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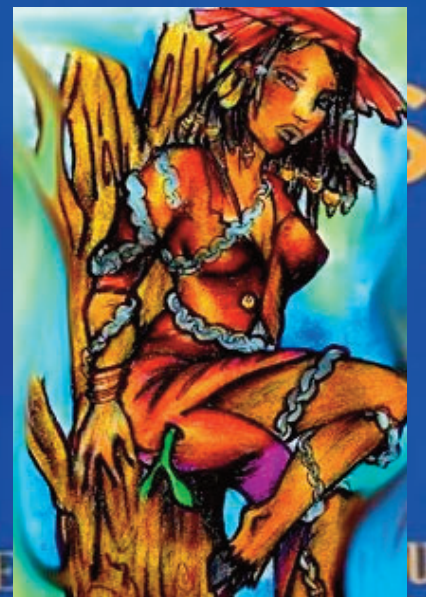


**Jah Cure: I am not guilty!**

## **Trini is first black woman to win a Best Actress Daytime Emmy**



**Sean Paul drops new album and it's a Scorcha!**



**La Diabla is subject of new horror film**



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# T&T-born Mishael Morgan first black woman to win best actress Emmy

**T**rinidad and Tobago-born Mishael Morgan has created entertainment history as the first black woman to win an Emmy award for best lead actress in a drama.

Morgan, 35, who was born in San Fernando, plays the role of Amanda Sinclair on the CBS daytime soap opera *The Young and the Restless* (Y&R).

In her acceptance speech at the 49th annual Daytime Emmy Awards, held on Friday night, she said, "I was born on the tiny island, Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean and now I'm standing on an international stage, and I am being honoured regardless of the colour of my skin. Regardless of my passport, for being the best at what I do."

She said there are now little girls all around the world seeing another step forward, knowing despite their industry of choice or vocation, they strive to be the best at what they do.

She continued, "Not only will they achieve it, but they will be celebrated for it."

Morgan is in her second stint on Y&R. She first joined the soap in 2013 and stayed until 2018. She returned in 2019 as a different character.

In an interview in October 2021, Morgan spoke about her ties to TT, although she and her family left to live in Canada when she was five.

She said fate led to her decision to forgo her plan to be a lawyer after an accident while visiting TT for Christmas when she 19.

"It's like I was born in Trinidad and re-born in Trinidad," she said then.

Morgan sustained a broken neck and had a long stay in hospital, during which time she re-evaluated her life.

"I had wanted to be an attorney my whole life, but I just felt that it was also just my parents' path too because I always had this hidden love for acting, and I realised I would regret not doing it if I really was paralysed. I talked to God and what I



Mishael Morgan won an Emmy award for her role in *The Young and the Restless*

said is, 'If you give me another chance and I get to walk again, the one thing I'll do is try,' because I literally heard a voice that said, 'You never try.'"

After her recovery, Morgan returned to Canada and began acting in episodic and feature films. She has appeared in many shows, including the Canadian teen series *The Best Years* and *Family Biz*. She was also featured in Trey Songz's *Wonder Woman* music video.

When she moved to US she landed her first role on Y&R as the character Hilary Curtis who was killed off. However, she turned to the show as Hilary's twin sister, Amanda, a criminal lawyer.

"So my dream did come true. I'm a lawyer – but this way it's more fun because I don't have to worry about the consequences of losing a case or doing all that paperwork. I just have to act like I

know what I'm doing," she said.

Morgan said although she may be thought of as a glamorous soap opera star, off-screen she is a down-to-earth and very easy-going person.

"You know, soap operas are the beautiful medium. Everyone just wakes up with hair and makeup intact. I drive into the set with my hair in a bun and they have to curl and fix it...I use press-on nails, pop my eyelashes in and I'm a different person. It's like a costume because in everyday life I don't wear makeup and I wear my hair natural...I'm so low-maintenance in that respect."

Morgan is married to actor Navid Ali and they have two children.

Last August, she paid tribute to her 96-year-old grandmother, Maria "Shooney" Forgenie, who died on July 23.

# Baby Mama Drama and Sex Abuse

*Disclaimer: The content of the Ask Di column is for information only, and the author is not responsible for any actions performed by the reader. Information is gathered and shared from reputable sources and Di is not responsible for errors or omissions in reporting or explanation. No individuals, including those under their medical care, should use any of the information to self-diagnosis or self-treat any health-related condition. No assurance or warranty regarding the accuracy, timeliness or applicability or the content is given.*

**.Q:** *Dear Ask Di, I love your column, and thank you for your frankness and honesty. My question is, how do you comfort your spouse when they were once a victim of childhood sexual abuse? I want to help however they will not speak about it and get very upset when the conversation comes up. – T.P.*

Dear T.P. thank you and I appreciate your kind words. Firstly, bravo to you for addressing this to all of us. It is a very sensitive and difficult topic for many. Believe it or this one can break up a marriage for the person who was a victim and it is not their fault, for all their life there stemmed trust issues with almost everyone including you. I am not saying to you that they do not care about you however it is just that the triggers and emotions are literally in their faces every day. Triggers can be as simple as a smell, a style of a house, a particular flower scent, someone tapping on their shoulder, and subtle things that bring back all the memories and all the emotions come back. These as I call them are “Elephants in the Room” for they are constant reminders of a dark lonely time. You will from time to time see the phrase pop up in our conversation for it is the root cause of most of our issues.

You on the other hand must be proud of yourself for you know that you have a very special person in your life. For men, it is a mental, and emotional journey and it is known that many who work in their

fields choose to work in those fields so they can protect and help others after their experiences. Women on the other hand are super emotional and as a woman, I am telling you that when we have any issue to deal with we shut down, lock the door and bury the key. Hell can freeze over and we will still be in the silent mood. It is just how it is, however, there is hope I guarantee you. The only thing you can do is wait, and offer love, help, and support until they are ready to say that they want and need help and unfortunately that can be a long wait. I am not going to lie and pretend to you however I have worked with many who have never told a soul what happened and then they suddenly opened up and within one hour they are no longer hiding and they are a more loving and forgiving person.

There is much more for me to say here however as you know the first step is for them to forgive themselves and know that it is not their fault.

Another part is if a parent knew about it and covered it and did not believe them then there are more underlying issues there. If there was a pregnancy that was a result of this despicable act, then that is again more to add to the list.

I am truly sorry to hear what is happening and it is very common. I will be happy to have a conversation if you or your spouse is open and let us work on healing and closing this wound for it is time to move on. Please note that you cannot erase the moment however the emotions and triggers will no longer be there. Simply, give them time and smother them with love, kindness, and compassion.

