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BY VALERIE BUTLER, KHALEA UNDERWOOD, AND DANIELLE WRIGHT • UPDATED FEBRUARY 28, 2023



01 Mielle Organics Rosemary Mint Scalp & Hair Strengthening Oil

Strengthening Oil



Infused with biotin and rich nutrients, this tonic can be a hot-oil treatment for brittle, chemically treated strands or a scalp moisturizer when you have a protective style installed.

Available at [Mielle Organics](#)

\$10

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02 Sunday II Sunday Signature Scalp Balancing Scrub



The product line is dedicated to women who sweat so use this papaya extract and peppermint scrub after your most vigorous Pilates session.

Available at [Sunday II Sunday](#)

\$31

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03 Melanin Haircare Plumping Deep Conditioner



OG natural-hair vlogger Naptural85 (aka Whitney White) created Melanin Haircare based on her DIY hair routine. If her hyaluronic acid and pumpkin based formula gives us curls like hers, we want in!

Available at [Melanin Haircare](#)

\$32

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04 GHD Curve Thin Wand 0.5 Curling Wand

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04 GHD Curve Thin Wand 0.5 Curling Wand



Emphasize your Afro with GHD's newest, tiniest wand ideal for creating tight curls.

Available at [GHD](#)

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05 Dyson Airwrap Multi Styler Complete Long



Flawless blowouts, bombshell curls and everything in between: Dyson's latest creation gives the girls options.

Available at [Dyson](#)

\$600

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06 SheaMoisture Scalp Moisture Conditioner



Smooth and soften your hair by treating your scalp, with this aloe butter and vitamin B3 blend.

Available at [SheaMoisture](#)



...butter and vitamin B3 blend.

Available at [SheaMoisture](#)

\$14

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07 The Glam Room Chemotherapy Hair Repair Grease



This scalp-stimulating balm may be just the treatment you need.

Available at [The Glam Room](#)

\$40

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08 Tropic Isle Living 5N1 Loc Down Gel



Your locs, strands and protective styles will stay in place with this Jamaican black castor oil and aloe vera gel.

Available at [Tropic Isle](#)

\$15

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09 Briogeo Scalp Revival MegaStrength+ Dandruff Relief Shampoo Charcoal



Banish flakes once and for all with this salicylic and lactic acid powered formula.

Available at [Briogeo](#)

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10 Pattern Transition Mask



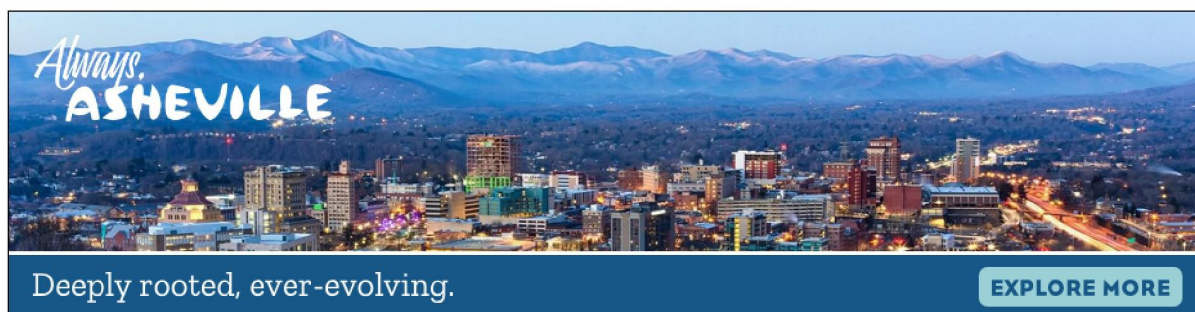
Growing out the last of your relaxed ends? Tracee Ellis Ross's latest creation is a must. Its white tea and manuka honey formula prevents breakage and balances moisture.

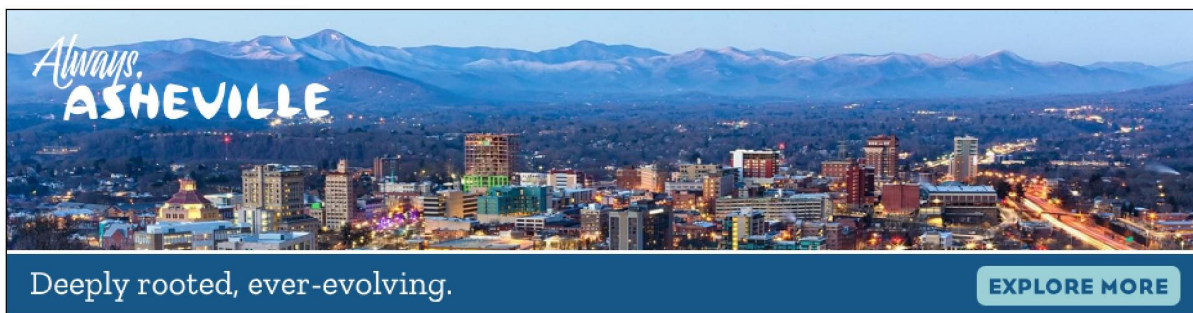
Available at [Pattern](#)

