

2016 MTV EMAS



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Rapsody Calls Out Donald Trump for Comments About Women & His Campaign's Attack on Hip-Hop: Guest Essay

10/13/2016 by [Rapsody](#)





Kevin Estrade
Rapsody

The North Carolina rapper is not impressed with "Mr. Not Obama."

North Carolina rapper Rapsody weighs in on Donald Trump's lewd comments about women, which recently came to light in a 2005 video posted by [The Washington Post](#) last week. In the clip, the Republican presidential nominee is seen talking to TV personality Billy Bush, bragging about being able to grope and kiss women because of his fame. "Grab them by the p---y," Trump says. "You can do anything." Trump has since apologized for the remarks, calling it "locker-room banter." Below, Rapsody reflects on voting for President Barack Obama and calls out Donald Trump supporters for rallying behind a presidential candidate that "goes against everything American." Trump is not directly mentioned by name, but referred to as "Mr. Not Obama."

At Bright Lady Studios in Raleigh, North Carolina, my team and I gather and talk everything from sports, music, life to politics. It is our safe haven, our barbershop, our "Huxtable living room." Last night's conversation grew around the comments of the Republican nominee's disrespect of women. I refuse to acknowledge him by name because he just doesn't deserve our energy, so for now I'll refer to him as "Mr. Not Obama."

Honestly, it was hard for me to even have a reaction to the statements on "p---y grabbing" and "buying of women's respect" because of one's wallet size. After a year of disrespectful, hateful, racist, misogynistic comments and speeches, nothing surprises me anymore in regards to Mr. Not Obama.

What grabs my attention more is the people who support and rallied to put him in this position of the Republican Party's nominee for president. Some of these individuals are women. Others have wives, daughters, and sisters. ALL of the above have mothers and grandmothers.

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This isn't so much as a "Mr. Not Obama" issue as it is an American issue.

These actions say a lot about what many in our society truly feel when it comes to women, race, and religion. These are the very individuals of whom I choose to address.

Women, look yourself in the mirror. Parents, look at your daughters. Brothers, look at the woman you call your sister, your mother, or your grandmother. Tell them you are truly doing this for them. Give them the excuse of "Oh, it's just locker room guy talk" and in the words of some of his surrogates, "it's no worse than what those rappers say."

You love to attack hip-hop. That's easy though. I get that. The media paints hip-hop -- and most things dealing with black culture -- as the catalyst for all world problems. In reality, however, you hate hip-hop because it turns the mirror on America and shows her just how ugly she has been to many.

Misogyny isn't a hip-hop problem, it's an American problem.

Still, there aren't any rappers running for president. There aren't any rappers campaigning to be the leader of the Free World, and in fact, the representative for *all* Americans. So, in laymen terms, what the hell does that have to do with anything? That is an answer I surely will wait for.

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You live in a country called the UNITED States and you get all up in arms about saluting a flag that is supposed to represent that unity. Instead, you rally behind an individual that goes against everything American. Who are you?

Moreover, how can an individual running to be leader of the free world, and discriminate against so many that are the heart and lungs of this nation, not be disqualified to run for such a position? Sigh.

I didn't exercise my right to vote until 2008. I never really paid attention to politics or had a want to vote because I simply didn't think my vote mattered nor did I have much trust in the process or establishment. President Obama changed that for me by giving me hope; hope that the power we possess as a unified people could overshadow the power of wealth by the few.

Fast-forward two terms and eight years, and we'll soon be sending our salutations to one of the best presidents we've ever had, in my book. The president is a person of the people, and their job is to be a representation for all regardless of gender, class, race, creed, religion, sexual orientation and the like. As a leader, they lead and make decisions for the greater good of many without bias or discrimination.

It has been a pleasure watching President Obama and the first lady lead our country with such grace, dignity, class and respect. President Obama spoke for the underprivileged, for women, our forgotten veterans, children and so many voices that go unheard. I was honored to be one of a handful of artists to sit and have a [roundtable discussion](#) on how we could help achieve greatness through the culture of hip-hop. Obama also utilized hip-hop to help him reach and inspire so many of those voices, which is the true and original intention of our culture. That is the definition of greatness. And with greatness comes a greater America.

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31 Times Donald Trump Has Tweeted About Pop Stars, From Taylor Swift to Katy Perry

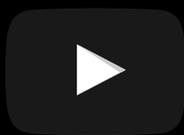
Here we are in the year 2016. We are a few weeks away from the election that will decide who will be the 45th president of the United States. We have several choices to make on Nov. 8. We have a choice to exercise our right to vote or not. By exercising that right, we can choose to

vote for someone who will represent U.S. and who we want to have power to make decisions not only for us, but our children, our sisters, our mothers, wives and grandmothers.

