

NEWS

# Black Music Industry Icon Reveals How He Helped the Careers of Prince, Quincy Jones & Many Others

Nationwide — In his new memoir entitled *A Golden Past -And- A Platinum Future*, author Teddy Astin reveals his monumental journey from being a 6-year-old paperboy to the warehouse of Warner Brothers Records. Eventually, he became a supervisor of the mailroom in Atlanta and then later was hired in the company’s boardroom in Burbank, California as an award-winning record promotion executive.

With an impressive work ethic and a creative approach to the music industry, he enhanced the record sales of some of the world’s most popular artists across multiple genres. In fact, he has worked with the likes of Prince, Morris Day & The Time, Vanity 6, Sheila E, Zapp featuring Roger to Madonna, Quincy Jones, Miles Davis, Tevin Campbell, James Ingram, Patti Austin, Bob Marley, Sly Stone, Larry Graham, Donna Summer, Sylvester, Chaka Khan, Ashford & Simpson, George Clinton, The Funkadelics, Bootsy’s Rubber Band, Rod Stewart, Ice-T, Biz Markie, Big Daddy Kane, Michael McDonald, Al B. Sure!, Karyn White, George Benson, Earl Klugh, Bob James, Foreplay (featuring Bob James, Lee Ritenour, Nathan East & Harvey Mason), Al Jarreau, David Sanborn, The Isley Brothers, Joe Sample, Rose Royce, Frankie Beverly, Jennifer Holiday, Keith Washington, Atlantic Starr, Jasmine Guy, The Force M. D. S, Club Nouveau, Tom Tom Club, and many others.

Teddy has received over 50 Gold & Platinum albums in recognition of his contributions to their career success. (Gold [sales over 500,000], Platinum [sales over 1,000,000], Multi-Platinum [1,000,000+] Records & Dimond Sales

10,000,000+). Additionally, each artist has received nominations and awards from the NAACP Image Awards, BET, MTV, Soul Train Awards, American Music Awards, Tony Awards, Billboard Music Awards, and Grammys Awards. Some have even been inducted into the esteemed Rhythm and Blues and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

His book, *A Golden Past -And- A Platinum Future*, symbolically describes the journey from his milestone music industry achievements including WBR’s Promotion Person of the Year, 5-Times & MVP. Recently, Teddy was inducted into The National Black Radio Hall of Fame (NBRHOF) for the incredible promotions he’s done with radio stations all over the USA, along with countless other awards and accolades to mention here. However, they are all listed in the book.

Teddy shares the stardust of his exciting two-decade music industry ride with readers and includes an impressive collection of archival photos with artists with whom he created close bonds and special relationships. A highlight is his account of taking a young, unknown artist known as Prince on his first promotional tour, and the rest is history.

Teddy also documents his subsequent entertainment ventures over the years, including operating one of Atlanta’s top live music clubs in Underground Atlanta, “Teddy’s Live”. Pioneering new

revenue sources for urban radio through Non-Traditional Revenue (N.T.R.) and his current work as at TLA Real Estate Consulting, focusing on preserving homeownership and generational wealth in communities.



Teddy recently received The Presidential Volunteer Service Award, From President Joe Biden. Teddy has long been a champion of his Atlanta hometown and worked consistently to create a mutually productive bridge between the city and the music industry. He was also commissioned by Mayor Maynard Jackson to play a key role in creating initiatives resulting in Atlanta becoming the Entertainment Mecca for Film & Music industry as it is today, particularly as a precursor for Tyler Perry’s studios and a prime location for other prominent filmmakers, Record Companies, Producers & Recording Artist.

Teddy also includes his encounters with or personal takes on other key figures from the city’s past, present, and future, including former President Jimmy Carter, who officially designated June as Black Music Month at a White



House event Teddy attended; media mogul Ted Turner; baseball icon Hank Aaron; and voting rights activist Stacey Abrams. He also cites Clifford (T.I.) Harris, Mike (Killer Mike) Render, and Rick Ross, who are among the new breed of hip-hop artists who are making a difference as leaders and entrepreneurs in the Atlanta community.

Whether you want to know how records become hits or get behind-the-scenes stories about your favorite hit-makers or learn about the little-known industry and Atlanta’s Music & Film history, Teddy Astin’s book is an entertaining, informative, and inspiring read.

Teddy says that his book is the beginning of something really big. He comments, “It’s the kind of book that documentaries and movies are made of.”

# 11-Year Old Business Mogul, Published Author Takes Writing Talents to TV With New Sitcom “Nick’s House”

Nationwide — Checking off titles ranging from global nonprofit owner to best-selling published author at just age 11, Nicholas Buamah recently channeled his knack and superpowers for writing, but in a much different way. He’s adding “Nick’s House” TV show creator, writer, and executive producer to his broad array of booming talents.

Nicholas may be the mastermind behind his new show “Nick’s House,” but he’s certainly not alone in bringing the sitcom to life. Award-winning TV veterans, like LaMont Ferrell and Reshaun Jones, are also helping him turn his dreams into a reality.

