

## BY TUESDAY MAY

**POWER UP** How did you know you were gay at the age of five? What were the signs?

**MÉLANGELAVONNE** I can't explain how I knew. It was so natural to think about kissing a girl. I had.. a crush on my kindergarten teacher. I didn't understand at the time, but as I got older, I realized my attraction towards the same sex.

**PU** As a youth who has realized their sexuality, who was there to look up to? Who were your childhood heroes?

**ML** Martina Navratilova. I wasn't a tennis fan, but I was attracted to her because I knew she was Lesbian, and at the time I thought that we were the only two lesbians in the world, ha ha.

**PU** You are an advocate of bringing awareness to same sex families and their children. What inspires this?

**ML** What inspires my activism is ignorance from others. The motivating factors are the gay parents out there who shouldn't have to explain to society why they are parents.

**PU** Your video 'I Got You' is being played on Logo and MTV Networks. Is that your real wife and child in the video?

**ML** No, I don't have any children, and don't have a wife. I'm happily single. I enjoy working on me. I'm trying to meet my holistic needs before I move towards that direction.

**PU** How do you feel this video is being received by the public?

**ML** I think the public is responding quite well to the video. It's a message that hasn't really been put out there in music, especially in the genre of hip-hop on an international level.

**PU** **POWER UP** films shot your upcoming video entitled "Domestic Violence" Explain the premise of the song.

**ML** "Domestic Violence," produced by Jennifer Wright and Directed by Hilary Goldberg was a deep and passionate song and video to shoot. The premise is about recognizing domestic violence in same sex relationships and the signs of it. Domestic violence can happen to anyone, gay or straight and you can get out, and get help.

**PU** You have the fearless flight of a true

courage and pride in ways we'd all love to see and experience more of in the world. You have been on a healing path for some time now. How has your physical health influenced your musical journey over the years?

**ML** It's been 18 to 19 years since my first battle with cancer. It has influenced my career by giving me a reason to fight for what message God would give. The mission I was given was to utilize my time here and make a donation to life, a spiritual journey that will continue even after I pass.

**PU** Do you feel you are with an ability to be that much more outspoken in general because you have gone through and are in ways still going through life

**ML** The high points were seeing the faces of the kids who were gay and how they looked up to you as a role model or big sister. To look at them and know that you are changing how they see themselves. I love those kids. Those kids are our next doctors, teachers, gay parents, pastors, and presidents.

**PU** If you could have a face to face with Barack Obama, what three questions would you ask him?

**ML** Where do you see this country after you leave office?

Why does the US Government mix Church and State when the Church discriminates towards certain groups of people?

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changing experiences that have included Hodgkins Disease, radiation therapy, SETTLE cancer and surgery?

**ML** Definitely, I feel I have been exposed to a lot of things in life that have changed my views and perspectives, I'm constantly growing. I know what it means to truly live, and live without hate and prejudice. I now see the glass as half full as oppose to half empty.

**PU** What is your advice for someone going through a similar experience?

**ML** Don't give up, live in the moment, and focus on the positive things in your world.

**PU** How is your health presently?

**ML** My health is good. I work out 7 days a week. I eat healthy and take lots of vitamins. I'm more motivated than ever to live a healthier life.

**PU** Tell us what it was like to be a part of the 1<sup>st</sup> LGBT hip-hop tour, Homorevolution. ([www.myspace.com/homorevolution](http://www.myspace.com/homorevolution)) What were the high

Why haven't these billion dollar corporations invented a more eco-friendly energy solution that Americans can run on thus creating green collar jobs?

**PU** What are your intentions for 2009?

**ML** My intentions for 2009 are to become a better artist, person, daughter, friend, and student and of course to see my new video "Domestic Violence" premiere on the Logo Channel's New Now Next Show soon.

**Give this unique messenger a minute of your time and you will come back for more.** Watching one of her videos is like beholding a ministry of sorts. We watch and listen and are moved by pictures and words that we have quite possibly never seen or heard on our screens before. It's all a gift, what you share and administer to us Mélangé!

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