



LIBRETTO
UNFINISHED

AN
ARTIST'S
TESTAMENT

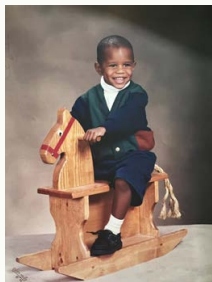
by JEREMY POPE



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"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT"

PROVERBS 22:6

ORDER OF SERVICE

SCRIPTURE
Proverbs 22:8

INVOCATION

by JEREMY POPE

SERVE *(prayer)*

by POPE

A CALL TO WORSHIP

by Deacon
EMIL WILBEKIN

FLEX (BITCH)
(photo series)

by JEREMY POPE

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Music Lead by POPE

SERMON
GOD IS GOOD

by JEREMY POPE

THE WEIGHT OF
BECOMING
(a reading)

by JEREMY POPE

FAMILY

by POPE

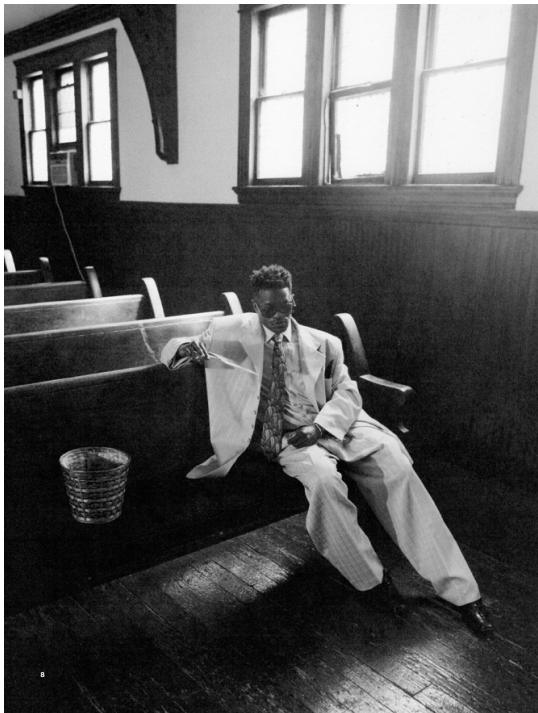
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

by JT POPE

POPE

LIBRETTO
UNFINISHED

SERVICE



IN VO CA TI ON

ART

AN INFINITE SOURCE OF HEALING.

THE OBSERVATION OF IT. THE PURSUIT OF IT.

THE SURRENDER TO IT.

I'VE BEEN UNPACKING THE WAYS MY SOUL WANTS TO EXIST IN THIS WORLD—
IN CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE. WITH SYSTEMS. WITH IDEAS AND VIBRATIONS.
WITH TRUTH AND ILLUSION. SOMETIMES BOTH AT ONCE.

BORN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS OF MY LIFE,
THESE BODIES OF WORK ARE ME SITTING INSIDE THAT TENSION—
WHERE TWO TRUTHS CAN LIVE TOGETHER WITHOUT NEEDING TO BE RESOLVED.

IT'S ME MAKING SPACE FOR SPIRIT TO MOVE.
TO GUIDE.
TO INTERRUPT.
TO HEAL.

THE ACT OF CREATING—OF TRANSLATING A THOUGHT, A FEELING, A MEMORY
INTO SOMETHING I CAN SEE AND TOUCH—HAS BEEN THE MOST
IMPORTANT THING I'VE EVER KNOWN.

IT'S THE CREATION OF MY OWN VISUAL CURRENCY FOR HOW I SEE
AND MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD.
AS THE SUBJECT.

THE CREATIVE.

THE ACTOR

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

THE ARTIST

THE DIRECTOR

THE VESSEL

THE OBSERVER

ETC ETC ETC ETC ETC ETC ETC

IT KEEPS HUMBLING ME.

TEACHING ME.

REMINDING ME HOW MUCH THERE STILL IS TO DISCOVER, AND TO RELEARN.

