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DJ PUFFY FLYING HIGH

(PG.15)

NAVIGATING UNCHARTED WATERS (PG.4)

The Queen of Soca talks
COVID 19, social media
and the future.

NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION: (PG.8)

A New Age

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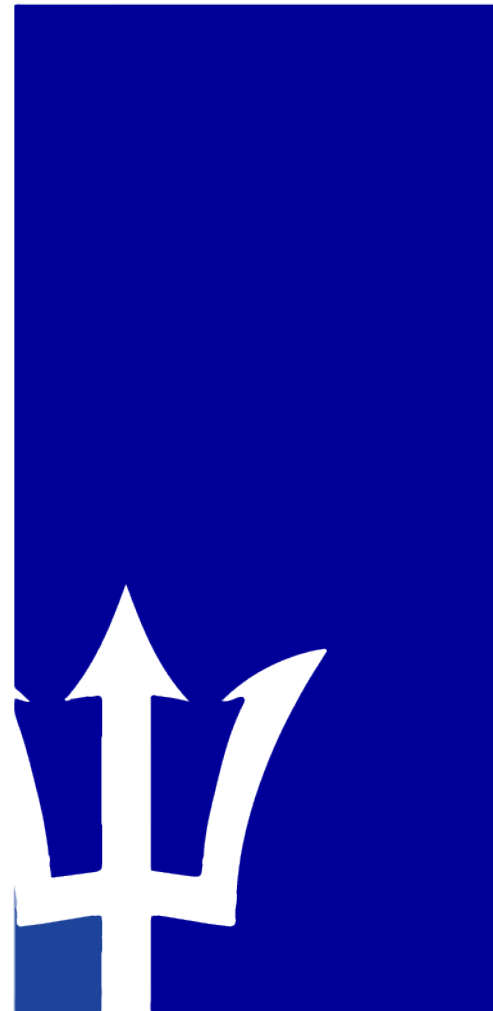
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Navigating Uncharted Waters

The Queen of Soca talks COVID 19, social media and the future.

by Janelle Husbands

The one constant in life is change, and no one knows this better than the Queen of Soca Alison Hinds.

She has successfully navigated her career as an entertainer by leaving her comfort zone as a performer, changing her style and constantly looking for new avenues to provide music for her fans across the globe.

One might say her willingness to change over the years prepared her to tackle what many are still grappling to come to grips with in 2020. The novel coronavirus, commonly known as COVID-19.

The pandemic caused a shut down of the world and hit the local entertainment

industry hard, but Alison knows how to face challenges head-on and how to evolve.

It's hard to believe that at just 17 years old, a shy Alison Hinds joined the band Square One which went on to become one of the biggest bands in Barbados. The band members, whom she calls her brothers, travelled the globe together and built the brand which is still recognised worldwide.

In an interview with WOAH! she admits that it was a difficult lifestyle. Leaving her family for days, sometimes weeks at a time, to pursue her career. At the age of 33 she had to make one of the most difficult decisions in her life. She would have to leave her band "family", as she would soon become a mother. She knew that



motherhood, at least in the formative years of her daughter, would need her full attention.

The painful decision to leave the band unknowingly might have pushed Alison into Soca royalty as her solo career blossomed, giving us the megahit “Roll it” which has become an empowerment song for women worldwide.

Fast forward to 2020, with Alison on the cusp of celebrating her 50th birthday and with major plans to host a mega concert already in motion, the coronavirus pandemic stopped everything in its track.

The lockdown was a devastating blow to the many sectors, most noticeably, the entertainment industry, i.e live entertainment. With this major source of income completely drying up Alison decided to see the positive side. She saw it as a time to take a step back, reconnect and rebuild.

“Initially I just used the time to ‘just be’ because I have not been home in a while. I had been in and out every weekend, out for

two weeks, out for a month... so it gave me the opportunity to reconnect with family and to reconnect with myself and to just be home. I like being home,” she mused.

She knew however that goodwill would not pay the bills.

“So what do I do now because I can’t travel, we can’t have large gatherings which is inherent in my job - so how is this going to work now? I still have bills to pay. I still have a life to live and food to buy and all of this, so where is the money going to come from? What is going to happen?” she recalled thinking.

Almost immediately the innovation of the entertainment industry sprang into action with disc jockeys hosting online parties, artists hosting online events, all for free, but this was not sustainable.

“It was not realistic. So we needed to figure out how we were going to monetise this. How are we going to make some sort of living, to continue to do what we do?”

Technology saved the day for many persons in the entertainment industry, with



many artistes opting to host paid events and with attempts to host carnivals and festivals online. However, Alison cautioned that there is a dark side to social media which fledgling entertainers have to understand.

