



Man of Many Talents:

Rahim Glaspy embodies the New Orleans creative spirit

By Dean M. Shapiro, Senior Editor

Who is Rahim Glaspy?

According to his bio he is many things: a singer, a composer/songwriter, an actor, a teacher and a family man. As a native New Orleanian, he embodies the creative spirit of the city where he was born and raised. A city that he “loves so much.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAHIM GLASPY

Coming off the success of playing a key role in sellout performances of Harold Ellis Clark's world premiere stage production, "Ganking Mr. Guidry," at Le Petit Theatre in August 2026, Rahim described the experience as "absolutely incredible. I loved it and thought it was amazing. I had a great time bringing my character to life."

Speculating on the play's future prospects, Rahim said, "You never know where it's going to go from here. If it ever gets to Broadway I am definitely going to brag it up that I was in its world premiere."

Since 2012, when he first joined Raw Revolution Music Group as a background vocalist, Rahim has been singing professionally. "Realizing that I had more to offer, I went on a journey to discover my own voice," he recalled.

He began writing songs with Ryan "Shaggadelic" Batiste, Brandon Tarell, and other local working musicians. These associations soon led to gigs, including



Nicole Collins and Rahim Glaspy on set of *Ganking Mr. Guidry*.

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opening up for such headliners as Tank and the Bangas, Big Freedia, and others.

In the years since his Raw Rev stint, Rahim has headlined at such prestigious performance venues as Tipitina's, the House of Blues, and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Also on the local stage scene, Rahim delivered standout performances in such classic productions as "Ain't Misbehavin" and "Guys and Dolls" at Le Petit Theatre.

His live shows have been described as "colorful," due in large part to his extensive theatrical training and his love for all things drama-related.

In 2018 Rahim took a major career step when he auditioned for the popular talent show, "American Idol," that was airing on the Fox TV Network at the time. As he advanced through the initial rounds of the competition, Rahim made a very favorable impression on the celebrity judges.

Also in 2018, Rahim released his debut solo album, titled "No More Karaoke," a nine-track project with music from multiple genres. That project proved to be a turning point in his musical career. As he explained, "It helped me establish myself as an artist by moving me away from just doing cover songs and positioning me as a

singer-songwriter of original work.”

“No More Karaoke” is available on all major streaming platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and SoundCloud. His most popular songs include “Hurts When I Smile,” “The Shade,” “Mary Jane Love,” and “WhatchuLookinFor.” They continue to receive airplay, showcasing his ability to vocalize over electrifying musical arrangements.

Rahim added another feather to his cap when he made his debut at Washington D.C.’s prestigious John F. Kennedy Center, performing with the renowned, New Orleans-based funk/soul band, Water Seed.

Rahim’s most recent project is an album called “The Clown Show,” from which “Hurts When I Smile” was released on YouTube and other streaming platforms.

In addition to his musical platforms, Rahim also has four independent film performance credits listed in the prestigious Internet Media Database (IMDb), two of which are shorts. He aspires toward doing more feature film work and his eyes and ears are always open, seeking new projects that might help him achieve that goal.



Rahim and Bri

“I would happily welcome the opportunity if it arises,” he said.

Growing up in the 3rd Ward of Uptown New Orleans in a family of five children, Rahim attended and graduated from McDonogh 35 High School. From there he went on to Dillard University, graduating in 2014 and that’s where he met Harold Ellis Clark. He handled the lighting design for the premiere of Clark’s play, “Fishers of Men” at Dillard’s Samuel DuBois Cook Theatre.

Today, Rahim still lives in the 3rd Ward with his wife, Bri, and their children ages 12, 6 and 3, all three of whom love to sing.

Bri is a burlesque performer who goes by the name “Bri the Sparkling Diamond.” She stages a twice-monthly burlesque revue at the Allways Lounge on St. Claude Avenue with her troupe, Bri and the Sparkling Diamonds. Rahim is the emcee for all of their shows.

Rahim also hosts ‘The Moth,’ a story slam podcast at Café Istanbul that he has been doing for the past three years. During weekdays he is a teacher at the Adella Gautier Young Audiences Charter School in Terrytown on the West Bank, helping his students achieve their own creative goals.

Rahim is deeply embedded in his community. He frequently steps into the role of host and curator for local arts events, dedicating his platform to uplifting fellow independent artists and preserving the unique, vibrant culture of New Orleans.

Singing the praises of his home city, Rahim has no plans to live anywhere else, despite the opportunities other cities like New York and Los Angeles might offer for those in his profession.

“I’m not one of those people who has to go where the action is in the field,” Rahim emphatically stated. “I’m most likely to stay here. I love my city and I always have.

“I don’t think New Orleanians should be told to go somewhere else to make it big in a creative field. Especially being the creators of so many different genres. There’s a lot of things that started right here,” Rahim pointed out.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY LORRAINE



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAHIM GLASPY

Bri the sparkling diamond with Rahim

“You shouldn’t have to go to L.A. to make it in the film industry,” Rahim continued. “There should be enough of that done here. New Orleans is a talent mecca. I’m amazed at how much talent there is here in a lot of different creative fields.

“I really do love New Orleans. I’m a well-traveled man and there’s no place like home,” Rahim concluded.