



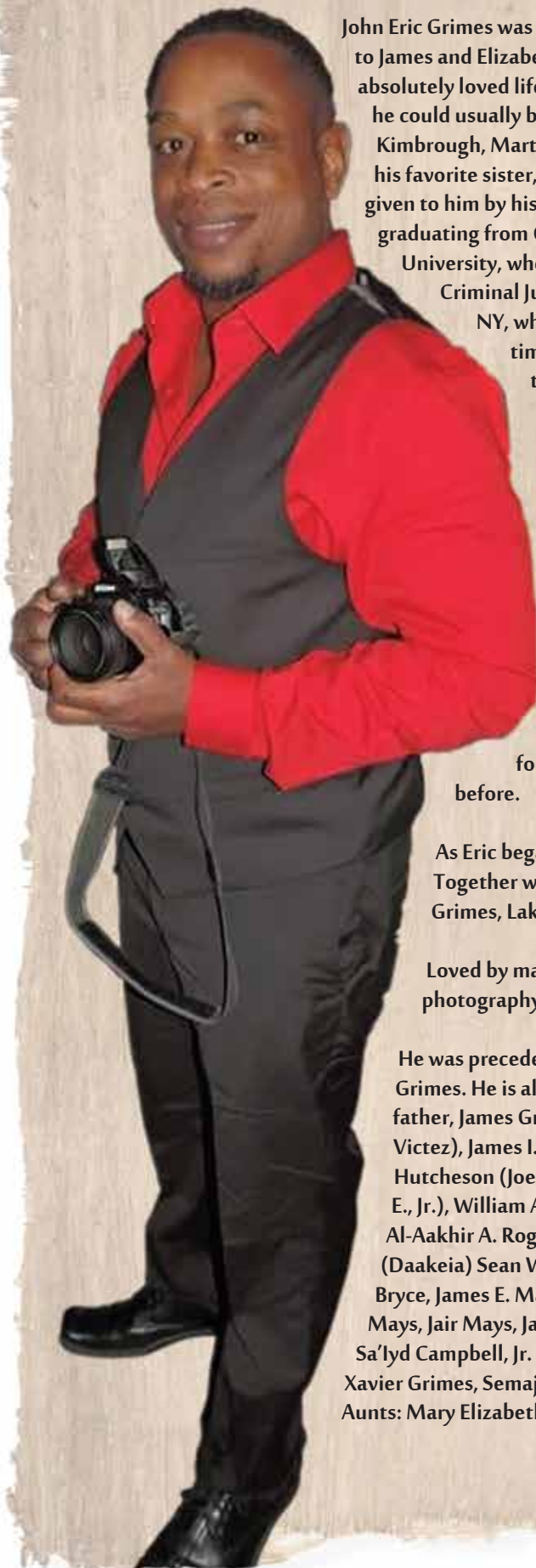
Celebrating the Life of

John Eric Grimes

November 25, 1968 - September 1, 2018

"The righteous way to go, the little one would know, or believe it I told them so. You're second to none. The love of all mankind, should reflect some sign of these words we try to recite, they're close, but not quite. Almost impossible to do, reciting the makings of you." Song: The Makings of You by Curtis Mayfield

Obituary



John Eric Grimes was born on November 25, 1968 at Beth Israel Hospital in New York, NY, to James and Elizabeth Grimes. He was the last child to whom Elizabeth gave birth. Eric absolutely loved life and lived it as though he would forever be young. As a youngster, he could usually be found with his best boys, Richard Toney, Kevin Willis, James Kimbrough, Martin C. Rogers, Earl Thompson, John "JonJon" Thomas, Scott Lynch, and his favorite sister, "Naffy", hanging right there with him. Unbeknownst to Eric, a gift given to him by his sister, Ev, would ultimately manifest for him professionally. After graduating from Cardoza H.S. in Bayside, NY in 1986, he attended Fort Valley State University, where he graduated (the first in the Grimes family) with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice in 1990. Following graduation, Eric returned to Hollis Queens, NY, where he taught Junior High School as a substitute teacher. During this time, he was an Assistant Coach for the Pee-wee Football Team, where they were champions most of the time, alongside two of his best friends, Eric S. Barnett, and Pierce Victor (PV) Hanson. He eventually was offered a permanent position as a teacher at IS 192, and would later be offered the position of Dean at the same school.