When Alison started her career, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter did not exist, but there were trolls still making their presence felt. Even as a young performer, with bright eyes and a bright future ahead, there were those who sought to body shame her and it worked. Her self-esteem took a major blow but Alison couldn't allow that experience to keep her down and grew wiser and stronger from it.

"I would tell my younger self and younger artistes, don't study those things. Have faith in your talent and what you have to offer. I just wanted to do my best on stage. It wasn't about being a sex symbol, it wasn't about that. It was about the music. It was about making sure that when you hit the stage that people have an amazing time. And that is still my mantra today," she tells WOAHI!

She hopes that all young people and those living in the public eye will not be fazed by the hurtful online comments made by "keyboard warriors".

"For a more experienced artist in the business it is a little easier because we have been through what we have been through. We've earned our stripes. So for me on my social media anybody coming on my social media with any nonsense I have no time for you. If I do feel I am going to answer you I am going to do so to shut you down one time. And most times I don't have to say anything because my fans go after them," she laughed.

Sadly there are many young artistes and children who are connecting their worth and value with the number of likes on a post. Alison argues that then they go deeper and deeper into the online life and either end up very depressed or worse suicidal.

"They end up sad, they aren't able to enjoy life because of this instant gratification and 'doing it for the gram', Snapchat and Tik Tok. They need to have a healthy relationship with it if that is possible and that is through us the adults and parents," she advises.

What's next on the horizon for the Queen of Soca? She believes that if you stay ready you won't have to get ready. And she's already looking at a collaboration with Jamaican reggae artist Tarrus Riley.

"He is open to it. We want to do a collab, it is just a matter of finding the right song. He is very much on board," she revealed to WOAHI!. For her fans, she has not shelved the idea of a concert, though it might take some time with the pandemic still wreaking havoc in some sections of the globe and its ripple effect on Barbados.

Until then Alison assures that she will continue to diversify her brand. It is therefore no surprise that from her indomitable spirit has emerged a new line of face masks with her personal logo, soon available to the public as yet another way that she can fight back against the pandemic.



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National Cultural Foundation: A New Age

by Saraih Korber




It is no understatement to conclude that COVID-19 has affected the world over.

Some places have felt its full weight, more so than others. Barbados is no exception. The economic, social, educational and psychological fallout has not yet been calculated as the crisis rages on. One may wonder if the true effect can even be measured as an end date not yet certain.

However, there is at least one positive coming out of this pandemic. It has awakened Barbados to the untapped potential of our digital age and has driven businesses to think ahead and ultimately improve.

The National Cultural Foundation (NCF) is one of these businesses. Established in 1983, the NCF is responsible for cultural development and promotion in Barbados.

A man and a woman are smiling and posing for a photo at a vibrant outdoor festival. The man, on the left, is shirtless, wearing black sunglasses and a pink feathered headband. The woman, on the right, is wearing a purple and gold beaded bikini top and bottom, a large pink feathered headpiece, and a gold chain necklace. She is holding a large orange cup. The background is a blurred crowd of people and colorful umbrellas, suggesting a busy festival atmosphere.

Among their many responsibilities is the creation of opportunities for local artists and cultural practitioners and educating both locals and visitors about Barbadian culture. They also organize cultural events that showcase Barbados' rich and diverse history and folklore, ensuring traditions are both preserved and adapted when necessary.

One of such festivals is Crop Over. For the first since its rebirth in 1974, the summer festival was cancelled- a casualty of COVID-19.

Crop Over is what many visitors think of when planning their trips to Barbados. It is a traditional harvest festival which origins date back to 1687 on the sugar cane plantations during slavery. The original tradition began as a way to mark the end of the yearly crop harvest.

Often referred to as a season Crop Over's main component are the Ceremonial Delivery of the Last Canes as well as two notable events, Foreday Morning and Kadooment Day. The colorful mas is the island's largest and brightest marketing image.



In 2019 alone, more than 32,000 visitors came to Barbados, 2,000 more than 2018. Most visitors generating from the Caribbean, the United States of American, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Central and South America.

Although, relatively speaking, Barbados has been very fortunate thus far in its management of the pandemic the NCF hopes once it is safe for all to enjoy Crop Over to its fullest they can bring us a bigger and better event.

The NCF makes it its duty to re-examine each event they host, staying afoot on trends among festival-goers, to adapt and never wanting to stagnant.

Beyond hosting cultural events and their educational initiatives the NCF has already shown itself to be exploring digital platforms. From hosting seminars to educate entrepreneurs on demystifying taxes, online submissions to give artists a chance to still showcase their work, the NCF is ready to expand.

The NCF holds no preference on which social media platform to utilize, they follow the artists. Their goal is to have consistent content, remaining connected with the artistic community of Barbados and all those interested in Barbadian culture. The need for social-distancing and pandemic protocols won't stop them from nurturing the development and promotion of culture.

