

show when he was 4 years old by his mother. As the years continued to fly by, Garrett honed and crafted his talents by learning how to play the piano and keyboard. He eventually went back to school and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business from the University of Maryland's program in Germany. A few years later, he returned to the US believing wholeheartedly that he was an artist rather than just a pure songwriter. He took a job as a mortgage broker in South Carolina, but his true passion lied between the lines on paper and on composition sheets. Upon the death of his mother, he became more emblazoned to make a lifetime commitment to creating music. His hard work paid off as he landed a songwriting-publishing deal with a firm owned by the legendary L.A. Reid.

**Garrett knew early on that music would be his chosen path for a career.**

"To be honest with you, I knew since I was 3 years old that music would be my chosen career path," says Garrett. "I started writing songs when I was 3 and my mom had me in my first talent show when I was 4 years old. This was definitely intended to be my destiny. I was also an athlete so the competitive spirit that I gained from being an athlete I brought with me when I started doing music full-time as a songwriter, producer and artist."

At the end of 2006, he was honored by Billboard for being Songwriter of the Year. Shortly thereafter, he embarked on a career as an artist through his Bet I Penned It Music imprint, through Interscope Records. But this became somewhat of a tumultuous situation as the label yearned to release his debut record in Asian markets due to their grand desire for Garrett's debut, Turbo 919. Label politics ultimately led to the album being released in

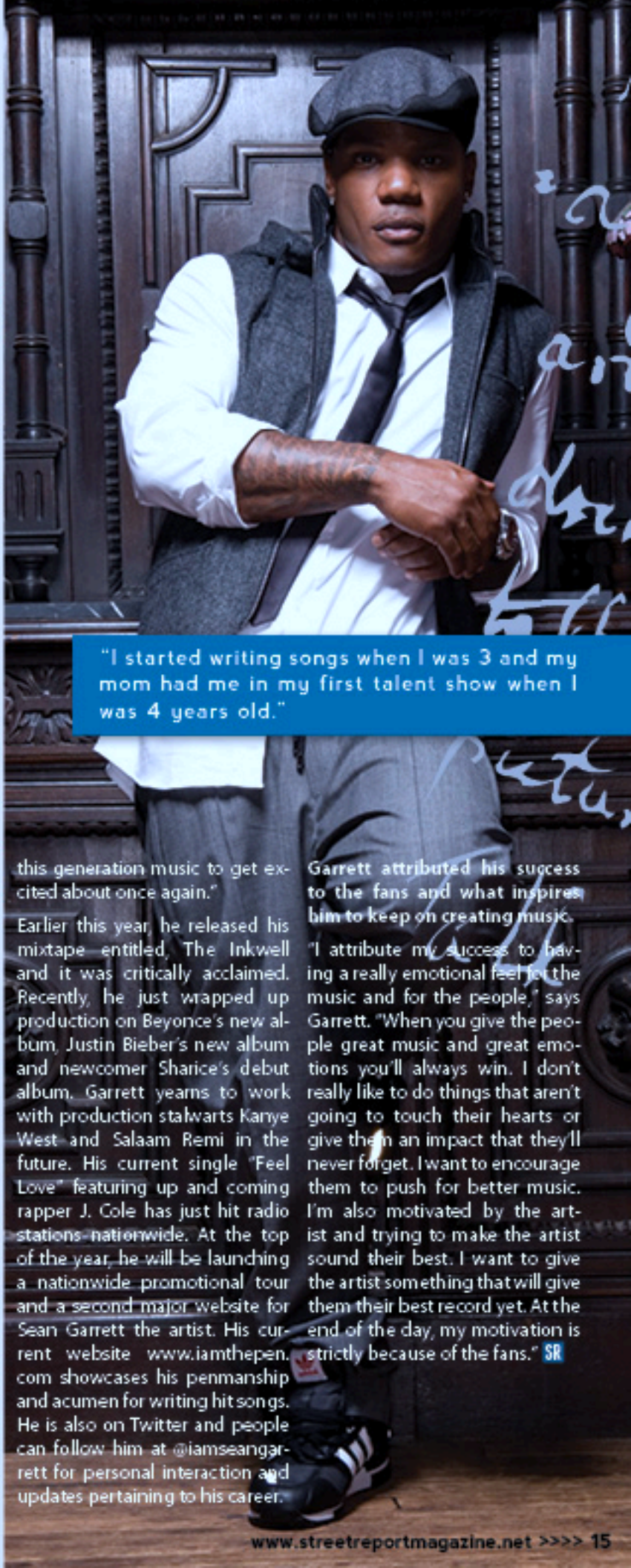
Asia and the US in 2008, but it underperformed because it didn't receive the full branding it needed from the record label. One thing is clearly evident; Garrett wants to be regarded as a profound recording artist as well as a songwriter/producer.

**Garrett revealed what the word artist means to him and how the record labels and fans can change.**

"The word artist to me means the ability to be free and being able to follow your own intuitions and not following someone else's," says Garrett. "Being an artist is being true to yourself and being strictly apolitical because a lot of times people play the game of politics and it gets you caught up into a scenario after a couple of years that you don't have the ability to get out of. The color of your jacket begins to change and it's not what's popular any more. The people are quick to choose another jacket and you have to understand that going into this industry."

**Garrett went on to reference the differences between the current trends of music production versus decades before.**

"Music from the 70s, 80s, and 90s was a lot better," says Garrett. "The music that we're making today, I like it, but it doesn't have the same validity of the music back then. People in the 1990s were making some incredible music that still sounds incredible. To go even further back than that you can listen to records from Michael Jackson in the 1980s and those albums sounded phenomenal. You can put on those records right now and they still sound phenomenal. There's some records that are the exception to the rule, but I will have to say that music from back in the day was better than it is right now. It's my job and our jobs as hit producers to turn this thing around and give the people of



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this generation music to get excited about once again."

Earlier this year, he released his mixtape—entitled, *The Inkwell*—and it was critically acclaimed. Recently, he just wrapped up production on Beyoncé's new album, Justin Bieber's new album and newcomer Sharice's debut album. Garrett yearns to work with production stalwarts Kanye West and Salaam Remi in the future. His current single "Feel Love" featuring up and coming rapper J. Cole has just hit radio stations nationwide. At the top of the year, he will be launching a nationwide promotional tour and a second major website for Sean Garrett the artist. His current website [www.iamthepen.com](http://www.iamthepen.com) showcases his penmanship and acumen for writing hit songs. He is also on Twitter and people can follow him at @iamseangarrett for personal interaction and updates pertaining to his career.

Garrett attributed his success to the fans and what inspires him to keep on creating music.

"I attribute my success to having a really emotional feel for the music and for the people," says Garrett. "When you give the people great music and great emotions you'll always win. I don't really like to do things that aren't going to touch their hearts or give them an impact that they'll never forget. I want to encourage them to push for better music. I'm also motivated by the artist and trying to make the artist sound their best. I want to give the artist something that will give them their best record yet. At the end of the day, my motivation is strictly because of the fans." SR