

The Magazine

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INSIDE
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hits Bollywood
for six in new
movie '83'



LICK IT!

Shenseea, Megan Thee Stallion sample Denise Belfon in their collaborative new hit Lick. Just when you thought WAP was rude...

Lick It Good! Denise Belfon's work sampled on new Megan Thee Stallion, Shenseea's hot follow up to WAP

Trinidadian Soca singer Denise 'Saucy Wow' Belfon whose 1998 single Work was sampled by Shenseea and Megan Thee Stallion in their latest collab Lick, says 'Everything was above board' and hopes the track goes on to topping the Billboard charts.

Following the January 21 release of Lick, many questioned whether Denise had given Shenseea and Megan permission for the sampling of her track Work. Denise later issued a statement where she said that the two ladies did an excellent cover of the song. "I am very grateful and wish them the best of luck!! Lets get it to number 1 on the billboard charts ladies. Soca influences the world! Everything is above board," Belfon said.

"I would like to send love and congrats to Shenseea, Megan Thee Stallion and their recording labels Interscope, 300 entertainment, Warner Music Group and their management teams, Mr. Romeich and Wassim Salxo "Sal" and the producers "Murder on the beats" for considering and using my song "work / put your back in it" on their mega hit Lick."

Belfon, 53, was also in New York with Shenseea on Friday night partying at a nightclub to celebrate the premiere of Lick. The Dancehall star took a moment to acknowledge the Soca artist for her influence on the new release.

"I just want to say big up Denise. She is the original queen for 'Put Your Back In It,' the wining queen straight from Trinidad, Bless her up nuh man!" she said.

The not-so-subtle music video features an assortment of lickable treats — lollipops, popsicles and ice cream cones — set amid a cotton candy-colored landscape.



Shenseea and Megan Thee Stallion want people to learn how to lick it good

"Finna teach you how to LICK," Shenseea tweeted with a teaser for the song Thursday, before adding in a second tweet, "I always wanted to write a suck p*ssy song...some of y'all need guidance on how to eat 😊."

Echoing her risque contributions on the art of female pleasure on "WAP," Megan also offers up some pointed tips on her verse: "Bust it open, bend over, put my back in it/ He addicted like it got a little crack in it/ Suck it like a crab leg, I'm cracking it/ Take it out, catch your breath, get back in it."

On her Instagram story Thursday evening leading up to the midnight drop, Shenseea told fans she would do a pop-up for fans to meet her in New York City. "I'm just going to party tomorrow and celebrate my single," she said, before

showing off a fancy dinner spread.

Since its premiere on Friday (January 21), Lick, which was produced by Murda Beatz has racked up more than 2.5 million YouTube views and has already topped several music charts.

Upon its debut Lick soared to the No. 1 position on the Hip-Hop/Rap iTunes Top Songs chart, ahead of Gunna's Pushin P.

Shenseea's Dolly also holds down the No. 14 spot on the Modern Dancehall iTunes charts, while You're The One I Love with Rvssian sits at No. 27 on the Reggae iTunes chart. On the Hip Hop/Rap Worldwide iTunes chart, Lick also placed at No. 1 in Belgium, No. 2 in Finland and Norway, No. 5 in the US, No. 6 in Switzerland, No. 7 in Netherlands, No. 8 in Australia and the UK and also charted in Botswana, Canada, Taiwan and Germany.



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Bad start to 2022: After suffering many losses, Tiffany Haddish arrested for suspected DUI in Georgia

Tiffany Haddish was arrested on January 14 and charged with driving under the influence, authorities said.

The actor and comedian was detained after Peachtree City Police got a call about 2:30 a.m. regarding a driver asleep at the wheel on a highway, Assistant Police Chief Matt Myers said in a news release. An officer saw a vehicle matching the caller's description and stopped Haddish as she pulled into the yard of a residence, Myers said.

Haddish later posted \$1,666 bond and was released from the Fayette County Jail, Myers said. He did not release any information about a possible court date.

A spokesman for Haddish did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Haddish was the breakout star of the smash comedy "Girls Trip" and has starred in such movies as "The Kitchen," "Night School" and "Like A Boss." She's also written the New York Times best seller, "The Last Black Unicorn" and hosted the popular television show "Kids Say The Darndest Things."

Peachtree City is located about 40 miles south of Atlanta.

Haddish was arrested for DUI just days after posting an emotional tribute to Full House star Bob Saget.

Ironically, Haddish had an interview that same day in which she mentioned falling asleep while partying. When asked who was the biggest partier in the cast of The Afterparty, an upcoming murder-mystery comedy series, Haddish replied it was Ike Barinholtz.

"Ike can go way longer than me," she revealed (via ET). "I thought I was a partier until I partied with Ike and I fell asleep at



Tiffany Haddish: suffered several losses in the days before her arrest in Georgia

the party and when I woke up, he was still partying."

On Jan. 9, comedian and actor Bob Saget was found dead in his hotel room in Orlando, Florida. The 65-year-old performed a two-hour stand-up comedy set hours before he died.

The day after Saget's death, Haddish posted an emotional Instagram tribute to honor her friend and mentor. She posted a photo of herself with Saget, followed by a video clip in which he tells her, "You gotta follow your voice."

Haddish experienced several losses leading up to her DUI arrest. "Now my personal life is in shambles," Haddish said in the ET interview from the day she got arrested. "This year, you know, people are like, 'Happy New Year.' I'm like, no, neutral new year. I'm gonna be neutral in the

year."

Besides the death of her mentor and friend Bob Saget, Haddish's dog of 13 years also died, and her year-long relationship with rapper Common ended.

"I'm very emotional," she shared about her recent losses. "I've been crying a lot 'cause it's, that's my heart. My dog was my heart, and the other people who passed, you know, those, they were my rocks, you know, they had my back. I mean, they taught me a lot, so I lost the physical, I'm sure I got them in the spiritual."

More than 100 celebrities attended Bob Saget's funeral after the Full House actor died at age 65. John Mayer, John Stamos, Kathy Griffin, Chris Rock, Jimmy Kimmel, and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen were among the attendees.

Hollywood rocked by news of suicide of Ian Alexander Jr., son of Oscar winning actress Regina King

Ian Alexander Jr., son of actress Regina King, has died as a result of suicide, according to a statement from King obtained by People.

King and her son had just celebrated his 26th birthday on Wednesday, the magazine website reported.

“Our family is devastated at the deepest level by the loss of Ian,” King told People. “He is such a bright light who cared so deeply about the happiness of others.”

The news rocked Hollywood and shook up social media when it broke overnight on Friday, making “Regina King” the number one trending topic on Twitter.

