

# Women of Kulture Campaign 2018

## #mycultureisbeautiful365



### CELEBRATING OUR WOMEN OF KULTURE 365

As Women of Kulture 365, we are a giver of Life, the Heart & Soul of our family. Our life is an open book, because we're not defined by the color of our **SKIN**, by the texture of our **HAIR**, or how we **SPEAKS** with an accent of our cultural heritage. We define who we are and how we want people to see us when we stand tall in our **COMMUNITY**, in our **FAITH**, in our **TRUTH**, as a **SISTERHOOD** and most of all, in our **CULTURE!**



### **About Official Women of Kulture Mission & Vision**

Our **MISSION / VISION** of Women of Kulture, is to help Motivate, Empower and Inspire Caribbean-American women in their community and worldwide. You will read their bios and stories of women from various cultural heritage that have reflected on where they've been, to where they want to be, as well as provide a window of **HOPE** who've overcome many obstacles in their lives, to being on their journey of success to their Cultural Heritage! These are the women who stand in Her Truth, in Her Culture, and in all that she does! We are many Women.... with many Cultures! Hear us Roar!

### **Our Women of Kulture 365**

Women of Kulture 365 has teamed up with Word & Action, Inc., to educate young girls who are faced with educational barriers caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, bullied, violence and fragility. It is our mission not only to educate our young ladies to tap into their true potentials and strive to epitomize the 4 S's (Self-Awareness, Self-Confidence, Self-Respect, and Self-Worth), but allow them to find their voices to speak up, know their worth, and identify the best way to use it. Young Women of Kulture 365 possessed such great strength, courage, faith, pride in their culture.

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## **#mycultureisbeautiful**



**Damequa Rodriguez aka Mekastylz** - Damequa "Mekastylz" Rodriguez, born as a fraternal twin in Brooklyn, New York to a Jamaican mother and Trinidadian father. Damequa Rodriguez or as many know her as @Mekastylz, always showcased her appreciation for the arts. With an inclination to the visual arts, she attended the Osceola County school for the Arts and went onto continue her pursuits of artistic expression. Damequa started her career as a visual merchandiser and transitioning into makeup artistry which was a no brainer, all while maintaining her urban Caribbean aesthetic and high level of professionalism. In the future @Mekastylz will continue to bring her roots and experiences to the public, through artistic expression while applying her expertise and cultural influence.

Participating in the Women of Kulture Campaign 2018 **#mycultureisbeautiful** photoshoot, because when it comes to empowering women of various cultures, the message is simple and that is to embrace who you are, lean your history, love yourself and the world will have no choice, but to see you even if they disagree, and will have to see you. Also, whenever there's an opportunity to stand alongside Queens in a positive light, I'll be down for the cause." Stay connected with me [@mekastylz\\_bk](https://www.instagram.com/mekastylz_bk).

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**Dr. Eugenia Agard** – Comes from an African, Irish, English, Jamaican and Spanish Heritage, and she is a proud native of Long Island, New York. Dr. Eugenia Agard obtained her bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Child and Family Studies at Stony Brook University in 1989. After graduating from college, Dr. Agard worked for Little Flower Children Services and valued being able to have a direct impact on youth and families in crisis. Then, after leaving LFCS, Dr. Agard's sincere commitment to enhance and empower our community compelled her, along with her husband, to start an agency in Westbury, NY, where they incorporated both social work and real estate, thus HUGS Realty was born. To date, HUGS Realty remains instrumental in providing shelter for homeless women and children and the disadvantaged. Dr. Agard realized that with mental illness occurring in 1 out of 5 people in the America, and with the devastating impact it had on our community, it was imperative that she return to school to aide in alleviating these debilitating conditions. In 2009, Dr. Agard relocated to Florida and returned to school to obtain her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University. It was during this master's internship that Dr. Agard was introduced to integrative health care by treating patients with both physical health illnesses (HIV, Diabetes, & Cancer) with co-occurring mental health illness. Dr. Agard's approach to therapy was enriched by this internship, which inspired her to pursue her Doctorate at Arizona State University where she received her Doctorate Degree in Behavioral Health.



Dr. Agard owns and operates a private practice, HUGS (Healing Understanding Guiding and Supportive Services) in Central Florida. Dr. Agard's areas of specialty are treating patients suffering from anxiety, depression, PTSD and physical health issues co-occurring with depression. In addition, she also enjoys facilitating group therapy. Dr. Agard is also a very passionate speaker and is a facilitator of educational health forums and workshops for all populations, with an emphasis on youths at risk and disadvantaged populations to promote healthy living from the inside out. Dr. Agard is the CEO of "HUGS Girls" and works with girls with special needs to assist them with esteem building, social skills, and teaches them lifelong coping skills to increase their daily functioning. Dr. Agard next mission is to open a multifaceted counseling agency HUGS Community Services, a counseling community-based camp to optimize mental health by utilizing effective therapies while providing essential supportive service.

service in a safe and nurturing environment. Services will be comprehensive including individual and group counseling, tutoring, parenting skills, employment skills and other self-improvement and self-empowerment life skills to assist in eliminating the educational, financial, and health disparities in our communities. Dr. Agard is currently seeking a site for this community program as well as financial contributions to provide therapeutic services to promote lifelong healing and coping skills to the underserved residents of Osceola County. Dr. Agard credits and thanks her late mother, her devoted husband, and her two wonderful children for being the wind beneath her wings, and she fully understands nothing is impossible with God who is her true pilot.