The NCF is hopeful for the future post-COVID-19 and they are eager to bring us bigger and better festivals, and local art. They see the pandemic as a chance to move their promotions and initiatives to a digital platform, filling that Crop Over void that many Barbadians have this year. With the steady increase of visitors Barbados was seeing the NCF is ready to rise to the occasion to entertain and educate.

The Casanova of Liquid Art

by Brittany Brewster

There is more than what meets the eye with the multi-talented mixologist Philip “Casanova” Antoine.

Born and raised in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, then relocating to Barbados at the age of nine, the award-winning mixologist and culinary ambassador is a “Caribbean man” in his own right.

Even though he is known for mixing a mean cocktail, it may be hard to believe that this wasn’t Casanova’s first option as a career. As a matter of fact, before finding his true passion, he became certified in several fields.

“I am actually certified in interior design, I also applied to join the Royal Barbados Police Force and I was once an exotic dancer,” he tells WOA! during an interview.



However, through trial and error, all of this has led him to what would take him all across the world to create “liquid art”, as he describes it.

Casanova’s introduction to the world of bartending came around 2006 after he was given a job as a bartender at one of Barbados’ then major night clubs, Club Extreme. He then moved on to a restaurant gig at TGI Fridays. It was then he realised that nightlife bartending was completely different from restaurant mixology.

According to him, “Bartending is one thing, but with mixology you have to experiment with different cocktails, blends, and mixtures. . . . It truly is an art.”

Casanova continued to craft and create his art by participating in multiple local and international competitions. He holds the Barbados Bartender of the Year 2015 and 2016, he is a member of the award winning Barbados Culinary team, Taste of the Caribbean Bartender of the Year, and he also held the title as the 2013/2014 champion of The Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival.

His latest and major accomplishment is his capture of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation’s Rum and Rhythm mixologist of the year in 2018.

Later that same year, after more than a decade traveling the world and creating over one million pieces of liquid art, he felt the time was ripe to step up his game even more. And in so doing, he created and launched his signature brand of bottled cocktails called Casanova Liquid Artistry.

For him, this brand represents the art form of bartending and mixology. With a total of seven signature cocktail flavours, Casanova merges his knowledge of interior design with his skills as a mixologist to create these cocktails.

“I merge the knowledge of both worlds to create pieces of liquid art,” he said.

The pieces of art he has created so far with his brand encapsulates the culture, tastes and ingredients coming from Barbados and the Caribbean. And he revealed to WOAHI! that as he

continues to expand his business, he intends to create cocktails that contain the rich tastes of the islands he came from. For someone that creates extravagant, award-winning cocktails, having a personal favourite seems very likely, but, for Casanova, a simple mixture that contains about three ingredients is enough.

He stated: “I am a Caribbean man all the way, so to this day, I believe in a good rum sour. As much as I’ve made award-winning drinks, give me a rum and ginger ale and I’m good to go.”

When not busy behind a bar or taking the flavours of Barbados and the Caribbean worldwide, Casanova becomes Phillip Antoine, the Alleyne school alumni and down to earth Caribbean man.



Not only does he promote and teach fellow bartenders and aspiring youngsters about the joys and trials of the amazing art of bartending and mixology, but he is also a kid at heart and understands what the youngsters are coming into.

He advised young aspiring bartenders and mixologists that if they are truly passionate about the art, they ought to be persistent.

"Keep that passion, keep that drive and try to elevate. Keep an open mind, observe others, and read as much as you can about the history, recipes, and skills of bartending and mixology. And as you progress, remaining humble in personality and how you treat people will take you far," he encouraged.

As Phillip "Casanova" Antoine continues to see how the profession of bartending and mixology is growing and "going up", it makes him happy that he has played some role in that.

Moving forward, the confident and unique mixologist will promises that he will continue to add his flamboyance and flair to everything he creates in the future. So for right now, "Barbados and the world can prepare to be surprised," Casanova added.



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DJ Puffy Flying High

by Vonardo Corbin

In 2016, Andre “Deejay Puffy” Parris made his most significant mark globally, thus far, when he created history as the first Barbadian disc jockey to capture the Red Bull 3style World DJ championship title in 2016.

In those following years, Puffy as he is more commonly known, has been able to travel internationally to a number of cities and countries including Toronto, his favorite, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, The Philippines and Amsterdam, among others.

On top of that, as he continues to strive in the pursuit of excellence, he has also spread his wings as the proud owner of several businesses.

These include starting an advertising agency, a few clothing brands, partnering with a few clothing stores, getting into event planning and probably the dearest to his heart, establishing

a music production and sound design businesses.

Puffy tells WOAHI! it is his dream to become a well-established music producer.

“In five years, I see myself solidifying my place in the music business as a major producer.”

