



Life's Journey
by Melody Garcia

home,” RC stated. You are expected to be a dance choreographer, a pageant contestant and/or choreographer, a hairdresser, a make-up artist. He chuckles as he realized that for the most part, he did end up falling into the category as a choreographer and such. RC also shared that one of the deepest pains he had experienced was the separation of his parents. It

He also met the love of his life in an almost movie-themed setting, meeting at the bow of the ship right at midnight (Titanic movie anyone?). After carrying on a long distance relationship and eventually settling, he focused his time and energy into going back to doing what he had always loved... clothing designs.

Passion for Fashion

Meet the new “International Designer of the Year”!

Born in Iligan City, Mindanao, meet one of today’s FIL-AM designer on the rise, RC Caylan who just recently launched a grand opening of his couture design boutique in Grand Rapids, Michigan and a just-announced recipient of the 15th annual Gawad Amerika Award, as this year’s International Designer of the Year!

RC has had quite the journey in getting to where he is today. As a young boy, he was always fascinated with patterns, colors, silhouettes, and designs and was known to be very creative in his sketches. He shared that he always had a vivid imagination and many times were filled with a youthful exuberance and carefree thinking of what he could become one day. The reality, however, had a different set of course he had to follow as he was growing up into adulthood.

RC openly shared his own identity struggles. It took a while for him to be openly accepted in society as being gay. He felt the personal struggle and pressure to remain authentic in his identity specially having four other brothers. “The Philippines is open to people being gay, but it is different about truly accepting a specific lifestyle,” he adds. “You see, there is a stereotype that goes along being gay back when I was



became the catalyst for him to find power in the pain through diversion, work and focus on his own growth and untapped potential. The end result, he learned to accept and move on. It also strengthened his faith in God.

As many others have done, his quest for a better future and opportunity, led him to seek employment outside the country and eventually landed with the Carnival Cruise Lines company in 2010. He worked as a spa therapist and had the opportunity to train in London and in California.

In 2014, RC had become an apprentice to some of the designers from different parts of the world. Two distinct Filipino designers he worked with were Puey Quinones, and Joseph Domingo, who is based out of San Francisco. It was then that he had a huge break.

In 2015, RC Caylan was given a huge opportunity to showcase his design during San Francisco Fashion Week. RC recalls having to turn his kitchen into a fully functioning design studio. He spent many late nights hunched over kitchen tables, sitting on the floor, burning the midnight oil to come up with signature designs that would represent his vision and passion.

At the same token, he was torn about submitting his application for the famous show “project runway,” but decided against it, instead, poured time and energy into getting a collection together and his business in place.

Present day, when asked about his struggles in breaking through the fashion industry, RC says, “you have to have thick skin in the business.” It is a judgmental industry, but instead of looking at “competitors,” the person he competes with the most is himself. He analyzes everyday on how he can



NEW COLLECTION
SS17 “ L ombré dela Nuit”
(Night Shadow)

better the last design, how to have a better approach and convey the right source of inspiration and influences. Not having a lot of strong support system initially, paved the way for him to really grow in the areas of marketing, networking, and collaboration with other businesses, and pushed his comfort zone to a new level of self-accountability and originality, hence the classic silhouettes with modern flares. His inspiration? Alexander McQueen, Valentino, Dior, and Channel.

Lastly, when asked to impart words of wisdom, he said, “Believe in the power of perseverance, dedication, and prayer.”

Credits:

Photographer: August Nyson
Earrings: Vintage Jewelry collection by City Antiques GR
Make-up : Amanda Shepard
Hairstylist: Casey Didaskalou and Hannah Labardee by The Parlour GR
Model: Holly Peiffer



Model: Annie Revilla

Getting Raw and Real
with the Platinum Royalties Founder

MEET JOSHUA PAGAN

By Melody Garcia

A close-up portrait of Joshua Pagan, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

*J*oshua Pagan is known around the Orlando, Florida scene. Having found multiple companies, two most distinct ones are JTP Investments and Platinum Royalties. People have associated him with his businesses, but only a few knows his story. When we met, Joshua conceptualizes this to be a typical interview...and it turned to be anything but that. In the end, Joshua said he experienced a “Good Will Hunting moment” and laughed about it, yet enabled him to deeply reflect on his journey.