**Q:** *Dear Ask Di, my baby mama is giving me a hell of a time. She would not let me breathe and always uses my son as a pond in her games. She is always in my face and I do not even live with her. What*

*you suggest I do? – T.M.*

**A:** Dear T.M. I understand that this is very frustrating for you and everyone involved. There are so many things that need to be addressed and to have a baby in the middle of all this drama is not healthy or good for anyone involved.

Let us talk about you and here are a few questions for you. Do you still have any feelings for your baby's mama or is it that you are being a responsible father? Have you moved on and have someone else in your life? If you have moved on how does the new love of your life feel about all this drama? She may not stick around for too long if this is not resolved sooner than later. Now, you have to put boundaries in place and let her know that you are not playing any games. This has to stop.

As you know women are actresses and pretty good ones I assure you. They thrive on drama for they want the attention and are sure they want their man back. Yes, I will say it again, they want their man back, well at least most of them. They have something called hormones just like you and your testosterone. Well, we are not going there today for what I am more concerned about is the innocent party here and it is your son. Never should anyone put a child in the middle of all this chaos.

So my advice to you is to sit her down and lay out some rules and as for you, also sit down with yourself and figure out how you are going to be the best parent you can be for your son without the drama.

All the best to all of you!



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# Rapper Rye Rye Wants Credit For Drake Sample On New Album

Sampling artists' sounds and vocal likeness without giving credit is a growing issue in the music industry. Especially for lesser-known artists, it has become a regular thing for extracts of their work to be sampled into mainstream artists' music, much to their surprise when the record comes out. This is true for artists across all genres and multiple territories.

Recently Drake surprise-released his seventh studio album, *Honestly Nevermind*, and Baltimore artist Rye Rye discovered that a sample of her music was used on the song "Currents." While it is a big win for Baltimore and the dance

club artist, Rye Rye says the sample was not cleared with her, and she is yet to get credit.

Rye Rye first took to Twitter excited to celebrate making it onto a Drake song in any capacity. She initially tweeted, "I ain't been able to hold my sh\*t together all morning knowing that I'm sampled on @Drake 'Currents' song I knew my 'what' was legendary in the club world but damn this crazyyyyyy."

She then clarified that she did not give Drake's team permission to use the sample. "Let's be clear I ain't get my credit on that Drake record yet but my team is definitely working on it but I'm still gonna cele-



Drake: Canadian rap superstar

brate my legendary ass voice on a @Drake record," she wrote, "vocal been spending the block for over a decade & im glad my city & sound made such big influence."

The news set Twitter alight with some fans outraged that Rye Rye not only wasn't asked for permission to use her sample but also was not given any credit at all. Unfortunately, the artist says she sees this happen all the time, and people often do not know whose voice it is.

However, a song that will generate no proceeds and one that is being sold is completely different, according to the Baltimore native.

"I usually don't fuss on the internet but ima stand my ground cause ppl acting weird because I feel & others feel I deserve my credit on a Drake record for vocals of mine that was used..why is this even a issue if it was your voice you would want the same."

On the track in question,

Rye Rye's voice can be heard saying "what," which was intentionally engineered into the song according to Drake's music producer Gordo who is also from Maryland. "Growing up in Maryland... Baltimore club music was always being played in the car or at home by my mother and the family... felt good to bring it to the masses in this album... #honestlynevermind," Gordo wrote on Twitter.

Rye Rye was quick to respond, "Could've made sure a baltimore artist got her credit on #Currents but the album is dopeeee & thanks for the acknowledgment on the inspiration."

The 31-year-old Baltimore artist had to ward off attackers who questioned why she cared for credit on such a "bad" song. Still, she maintained that it is her right and intellectual property and said she can fully celebrate after her legal team helped her establish the rights she deserves.

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# Charly Black says 'No!' to Molly

Recently the serious and disturbing issue of drug use and how some dancehall artists may influence younger fans to travel that road has come to light. Many artists, including some of the more respected names like Popcaan and Bounty Killer, have come out in the past to urge fans to stay away from drugs.

The drug that has grabbed Jamaica's attention most recently is molly. The drug has been made popular by some rappers in the US and seems to have found its way into some trap dancehall, something that many artists are now speaking out about.

One of them is Charly Black. He's taken his message to the airwaves with a track called "Naww Pop No Molly," which was a collaboration with artist and music producer Akeem Bowen of One General Music.

A timely message for sure, as there are growing concerns in the dancehall community that molly is becoming the go-to party drug for patrons and some artists alike.

Molly is a street name for MDMA, which has become a very popular rave drug used at nightclubs and concerts in the US. People who take molly have reported that the drug helps them to get loose, connect to others, and dance all night.

However, the downside to using the drug includes many well-documented side effects, including anxiety, paranoia, sleeplessness, muscle cramps, elevated blood pressure, body temperature, breathing rate, and heart rate. In some cases, it can even cause hallucinations.

Charly Black spoke with the Jamaica Star about why he felt the need to do something to help younger fans understand the detriment that they could cause their body if they fall prey to the Molly trend.



Charly Black says no to Molly — better known as MDMA — in the dancehall space.

"This project is targeting the younger generation of dancehall fans, conveying a deeper message that it's okay not to be a part of every trend and they can say no to peer pressure," he added.

Bowen also spoke with the publication, who said that he enjoyed working with Charly Black to get the serious message out there. He added that it was always a dream of his to work with the "You're Perfect" singer, and he was happy that they got to do it for a noble cause.

He also shared that so far, since the track was released on May 27, he has been getting great feedback, and so he feels that it has been having an impact on its target audience.

Almost all of the veteran artists who have weighed in on the issue have all agreed that the younger artists in the genre probably do not yet understand the power of influence that they wield. The

odes to molly are still appearing in a lot of new tracks by trap dancehall artists.

One example is Skeng and Tommy Lee Sparta's "Protocol" collab, where Skeng sings, "Molly get pop whole place get hot." There's also his track with Navaz called "Pop Molly."

However, some feel that it is not the artist's responsibility to help mold the minds of younger fans and that they are simply expressing themselves and talking about their lifestyle.

Popcaan spoke about the issue of the responsibility that young artists have to their fans back in February.

"G Wagon de ya and Lamborghini de ya, stop pree Mark X," Popcaan encouraged. "No make no idiot artiste trick uno bout buy Mark X. Sk Dem Madda! No make no idiot artiste trick uno bout take molly and pop pill. Sk Dem Madda!" he is quoted as saying at that time.

# You Got Me!

## Last words of rapper Nipsey Hussle revealed during murder trial

**T**he man on trial for the murder of Nipsey Hussle is accused of plotting the rapper's murder despite his attorney claiming that he acted in a moment of rage.