Additionally, he noted that he has been planning to towards implementing systems and programmes to help up and coming Djs.

During the interview, the 29-year-old went on to give WOAHI! a ride through some of his journey thus far and the big plans he has for himself.

Puffy had a “fun filled” childhood. He was engaged in lots of sports, videogames, extra-curricular activities, and he even had some recognition as a tennis player.

While all roads eventually led to DJing, that was not always his main interest. As a matter of fact, if you asked his parents, they

would have possibly guessed he would be some type of computer genius. That is because he was well into computers growing up.

Puffy recalled that his dad was always into reading about and owning the latest pieces of technology.

“I think I was low-key seasoned into being interested in computers and tech. That led me to studying Computer Science and Environmental Science. My plan was to bundle my junior tennis career with my Comp Science background to get a scholarship and study overseas”, he recounted.

Djing became a hobby for him in his teenage years. Before becoming a familiar name on radio at SLAM 101.1 FM, Puffy honed his talent until he acquired weekly residencies at nightclubs such as Taboo and The Ship Inn.

The young man remembered receiving what he described as an unforgettable telephone call during his early years that all but changed everything for him.

“One-night King Bubba (local soca artiste and DJ) and Simply Smooth (DJ at SLAM FM) were hanging out in the club and heard me playing. . . . Simply Smooth asked Bubba if he knew me and at the time, he didn’t but about two days after I received a phone call from Scratch Master who was programme director at the [SLAM]. He asked me to submit a demo to the station and that I did.”

Puffy then received an internship that turned into 6 years of radio.

He recalled his earlier years as a DJ as being “hard”, insisting that there was always a need to prove yourself.

“Price negotiation is a nightmare when you don’t have good representation. I think what worked out well for me is





implementing strict business practices in terms of management. That really helped local promoters to take me more seriously as a young DJ," he said.

If you have ever visited the international disc jockey's Instagram page you would see a clean, recognisable aesthetic which is deliberate in the effort to build a strong personal brand.

He believes that "branding is everything". For him, it is something that could make or break a career, and it was something he fell in love within the early stages of his career.

"To be able to own your space as it relates to image, sound and demeanor is very important in this field."

Reminiscing about the historic 3style journey, Puffy joked about how brutal the actual training was at the Scratch DJ Academy for the competition. But that was overshadowed by his love for thinking outside of the box. So, it ended up being a fun challenge topped by the win.

"If I was going to compete in something like this, I needed to be in the best environment to prepare. For two weeks I was the first person at the academy and the last to leave. Practicing for hours on end, but up to this point I was not focused on winning. I just wanted to be in the best shape to make the most out of my experience."

Puffy said the love and support he gets from Barbadians and others around the world is an amazing feeling. However, some persons still do not see DJing as a real job.

He said: "I think especially in the Caribbean people still look at this craft as an unstable hobby. It's quite unfortunate."

"Work for a DJ doesn't just include standing behind the decks. Especially now, it includes searching for new music, connecting with supporters, social media management, business administration, public relations, and a whole lot more," Puffy maintained.





Standing Tall

by Kimberley Cummins

To describe Troy Hunte as adventurous would be an understatement.

It might be more suitable to call him fearless. After all, he would have to be to make a career as a stilt walker.

Stilt walkers, or what are referred to as Moko Jumbies in Trinidad and Tobago, are characters who perform wearing vibrantly coloured costumes while being elevated on pillars at a height above the ground. In Barbados' history, stilt walkers are synonymous with festivals and other celebrations.

Gliding across spaces, in some cases wukking up (the Bajan terminology for dancing), on two pieces of wood which elevate him more than 6 foot above his 6' 1" stature, and at one point 8 foot 3 inches higher, is a brave undertaking.

No joke, Troy shared with WOA! that anything dangerous and different was his calling. This is even in spite of the many close encounters he would have faced over the years.

One of those close encounters was the time he fell and pulled his wrist out of place. This incident was due to a guest at the hotel he was performing at, spilling liquid on the floor that no one cleaned up.

"I couldn't see it due to lack of proper lighting, so I fell within 10 seconds of my performance. So yes, it is dangerous . . . stilts and liquid on certain surfaces don't

mix, it is like oil and water,"he laughed.

Troy's love for stilt walking was galvanized on island at a long running cultural community organization called Pinelands Creative Workshop.

"I used to see people down there [The Pine, St. Michael] on Saturdays walking around, so I went one Saturday and asked to join, and I was taught by Ife Wilkinson," he reminisced.

For hours on end the then pre-teen would practice his craft on the stilts just to ensure that he would be the best possible artist he could be.

Yes, to him, stilt walking means fun, but even more than that, it's an art.

"It's like dancing but on a different level. Not a skill that every and anyone can master though," Troy boasts.

