

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / CELEBRITY**

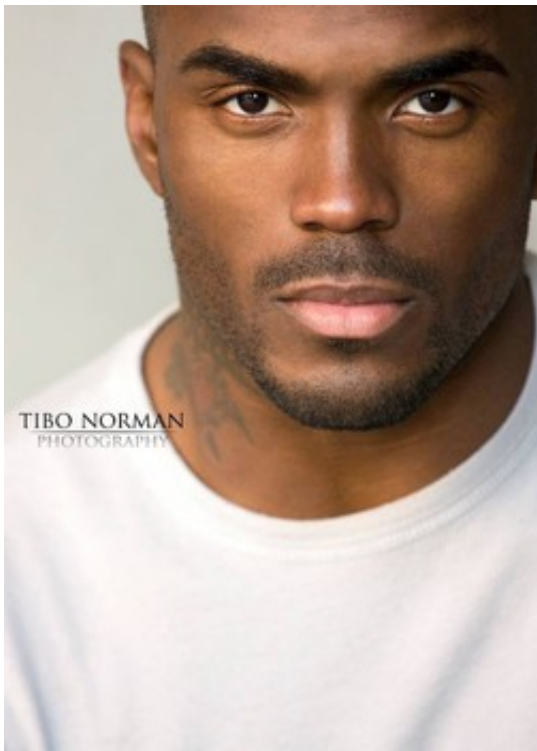
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## On the search for a better life with Taleon Goffney

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Some real life stories can truly be



*Tibo Norman Photography*

fascinating, we have all heard myths and urban legends when it comes to **Taleon Goffney**. Unfortunately the reality led him to some of the most unexpected places—a life in the streets, in

front of cameras in the adult entertainment world and in an eight-by-six cell for numerous years in prison. Finally back and ready to bare it all, the First-Time Author is on a quest to make amends and deliver a strong message. His autobiography **"On My Search for a Better Life, This Is How I Became . . . Infamous!"** is out now.

**Examiner: How important was it to share your story?**

**Talon Goffney:** It was important to share my story on different levels, with the many facets that affected my life. I came from one of the poorest and most violent cities in the country; I subsequently got involved with crime and sadly became one of **THE MOST WANTED** criminals in the Tri-State area during 2006-2008. I participated in the gay porn industry unbeknownst as a straight man because I fell on hard times. I've spent a combined 11 years in and out of the prison system, where the recidivism rate is so high because felons seldom find a way back to life, that's why they always end up back in prison. Because I survived it all, I felt a personal obligation to warn others about where I've been and the importance of what ramifications lie in the very choices we make, especially the ones we make for money. I felt as though my story can be a road map for others like myself to find there way back to life.

**E: Why did you decide to self-publish it?**

T: I decided to self-publish because no major

publisher was willing to take a chance on a first-time author despite the fact I reached out to everyone. With the scandal and negativity surrounding my story, they probably got cold feet, so it motivated me even more to get it out there. I knew that if everyone finally heard the truth versus what was portrayed in the press, they would understand me. I believe they would understand the things that I've done and many others who suffer the same plight.

**E: Is it right to say that the biggest disappointment was to witness people turning their backs on you, especially when you reached your lowest point?**

T: That was the biggest disappointment and my greatest heartbreak. Though I was living wrong, I did right by them and loved everyone that was with me. To see them betray me to such degree shattered me to the point where I had to search for a new meaning in life. I had to learn the hard way...that this life (Street Life) doesn't love you back.

**E: How do you feel towards them now, angry or liberated?**

T: At first I was angry. I couldn't shake the feeling that I did so much for them and they just forgot about me. When my Grandmother died during my second year of the 75-month prison sentence I was serving, her words of wisdom started to come back to me. When I was a child, she once told me, "When you get older you will realize that a lot of people aren't worthy of your company." The lesson she bestowed on me in life didn't

dawn on me until her death. Finally it forced me to realize that the poor choices I made in life as well as in people triggered me to serve 75 months in prison. Once I took ownership of that I began to feel liberated, I knew that I'd choose everything better This Time Around.

**E: You truthfully said, "I was a child with big dreams, I became a man with bigger problems", are you afraid of ever going back to a dark place?**

T: Absolutely! Because I tend to panic when things don't go right. I fear poverty again. I fear prison again. I fear failure again. And I can only hope that I am strong enough to face my demons the next time they come around. No matter how far you go in life, your darkness and demons always secretly come with you.

**E: People pointed you out for taking part into pornographic movies but they are quick to forget the responsibility from the producers exploiting the situation and the clientele watching the movies. At the same time, it feels like your brother used your desperation to make his own moves, am I correct?**

T: Yes he did. Just like he used our 2008 [scandal](#) to catapult himself into the limelight. Just like he used my infamous reputation with the police to make an exchange for his own freedom for crimes we committed together. He may be my twin brother, but he is definitely not my friend.

**E: With the implosion of social media, do you believe it has a positive effect on the message**

**you want to deliver?**

T: I believe it does now, because it is so prevalent and easily accessible nowadays. The press cannot solely control anymore, we do! At the touch of our very own fingertips, every single iPhone, iPad, SmartPhone, and digital camera is now a powerful weapon. The media can be a stone; they once threw it at me, hurting me through countless propaganda. But it also taught me that with the help of everyone's fingertips I could pick it up and throw it back at them too. Sadly, they crucify guys like me. By not knowing the level of wisdom and information, they are overshadowing by keeping my truth away from those who can benefit from my mistakes.

**E: What advice would you give to anyone going through a similar path?**

T: My advice is simple: LOVE YOURSELF!!! I mean to the point that you will never disrespect yourself or sell your dignity regardless of your circumstances. If you truly love yourself, you are already rich and fortunate. Once you realize that, you won't need to chase money, desires, or the game, because the game will come to you. Your inner love will be just as magnetic. I finally realize that...and trust my phone has been ringing ever since!

**E: In the final chapters of your memoir, you seem uncertain while remaining hopeful, has it changed since the release of the book?**

T: I was always driven by the fact that something bigger was meant for me, despite of the poor

choices I've made. Even in prison, sitting in an 8 by 6 cell, I knew in my heart that it wasn't over for me. Retrospectively I was right, since my memoir was released I've been on radio, mentored at-risk youth in juvenile centers, had positive **press coverage**, and was able to touch others with pieces of my true life.

**E: Ending on a musical note, what's your favorite song and why?**

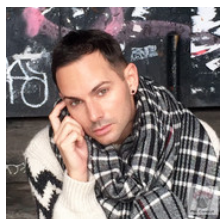
T: My favorite song is Stephanie Mills **"I've Learned To Respect The Power Of Love."**

Because once I embraced loving myself, I've learned that I am and already have everything that I'll ever need.

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