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STEPHAN PRUITT

BY NOEL CODY • UPDATED JANUARY 2, 2024



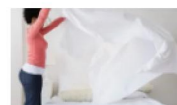
Step out for a new adventure with our guide to the best getaway ever in [Asheville, North Carolina](#). We'll show you some one-of-a-kind trails and tours plus some awesome eats and treats to satisfy everyone's appetite. So, what are you waiting for? Read on to get ready for your next journey.

Ask the Locals

Not sure where to begin? Why not ask an Asheville organization? [Pathways to Parks](#) is on a mission to motivate Americans of color to get outdoors and enjoy the benefits of nature in our national, state, and local parks, while helping to make it easy and accessible for them to do so. If you're looking to give back while you enjoy nature, [Asheville GreenWorks](#) is moving toward a greater future for the area by planting trees, protecting native



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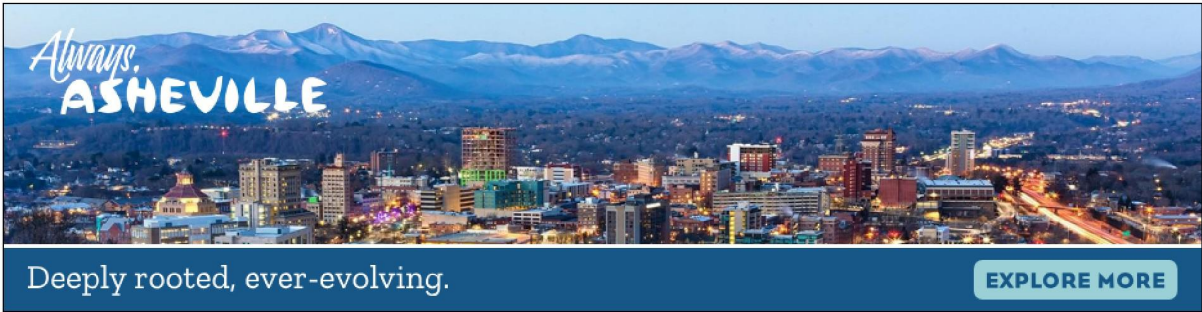


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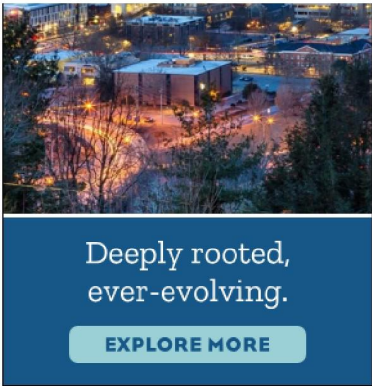


