

136 Mindy

My brazen Mindy was inspired by the evocative, provocative genre of Jamaican dancehall music. Since gaining popularity in the 1980s, this performance form has evolved out of its beginnings in reggae and rap into, as I see it, a platform for female artists to express liberated sexual feminism.

One of the hottest new Jamaica dancehall performers is Jada Kingdom. A survivor of child sexual assault, she is now an outspoken and proudly voluptuous woman who has declared, "Because I value my body so much, why not use it as a pedestal to show my confidence. When you see me, you see my body, my kingdom. You can't violate this."

Kingdom sings playfully and powerfully about sexual desires and fantasies. In her hit video, "Love Situations," she acts out torturing and dismembering an unfaithful boyfriend to a sultry beat. I found the video oddly humorous, seductive and intriguing, even while the images made me squirm in my seat.

The women of modern Jamaican dancehall are clearly setting their own standards, pushing boundaries and turning the tables on traditionally male-based roles.