The trial began on Wednesday (June 15), with Deputy District Attorney John McKinney in opening arguments stating that there is substantial evidence that shows without a doubt that the accused, Eric Holder, knew in advance that he would kill the rapper.

It's been more than three years since the gruesome death of the rapper, who was shot almost a dozen times with two guns by Holder. The prosecution says that Holder, who is known to the rapper and is an associate, was calculated and acted in a premeditated way.

The prosecutor says Holder's actions were that of a man upset about allegations of snitching.

In describing the sequence of events leading up to the brutal death of the rapper, McKinney told the jury that the argument about "snitching" set off Holder, who left after the conversation and returned nine (9) minutes later fully armed with two guns and shot Nipsey 10 times. While he lay dying, Holder kicked him in the head as the two exchanged words.

"[He] pulls out not one but two guns and starts shooting" after the two had a conversation about alleged "snitching," the prosecutor says. The convo in reference was that Nipsey told Holder there was word on the street that he might be a snitch.

The prosecutor says that surveillance footage from the Hyde Park area store shows Holder shooting from his left hand and his right hand.

"He clearly thought about what he was going to do before he did it," McKinney told jurors whose main job is to find that beyond a reasonable doubt, Holder



Nipsey Hussle: shot and killed

had the intention to murder the rapper, NBC News reported.

The prosecution also disclosed other spine-chilling details of the shooting as he pointed out the injuries that the rapper sustained, noting it was impossible he could have survived the attack. Even if he did, he'd be in very bad shape.

"[Hussle was] shot from literally the bottom of his feet to the top of his head," the prosecutor said, pointing out that if he had lived, he'd be a paraplegic as one bullet "transected his spine."

A transcript of the exchange was also shared with Holder telling the rapper, "You're through," the prosecutor said.

As he was on the ground being shot, Nipsey said, "You got me."

Holder, 32, is also an aspiring rapper and is on trial for one count of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder, assault with a firearm, and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon.

One of his attorneys, Aaron Jansen, however, argued for a lesser sentence for

Holder noting that he didn't intend to kill the rapper and that he was "so enraged" about the rapper's accusation that he acted "without thinking" and "acted without premeditation" in shooting the rapper.

"In fact, it should be voluntary manslaughter because he was acting in the heat of passion," Jansen said as he told the jury that he is confident Holder will be acquitted of first-degree murder charges and the two attempted murder counts (for two persons who were also shot during the incident).

Nipsey Hussle, who was widely mourned by his spouse Lauren London and family, was also deeply respected in the hip-hop community and his South L.A. community of Crenshaw where he grew up and worked to actively make a change.

Nipsey Hussle was just 33 years old at the time of his death and left behind two children. A daughter from a previous relationship and a son with his widow Lauren London.



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# IT'S A SCORCHA!

## Sean Paul is back with a hot new album

Multiple Grammy award-winning artiste, Sean Paul, is reveling in the success of his new album *Scorcha*. For over two decades, the Jamaican artiste has kept the culture alive with numerous hit singles such as *Temperature* and *Get Busy* and countless hit collaborations with other famous musicians such as Beyonce, Dua Lipa, Shaggy, Keyshia Cole, and Sia.

His latest project, *Scorcha*, is his second LP release in the last eight years. He released *Live N Livin'* last year, a project that had features from many notable artists and received a lot of recognition within the industry. *Scorcha*, on the other hand, is touted as being a more vibe-centric, radio-friendly album and has already made its impact amongst Paul's supporters. The album includes collaborations with artists such as Tov Lo, Damian Marley, Shenseea, Gwen Stefani, and Ty Dolla Sign. There is an attempt by the artiste to keep his distinguished Dancehall lyricism and tone but with the inclusion of modern pop.

Sean Paul did admit that this new project would be something different from what he was entirely used to and something that would be new to his supporters. He stated prior to the album's release, "I make party music, something where people can forget about their problems and throw yourself into the party on a weekend, but this album shows a lot more growth as well,"

SP also went on to identify that he has been someone who would think consciously in his everyday life but was never one to express that in his music, primarily focusing on bringing the vibe or enhancing the mood with his lyrics. However, he identified songs on the album, such as "Good Day" and "Calling On Me," that represent unity among people and being there for your family and friends.



Swiss soca artiste Natalyah: in the finals for European Soca Monarch

The evolution in his music also comes from a place of realization. Sean Paul identified that, despite being at the top of his genre for at least a decade, the music began to expand, and more artists were being played on the radio and getting more exposure. It was then that he decided to change his style so that he could remain relevant and consistent with the industry. This had a significant part to play in the creation of *Scorcha*.

Perhaps the same vigor and enthusiasm that Sean Paul entered the industry with over twenty years ago isn't as prominent throughout this new album. Still, his ability to blend in amongst today's music and remain consistent with producing

songs that will lift the spirit of whoever's ears is privileged to hear it hasn't been lost. What is disappointing about the album is that there is no stand-out hit, or not one song really resonates to be praised as the best on the album. Of course, as a dancehall lover, the collaborations with Shenseea and Junior Gong do stand out, but nothing like the smash hits we are used to from the 49-year-old.

Despite this, the album is a soothing listen that does not fail to improve one's current mood or vibe. With its energetic and bouncy aura, *Scorcha* could be on the airwaves for quite some time, as it rightly deserves to be.

# Oh, the Horror!

## T&T folk legend La Diabliesse the subject of new film

Female film producers Teneille Newallo, Jolene Mendes and Pauline Mark have been working assiduously on La Diabliesse, a feature horror film rooted in Trinbagonian folklore.

The story tells the tale of a woman haunted by the legendary devil woman, as well as her past. It is also a story that highlights the strength of a mother's love, said a media release.

The original screenplay was written by Newallo of The Cutlass (2016) fame. The actress, writer and producer has always had a penchant for dark tales that explore the human experience. She is also a fan of local folklore and believes there are many stories that can be told using Trinidad and Tobago's history, heritage, and blended cultures, the release said.

The film will also celebrate the merging of African and French culture in TT and present an origin story for the La Diabliesse that connects to a contemporary setting, the release said.

Newallo has starred in several popular productions, including Bazodee with Mac-hel Montano, Dubios (2014), Play the Devil (2016) and Mangroves (2018), which she wrote and directed.

Mendes is a promising filmmaker based in Los Angeles whose producing filmography includes Sour Milk (2022), Extra Innings (2019) and She Paradise(2019), which was one of three selected



Artist's rendition of La Diabliesse, the subject of a new horror movie



Teneille Newallo, producer

features for the TT Film Festival, Carifesta XIV edition, the release said.