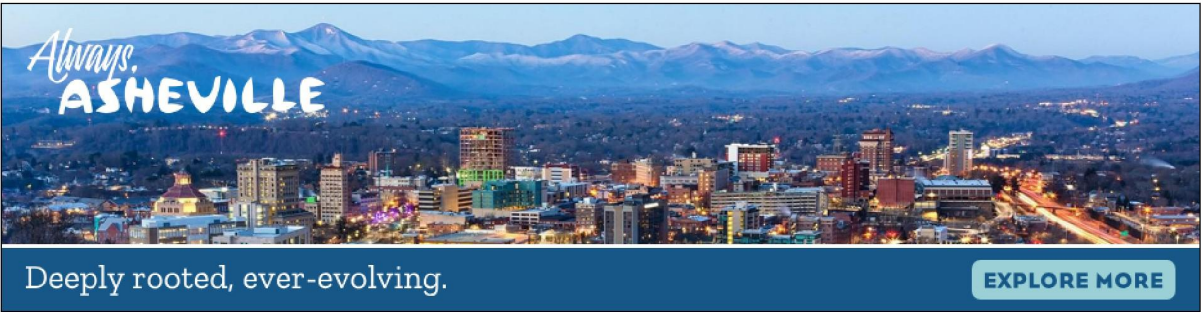


NATHANIEL FLOWERS

Must-Try Trails and Tours

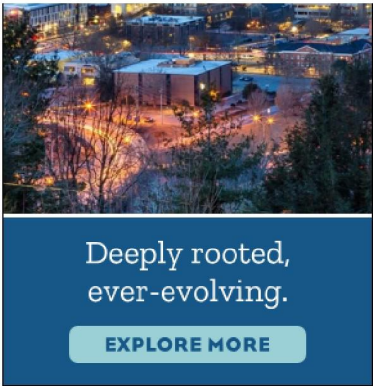
Why not start this vacation right in downtown with Asheville's **Black Cultural Heritage Trail**. It connects historic Black communities by spotlighting sites and stories ranging from well-known landmarks to unsung heroes. You can also take a **free, self-guided walking** tour of buildings crafted by master brick mason, James Vester Miller—he's responsible for many of this city's most remarkable historic buildings during its Golden Age of the late 19th century and early 20th century. Or you can explore the area's quirky and magical past on the **Asheville Urban Trail**—it follows a string of 30 sculptural trail stations while showcasing many of its larger-than-life historical characters.





Go Adventuring

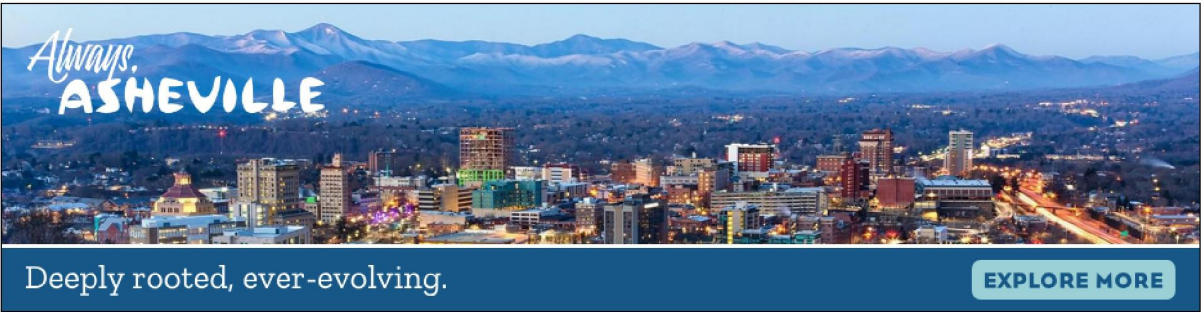
Start your day with a morning [Asheville Coffee Tour](#) where you'll sample brews from six shops made by local micro-roasters while you learn about coffee and even some of the city's history. You can also grab a cup at [Grind AVL](#), a Black-owned coffee shop in the [River Arts District](#). It's here that you can also find [Black Wall Street AVL](#). Now that you're fully caffeinated, hop on a [Hood Huggers Walking and Driving Tour](#) where the story of the resilience and ingenuity of Asheville's past, present, and future come to life. Then hit the ropes at [Cultivate Climbing](#), where you'll find a variety of bouldering terrain that's perfect to begin your climbing journey or hone your strong skills. And while you're there, meet up with the NC BIPOC Climbers!



EMILY CHAPLIN

Indulge A Little

Now that you've worked up an appetite, check out these awesome eateries. Savor family recipes at [Guajiro](#), where Cuban comfort food is king. Experience traditional Ethiopian cuisine served family style on gluten-free injera, with a large selection of vegetarian, and vegan options at [Addissae](#). Relax with a craft beer at [One World Brewery's two locations](#)—the



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WATCH: In My Feed - Oils For Extra-Long Hair

BY ESSENCE • UPDATED DECEMBER 21, 2023



Growing out your hair may feel like a years-long task. While everyone's hair grows at different speeds, trying out a new product may help further your hair growth journey. Take a look at some of these hair oils for long hair.

