

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HIP-HOP CULTURE

# URBAN CELEBRITY

MAGAZINE

## THE REAL RICK ROSS

Exclusive tell all  
interview with the former  
L.A. drug kingpin

## RUGGEDNESS ONE OF PHILLY'S TOP PRODUCERS

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## TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON THE GREATEST PERFORMER OF ALL TIME

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

## INNER CITY HUSTLERS

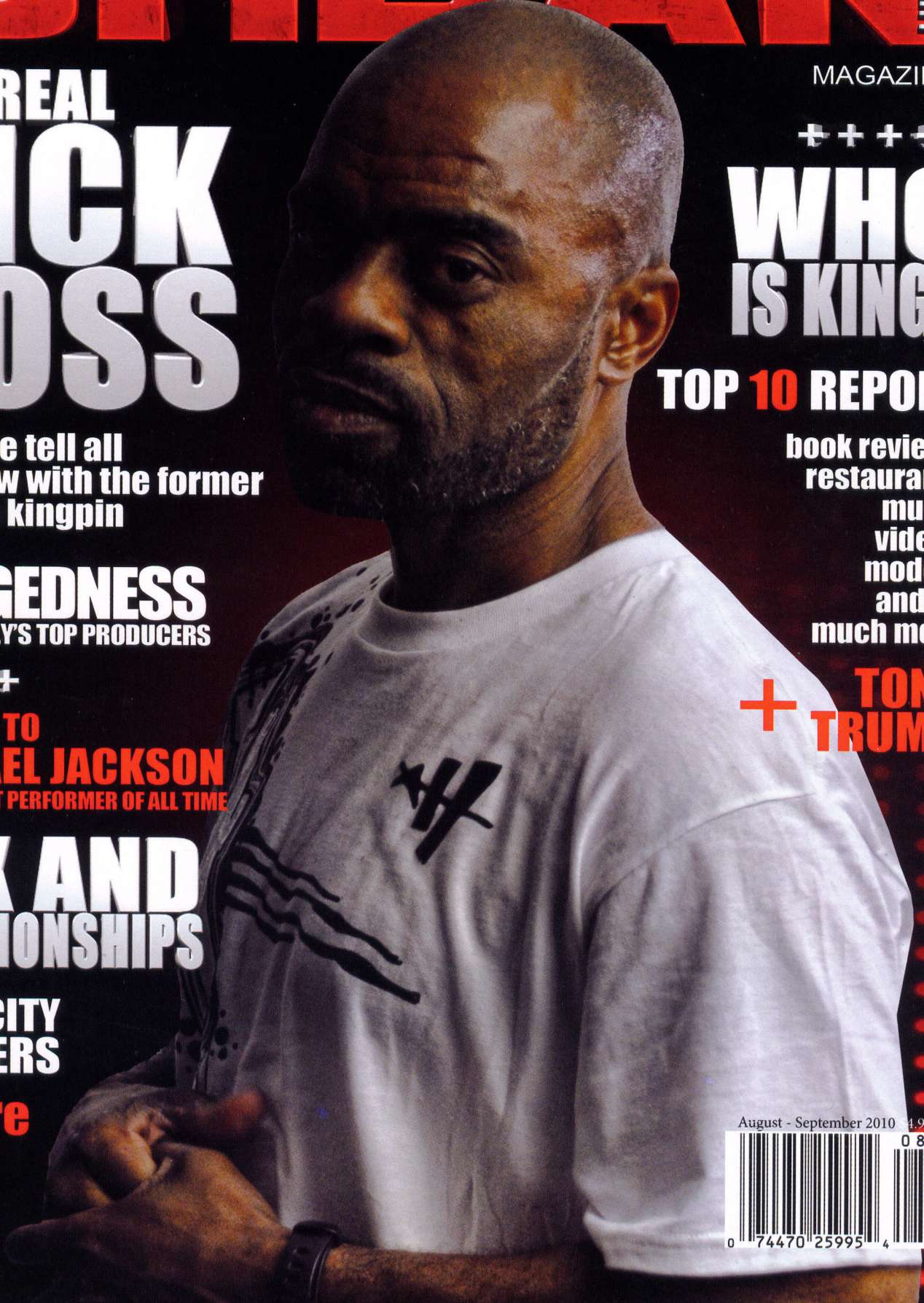
They're  
Back!

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**WHO  
IS KING?**

## TOP 10 REPORT

book reviews  
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much more

## + TONE TRUMP



August - September 2010 \$4.99



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*Exclusives*

**Tales inside the Prison Walls**

After the huge success of his debut novel "Street Raised: The Beginning", the name Mike Harper has been riveting around the Urban/Street Lit scene. Harper, who the Feds declare is a feared killer and kingpin drug dealer, is serving a life sentence for his alleged misdeeds in the game and is penning out the hottest urban novels from the penitentiary through Badland Publishing. Mike Harper steps back on the stage with another phenomenal story "Sugar: The Life of a Kingpin's Wife" which is proof that this new author aims to keep his name circulating amongst the best. This book is vivid, intimate and heartfelt, and it's set apart from the sea of others in its genre.

"Sugar is a very enlightening and powerful story"- Trina, Miami Raptress

**How's life since the groundbreaking release of your first novel Street Raised: The Beginning?**

MH-The book went over well with readers. When people see me and compliment me on the work, it's rewarding. I walk around confident in knowing that I have a quality product that people enjoy. That's a good feeling to tote around.

**Your follow up, Sugar: The Life of a Kingpin's Wife, is highly anticipated. Will it live up to the hype?**

MH-Without a doubt! My stories are absorbing and I take pride in my job. Everything I write will be excellent. The anticipation will never go away, that I promise. It's actually my own personal challenge and Sugar is certainly the next big gossip.

**We've heard that some people are crediting you as the "Urban Martin Scorsese". That's a pretty big accolade. Will you be able to accept and take on the responsibility of such a title?**

MH-Scorsese has written some of my favorite gangster movies. I'd like to think that I can represent the same way in our genre of literature. I'm not just an urban writer though; I have other works that spill into mainstream. In fact, I have a romance novel coming out next Valentine's Day called, "Oh, Michael..."

**Tell our readers what's been the most trying aspect of being a published author?**

MH-Distribution and networking. We're supposed to be in business to make money, but distributors are too picky and too greedy; especially in this bad economy.

And other authors and publishers act intimidated or afraid to pool resources. Badland is about getting good books to readers, getting good writers opportunities, and of course good success in the business. They're not afraid to cross the lines and work together to generate success. As an author I find distributors too strict, and if publishers don't network and cross promote we're all gonna lose out to the big house. Because the hard copy manuscripts are being substituted by the Big Boys electronically and the people who have worked hard on writing those books are losing out on profits. Just look at what happened to the music CD's. Consumers are opting to download digitally, at a cheaper cost, and our books could follow that trend.

**Do you mind if we ask how many books you've sold to date?**

MH-I'm old school. That sounds like you're trying to count my pockets. I'll say this though; Writer's Digest says the average novel in the US only sells about 500 copies. Mike Harper is looking at the average through the rearview mirror.

**-Seth Ferranti-**

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