Mark is an actress and producer known for performances in Home Again (2012) and Bazodee (2014) and is also the creator and producer of the relationship commentary series X and Y (2016).

The release said La Diabliesse will highlight female solidarity in local film and is already making strides as the first ever local horror film with an all-female producing team. Newallo, Mark and Mendes

also reflect the diversity of TT, which they plan to extend to the creativity of the film. They have enlisted some of the best and brightest talent in front of and behind the camera for this pioneering project, the release said.

Filming is set for later this year and the team is looking for sponsors to collaborate with. The project will be distributed throughout the Caribbean and in key international territories that have an appetite for the horror genre, the release said.



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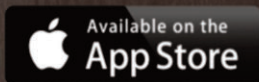


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# Jah Cure: I am not guilty

## Reggae singer appeals manslaughter sentence in Dutch court

Jah Cure's attorney has formally filed an appeal in a Dutch court. Just over two months after the Roots Reggae Rock singer was sentenced to 6 years in jail for attempted manslaughter of a Dutch promoter in the Netherlands, his defense attorney filed an appeal to strike out the conviction.

On June 6, Jah Cure's lawyer filed an appeal seeking to have his conviction overturned. According to the Jamaica Observer, the Netherlands Prosecution Service confirmed the latest development in the case.

"There is no date yet scheduled for the hearing as the appeal case is still in a rather preliminary phase," Tuscha Essed, press officer of the Netherlands Public Prosecution Service, said. "However, both prosecution and defense have appealed the lower court's verdict."

Jah Cure was convicted on March 22 for attempted manslaughter. The court had arrived at its decision after listening to damning voice notes where Jah Cure spoke about his plans to murder the promoter over money owed to him. In one particular voice note, he allegedly threatened to stab the promoter 60,000 times. The prosecutor was initially gunning for 8 years behind bars

The Public Prosecution Service, which had demanded eight years in prison, claimed that the Grammy-winning artist had a preconceived plan to maim or kill the promoter. They were unsuccessful in getting him convicted on a charge of attempted murder as the judge found the evidence to not be strong enough for that charge. It was, however, considered strong enough evidence to prove that he was guilty of the lesser charge of attempted manslaughter.

In the meantime, Cure's legal team is not the only one appealing. The prosecution has also appealed the sentence and verdict as they want him to face the maximum sentence for attempted murder.

Jah Cure is being represented by attorney Jan-Hein Kuijpers. The Notice of Appeal filed by Kuijpers has not disclosed the grounds on which the appeal is filed, and according to the laws in that country, the reasons outlining the appeal will be filed at a later date, after which the prosecution will respond before a date for the hearing



Jah Cure — second time in prison for a violent crime

is set, and the matter is decidedly heard.

The sentence marks the second time Jah Cure is serving prison time for a violent crime. The reggae crooner spent 8 years in prison in Jamaica for a conviction of rape, firearm possession, and robbery in 1999. He

was sentenced to serve 15 years but was released early.

While in prison, he recorded a string of hits, including "True Reflections," "Longing For," "Love Is," and "Dem Na Build Great Man," featuring Fantan Mojah.



# Sandals goes Dutch

## Resort chain opens its 16th property, first in Curaçao

**S**andals Resorts International (SRI) announces the opening of its 16th Sandals Resort, Sandals Royal Curaçao, welcoming its first guests today and marking the Luxury Included® resort company's debut in the Dutch Caribbean. Reinventing how travelers experience this soulful part of the region, Sandals Royal Curaçao sets in motion entirely new and innovative ways to experience the charming Caribbean island via all-new Sandals 'Firsts' while reinforcing the company's island-first approach to tourism and its impact on the local ecosystem.

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The Sandals Royal in Curacao, the first Dutch property for the luxury resort chain

Curaçao International Airport. Its signature, west-facing position on the southernmost part of the island authentically intertwines nature with the resort experience, while capturing one of the Caribbean's most spectacular sunsets. Here, couples can discover the beauty and geographic diversity of Curaçao, known for its adventurous terrain, pristine beaches, limestone caves, spectacular diving sites, and vibrant capital city Willemstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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# Dancehall meets Ms World

## Popcaan, Ms Jamaica Toni Ann Singh a couple

**D**ancehall superstar Popcaan and the Former Jamaica Miss World and Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh have sparked dating rumors.

Popcaan first shared a video of the two in a private jet flying to Grenada on Thursday night. Accompanying the Unruly Boss and the beauty queen were members of the deejay's entourage including record producer and artist manager Shane Brown.

Popcaan also shared a photo dump on Instagram showing himself and the beauty queen and others.

"Stay right next to me! #GIHE," he captioned the photos, which showed him and Singh walking together, sharing a hug, and even chatting in an impersonal way.

The singer is said to be heading to Grenada along with fellow artist Jahmiel as headlining acts for the Grenada New National Party (NNP) Youth Rally on June 10, 2022.

However, the photos have sparked rumors among fans that the two might be romantically involved.

Toni-Ann Singh and Popcaan are both from St. Thomas parish on the island. The pair seen smiling was also involved in an intense game of Ludo and were also photographed relaxing on an outdoor settee.

Popcaan joked about the pair being in the same place. "How St. Thomas people reach ova Grenada? Chubble enuh!" declared the "Dun Rich" deejay.

Meanwhile, fans were not feeling the duo, with some giving a warning to Toni-Ann to beware of the sweet boy Popcaan.

"Girl if him really want you let him put a ring on don't end up like the rest of beauties that turn baby mamas and no ring just saying if that's the case. Most of these entertainers all dem good for is breed the woman dem and no ring," one person commented.

"Well she must a do summen good cause I never see poppy wid nuh other woman in public so relaxed and look he



Miss World 2019 Toni Ann Singh with dancehall artiste Popcaan

got her matching glasses," another person added.

Meanwhile, some fans felt that the artist and beauty Queen could be teaming up for a music video.

