

BECAUSE EVERY MAN NEEDS ONE

ISSUE 25 | 2021

# WINGMAN

MAGAZINE

And A Special Tribute To  
Awesome TV Creator  
PETER MARC JACOBSON With  
ERIC BALFOUR!

## THE @ PACK



**MICHAEL EVANS BEHLING, BRETT GRAY, WYATT OLEFF,  
RUDY PANKOW & SHANNON PURSER**

**MORE STARS!**

★ ANDRE REED ★ MEGYN PRICE ★ BILLY ZANE ★ KIM COATES ★  
★ BARRY SHABAKA HENLEY ★ JASON BEHR ★ DAVID YOST ★  
★ CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE ★ ALEJANDRO NONES ★ ANJALI BHIMANI ★

# THE @ PACK

*Captivating Talent From  
"ON MY BLOCK,"  
BRETT GRAY  
Steals Scenes*

Photos Taken At Hotel Shangri-La  
1301 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401  
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Photos by Mark Hill

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Styling by Andrew Cristi

Assisted by Carlos Leon

Story by Michael McCarthy

Suit by Christopher Schafer Clothier;

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**E**

very generation has one of those groups of actors that all of Hollywood and the world has their eyes on, whether they are up and coming, or have been around for a while and have been blending together and dominating the screens for a while. Look at the different generational groups that have dominated since the 1960's all starting with The Rat Pack, The Brat Pack in the 80's and The Frat Pack in the early 2000's. Now that we are in 2021, it is time to add a new Pack to this group, in which we are labeling The @ Pack! And the multitasking musician and actor, Brett Gray, definitely makes the cut. Not only is Gray an accomplished singer and actor, but he has amassed over five million followers across his social mediums. With only just beginning his career, this actor has only just touched the tip of the iceberg of what is to come.

Born in Philadelphia in 1996, Gray would of course have a lot of love for the city of Brotherly Love and gain some inspiration from one of the greatest actors and rappers that hailed from that city, Will Smith. Not only does he want to work with the former star of the *"Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,"* but with them both being from Philly, it would be kismet for these two talents to collaborate at some point and rock the roof off of either a movie theater with a film or an arena while dropping some fresh music together. The entertainment bug came early for the smooth vocalist as his first acting role was at age six and his first professional musical show at age seven. After graduating from The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts in 2014, Gray made it his goal to not only be a great actor, but an incredible entertainer and he is well on his way to making that dream a reality.

After starring in some short films to begin his acting career, Gray got that always anticipated and hoped for phone call that he nailed an audition and got the role. As Jamal in *"On My Block,"* the young actor put his own personality on display in the first three seasons and with them filming the fourth as we speak, Gray can only say that it's not stopping now and that fans will have to see exactly what is going to happen! The excitement expressed while discussing the role from all sides, makes everyone know just how much this role was made for the Philly native in every way possible. His actions with finding the money would've been different, but his whole attitude and personality is his, and it certainly shines through 110% in every scene.

While acting may be what Gray is known for right now, it's not the only talent that he has, in fact it could be a distant second to his musical abilities. With inspirations like Will Smith, Sammy Davis Jr. and Beyonce, the smooth vocalist could be working his way up the charts soon and it's only a matter of time before he starts working with his idols. After releasing his first single back in June of 2018 and then his first EP in August of the same year, the bricks have been laid and it's only a matter of time before they turn to gold along with the records Gray will be putting out. And with one of his favorite singers of all time, Sammy Davis Jr. being The Rat Packer that he most identifies with, makes total and utter sense. In fact, if anyone checks out Gray's YouTube channel, there is only one video on his playlist that is not his own, and it's of Davis Jr.! The embodiment that the singer has of his idols is so unique and incredible that he is a mix of so many different singers that it's hard to nail down one that he reminds his listeners to, but either way he is going to blow the roof off of some arenas and stadiums once he makes that leap.

To be part of "The @ Pack" you need to have a couple of qualifications, which Gray exemplifies over and over again. Being a young star on the rise, and possessing over a million followers across social mediums are the two main qualifications. Astoundingly beloved, Gray has over five million followers across his social media platforms, and that really makes him part of this group. Mainly you will see the social media phenom kicking serious ass across Instagram and Tik Tok, but that's not even close to being why he is the badass and the rule breaker of the group of these ragtag young stars.

