

KUWL MAGAZINE

LORI'S ADVENTURES

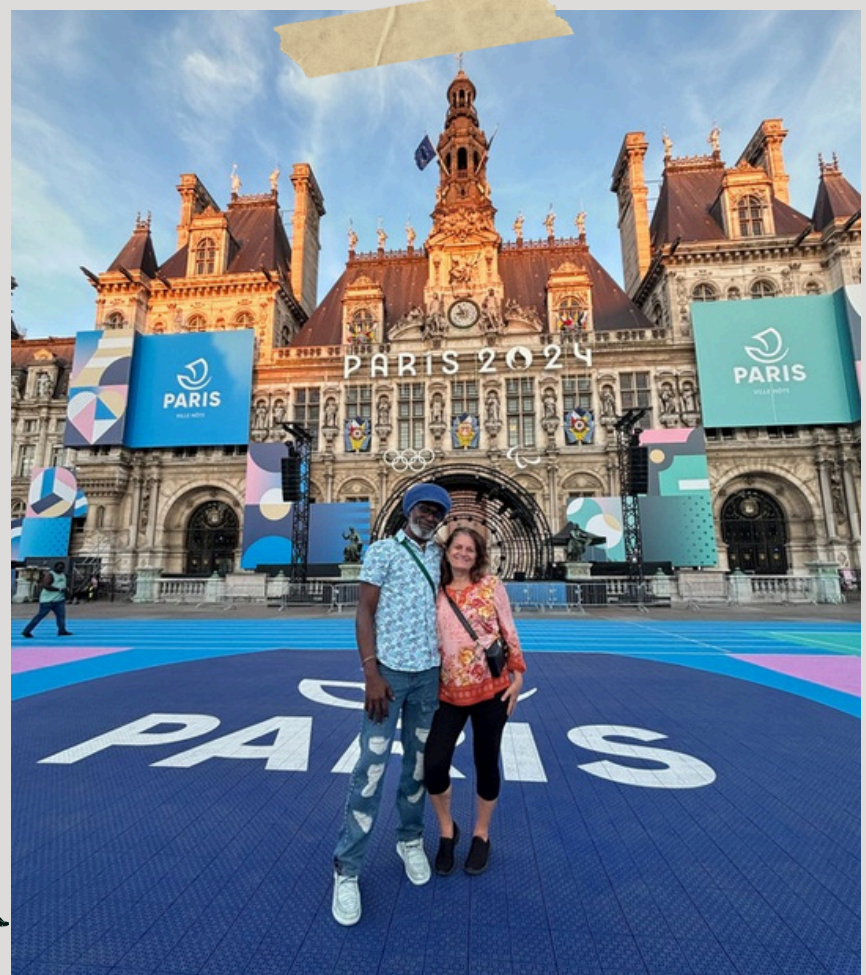


And so it is!
2025 is rushing by, and
I am postponing those
adventures, and my wish
list is moving to 2026.



Been a busy year work-wise, consumed by the development of C15, and still delivering a top-class event for the 60th anniversary of NH (Caribbean) International, while supporting Nailah Blackman in her musical career and managing my aromatherapy brand Infuse Pure Therapy. Yep, it's a busy life, and I have many personal projects that are being pushed to the side. But I am building out the legacy I want to leave when I actually retire, and I want it to be meaningful, solid, and beneficial to the whole community.

I am also feeling a bit nostalgic as last year at this time, Selwyn and I were on that fantastic trip in France, from Paris to Corsica, the Olympics, friends, and family reconnecting. It was truly magical, and I just want to soak in the feeling of joy I experience when I am in France with my loved ones.



So here we are, into August, and adventure is calling, but the only plans so far are for December. That needs to change: Where will I go? What to do?



From the feeling that I wasn't involved in my usual busy way for Trinidad Carnival and I would just sit it out for 2025 and support Achsah. It became a full-on, intense 2 weeks leading up to Carnival weekend.