“Sending love, light and the armor of God to @ReginaKing,” Atlantic writer Jemele Hill tweeted early Saturday morning. “May her and her loved ones find comfort and peace.”



Oscar winner Regina King with her son Ian Alexander just days before he died



Mother and son on the Red Carpet

Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., tweeted that she was praying for the actress.

“She needs all the grace and light that can flow her way right now,” Bernice King tweeted.

“So very sorry!!! Prayers Prayers Prayers!!!!!!” wrote comedian D.L. Hughley.

Alexander was King’s only child with her ex-husband Ian Alexander Sr.

Ian Alexander Jr. joined King at the Golden Globes in 2019 when she took home a Best Supporting Actress trophy for her performance in *If Beal Street Could Talk*.

King admitted to People previously that being a single parent was no easy journey following her 2007 divorce, but said her love for her son was stronger than anything.

“You don’t know what unconditional love is. You may say you do, but if you don’t have a child, you don’t know what that is,” she told the magazine at the time. “When you experience it, it’s the most fulfilling [thing] ever.”

Alexander honored his mom online when she celebrated her 50th birthday about a year ago.

“Happy birthday to my co, so extremely proud of you and inspired by your love, artistry, and gangsta!” he wrote on Instagram. “To be able to watch you take this lifetime by its neck and make it yours is something i will forever be grateful for. But to have you as my mother is the greatest gift I could ask for.”

In her statement to People, King asked the world to give her and her family time to mourn.

Patrice's 'Business' goes viral as celebrities lap up new song

Patrice Roberts' song, Mind My Business, has gone viral with celebrities such as Destiny Child's Michelle Williams and TLC's Chilli taking to social media to show off their fondness for the song's chorus "Drink Water and Mind My Business".

The song, which is proving to be the go-to song of choice, has been used in Instagram reels and Tik Tok videos that have to date surpassed 15 million views collectively according to Robert's management.

"While the Caribbean diaspora has been enjoying dancing to and referencing the track there has also been significant use of the song by social media influencers and content creators from outside of the Caribbean diaspora," her team said via a press release.

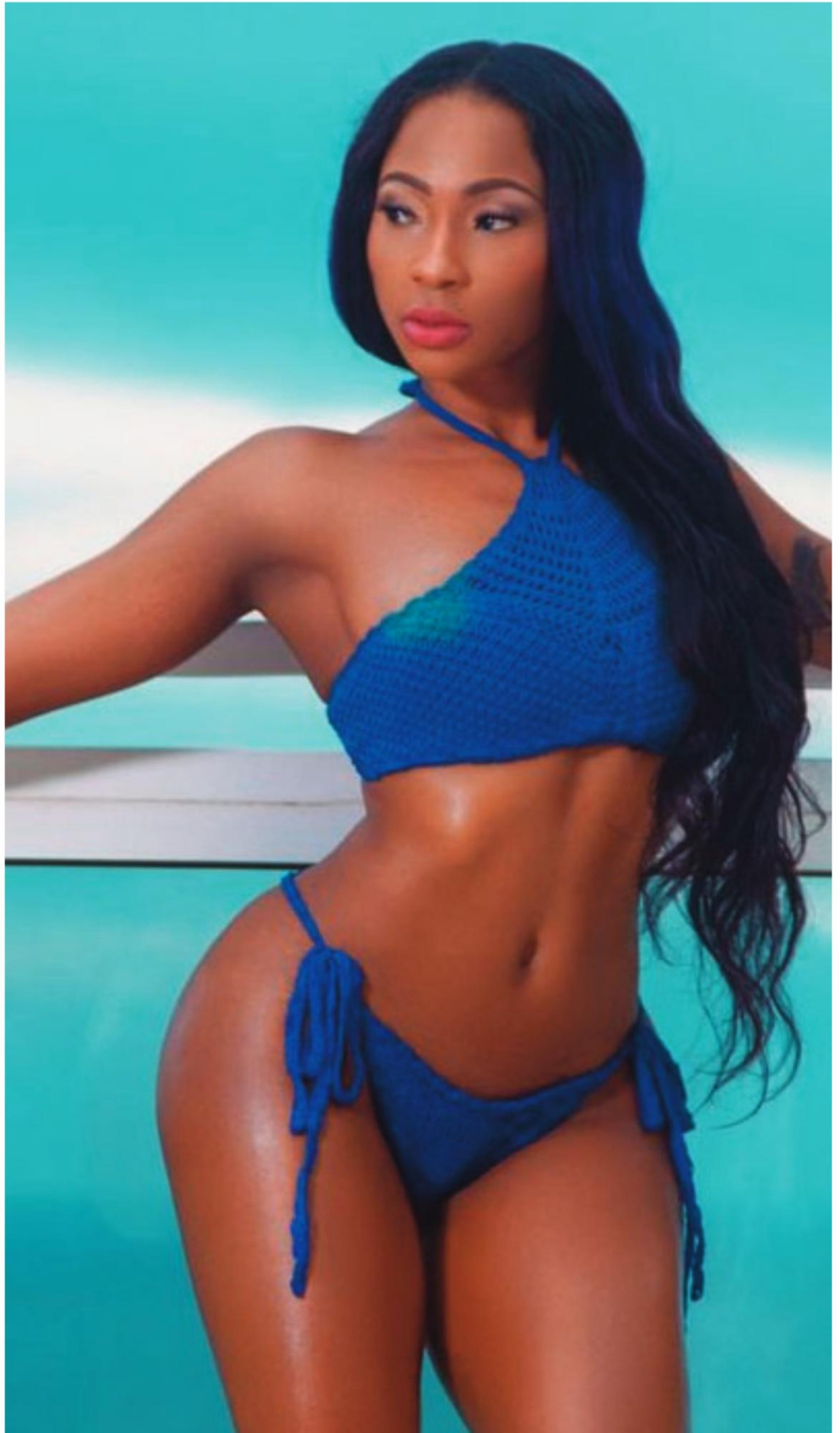
The song's popularity has been welcomed by Roberts who has been commenting on many of the accounts that have featured her song.

"I just want to ensure that throughout this journey people know who I am," said Roberts. "Having a viral song is great and we have heard and seen the use of many viral songs on social media without actually seeing the face behind it. I do not want that to happen to me."

As she has been doing consistently since she became a solo act, Roberts has already put out a slew of new music for the new year.

Other than "Mind My Business" which was written by Mical Teja and produced by Travis World and Dan Evens (producers of 'Splash'), Roberts has five other new Soca releases in circulation, "Tricks", "I Good", "Soca Therapy", "Hard On Me" and "Rock Me".