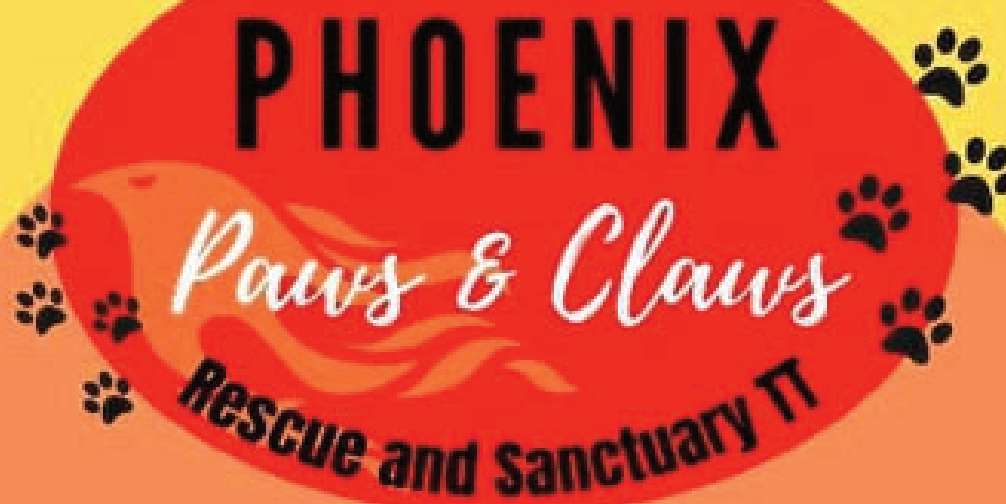
"Hmm what could they be possibly be working on together?" Another person said.

Popcaan previously dated Kavell Keir and another mystery female in Jamaica. The dancehall hitmaker also has a daughter name Rihanna from a previous relationship. The St. Thomas native has always

kept his love life private except for instances of rumors with various females over the years.

Toni-Ann Singh is a 26-year-old beauty queen from Morant Bay, St. Thomas. She won Miss Jamaica World and subsequently won the prestigious Miss World pageant in 2019. She later created history when she became the longest reigning Miss World in history. Singh is only the fourth Jamaica ever to win Miss World behind Carole Crawford in 1963, Cindy Breakspere in 1976, and Lisa Hanna in 1993.







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# No Skeng here!

## Dancehall artiste banned from Guyana after gun violence at show

**D**ancehall sensation Skeng has been banned from performing at future public events in Guyana following fallout from his recent concert that ended in gunfire.

The announcement was made by the country's Home Affairs Minister (Jamaica's National Security equivalent).

The move comes just over a week after Skeng's 'Baderation' concert at the government-owned Guyana National Park ended abruptly after patrons let off gunshots in celebration of the artist's song "Protocol" that he was performing.

The Home Affairs Minister said Skeng being banned is a direct result of the "shooting off of guns and bottle pelting that took place" at the event.

The Minister, Robeson Benn, told reporters at a ceremony at the Community Relations Department of the country's police force that artistes "like Skeng" will not be permitted to perform at events in Guyana held at public venues owned by the government.

Most of the massive venues that can hold large crowds are owned by the government and require permits.

"I have to say here and now, that no ar-

tiste like Skeng will ever come again into this country, will not come again into this country under the signature of any person from the Ministry of Home Affairs or from the Guyana Police Force, will not come on a public stage," he said.

It doesn't appear that the artiste is receiving an immigration ban which would violate the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) agreement which allows for the free movement of artists, musicians, media workers, and sports people across CARICOM. He added that the artist can only perform at private events.

"If they want, they can go into a private club and behave as badly as they want. We will not sign off on any such artiste or any artiste who has a record of promoting vulgar and lawless behaviour including the firing of gunshots in public places", the Minister of Home Affairs said.

This is not the first time that an artiste has been banned by Guyana.

Before his arrest in 2011, Vybz Kartel was famously banned off the airways by the Guyana Broadcasting Authority, which at the time said that his music "had nothing positive" to offer the Guyanese people.

Kartel had also famously responded

that he wasn't interested in going to Guyana and preferring to tour Iraq instead, setting off his loyal fans in the country.

As for which other artists, along with Skeng, will be banned, the Minister did not state names, but he did give the Guyana Police Force and other services not to grant permission for public events to "artistes like Skeng".

Meanwhile, the police force was still investigating the shootings by exuberant fans as Skeng belted out lyrics from his "Protocol" featuring Tommy Lee Sparta, where the artist sings about gun violence and popping molly.

Jamaican artists have gone to a great extent to convince authorities locally that their lyrics are only inspired by the happenings on the island and not actual involvement in criminal activity. However, Guyanese fans have taken the lyrics literally, which has drawn criticisms from sections of the entertainment industry in Guyana.

Skeng nor his management team have not responded to the latest ban, but the move will certainly affect the artiste bottom line with less potential booking coming from that country going forward.

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# ‘Only Coconuts’ gets ready for the global market

**P**recision Global Inc., with its trade name ‘Only Coconuts’, is gearing up to have its coconut line of products marketed in all corners of the globe, having pursued several internationally recognised certifications and having already entered major markets such as the European and American markets, among others.

Proprietor Vishnu Ramdeen, who is now based in Canada, was cognisant of the nutritional value of coconut products and regularly added them to his meals. He wanted to ensure he had something healthy each day as he travelled extensively between Canada and the United States.

He realised, though, that most of the coconut products in Canada were imported from outside of CARICOM even as he knew all too well that there was an abundance of coconuts in CARICOM, and more specifically, in Guyana. So he thought, ‘Why not capitalise on such a market?’

Just three years after launching the first batch of products, ‘Only Coconuts’, based at Marudi Creek on the Soesdyke Highway, is perhaps the largest coconut processing facility in South America, with quality that may be hard to compete with.

“Our coconuts are naturally grown in the fields of Guyana and carefully selected for every item we create. All products are processed in our 45,000 sq. ft. nut-free facility without preservatives or artificial additives to ensure your fullest enjoyment and optimal health benefits. As part of our commitment to you, we provide you only the best, only the purest, Only Coconuts,” the company boasts on its website.

The site also attests that all the all-natural superfood products are perfect for those seeking a wholesome lifestyle as they are packed with healthy fats and antioxidants. “Coconuts are proven to support health and wellness when regularly consumed,” the company assured.

The line of products produced by ‘Only Coconuts’ includes virgin coconut oil, refined coconut oil, desiccated coconuts, co-



Precision Global's Coconut Chips — one in a long line of products on offer

conut chips, and coconut flour.

Vice President – Finance Lesley Ramlall said that the ‘Only Coconuts’ is 90 per cent automated, meaning that the company has inculcated technology in its production process.

“We have ensured from the inception that the quality and safety of our products are superior so as to give customers that assurance that whenever they consume our products, it is being produced in a very safe and secure environment,” he explained.

The company, with its 85 staff members, is not just producing a very healthy line of products, he noted, but it insists on meeting various international certifications.

“Only Coconuts has the capacity to supply the entire CARICOM region. On a daily basis, we have the capacity to process 85,000 coconuts on an eight-hour shift. If there’s a need for us to increase that based on demand, we can go as much as 125,000 coconuts per day,” Ramlall disclosed.