Following a severe car accident in 1993, involving his mother, Elizabeth, Eric returned to Riverdale, GA, where he resumed teaching in the Metro-Atlanta Public School System. When he left teaching, Eric worked seven years as a Family Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services. In 2000, his love for photography ultimately manifested and he began his newfound freedom as a photographer. Photography was his destiny, and he once confided to his sister that his knack for photography was born from the Kodak camera she gifted him years before.

As Eric began his professional life in Photography, he also started a family. Together with Latrece Thomas, they raised four wonderful children: Daquan K. Grimes, Lakeisha Thomas, Laniese Grimes, and Eric Latrell Grimes.

Loved by many, Eric's interests of hip-hop music, cooking, and most of all, photography, was often shared with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Grimes, his sister, Tomika M. Grimes. He is also survived by a host of loving family members that include his father, James Grimes, Sr.; his siblings: Wallace Grimes, Ev L. Thomas (Granarldo Victez), James I. Grimes, Jr., Cynthia Hooker (Lawrence), Jacquelyn Fuller, Demetra Hutcheson (Joe), and Kenneth M. Grimes; nieces and nephews: Kai A. Mays (James E., Jr.), William A. Rogers (Shemika), James Love Grimes, Dalia I. Bullock, Dr. Al-Aakhir A. Rogers (Diana), Tashera Hutcheson (Michael), Sa'lyd Campbell (Daakeia) Sean Watford, and Kaimel Grimes; his great nieces and nephews: Kailia A. Bryce, James E. Mays III, Khalil J. Mays, Sri K. Mays, Kiari I. Mays, Latif Mays, Amirah S. Mays, Jair Mays, Jahlil Allen, Jillian Allen, Millionaire Allen, Gia and Maya Hutcheson, Sa'lyd Campbell, Jr. and Kaleyia Campbell, Cambrea Rogers and William A. Rogers, Jr., Xavier Grimes, Semaj Grimes, and James Jionni Grimes, Ariel Rogers and Asa Rogers; two Aunts: Mary Elizabeth Milton and Deborah J. Santiago (Ernesto).

Remembrances

"I will never forget the moment when my sister, KL Carson, informed me my photographer was gone. Mr. J Eric Grimes, I will never forget the great person you were. Your work was amazing and I believe you were one of the world's greatest. He did 3 of my photo shoots and the last shoot was published in THE LUXE PLUS magazine. I will never forget you Mr. Eric, my Photographer. RIP--Gone But Not Forgotten." *Sabrina McGaster, Anointed Hair Designer*

"Rest in peace J Eric Grimes, aka 8 Ball. You will be missed my comrade. May God continue to watch over and protect your family." *Kenny Anderson*

"He was always down for anything. He was more than my friend ... he was my brother." *Jazmin, Model*

"Just saw that one of my photography family has passed. J Eric Grimes was one of the first people I met that did photography when I got off Active Duty. He will truly be missed." *Rodney Lewis, Photographer*

"Words can't even describe how much you will be missed my dear friend. So many funny moments we shared. I'm so saddened by your passing away but yet understanding that you will be in no more pain. You were loved by many and your pictures will live on forever and ever! Rest in peace E, Love ya' and will miss you much!" *Drea Marie, Model*

"As soon as we are born, we clock starts to count down. We are connected to everyone and thing, we become important part of other people as do they. We go thru life building, tearing down, changing and moving. We become family, father, mother, brother, uncle, sister, aunt, child, grandparents and help shape and inspire those around. My heart is heavy. RIP J Eric Grimes. Thanks for the positive things and love you brought to my life." *Marlon Sheard, Photographer*