Her greatest achievement so far has been winning the 2006 Road March competition with the song "Band of the Year" sung with Machel Montano.



Kes the Band drops 'Jolene', hot new single for 2022

oca superstars Kes the Band are inviting listeners to Trinidad and Tobago with their first 2022 release, "Jolene."

Not to be confused with the Dolly Parton staple, this "Jolene" is a buoyant celebration of good vibes and rolling waistlines in the tradition of crossover soca smash like Rupee's "Tempted to Touch" and Kes' own "Hello."

With Trinidad's famed Carnival cancelled for a second year, the band has given us a totemic anthem that will instantly transport listeners to Caribbean shores.

Producer Dwala's mid-tempo riddim adds a touch of afrobeats flavour to the mix.

The single comes on the heels of Kes' US TV debut on Late Night with Steven Colbert and their IzWe tour in the United States.



Priyanka, Nick welcome new baby

Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her husband Nick Jonas announced on their Instagram pages Friday that they welcomed their first child together. She said a surrogate gave birth to the couple's baby on Jan. 15.

"We are overjoyed to confirm that we have welcomed a baby via surrogate," the couple's statement said.

The couple did not reveal their baby's name or sex.

In 2018, the actor and musician married in India. The couple were engaged after four months of dating.



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Much ado about Trini Author

Trinidad does move fast,” author Ayanna Lloyd Banwo laughed. “You come home one day and you can’t park on that [side of the] street.”

“I’m walking from City Gate and I’m trying to get to Woodford Square...” she mused, as she attempted to mentally retrace her steps to the taxi stand and to some of her other familiar haunts. “Have I forgotten things? Is that still the route?”

Lloyd Banwo has been based in the UK since 2018, when she relocated to read for an MA in Creative Writing—and subsequently, a PhD—at the University of East Anglia.

Between studies, being immersed in writing to meet her publisher’s deadlines and of course, the pandemic, she hasn’t been able to make it back home, and despite the thrill of being added to the growing list of West Indian voices to be internationally published by major houses, Lloyd appears to be most concerned with not forgetting—where she’s come from, and the things and people who anchor her to that place of belonging, both temporal and physical.

The business of remembering, of memory, is integral to Lloyd Banwo’s work, much of which is centred on legacy, of the role of ancestors and honouring departed loved ones.

Named a “Most Anticipated Book of 2022” by BuzzFeed and Essence Magazine, *When We Were Birds* tells the story of hapless gravedigger Darwin, estranged from his mother and the Rastafarianism she raised him to follow, and Yejide, whose mother is at the end of her life and from whose lineage of mysticism she is at risk of losing. The two protagonists find each other, and become linked together by their connection to death and the dying.

Lloyd Banwo infuses folkloric elements, aspects of African spirituality and romance into a gripping narrative that speaks to the importance of maintaining a connection to those who have gone before.



Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

Like her characters, Lloyd Banwo’s trajectory, in particular, her pathway to this pivotal moment in her writing career, was impacted by the loss of loved ones.

An only child, Lloyd Banwo lost her mother, father and maternal grandmother “in quick succession”, over the course of three years, from 2013 to 2015, with one death occurring in each of those.

Grateful for this early success, she acknowledged the unfortunate turn of events that led her there: “This shot was purchased by a lot of grief and a lot of terrible things. I was just very unlucky to have been able to take the gamble.”

Lloyd Banwo told of how she decided to upend her life in her mid-thirties and move to the UK.

“I ran out of road,” she said. “I lost my parents before I had planned to [and] I wasn’t 100% happy with the job I was doing.” At the time, Lloyd Banwo was working in advertising, a job that allowed her to flex her writing chops, but not exactly in the way that she wanted to.

Meanwhile, she honed her narrative writing skills, attended workshops, worked closely with the Bocas Lit Festival and was able to have some of her short stories published in literary magazines such as *Anomaly*, *Moko Magazine* and *Pree*.

“I had always been writing,” Lloyd Banwo said. “I just didn’t have a clear sense of what to do with this writing.”

She credited the Bocas Lit Fest and the workshop groups she became involved with for helping her to grow her craft by providing clear and honest critique and for planting the seed of applying to creative writing programmes in her head when she was still understanding the direction in which she was meant to go. “I didn’t know how one gets a novel published,” she said. “I was largely writing for myself.”

Lloyd Banwo felt that she had nothing to lose by applying, even though she didn’t have the money to see it through.

She was accepted to the creative writing master’s programme at the University of East Anglia, one of the UK’s most prestigious programmes in the field, and awarded a scholarship for tuition, but still had to come up with the funds to support herself. GoFundMe donations and aid from a benefactor who took an interest in her work and journey helped Lloyd Banwo to achieve her goal.

Beaming with gratitude, she said, “People just believed. Bocas believed. That’s how I was able to raise enough money.”

As Lloyd Banwo made it very clear, it was death that led her to the UK, and it is death that keeps her there to complete the work she began, even before leaving.

“I’ve promised my dead three books. It is a pact that I’ve made with people who are not here anymore. I was given three stories when my mother died [...] I came [here] with a sense of these three books and what I wanted [to accomplish].”

The novel, set in Trinidad, in and around the fictional city of Port Angeles, features characters that speak in a manner that reflects our language, particularly our Creole, in a genuine way.

When We Were Birds is out in February and March 2022 in the UK and US/Canada, respectively.

KI 2012 hit finds new life as Apple Music's Best Song

A decade after he won Chutney Soca Monarch and dominated the airwaves with his hit "Single Forever", Kris Veeshal Persad, best known as KI, finds himself breaking more records with the song.

The "Single Forever" remix featuring Machel Montano recently became the first Chutney Soca song to be featured on the Apple Music Reggae Category as one of its best new songs.

The song got new life when it was featured on the Island Stories album, the first album in the Caribbean to be mastered in Dolby Atmos technology.

The album was produced by Rishi Mahato of Maha Studios in collaboration with Chinese Laundry Music.

"Rishi Mahato started getting involved with Dolby Atmos and his studio became the first and only Dolby studio in the Caribbean. I had no intention of releasing any new songs so when he contacted me about the album I told him that we are coming up on the 10th anniversary of Single Forever and that the song was special to me so he said let's feature it on the album. I said let's go strong on the remix and funny enough, I was the only artist on the album without a new track," KI said from Toronto where he lives.

The singer said it was the first time the Chutney Soca genre got mainstream American recognition.

"It was also on one of the playlists they created and they still have me earmarked as one of the top six songs. I am real proud of that, it is a lot for the genre. First time getting that recognition gives you a sense of completion in your life," he said.

As of writing, the song is still on the Best New Songs list.