To exercise your right to vote on a man that you think will make America "great again," based on his celebrity and fortune, well... I guess he indeed "grabbed your p---y." So, this to him is just a game, and you got played.

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Jay Z, Beyonce, Chance the Rapper & More Encourage Voters to Support Hillary Clinton in Tidal PSA

11/7/2016 by [Nerisha Penrose](#)





Kevin Mazur/WireImage

Jay Z and Beyoncé poses backstage during the 2009 MTV Europe Music Awards held at the O2 Arena on Nov. 5, 2009 in Berlin, Germany.

[Jay Z](#) and [Beyoncé](#) joined Hillary Clinton during a concert Friday in Cleveland to perform a few of their hits and help mobilize young voters in the last days leading up to Election Day. And on the eve of the election, Jay and Bey released a PSA via Tidal in support of Clinton.

"Look how far we've come from having no voice to being on the brink of making history," Beyonce said to the thousands of fans seated in Cleveland's Wolstein Center. "I want my daughter to grow up seeing a woman lead our country and know that her possibilities are limitless." The "Daddy Lessons" singer performed in front of an LED screen that read "I'm With Her," clad in a polka-dot pantsuit, a la Clinton.

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[Beyonce Joins Jay Z at Hillary Clinton Concert in Cleveland: We're 'On the Brink of Making History'](#)

Clinton was not only backed by the hip-hop power couple: [Big Sean](#), [J. Cole](#) and [Chance the Rapper](#) also performed in support of the presidential candidate. "She's running this battle right now. She's killing this race, but she needs our help," Chance says in the PSA. Big Sean also encourages voters, saying, "Everybody in this crowd, man, we got the power to do anything we wanna do. If you could put your mind to it, you can manifest it."

Watch the full video here:

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'Martha & Snoop' Creator Talks Bringing the Duo Together for VH1's Celebrity Cooking Show

11/7/2016 by [Ashley Lyle](#)



Courtesy of VH1

Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg in a teaser for Martha & Snoop's Dinner Party.

The queen of home furnishing and celebrity chef Martha Stewart as well as rap veteran [Snoop](#)

Dogg are preparing a night of laughs and highs for their forthcoming VH1 show *Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*.

The cooking show will feature Stewart and the Doggfather whipping up dishes in the kitchen alongside with celebrity guests every week. After joining the businesswoman in appearances on her talk show and roasting **Justin Bieber** together on Comedy Central last year, the real-life friends learned from each other while taping the show.

"He really approached every single day with 'What am I gonna learn how to make today?' and 'What am I gonna show Martha what I can do?' He proved himself to be very adept in the kitchen, by the way," Stewart told *Billboard*. Adds Snoop, "I learned the preparation from Martha, and that's key. A lot of time you can go into a meal and not prepare it the right way and it comes out wrong. I feel like preparation takes the meal to a whole 'nother level."

In advance of the show's premiere Monday night (Nov. 7 at 10 p.m. ET on VH1), *Billboard* spoke to the show's creator, 495 Productions founder and president **SallyAnn Salsano**, about how the duo came together, what sets *Martha & Snoop* apart from her previous on-air stints (*Jersey Shore* and *True Life*, to name a few) and how she became one of Hollywood's go-to producers.

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Snoop Dogg & Martha Stewart's Dinner Party Tips (Yes, Weed Included)

How did you come up with the concept for the show?

I'm a huge fan of cooking shows. I probably watch more of the Food Network and probably eat more than a normal human being should, so that combination is kind of natural. There's so much on with *Master Chef* and I'm a huge lover of *Top Chef*. I was like, what would be my version that's a little bit crazy? I sat down with [VH1 and Logo president] Chris McCarthy. Literally, it was the first day I met him and he's like, "If you could do anything, what would you do?" I was like, I want to do a celebrity cooking show. He's like, "I'll take it."

It was right after the Bieber roast, and we automatically were like, "Can we get [Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg]?" and then it was like, "Well, let's ask." It was truly the support and the love of the idea from McCarthy and his team that allowed us to get the level of talent that we did. They had the patience and the time and were willing to work together to come up with a format that those guys love.

You think about Martha and Snoop, and you have two massive brands. Side by side, they're not exactly the same. I have never worked in a situation where two hosts loved and respected each other in such a way that it was always a unified front. They would always sign off on everything together.