"Saw this old picture of me, Cedric Clarington, and Michael Felder, and began reminiscing. Thinking about friends, and what it means to be a friend. One day I hope I measure up. 'Til then, I'll keep trying. I love u man...8ball. Friends forever!" *Randy Stokeling*

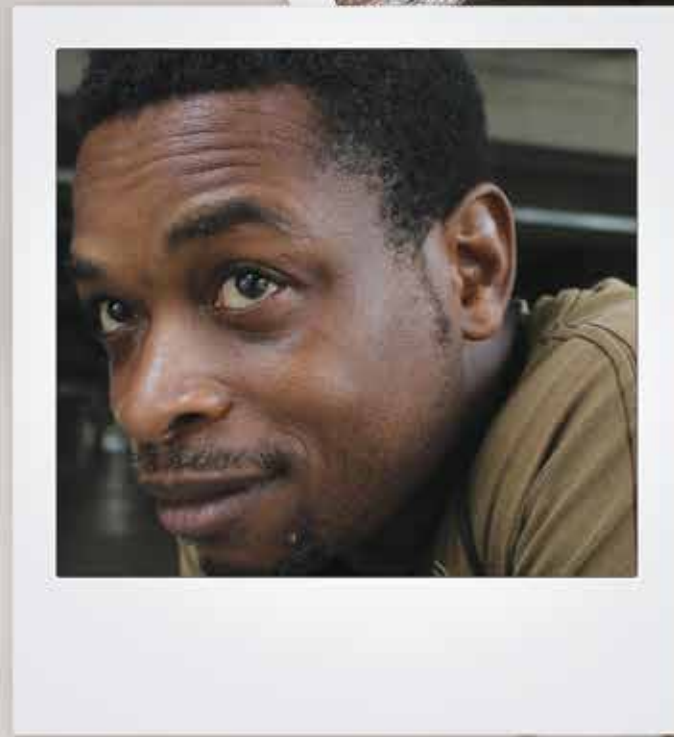
"This man right here! The first to friend me when I moved to ATL! We met through model mayhem and grew together! We shared McDonalds 2 for 2 together and kept it pushing! Eric got me my FIRST published makeup spread! Eric had me working all hours of the night, deep in mosquito infested forests and anything he could imagine to get the perfect shot. I would complain but follow his lead. I knew he believed in my work! His work ethic and belief in his craft made me feel 'lazy' and ungrateful for my own...And I needed that to push! He was also the ONLY man to come to me for makeup for an event, knowing I was professionally trained on male makeup. Truly a class act! I admired him. I'll forever be grateful to God for allowing me to meet, work and confide in you J. Eric Grimes. Rest Easy my lens partner." *Tanishia Savage, Make-up Artist*

The last time I saw Eric, I teased him about how much he loved his logo that I designed for JEG Photography. And he said to me, "Yes, I loooooovveeeee my logo!" It made me feel good to know something I did so long ago, mattered to him still. We laughed and shared Uber side hustle stories. I miss him already. *Cheryl Henry, Friend*

Eric called me and said, 'Sis; my nose is bleeding again. I'm fatigued, eyes still yellowish, and I have not been able to eat.' I told him to go to E.R. right away because they need to re-admit you. Eric said, 'Sis, I still don't have any insurance yet. I told him when they ask for insurance, tell them to charge it to your innergent care account, but get to E.R. now. He said, 'Okay, I'm going back today.' I told him no, you're going now, unless you want me to call your 'Big Sister!' I called Ev 3 hours later to verify he was there...sho nuff, he was there, and they kept him. He loved and respected his 'Big Sister', and was probably a little scared too...like the rest of us!!! *Deborah Jenkins, Cancer Advocate, Changing Lanes Foundation*

"As I walk these streets
I wonder if anyone actually sees me.
An ol' playa like me
can be taken for granted so easily.
But I refuse to be
put out to pasture amidst the
chuckles...and the laughter.
I'm still shooting for the stage.
Except now, I'm not leaving 'til I get
what I came here after...
... Your likeness
Classically captured."

