

A man with a beard and a black fedora hat is looking back over his right shoulder. He is wearing a dark, double-breasted coat and holding a smartphone in his right hand. A tattoo is visible on his right wrist. The background is a blurred, dark interior space.

# Amadeus

THE MEGA PRODUCER

| Bleu's own Publisher takes a moment to reflect on his life of travel, and how those miles impact our past, present and future.

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Antwan “Amadeus” Thompson is not the typical producer in entertainment. He has so many different jobs; any one of them could be a life long career. Amadeus is a Multi-Platinum Bad Boy/Hitmen Record Producer, CEO of Platinum Boy Music, Inc, DraisiNightClub Resident, and Trey Songz’s Musical Director/Tour Drummer. He is a well-rounded producer who worked with over 80 artists, ranging from Jennifer Lopez, French Montana, Trey Songz, Chris Brown, 50 Cent, Justin Bieber, Fabolous, T.I, Young Jeezy, Tyga, Keyshia Cole, Wale, Busta Rhymes, just to name a few.

Amadeus took it one step further by producing music for major brands including BET, VH1, Burger King, Sprite, EA Sports, and ESPN. Amadeus also started Platinum Boy Music production. He launched Music 101 College Tour, a tutoring session for people to learn more about the ins and outs of the business. He says the overall mission of the tour is to “educate, empower, inspire, and transform the people.”

Bleu Magazine recently spoke with the legendary producer about his musical roots, Bad Boys days, upcoming projects, and giving back.

**Bleu Magazine: Thank you Amadeus for speaking with Bleu, I appreciate your time. Let’s talk about your musical journey.**

Antwan “Amadeus” Thompson: I was fascinated with music from an early age. It was just always around the household. My parents love music from all different genres. On Saturday, my mother would clean up the house and she would play different records. She would play everything from Hezekiah Walker to RUN DMC, to Marvin Gaye, to Chic. It was blessing that I attend Catholic school because I was surrounded by music especially hip-hop. It was a huge financial sacrifice for my family and I appreciate them for believing in my talent and vision. I just started recognizing my love and passion for music. Music became my outlet and escape and it kept me away from the streets. I was kept away from violence because I was doing something productive with my life.

**I Who were your musical influences?**

Some of my musical influences were KRS-One, Brand Nubian, Black Sheep, Kirk Franklin, The Doors, A Tribe Called Quest; it was just so many different people. Before the Bad Boy era, different artists influenced me based on their artistry and style.

**What made you decide to pursue a career in music?**

I didn’t see myself doing anything else but music. I started off as an artist. I wanted to be a rapper. My rap name at the time was “A-Boogie,” and I thought it was tight. People thought my stage name was trash

and I changed it to Amadeus. I studied the meaning of the name, how it’s supposed to be used, and how can I apply the name to my personality. I am crazy passionate, silly, love women, and strong. I was like that fits me, most definitely. Then, it was suggested to me that I start working behind the scenes because they recognize my talent musically. And I figured I could see more of the money because I was considered one of the “operators in music.” It was no brainer for me to be involved with musical production.

**I Who was the first artist you produced?**

The first artist I produced wasn’t a mainstream artist. The artist name was Nucci Rey on MCA Records. It was a big moment because I sold my first track. I also produced “My Life,” a track for Foxy Brown from the Cradle to the Grave soundtrack. The soundtrack went gold and sold 500,00 copies. It was also the response to Eve’s diss record, “Get Off Me.” At first, I was like my career was over because I loved Eve and I didn’t want to get involved with the beef. My colleague had to tell me that you’re just producing the track; you’re not featured on the record. I know from that point, I was making my mark in the game. I was just getting into the game and I wanted to be taken seriously.

**I How did you link up with Bad Boy Records?**

Bobby Springsteen, Head of A&R at Bad Boy Records at the time would allow me to play a new batch of beats for him. And I would go see him and my mentor, Deric “D-Dot” Angelettie. D-Dot was one of The Hitmen for Bad Boy at the time, and from there, I started making connections with the label. D-Dot was such a big help in my career and he guided me in my production career. While I was in the studio, I started working with the late Heavy D for about two months. I wasn’t a [member of] The Hitmen yet but still maintained those relationships with Bad Boy. Then, I was approached by Fran Spero and Dalton Hernandez, a manager for all [members of] The Hitmen and they listened to my beats. And from that day, I became [one of] The Hitmen producers for Bad Boy records. They wanted me on the team. It was like my dream turned into reality. I started working with Cheri Dennis, Day 26, Danity Kane, and Donnie.

**Were you able to produce for other artists due to word of mouth or submitting tracks to the artists?**

I started producing over 15 years ago and I started working with other artists by sharing my beats. Other colleagues were aware of what I was doing as a producer. I also started going for networking events and listening session so I can get other contact information. I sent out email blasts to all of the industry contacts in my phone. I still send email blasts to this day so I can work with more notable artists. But, word of mouth is the oldest way to

retrieve and accept a message. And once I sent out the beats, I am still maintaining relationships with other artists and musicians.

**How does it feel when people call you the “Super Producer?”**

It is still a humbling feeling and a blessing. I am achieving my dreams and goals. I am also inspired by Swizz Beatz, Puff, and Dr. Dre because they are super producers in my eyes. Over 17 years later, I’ve worked with over 50 artists and it’s a blessing. It just makes me want to work harder and harder. I never wanted to get to a certain level and be comfortable. When you’re too comfortable, you miss out on other opportunities. You start losing sight of who you are as an individual and God is no longer first. He wants us to constantly evolve, learn, and elevate in our lives.

**I Let’s talk about the Music 101 College Tour.**

I started with the Music 101 College tour back in 2015 because I want more young people to learn more about music and the business. I want to pour my knowledge into other people and use my career as a blueprint. We want to transform people by changing their mindset about the business. I am creating a blueprint by informing the people so other executives won’t take advantage of them. I just want everybody to be great and express themselves musically. I am giving them encouraging words that they can apply to their everyday life. We have speaking engagements in several different schools- NYU, Harvard, Yale, William Paterson University, just to name a few.

**What inspired you to launch Platinum Boy Music Inc.?**

Platinum Boy Music Inc. is a publishing company that I started in 2000 and we’re growing as a team and family. My blueprint for Platinum Boy Music Inc. is similar to The Hitmen because I wanted to be surrounded by the best producers and musicians. I want to put like minds together studio and create masterpieces.

**I What is your definition of music?**

Amadeus: Music is an instrument that can make you feel a number of ways. That’s why people love listening to music; it doesn’t matter the genre. A listener will know if the music was made with love and I enjoy making what I love in the studio. I won’t press stop until I love the record. Music is a sense of freedom and it’s a way that we as artists or producers can express themselves. There is no right or wrong way to make music. As long as your heart is in the music, you can’t go wrong at all. It’s up to people to embrace your music, it can’t be forced. Everything isn’t for everybody as far as music is concerned. You have to realize your music is not going to be appealing to everybody. But, you create the music and just be who you are musically.

