, I was going to go through the process. Whatever their process is, I'm going to go through it in full to make sure I have exhausted whatever they wanted to do. I wanted it to be produced because my biggest thing was making an album better than Daytona."

Pusha's new album, *It's Almost Dry*, is a strong follow up to Daytona and a strong contender for rap album of the year. The album's first track "Diet Coke," produced by Kanye West, is the biggest debut and fastest rising single of Pusha's career. *It's Almost Dry* is produced entirely by Pharrell Williams and Kanye West.

When asked about his plans for new music he responded with a smile, "You put so much into albums always trying to create a masterpiece, always trying to give the fans what they

want to see. You don't want to leave anything on the table. Musically, what I do is street Hip-Hop. Hip-Hop has evolved and has so many sub-genres. It's just great to compete."

Born **Terrence Thornton**, Pusha T emerged in the fertile hip-hop scene centered in Virginia Beach, not far from where he grew up in Norfolk. In 1992, he and his brother Malice formed the much revered, platinum selling rap duo the **Clipse**. Pusha signed to G.O.O.D. Music in 2010 and was named its president in 2015. Both his 2014 solo debut *MY NAME IS MY NAME* and 2015's *KING PUSH: DARKEST BEFORE*

DAWN arrived to widespread acclaim and broke into the Top 5 on Billboard's Hip-Hop albums chart.

Pusha T joins an impressive list of rap artists on Amp including **Nicki Minaj** who will bring the return of her radio show **Queen Radio** to Amp, singer-songwriter **Tinashe**, electronic artist and violinist **Lindsey Stirling**, **Big Boi**, **Travis Barker** and **Lil Yachty** to name a few.

Download Amp in the limited-access U.S. beta for iOS at <https://www.onamp.com/>. To learn more, follow Amp on Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok where they will post access codes to join the app.



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