

# ESSENCE

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## CONTENTS.

▼  
**fashion.**

**23 / HIS & HERS**  
Genderless clothes are at the heart this season's apparel

**28 / MASTER CLASS**  
Victoria's Secret's angel and model citizen Leomie Anderson serves up trendy looks

**30 / ACCESSORIES**  
Bring the bling to your chic designer hats

**32 / REAL FASHION CONFESSIONALS**  
Styling duo Wayman and Micah share their favorite creations for woke muse Tessa Thompson

**34 / SHOP THE CLOSET**  
Our style director layers it on for cooler temps

**36 / IT GIRL**  
Anger Management rapper Rico Nasty infuses her gritty swagger with a touch of rock and whimsy

**38 / STYLE DISPATCH**  
The latest happenings in the world of couture and casual wear

**118**

After two decades in prison, Alice Marie Johnson holds on to her newfound freedom.



**52 / MUSINGS**

The Tank & the Bangas lead Tarriona Ball delights in her chocolate goodness

**48**

Introducing recent additions to hair care that treats our tresses like treasure.



**43 / THE FUNNY FILES**  
Comedian on the rise Dulcé Sloan is also a glam girl

**46 / GOTTA HAVE IT**  
Seven selections from fresh-on-the-scene Black-owned brands

**48 / THE COMPACT**  
Notable news about makeup, hair care and skin care

**50 / DOPE STUFF ON MY DESK**  
Woke beauty wonders

**52 / MUSINGS**  
The Tank & the Bangas lead Tarriona Ball delights in her chocolate goodness

**54 / VANITY VOYEUR**  
We peek inside the regimen of Afrobeats singer-songwriter Tiwa Savage

ESSENCE.COM | 12 | NOVEMBER 2019

MUSINGS

# Charming Tank

There is no denying the power and majesty of **Tarriona “Tank” Ball’s** voice. And as if that weren’t enough, her thoughts on our skin and the magic within will also steal your heart

BY JULEE WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL G. CASTRILLON

||| BEAUTY |||

“I grew up with sisters, DARK SKINNED SISTERS who always told me I was BEAUTIFUL.”



▼ The moment you meet Tarriona “Tank” Ball, it’s abundantly clear that the lead singer of Tank and the Bangas is just as unforgettable as her music. The 31-year-old radiates confidence in her melodic poetry as well as her rich and virtually flawless complexion. “I feel so lucky to represent brown girls, because I feel as though we are disappearing in the media,” she explains. The New Orleans native credits the women of her hometown for teaching her how to show up boldly in the world. “It was the way they wore their natural hair, their big earrings and colorful clothes; the way they put stuff together; and the way they were always encouraging you,” she says. Tank is spreading that same affirming energy as she tours the globe and reminds the world that Black is—and will always be—beautiful.

**EXCLUSIVE**  
For more from this interview, check out our video coverage on [ESSENCE.com/video](https://www.essence.com/video).

HAIR: SHOSHANA CONTASTI; MAKEUP: TARA LAUREN