And if we're all more open-minded, we probably would have a lot more friends.

How does this project differ from the other shows that you've done like *Jersey Shore*, *True Life* and working on *The Real*?

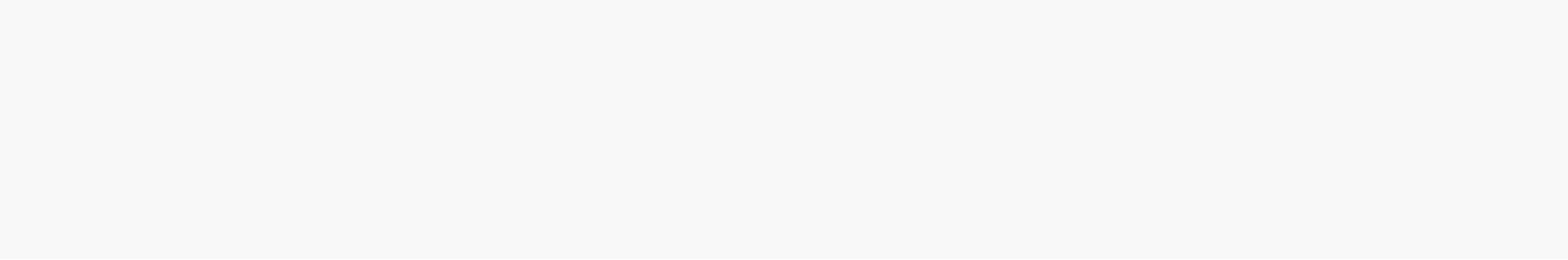
It's kind of a little piece of everything. All the shows in the past were about good people wanting to have a good time. For *Jersey Shore*, a part of that show was a family sitting around and having dinner together every Wednesday and every Sunday night, just like I did in my house, growing up in an Italian family. We simply sat down and ate dinner together, and those kids were the same way, because that's how they were raised. Your whole life is about food, fun, family and your friends, and that's kind of what [*Martha & Snoop*] is. The difference is the setting.

What do you consider the three most vital ingredients to creating a ratings magnet?

I think it has to be genuine. That's number one. I think we approach all of our shows with a total genuine approach. The big thing was sitting down with Snoop's team and Martha's team, and just saying, "What is it that you want this show to be?" That's super important and it has to be true to the people that are on it. Number two, it has to be fun. And the third one is relatability. Can you relate? Do you watch the show and go, "Damn, I would eat that" or "What I would do for a seat at that table..."

Something that was very important to both Martha and Snoop was that the audience that came did not come there to sit and watch people eat whatever they were cooking. We had a full kitchen -- it was like a catering hall at a wedding. And we fed that entire audience every single thing. They're like, "We don't care if it makes camera or not, we want people to walk away having a great experience." The network rallied behind them and was like, "Absolutely."





Rolling is an art, so learn from the best. Set your calendars and preheat your ovens for #MarthaAndSnoop's Potluck Dinner Party this MON NOV 7 at 10/9c!

A video posted by VH1 (@vh1) on Nov 5, 2016 at 4:03pm PDT

You are one of the most successful women in the reality TV production space. How has your experience prepared you for that?

I think it's basically the love of the game. I always say anybody can get hired, but you don't get paid to care, and so unfortunately, sometimes I care too much to a fault to my own detriment, to be honest. I just love what I do. The biggest pat on the back to me is people watching your show or being proud of a show that you've made. I consider every show I take, every job as a gift and an opportunity. I wasn't raised to think I was going to be a Hollywood producer. It sounds so silly to me, but my mom was a nurse, my dad was a garbage man, legitimately, and that's not exactly your gateway to Hollywood. I just worked my ass off.

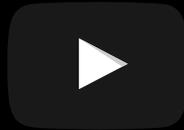
Going back to the show, what do you hope viewers take away from the show?

I want them to just tune in and have a good time. They are going to be entertained. They're going to watch good conversation, great celebrities who learn how to cook and not be intimidated by it. Sometimes when you watch a cooking show, you go, "My God, I'll never be able to do that." This show is made for the people, and I literally think it's an escape. It's such a good time, and I think if you are a fan of Snoop's and a fan of Martha's, tune in and then you'll be a fan of both of them immediately. You will actually like them both even more after watching the show.

What is next on your plate?

There is a lot coming up, but most are not announced yet. I have my first Bravo show coming, and I'm so excited to be working with them. I also have the next season of *Blue Collar Millionaires* coming up on CNBC.





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