"Actually, I don't think John Public understands this art very much. People see us up there and think it is easy but it takes a lot of understanding, patience, and control of the body. Stilts are very dangerous, and some people will come up to you and do things like hold your stilts and stuff like that and it can end very bad for us if we fall. Certain things we also must explain to clients on jobs and they don't understand, like surfaces, weather and venues. We try to accommodate as much as we can, but it is not always easy, plus a lot of people don't know what stilt walkers represent or where it came from," he lamented.

Over his 30 years in the business, stilt walking has allowed Troy to travel all over the world. His first trip was to Germany, he has also been to Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and many other countries including the Caribbean.

He says: "I love travelling to perform to showcase my talent to the world and also to show what Barbados has to offer. When people see us performing, most of the time you hear people saying that they never seen stilt walkers like us anywhere and that we are the best because of the things we do on our stilts."

With so many achievements coming by way of the artform, Troy wants to see more youngsters get involved to continue the tradition.

"I would like to see more young people involved in the art and stick to it so it won't die on the island. My friends and I are getting old, so we will need some younger people to continue the artform here. I would like to see it back in the school system so that more school children can be exposed to it, not all children are good at math's and other subjects so picking up a skill would be great for them. We used to have a good programme [by the Ministry of Education] called CHEKS [Cultural and Historical Exposure for Kids in Schools] ... that was discontinued in 2014. The kids used to love it, so did some of the teachers. It also helped them better in class, so that is something I'd like to see again," the 41-year- old suggested.

Troy's plan is to perform as long as he can but presently, his most important objective is succession planning. He added: "To pass it on to as many people as I can, pass it on to young or old. The knowledge and understanding that was passed on to me by Mr. Wilkinson I really want to pass on to others. I will still teach it after I'm unable to perform anymore."



Cooking With Family

by Leah Howell

The Barbados Culinary Team is a 12-member unit of Barbados' best and brightest stars in cooking, pastry, and mixology but even more than that, they're a family.

Able led by team manager and chef of more than two decades experience, Henderson Butcher, over the years the team has excelled in the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) annual Taste of the Caribbean competition in Miami, Florida where teams from throughout the region clash for culinary supremacy.

Just last year, they were named the Caribbean National Culinary Team of the Year which was complemented by the several other medals. Andrew Williams tells WOA! Entertainment Magazine this was his inspiration to join the team.

"Last year, when the national team returned and I saw it on the news, and I saw them coming home with the gold medals ... it sent something through my



body and I said I need to be on that team. I want to bring home a gold medal for Barbados too!" the reigning Barbados Bartender of the Year and mixologist said during an interview.

While the team members have changed throughout the years, with new talent emerging from the annual Chef of the Year and the Barbados Bartender of the Year competitions, joining the team still feels like you have joined a family.

"It felt like I was already part of a team, it felt like we're here learn, we're here to get better, we're here to be creative and we're here to just do it," 27-year-old chef at Treasure Beach Resort, Ashley Thorpe said.

One thing that stays consistent is the sacrifices each member makes for their success and the attention to detail that they bring to the table. This helps them to pick a dish down to its components and make masterpieces that dazzle all the senses.

But going from the competition to being on the team, is no easy task. It's a big jump. One that totally took Thorpe by surprise.

"[I] thought I was fast, but speed training is a completely different level of intensity. The first time, chef walked in and said we have a speed drill, get out your tools and make something with these ingredients in 45 minutes, ... I was completely thrown off," she added.

However, the chefs told WOAH! that the hard work and long hours spent training is a major component of their continued success. Senior team member and reigning Barbados Chef of the Year, Nicholas Ifill says speed drills at training that cram two hours of work into at least 30 minutes, turn the pressure up on new the chefs, often taking them to their breaking point.

But as the saying goes, a diamond does not start out polished and shining. It once was nothing special, but with enough pressure and time, becomes spectacular.

"Everybody that went through the Barbados Culinary Team cried at training at





some point ... [but] you have to break in order to get better ... because then you're out of your comfort zone," Ifill said.

He says that those tears eventually turn to tears of overwhelming joy when the winning results are revealed in his first ever competition in Miami back in 2017.

Many members said that juggling grueling shifts at work and tough training is a delicate balancing act. However, it is the support that they get from each other and their team members that makes the journey easier, even though the tough times.


"Ryan Adamson and Henderson Butcher, they try to push you and make you see the bigger picture, [they say] it will be difficult, but the rewards will be greater", Williams said.

While the team would have been packing their bags this year for the annual competition, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed it until 2021. The news was disappointing for most, but they are remaining optimistic for the future.

"It was sad because of the ideas I had for this year that I wanted to bring out. But it is good in another sense because for the new ones, we'll be more equipped and ready for when training restarts. And when we go back overseas, we are bringing back the gold to Barbados," Williams said.

