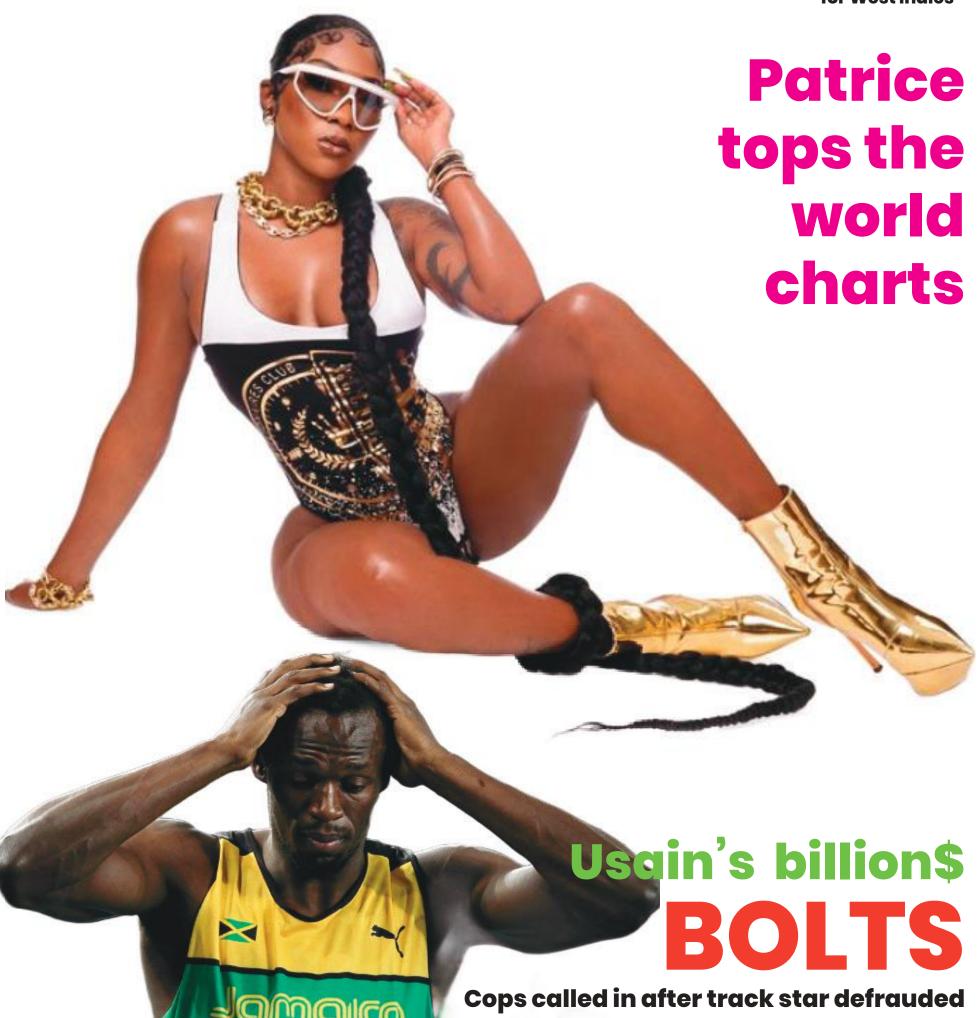






Lara takes up bat for West Indies







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Usain's billion\$ bolt

Sprinter's J\$1.2 billion disappears from investment firm

Usain Bolt is accusing unnamed persons connected to SSL of running a public relations scheme to deflect from the massive fraud that occurred in the company in which almost US\$13 million has been stolen from his company.

Bolt's reaction came as he reacted to comments made by former Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL) Chief Executive Officer Zachary Harding, who said he was not aware of Bolt being a client of the company, raising doubts as to the Bolt's claims.

Harding, in several interviews with local media, denied any involvement in the massive fraud being investigated by Jamaican Police and said he never knew that Usain Bolt was a client of the firm over the three years he spent at the helm of SSL.

Harding told Jamaica Gleaner that he had worked at the investment form for three (3) years and quit early last year to start his firm called Delta Capital Partners Limited, an equity firm.

Harding, who is an advisor to Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness, has received major backlash as many try to understand how an employee could have been stealing millions of United States Dollars and dozens of millions of Jamaican dollars from client accounts as far back as 2010.

Statements he made in a Jamaica Gleaner interview have irked many Jamaicans, especially on social media, including Usain Bolt.

According to Harding, he was not aware, nor has he seen any documents that showed Bolt was an SSL client over the past decade.

"During my time at SSL, Usain Bolt's name never came up once in a management meeting as a client of SSL. I had no knowledge whatsoever of any client relationship with Usain Bolt or any entity that he may have been a part of," Harding was quoted by the Jamaica Gleaner saying.

The former was adamant, "it just never came up", noting that because of Bolt's status and the magnitude of the investments, he would have noticed.

Bolt appeared to react to the interview with another cryptic post.

"The real ones see through all the PR distractions. #Focus," the sprinting legend posted alongside a photo of him gazing into the camera to Bounty Killer's "Look Into My Eyes."



Usain Bolt: missing US\$13 million, or more than J\$1.2 billion

Days ago, the former Olympian turned music producer shared another post of him with all of his gold medals.

"Earned. Not Given."

He also shared a photograph of several law books and laws of Jamaica in response to ongoing reports from SSL.

Meanwhile, the SSL saga is developing, with even more shocking reports coming out. According to Nationwide News on Monday, SSL's cofounder Hugh Croskery is being sued by businessman George Chai, an investor who lost funds in the ongoing fraud confessed by former wealth manager Jean-Ann Panton.

Lawyers for the businessman applied for court orders to freeze two multimillion-dollar prime real estate properties located on the North Coast.

Separately, the Jamaica Police Force (JCF) is looking for the son of Hugh Croskery, Mark Croskery, who was fired as CEO in 2018 after a bitter feud with his father. It's unclear the details

regarding that feud, but the younger Croskery now own Croskery Capital Ltd, which was the lead firm that negotiated a media deal between Nationwide News Network and tech giant Amber Group.

In the meantime, Croskery's sister Sarah Meany who operated in a senior role at SSL, has since resigned.

Bolt has given the company until January 27th to return his money or face legal consequences. Up to Callaloo's press time, there was no indication that the matter has been resolved.

The Police have not announced any new developments, arrests, or persons of interest in this case, but the Jamaican people's outrage has been shared widely and in the diaspora and matched by fans of Bolt worldwide. The international press has also gotten hold of the fraud, and there are reports that Jamaica's international financial ratings abroad might be adversely affected due to the decreasing confidence experienced in the finance sector right now.