Brett Gray is one of those once in a generation talents that will razzle and dazzle you with his talents and then captivate you with his performances. No matter what Gray takes on next, the fans that have adored him and stalked his social media for years will be chomping at the bit to see more of him. With a voice as good as Usher's, and the acting chops of Denzel Washington, this young star is going to be on the top of the world in no time, and enjoying every second of it.

While you wait for the next season of *"On My Block,"* or the next Brett Gray EP to drop, check out what he had to tell us here at WINGMAN about his career and life!

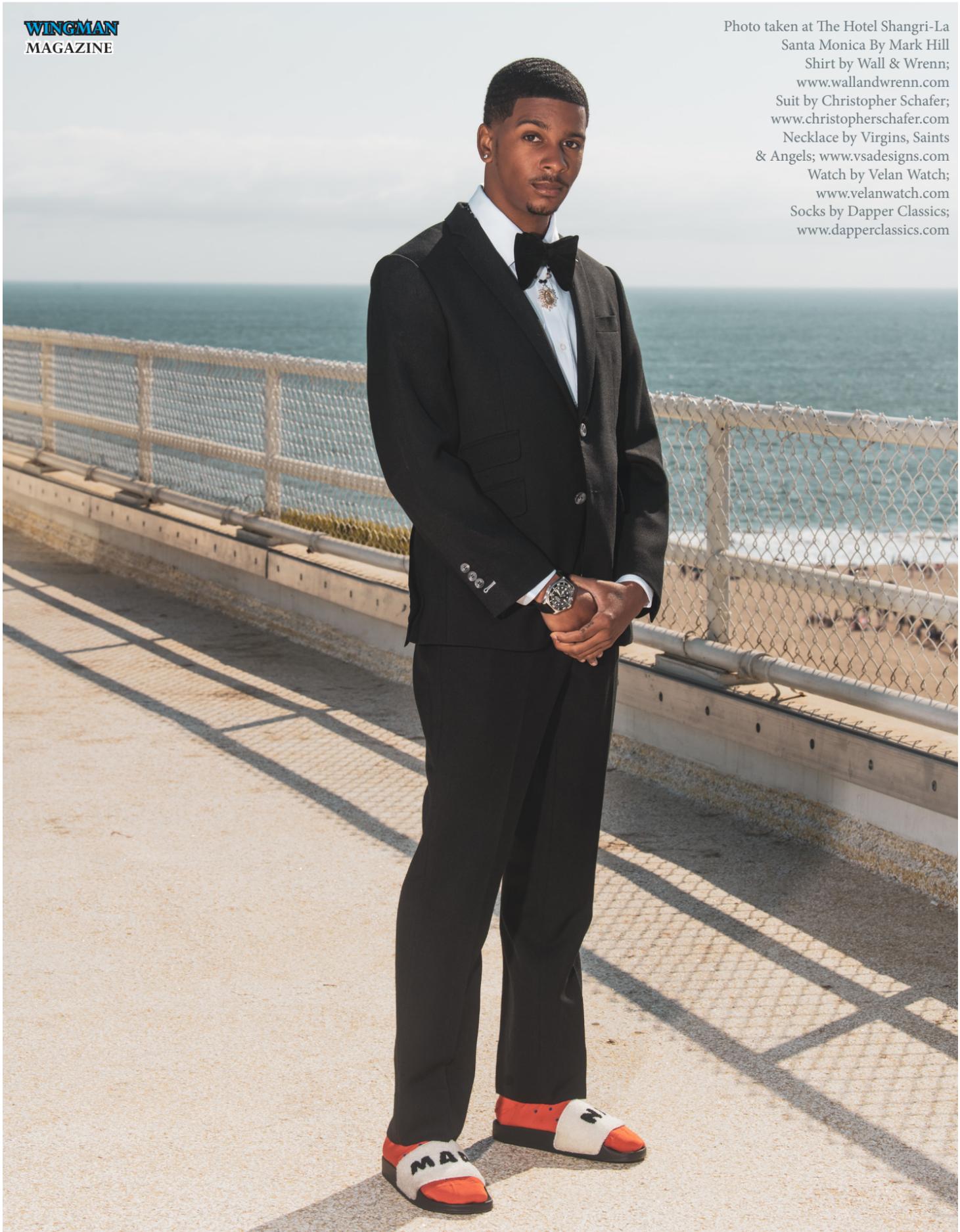


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**WINGMAN:** You are an incredible singer and an outstanding actor. Talk about how one leads into the other for you, or did it just organically come together?