Son of Veerendra Persad, bandleader for JMC 3Veni, KI won the Chutney Soca Monarch in 2012, the youngest to ever hold the title at the age of 25. He won the title twice after that.



KI: It's about time Chutney Soca got mainstream American recognition

"That song helped me to stamp my name as an artist. For me, it helped to establish my place across Trinidad. My dad and 3Veni accomplished that with their music and I had to accomplish my own things," he said.

Though he is basking in the recent ac-

complishment, a welcoming light in his life following the death of his mother Maya in October last year, KI is getting ready to release new music.

His track "San Juan" produced by Rebel Music in New York, will pay homage to his hometown in Trinidad.



“The King is Dead’: Narrie Approo at Victoria Square, Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 2009. Photo by Abigail Hadeed

The last Black Indian

Veteran Masman Narrie Approo was oldest surviving Huaracan Warrior

Veteran masman Narrie Approo has died.

Approo passed away at a home for elderly people in Arima on January 6 at 11 pm.

He was 94.

Born in Harmony Hall, San Fernando on April 22, 1927, Approo moved to east Port-of-Spain with his family at the age of five and first played mas as a small devil in 1934.

At the age of 11 he was inducted into the Warriors of Huaracan by his godparents, Claudius Pierre and Eudora Thompson and up until his passing was the oldest surviving Black Indian masquerader from the band.

Eric Mohammed, his great-nephew,

told Loop News that his uncle was moved to the home as he started to decline with age and needed extra care.

He said Approo’s life was based on culture and he loved playing mas.

“He started his mas career at the age of seven. He played imps, bat, robber, dragon, all the traditional characters. He was a wire bender, and he was very creative. He used to make birdcages and make his own glue with cassava. He was the best draught player in T&T at one time,” recalled Mohammed, who lived with Approo briefly.

He said his uncle was his own archivist and kept a lot of records of his life, some of which are now stored at The UWI.

Close friend Robert Lee who knew Ap-

proo for over 20 years described him as unfailingly inventive, generous, resourceful and good-natured.

Lee, together with researcher Kathryn Chan, has been putting together Approo’s archives and spent time interviewing him about his life.

He said: “He should be remembered as an authentic person, he crossed all barriers. His Godmother was an Orisha priestess, here is a man who is the son of indentured immigrants who were Untouchables, a family incredibly talented and created. Musician Anand Yankeran was his cousin. He was and lived an authentic Trinidadian life and to live that and be that is his legacy.”



An \$11M taste of Paradise

Height of Being part of Tobago properties voted most fabulous Villas by Forbes

Travel and tourism consultant Dr Auliana Poon believes there is no better time than now for tourism investment in TT.

Poon was speaking after opening a \$10 million villa – Height of Being – in Arnos Vale, Tobago.

Located on an 11-acre organic fruit estate and perched on a secluded mountain top, Height of Being was described as an ultra-modern luxury retreat that caters to the most sophisticated and discerning traveller.

The villa offers unhindered views of the Caribbean Sea on one side with stunning vistas of Tobago's verdant hills and valleys on the other.

Poon said the investment demonstrates the high level of optimism and firm belief in the future of Tobago's tourism.

In a press release, Leve Global, a company founded by Poon, said improved vaccination rates, the easing of travel restrictions and globally aggressive health and safety education awareness programs have positively affected consumer travel, but the spread of omicron and fears of other variants are still bugbears in restoring travel confidence.

This is not the first venture of Poon in tourism investment as Height of Being is an addition to the original Villa Being which was voted by the international publication Forbes Magazine as one of



A guest enjoys the breathtaking view at Height of Being, Arnos Vale, Tobago

the most fabulous villas in the Caribbean.

Poon said, "The global pandemic has brought the world to its knees, and tourism has been the worst affected of all the major economic sectors. But covid19 has also given us an opportunity to rethink, reimagine, reinvent, and re-engineer."

"In this environment of heightened uncertainty, radical shifts and a new/next normal, it is critical to rethink, refocus, reimagine, re-engineer and reposition tourism to reflect the radically changing scenarios and to be adequately future-proofed. And this is my formula for recovery and resilience, and I encourage other tourism entrepreneurs to also pivot in re-thinking their operations."

Poon said "travellers are considering trips in 2022 that enriches their experiences, holidaying in the great outdoors providing both rest and socially-distanced explorations. Travellers will be seeking out private, hidden gems, dream

destinations, and opportunities for nature-focused activities such as exists right here in beautiful Tobago and on Villa Being estate itself."

Villa Being and Heights of Being were designed by TT architect Roger Turton. Some of the amenities of Height of Being include an infinity pool and jacuzzi, a sunset gazebo, on-call concierge service, a private chef, personal maid service and unlimited sensual experiences of Tobago's natural environment.

Poon, through her company Leve Global, has developed numerous tourism plans and marketing strategies for countries all over the world including South Africa, Singapore, Mozambique, Gambia, Tanzania, Abu Dhabi, and the entire Caribbean. Poon has also developed strategies for trend-setting companies such as Sandals International (Jamaica) and Conservation Corporation (Africa); and developed the "tourism begins at home" programme in the Bahamas in the early 1990s.

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Mr Lexx in hospital after collapse

Jamaican dancehall artiste Mr Lexx is recuperating in hospital after a major surgery that was triggered by the sudden collapse of one of his lungs during a performance the night before.

He is convalescing at Andrews Memorial Hospital in St Andrew, Jamaica.

Mr Lexx announced the news on his Twitter page on January 24.

"Ten mins (minutes) into my performance last night, my right lung collapsed. Went straight into surgery last night. I'm okay now, I guess," the Full Hundred deejay tweeted.

He also thanked doctors at the hospital, posting "big up di docs at Andrew's".

He did not specify what sort of surgery was performed.

Members of the entertainment fraternity, including Stacious, Alaine, Spice and Stylo G, wished him a speedy recovery.



Mr Lexx: collapsed on stage after a lung problem on stage

Dancehall artiste Sasique, with whom Lexx has collaborated, expressed that she was shocked to hear the news.

"Right now I am so confused. He said

he is okay still and they're gonna keep him for some time for observation while he heals," she said.

Another Dancehall deejay murdered

The Jamaican music industry has lost another young dancehall act to gun violence.

The latest victim, Kapella Don, whose real name is Javan Willie, was a Montego Bay-based artiste. He was shot dead by an unknown assailant in Montpelier, St James about 4:20 pm on January 27.

The constabulary's Corporate Communications Unit confirmed the incident.

Fans posted crying emojis on Instagram as news of his murder spread via social media.

The 28-year-old entertainer is known for the singles "Bad Breed Badness", "In My Life", "One Life", and "God's Mercy", the latter having racked up more than 580,000 views on YouTube.