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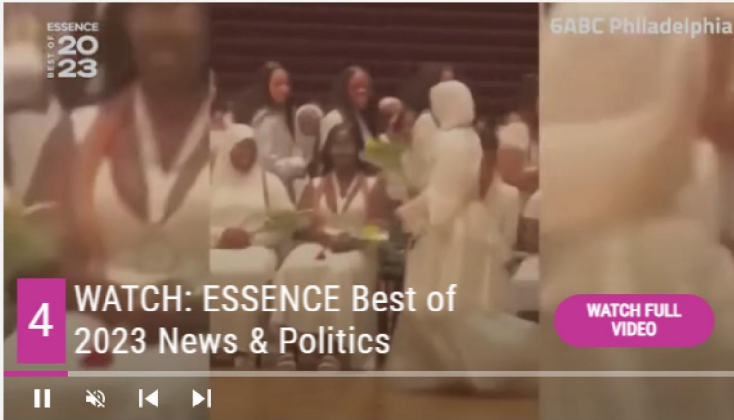


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7 Cool Gift Ideas For Plant Moms

WE CURATED A LIST FEATURING THE BEST GIFTS FOR PLANT LOVERS, INCLUDING WATERING ESSENTIALS, PLANTERS AND MORE.



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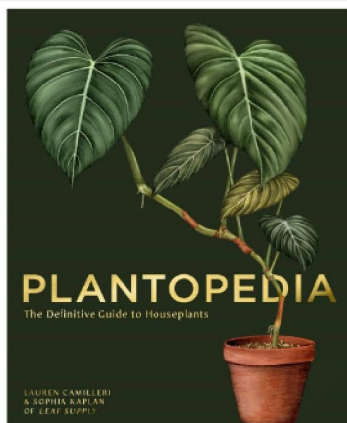
BY JENNIFER FORD • UPDATED DECEMBER 25, 2023



Plants aren't the only excellent gifts for those with a green thumb. We found amazing gifts for plant lovers that go beyond the usual suspects like succulents and peace lilies. From Terrain's [Galvanized Water Pail](#) that makes it easy to water all kinds of greenery to West Elm's decorative [Rattan Hanging Planters](#), our selection is thoughtfully tailored to delight the [plant enthusiasts](#) in your life.

And being the fashion obsessives we are, we couldn't curate this gift guide without throwing in stylish accessories. Below, find a chic pair of [leather gardening gloves](#) to shield hands from dirt and thorns, comfy [gardening clogs](#) you'll never want to take off and more practical gifts for plant lovers to indulge in.

01 Plantopedia: The Definitive Guide to Houseplants



Plantopedia: The Definitive Guide to Houseplants is a comprehensive guide for plant parenting that doubles as a stunning coffee table book.

Available at [Amazon](#)

\$30

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7 Time-Saving Cleaning Gadgets Every Busy Person Needs

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These planters offer a unique way to display plants and elevate home and office decor.

Available at [West Elm](#)

\$79

Originally \$99

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03 Terrain Galvanized Steel Watering Can

This watering can features a weighted spout that facilitates a gentle and precise flow of water, making the chore of watering plants a breeze.

Available at [Terrain](#)

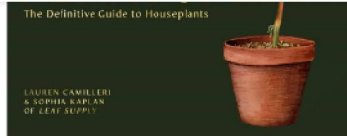
\$68

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Article continues after video.

04 L.L. Bean Gardening Gloves

These leather gloves will keep hands safe and comfortable while gardening, and make novices feel like a pro.



\$30

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02 Adobe Rattan Hanging Planters

Set of two



These planters offer a unique way to display plants and elevate home and office decor.

Available at [West Elm](#)

\$79

Originally \$99

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05 Up The Moment Plant Lady Hat



This hat says it all. Enough said.

Available at

\$

[SHOP NOW →](#)

06 Lordem LED Plant Light



If the plant lover in your life has a lot of indoor plants, consider gifting them grow lights to help their plants thrive in low-light conditions. This compact pick is perfect for desktops and tabletops.

Available at [Amazon](#)

\$23

[SHOP NOW →](#)

07 Hunter Garden Clogs

These clogs are a must-have for keeping feet dry and comfortable while tending to the garden.

Available at [Anthropologie](#)

\$35

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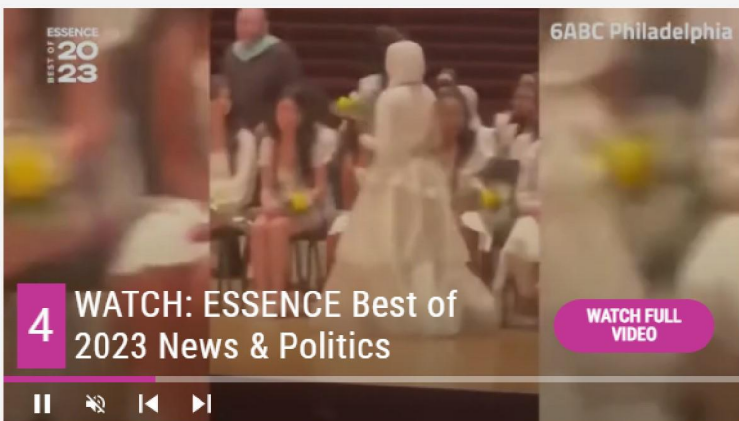
keeping feet dry and comfortable while tending to the garden.