Dealing with the death of a loved one is never easy

Disclaimer: The content of the Ask Di column is for information purposes only, and the author is not responsible for the actions taken or performed by the reader. No individuals, including those under medical care, should use any of the information provided here to self-diagnose or self-treat any health-related condition. No assurance or warranty regarding the accuracy, timeliness or applicability of the content is given.

Dear Di, thank you and I have a question. My question is how do you move on after the passing of a loved one? How do you live? How do you breathe? Am I being selfish by not letting go? My family sometimes is very annoyed at me because I feel that I have lost my will to live. What should I do? I need help! - B.C.

Hello BC, thank you for your question and I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Life is a process and as human beings; we are all programmed differently in how to process the passing of a loved one. I get it, I understand it for I lost my father at the young age of

was in Trinidad and I saw him driving that day and then just 12 hours later he was gone. Just like that! I actually saw him age about 10 years before my eyes literally. The next few days I just passed and I did not sleep really. We had a conversation morning about his diabetes and he said that he was ready anytime apparently, he was having other issues which family was not aware of for he was not the type to complain. My

61, 30 years ago, I

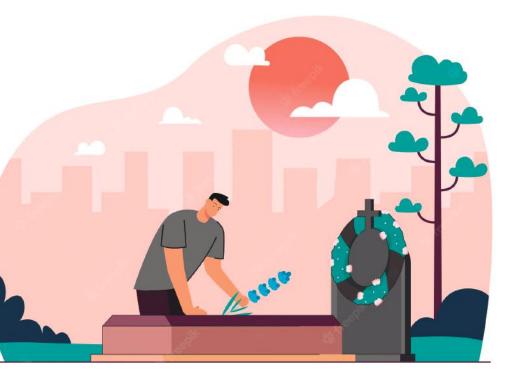
mother was lonely and tired and possibly in her own way was also ready for she had he share of challenges as well.

The Soul which is your Spirit has its own agenda and task to perform and depending on how you perform it will reflect on your life as you know it. It wants to be free. It wants you to be free and just enjoy the moments you had with your loved one. It does not want to see you sad, stuck in a place of non-fulfillment. Not in a place of oh why me, how am I going to live and then you enter into a state of deep depression. At this point who can you serve? Not yourself and certainly not anyone around you. There are many who are able to move on for we understand that there is a process which is birth, sickness, and then our passing so there is no surprise there. The

surprise is what we do in the middle and how we fill the gap to live a full life.

There are five stages of Grief and they are Denial - Anger - Bargaining - Depression - Acceptance.

Denial is not only when one is refusing to accept that they have lost a loved one but also their lives become meaningless and overwhelming. It is like we



have been hit by a lightning bolt and our body goes into shock. As we come to reality and this shock dissipates our suppressed feelings will surface once again.

Anger after the loss as one of the main emotions may rise above the rest. It may not make sense to





many, however, we can reflect that emotion to everyone, including ourselves. So we need to keep it under control for we can get sick (just so you know, that unbalanced emotion can affect the liver). It also is a reflection of your unconditional love for that person.

Bargaining is you doing your best to go back in time like this never happened. Living temporarily in the past possibly gives you a short-term fix and avoids some of the hurt and pain but the reality is that you have to move on and so does your loved one.

Depression is all about the present and the thoughts may feel like they will never go away. In everything, there is an opposite something for there is always a balance and this is a part of the healing process however there is hope after all you are not broken so you do not need to be fixed. Let us chat further if you need closure.

Acceptance does not mean that one has to be okay with the loss of a loved one. Simply to acknowledge that a loved one has passed and there is a new life, a new reality that comes with it. Although we may not like it, we can learn to love life and live again.

The bottom line is grieving is a process and everyone should at some point for a day, a week, or a month for example. However the way I look at it is especially when like my father was diabetic from his 20's on insulin for most of it is, that they are no longer is in pain and will never suffer any terminal illness again. They are now watching over us if you believe.

B.C. Let this year be the new beginning, a new chapter in all areas of your life starting today! I hope and wish that this brings you some peace of mind.

If you are in a place where you believe that the world was and is not fair to you for any reason, then please feel free to connect with me at info@TheExperientialCoach.com

Machel and Destra shaking de place

Machel Montano and Destra Garcia have collaborated again on a 2023 song called Shake the Place.

It premiered on January 25.

Earlier, Montano teased about the collaboration on his Instagram page saying, "It's been 20 years since It's Carnival...time for something NEW!!!! Loading."

In some of the song's lyrics Garcia is heard saying, "Carnival we miss you." The song describes the feeling of returning to Carnival being away for two years and calls on masqueraders and Carnival lovers to Shake the Place combined with Montano's distinctive "He ha."

Some of those commenting on the live premiere said: "OMG...wtf..my pores done raise."

Another said, "Dis Baddddddddddd"

Some people used the fire emoji to share their thoughts on the song.

This is one of many releases from Montano for 2023.

The duo lasted collaborated in 2015 on the single Come Back but is most known for their 2003 hit It's Carnival. Many view the song as a Carnival anthem, capturing the essence of how many feel about TT's Carnival.



Katelin is Chutney's newest Princess

Eight-year-old Katelin Sultan is now the holder of Chutneymusic.com's Rajkumari 2023 title CRC Rajkumari 2023.

Rajkumari is the Hindi word for princess.

She was the only entrant in the competition, said a media release from Chutneymusic.com

The release said, "Sultan is the first-ever rajkumari or princess in the competition's two-year history. She was the only contestant brave enough to enter the 2023 Chutneymusic.com Rajkumari competition."

Sultan's 2023 chutney soca song is titled Tell Dem Ah Ready. The release said the youngster's singing career continues to blaze a trail and set positive examples for young ladies.

Competition organiser Jason "DJ Floops" Sookram praised the Sultan family for its work ethic and ability to produce high-quality content on a consistent basis, the release said. He said he hopes more youth, 18 years and younger, enter CRC Rajkumari 2024 event.



RRR creates history by winning India's first Golden Globe Award

Indians are celebrating after Telugu movie RRR created history by winning a Golden Globe - a first for the country.

The film's catchy musical number, Naatu Naatu, was awarded best original song, beating heavyweights like Taylor Swift and Rihanna.

The hit song was filmed in front of Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky's official residence in 2021.

Accepting the award, composer MM Keeravani said he was thrilled by the song's success.

Back home, several Indians including Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed their joy at the news.

Mr Modi congratulated the team, saying the "prestigious honour has made every Indian very proud"".

Oscar-winning music composer AR Rahman called the win a "paradigm shift".

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan wrote on Twitter that he "woke up and started dancing to Naatu Naatu" to celebrate the news.

Written and directed by SS Rajamouli, RRR, which stands for Rise, Roar, Revolt, is a historical fantasy that tells the rollicking story of two revolutionaries who fight against British rule in India - superstars Ram Charan and Jr NTR play the lead roles.

