

The Autobiography of Miss Shivaun Rufus

(The aspiring singing doctor)

Shivaun's early life

I was born to Mr and Mrs Rufus within a humble home of Kingston Swallowfield Road, where I grew up with 4 siblings, cousins and family friends. The family friends later became family because I remember sharing everything from the juicy mangoes that fell from the trees, to birthdays, funerals and big party celebrations. We laughed outrageously and cried solemnly together. Apart from this, my guardians especially my grandma affectionately called “Mama” and my mother insisted that we attend church every Sunday because it is vital to put God first in everything, not only that, our home was within the church yard so it would not look so good to not be apart of such spirited gathering. I started singing in church at the tender age of about 6 years old or younger where I remixed regular gospel songs with the help of my dad and made them into more soulful and jazzy sounds of gospel. Music has always been my source of release and comfort whenever I went through a rough time, when I needed to relax and clear my mind.

I can recall that my early school life consisted of moving to different communities and schools very frequently. I can recall going to a primary school in Lawrence Tavern where I lived with my mother, father, aunt and cousins. My grades began to fall not sure if it was due the change of environment, loss of childhood friendships or it was a situation in which I did not settle in as yet. After less than a year a made a decision as a child to do well and get back to being a child of success. My strategy then worked well then I ended up moving to Gosford road in Spanish Town, then to Edge Water Portmore and finally to Greendale where I lived with my aunt. At that time I had just started the 4th grade and I attended a nearby prep school in which I did all there required subjects but, I participated in dancing, singing and arts. I hated art and craft but I adored the performing arts and I had a keen interest in the Sciences, even at that tender age I knew I wanted to be a medical doctor. I did not realize my deep musical passion at that stage even though every activity I did I sang. I did many solo songs at various functions and I was not shy just as how I am fierce and willing to go the extra mile to achieve my goals.

During the period of living with my aunt and other relatives, my grandma or 'mama' as we would call her would ensure that we got up early most days for devotion it did not matter whether we were children or not we needed to participate and show reverence to God. We were always prayed for. If we had an exam grandma prayed for us, if we needed job, or we did not feel well we were always prayed for. I am thankful for that environment at aunty Ver's house it was not all high's but the low's we were divinely provided for. It was at this home that I gave my life to God at the tender age of 12 I was never forced just was always encouraged by my twin cousins who guided me when I need it most but this decision was solely mine, I recognized the need for a saviour and the need to put him first in all that I do. So I made the big step of being baptised at Chapel of Christ Our Redeemer African Methodist Episcopal Church on 15 swallowfield road (same church that I attended as a younger child). The best and glorious period of my life. The Christian road is never easy and I am not perfect but I do not walk alone Christ is ever present. It is not by might nor by power but it is by the spirit of the lord.

HIGH SCHOOL LIFE

I am a proud past student of Meadowbrook high school. As it related to my high school life, I continued in the arts and the Sciences. I was actively involved in a number of clubs. Interact club, drama and the inter-school Christian fellowship just to name a few. At more than one occasions I was given the opportunity to actively lead these clubs. Tasks like those back then allowed me to realize that I had natural leadership abilities. I was able to harness my leadership skills and other abilities that were going to prove to be useful later on in life.

In the past I was never a straight A student in high school this could have been due to the fact that I was involved in too many extra activities within school and outside of school and I just simply did not strike a balance between school and other activities. I am not making excuses but I consider myself a hard worker even if I fail I will brush off and keep going. I intend to do all the hard work that is necessary to become a

medical doctor and an established singer. I am taking things in strides one first then the other and continued request for God to order my steps.

A SHORT REFLECTION

In my life my family and my friends are always very much important to me because they teach me so much. My sisters Donna and Dale Rufus both have a hand in contributing to my holistic development. Also my friends and well-wishers are strong pillars of strength where my musical development is concerned. The nay sayers do have a role to play as well as they help me to propel me to my destiny. 'Never give up my people live in your God given purpose even if no one else agrees trust God and act everything will fall into its rightful place'. Apart from that, my dad from time to time plays musical runs and gives significant musical advice based on his sound judgements and prior expertise. He would say sometimes when I need him to present at an event, "I prefer to work from the background". My mother is the prayer warrior and the most critical judge; all in all I have opened myself to constructive criticism as long as criticism is not replaced with plain and simple negative energy.

CLOSING REMARKS ABOUT ME AND THE MUSIC

I am child of God that records music for the heart, mind and soul. My music brings the good news of salvation, love and hope to a dying world, people need the lord. I however, do not want my music to be boxed up in a church I want to trod the high ways and by ways with my messages under the guidance of the lord. I currently have my first released single "Judgement day" also try and lost without are other upcoming singles to look out for within this year. All of which were played by the One touch band and also features Clinton Rufus on guitar from the Gladiator's band. My music has been going to higher level due to the management team called blood pressure entertainment under the leadership of Linton Robinson and his team. 'Team work makes the dream work'. God bless you keep striving to be the best you and forever putting God first. "Your girl Shivaun says that"

