



**TYRESE**  
**BLACK ROSE**  
VOLTRON/CAROLINE

PRODUCTION: TYRESE, BRANDON "B.A.M." ALEXANDER, SEIGE MONSTRACITY, MARCUS HODGE, ROCKWILDER, ERIC HUDSON, WARRYN CAMPBELL, TIM KELLEY

Most people believe that R&B as a genre is dead, but with this album Tyrese has proven that R&B is back, alive and well. Today's R&B artists yearn crossover popularity, and in the process have given way to an R&B/Pop hybrid. However, if you love 90's R&B then you can and will appreciate *Black Rose*.

*Black Rose* has three duets, featuring Christette Michelle, Tank and Brandy, and Black Ty (Tyrese's rap alter-ego) makes an appearance on a track titled "Dumb Sh\*\*" with Snoop Dogg. This album is melodic, sexual and passionate, all the makings of a classic R&B album, catering to a more mature audience, which is why the singles off this album won't be heard on any radio station that plays Top 40 singles.

The tracks are passionate and steers clear of the usual groupie and sexual innuendo themes in today's R&B. *Black Rose* is Tyrese's first album to land at the #1 spot on the Billboard 200 in its first week of release, and he did it all on his very own record label. Here's what he had to say about the success of the album: "We did it!! We made a statement.. R&B is still very much ALIVE," he declared. "And R&B consumers are still very much here. You were just waiting on #BlackRose." - Victoria Bolling

**UNSIGNED**  
**HYPE**

**CHYNNA** PHILADELPHIA, PA

If you've never heard Chynna rap, you'd probably just assume her to be another pretty face with a kind soul. And you wouldn't be at fault, especially if you've seen her in the DKNY spring 2015 campaign.

Born and raised in Philly, Chynna jumped back and forth to New York City working and hanging out with friends. She was born into Hip-Hop, since her dad would play recorded radio mixes on cassettes in the car and kept them stored in several Dutchmaster boxes. She always wanted to be a writer, particularly of fiction, but would seldom finish her stories. Chynna would eventually start writing rhymes in high school but never recorded anything, until she graduated, and found herself in an empty studio in her friend's basement. But when she finally recorded, she realized that rapping was the creative outlet she had been seeking her whole life. She was hooked. A couple months later, she put out her debut project, *Chinois*. Her versatility was apparent. She could channel M.I.A.'s playful yet danger-

ous energy on "Blaadt," or break your heart with a sad story of a doomed relationship on "Bad Feedback." But if you want cool confidence, just listen to "For That Ass"--"I be in Belize blowing trees with a bunch of bad n\*ggas on their knees, high for me/18, want to have my interracial babies/Want to chill in that brand new Mercedes and Gucci/N\*ggas look at me like my name is Lil' Tunechi/With the long hair flowing them b\*tches are groupies."

While her choice of production can range from jazzy boom bap and bass and rage filled Hudson Mohawke beats to dark, druggy sounds that crawl out from the back alley, her flows stay sharp and able to switch on a dime. She's gotten here by practicing writing to J Dilla's beats, with the goal of being a thinner Biggie, and it shows.

If it's not on tour, the next time you see and hear Chynna, it'll probably be when she's bumping Gucci in your residential. "Free Bobby Shmurda. Free Gucci Mane. Rest in peace, Yams. Blackout Boyz." - Bryan Hahn



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