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HOME • LIFESTYLE

Porsha Williams And Her Blended Family Celebrated Pilar's 4th Birthday With A Getaway To Costa Rica

THE GUOBADIA'S CELEBRATION INCLUDED FIREWORKS AT THEIR VACATION HOUSE, AN OBSTACLE COURSE, COOKOUT AND LOTS MORE FUN FOR THE FAMILY.



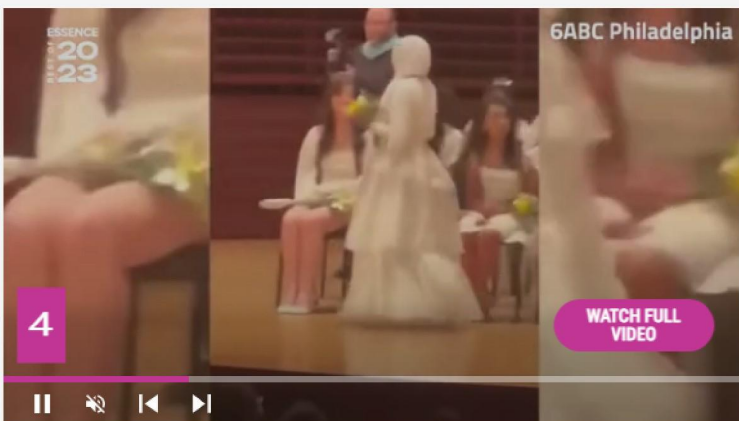
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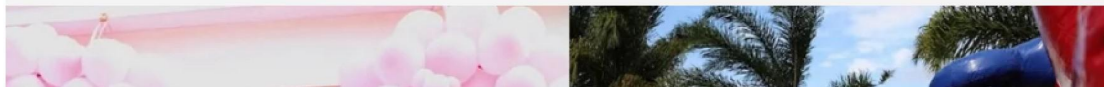
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THE GUOBADIA'S CELEBRATION INCLUDED FIREWORKS AT THEIR VACATION HOUSE, AN OBSTACLE COURSE, COOKOUT AND LOTS MORE FUN FOR THE FAMILY.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Porsha Guobadia (@porsha4real)

The video reel captures moments of Porsha's **bonus daughter** picking her up and spinning her around, birthday girl Pilar getting ready to hit her pinata, and the kids having fun on a water slide.

In a subsequent post, the former *Real Housewives of Atlanta* star shared a series of images and videos. One of the images is a candid family photo.

"Creating beautiful memories ❤️📍 #Family1st #TheGuobadias cr 🌴 "Oh yeah and yes my wig slid right off under water 😂👊," she captioned the image.

[View this post on Instagram](#)

[view this post on instagram](#)

Article continues after video.

Simon and Porsha **got married in November 2022** and had multiple celebrations, including a lavish Nigerian wedding. They both bring children from previous relationships to the marriage. Simon has five children from two previous marriages, while Porsha has Pilar with her ex, Dennis McKinley.

Porsha and Simon had a controversial start to their relationship, which they went public with in the summer of 2021. They allegedly began dating shortly after Simon split from his ex wife, Falynn Pina, who was also a cast member for a short time on *Real Housewives of Atlanta*. One month after dating, **they got engaged**. However, fans questioned the timeline of their relationship and accused The Pampered by Porsha star of dating the entrepreneur before he was legally divorced and available.

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Simon debunked these claims in an Instagram post, offering to pay anyone who could prove those allegations.

"If anyone can show credible receipts that I cheated on my ex-wife between 6/14/2019 (date of marriage) and 1/15/2021 (date of initial divorce

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"If anyone can show credible receipts that I cheated on my ex-wife between 6/14/2019 (date of marriage) and 1/15/2021 (date of initial divorce filing), I have \$50,000 waiting for you," he wrote in a caption during that time.

Despite all the chatter, the two are seemingly happy and make the blended family thing look like a breeze.

