**Why I Don’t Like Donald Glover**

A friend of mine wrote on my FaceBook that I should, “check out this new artist named Childish Gambino.” Being familiar with his body of work, I commented back explaining, “nah, I can’t f\*\*\* with Donald Glover, sorry.” This then lead to a back and forth conversation that ended with the question, “why don’t you like Donald Glover” and I responded, “Because he has appropriated my likeness.”

For those who are unaware, Donald Glover aka Childish Gambino is an African American male from Georgia who is an actor/comedian/writer/ rapper /producer. Although his talent is exceptional, it is often overshadowed by his very eccentric way of thinking and attire, from his somewhat cryptic messages via twitter and music to his above the knee shorts. Known to many as ‘Trav’ from the show “Community” he has recently busted onto the music scene (I’m aware of his work before this, but I’m using this as a staple because it was nominated for an MTV award, which although the network doesn’t really play music videos, still hold some weight as an accolade in the music profession in popular culture) with his hit song “3005” and has garnered some major attention because of this. To his point, Donald is only being himself, and although it may have not been his intention, because of his desire to be himself, and because of it not being presented in popular culture before his arrival, he has made himself a brand, or a staple of African American males who don’t fit the usual stereotype of the big gun shooting, drug dealing, stripper fantasizing, money throwing, big dick swinging, inarticulate coon. So now, if you don’t fit that stereotype, you are now a Donald Glover. W…..T….F

Anyone who has known me for more than 3-5 years knows that my actions, intentions, desires and characteristics were not crafted to give off the impression of being like this man, but now, I’m somehow plagued by it. This plague now makes it harder for me to be myself, because now I’m being perceived as trying to be someone else.

More importantly, I’m offended because, with this attitude now being commercialized/ or normalized, the impression is that it’s now “okay to be me”. I don’t want to *now* have permission to be who I already was. That’s asinine, and I won’t thank another person for allowing my actions and presentation to be justified. The truth is, my behavior is this way because this is who I am and I was doing this BEFORE Donald Glover became a pop icon, but followers can’t comprehend the concept of two things existing independently so they are forced to believe that I’m now following the trend that Donald Glover has provided. So what am I left with? Do I continue to be perceived as a parody of a more famous figure, or do I change who I am, just for the sake of keeping my own individuality?

 I’m not a contrarian, and I don’t go against the grain for the sake of doing so, but at the end of the day, I don’t listen or support Donald Glover because he makes it harder for me to just be me.