The entertainer used music as a vehicle to separate himself from his reportedly troubled past.

Last year, the entertainment fraternity was not unscathed as the island recorded more than 1,400 murders, according to the preliminary numbers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Among the victims were dancehall ar-



Kapella Don: brother was also murdered last year

tistes Faada God, Killfood, Papparazzi, D British, and Kashmar, who were all killed in separate incidents.

Foota Hype's brother was also murdered last year.

New SavagexFenty store in Los Angeles



Rihanna gets SAVAGE

Physical Savage X Fenty stores are opening in five states in the US.

Making an announcement on her Instagram recently, @badgalriri shared:

"2022, we coming in HOT! we bout to bring you a whole new #SavageXFenty experience with the launch of our brick-and-mortar retail stores!

"can't believe it's actually that time, and I can't wait for you to have this experience irl.... our very first locations: Las

Vegas, Los Angeles, Houston, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. watch the @savagexfenty feed for details "

Meanwhile, SavageXFenty shared the same photo with the caption - 'This is #SavageXIRL, but frfr.

We're bringin' a whoollee Xperience to 5 Savage cities: Vegas, LA, Houston, Philly & DC.

Keep checkin' back for all the details on the retails.

#VegasIsSavage #LAisSavage #HoustonIsSavage #PhillyIsSavage #DCisSavage "

Lots of congratulations rolled in from fans hailing Robyn Rihanna Fenty, Barbados' eleventh national hero as their "favourite mogul".

The only question her Barbados RihNavy supporters have is, when will Barbados be added as a location as well?

Singer gives \$15M to climate justice

Rihanna is backing her belief that climate change is a social-justice issue by pledging \$15 million to the movement through her Clara Lionel Foundation.

The "We Found Love" singer in January announced the donation to 18 climate justice organizations doing work in seven Caribbean nations and the United States. They include the Climate Justice Alliance, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Movement for Black Lives.

"Climate disasters, which are growing in frequency and intensity, do not impact all communities equally, with com-

munities of color and island nations facing the brunt of climate change," Rihanna, who is from the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados, said in a statement. She noted that disparity is the reason her foundation, which is named after her grandparents, prioritizes both climate resilience and climate justice work.

The grants, made in partnership with Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's #StartSmall philanthropic initiative, are focused



Rihanna

on groups with female, LGBT, and Black and Indigenous leaders because their communities are at the greatest risk.

"Funders must build partnerships with grassroots organizations, acknowledging their deep understanding of what is necessary to achieve climate justice in their own

communities," Justine Lucas, Clara Lionel Foundation's executive director, said in a statement.



Cricket's Craziest Teams

Mark Slattery



Rahkeem Cornwall
Trevor Gripper
Kripal Singh
Percy Fender
Sophie Devine
Moeen Ali
Doug Bollinger
Quinton de Kock
Aaron Finch
and many more

Crazy, crazy Cricket

As England's touring T20 and Test squads continue to agonise over selections for their Caribbean contests, more than 70 West Indian cricketers – men and women across the history of the sport – have been included in what is being called the most unusual book ever written about cricket.

Cricket's Craziest Teams, written by Mark Slattery, draws on the names of cricketers grouped by themes. Two examples would be the Nativity, which features Antiguan bowler Alzarri Joseph, and a team of Fish names includes Bajan bowler Derrick Sealy who played in the 1930s.

Says Slattery, "I made up fifty teams, each properly balanced with two openers, a wicket-keeper, captain and balanced batting. All the players are genuine international ones, and I've told stories about their lives to introduce young readers to them.

"It is the ultimate in fantasy cricket, because it crosses all generations and I've managed to get some 50 women's cricketers into the book, too."

West Indies women's players include

Tremayne Smartt (in the team whose names are all accomplished words), Stephanie Power (who is essential to the construction team) and Chedean Nation, who appears alongside Jamaican fast bowling legend Courtney Walsh in the international team.

"I like that I have a West Indian representing Wales", says Slattery, "but I cannot imagine Courtney's Welsh accent is especially accurate!"

The book is festooned with cartoons, one depicting Rory Burns, seems to have hoaxed the player.

"Rory Burns appears on my cover, putting out his stumps which are on fire", says the author. "But since I picked him for my illnesses and ailments XI, he's had nothing but miserable luck for England."

Moeen Ali is also on the cover – cutting the lawn. Slattery says the book is not offensive and will entertain and inform a broad audience.

"I've got Sir Garfield Sobers in my Drinks XI, which must be one of the biggest ironies because he loved a drink, Wavell Hinds in the Doggy XI, and Alf Binns,

the former 'keeper, in my Household XI. I did think hard about that because after all, you are supposed to leave your Binns out."

Other teams include fellow wicket keeper Ralph Legall who is in the law enforcement XI, while the fast-bowler turned commentator Ian Bishop is also included.

"I've got Collie Smith, Karl Nunes, Rahkeem Cornwall, Gavin Tonge, Joey Carew, John Trim, Junior Murray and scores of others brilliant West Indians who make up the names of my absurd teams."

Other teams include one made up entirely of players called Smith; one themed on the names of motor cars; another based on reading and writing, and yet more on cakes and baking.

"I've found stories about a player whose name predicted the job he'd go on to do after he finished playing, and a woman who was dropped in favour of her own sister. Names are endlessly good for gentle amusement provided you are not being too cruel to anybody."

The book is available from Amazon.

Caribbean DJs not amused by Shenseea's foray into sex music

While Jamaican dance hall singer Shenseea latest collaboration with Meghan Thee Stallion could propel her into the mainstream, fans and DJ's around the Caribbean are not enthused.

According to a press release, "Lick" is the first official single off Shenseea's upcoming debut album, ALPHA, set to release on March 11.

Music analyst Ben Jarod says the video which has already racked up over Two Million views, has moved Chinsea Lin Lee, professionally known as Shenseea, into an Americanized automated singer, the likes of which fades very fast.

St Vincent's number one Radio Personality 2Koolkris has also weighed in on the current debate. On Friday, he stated via Hot97 Am Mayhem show that the singer has hit an all-time low.

"What this new song tells me is that Shenseea has run out of ideas; right now, she is scraping an all-time low. You know the saying sex sells, that video has nothing to do with the song, it has everything to do with sex".

The owner of Hot97, Luke Boyea, commenting on the video, asked whether or not the singer was losing what was attractive about her at the start of her career.

"I would not give Shenseea



Shenseea (r) and Meghan Thee Stallion in a promo shot for Lick

wrong if there is more money in the mainstream, but it looks to me like the industry will dispose of her pretty quickly".