One of India's most expensive films, the dazzling action epic has been a huge box-office success - not just domestically but also in countries such as the US. Hollywood actress Jessica Chastain tweeted last week that watching the film felt like "such a party".

A Hindi-language version of the film on Netflix was among the platform's Top 10 most watched titles in the US for weeks when it released in May 2022. In December, BBC Culture film critics Nicholas Barber and Caryn James chose it as one of the 20 best films of the year, calling it a "crazily over-the-top action movie" with a powerful story.

The film's music, ranging from romantic ballads to gleeful dance numbers and patriotic anthems, has also won fans.

Naatu Naatu, a four-and-a-half-minute stomper of a song, features Charan and Jr NTR, and has had thousands grooving to its beat. Their energetic moves have inspired viral trends on social media in India and globally.

Fans worldwide have gushed over the infectious dance steps that accompany the song's



A scene from RRR, which won the Golden Globe for Best Song: a first for India

chorus, where the actors shimmy and glide in a composer Keeravani said. synchronised cowboy routine.

The team behind the song spoke about the effort they put in.

Choreographer Prem Rakshit said that he composed nearly 95 dance steps for the song with 30 different versions of the signature step in the chorus alone. It took about 19 months from the first discussion until the final, polished result emerged - a fun mish-mash of dance genres ranging from an old barn stomp to a bit of Gangnam Style gallop and traditional Bollywood

The song was shot in front of the Mariinskyi Palace in Ukraine - a gorgeous sea-blue structure of baroque architecture - months before the war began. The film's director Rajamouli said in an interview that "luckily, they gave us permission to shoot because the Ukrainian president [Mr Zelensky] was a television actor".

The idea was to create a song which took "enjoyment and joy" to a new level, the song's

"Rajamouli told me that he wanted a song in which both the actors compete with each other and dance."

Keeravani then asked lyricist Chandrabose to pen the words.

"I told him that you can write whatever you want but the song should create excitement and enthusiasm about the dance moves of the lead actors," Keeravani said.

On Wednesday, fans could barely contain their happiness on Twitter as they celebrated the award.

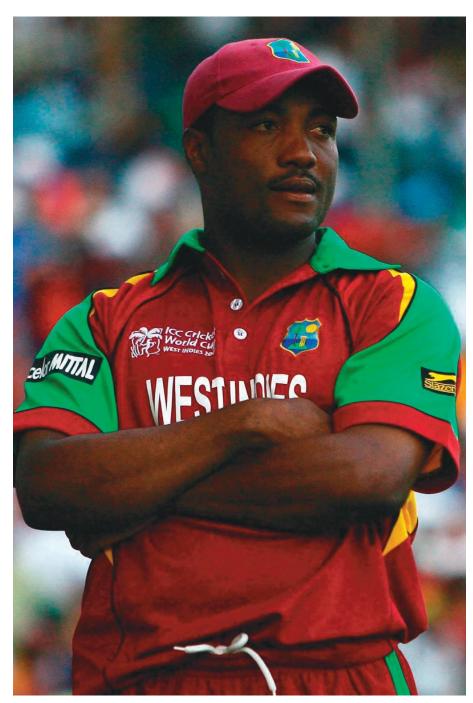
"This is history in making for Indian cinema at global platform," a user wrote.

Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi Konidela, who is also Charan's father, called it a "phenomenal, historic win" - a sentiment echoed by several others in the film industry and beyond.

RRR was also nominated in the Best Non-English Language Film category at the Golden Globes, but lost to Argentina, 1985.

Lara the Mentor

Brian takes up the bat for West Indies cricket again



Brian Lara: Prince of Port of Spain back on WI team

Legendary batsman Brian Lara nament strategic planning. has returned to West Indies cricket.

Cricket West Indies (CWI), on Thursday, announced that the former maroon captain and world record holder Lara, has agreed to assist CWI as a performance mentor - working across all international teams and with input into the West Indies Academy.

Lara's new role will be to support the various head coaches in providing players with tactical advice and improving their game sense, as well as working closely with CWI's director of cricket Jimmy Adams – a former teammate of Lara - on ICC World Cup Tour-

West Indies' Test team are currently under the guidance of interim coach Andre Coley, who serves in this role for the squad's tour of southern Africa, which includes two Test matches against Zimbabwe in February and an all-format tour of South Africa, from February 21 to March 28.

On his appointment, Lara said, "Having spent time with the players and coaches in Australia and in discussions with CWI, I really believe that I can help the players with their mental approach to the game and with their tactics to be more successful.

"I'm looking forward to joining the group in Zimbabwe and the opportunity to work with other West Indies teams later in the year."

Lara was also recently part of a three-member panel, formed by CWI, to undertake a comprehensive review of the senior team's firstround World Cup exit from the T20 World Cup last year.

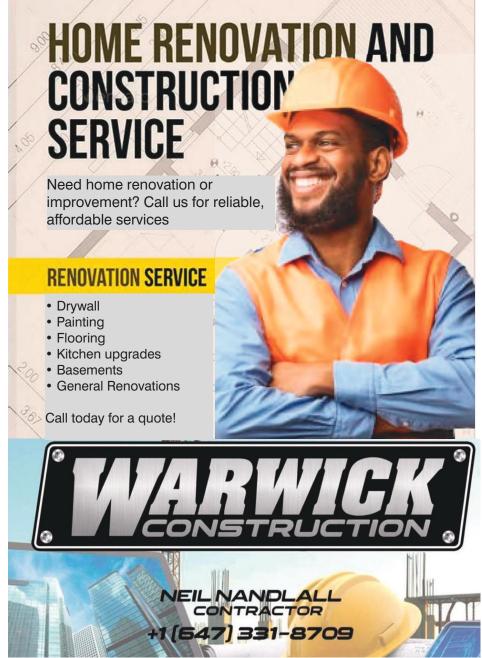
Together, he and Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court judge Justice Patrick Thompson Jr and South African coach Mickey Arthur put forward 34 detailed recommendations to be implemented, for the betterment of West Indies cricket, over the short, medium and long term.

Adams said, "I am really look-

ing forward to Brian making a significant contribution to our cricket system by providing invaluable guidance and advice to our players and coaches

"We are confident that Brian will help to improve our high-performance mindset and strategic culture that will bring us more success on the field across all formats. Evervone is excited to have Brian involved in supporting our players."

Lara's first assignment will be with the West Indies Test squad. He has joined the Test squad in Zimbabwe where he will assist in the team's preparations ahead of the first Test match in Bulawayo on February 4.



