

# Mississippi's Got Talent

By Meredith C. McGee  
Jackson Advocate Contributing Writer

A panel of three African American male judges rendered a tie to 3 of the 12 acts which performed at MGT Entertainment's 12th Talent Show to a packed house. The event was held at The Mediterranean Fish & Grill in Ridgeland, MS, on Sunday, July 22, 2012.

Categories to select the finalists included, but were not limited to, originality and stage presence. As is the custom at Amateur Night at the Apollo Theatre, Bessie, the event coordinator, held her hand over the head of each contestant and let the audience pick the winners.

The loudest roars were rendered to a well-deserving rapper named Chip, who came in 1st place and walked away with a trophy and the largest cash prize. He and the other winners

— O. Jones and Diamond Monae — appeared on MGT Live, which airs on channel 18 via Comcast Cable.

No performers were booed off the stage. In fact, all twelve acts, most of which were youth, had it together; one female R&B soloist named Destiny rocked the house singing about the drama in a young woman's life.

Aljajuan Bell, aka AMB, has been performing in churches and clubs since he was 14. A female from the audience was escorted on stage, seated and crowned a queen during his act. AMB said, "At first I was doing worldly music, then the Lord made a change in my life. Now I use my music to glorify God and to inspire people." He added, "I don't use women as sex toys. I want to inspire them to be independent and achieve their goals in the music industry without lowering their standards."

Professionally, AMB is a CNA at Mississippi State Hospital; he dreams of becoming an entertainment professionally and has made strides. "I have a song on Derek Martin's album *Up Next*," he said humbly. His debut album, *The Light of the World*, will be released soon through Strictly Positive Entertainment.

The artist known as Two Three (William E. McGee III) is a sophomore at Jackson State University pursuing a degree in Sociology. He works for Kraft Foods as a merchandiser, but still finds time for musical endeavors with his right hand man, Roderick Whitley (Young Ensane). "We met a few years ago as co-workers at a local Piggly Wiggly, and instantly became friends after finding out we both had a passion for music," Two Three noted. Shortly afterward, the two formed a group called Simply

Talented.

Two Three expressed his ambitions with his lyrics:

"On the road to riches, but it couldn't come sooner, trying to make the money spread, spread like a rumor!

"You can see my swagger's bright. I'm hungry for success and I'm trying to lose my appetite!"

Young Ensane exerted confidence in his group's talent when he spit:

"Mind sharp on the beat like blade tips, you're looking at the sky while we fly high in spaceships!"

Courtney Slaughter, a songwriter and poetic lyricist, is a student at the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in Sports Medicine. She started writing poetry in middle school, citing, "I wrote how I felt." In high school she added hooks to her poems and turned them into songs. Her first performance was at the Mul-

tipurpose Center in Canton. She thinks the judges did a good job of picking the winners, noting, "The performers who won were going hard at it." She wants to be successful in the music industry, but admitted, "School is my top priority."

Courtney was holding her own during the competition when she sang:

"I'm on the rise no looking down, listen to my words and not just the sound.

"When we first met you use to make me laugh. One plus one equals two, but I guess you couldn't do the math."

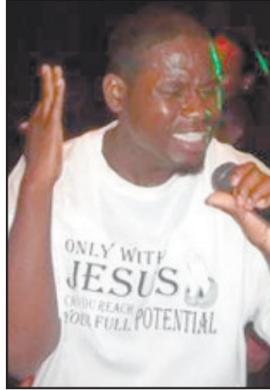
"MGT Entertainment is always looking for new talent," Bessie stated. Contact MGT by becoming friends with Bessie on Facebook/bessieclayborn. Call 601-291-6493 or visit them online at [www.msgottalentproductions.com](http://www.msgottalentproductions.com).



Chip



O. Jones



AMB



Courtney Slaughter



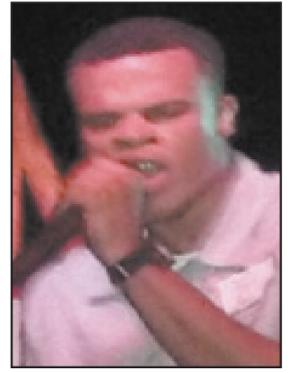
Corey Armstrong



Lisa Starr



Two Three



Sip the Kid



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