



[ACMs 2018](#) [Festivals](#) [Hot 100](#) [Billboard 200](#) [Latin](#) [Podcasts](#) [Pop](#) [R&B/Hip-Hop](#) [Chart Beat](#) [Artists](#)

Hennessey Carolina Talks Getting Physical for a Good Cause on MTV's 'The Challenge: Champs Vs. Stars': 'I Did It for The Bronx'

4/17/2018 by [Abby Jones](#)



Courtesy of MTV

Hennessy Carolina

Cardi B's sister makes an action-packed return to reality TV tonight.

Hennessy Carolina, better known simply as Hennessy, has plenty of reasons to make herself known aside from being the younger sister of chart-topping rapper [Cardi B](#). Fiery personalities run strong in the Almanzar family, and Hennessy's can be witnessed in action on MTV's latest competition reality series *The Challenge: Champs Vs. Stars*, which premieres Tuesday night (April 17) at 10 p.m. ET.

In the high-action show, celebrities go head-to-head with fan-favorite winners from past *Challenge* seasons. From episode to episode, both champs and stars must prove their mental and physical agility or risk getting the boot. Hennessy admits she was nervous to return to television after her days on VH1's *Love & Hip Hop*. Lately, she's been prioritizing her budding fashion design career over TV opportunities.

READ MORE

Cardi B's Sister Hennessy Carolina Surprises Her With a Gucci Bag After Admitting She Lost One That She Borrowed: Watch

"I didn't know anybody, so I was getting in a team with people I didn't know," Hennessy tells *Billboard*. "It was hard work and it was scary. But it was good."

The celebrity lineup also includes former Nickelodeon star Drake Bell, hip-hop queen [Lil Mama](#) and -- perhaps the most fitting for physical challenges -- daughter of pro wrestler Hulk Hogan, Brooke Hogan. Each star enters the show having selected a charity they wish to support. The further they get in the competition, the more money they earn for their charity of choice. Initially intimidated by the premise of *The Challenge*, the charity aspect is what drew Hennessy to compete.

"I really wasn't sure about doing it," she explains. "I was like, 'You know what? I'll do it for charity. If it's for charity, I'll do it.'"

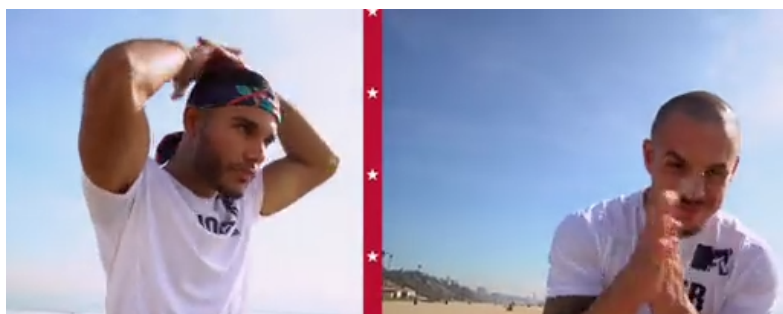
Hennessy gave an ode to her hometown by choosing to donate to BronxWorks, an organization that provides health, economic and social assistance to families in need in her native New York borough.

"I chose BronxWorks because I'm from The Bronx, and I got raised in The Bronx, and I just know the struggle and how it is growing up in The Bronx," Hennessy recalls. "I just did it for The Bronx. ... I wanted to help the kids and everyone there, because there's not a lot of opportunities out there."

The forthcoming season of *The Challenge* marks the first in which the champs and stars can intermingle on the same team, rather than being restricted to teams of just champs or just stars. Even with the opportunity to have some champion power on her side, Hennessy says competing in the show's tasks is grueling, and an extreme time commitment.

"[Filming] would be for like 10 to 14 hours a day, doing these challenges," she details. "It was hard work, but I made the best of it."

Viewers will have to tune in to MTV on Tuesday night to see how Hennessy measures up against her fellow stars and *Challenge* champs. Watch her in a teaser for the season below:



BILLBOARD VIDEO



Billboard Hot 100 Festival 2018 Lineup Announced!

<p>Billboard Hot 100 Festival 2018 Lineup Announced!</p>	<p>Tinashe on J-Hope and BTS Collaboration Billboard</p>	<p>LOCASH: Get to Know the Duo Behind 'Don't Get Better Than That' Billboard</p>	<p>J Balvin, Anitta & Jhene Aiko 'Machika' How It Went Down</p>
--	--	--	---

SHARE THIS:



From the Web

Powered by ZergNet



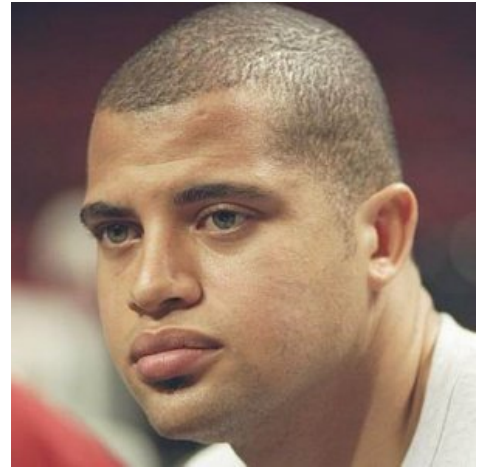
Avicii's Ex-Girlfriend Emily Goldberg Reacts to His Death

Aol.com



Here's Carrie Underwood's Face 5 Months After Gruesome Injury

Pagesix.com



15 Celebs Who Vanished And Are Still Missing Today

Grunge.com



Stars You May Not Know Passed Away

Grunge.com



Selena Gomez Debuts New Shaved Hairdo

Etonline.com



15 Celebs Who Underwent Major Body Transformations

FUSE.tv

▼ COMMENTS

'Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story' Brings 'One of the Most Important Conversations' to Tribeca Film Festival

4/21/2018 by [Hilary Hughes](#)





Dia Dipasupil/Getty Images for Tribeca.