When asked about what advice he would give to the up-and-coming artistes in the industry looking to join the team, Ifill suggested once you apply hard work then nothing could stop you from achieving greatness.

"Work hard, focus on what you're doing and keep your drive up," he advised.



Rupee's Rooted in the Arts

by Tonisha Rock-Yaw

Who would have thought that the COVID-19 pandemic could be associated with anything positive?

Since its worldwide advent in the early portion of the year, many lives have been lost, borders closed, airlines grounded, entertainment hotspots shuttered, carnivals cancelled and many artistes, who depend on all of the above for their livelihood impacted.

But in many ways, the crisis has been the catalyst for Barbadian International Soca star Rupee to get back to his roots, so to speak.


Many may know Rupee, whose given name is Rupert Clarke, for hits like Tempted to Touch, Icecream, Blame It On The Music, Jump, Ms. Thundah and many, many more. What some may not know is

this songbird has a deep love for Art, especially the street genre.

As a matter of fact, he has an Associate degree in Graphic Design and Fine Arts and Marketing from the Barbados Community College. And while the pandemic slowed his ability to release new music, it has not hindered his grind as he explores other passions.

"This [COVID] has given me an opportunity to explore different elements of myself, different sides of myself and the art is definitely one of them. So, in this time that we have been down, I have been generating ideas putting some pieces together to put together an art exhibition," he revealed during an interview with WOAH!

"This is something I always wanted to do



for as long as I know. Being deeply rooted in art and graphic design it was initially something I wanted to do for We Gatherin' but obviously COVID again came and killed that entire energy," he quipped.

Art has 100 per cent always been Rupee's love and that creativity was something that he has always made sure to inject in the creation of his music.

"The theme of the pieces is kind of like a visual social commentary on Barbadian life and culture. But as I said, covid19 came and killed the gathering element but now after being home for eight months, not traveling, not working it is giving me a little time to possibly make this come into

fruition. In addition to that, I have also been working on a book for quite some time. Every little chance I've had in the past I try to put in a little paragraph or two but now with this time down that's something that I've been able to put a little more time into," Rupee added.

Rupee who was signed with Atlantic Records is now Independent, he puts his own music out and credits technology for the pathway to excel without being signed.

He explained to WOAHI that with the platforms artists now have, they can generate their own music, sell it and reap a large portion of the income from the sale of that track as oppose to having to take a

small percentage by going through a big label.

"When we released music back in the day we use to cut physical CDs, now you can release music to billions of people in minutes across the globe it is an absolute blessing now if you want to get into music," he said.

However, he noted that he works with a company in the United States called Pumped Station Entertainment and that handles his management and bookings.

Another big surprise is that Rupee is now involved in music management. He recently established his own record company and own record label with three partners in the U.S to get the ball rolling signing his first artist.

"...I just recently started to manage a very young upcoming artist out of the Caribbean a young female signer absolutely phenomenal, phenomenal vocalist and song writer," he said excitedly.

Even though Rupee did not want to reveal the name of the artiste he did reveal that they have been recording and already have about 12 -13 songs.

Of the artist, he says: "I honestly believe this girl will be a generation defining voice in music. And once this COVID thing goes away and we can resume, because you know it is literally impossible to release a new artiste in times of Covid because you're very limited in what you can do in terms of interviews, promotions and performing. But that's another huge project I've been putting a lot of time and investment into as well."

On the topic of music, he tells WOAH! that fans should hold strain because new tracks are imminent, but the hold-up is the dreaded COVID-19.

Caribbean artistes are among the hardest hit by the pandemic because they do not generate revenue from record sales. They generate money from live performances and that market is completely dead right now so it is a catch 22 scenario.

"When artiste releases a track now and it becomes big, there is no carnivals, no Crop Over, or places to go and perform it to generate income," he explained.

So, with this in mind, now he's just contemplating the right time to drop music.



On June 30, 2020, the Barbados Government announced the introduction of the 12-month Barbados Welcome Stamp. The programme leverages the wonderful attributes that make Barbados the ideal place - not only for vacations and leisure but also as a great place to work. The 12 Month Barbados Welcome Stamp is an invitation to the world, to fully capitalise on the opportunities presented by the digital economy and to work remotely, from our wonderful island. The new programme will provide eligible persons or their families with the ability to continue working on their own businesses remotely from paradise, for a maximum period of one year.

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BARBADOS
TOURISM MARKETING INC.



2 Mile Hill Rides on a Road of Success

by Kimberley Cummins

It was some time around the year 2004 that one can say the seed of 2 Mile Hill was planted.

But who would have imagined that the Barbadian band would have bloomed into one of the most accomplished, eclectic and versatile on island?

Such is the story of 2 Mile Hill.

Back in 2004 the group didn't have a name. For all intents and purposes, they weren't even a group either. They were merely friends who shared a common passion- music.