Shenseea, but she still has my support 100%".

"I want to see our black female artists branch out from being so sexual. That

"Shenseea. Fight against it. I know what you're facing, and I know the BULLSHT they are telling you. FK THAT! Do what's in your SOUL and what you're truly here to do. THIS IS NOT IT AND YOU KNOW IT".

"Shenseea, don't let the industry Americanize you (coming from an American, I love you girl!!!!".

The Murda Beatz-produced track includes a sample of Pupa Nas T and Denise Belfon's "Work." It's the first single from the Jamaican dancehall singer's upcoming album Alpha, due on March 11 (via Rich Immigrants/Interscope).

Shenseea signed to Rich Immigrants and Interscope back in 2019, releasing her debut single on the label "Blessed" that year. She issued

the singles "Run Run," "Be Good," and "You're the One I Love" last year. Also, in 2021, Shenseea appeared on Kanye West's Donda, contributing to "Pure Souls" and "OK OK Pt 2."

Megan Jovon Ruth Pete, known professionally as Megan Thee Stallion,

is an American rapper. Originally from Houston, Texas, she first garnered attention when videos of her freestyling became popular on social media platforms such as Instagram.

(See story on Page 3)

"You know the saying sex sells, that video has nothing to do with the song, it has everything to do with sex".

2KOOLKRIS

Shenseea's fans commenting on the singers latest track appears not to be feeling the vibe, much-expressing disappointment in their comments on her youtube channel.

"Megan did her thing! I Was expecting better lyrics from

is not all that they have to offer".2Koolkris

"Time for BLACK QUEENS to rise and be seen for more than just sex and physical attributes or abilities. You're all worth way more than that. Time to elevate and break them chains".

Disconnected!

Aziz Ansari on why he turned off the internet

Aziz Ansari has stopped using the internet.

The 38-year-old actor has revealed he's totally disconnected himself from the internet and stopped using email four years ago.

He shared: "However many years ago, I kind of started turning off the internet and, you know, I deleted all social media and all this stuff, and I've slowly just kept going further and further. I stopped using email maybe like four years ago."

Aziz described his decision to disconnect from social media and email as a "mental diet".

He told Kevin Hart on Sirius XM's 'Comedy Gold Minds with Kevin Hart': "It all kind of ... it's almost like I kind of started thinking about, you know, everyone thinks about their diet and what they eat - at a certain point, it's also about thinking about your mental diet and what you're

putting in your head.

"Whether it's like, oh, looking at the same four websites, constantly checking The New York Times 50 times a day. At a certain point, yeah, that's not really helping."

Despite this, Aziz acknowledges that a lot of people don't have the option of quitting social media or email.

The comedy star knows that he lives a privileged lifestyle as a celebrity.

Aziz - who played Tom Haverford in 'Parks and Recreation' - said: "I mean, look, I know all this stuff is like, oh yeah, I'm in a position where I can do that and have, you know, whatever certain privileges to be able to pull it off.

"An assistant or whatever - but all that stuff I do I think helps me get more done, kinda taking care of stuff or whatever, whether it's working out or meditating and all that kind of stuff."



Comedian Aziz Ansari: on a mental diet

Hefner's wife says she destroyed his 'stash' of naked pics

Crystal Hefner has confirmed she destroyed "thousands" of naked pictures of women following Hugh Hefner's death, after Holly Madison claimed he kept a "mountain of revenge porn."

The 35-year-old star - who was married to Playboy founder Hugh Hefner for five years until his death in September 2017 - has reassured Holly, who was one of Hugh's girlfriends from 2001 to 2008, that the pictures have "gone" after the 'Girls Next Door' star claimed she was "afraid to leave" the Playboy Mansion over fears photos of her might be circulated.

It comes after Holly opened up about Hefner this week.

Speaking in A&E series 'Secrets of Playboy', she said: "His friends were always so supportive and speaking so highly of him. But that's the only side of him they ever saw. They had no idea what was going on behind closed doors and how the women were treated.

"When you would go out with Hef, he's taking all kinds of naked pictures of these women when we're wasted out of our minds. And he would print out like eight copies for him and all the women, you pass them around. It was just gross."

Madonna wants a 'second kiss' from Britney Spears

Madonna wants to "re-enact" her kiss with Britney Spears.

The 63-year-old singer - who last toured in 2019/20 for her 'Madame X' concert series - is keen to get back out on the road and would love for the 'Toxic' hitmaker to join her on stage, telling fans she and her 'Me Against the Music' collaborator could even lock lips again, like they did on stage at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

Asked if she'd like to tour again, she told fans during an Instagram Live session: "Hell yeah. I've got to. Stadiums baby. Me and Britney, what about that? It would be really cool. We could re-enact the original kiss."

However, the 'Vogue' hitmaker acknowledged she was "not sure" if Britney would be "into" the idea.

Madonna - who has six children and is dating 27-year-old Ahlamalik Williams - was also asked how many women she has slept with.

She candidly admitted: "A handful. I've probably had crushes on more."

Meanwhile, the 'Beautiful Stranger' singer has been hard at work re-writing her biopic and confirmed she's taken inspiration from one of her 2000 songs for the title.

She said: "I was thinking 'What It Feels



First kiss: Britney Spears shares a passionate kiss with Madonna on stage in 2003

Like For A Girl', that's kind of cool, right?

Madonna is finding it "really weird" delving back into her own history for the project.

She added: "It's also really weird to be writing about my life and my past and not living my life. I feel like I'm living in the past a lot and it's a bit of a mind f***."

The 'League of their Own' actress recently revealed she'd been talking to Julia

Fox about a role in the movie.

Sharing photos of a night out with the 'Uncut Gems' star, her boyfriend Kanye West, Antonio Brown, and Floyd Mayweather, she wrote on Instagram: "Went to dinner with Julia to talk about my movie and some other folks showed up."

Entertainment Weekly later reported Julia is being considered to play Madonna's friend Debi Mazar.

Prince Andrew opts for trial by jury

Prince Andrew has requested a trial by jury.

The legal team of the 61-year-old prince has officially requested that he be granted a trial by jury in his upcoming civil case in New York City.

Andrew also denied all of Virginia Giuffre's sex abuse allegations in court documents filed on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, it was confirmed that Andrew will face a civil case in the US over allegations he sexually assaulted Giuffre when she was 17.

A federal court judge ruled that a lawsuit brought by Giuffre could move for-

ward.

Giuffre - who was formerly known as Virginia Roberts - has accused convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein - who committed suicide in August 2019 - and his one-time girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell of arranging and forcing her into having sex with Andrew in 2001.