Meanwhile, just last week, ‘Only Coconuts’ achieved the Made in Guyana Certification Mark from the Guyana National

Bureau of Standards (GNBS), thus further boosting the company’s reputation so far as safety and standards are concerned. It was among the first three companies to meet all the requirements for certification.

Chief Financial Officer of the company Ravi Annand has said that the decision to pursue certification from the GNBS was premised on the need to produce quality products. “In this business, if you are not careful, a lot of things can go wrong. Food safety and quality are key aspects that must be looked at and worked on deliberately. They do not come by accident and we want to bring the best for consumers,” the GNBS quoted him as saying.

The Made in Guyana Certification Mark is a registered mark that aims to provide recognition to locally manufactured products on the local and international markets and is a signature of quality for authentic Guyanese products. The certification is valid for one year, pending renewal based on the company’s ability to maintain the requirements of the programme.



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# Tobago Love

## A story about Barry and the Tobago 'Ark'

**B**arry Lovelace had his sights set on a career in medicine when he had his eyes opened to the underwater wonders of his home island. He talks with Pat Ganase about the Ark that will encourage Tobagonians to appreciate and conserve the natural resources of the island, for inspiration and livelihoods.

The Tobago Alliance for Resilient Communities (TARC) is an NGO that will focus on communities; not just human villages but ecological communities. The communities of TARC will include people with common issues (social concerns, access to resources, special interests) and also the eco-communities of a rich natural environment, ridge to reef.

Patricia Turpin and I were originally part of the NGO Environment Tobago. In 2019, we received funding from the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) in Barbados to participate in a series of capacity development workshops. The thrust of the activities was for NGOs in our region to rethink their roles and redefine purpose. Access to grant funding is becoming more difficult, and NGOs need to be self-sustaining.

The recommended model for the NGO is social enterprise; working with people to encourage self-development. The directors of TobagoARC are Patricia Turpin, Angelica Harkoo and Barry Lovelace but the intention is to create a community of communities. Our membership will come from partner individuals and institutions that subscribe to our vision. We will form strategic alliances through MOUs. We will invite advisers who are willing to share expertise to become partners. We envisage a “place where people and planet prosper in perpetuity.”

Our mission is to enable and empower communities of Tobago and beyond to build resilience to climate change, enhance



Barry Lovelace

livelihoods through education and research, and promote healthy living, all in harmony with the natural environment.

The acronym is TARC but we call ourselves Tobago Ark (TobagoARC) to play on the function of an ark – drawing on the biblical story of Noah’s climate change event – to conserve biodiversity.

The pandemic had serious, life-changing effects on people everywhere. At the same time, the designation of northeast Tobago as a Unesco Man and the Biosphere Reserve (MAB) is our silver lining; it offers something to work on that encourages us to be integrated with the natural environment.

TobagoARC’s focus is the 15 villages within the MAB, but Tobago is one island without borders so there’s nothing to stop engagement with all communities, especially schools and children. One of our first projects is to document the MAB through a partnership with Faraaz Abdool and Sustainable Innovation Initiatives which has

funded a six-month project for photos and stories. We are in discussion with a company to produce an inventory of energy usage in Charlotteville which will determine a possible configuration of alternative energy sources for the town.

Since January 2022, I am the chairman of the Tobago Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme (TRWRP) which is the new special purpose company established by the THA under the Division of Food Security, Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development. The mandate is to increase forest capital through reforestation to maintain watersheds and conserve soil and improve existing forests, initially on state lands.

Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation started as a national programme in 2004. In 2020, the new THA decided to incorporate a company. It aims to change the mindset of the programme from “unemployment relief.” We intend to train participants, and encourage them to develop skills and enterprises within the realm of forest and forestry products. There are industries to be made from bamboo; or composting; or revitalising cocoa.

The first agro-forestry project sees breadfruit as a tree crop, for soil conservation and food security. Every household on Tobago should be able to feed itself. We were gifted some young trees which were planted and distributed in the 15 Assembly districts. We are talking with stakeholders Centeno La Reunion Propagating Station and The Tree that Feeds Foundation (Jamaica and Florida), and using technology to create an inventory and monitor trees.

In the next phases, we talk to the farmers who are already expressing interest; and then we consider the value-added products. TADCO (Tobago Agribusiness Development Company) is looking at breadfruit as an alternative to wheat for flour.



Patrice Roberts poses with one of the brands during a photo shoot at New York luxury wine and spirits company Sovereign Brands' headquarters

# Opening the door

**Patrice Roberts set to become brand ambassador for luxury wine co.**

Is a brand deal with New York luxury wine and spirits company Sovereign Brands in the works for soca artiste Patrice Roberts?

Roberts met with executives of the company in New York on May 31, a media release said.

Rappers Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Wiz Khalifa and DJ Khaled are among its brand ambassadors.

Luc Belaire, Bumbu,

McQueen and the Violet Fog, and Villon are the company's brands.

Roberts' meeting with the executives "opens the door for many other soca artistes to crossover to the global business market," the release said.

It added, "Soca artistes are breaking the barriers internationally as soca begins to be distinguished to the mainstream. First, Grenadian artiste Mr Killa produced the theme

song for Bravo's new series, *The Real Housewives Ultimate Girls Trip*, currently streaming on Peacock."

Roberts did a photo shoot at the company's headquarters, taking shots in the Belaire Vanity Room, The Bumbu Co Rum Wall and two bathroom spaces covered in Belaire bottles with props such as a basketball rim, mini rum cellar and a bathtub filled with coloured balls.

She had a complimentary tasting of Bumbu Rum Cream and the Luc Belaire Bleu champagne, debuted by rapper Gucci Mane.

At the end of her visit, Roberts hopped on the viral TikTok trend *Another One Thank You*, creating shots of her playfully drinking Bumbu Co Rum and Belaire bottles as a brand deal is currently pending, the release said.

# Where we come from?

## Finding the roots of the Caribbean's first peoples

Studies showing the migration and culture of the Caribbean's earliest settlers are still ongoing, but academics and indigenous groups are hopeful that modern technology can help paint a clearer picture of the region's first inhabitants.

As June was officially declared Caribbean-American Heritage month by US President Joe Biden, members of the Caribbean diaspora have been inspired to take a closer look at their family history to understand their heritage and those of the region's first peoples.

For now, researchers still at work on filling the gaps in the history of the Caribbean's first inhabitants are optimistic these secrets can be unlocked with new scientific tools.

In a virtual lecture on Ancient DNA and the Genetic History of the Caribbean, postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Dr Kathrin Nägele said understanding the genealogy of indigenous peoples can further understanding not only of their biology but also their civilisation.

Referring to work done by palaeontologists who analysed the DNA from early farmers' skeletons to study the spread of agriculture across Europe in the neolithic age, Nägele said similar analyses done on the remains of early humans in the Caribbean could yield valuable information.