J. Eric Grimes



Order of Service

Friday, September 14, 2018
11:00 am

Musical Prelude

Processional Forever Young

Reading of Scripture
Old Testament: Isaiah 12:2-5 NLT

Reading of Scripture
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT

Prayer of Comfort James Grimes, Jr.

Celebration in Song Suai - His Eye Is On the Sparrow

Reflections of Love Family and Friends

Celebration in Song Will Craig

Words of Comfort (Eulogy) Dr. Al-Aakhir A. Rogers

Acknowledgements

Recessional

Murray Brothers Funeral Home
1199 Utoy Springs Road, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30331



"Eric showed me I could be something special. He allowed me to see myself through his eyes when I needed to learn what self-esteem was when we were kids. He showed me value in education by leading the way, being the first of my friends to earn a college degree. His heart is huge in my memory of him, and I miss him already." *Martin C. Rogers, Friend for Life*

"I remember E and I used to make go-carts out of shopping carts and bike brakes. We had the flyest ones. We even had carpet in ours that we found in the trash. We kept messing up our sneakers when we stopped, so E came up with adding the bicycle brakes to the cart. Son was way ahead of his time." *John "JonJon" Thomas, Friend for Life*

"I remember whenever he was about to say something to me, he would either say, Yo' ESB, or Yo' Rm, (short for Roommate). We called him Eightball because he was outlandish and unbridled. I remember his smile and mannerisms, and how we loved to laugh and crack jokes." *Eric S. Barnett, Friend for Life*

"I'm shootin'!" *Votte Hall, Recording Artist*

"I knew Eric as a talented photographer who was always willing to lend a helpful hand. I remember when I couldn't do the scheduled interview, so his sister called and asked him to accompany her to take photos of a live interview with Artist, Donnell Jones, for my online music blog, The Write Track. He didn't hesitate to go with her and both the audio interview and photos resulted in a successful story." *L. Chelsea Greenwood, Friend*

"The strong shall survive. Rest on my brother." *Latoya Walthour McNair, Model the Realist*

"Wow. A great guy, true family man, and a brilliant photographer! He did my first photo shoot! Made me feel so comfortable in just a sheet that everyone still thinks it is my wedding dress! Rest easy friend--The battle is over!" *Exquisite Queen Patti Doss*

"... A good friend of mine has passed on...I didn't have the chance to tell him goodbye or thank him for everything I learned from him. Without him there, there might not have ever been a Black Steel Entertainment Magazine. He pushed me to do and be more. J Eric Grimes S.I.P. my brother! You will truly be missed. Tell your love ones how you feel about them while they're alive. You never know when it could all be gone." *#LifesTooShort Black Steel*

"Wow, Eight! Feeling kind of crazy about this. Sending prayer to your fam, Eight. May God bless your soul, my brother! R.I.P." *Elroy Herman*

"Found our first shoot together, ever. J Eric Grimes, we climbed rocks and everything...all through Roswell Park with 4 kids in tow, but we got it done and got some beautiful shots. From that day, it was an unsaid respect we had for one another and he tried to push me to be a better person, model, whatever my heart was on that day. Such a funny guy. Just crazy...man!" *Amaryllis Lynne, Model*

"My heart is so heavy right now. SIP J Eric Grimes. You showed me beauty within myself that I never saw until I saw myself through your lens. I will always cherish the adventures we had when you'd text and say "Meet me at this address, I have an idea..." And the time when I got a follow request on IG with my face and freaked out. The world has truly lost a great and talented man. Sleep in peace my friend and may your legacy live on through us all." *Ro Austin, Model*

"I am so sad to see that one of my favorite photographers passed away. He believed in me. He invested in me. I'll always remember him climbing trees, dressers and swing sets to get the perfect shot. I'll forever be grateful. R.I.P J Eric Grimes. *Riana Fonseca, Model*

Remembrances

"He would never put his camera down and just have a good time. He had to get his shots!"

