

## Culture & Entertainment

# No after Carnival hits

**C**arnival has ended and the mainstream radio stations have gone back to their regular format of music, which are mainly pop, hip-hop and dancehall. In between their sessions, they do play some soca, which are the hit songs from Carnival.



By **MARIO RUSSELL**

Traditionally, on the 26th of December, they usually switch their programming and play non-stop soca for 2 months.

So although soca is played in between, the reality is 10 months of mixed foreign music and 2 months of full local music.

Even some of the guys on radio are artists themselves and are caught up in this paradigm.

Long ago during the Lenten Season radio stations would ban carnival festive songs since it is considered a period of abstinence. So in some ways, it is embedded in our culture.

However, nowadays things have changed and it is all about captivating their listeners with the latest foreign music. Still, we all know radio has the power to brainwash their listeners and whatever they program people will get to like.

So what sense does it make giving preference to foreign cultures rather than your own? We all claim to be a multinational country yet

in fear of losing their listenership some stations would not play a chutney, calypso, jazz or even a pan song but they will big up the foreign stuff.

So in other words we are brainwashing our youths into thinking what is outside is better than what we have.

Secondly, artists have no desire to release an after carnival song since it is risky and would not get played.

When we add up the different genres of local music there have been approximately over a thousand new releases for Carnival 2022. Therefore to program so many tracks in two months is impossible and lots of the music whether it is good or bad ends up in the trash.

So we are stuck in a hole although we love our culture it is a seasonal thing from ever since and because of the fear of losing their listenership or maybe for financial reasons nobody wants to take a risk for the sake of the culture.

Still, it hurts to hear foreign garbage getting “wheel out and come again” when we know there are so many hit potential songs that got limited or no airplay.

Simply because it is not that they are not good, it is during Carnival they got squeezed out of the loop. Moving forward I am



**Nailah Blackman**

in no way asking radio stations to change their format however I feel with so many unplayed or forgotten songs there must be a few they can pick up and with some rotation make them hits.

Many songs that have hit potential may lack that carnival hype and therefore be put aside. Music to a great extent is all about networking and if the artist is not connected it will also not get played.

Even if the artist is popular af-



**Kes**

ter the carnival there is no guarantee their song will get revived. To name just a few, five songs that got very little airplay and is left in the forgotten pile.

Every Thing Match- Benjai, We wanna live –Swappi, Timeless – Kes and Nailah Blackman, All Now So –Gary Cordner and Do We Ting – Kes and Lord Nelson.

Machel Montano recently got international acclaim when he performed the Save Soil song, “Touch

The Ground” for the first time at Mahashivratri 2022 in the presence of Sadhguru. The people in India who heard it for the first time were already dancing to the track.

It was mind-blowing to see millions appreciate our music yet on local radio we have to wait and see how much airplay it will get if any at all to create an impact.

Gradually local radio is losing its listenership to social media platforms and there is a need for a more global approach to their programming. Radio DeeJays are hesitant to take the risk and rotate a song to make it an after carnival smash.

They are satisfied in just programming what was already big for carnival. Unlike days gone by when artists would say I make this one for after carnival there is no local market for that.

To simply put it, if it did not get played for carnival, it isn't going to get played again.

We can do better.

## Exploring the Guanapo Gorge

**A** place full of adventure that every Trinbagonian should visit is the Guanapo Gorge. Situated in the evergreen valley of the Heights of the Guanapo region.

To the north lies, the Lalaja Hills and to the south is the Guanapo Quarry. What makes the gorge so appealing is its fascinating geological features enclosed by steep walls of pre-historic rock. The gorge is 400 metres in length and in some places, its deep vertical sides are 70 feet high.

Exploring its channel is an unforgettable and worthwhile experience that is breathtaking. To get inside the gorge requires an 8-foot jump into a deep pool and a short paddle through the water.

As you venture through the narrow passageway there are small cascades to descend and hurdles of floating debris to overcome. The expedition through its channel is loaded with lots of fun and excitement.

The canyon is accessible from two routes. The first is a descent from Lalaja located 6 miles north on the Arima, Blanchisseuse Road. The other and preferred route for the hike is from the Guanapo Quarry where a 40 -minutes hike will lead upstream to the mouth or exit point of the gorge.

Before entering the gorge there is the option to place ones bags there to secure them from them from getting wet and on the return, they can be easily lo-



cated. To reach the entrance of the Canyon requires a further 20-minute hike through the evergreen and hilly forest of Guanapo.

There is an old sign in the middle of the forest that says Sambasson, which after a few miles will lead up the mountain to a series of cascades. The area was once an estate and dilapidated cacao trees still exist in the forest.

The river source originates from the two highest peaks El Cerro Del Aripo (940m) and El Pico Escondido (the hidden peak 938.7m). Inside the canyon, the rocks are magnificently carved into irregular shapes caused by the hydraulic action of the water.

Degradation of these granite rocks can take centuries since they are resistant to weathering. As the sun reflects on the rocks they radiate vibrant colours and their surfaces appear smoothly polished. Interlocking spurs occur on the inside of each bend, where they jut out from the slopes and divide the gorge into sections.

Giant lobster like-crayfish play hide and seek between the rocks of the riverbed. They breathe through feather-like gills and are members of the superfamilies called Astacoidea and Parastacoidea.

When exploring its course, a life jacket is recommended since in many areas there are deep pools to cross. In the rainy season when there can be sudden torrential showers, it is advisable not to venture into its narrow passageway.

For those not wanting to explore the gorge there is optional, to spend the time cooling down at its mouth where there is a shallow pool for swimming.



## PRESS PLAY TOP 20 TRENDING SOCA

1. JOLENE KES
2. OUT AND BAD VOICE
3. MIND MY BUSINESS (HAPPI PAPI RIDDIM) PATRICE ROBERTS
4. TAKE BAMBOO (Dutty Dutty Riddim) MELICK &BOOGY RANKS
5. DINGOLAY MICAL TEJA X NAILAH BLACKMAN
6. MASH UP BLAXX
7. TILT (Tilt Riddim) KERNEL ROBERTS
8. TOUCH THE GROUND (save the soil riddim) MACHEL MONTANO X MARGE BLACKMAN X PRIVATE RYAN
9. JELLY NADIA BATSON
10. DOWN DEY (Uncle Joe Riddim) GBM NUTRON
11. COME DOWN FROM DEY(Dutty Dutty Riddim) MISTA KILLA
12. SURVIVORS KERNAL ROBERTS & ZAN
13. FETE CYAH OVER (Brunch Fete Riddim) LYRIKAL
14. DRIP DRIP CHINGEE
15. ACTION MOVIE (AUDREY RIDDIM) SKINNY FABULOUS
16. IRON BABY (SHE WANT THE IRON MAN) RKG
17. LEAVE IT ALONE (Big Joy Riddim) VIKING DING DONG
18. FREE AGAIN PREEDY X PRIVATE RYAN
19. FLING BAM BAM ( Boss Level Riddim) TERRI LYONS
20. BLESS BODY ERPHAAN ALVES X PRIVATE RYAN