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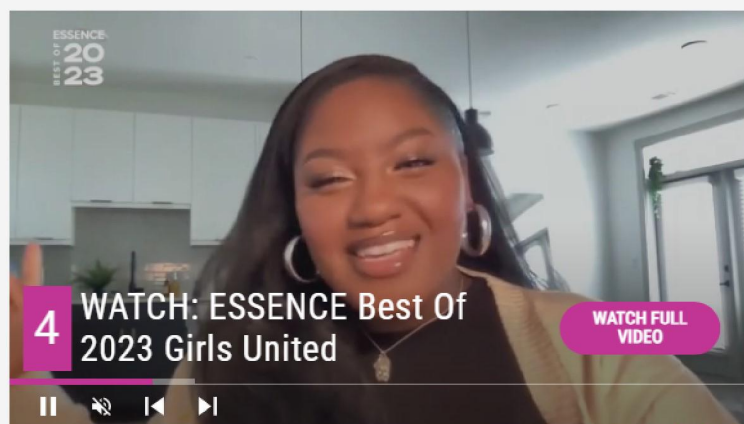


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HOME • LIFESTYLE

Chance The Rapper Is Getting Criticized For Dancing On Women Who Aren't His Wife At Jamaica's Carnival

THE JUKE MASTER'S MOVES, CAPTURED ON CAMERA DURING THE CELEBRATION, HAVE CREATED A DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HIS FUN WAS INAPPROPRIATE AS A MARRIED MAN.



MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY IMAGES

BY VICTORIA UWUMAROGIE • UPDATED APRIL 18, 2023



"Hey babe, if I went to **Carnival** in the **Caribbean** and danced on another man, would you be upset? It's what people do at Carnival," I asked my husband.

"Hell yeah!" he said in response. Nothing more nothing less.

That was the length of the conversation I had with my husband this morning after catching wind of all the fuss being made over **Chance the Rapper's** birthday trip to **Jamaica** for Carnival. I won't bog you down with details in words, but just leave you simply with the videos that have people debating if the **married MC** was doing too much or simply having harmless fun.

Hey man, @chancetherapper was LIVEEE 🤩🤩 x @xoduscarnival

📱 / @melaxgoddess #JamaicaCarnival #CarnivalInJamaica2023 JM
#JamaicaCarnival2023

INSTAGRAM <https://t.co/8lEfQwJmXo> pic.twitter.com/AqJfW3mNJa

— LUCY AND VAGABOND JM (@LucyAndVagabond) April 17, 2023

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Don't bring that European nonsense to this ethnic household and let that man enjoy Caribbean culture pic.twitter.com/9fOjCoD7y

—  Chynese Laundry  (@chynnadotcom) April 17, 2023

There have been a variety of responses to these clips, from some saying people need to let him have his fun because this is what Carnival is all about, to others saying that if it were his wife, [Kirsten](#), engaging in such antics, it would be an issue. You can check out those varying opinions below.

Everybody talking about chance the rapper "just dancing" with the woman but let it be his wife being caught and she'd be crucified lol

— Paige (@impaigelizabeth) April 18, 2023

My whole gripe with this Chance The Rapper situations. Don't make your wife the target for embarrassment. Cause y'all know people will turn this back on her for some odd reason. I already see comments on her looks and he was the one dancing. pic.twitter.com/HMb9iZqg2r

— BENSEELAGGAS!! (@Na_Natasha_) April 18, 2023

Amaricans refusing to understand cultures outside of America will never not be funny to me because how tf are they saying Chance The Rapper is cheating on his wife at a Carnival pic.twitter.com/sENX9vXbrk

— Sanade (@Sw33tSanade) April 17, 2023

Yall acting like Chance the Rapper on the Miami strip This man is in Jamaica at Carnival ... bffr yall 🤔 let that man have fun 😊

— Lil Egg    (@LilTokeyo) April 18, 2023

I'm operating under the assumption that if his wife, Kirsten, knew he was going to Jamaica for Carnival for his birthday of all celebratory events, then she was likely aware that there was a possibility he would dance with other



I'm operating under the assumption that if his wife, Kirsten, knew he was going to Jamaica for Carnival for his birthday of all celebratory events, then she was likely aware that there was a possibility he would dance with other women, and do so in this manner. And dancing is not sex, it's not exchanging numbers, it's not sharing a kiss. It's sharing space and enjoying music together.

Is it *completely* harmless though? I think in situations like this, where his dance moves were captured on video and involved some unnecessary touching (the booty slap was a bit much Mr. Bennett, and the face of the woman dancing on him seems to say that), he might want to reel it in a little bit. People in relationships should know that for the sake of your partner, the last thing you want is something that puts unnecessary attention on them because you wanted to let loose and have fun. And as a public figure, he knew that cameras would be on him. I've already seen some distasteful, disappointing tweets about Kirsten's looks in response to these clips, as though people's useless opinions about her beauty offer a good reason for him to dance on other women in whatever way he likes.

