

things that try and hold you back but my tribe has also focused on pushing through. Pops started using ‘Onward’ as a theme for all of us to always push forward,” said Javon. “Having my dad train me is perfect for me. His boxing knowledge and understanding of the game are crazy. He knows how to motivate people and there’s is no one that knows me better than my dad and because of that I know he’s always got me in and out of the ring.” DJ Walton will surely be a significant presence in his son’s passage up the boxing ranks, which he hopes will include a trip to this year’s National Junior Olympics and Summer Festival followed by his professional boxing debut and an entry into the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

DJ Walton has been in his son’s corner for approximately all 80 of his amateur boxing matches so far. He may not be Javon’s acting coach, but when we asked the teen sensation to share his thoughts on an occurrence, two years ago, when news broke that he and his fellow cast members from “Utopia” would not be allowed to reprise their roles in the Amazon Prime series because it had been canceled, Javon delivered an optimistic answer as if he were quoting his dad’s playbook, directly. “Honestly, I wasn’t too disappointed because everything happens for a reason,” said the former Georgia State Gymnastics champion. “So, if [a television series] doesn’t get picked up, I know there’s something better out there for me and, I always know that. Even if I don’t come back for season three of Euphoria, I know that there’s something out there for me and I’m totally okay with that.” Released back in September of 2020, “Utopia” was a sci-fi drama in which Javon played a protagonist named Grant Bishop. In the eight-episode drama, his character becomes the main subject of a manhunt after he steals a coveted comic book that seemingly predicts the way in which the world is going to end and the powerful people involved in making it so. The project was primarily filmed in Chicago, Illinois over the course of six months and it marked Javon’s first ever leading role. Although “Utopia” was short-lived, it garnered a cult following

which has resulted in a plethora of fan pages and a bevy of petitions to bring the show back for a second season; all of which are still going strong.

On the surface, he’s a swaggy teenager with a low fade haircut and design lines neatly trimmed on the side of his head and left eyebrow. But, as the boxing matches and acting credits continue to pile up for Javon “Wanna” Walton, he remains a “normal” teen at heart. One who enjoys the simple pleasures in life, like relaxing and bobbing his head to songs like “Passion Fruit” by Drake. The iconic Toronto-based musician who once famously rapped “My reality is brighter than your dreams are...” In the case of Javon, those rap lyrics just might be true. His reality is slowly encroaching upon his wildest dreams, as he continues to put an “X” next to one lofty goal after another on his checklist of aspirations. But from the looks of things, he’s just getting started. During our Q&A session, Javon revealed that he’s a sneakerhead and he’d like to try his hand in the shoe game by teaming up with one of his favorite rappers to design a special collection that emphasized comfort for athletes like himself. “I would love to collaborate with Travis Scott because he’s made a huge impact in the sneaker community and I think we could do something really cool in the fitness space. I’d want to create my own mold and not just go with something that has already been done.

A feature I would add would be an orthopedic type of sole for extra comfort and support.” The rising star’s hard work and ambition paid off this past July and he became the new face of the Travis Scott x Jordan campaign - further solidifying his monumental growth.

As much as Javon takes delight in the normalcy of being

around his family and “day one” friends, one would think that his rising celebrity status would prompt someone from his social circle to ask for a selfie, every now and then or perhaps a shoutout on Instagram stories or something of that nature... Right, Javon? “Nah, my friends don’t ask for things like that,” replied the actor, as he chuckled. “Honestly, nothing has changed between my tribe and my friends. I get treated the exact same way that I did when I didn’t have any popularity. We’re a tribe, so they don’t care about any of that. I only surround myself with people that I trust and people that I mess with. And those people aren’t going to want to ask for stuff like that.” The close-knit support system amongst Javon’s family and friends has proven to be quite influential in the way in which the actor has remained grounded during his ascension in young Hollywood.

When it comes to being a triple threat as a teenage boxer and actor, with a strong background in gymnastics, Javon just might be

Universe. But, who would he play? “I would love to play the next Robin [in an upcoming Batman film],” exclaimed Javon. “That would be a lot of fun because there’s fighting in it and some gymnastics in it, so it could be really fun!” The thought of Javon soaring through the air as a caped crusader in the sequel to ‘The Batman’ is very compelling. But for now, Javon’s fans seem to be more focused on the elephant in the room. Which is what in the world is going on with his character in ‘Euphoria?’ Because the series left its viewers dangling off of a tear-jerking cliff-hanger where no one knows for sure if Javon’s character, Ash, lived or died in the very last scene of the season finale. Apparently, the producers did such a good job of devising the open-ended final shot, that even Javon is uncertain about what happens next. “I got no clue,” he said. “I have no clue, to be honest, and I’m just going to leave it at that because whatever happens—happens and it happens for a reason.” ‘Euphoria’ has legions of die-hard fans, so the lasting image of

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the very first entertainer of this variety. Therefore, as the old adage from ‘Spiderman’ goes: “With great power comes great responsibility.” Javon can fight, he can perform backflips with ease and he can act. So, it would be quite fitting if he were to portray a character in the Marvel-Verse someday or perhaps in the DC

gunshots being hurled in the direction of Javon’s character probably won’t fade away anytime soon. But, in the meantime, his supporters can expect him to re-emerge in the ring this summer, for a series of boxing matches before he unveils his upcoming work in television and film for the remainder of 2022 and beyond. **M**