Jenner Furst, Sybrina Fulton, Tracy Martin and Joy Reid speak at the 'Rest In Power: The Trayvon Martin Story' premiere during the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival at BMCC Tribeca PAC on April 20, 2018 in New York City.

The JAY-Z-produced docuseries premiered at the festival on April 20.

A moment in *Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story* lingers on a pair of white and red Air Jordans. The photograph shown, taken of Trayvon Martin's body hours after his death on February 26, 2012, is worked into the first episode of the six-part docuseries executive-produced by Trayvon's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, and [JAY-Z](#). The filmmakers intentionally refrained from showing the slain 17-year-old's body: The camera doesn't pan out, but the dreadful reminder that Trayvon will never untie these laces sets in anyway.

We see Trayvon's skin -- an exposed ankle between the tongue of his Jordan and his khaki cuff -- because one of his pant legs hiked up slightly when his body fell after George Zimmerman followed him down a dark pathway in a gated community in Sanford, Fla, and shot and killed him. We see this photo because it is evidence, a document from a crime scene, even if the perpetrator of said crime wouldn't be arrested for weeks after the teenager's death.

"We actually chose not to show a lot of the images that were shown in the courtroom, that Tracy and Sybrina had to sit through, because there was no need to see those again," said co-director/executive producer Jenner Furst in the Q&A portion following the first episode's premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 20. "It's very hard, but we can't look away. This happened. America has to be able to truly digest how horrible and tragic it was without it being gratuitous."

The violence that spawned that photograph was hatefully gratuitous. *Rest in Power*, the work of all involved and the action they encourage audiences to take is the polar opposite of that.

READ MORE

Watch the First Trailer From JAY-Z-Produced 'Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story' Docuseries

Mara Webster, the festival's Director of Panels and Special Events, introduced first chapter of *Rest in Power* by calling it "one of the most important things we've ever shown as a part of the television section" and later said it brought "one of the most important conversations at the festival." Both statements speak to the urgency of the material: *Rest in Power* begins with Trayvon, but expands to address systemic racism, the violence it breeds and the power structures that keep it in place, all as the viewer recognizes that these forces remain insidiously at work in our current climate.

In a conversation moderated by MSNBC's Joy Reid, Fulton and Martin -- along with Furst, co-director/executive producer Julia Willoughby Nason, and executive producers Chachi Senior and Michael Gasparro -- focused on the mission that sustains them as they adapt Fulton and Martin's 2017 book, *Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin*, for the small screen.

"It's been very difficult, but it's a tragedy worth telling, because it happened to Emmett Till -- nobody was held accountable," said Fulton, invoking the name of the 14-year-old boy lynched in Mississippi in 1955. "It continues to happen today. We want to make sure people remember not only Trayvon, but all the Trayvon Martins, and all the young men and women that he represents. All the senseless gun violence that continues to plague our nation today. So even though this happened to Trayvon six years ago, it happened to Emmett Till over fifty years ago. We have to be mindful that things needs to change. Gun culture needs to change. Mental illness needs to change. And also, the hatred that goes on in this country needs to change.

"We want to make sure that we're a part of that change, so if it meant us opening our lives up -- and it's not easy -- I think it's important for people to realize that it took courage and strength to do this," she continued. "This is nothing that we would have volunteered ourselves for. This is not something that I would have sacrificed my son for. I thank God for the people that continue to support us."

READ MORE

Music Activists Respond to Florida Shooting Survivor's Three Powerful Words: 'Register To Vote!'

Every panel member stressed that action -- and action in the voting booth -- is crucial, and the conversation with the crowd at Tribeca furthered the filmmakers' intent to inform. When a member of the audience mentioned the [Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017](#), a piece of legislation passed by the House that requires states to recognize the concealed carry laws of other states across state lines, Furst thanked her for bringing it up and contributing to the conversation. Throughout the Q&A, several threads were tied between the laws and their enforcers that couldn't protect Trayvon and indict his killer to our still-raging gun violence epidemic and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in February.

"The difference is, the Parkland incident hit rural America; it hit the heart of America," said Martin of the Parkland, Fla. shooting when asked about its impact in changing the gun control debate. "Trayvon Martin wasn't the heart of America. Trayvon Martin is categorized as the ghetto. When this took action outside the ghetto, now, America is awakened. Now everybody wants to do something about it. We've been trying to get America to do something about this for years."

Hopefully, America will listen, as *Rest in Power* succeeds in telling Trayvon's story without buffering the brutal truths or overwhelming the viewer. Every photo -- be it the Air Jordans, his baby pictures or the iconic image of Trayvon in a hoodie -- serves a purpose. Every soundbite does, too, even -- especially -- the shattering 911 calls placed by frightened neighbors with Trayvon screaming for help in the background. *Rest in Power* forces a crucial conversation, but it's up to the viewer to do the work and bring it beyond their screens.



Presented by:



Billboard Hot 100 Festival 2018 Lineup Announced!

Billboard Hot 100
Festival 2018 Lineup
Announced!

Tinashe on J-Hope
and BTS Collaboration
| Billboard

LOCASH: Get to Know
the Duo Behind 'Don't
Get Better Than That' |
Billboard

J Balvin, Anitta & J
"Machika" | How It
Went Down

SHARE THIS:



© 2018 Billboard. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [About Our Ads](#) [Advertising](#)

Billboard.com is a member of Billboard Music, a division of Billboard-Hollywood Reporter Media Group