Now, Andrew's legal team has filed an 11-page document with the court that sets out his response to the accusations.

The prince has strongly denied the allegation that he sexually abused Giuffre when she was under 18 years of age.

Janet Jackson: claim I had a secret child is not true

Janet Jackson has slammed speculation she had a "secret" child in the 1980s.

The 55-year-old singer - who has four-year-old son Eissa with ex-husband Wissam Al Mana - recalled gossip that she and then-husband James DeBarge had had a baby during their year-long marriage but she had given her offspring to her brother Jackie to raise, as well as speculation that her nieces Brandy and Stevanna were actually her daughters because they look like her.

In a preview clip from her upcoming documentary 'Janet', she said: "Back in the day they were saying that I had a child and I kept it secret. I could never keep a child away from James. How could I keep a child from their father? I could never do that, that's not right."

The 'Rhythm Nation' hitmaker suggested the rumours stemmed from her gaining weight when filming TV show 'Fame' after she started taking birth control pills.

She said: "A lot of the kids thought I was pregnant, 'cause I had gained weight, and I had started taking birth control pills. And back then, you could pick up weight taking them, and that's what happened to me. So that rumor started going around."

Janet was just 18 when she married James in 1984 and though he was a "sweet guy", she blamed his drug use for their union being annulled after just a year.

She recalled of their wedding night: "When we got married and came back to the hotel he said, 'OK, I'll be right back.'"

"And I'm sitting in the hotel room in Grand Rapids, Michigan by myself, just 18, and for three hours, he never came back. I don't know, maybe it's this person in me that wants to help people subconsciously. When it comes to relationships, somehow I'm attracted to people that use drugs."

The 'Together Again' singer told how she spent many nights searching the streets for James and would try and flush his pills down the toilet, but ultimately she couldn't give him the help he needed.

She said: "We would be rolling on the floor fighting for them. And that's not a life



Janet Jackson: marriage to James DeBarge was painful

for anyone.

"I sit and I say, 'Were you stupid, were you dumb?' But it wasn't that. I cared so much for him, and I saw the good in him as well and I just wanted that to take precedence as opposed to this ugliness. 'Cause I

knew that he needed help. But I wasn't the help that he needed.

"I was just incredibly innocent. That's the thing, is the innocence. And it's just hurtful for someone to see that and just try to take advantage of it... It's still painful."

Navin Singh's 'Tera Pukara' set for release this month

After just three years of being in the music industry professionally, Navin Singh can't help but reminisce on his accomplishments with pride, especially having already released six songs, whilst collaborating with some of the biggest names in the genre of Chutney.

Navin is currently preparing to release yet another notable collaboration; this time, it features none other than 'Guyanese Baboo' himself, Terry Gagraj. "Tera Pukara," his new song, will be dropping sometime around mid-February.

With just three years in the music business, Navin has accomplished quite a lot.

Hailing from Number 19 Village, Berbice, East Berbice-Corentyne, Navin migrated to Cayenne, French Guiana at the age of 10, while his family was on their way to finding a better life. He later settled in the United States of America, and has built a comfortable life for himself in Queens.

His studies in mechanical engineering led him to pursuing a career in construction. Evolving as a master of the trade, Navin now has his own firm. "Through the years, though, I have always had a passion for singing, which I practiced in the temple and enjoyed doing karaoke and singing Bollywood songs," Navin reflected in an interview with Buzz this week.

He eventually mustered enough courage and recorded his very first song titled, "The



Navin Singh: launched his career with The Contractor

Contractor", which was released in 2019.

Since then, he has been inspired to record one song after the next. He writes lyrics, sings, and even goes as far as to sponsor other artists in the industry. "I've been in the music industry for three years, thanks to Mr. Mahendra Ramkellawan (Dem A Watch Meh singer) who got me into the music industry.

He inspired me to pursue my singing career and put out my first song. I'm so thankful for having a friend like him," Singh shared.

Navin noted that since he was a little boy, though, he always loved singing. He eventually taught himself to play the harmonium and soon enough, began to sing bhajans at the Hindu Temple. "I enjoy

being in this field because music is a very creative and expressive hobby that brings me inner peace," Navin expressed.

He continued, "Since I started singing, one of my biggest accomplishments have been releasing six songs and having the privilege to collaborate with Mahendra Ramkellawan on 'Love Meh Life'; Steven Ramphal, Bunty Singh and others. "My other songs entitled, 'The Contractor,' 'Ma Mere Ma,' and 'O Sajana' are also some of my biggest accomplishments," Navin noted.

His new song, Tera Pukara, is a 'Bollywood cover', which will see Terry Gagraj doing some rapping in English. The Production is being done by 'Big Rich and the Pungalunks Factory from Trinidad and Tobago. "I have been honored to perform on the same stage with many iconic Chutney singers. I am so thankful and humble to have been given these opportunities," Navin said.

He was also keen on expressing his pleasure to work with producers such as those from Maha Studios, Big Rich Pungalunks Factory, Shakti Strings, and Rishi Lakhan, and Vendetta Studios. "I appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to making these songs great hits. I find joy in being able to donate to charities and sponsoring shows and fellow artists in the Chutney industry," he related.

All of Navin's songs are on YouTube and other major social media platforms.

Guyanese cricketer hits Bollywood for six in '83'

Guyanese cricketer Taje-narine Chandarpaul will now have Bollywood credits under his belt, with the release of the film '83', which is expected to be a blockbuster, depicting India's historic Cricket World Cup victory against the West Indies in 1983.

The young Chandarpaul, son of legendary West Indian batsman Shivnarine Chandarpaul, has played the role of former West Indies cricketer, Larry Gomes in 83.

Chandarpaul, age 25, was quoted by News Room Sport as saying that being part of the movie was a great opportunity which he stumbled while playing a four-day cricket tournament in St. Lucia in 2018.

"During a practice session a scout came to the ground and asked who wanted to try out for the film. To my surprise a few months later I received a call that I had been chosen to play the part of Larry Gomes," Chandarpaul said in his interview with the online news house.

He contined, "It was an honour to meet the Bollywood actors, former Indian players and witnessing how things transpire on a movie set. A wonderful experience and movie to be associated with. I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

The film stars Bollywood power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, who play former Captain of the Indian cricket team, Kapil Dev and his wife.

In 1983, India was consid-



Taje-narine Chandarpaul (left) pose with iconic Bollywood duo, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone

ered to be a lost cause in limited overs cricket. In two earlier World Cups, the team had won just one match, and that too against East Africa.

For the most part, India's performances ranged between poor and appalling, exemplified by Sunil Gavaskar's infamous "crawl" against England in the inaugural tournament in 1975, when he scored just 36 runs in 60 overs without getting out.