Daquan K. Grimes, Son

"I have so many memories with my dad. He was there for every step of my life: Awards day, birthdays, holidays, good occasions and bad. He always came to my rescue no matter where I was, or what time it was. He motivated me to do my best. He taught me to never give up and to follow my dreams. I appreciate everything he did for me, from the whoopings, to giving his last, to making sure I wasn't in need. I'll ALWAYS love him." *Laniese E. Grimes, Daughter*

"How do I say goodbye to what we had. The good times that made us laugh outweighed the bad. I thought we'd get to see forever, but forever has gone away. It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday; but I'll take with me the memories that brought us sunshine after the rain. It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday...God Bless You brother, I Love You..." *James I. Grimes, Jr., Brother*

"I remember Eric being happy and smiling a lot. He liked to joke around. He would play jokes on Mommy and us (his sisters)." *Demetria Hutcherson, Sister*

"I visited E just after I received a call from his oncologist saying he had not awakened from sedation and it did not look as though he would make it. By the time I arrived at the hospital, E was awake, but groggy, and began to stare at me cockeyed while trying to focus his eyes. When it finally looked as though he could see me, he said, 'Hey, Sis... yeah, yeah...I like it; that's you alright...you rockin' that new (hair) do...yeah, that color is you!' I smiled and kissed him on his forehead. I had come to make sure that his soul was in the right place so that I would see him again. He was thirsty, but the doctors said he couldn't have water. It's not an accident that he was thirsty, because I was there to offer him 'Living Water', that he might never thirst again. After drinking some grape juice through the fat accordion straw in a large plastic hospital cup, I offered him an opportunity to choose 'Living Water', and Baby Bruh did. I KNOW he's resting in peace. I will ALWAYS love you, E." *Ev L. Thomas, Sister*