Jah Cure going for gold

Singer hopes to strike it big again from behind bars

CHIEF Executive Officer of Shocking Vibes Production, Patrick Roberts, says the probability of Jah Cure 'striking gold' behind prison walls for a second time is high. His sentiments come ahead of the singer's 11-track album, Undeniable, set for release in February.

"I definitely think it will be a success. [However,] this shouldn't be following him up where he has to be behind prison walls to produce a hit. That's not something one should glamour about. It's just unfortunate what has taken place and followed him in his career," Roberts told the Jamaica Observer's Splash.

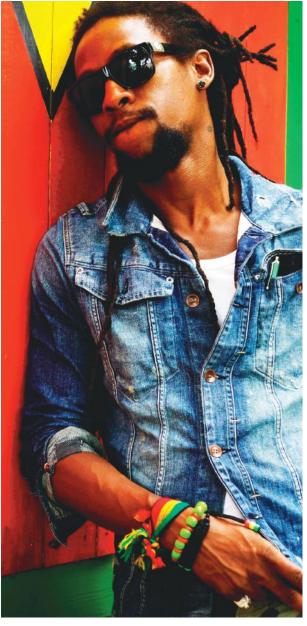
This will be the entertainer's fifth studio album, and first since the release of Royal Soldiers in 2019. It is produced by Hamed "K-One" Pirouzpanah of Sweden.

In March 2022, Jah Cure, given name Siccature Alcock, was sentenced to six years in prison in the Netherlands for stabbing a show promoter in that country over unpaid monies. The artiste, who was acquitted of attempted murder, has been incarcerated since October 2021.

He is set to return to court on January 24 for a pro forma hearing.

The pro forma is a short formal/procedural matter lasting approximately 10-20 minutes to decide if the suspect should be kept in detention while awaiting trial. According to Dutch law, this decision is reviewed every 90 days.

Jah Cure had several previous brushes with the law. He was convicted of rape and illegal



Jah Cure

possession of a firearm in April 1999 and served eight of a 15-year prison sentence before being released in July 2007.

During that incarceration, he released the popular song Behind Prison Walls, lamenting his actions and vowing to "be a better man".

According to the Shocking Vibes principal, that track is what put Jah Cure on the map.

"I was never really fully acquainted with Jah Cure until I heard Behind Prison Walls and it just picked up momentum. Mi seh to miself, 'Da tune yah great!'. Jah Cure on a whole is a real great artiste. It's just unfortunate the situations that keep following him in life," he explained.

In terms of marketing, Roberts believes Jah Cure's team will not have much work to do since he already established a fan base.

"I don't really understand incarceration in another jurisdiction with how those authorities are when someone is behind bars. Once there's flexibility, he should be good. He's not a new act that you have to show up front on stage. His music can speak for itself. Nowadays, you have social media at your disposal so it's easier to market him than 15 years ago," he said.

Roberts shared his expectations for the project which features Ghanaian singer Stonebwoy and newcomer Kaylan Arnold.

"Jah Cure on a whole, he has the material and the voice to execute in any written songs. I expect a nice, groovy album where one can relax and enjoy some smooth singing," he said.



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Carnival Time



T&T promises a safe one for visitors and locals alike

Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Randall Mitchell has assured the public that criminal activity will not deter Carnival 2023 celebrations.

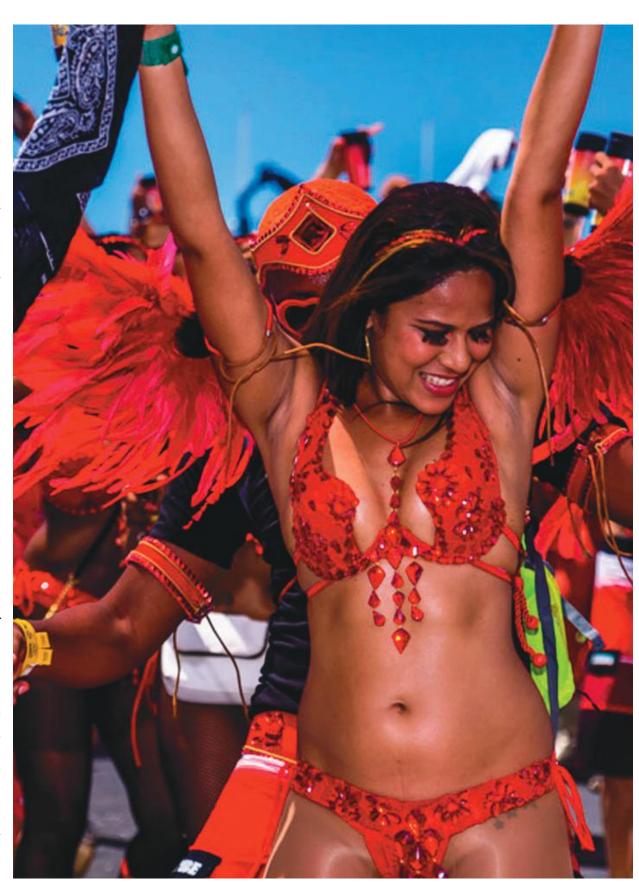
"Carnival season is extremely safe generally. The Commissioner of Police and the police service are one of the major stakeholders in the planning of Carnival, so I am not too concerned with respect to that (crime for Carnival), because they are in the process of planning. I have to commend the police service, especially during the Carnival season, all the protective services, they generally ensure that there is a very safe carnival season," Mitchell said.

With the cruise ship season also in full swing, Mitchell said T&T can expect a fruitful one as cruise ships are expected to bring thousands of passengers to the twin island.

"We look forward to welcoming the cruise lines. We have a very decent cruise season coming out of COVID," Mitchell said. "We expect to take on board the Ministry of Health. They have indicated that they are interested in looking at the new ways in which the cruise ships deal with illness on board coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new rules, the new structures, et cetera, so we expect to take the Minister of Health and his team on board to look at what goes on and to take a little tour of the cruise ship as well. We look forward to the cruisers coming on board and spending their money into our economy and experiencing what we have to offer here in Trinidad," he added.

Mitchell also said the ministry is pleased with the warm reception the country has been receiving thanks to famous food vlogger Mark Wiens.

Weins, who visited Trinidad earlier in September, partnered with the ministry's "Visit Trinidad" for several food tours around the country. Since then, Wiens has uploaded six videos from his time here, gaining millions of views and comments. Many non-nationals expressed their love and appreciation for Trinbagonian food and



Scenes like this make Trinidad Carnival a major attraction for visitors

culture, stating their wish to visit soon.

The Carnival will take place on February 20 and 21, with many major events planned to happen before the actual parade days.

Among the anticipated events is a Machel

Montano concert on "Fantastic Friday", February 17, which clashes with the International Soca Monarch competition. That competition has since been cancelled, leaving Montano's event as the #1 show on Fantastic Friday.