The original members are Kris Clarke, André Clarke and Russell Padmore, who knew each other from their days at

Harrison College; Mahalia Cummins nee Phillips, who they knew from The St. Michael School, and Andre Forde, who was Kris' neighbour.

Kris, the spokesman of the band, tells WOAH! that when they all moved on to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill campus their bond only strengthened.

So much so, that on occasions they would meet up on campus sometimes solely to hold a vibe. But one day while liming, they were nudged to sign-up for an opportunity to perform at an on-campus poetry show.

"I kind of asked Mahalia if she wanted to come and play music with the fellows and we got together. When we had the

performance it felt really good and I say 'Ahh, we could do this again' and it picked up from there," Kris recounted.

They were actually a very good mix-up. Mahalia, the front woman, was deeply involved in the Arts since she was a child. She is a dancer, NIFCA Award winning choreographer, visual artist and songwriter. Kris, the founding member, is a skillful bass player and some may argue the glue that binds everything.

Russell first found a love for the stage performing in a rock band at secondary



school and he continues to bring a Rock & Roll infusion into the sound of the band, while also attempting to master Caribbean and Afropop styles of guitar.

And André, the musical director, is a self-taught keyboardist, who developed a unique sound that has given him the ability to add substantive creative value to musical projects. He is also an arranger, producer and song writer.

Three years later in 2007, Barbados and the world were officially introduced to NexCyx.

**André (keyboards)), Kris (bass), Mahalia (lead vocals),
Russell (lead guitarist) and Forde (drums).**

NexCyx blew up and took music lovers by storm.

They sold out events, travelled all across the world, from neighbouring St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to the Cayman Islands, to France, through the United States of America and other places.

Each time they dropped a track it became an instant hit: Gossip Girl, Let It Go, Nightclub Super Heroes, Queen, One More and the list can go on and on. They copped awards after awards; and even won two international competitions.

The winning streak continued even through 2016 when they underwent several major modifications.

These included: a name change to 2 Mile Hill, the addition of another member, drummer Chadd Ifill, who filled the role made vacant by Forde, who was leaving the band to pursue his solo career as a Jazz pannist.

Chadd, also referred to as "The Assassin" because of his proficiency on all percussive instruments, came in like a bolt, acted as a bolster and helped to elevate the band even greater.

"A prodigy, Chadd came up playing with his dad in church and grew his talent and skill at the St. James Secondary School (now Frederick Smith Secondary). This positioned him well to jump into the deep end as a drummer on the booming nightclub scene with the band Strategy before he made the move to NexCyx," Kris tells WOAHI.

Their music catalogue expanded even further with the inclusion of tunes like Conversation, Get Over and Run It, and the group became a household name.

Speaking about the uniqueness of each member, Kris adds that their personalities are as different as their roles in the band and that's where their unique qualities show through.

Kris is the leader, André is the cool guy, Chadd is the baby since he is the youngest, Russell is the Teddy bear and Mahalia is the emotional one.

Along the way, besides music, 2 Mile Hill as well became known for their charitable work, such as: performing for special children, donating blood, speaking to school children about a

career in the Arts or gathering goods for the HIV food bank.

In addition, one of their lasting contributions has been the highly anticipated and often sold out Mahalia's Corner concert series. This is a local music festival and talent platform now in its 11th year. It was created by André and Mahalia.

Through this project, they celebrate established and emerging local talent, providing artists with a launchpad and audience for their music.

The group is very much committed to pushing independent artists and art, and André in particular uses his production brand, "Black Man Chant" to help drive this effort.

While many bands have come and gone, 2 Mile Hill has been able to maintain a consistently high standard of work and remain relevant.

Kris believes the main reason for this is because it was always their desire to remain a band and this has caused them to adapt their approach as time passes.

"We evolve as people but we love what we do and want to continue making music as long as we can.," he says.

Be it through music, philanthropy, or creating a platform for fledging artists to prosper, 2 Mile Hill's legacy is cemented. The ride to get to this point though has been "interesting", according to Kris, but well worth it.

"It is always a pleasure to do something that you love. They always say if you do something you love you don't work a day in your life. So doing something that we love and have passion for is always very exciting. It's hard, don't get me wrong," he snickered.

"It's very hard, it's very challenging. There are always challenges when you are self-employed, we are musicians and especially now with COVID going you've got to continue to figure things out, but it is our passion. This is what we love to do. We always strive to put out the best possible thing we can put out, whether it be our music or shows, even down to the pictures that we take. We always strive to be the very best that we can be," he says.

What's next for the quintet?

Kris reveals that they have some really cool projects in the works which they are very excited about and think people will love too.

"So stay tune," Kris urges.