However, Nägele said one of the major challenges in these studies lies in the climate of the Caribbean and the availability of "workable" samples.

"Even shortly after the death of a person, their DNA becomes very fragmented, until only small fragments are left, and this process is accelerated in the presence of water and happens faster in warmer cli-



Indigenous Heritage Procession in Port of Spain

mates. The more time that passes, the more fragmented the DNA will be.

"We are also only now beginning to understand how the microclimates, like soil acidity and mineral content, are important factors in the quality of samples we will receive."

Despite this, newer techniques for extracting and analysing DNA samples can be used to explore more.

Nägele said these new methods usually use either the petrous bone found in the skull or the teeth, as the DNA is protected by the enamel. In this process a small hole is drilled into the sample to produce bone or tooth particles which can be digested to release the DNA samples.

Scientists then use a magnet to extract the desired fragments of DNA which they will use to study.

These DNA fragments, Nägele says, can tell a lot not only about the individual whose remains were found but also the condition of populations at the time of their death.

She noted that these samples are also useful in understanding the level of immunity of indigenous people at the time and the types of pathogens to which they would

have been vulnerable.

Such scientific techniques are particularly effective in understanding the lives and interactions between different populations of early Caribbean people, given the region's complex history of colonisation and mixing with people from different parts of the globe.

Even with current technology it can be difficult to filter out the desired genetic information to map the history of early indigenous people.

Nägele said the genetic history of the region during the Ceramic Age – the period of the Caribbean's earliest settlement – was more complicated than originally thought, but was optimistic that as scientific methodologies are perfected over time, more detailed information would be available.

She noted that while researchers have a good general idea of the Caribbean's genealogical history, there were crucial details that still needed to be understood for researchers to get a clearer picture of indigenous people.

"There are some signals we do not understand yet. In Trinidad, we are only just starting. I wanted to inform the public in Trinidad about this work that we are starting, and I will be

back with new results once the data is analysed."

For now Nägele says researchers have a lot of work ahead of them but are hopeful that local First Peoples' groups will take an interest in the research and co-operate with their work.

"From Trinidad this will be the first whole genome data produced.

"If this collaboration is well received by Trinidad and its First Peoples, we can discuss hope to extend the sampling and continue working on the topic with this line of evidence."

Contacted for comment, chief of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Ricardo Bharath Hernandez said while there was an interest in having researchers visit Trinidad, he hoped they would make their findings more accessible to the First Peoples communities.

He said academics routinely visited Trinidad for research on First Peoples, but have not made their work available to them and hoped that future programmes would keep their community better informed.

"In Manzanilla I know they did a lot of research and the owners of the land promised to give us, the local community, a copy of the research, which they can't seem to get a copy of at all. We don't have a problem with others coming, but what we say is, when they do their research, they should supply the local community with a copy, so that the local community can be educated and will have knowledge on what was obtained on their ancestors and so on.

"It is through research we can really know much more than we know now. So we don't have a problem with that."

He said the First Peoples community endorsed any efforts to shed further light on the lives of their ancestors.



# Remembering Typher

## Mourners hail Vincy calypsonian for his 'True Dignity'

**B**orn in the village of Old Montrose, St Vincent, the late Classic Ruso veteran Typher (Cuthbert Blackett) worked as a teacher and tailor. When he migrated to Trinidad in search of a better standard of living, Typher discovered "music resonated in his bones". Typher, who loved fashionable clothing and hats, left a repertoire including "Whey Ah Do", "Keep Down", "Spankin" and "True Dignity", the latter, was a humorous response to the late Singing Sandra's (Sandra Des Vignes-Millington) "Die With My Dignity".

So said Typher's daughter Molescia as she eulogised patriarch Typher at A Celebration and Thanksgiving For His Life at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church, Laventille, on Thursday morning. She also said despite their challenges, "his love, our love conquered all". Typher, 71, died on May 27, after battling a stroke. He is survived by his wife Jennie and children Ovando Phillips, Tyanna Blackett, Azandar Gaymes, and step children Princess and Monet Gaymes-Jeffers and an army of friends and relatives. Mourners made their way past his coffin, which was brightened with a bouquet of red roses.

As the service unfolded, tributes also came from Trinbago Unified Calypsonians' Organisation North Zone chairman Contender (Mark John) who paid kudos to Typher, his wife and children for diligently supporting calypso ventures. Having secured a spot at Dimanche Gras finals, Contender said: "I turned to Typher and he was the one selling an extempo. He could act, too. Real good." Contender also brought greetings on behalf of National Carnival Commission (NCC) Chairman Winston "Gypsy" Peters, who thanked Typher profusely for his stellar contribution.

TUCO general secretary and Classic Ruso facilitator Shirlaine Hendrickson said Typher's career spanned over 40 years in-



Calypsonian Typher (Cuthbert Blackett)

cluding stints at the Revue, Spektakula and Classic Ruso tents. He also performed islandwide with the late Mystic Prowler (Roy Lewis), and boasted, "I was one of Prowler's friends." Hendrickson said he was known for his scintillating songs tinged with a dash of dry humour. Typher rose to the challenge and delivered a grand performance on WACK radio in support of people affected by the Soufriere volcano eruption in St Vincent. Hendrickson said the fraternity will miss "Typher's short answers and cheeky smiles".

Tobago bard Prince Unique (Jeffrey Thomas), renowned for "Wine Yuh Waist, Mama", ferried across the islands to pay tribute to his "dear friend" and sang the gospel "Victory". Veteran Crazy (Edwin Ayoung) sang snatches of iconic calypsonian Sparrow's (Slinger Francisco) "Memories".

Typher's neighbour Phyllis described him as "a fine gentleman".

They were joined by TUCO administrators including Twiggy (Ann Marie Parks-Kojo), Oba Kojo, Sherma Orr-Watkins, Susan Maynard and veteran calypsonians King Luta (Morel Peters), Lord Funny (Donric Williamson), Trinidad Rio (Daniel Brown), Black Sage (Philip Murray), Black Prince (Kenroy Prince), Brother Mudada (Allan Fortune), Dee Diamond (Denesian Moses), Coro and Potential (Curtis Charles), as well as calypsonians from Classic Ruso including Allrounder (Anthony Hendrickson), Will B (William Banister), Robbie G (Robert Deen), and trustee Bernice Carr.

Fr Trevor Nathasingh gave thanks for Typher's life and his contribution to the entertainment industry. He lamented the escalating crime and violence among the youth, despite the nation's preponderance of religious edifices including churches, mandirs and mosques.