BMW's Supercar

The new, limited-edition 188mph BMW M3 CS

BMW has revived an old badge for a new car. Following the 3er Competition and 4er CSL variants comes this, the brand new BMW M3 CS; once a Goldilocks version of one of the best compact performance cars ever built, now a four-wheel-drive monster capable of embarrassing its 'lightweight' sibling.

Indeed it's described as 'formidable'. Just how formidable means we must indulge in the internet's favourite pastime: numbers chat. This limited-edition four-door boasts an uprated version of the M3's 3.0-litre turbo straight six, producing an extremely healthy 542bhp. That's 39 horsepowers more than a 'standard' M3 Competition, and exactly the same output as the BMW M4 CSL's sixer.

However, because this M₃ CS boasts BMW's all-wheel-drive setup (albeit with a 2WD mode, which we'll come to), it actually dusts the M₄ CSL in the benchmark 0-62mph sprint, the new kid taking just 3.4s versus the RWD CSL's 3.7s. The CSL claws it back to 124mph, taking just 10.7s, whereas the CS takes 11.1s.

Wait, come back! The new M3 CS maxes out at 188mph because it comes with the M Driver's Pack as standard, while the M4 CSL will happily hit 193mph. Is that a conclusive win for the so-called 'lightweight'? Your call.

In any case, this CS appears to be a seriously capable motor. The additional power stems from a tweak to the turbo boost pressure – up from 1.7 bar to 2.1 bar – and ECU. There's a new specially designed engine mount too with better spring rates for a stronger connection betwixt engine and body for better engine response. Torque is plentiful at 479lb ft.

The six-pot's matched to an eight-speed automatic gearbox, an active diff and M's 'xDrive' 4WD setup. It's been given a rear-bias of course, which can be intensified by switching into 4WD Sport mode – directing more of those horsies to the back – or indeed disengaging the front axle entirely by switching off DSC and making it fully RWD. Prepare to get



The new BMW M3 CS: available from March

friendly with your local tyre supplier.

Special CS suspension tuning comes in the form of bespoke camber, damper, auxiliary spring and anti-roll bar settings, along with a special steering tune. Big M brakes are standard, but bigger M carbon ceramic brakes are of course an option, hiding behind staggered lightweight alloys — 19in at the front, 20in at the back.

Speaking of lightweight, another number for you to chew through. This M3 CS is some 20kg lighter than the regular M3 Competition, courtesy of a standard-fit carbon fibre roof, and lightweight aero parts including the bonnet, front splitter, front air intakes, rear diffuser and rear spoiler. There's CFRP mirror caps and shift-paddles too, along with M Carbon bucket

seats and a titanium rear exhaust backbox. Stiffer too, as well as lighter.

You can spec it in white, green, grey or black, and there are standard fit 'Laserlight' headlights, BMW's 'Curved Display' and all the toys you'd expect from an exclusive performance saloon. Oh, and in case you were trying hard to ignore it, we'll briefly draw your attention to the red colouring that lines the now-frameless kidney grilles. Moving on.

As mentioned, it's limited in production though BMW won't say how many it'll build. Suffice to say, the key markets for the new M3 CS are the UK, the USA, Germany and Japan. In the UK, this new car with an old badge is available from March.

Marley, Dennis in Top 200

Jamaicans make it on Rolling Stone's Greatest Singers of all time list

Several legendary Jamaican artists have been named on Rolling Stone's newly expanded 200 Greatest Singers of All Time list.

The list released on New Year's Day featured Dennis Brown being named the top Jamaican singer of all time, while others like Toots Hibbert, Bob Marley, Barrington Levy, and Luciano were also named. Rolling Stone first published their list of 100 Greatest Singers in 2008, but that later expanded to 200 with several new names and faces added.

The process to name an artist, the publication explained, was through an elaborate voting process at first, then more recently, selected by staff and key contributors who have been instrumental to over 100 years of music as an ongoing global conversation.

While anticipating some criticisms, the publication explained its choices noting, "Talent is impressive; genius is transcendent."

Among the Jamaican artists who were named in the 200 Greatest Singers list was the deceased Crown Prince of Reggae, Dennis Brown, ranking higher than any other Jamaican act.

Brown ranked number 67 ahead of artists like Johnny Cash (No. 85), Michael Jackson (No. 86), Dianna Ross (No. 87), and Barbara Streisand (No. 147), just to name a few of the legendary acts.

Writing of Brown, the publication noted of his vocal range, "With a voice as tough-yet-velvety as suede, he was one of Jamaica's smoothest love men ever, not to mention a dispense of homespun wisdom on the immortal 1981 hit "Sitting and Watching."

Toots Hibbert of Toots and the Maytals was ranked 94, with the publication recognizing him

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Dennis Brown was the highest ranked Jamaican singer on the list

as a "Reggae pioneer" with a "rough-edged, fierce voice that gave fire to the incarceration chronicle "54-46 That's My Number" and added a slyly endearing wink to the wedding-jitters chronicle "Sweet and Dandy."

Toots finished was placed ahead of King of Reggae, Bob Marley, at No 98, with Rolling Stone adding that "Bob Marley invented a down-to-earth yet heraldic idiom that reflected the struggles and aspirations of tens of millions of people throughout the world.

The publication added that something about the communal gravity of Bob Marley's voice, as it singled out the artist's hit "No Woman No Cry."

In the meantime, two new faces featured on the list- veterans Barrington Levy and Luciano, who ranked at No. 119 and No. 143, respectively.

Of Barrington Levy, the publication wrote, "If an air horn could sing, it'd sound like Bar-

rington Levy: cutting, commanding, and a signal that the next tune is about to be massive," noting that the veteran artist was a superstar at just 14 years old, but even after being in the business for four decades and his class of dancehall brethren disappearing, the artist continues to "keep that horn of his loud as hell, and very much in tune."

Of Luciana, The Messenjah, the publication writes, "he's got a range that extends from a rich baritone up to a strong falsetto. And he's a master of the lost art of harmonizing — Luciano would be a top vocal arranger in N.Y. or L.A. if he weren't so committed to the roots."

Meanwhile, Aretha Franklin was ranked as the greatest singer of all time and at the top with her were Whitney Houston (2); Sam Cooke (3); Billie Holiday (4); Mariah Carey (5); Ray Charles (6); Stevie Wonder (7); Beyonce (8); Otis Redding (9); and Al Green (10).

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A taste of home in T.O.

Legendary Caribbean chefs to rebrand Fahmee Bakery

Fahmee Bakery has had a lot on its plate recently.

First, the pandemic. Then, in May a fire ripped through its beloved Scarborough location, which was best known for its Jamaican beef patties.

"That kind of messed everything up," said Fahmee Bakery owner and CEO Faiz Abdella. "We've been struggling to make patties but I've found a small kitchen where we can make them on the weekends."