"Am I my brother's keeper...yes, I am." *Neffertitie 'Naffy' Pravato, Sister*

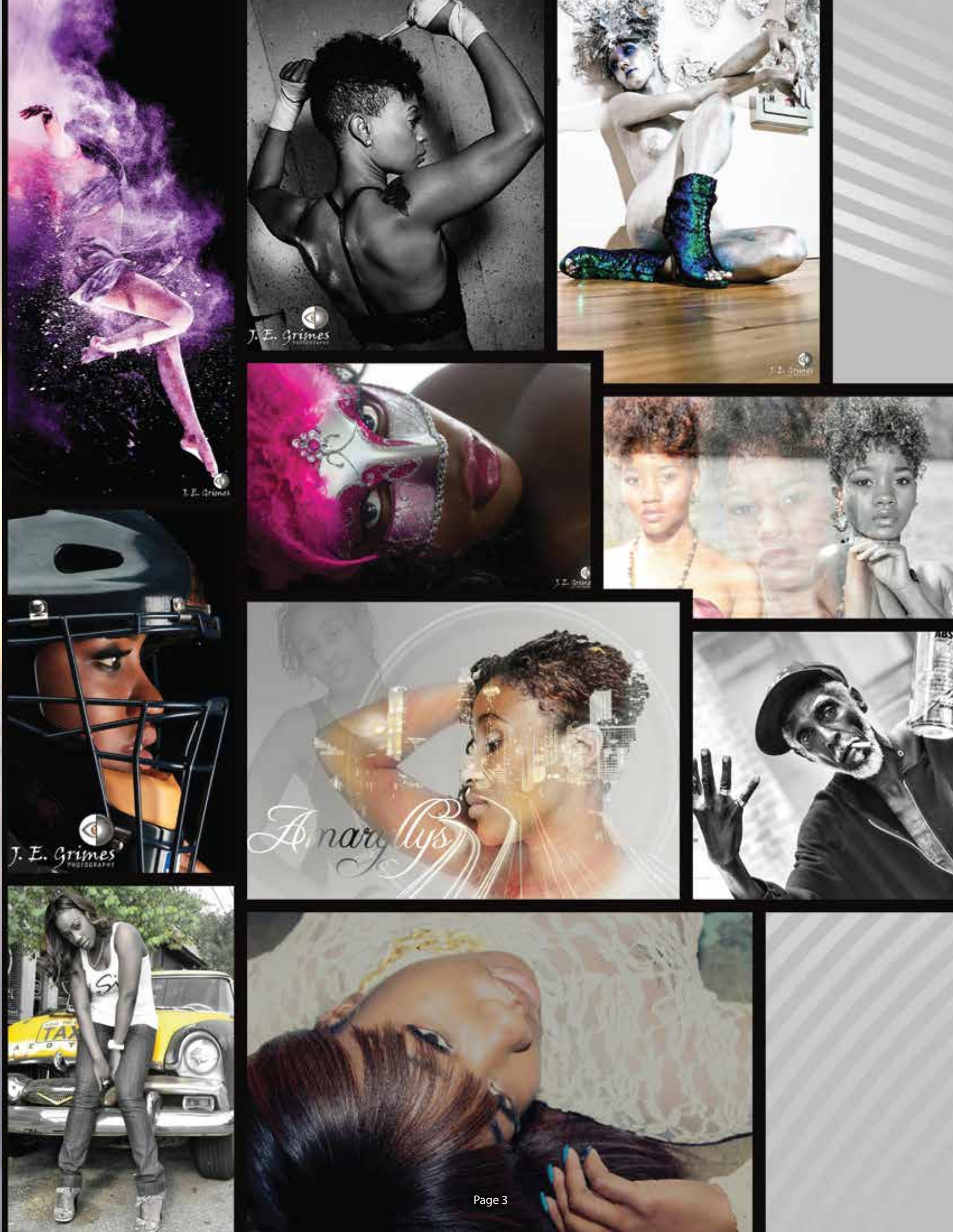
"At 9 years old, I can remember one of the first times I was fearless. That day was with Uncle E. He was also my photographer. And in the middle of the city during a shoot, I climbed up on this ledge about 800-ft off the ground just for the perfect picture to capture who I really was! I just knew he would throw his camera to catch me if I fell. Anything for Cocoa, like another child of his. I will always have a vision of myself through his eyes." *Kailia 'Cocoa' Bryce, Great-niece*

I Remember meeting Eric for the first time and riding with him from Atlanta to Warner Robins, GA to pick up Daquan. We were strangers to each other, but that trip was like riding with a long time friend. Eric was cool like that when we met and for as long as I have known him. When faced with difficult situations, he didn't complain much. He would adapt and keep it moving...inspiring all to do the same. Eric had a way of making you laugh no matter the situation. He enjoyed life, and loved his family. Missed...Already. *James 'Tank' Mays, Jr., Nephew*

I used to help my Uncle E grade his school papers for junior high school when we all lived together in Long Island and we'd laugh all night about how 'intelligent' his students were...he'd let out a sigh and say 'I don't know Binky' then start telling me some wild stories that had nothing to do with the task at hand. I'm going to miss him and especially miss our story time. *I love you Uncle E! Dalia I. Bullock, Niece*

"What's up Pally? I'm so proud of you." *Dr. Al-Aakhir A. Rogers, Nephew*

"Uncle E was a man's man when it came to advice, or anything period. Uncle E gave it to you straight and held no punches. But even if what he said was hilarious, you knew he was dead serious and not only did his advice help out, so did his sense of humor." *Sean Watford, Nephew*



PIECES OF ME