TUCO is also mourning the passing of Classic Ruso stalwart Hercules, who passed away at Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt Hope, on May 28—a day after Typher passed. Hercules' funeral took place on Friday at St Charles RC Church, Tunapuna. And the funeral of former TUCO marketing manager Lennox London took place yesterday in at Princes Town Anglican Church.

On life's uncertainty and death's imminence, Nathasingh said: "I wonder if he got an email he is going to die? One thing is certain, you and I are going to die. Free will is what God has given us. Take responsibility for your life. Don't blame anybody or the Government, for where you are. You will know a tree, by the fruit it bears. Deep within us is a sense of longing for the divine. A still tongue can't confess before God."

# Island Mas

## Veteran bandleader returns to T&T Carnival after 16 year hiatus

**A**boutique band with a masquerader centric approach.

That's what veteran bandleader Douglas Gordon is promising from the return of his Island Events brand to the Trinidad Carnival mas landscape.

Island Events innovated the on the road mas experience at the turn of the millennium introducing the all-inclusive food and drink experience that is now a staple of Carnival Monday and Tuesday. The Woodbrook-based band, which last took to the streets of the capital in 2006, was also the first to bring Hollywood stars to the annual parade, hosting America comedian Anthony Anderson and actress Gabrielle Union, among others.

Almost two decades on and Gordon is promising more new innovations to the mas experience and more high-profile celebrity cameos. The CanEX Jamaica founder has literally brought the band back together to make it all happen, once again teaming with foundation members Jason Alcantara and acclaimed mas designer Sandra Hordatt.

"Our team is quite experienced in the carnival and event space and we took some time to look at things that we feel are being done well, those that we felt could be improved and opportunities where we felt through a different lens we could bring innovative solutions to the experience. We have always been about the customer experience first and foremost," Gordon said.

The Jamaica-based businessman says looking at Carnival "through the eyes of the customer" both here in T&T and abroad has provided his team with a unique "opportunity to deliver a different product with a sharp focus on the customer".

"Customers can expect an



Island Events will bring a carnival band in Trinidad in 2023

enhanced purchase experience that leverages technology for their benefit. We have an innovative 'Designed by Sandi, built by you' platform that we will be introducing to give our customers more choice.

"Additionally, we are using a technological solution to solve the age-old challenge of costume distribution to refine it to a rather simple and convenient process—no more long lines or inconvenient or inflexible costume collection options," he winked.

Gordon said more details on the new tech as well as their plans for "a proper culinary experience" during the band's lunch breaks will be revealed at their launch set for mid-July.

"If you're looking for something slightly different that blends areas of industry progress, but with modern consumer expectations with very high standards in execution and a real desire to deliver a memorable and fun carnival experience then give us a look," he added.

Island Events' new franchising model also opens the door for collaborations with mas entrepreneurs, Gordon revealed.

We have specifically looked at ways in which we can work more collaboratively with various stakeholders—from those wishing to have sections and develop their own carnival business opportunities all the way through to examining the customer journey from purchase to experience.

"We feel strongly that there are ways to more deeply partner with these entrepreneurs—whether designers or promoters who want to develop their own carnival business and so we're looking at a different model—a franchising model which affords these individuals the real opportunity to build their own business and gives them the comfort of knowing they have a long term, vested opportunity in the band," he revealed.

Since Island Event's final portrayal on Carnival Tuesday in 2006, Gordon said he's been overwhelmed with requests from masqueraders "to bring the band back". Focused on other business ventures he shelved the idea for almost two decades.

With 2023 providing an opportunity for reinventing the festival after a two-year pandemic-forced lay off Gordon and team feels it an ideal time to finally answer the call to return.

"Sandra and her team started designing with us at the beginning and I couldn't be prouder of how she has refined and honed her craft over the years. I think the fact that we all felt there was an opportunity to bring something slightly different to the market, that was really reflected on the core Carnival product was something powerful," he explained.

# A Tale of Food

## Indian Chef experiments with Trinidadian flavours

**C**hef Sanji Thankappan likes to express himself through food, celebrating the rich history of his birthplace, India, while also embracing the melting pot of flavours from Trinidad and Tobago.

The brilliant chef, who hails from Kerala, India, plans to put his culinary abilities to use online. Thankappan is eager to bring the intricacies of Caribbean cuisine to his motherland by creating Indo-Trini fusion meals, which have proven highly popular at all of his restaurants in Trinidad.

He hopes to introduce Trinidadian cuisine to the rest of India through YouTube and, by extension, to the rest of the world.

In 2003, he moved to Trinidad and was hired as the head chef of one of the local restaurants. He was able to explore and produce new meals because of his new job. It also prompted him to start Ghazal, his own restaurant on Ariapita Avenue, Port of Spain, in 2010.

Thankappan explained why he enjoys Trinidadian cuisine and how food can act as a tale of one's native country.

"I feel as though I was destined to be a chef. Nothing makes me feel more alive than watching clients' faces light up after eating a dish that I've cooked. I have been to different countries and, regardless of where I go, I always miss the cuisine and flavour of Trinidad. Trini curry duck is the finest duck dish on the Earth," he said.

"Trinidadian and Indian cuisines have a number of commonalities, yet there are also significant variances. Even though we both use a blend of spices, we don't always use it the same way."

Thankappan built a second restaurant, Grand Buffet, in T&T's Grand Bazaar in 2014. He said: "Grand Buffet was created to provide fine-dining-quality meals at a reasonable price. The cuisine and the experience were both praised by customers. We established branch after branch until we had seven branches nationwide. We have Grand Buffet in Grand Bazaar, Trincity Mall, Westmall, C3 Centre, Excellent



**Chef Sanji Thankappan: Trini Curry Duck is the best**

City, Nicholas Towers, and Mid Centre Mall in Chaguanas.

"Customers may sample all of our meals before purchasing them at any of our establishments. Customers love our Indo-Trini fusion meals, which include palak (spinach) and corn pie, paneer and peas pie, curried Julie mango chicken, lemon and honey-glazed dasheen, and tamarind-glazed grilled melongene, to mention a few."

"Every day, we make over 50 meals from all over the globe, including Trini fusion Caribbean, French, Italian, Chinese, and Arabic cuisine. We also give a variety

of healthy choices. I've lived in Trinidad for almost two decades and like the cuisine. As a chef, I believe it is my obligation to promote Trini cuisine to India and make it more familiar," he said.

In August, Thankappan will begin his Vibe Chef YouTube channel, which will feature Trinidadian food.

"As a chef, I believe this is the next step for me. The Internet has the ability to bring people from all over the world together at the dinner table. There are so many things we can learn from one another, and food can bring us together," Thankappan said.



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