ABOUT WHO I AM AND WHAT I BELIEVE.

LIBRETTO UNFINISHED IS A WITNESS TO PROCESS.
IT'S AN OPEN CONVERSATION—

ONE THAT STARTS WITH ME, BUT DOESN'T END THERE.

IT'S AN INVITATION, A SPACE FOR TRANSFORMATION, A SPACE OF OFFERING.
A REMINDER THAT EVEN WHEN THE WORK FEELS INCOMPLETE,

THE SPIRIT IS WHOLE—PRESENT AND MOVING.

SERVE
(verb)

I CARRY STORIES LIKE BREATHS — ESSENTIAL, BUT ALIVE WITH THE WEIGHT OF EXISTENCE.
TO CREATE IS TO BE IN COMMUNION WITH SOMETHING GREATER THAN MYSELF.
IT IS AN ACT OF SACRED VULNERABILITY, A LAYING BARE OF THE SOUL. TO BE A VESSEL

“YOU BETTER SERVE”
- PEPPER LABELJA

ART, IS BUT A WINDOW — A GLIMPSE INTO THE COMPLEXITY OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

IT'S AN INVITATION TO RECKON WITH JOY AND PAIN, BEAUTY AND CONTRADICTION.
OUR ANCESTORS PAINTED WITH HOPE,
DANCED WITH DEFIANCE, AND SPOKE THROUGH THEIR HANDS AND VOICES
WHEN WORDS ALONE COULD NOT CARRY THE WEIGHT OF THEIR TRUTH.
THEIR ART WAS A PRAYER, A PROTEST, AND A PROMISE —

I STAND ON THAT PROMISE.
I STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE ME,
THOSE WHO DARED TO DREAM WITHOUT PERMISSION,
THOSE WHO LOVED IN SPITE OF THE WORLD'S INDIFFERENCE.

“YOU BETTER SERVE”
- PEPPER LABELJA

BUT BEYOND THE CRAFT, THERE IS A DEEPER QUESTION BENEATH EVERYTHING WE DO:
WHAT ARE YOU IN SERVICE OF?
BECAUSE TO CREATE OR TO LIVE WITHOUT PURPOSE IS TO WANDER WITHOUT COMPASS.
AND SO I ASK —
WHAT DOES YOUR SOUL ANSWER WHEN IT IS CALLED TO SERVE?