As a young boy, this successful entrepreneur once dreamed of becoming a baseball player. He had the athletic call and was involved in weight lifting and other sports. But life had a different destiny planned for him.

Just like everyone, Joshua went through dark storms of his life and was on a spiral down a few years ago. He suffered personally, spiritually, financially and professionally all at the same time. But unknown to him at that given moment, was the opportunity to be redirected to something greater. It was what’s needed and eventually became the platform for starting Platinum Royalties.

During these tumultuous times, at the very breaking point of it all, Joshua recalled with a vividness that he found himself in deep depression, and all he could utter was a prayer, as he fell to his knees and cried. He poured his heart out and said, “God, I can’t take anymore. Please help me, show me what my life purpose is supposed to be. Why am I here?”

The very next morning, he had an epiphany. At first, he started visiting shelters and other places and for the first time, truly realized and saw with renewed eyes how much people were in need and how many were suffering worse than he was. One incident led to another. "Guided," as he called it. During a business convention, he came across an abused women's shelter booth and instead of just dropping a donation, he asked the lady if there were any upcoming events their organization was hosting. He ended

in a perfect sinew? The signs were everywhere, from girls scout cookie sales to fundraising events, which gave birth to the idea of what eventually revolutionized the fund-raising methodology and created Platinum Royalties.

Overall mergers of Vendors, Consumers and Charities under one business concept became too good to be true but he made it happen. Vendors get the free marketing and advertising, Consumers received free deals, and Charities/Schools were recipients to most of the money raised. The business was simple. Instead of having bulky fundraiser books or coupon books that a lot of parents got tired of selling, one card that almost resembled a credit card housed it all. A consumer would show the card at specific vendor locations, they get free items or discounts as part of their purchase or orders and a huge portion of the profit is donated back to the school/charity directly. It's

Joshua's way of giving back to the community. Using his business mindset gift to give whole-heartedly to those in most need. The card sells for \$30 each, and the school system gets \$20 per card sold. That's 67% being donated straight to charitable funding. No other business runs this way according to this founder.

In just one year, Platinum royalties have made itself strongly present across the country with over 1500 locations and 10,000 relationships strong. He also launched an app dutifully named after the company. The algorithms and program have been designed to be extremely user-friendly.

When asked about his plans for expansion over the next 5 years, Joshua replied "5 years... I can't wait to see where we are in 5 months. I originally started this company to fundraise for my local community, while also donating to charity. Never did I think I'd be merging with a Shark Tank company, doing NBC interviews, or even having a piece written about myself or my vision. Now I sit here as a true nationwide company and launching my global project in 2-3 weeks. In the next 5 years, my goal is to give people across the globe an opportunity to change their lives, and their family's lives, financially by working for Platinum Royalties, while also helping their local communities and charities. I don't know if Platinum Royalties can change the world, but I believe with all of my heart the company can put a pretty big dent in some of the world needs; whether that is Children with cancer, abused women shelters, Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, Breast Cancer, homelessness, and so much more. Platinum Royalties can help a lot of people and foundation in need, especially as our exposure and vision reach more and more people that can help grow the company."

In the end, Joshua Pagan wants to leave the legacy that he left the world around him a better place and give to his loved ones more than he ever had, not materialistically, but with ignited purpose and life journeys. He does hope he becomes blessed to be a loving husband and a father one day in addition to being a loving friend.

When asked for any knowledge he can share, Joshua replied, "Don't have a sense of entitlement! Never let success get in your head and never let failure get in your heart!"

For more information on how you and your localities or organization can become part of this rapidly growing phenomenon, visit www.platinumroyalties.com



up attending and purchasing a table sponsorship and learned about the ugliness and reality of what these women and children have gone through. Joshua even visited the shelter and became witness to something he will not soon forget... an abused woman, walking right in to drop her 3-month old infant to be taken in for safety. Joshua ended up having to hold the baby in the middle of all the chaos and in that moment, clarity was formed.

Joshua started coming across opportunities, and his business mindset took over. How can he merge business and philanthropy