As a result of the fire, Abdella had to permanently close the Scarborough location. The Caribbean chain is also one of the hundreds of restaurants in the city dealing with inflation and supply chain issues.

Nearing the end of an incredibly tough emotional and financial year, Abdella realized he would need more than just patties to turn his year around. So, he called in retired chefs Michael Moses aka 'Nutsman,' and his wife, Carol Bailey, to take over Fahmee's Weston location. The couple is considered legendary in the Caribbean community.

In the 90s, Nutsman and Bailey brought their Grenadian, Trinidadian and Guyanese roots to the streets selling hot peanuts, rotis and soups. Prior to selling the food out of the back of a van, they commuted from place to place, attending everything from parties to construction sites.

"I was from Grenada but I grew up in Trinidad, so we do a lot of peanuts and channa on the streets. So I said 'I will start a peanut business,'" Nutsman said.

"That's how he got the name 'Nutsman,'" said Bailey.

"We didn't have a vehicle at the time, so we'd put everything in coolers and we'd literally get on the bus and we lived in the east and we'd go all the way to the west end."

A few years ago, the couple opened a restaurant on Silverthorne Avenue, but it didn't survive the pandemic. According to Abdella, it was an underground spot only those in the Caribbean community knew about. It was how he first met Nutsman and Bailey.

"I just went in there and it was Caribbean food but nothing there that you would find in any other Caribbean restaurant that you would find in the city," said Abdella. "That's one thing to do something different but the flavour was



Nutsman and Carol: bring a taste of home to Toronto

just amazing. Even the way he does rice and peas, or mac and cheese, the way he does pumpkin stew or jerk chicken, it's like 'this is the best I've had of these dishes.'"

Abdella says Bailey, a trained bakery and pastry artist educated by George Brown and Nutsman, who fuses nostalgic homestyle Caribbean flavours into their cooking, made magic in the kitchen. But it was the atmosphere of the restaurant and the way they treated customers that made the couple special.

"If you didn't have enough money they cut you a break. It just felt like a home every time I was there," he said.

Abdella and the couple then partnered to start selling food at the Weston farmers' market every Saturday.

"People really loved it. And for the first time, I witnessed a different demographic than even here in Weston. Caribbean people: Grenadian, Guyanese, you started seeing your people."

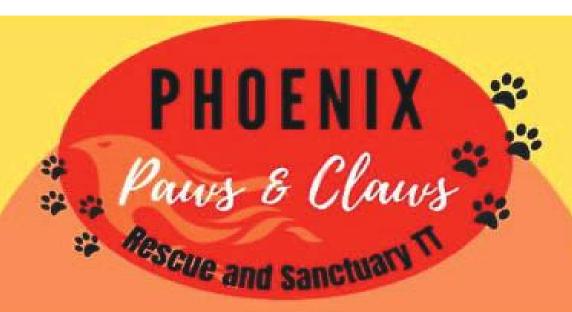
Not long after, as Abdella had plans to reopen the Weston location, he realized he didn't have the funds to do so by himself. He once again joined forces with the couple, who agreed to co-own the restaurant and bakery. It will soon be officially named "Carol's."

The menu will be similar to the duo's under-the-radar restaurant and what they served at the farmers' market with everything from souse, to curry duck, saltfish and bake and much more.

"I like to take our Caribbean food and display it in a whole different new way," said Bailey. "And Faiz is the same way. He loves the adventure of food and tantalizing people's taste buds in different ways."

"Sometimes in our Caribbean community we're stuck in our ways and this is the way something is supposed to be. I'm not like that, I like to experiment."

The hope is to keep quality Caribbean food alive while keeping the location afloat. Sandra Khan who is a regular customer, says "when you eat this food, you feel like you're back home, like mama's cooking."



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Coachellastars

Music festival names Shenseea, Burna Boy as 2023 performers

Shenseea and Burna Boy are among the many artists set to make their Coachella debut this year.

Shenseea has been named as one of the performers for Coachella 2023. The event organizers revealed the official poster in early January featuring more than 50 artists that will grace the stage over three weekends in April. The Coachella Valley Music And Arts Festival is a annual music festival held in April, and this would be the second staging of the event since the pandemic started in 2020.

Shenseea shared the official poster from Coachella confirming her attendance at the festival, which would be her debut. "@coachella 15 & 22," she wrote on Instagram.

Along with Shenseea, there are two other reggae acts, American bands Stick Figure and Rebelution. For 2023, the festival will be headlined by superstar Bad Bunny, R&B sensation Frank Ocean, and K-pop girl group sensation BLACKPINK.

The event this year will be held at Emporio Polo Club in Indio, California, and will run off on the weekends of April 14-16 and April 21-23. Shenseea will be performing on the day headlined by BLACKPINK and other artists Rosalía, British singer Labrinth, the Kid Laroi, Boygenius, Yung Lean, Mura Masa, Kenny Beats, Rebelution, and many others.

Overall, the event also sees Burna Boy, K-pop star Jackson Wang and Idris Elba and Metro Boomin, Doechi, GloRilla, Klai Uchis, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, Blaze, Willow, Rae Sremmurd, Pusha T, Suicideboys and others. Coachella usually adds more artists to the rundown as the time winds down.

Shenseea, who is no stranger to large festivals, having performed at several Rolling Loud Festivals across the country, received commendations from her Instagram followers. "We good on the way to the desert," Shenseea's American road manager Dizzy Cleanface wrote.

"Yesssss I can't miss your set!" Love & Hip Hop cast member Bobby Lytes said. "Greatness," rising artist Valiant wrote.

"You were a spectator last year and this year



Shenseea will perform at Cocachella in April

ur a performer, congratulations," a fan re- year with producer London On Da Track and minded the artist who attended the festival last Megan Thee Stallion.

Drake, Popcaan reunite

Stars collaborate on new hit 'We Caa Done'

Popcaan has reconnected with his mentor Drake on their new collaboration, "We Caa Done."

The Unruly Boss first teased the song in early January, putting fans on high alert that he is in Unruly season. The track sent fans of the two artists into a frenzy.

"We Caa Done" marks the third official collaboration between Popcaan and Drake. The song was co-produced by TRESOR and Batundi and written by Andrew Sutherland, Aubrey Graham, and TRESOR.

Drake's longtime cameraman, Theo Skudra, handled video directing duties, while his right hand man, Chubbs, handled the video production. The cut was shot last year in Turks and Caicos while Drake loaded up his massive private jet and flew out to the Caribbean island with some close friends, including Lil Yachty and Kevin Durant, who both made cameos in the music video.