And it's also important to know what you yourself would be ok with. Just as my husband wouldn't be too keen on me backing it up at anybody's Carnival on another man, I wouldn't want to see video of him being danced on by another woman, in a revealing costume or fully covered for that matter. Go have fun, eat good and dance, but keep it cute, sir.

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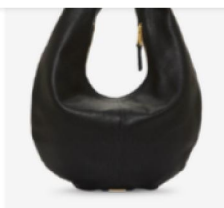
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Oversized Leather Tote[SHOP NOW](#)

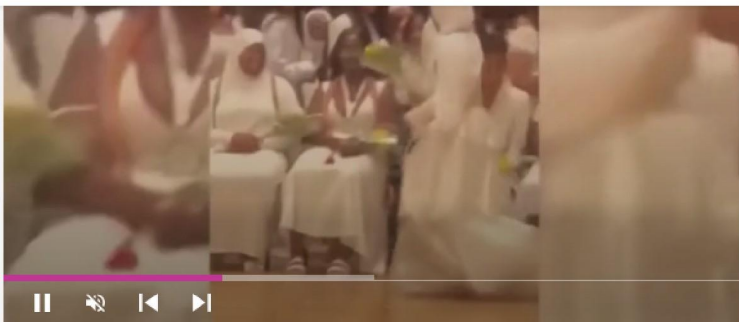
And while many men are calling Chance's dancing nothing but innocent fun, one has to wonder if they'd say the same about their girlfriends and wives or if they'd be giving them a hard time for dancing freely on another fella. Know yourself *and* your partner for that matter.

And for the record, I don't think the questions about his conduct in these clips is about trying to disrespect anyone's "culture." We get that this kind of fun is the norm for Carnival celebrations in the Caribbean. It's also common dancing in Chicago, where Chance is from (jukiing was a favorite pastime of mine growing up in the South Suburbs). This type of dancing on its own isn't inappropriate, as some pegged it in "mainstream" publications. But what I think the conversations are really about is, as a married man who has gone out his way to celebrate the institution of marriage in his music (see the inspiration for his *The Big Day* album), it is interesting to allow yourself to be documented letting women who aren't your wife back it up on you. Now, does anyone think he actually took things any further with women at the event? No. Still, it does create an interesting debate about what people should and shouldn't expect from their partners in situations like these.

Hopefully the clip won't cause any issues for the star, husband and father of two. In reality, he does look like he was just having fun with his friends and being hyped up by them in those moments, which lasted a few seconds. If Kirsten was cool with it, then the rest of us should be, too. But if she's not, well...then it's a testament to the importance of keeping some of your fun off of Beyonce's Internet — lest you become a trending topic for reasons you don't want nor need.

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'P-Valley' Star Brandee Evans Was Her Goddaughter's Date To Prom: 'I Had To Make Sure I Made This Happen For Her'

THE ACTRESS AND HER VILLAGE HELPED MAKE PROM AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT FOR HER GODDAUGHTER.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Nyla Symone: The Certified Vibe

BY ELIZABETH AYOOLA • UPDATED APRIL 19, 2023



Actress **Brandee Evans** did what needed to be done as a **godmother** over the weekend. The actress and dancer accompanied her goddaughter, Jalynn, to **prom**, honoring her request to be the teen’s plus-one.

“My God baby asked me to be her chaperone/plus 1 for the prom,” the **P-Valley** star wrote in an Instagram caption. The caption is under a photograph of the two beautiful ladies holding hands and posing in black gowns.

“She doesn’t ask me for much. Actually, she really never asks for anything. So, I had to make sure I made this happen for her,” the caption continued. Celebs like **Keshia Knight Pulliam** and Kid Fury showed love on the picture, commenting hearts and love struck emojis.

Evans continued, “❤️❤️She wanted a ‘CLASSY’ theme. (Yes, she chose CLASSY 🍷🍷) That’s my baby girl y’all! 🍷🍷”

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She wanted a “CLASSY” theme. (Yes, she chose CLASSY 🍷🍷) That’s my baby girl y’all! 🍷🍷 pic.twitter.com/SqMi4fluzF5

— Brandee (@Therealbrandee) April 15, 2023

The godmother also thanked the glam team who got the two of them dolled up, which comprised nails, makeup, hair and styling.

“Thank you to everyone that made this day so special for her! Believe me... It took a village! #IYKYK 🙌” the 37-year-old star concluded.