**BRETT GRAY:** Thank you first off. Well, I feel like what many don't know is that I've been an entertainer since I was a young kid! I started acting and singing at school and around town when I was 7 years old. My first gig was when I was 8 and I was in "Porgy and Bess" with the Metropolitan Opera. So they've always been connected. I have a long history of music and acting and come from the musical theater world too.

**WINGMAN:** We have had three seasons of "On My Block" so far and it has been absolutely lighting up Netflix for the past three seasons. How much of yourself have you put into Jamal as the seasons have gone on?

**GRAY:** There's a ton of myself in Jamal! He was written very differently at first. I always love it when fans of the show say "Ahhh you act so much like Jamal," and in my head I go "Nahhh, Jamal is based off of me!" I'm sure he'd be very different if he was played by someone else [laughs.] Now, as for his actions, that's a different story! That's all the writers doing, I totally would've kept the Rollerworld money.

**WINGMAN:** What would you like to see happen for Jamal in season four?

**GRAY:** We're knee deep in filming right now so I don't even want to say! I may spill the wrong thing. You'll just have to see for yourself.

**WINGMAN:** We are calling this cover "The @ Pack," a name taken from the ideas of "The Rat Pack," "The Brat Pack," and "The Frat Pack." Which former pack do you feel you would have most fit in, what is your favorite pack movie, and who is your favorite former packer?

**GRAY:** To be honest, I've always been

a stand-alone type guy. I never felt I had the capacity to fit in with a group or put labels on myself so I don't know, but if I had to pick, definitely the Rat pack. I mean come on. To spend my days chilling with Sammy Davis Jr, Frank Sinatra, Harry Belafonte, it doesn't get much better than that for a young entertainer. My favorite is Definitely Sammy.

**WINGMAN:** The only video that isn't your own on your YouTube channel is Sammy Davis Jr. and I feel like you embody his persona a little bit. What about Sammy Davis Jr. stands out the most for you?

**GRAY:** I connect with him in many ways! Being young and always singing and dancing and trying to put smiles on people's faces. I have so much passion sometimes I have to check myself to contain it. My dreams are HUGE. And I won't stop working until I'm prepared enough to go get them. I think Sammy and I share that. People always used to say I reminded them of him and an early Michael Jackson. I always thought those were the biggest compliments in the world. And so I'd strive to get people to think THAT when I was performing.

**WINGMAN:** Your musical talents and voice are so incredible it's hard



Photo taken at The Hotel Shangri-La  
Santa Monica By Mark Hill  
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to pinpoint some other singers that you sound like, which is phenomenal that you have such a unique voice. What inspirations in music did you have growing up, and now?

**GRAY:** Oh man, I listen to almost exclusively old school music. I stay in the now and keep up with new releases just to see who's who, but alone, you'll catch me listening to Sade, or Bill Withers or The Temptations. I just love what they were saying, and how they were singing it.

**WINGMAN:** If you could collaborate with any artist alive or dead, who would they be and why?

**GRAY:** I really want to collaborate with Beyoncé. I know. I know. But hey, Dreams come true! She's the entertainer of our generation. I'd learn so much just being in her presence. And I'd steal as much of what I learned as I could [chuckles.]

**WINGMAN:** You have done some Instagram live concerts already. Will we be seeing you live in concert at some venues soon?

**GRAY:** Yup! I'm so excited about this next chapter. Both my acting and music goals are happening for me simultaneously. I like to keep things separate from each other, but it's so much fun to balance both. It's something people always tell me is impossible, doing more than one thing at a time. So it makes me extra happy because they have no choice but to watch me prove them wrong.

**WINGMAN:** You are also known by your 2.8 million Tik Tok followers as putting out some great content frequently.

**GRAY:** I try to keep up with TikTok when I can. It's mostly just for fun for me.

**WINGMAN:** What was your first audition for a role? And how much of it do you remember?

**GRAY:** I don't even remember. My first audition had to be at least 15 years ago or more!

**WINGMAN:** What actors or actresses inspired you to become an actor as a



child, and have you been able to work with any of them yet?

**GRAY:** Oh man, so many. Will Smith was huge for me though being that we both come from Philly. I've admired him and the work of his family for decades. I haven't, but never say never!

*One thing we would never say no to? Watching Brett Gray in anything. □*