"Try fi rush me off, try fi brush me off, I see BADMAN like skull and me from Unruly Girl why pree, Why pree, why pree, why pree, Disrespect we and shot ago beat," Drizzy sings. Popcaan delivered some gritty lyrics in his signature style, "Short but mi heavy, chain round mi neck can buy a couple chevy Hmm, jiggle up yuh body fi mi baby."

Turks and Caicos is Drake's favorite place to vacation, especially in the heart of winter when the Canadian weather gets brutal. The Toronto rapper spent a good two weeks on the island during the Christmas holiday and even had a recording studio set up at a private villa he was staying at.

"We Caa Done" will appear on Popcaan's forthcoming album, Great Is He, due this year. The dancehall star released a single off the project in December titled, "Set It."





Drake (left) and Popcaan

New music from Capleton

Reggae's King Shango confirms he's working on new album

Veteran reggae artist Capleton says a new album is in the works, and he has already recorded several of the tracks for the project, which will be his first since I-Ternal Fire in 2010.

In a video shared on his Instagram account after his Rebel Salute performance, the "Who Dem" artist shared that he's currently working on a new studio album. "I'm working on it currently...[I] have so much tracks and more time we always like give the album a name and follow a particular track on the album but it's in the making...we know say it long overdue," the artist said.

Capleton began recording reggae music in 1991, and he is one of a few artists who are still active in the business after four decades of music releases and performances. The artist's latest albums stemming from 2019 included several joint albums with the likes of Anthony B and Beenie Man on 'Reggae Jamdown' and Dub Fi Dub featuring himself, Junior Demus, and Ninjaman.

The artist has also been featured on several DJ Khaled albums, and he says there are more collaborations coming this year, including new songs with Beres Hammond, Sizzla, Bounty Killer, Morgan Heritage, Chronixx, Kabaka Pyramid and a series of younger artists who have approached him, the artist said.

Meanwhile, the artist who was previously signed to the American label Def Jam, said: "Just know what you want and just be yourself and don't let anybody convert you and change you. Even if you ah cross over musically you nuh haffi have to cross over physically," the artist said.

There are reports that Def Jam is on a mission to scout Jamaican artists. Jamaica's rich cultural capital continued to serve as an inspiration to the American hip-hop scene and attracted the likes of DJ Khaled, Cardi B and Offset, and many others who show appreciation for the culture. The Rastafarian artist shared that even though his Def Jam era turned out not to be a good fit for his Rastafarian personality and lifestyle, he was still grateful for the opportunity and exposure.

Capelton, also known as King Shango and The Fireman, declined to give a date for the release of the album, so fans will just have to continue to follow the artist and wait.

The album will be Capleton's first project since his 2010 album, I-Ternal Fire.



Capleton: has not given a date for the album release as yet.



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Patrice tops the world charts

The Soca Source has said Patrice Roberts's song, Mind My Business, is the worldwide number one soca song of the year.

The song which was released on December 19, 2021, has been dominating the year, the Soca Source said in a media release.

Penned by Mical Teja and produced by Dan Evens and Travis World, Mind My Business quickly became a favourite. The phrase, drink water and mind my (your) business, became the mantra of many. Much to the surprise of Roberts, the song's virality on social media platforms was not solely in Caribbean circuits, the release said.

The Soca Source article published on December 10, 2022 under the heading, Patrice Roberts' Mind My Business: Worldwide No 1 Soca Song of the Year, identified the song's success as "a milestone not only for the artist but for the soca genre overall."

On hearing the news, Roberts said, "Learning of Mind My Business being the #1 worldwide soca song reinforces the potential of soca music and the need for support from the diaspora."

Additionally, Roberts recognises that "public opinion is very important but statistical data is equally important and holds extreme value." Both Roberts and her team are focusing on understanding her statistics, the release said.

Receiving another accolade from the youth-driven music platform Audiomack, Mind My Business is one of the 50 Best Songs of 2022. Audiomack describes the hit song as "a playful anthem at the buzzer of 2021" and "the motto for 2022, 2023, and beyond."

Professionally, 2022 has been rewarding for Roberts. Mind My Business also captured the attention of NPR Music. First on its listing of Top 10 Songs of 2022 of NPR Music 2022 Staff Picks: Nikki Birch is Mind My Business. The article's author, Nikki Birch, choice of songs and albums are purely based on the impact on her, the release said.

Roberts expresses gratitude for, "Every bit of support and feedback that I have received throughout my career and more so in 2022."

Thus far, her Carnival 2023 contributions Sugar Cake and Bles have been receiving tremendous support, the release said.

Roberts will be hosting her now signature event Strength Of A Woman on February 15.



Patrice Roberts' song Mind My Business is the worldwide number one soca song of 2022

Jadel on a High

Soca singer has 5 songs on rotation for Carnival 2023

You just never know what songs people will connect with, which is why, when given the opportunity to record songs on multiple riddims, Jardine "Jadel" Legere took it. Her hard work paid off and, for Carnival 2023, she has five songs playing on the radio, and intends to drop three more soon.

Her groovy or "party" songs, Shake Up Yuh Batty (Bad Up), Take Notice, Drop It, Fix It, Like Dat (Ohhh Baby), are all on separate riddims.

"Party tunes are more my personality. I love to make people dance and sing along in a party, and I love to dance and wine and perform, especially as I have a good sized bumsee. It's what people want and it's natural to me," she said.

She said she does not do music that is inspirational or positive, and she is not the "hands in the air" type. But, she plans to release three power soca songs later in the season, and she is considering entering the International Soca Monarch competition in the Power category.

She also has a ten- to 12-song album of mostly new music coming out this year, all of which she wrote.

Legere said she is on over six riddims this year, and she felt lucky people approached her to be on so many, which they did because of the success of last year's songs, Up in D Party and Yuh Man.

Also because of those two songs, she performed at about 30 events in Caribbean islands, in different states in the US, Toronto, London, and Singapore in 2022.

"I didn't want to turn down any because you don't know which one would catch, which one would take off. You might have a favourite but it could be the one you least expect. It's about luck because there are some quality songs radio DJs just won't play.

"But riddims are popular. Its popularity is based on the beat, but mostly who the producers are, who they pick to be on the riddim, if those people are trending, and if the artists come together to push it. It's about the vibes, the party energy."

She said some of her songs were recorded three years ago but the release dates were postponed because of the pandemic, while others were newly recorded.

She said usually she released two or three



Jadel: a passion for Law

songs a year, but this year she had five, so far. She said when she released the first song, for three months it did not get any air play. So she recorded another and still nothing, so she released more, and then suddenly all of them started to get played on the radio.

Legere attended El Dorado Senior Comprehensive, now El Dorado East Secondary School, UWI Sixth Form, and went on to study law with the University of London at K Beckles and Associates Law Tutors.