The actress is known to put family first as she’s a proud caretaker of her



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It took a village! #IYKYK 🤗" the 37-year-old star concluded.

The actress is known to put family first as she's a proud caretaker of her mother, Diana Harrington. Her mom has lived with multiple sclerosis for the past 20 years and was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

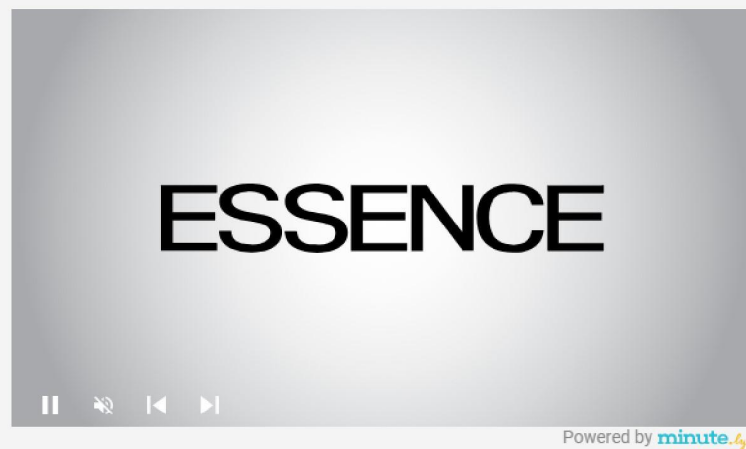
In a 2021 [interview with ESSENCE](#), Evans talks about what a privilege it is to be in that position and how her rise to fame on the hit Starz series has afforded her the resources to do so more efficiently.

"I truly believe in what the Bible says about honoring your parents. You only get one mom," she said. "Even with *P-Valley*, I had a toxic relationship with my mom growing up, but that forgiveness for us has come. I forgave her. She's forgiven me. So I'm sitting in the gratitude of being able to have her with me, in whatever capacity she's in, in this space."

"Truly, my biggest thing is to be able to (take) care of my mom and just live my dreams," she added at the time. "I'm really doing what I want to do with my life and I'm so thankful to Katori Hall and Starz."

It is indeed a blessing to be capable of caring for your family be it as a caregiver to your mom or plus-one for your goddaughter for prom.

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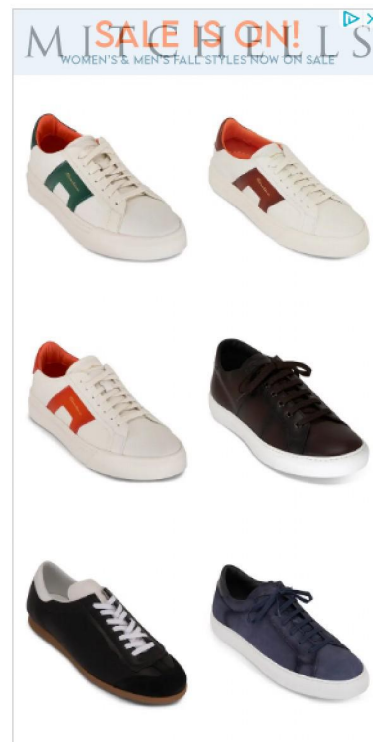


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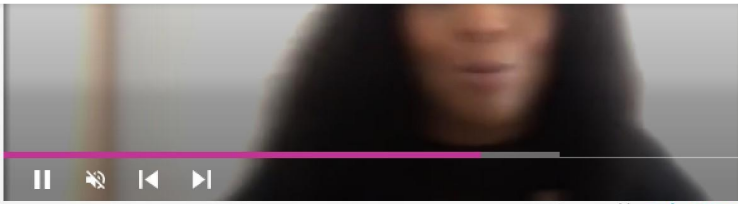
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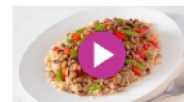
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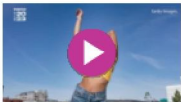
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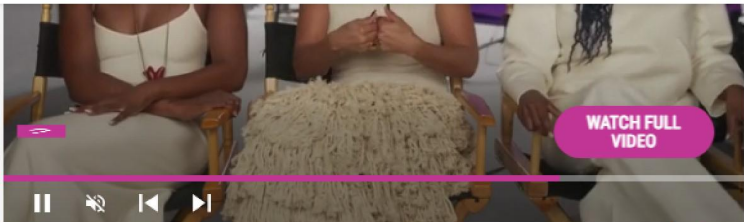
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