

The Pride of Nadirah Shakoor

Yoruba Records recording artist Nadirah Shakoor is a talent whose time has come not because she is new to the scene but rather because audiences inundated with dancers with headsets are hungry for the raw beauty and truth her music has always delivered. Her new release “Pride” has got her followers shouting and her new fans spreading the word about this incredibly gifted singer/songwriter whose unique style defies all the usual boxes and labels. The song is a soul stirring mantra for many minorities or anyone who has ever needed to reclaim their own pride in being themselves.

Listeners who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered, are certainly relating to Nadirah’s uplifting message. In the Life Atlanta, the official organizers of Atlanta’s massive Black Gay Pride event, has adapted “Pride” as a central theme to be used in their organizing efforts. Michael Slaughter, ITLA Board Co-Chair notes “Given what people have been through especially this past year, this song gives them a sense of hope, something positive to connect to. It represents where some people are and where a lot of people want to be, ‘living in their pride, ’” he added, paraphrasing the song’s refrain.

Providing the anthem for the largest Black Gay Pride in the nation is a cherished honor for the veteran performer. However this is not the first time Nadirah has raised her voice for social change. “I firmly believe that an artist must use their talent to change the world,” says Nadirah. Among her many distinctions, she was the lead female vocalist for Atlanta’s first superstar hip hop band Arrested Development, a progressive collective renowned for their politically conscious funky lyrics. She thrilled an international audience at the inauguration of South Africa’s first Black president Nelson Mandela and sang “You’ll Never Walk Alone” at Atlanta’s AIDS Walk. It was at the recent Bayard Rustin Annual Breakfast, a popular event for Atlanta activists, where she brought down the house with “Pride”.

Born in San Antonio Texas, the daughter of a musician father, Nadirah’s artistic journey seems ordained. She has toured and recorded with a host of luminaries such as Quincy Jones, Janet Jackson, Madonna, Al Jarreau, Jimmie Buffet and Angela Bofill. She is currently working closely with producer Osunlade of Yoruba Records on several collaborations. On Saturday, April 2nd, she will appear at the Apache Café in Atlanta.

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