Machel called for me to help produce his final performances, Chutney Soca Monarch, which he won in collaboration with Drupatee and Lady Lava, blending Chutney, Soca and Dancehall masterfully. And his Calypso Monarch final performance, for which serendipity played such a beautiful hand by opening the doors to Holy Name Convent's courtyard for rehearsals the Sunday afternoon, the generous gesture of Sister Renee

There was also the hosting of Achsah's Road Royalty and her costume section in Tribe in collaboration with top designer David Dewer at Mille Fleurs. This was an incredible full circle moment as Achsah's great-great-grandparents owned this house and lived there for over 50 years. I have memories of visiting Granny Cecilia there as a little girl of seven. Here we were from Sunday evening to Tuesday evening in the great house on the Savannah feeling the energy of hundreds of events and functions hosted here. Beautiful ladies were being transformed into Carnival Queens with makeup, hair and costumes in the rooms of this historic home.



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As I walked up and down the wooden staircase, my mind drifted to a time 100 years ago, when my great-grandfather Joseph would come home from the store in downtown Port of Spain and wearily trod up the stairs to his private rooms, or Cecilia, my great-grandmother, rushing down the stairs to get to the kitchen because her famous cakes were burning. So many stories and lives lived in these walls, and it was a really special moment in time to occupy the house for the Carnival days

Me at Mille Fleurs

I didn't get to savor that moment as much as I would have liked because I was the production manager for an international documentary on Carnival, shooting from Carnival Thursday to Tuesday night. There were some wonderful moments during this filming, though, catching Machel on top of the truck singing Parady to the revellers, Jouvay morning - pure ecstasy: Nailah and her mother Abi talking from Ft. George, overlooking the city.



Lori x Machel Montano
Carnival Tuesday



It was a marathon, I did get to party and go to Freetown's concert and a couple other gems with my friend so full of joy, Maxine. I even attended Soaka Street Party which I had promised myself last year I would do, after barely 3 hours sleep and winning the Chutney Soca Monarch in South with Machel. Soaka Street is a Jouvay type party held at dawn on the Carnival Sunday morning, with music trucks blocking off the street. The atmosphere is pure ecstasy in the energy, the water, the colors, the rising sun, and the music of course. This is dance, free up, just rhythm and joy. And as a first timer, Soaka Street didn't disappoint. I will be there again in 2026.



Jouvay Morning!

So Carnival was everything and more - needed some time off after but went straight into work and more work. Planning to change that for 2026!



Me, Maxine and Lady Montano



Immersing myself in nature is restorative for me and I don't miss an opportunity. From kayaking in clear kayaks in Silver Springs, Florida to hiking through the rain forest in Trinidad, I am in my element.

Selwyn and I on Glass Kayak



Kayaking Silver Springs

Have to mention the 2 great Infuse Pure Therapy workshops we did this year so far, one in April with Yoga Kate up in the beautiful Hacienda Jacana in Talparo. The other was with a natural skin care brand, Cedros Bay, in the Santa Cruz Valley. I love sharing the benefits of essential oils, and the attendees were really interested and interesting so it was a lot of fun.



Me X Yoga Kate at
Workshop

Attendees at Cedros
Bay Workshop





Me on Panel at
Caribbean Film
Festival

My birthday month in June was so intense work-wise. I was representing C15 at the Caribbean Film Festival and then in Barbados for Caribbean Media Tales Cross Continental Forum, where over 30 film professionals gathered to discuss decolonizing production and creating links with partners in Africa, the UK, Canada, the USA, and, of course, the other Caribbean islands.

It was very motivating, and I made many new friends and opened up business opportunities. I celebrated my birthday in Barbados with these new friends and some favorites, missed my family, but we made it up before and after with special dinners.

Kerwyn, Kellie, and I at
Caribbean Film Festival



Met Lorraine Toussaint
in Barbados!



New Friends from Cross
Continental Forum in Barbados

The highlight of June was the culmination of a year of preparation for the Emile Elias Group of Companies' 60th anniversary. Two events, a week apart, made me realize how much I enjoy producing and organizing. Both events were huge successes, and I felt proud to have contributed to this milestone.



Some of the Team at
Emile Elias 60th
Anniversary Celebrations

After a quiet July, I am wondering how the rest of the year will turn out and what adventures are in store.

Hint Hint: in the past 24 hours, planned 2 trips!!!!

La fin