Being a part of the Women of Kulture Campaign 2018 **#mycultureisbeautiful** photoshoot project really moved me, because it was a worthwhile experience that motivated me to help my fellow sisters achieve her dream of putting this type of photoshoot together." Stay connected with me on Facebook [@eugeniaagard](#)



**Jade Cox**, (African-American), born in Cocoa, FL, who' a MAC/Self Taught MUA, Makeup Artist, Model, Band Ambassador "Jade Ashley Cosmetic", Actress. I am 25 years young and have been modeling for eight years. Jade has participated in 17 fashion shows - one for a Celebrity Stylist/Designer in Atlanta. Jade has also been into makeup since she was 16 and a makeup artist for five years. My Make Up Academy (MUA) brand is Jade Ashley Cosmetics.

In the future, she will own my own skin care and cosmetic line. Ashley is my older sister who passed away at the age of 12 and because of that I do everything as a dedicated to her and the reason I go so hard to make it. Jade has appeared as an extra in two urban films "As the Smoke Clears" and "Looking in The Mirror" that will be soon to premiere in theaters, as well as an MTV Wild 'N Out girl during their Orlando tour stop in 2017.

Jade is definitely a busy girl, but always makes time for her family, dressing up, going out and having fun, spending time with my family/friends, and cooking. I'm fun loving, caring, dependable, optimistic, and determined to be successful. I decided to participate in the Women of Kulture Campaign 2018 [#mycultureisbeautiful](#) photoshoot, because I am a beautiful, natural, young, black woman who takes pride in being all-natural. I love my black women and supporting all women any chance I can get. We as women need to come together more often instead of criticizing and downing each other. Stay connected with me on Instagram [@emaniboo25](#).

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**Toni Sherrell** (African-American), and a God-fearing aspiring model residing in Orlando, Florida, originally from Richmond, Indiana. Toni is happily married to an amazing man who not only treats her like the Nubian queen that she is but supports her every goal and dream. Currently, modeling is a hobby that brings great joy and life to Toni while performing. Ultimately, Toni's dream is to one day grace the runways and or studios in Paris, taking the fashion industry by Storm!



To be a part of the Women of Kulture Campaign 2018 [#mycultureisbeautiful](#) photoshoot, I can be an encouragement to other women to be proud and embrace their beauty regardless of their cultural background. When I was growing up as a teen in the 80's, I didn't have all the positive encouragement like there is today. I had to learn to love myself the older I've gotten.

My family always told me I was beautiful, but your peers can make you feel altogether different. It's very important for us all to encourage each other. Sharing the stage with strong, beautiful sisters.... priceless. Stay connected with me on Instagram [@tstorms423](#)

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**Raven Ellis** is a Fashion Model (Runway/Hair/Magazine/Brand Ambassador). I have done other natural hair work with Tresse Noire and Black Bride Magazine, but you will mostly catch me on the runway around the East Coast participating in different Fashion Weeks such as Orlando Global Fashion Week, Philadelphia Fashion week and much more!" I decided to be a part of the Women of Kulture All-Natural Fall Campaign 2018 [#mycultureisbeautiful](#) to show off my natural tresses.

I wanted to show a quick, cute, and simple style anyone could do a on a regular day.”  
[@ravenellis\\_themodel](#)

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**Keisha N. Clay** was born and raised in Orlando, FL. She is a paralegal by trade and has recently decided to continue her education by getting her Journalism/Communications degree. Keisha is a freelance model where she modeled for Billy Jones Cosmetics and appeared in the Orlando Talent Magazine. Keisha's other projects is participating in themed photoshoots where she recently orchestrated a shoot geared toward the highlighting of black women's natural hairstyles. The shoot consisted of 5 ladies coming together where each person chose a fall color to model in. This shoot proved both exciting and empowering. Which created a positive collaboration.

In her spare time, Keisha writes poetry and participated in her first Spoken Word show a couple years ago. Her other pastimes include exercising and meditation to help alleviate stress from her day. She does party and event planning where she is looking to turn this hobby into a business opportunity.



In addition, she has another business venture she wants to make a reality, which is through her love of photography. This passion has caused her to convert a portion of her dining room into a photo studio. She made this move in order to sharpen her craft of photography and to gain experience behind & in front of the camera.

To be a Woman of Kulture, as a Breast Cancer Survivor, I use my strength to empower women of other nationalities by sharing a common bond. I also participate in cultural events to learn and to uplift women from various cultural backgrounds. Participating in the Women of Kulture Campaign 2018 #mycultureisbeautiful photoshoot, showed the epitome of strength rings true for each of us. It is especially strong when you have the support of your fellow sisters.” Stay connected with me on Instagram [@unapologetically\\_keisha](#)

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On behalf of KUOMagazine’s Women of Kulture 365, we would like to thank Keisha N. Clay in helping to spearhead our 2018 Women of Kulture 365 Campaign #mycultureisbeautiful photoshoot with these beautiful-amazing women. We truly enjoyed reading and sharing your stories from you came from to where your journey continues. As women of kulture 365, you all speak volume in how you motivate, inspire women within your community to the ones that are reading from afar. No matter what cultures we came from or obstacles you’ve faced and overcame. The end results have shown that we as women, a network of sisterhood can achieve and accomplish the road to our dreams. Also, a very special thank you to Vic Roman for the amazing photography [@vic\\_the\\_roman](#) on Instagram. Stay connected with us on Instagram [@officialwomenofkulture](#). If you would like to be a part of Women of Kulture Campaign 2022 #mycultureisbeautiful in January 2022, please email a picture of yourself, a bio to [womenofkulture@gmail.com](mailto:womenofkulture@gmail.com)



## **Official Women of Kulture**

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