Unsentimental bookmakers usually know the pulse of experts and fans in such matters. The opening odds put India's chances of winning the tournament at 66-1, and even that

seemed charitable.

The disdain for India's prospects was clear from almost every quarter. Sports reporters remember going to the Lord's cricket ground just before the tournament to get accreditation, only to be tersely told by officials that this would only be given to scribes from countries which made the final.

"India is unlikely to be there so I wouldn't bother," was the clear message.

On the eve of the tournament, David Frith, who then edited Wisden Cricket Monthly, wrote that he would "eat his words" if India won the tourna-

ment against West Indies.

Bowled out for a paltry 183, India's goose looked well and truly cooked. Then came Kapil Dev's fantastic catch to dismiss a rampaging Vivian Richards. After this, the West Indies withered away. Cricket-crazy Indians everywhere erupted in joy. India had turned the cricket world upside down.

The impact of the 1983 World Cup on India was transformational. That the country is a cricketing superpower today is traced back to this win.

The movie is currently playing at Cinemas around the world.

Shazie bets on Dholak Man

Newcomer to the Chutney Soca Monarch (CSM) is Trinidadian Shazeena “Shazie” Ramsumair, 27, who is hoping to leave a lasting impact during her maiden performance.

Shazie has been singing for more than 20 years. She started early performing Qaseedas or Islamic devotional songs during her formative years at the Princess Town ASJA Primary School.

She later moved on to the Asja Girls College, San Fernando and then to the Cowen Hamilton Secondary School where her talent matured.

Ramsumair said she won both national and international competitions between the age of 6-16 for her singing.

Ramsumair said, “I was also a finalist in local known competitions such as Mastana bahar and Digicel Rising stars. I often sing at any community events once I am asked to perform. I love being an active member in my hometown. I was also crowned Miss Moruga Tableland in my constituency a few years ago. I grew up and still reside in my beautiful hometown of Indian Walk, Moruga Road. My love and passion for art in any form sometimes is portrayed in my everyday life, hence my green hair. I’m often known for my very outrageous hair colour choices and I’ve had from blonde, to pink and purple, to blue. I think it represents my personality and how much of a colourful and fun per-



Shazie Ramsumair is paying tribute to the Dholak in her new song

son I am, plus life is too short for boring hair.”

She has been one of the frontline singers with the south-based band Workshop 868 for the past seven years, and is excited about this new prospect.

“This is my first time entering the Chutney Soca Monarch. I would be singing Dholak Man written and composed by Mr

Anand Bobby Mohan. It depicts the love for the East Indian drum, the dholak, as we strive to pay heed to the importance of this instrument in the development of chutney/soca music.”

She said Dholak Man can be considered as a mix of traditional chutney with soca.

Trini actress, singer found dead on beach in Tobago

The search for missing Trinidadian model, actress and brand promotions representative Vanna Girod, fondly called Vanna Vee, ended tragically on Wednesday after her body was found near a beach in Arnos Vale in Tobago.

The 30-year-old woman was last seen at her aunt’s villa where she was vacationing. When she did not return her aunt contacted close relatives who immediately launched a search for her.

During the search for Girod, her clothes—a track pants and a sweater — were found neatly folded and placed along a trail. At about midday her body was discovered floating in the sea.

Her cause of death is unknown at this time.

Vanna Vee starred in the 2018 movie Moko Jumbie, and was also a singer who recorded a pop single with Lazabean.

Girod lost her mother and baby brother in a brutal attack at their home in the 1980s. She was raised by her grandmother, who passed away last month.



Vanna Girod

Music in his blood

Son of Ras Shorty I, creator of soca, blazes with 'Saucy Body'

SINCE going solo with his tracks "There For You", "Put It On Me" and his Latin-flavoured rhythm "Tonight", Derron Blackman aka D'Blackman has never looked back. The Trinidad-born singer and musician who has been based in North Carolina for the past 23 years is tantalising the music scene with his latest release "Saucy Body".

Produced by D'Blackman and Delbert McClellan, the track opens with the familiar sound of the dholak.

D'Blackman is no stranger to the music industry, he and his siblings were all part of the band The Love Circle which was created by their father, the cultural icon Ras Shorty I.

D'Blackman was only ten when he began playing drums for the band. Music took him to the US and then to Malaysia, Thailand, India and Singapore where he and his family performed. D'Blackman eventually settled in the US where he continued to make music and perform alongside his equally talented siblings. He also sang and played drums for different bands for several years.

Finally in 2019, he made the decision to go off on his own and create his own music which resulted in a blend of soca, R&B, African and Latin rhythms. D'Blackman enjoys experimenting with different sounds and genres - just like Ras Shorty I who embraced different music and cultures.

"Saucy Body" which is a blend of R&B, soca and Indian



Family business: D'Blackman has released "Saucy Body"

music was written by Tiffany Sharp, Keno Sankofa and D'Blackman and mixed and mastered by Duane Dyer of Crown Records. The song's vibe is a reflection of D'Blackman's love for Indian music. His fascination with the genre began when his family moved to Piparo; there he and his siblings were exposed to East Indian culture, food and music.

"The music I listened to in the past has had a great impact on me," says D'Blackman who went on to explain how his travels influenced his musi-

cal choices.

When D'Blackman was 20, he and his family toured and lived in India for eight months, where he witnessed extreme levels of poverty but also the beautiful culture, architecture and hospitality that the vast country has to offer.

His time spent in India was also a way of reconnecting with his own family history - his great grandfather on his mother's side was from Bombay.

"The influence of Indian music on me growing up was

huge," says D'Blackman. "I was always amazed by the culture and the people. Growing up in Piparo everyone around us was Indian, we were always invited to Indian weddings and Divali celebrations. So we pretty much grew up with more of an Indian influence than anything else."

It comes as no surprise that those influences have found their way into his music.

After being in the music industry for most of his life, D'Blackman has finally grown into his own as a solo artist. He has a better idea of the music he wants to create. While his father is credited for creating soca, D'Blackman is in the process of reinventing it.

"My soca is not your typical soca music. What I produce is going to be my own take on soca music with R&B, Latin and Indian influences. I enjoy soca but I don't relate to the "wine wine, jook jook"; it's catchy but I can't listen to it year round. It's not really telling a story but more like chanting. In order for soca to go somewhere you have to start telling a story that the world can relate to," he says.

Being a solo artist takes a lot of grit and hard work but he's not about to give up.

"I'm going to keep doing my music. I want to spread soca as far as I can and keep my father's legacy going," says D'Blackman.

"Saucy Body" is now available for download on all digital music platforms.



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