Directed and co-written by award-winning Hollywood producer Ferrel, “Nick’s House” is centered around Nicholas and his two friends, Janae Madison, and Cavanaugh Bell as they run a successful consulting firm assisting other young moguls out of Nicholas’s parents’ home. In production and set to debut in 2022, the show features well-known comedian, Boogie B. Montrell, as Buamah’s



immature uncle who moves into the family home to help care for Nicholas while his parents are away on business. Nicholas’ adventurous and entrepreneurial-minded friends, who live nearby, visit frequently, adding to the fun chaos.

Ferrel – who has been recognized for his production work for renowned shows such as “Girlfriend’s,” “Moe-

sha,” “The Office” and “Tyler Perry’s House of Payne” – will work alongside Buamah and the show’s associate producer Toiya Tillman, co-writer Reshaun Jones, and producer Gia Compton.

Nicholas and his powerhouse team are in the process of pitching the show to mainstream TV networks.

He has garnered many accolades

to be proud of, one being honored by EGOT alumni, Whoopi Goldberg for Black History Month. He has also obtained global media attention for his nonprofit business savvy and philanthropic work at such a young age.

From donating school supplies to children through his nonprofit Books Without Borders Inc. to rendering health insurance services to over 1,500 Ghanaian children through the NHIS, Buamah has ignited an international presence and footprint in Ghana. Nicholas was recently named as ambassador to the Opemsuo Kid Radio Show for the Manhyia Palace Media in Kumasi, Ghana.

In case you missed it, Nicholas broke news headlines amid his memorable appearance on “The Steve Harvey Show,” where the show’s host purchased 555 books – for Nicholas’ nonprofit – to send to Ghana. He is the author of three children’s books, “Kayla & Kyle: The Walking Dictionaries” series and the holiday-themed book, “Is Santa Really Real?”

# Elon Musk’s Plans for Twitter Could Make Its Misinformation Problems Worse

By Anjana Susarla  
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Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, acquired Twitter in a US\$44 billion deal on April 25, 2022, 11 days after announcing his bid for the company. Twitter announced that the public company will become privately held after the acquisition is complete.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission for his initial bid for the company, Musk stated, “I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy.”

As a researcher of social media platforms, I find that Musk’s ownership of Twitter and his stated reasons for buying the company raise important issues. Those issues stem from the nature of the social media platform and what sets it apart from others.

What makes Twitter unique

Twitter occupies a unique niche. Its short chunks of text and threading foster real-time conversations among thousands of people, which makes it popular with celebrities, media personalities and politicians alike.

Social media analysts talk about the half-life of content on a platform, meaning the time it takes for a piece of content to reach 50% of its total lifetime engagement, usually measured in number of views or popularity based metrics. The

average half life of a tweet is about 20 minutes, compared to five hours for Facebook posts, 20 hours for Instagram posts, 24 hours for LinkedIn posts and 20 days for YouTube videos. The much shorter half life illustrates the central role Twitter has come to occupy in driving real-time conversations as events unfold.

Twitter’s ability to shape real-time discourse, as well as the ease with which data, including geo-tagged data, can be gathered from Twitter has made it a gold mine for researchers to analyze a variety of societal phenomena, ranging from public health to politics. Twitter data has been used to predict asthma-related emergency department visits, measure public epidemic awareness, and model wildfire smoke dispersion.

Tweets that are part of a conversation are shown in chronological order, and, even though much of a tweet’s engagement is frontloaded, the Twitter archive provides instant and complete access to every public Tweet. This positions Twitter as a historical chronicler of record and a de facto fact checker.

Changes on Musk’s mind

A crucial issue is how Musk’s ownership of Twitter, and private control of social media platforms generally, affect the broader public well-being. In a series of deleted tweets, Musk made several suggestions about how to change Twitter, including adding an edit button for tweets and granting automatic verification marks to premium users.

There is no experimental evidence

about how an edit button would change information transmission on Twitter. However, it’s possible to extrapolate from previous research that analyzed deleted tweets.

There are numerous ways to retrieve deleted tweets, which allows researchers to study them. While some studies show significant personality differences between users who delete their tweets and those who don’t, these findings suggest that deleting tweets is a way for people to manage their online identities.

Analyzing deleting behavior can also yield valuable clues about online credibility and disinformation. Similarly, if Twitter adds an edit button, analyzing the patterns of editing behavior could provide insights into Twitter users’ motivations and how they present themselves.

Studies of bot-generated activity on Twitter have concluded that nearly half of accounts tweeting about COVID-19 are likely bots. Given partisanship and political polarization in online spaces, allowing users – whether they are automated bots or actual people – the option to edit their tweets could become another weapon in the disinformation arsenal used by bots



Elon Musk’s moment of triumph is a moment of uncertainty for the future of one of the world’s leading social media platforms.  
AP Photo/John Raoux

and propagandists. Editing tweets could allow users to selectively distort what they said, or deny making inflammatory remarks, which could complicate efforts to trace misinformation.

Musk has also indicated his intention to combat twitter bots, or automated accounts that post rapidly and repeatedly in the guise of people. He has called for authenticating users as real human beings.

Given challenges such as doxxing and other malicious personal harms online, it’s important for user authentication methods to preserve privacy. This is particularly important for activists, dissidents and whistleblowers who face threats for their online activities. Mechanisms such as decentralized protocols can enable authentication without sacrificing anonym-