POPE

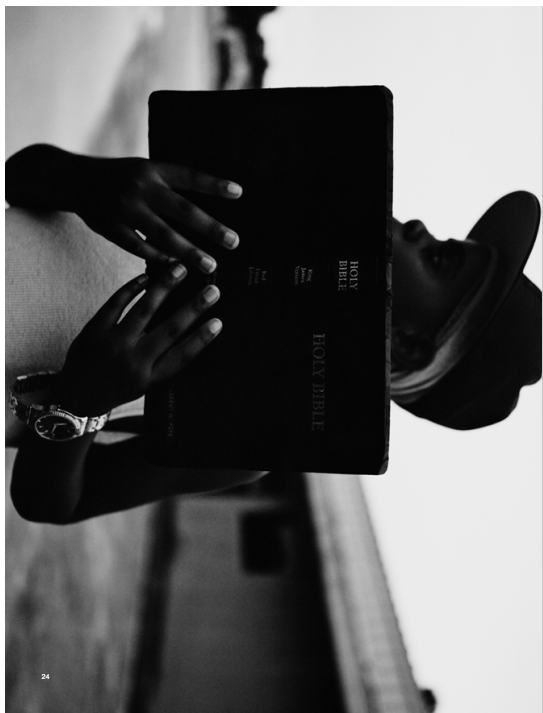
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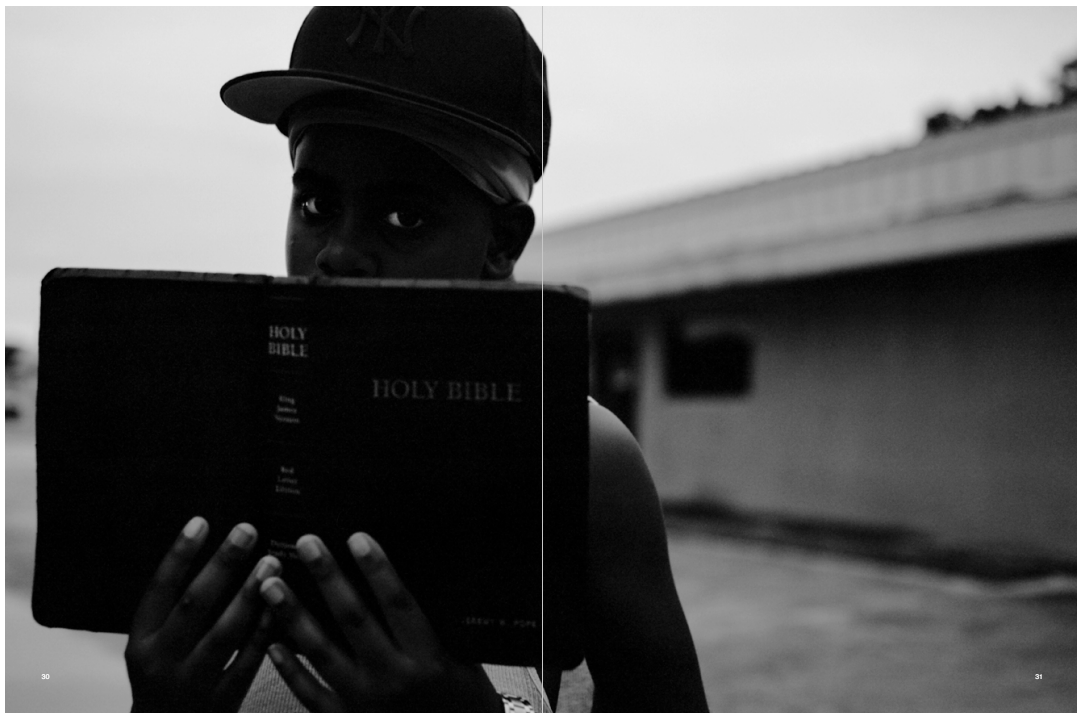
SERVE

FLEX
(BITCH)
VERSE I











FLEX (BITCH)

ACT I

VERSE II

FLEX (BITCH)







FLEX (BITCH)

ACT I

VERSE III

FLEX (BITCH)













GOD

IS

GO

OD

ARTIST STATEMENT

I've spent the majority of my life at odds with the world's idea of how masculinity should present itself as black men. I've made it my mission to unpack the vulnerability, behaviors and ideas about my existence that don't serve me in a positive way, all as an effort to love every part of myself. I love my strength, my vulnerability, and how it all informs my heart and my mind. I truly believe that I am allowed to have a spiritual connection with something that is greater than just me no matter what any church, book, or faith believing observer may say.

We all have the right to love. The right to get it wrong, then right, then wrong again. We all have the right to question our purpose. To wonder whether the cards we've been dealt, or the choices we make in this life are rooted in something bigger and greater than our hearts could ever imagine.

Life is the audition. You do what you can with what you know and what you got. So fuck it, and Break a Leg.