"Since I was small I had a passion for law. From primary school I was arguing case points, debating, and stuff like that. It was the only thing I was drawn to. I was always watching law shows, I was fascinated with lawyers, and I believe I had the knack for it. So I went to school and took my subjects to do it."

In 2016, she won the International Soca Monarch (ISM) breakout artiste award with a chutney soca song. With one year of law studies to go, she quit to focus on her music, which included getting an audio engineering diploma to develop her music skills.

"I didn't do it for me to go work anywhere. It was for me."

The General of chutney

GI Beharry returns to T&T after wowing crowds overseas

With Trinidad Carnival approaching, people are getting pumped and ready to partake in every and all events to come.

Imran "GI" Beharry is and has been ready to offer that drive and excitement for those getting into the Carnival groove. "I just came back after seven weeks of touring where I finished off my last leg of 2022 touring. I came home on December 31 and it was just in time for Soka in Moka (in early January)."

Beharry said the crowd and reaction to him performing was a great one and he plans to take everything they had to offer — "the energy, vibe and the way the people embraced me and I will run with it for the rest of the season."

For 2022, Beharry was on 91 flights sharing TT's culture to people in places such as Suriname, Guyana, and Miami. He also won the Chutney Soca Monarch that year and the two years before that. But his musical career started long before that with encouragement from his mother Ann-Marie Beharry.

"I was in-between singing and cricket and I chose singing. I started off in Mastana Bahar at the age of eight and my mum is really the one who pushed me into this."

Because singing and cricket didn't go handin-hand, Beharry said he would spend half his time in music class and the other half with the Barrackpore Secondary School's cricket team as captain. He said he still loves cricket and will play at any given opportunity.

Beharry is confident with the choice he made and said singing professionally for around 20 years helped alleviate challenges he would have come across while establishing himself as a solo artiste.

"I sang with two very popular bands in TT. At one point in time I was the frontline singer of Karma, and I spent about four years with them before joining Dil-e-Nadan who I spent seven years with. So I have a wealth of experience being around the bands. And after those 11 years, I decided to branch out on my own and be a product of my own and not a product of a product."

Beharry said after making this decision, he



Imran GI Beharry: not sure if he will defend Chutney Monarch Crown

rebranded himself from General Imran to GI around eight years ago to mark his solo journey. He said even though he carries the name GI, he sees it as representing his team of ten.

"I always say GI is a brand and I am just the vessel that takes the brand. All of us consists of GI including the radio stations, various media houses and everybody that plays a role because they are doing something for the brand."

Beharry said even the international crowds contribute to this as they all bring a different experience for him.

"People show love differently in every part of the world and everywhere I go, I have great experiences, promoters and fans. People naturally are open-handed, warm and welcoming. The way they react to the music and I mean, you must find a Trini in the crowd or a Guyanese."

Beharry said now that the chutney soca genre is growing, he plans to expand into different territories especially into those that other artistes haven't yet ventured. He said only when he has confirmation, then more information will be posted. "We have support from every different island now and in different countries as people are gravitating towards the music."

Despite being a three-time winner of the Chutney Soca Monarch (2020-2022), Beharry said he isn't sure if he will be defending his title this time around. He said that is usually a team decision, but whatever decision is made, he will go with it.

Skinny Fabulous goes BAD

Gamal "Skinny Fabulous" Doyle has been in the music industry for the past 22 years and will release his first album called BAD on January 12. BAD is an acronym for Beyond A Doubt.

For those wondering why it has taken the musician, singer and songwriter known for his hits like 2019's Famalay done with Machel Montano and Bunji Garlin or 2014's Worst Behaviour, so long to do an album, he candidly said it was because he was guilty of falling into the trap of festival music.

"I, myself, was guilty of being comfortable in seeing soca music as just a touring genre; a genre that is based around performances.

"As long as I was fully booked every year, I did not see the importance of an album. I was getting to generate revenue, I was seeing fans and I was doing what I loved. So having an album did not take priority because I did not see the importance as much as I see it now."

BAD has 23 tracks and includes collaborations with Caribbean artistes in various genres.

However, soca in an ever-increasing digital world has illustrated to him the importance of good streaming numbers and having a strong body of work associated with his brand and name. It is important to him for people googling his name to easily find this.

His commitments for 2023 include dominating the digital space more.

The album is part of this plan. He has been working on the album for the last year and a half.

The 23-track album showcases his vocal diversity and ability and takes the listener through a variety of moods, he said.

Some of the album's singles are already in rotation on the airwaves. One of those is Come Home, featuring Nailah Blackman.

The tracks are being slowly and strategically released and features collaborations with Nessa Preppy, Jamaican dancehall artistes like Charly Black and Bounty Killer, and St Martin's singer/songwriter/producer Oswald.

It also features many of the other genres which have fused with soca over the years including Afrobeats and dancehall. Doing this allows him not to be boxed into one particular range or sound.

There is even a groovy soca track which he approaches from a "very soft and soothing angle," he said.

"Then there is the very aggressive typical Skinny Fabulous on there as well. As you go through the album you will be able to appreciate the softer, more vocally-tame Skinny, and then there is the beast."

There is a song called Apology which speaks to taking someone's love for granted and not realising that the person meant a lot until they were gone.

For him, BAD also meant expressing the contents of his heart.

"Whatever mood I am in, in the studio. It



may not work in a J'Ouvert party, it may not work for crossing the stage but it works in terms of how honest I am, with myself, in that moment.

"I think people would appreciate that more, if we allow them to appreciate it more," he said.

It was also important to him to address a range of topics as soca music is such a festival-driven genre and, it might appear, that one only gets to appreciate it when one goes to a Carnival and feels it, he said.

He said there were many songs that did not address the festival but those were not often played on radio.

"We are also in an industry that we depend on the feedback, the play and rotation to know what works. So you have people putting out songs that address a certain level of positivity and then you turn on the radio and you don't hear them.

"If I put out five songs, I sing one about my mom and I say, 'Respect to my mom, I love my mom, big up to all mothers of the world. We must cherish and appreciate them.'

"If I put out that song and I put out a song

about drinking Puncheon and getting drunk on the Avenue, I can tell you, possibly or most likely, that Puncheon and Avenue song will play more."

People needed to show support for the songs that are about positivity too, he added.

While artistes have a responsibility to create those kinds of songs, Skinny Fabulous said people also needed to show support for those and more of it would play.

This is why he wants to encourage more artistes to create albums.

"If more artistes take the time out every year or every two years to put together a body of work that represents not just themselves but the artform that is soca, I think that could only lend itself to the development of the genre on a global scale"

This would also allow for greater measurement of the genre's successes which could lead to things like a Grammy.

Despite this, however, Skinny Fabulous said the genre has been making progress and gaining the attention of the mainstream music industry.









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