-Jeremy Pope





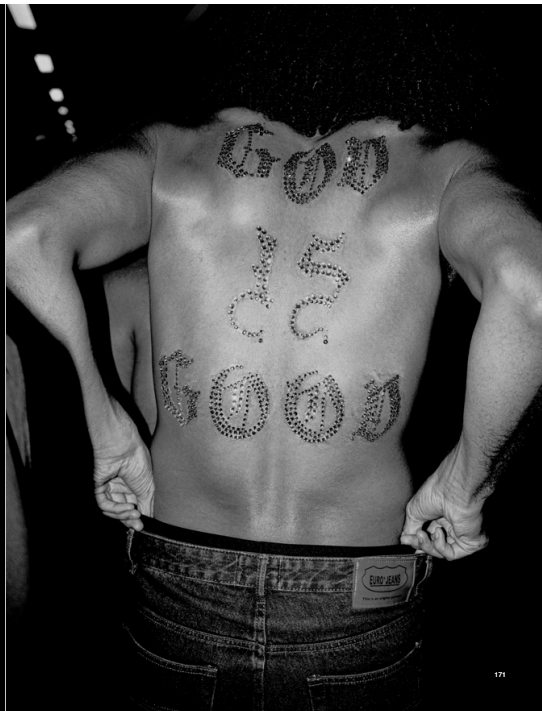


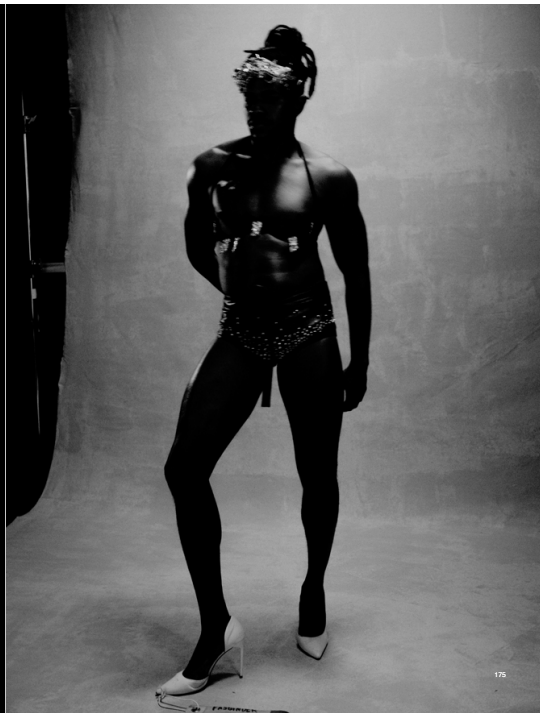


















You can't give what you don't have...

Nathaniel Pope (my dad) was a hard worker and the patriarch of the Pope family. Growing up as the oldest of 9 brothers and sisters, he fought hard to make sure that all the needs of the home were met. He had to grow up fast, and life forced him to develop a strong work ethic. With great responsibility, he often sacrificed himself for the needs of others. This life made him rigid, callous and insensitive to expressing emotional love. This was a love that many of them around him needed to experience but he just didn't have it to give. I vowed that I wouldn't repeat this cycle where Jeremy was born. I wanted him to know that there was nothing greater in the world than the love of a parent for their child and that together we could face every challenge life may bring.

You can give what you do have. . .

One thing my dad did instill growing up was a character of excellence. To take pride in your name and work hard at everything you do. To not allow the norms of society or the opinions of people to keep a firm reaching your dreams. I was taught that things not growing are dead. That true success is taking the baton and going further than those that had gone before you. I ran with this message, and this is the belief system I passed on to Jeremy

A choice to be different. . .

From a young age Jeremy rejected the norms of a traditional childhood. He tried football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and running track. He excelled at every sport. However, despite being an exceptional athlete, you could see that there was something still missing in his life. Fulfillment comes through walking out purpose, so I wanted him to discover what he was passionate about. One day I asked, Son, "What is it that you love to do?". Jeremy's response to my question, "I want to be an artist" This answer set ablaze a course that would not only transform his life but impact the entire world around him.

Last Name Pope.

Jeremy has taken the baton and is running at full sprint. Leaving a mark on races, genders and industries that can not be erased. He's challenging a world to not be imprisoned in the views, norms and opinions of society. To think outside the box and release creativity. Understanding that to see something different we must do something different. He's teaching that true growth requires taking the limits off. Jeremy is challenging barriers and tearing down walls. He is exemplifying the belief that "All things are possible if you can believe." With a seat at the table, he is choosing to make a difference. That is his heritage; it's who he is. Jeremy is his first name. . . Last Name, POPE

So proud of you partner

Dad

Ty Pope