Aisha's Got Riddim

by Josiah Haynes

Aisha Comissiong can barely remember the age at which she started dancing. It's been that long since she first stepped on to a stage. More than two decades to be exact. But the long-told story of why her father signed her up for her first dance class centres around the wife of the former Prime Minister and National Hero, the Right Excellent Errol Barrow.

Mrs Barrow saw Aisha one day and remarked that she had the "legs of a dancer". And from there, the rest was history. She was enrolled in dance companies like Dance Strides, Dance Place and Dancin' Africa, the latter where she later became a teacher and choreographer.

As she continued to develop her craft, especially in choreography, Aisha's work became elevated and in 2011 that elevation was exemplified in a piece titled "Remembering Forgotten Souls".

This number was entered into the prestigious annual National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA) and it struck

such a chord with judges that Aisha was awarded the Prime Minister's scholarship.

She then went on to graduate with honours in Dance Performance and Choreography from The Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts. Next up she completed a Master's in Cultural Studies (Distinction) from the same institution. Upon returning home she decided to start her dance company Riddim Tribe.

Aisha sat with WOA! in a recent interview where she looked at societies' misconception of dancers not being academics.

"It has to be unpacked and unlearned.... A big part of it is, the misconception that dance is merely for entertainment, a hobby," she says.

However, this young woman notes the growth that can be seen with the creation of programmes such as dance medicine and dance in sports.

Aisha specifies that to truly advance the

Orange Economy in Barbados and to have a society that is greatly tuned in with the Arts, the identification of what Barbadiana is in Dance, Music, Theatre and all art forms, is crucial. For her, this would also accurately inform what is being taught in schools.

But she acknowledges that doing this is no small feat and would mean the unification of Cultural practitioners and educators to find more innovative ways of illustrating our culture.

"I think there is a way for us to stay true to our origins and roots while still developing them in a meaningful way, and not just local but regional so that it is attractive to others and not just us," she suggested.

While still looking at society but shifting to the topic of "the sexualization of female dancers", Aisha thinks it's a hard thing to get away from because it's engrained in society.

She insisted the mostly male attribute sometimes shows its head because males feel as though a dance is being done for them, or for their gratification. However, most of the time, it is just a woman displaying her skills.

"I feel something like this topic will only be addressed if it is dealt with from childhood. In schools, to parenting, to socialization, because most behaviour we see in the world is because of one's upbringing."

COVID-19 is the reality at the moment, and it pumped the brakes on Aisha just like everyone else. She admits that the transition from home being a space for





down time, to home transitioning to a workplace was difficult, but she is grateful for the effective way in which she believes Barbados is dealing with the matter. Creatively she felt constricted, nonetheless she was able to push off a project, a docu-dance called “I Can’t Breathe”.

“I Can’t Breathe” originally a two-minute Riddim Tribe video, grew to become a 45-minute programme, which included some iconic features from Dr. The Most Honourable Anthony “Gabby” Carter, Historian Trevor Marshall, internationally acclaimed musician and producer Eddy Grant, her father, social activist David Comissiong and calypsonian and Rastafarian advocate Peter “Adonijah” Alleyne, to name a few. It was an attempt to put to bed the whispers coming from segments of the island which suggested Bajans were jumping on the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) bandwagon, by addressing why BLM isn’t just an American Movement.

On the topic of Riddim Tribe, or RT as Aisha affectionately calls it, it was a plan initially conceptualised and brought to light when she returned to Barbados from studying in Jamaica. After witnessing the value placed upon dancers, and the opportunities they had, she wanted to create that atmosphere for Barbadian dancers.

She tells WOAHI: “At first I was thinking of making it a personal venture, but I don’t believe in doing things alone because you can always go further together.”

So she got together a strong contingent of dancers she worked with before and set out on the journey, that has flourished into bringing the stage to life with other Barbadian artists, traveling with saxophonist Arturo Tappin and appearing on the American television via the Wendy Williams show, amongst other achievements.

Aisha hopes more travel is in the cards for Riddim Tribe but in light of everything happening in the world at the moment in terms of COVID, “I’m definitely leaning toward doing some more dance edutainment features,” she says.

Looking towards a sustainable dance community, Aisha contends that Barbados must be wary of where and what “we set our sights on”.

A national dance company seems to be on the community psyche, but nothing can be properly done if everyone doesn’t come together. And she understands that at some turns, everyone will not want the same things, but she argues there should be somethings that can be agreed upon, and by working together they can be accomplished.

While dance generally makes up the majority of Aisha’s life, she has the utmost respect and gratitude for her parents who have played a huge part in her becoming the person she is today.

“My mother has been supportive in ways that I don’t think I can ever repay her. She has always been there”.

She also notes that her father has influenced the way she looks at life, from his perseverance and the work he does.

For her future she has a lot she wants to accomplish and is deeply appreciative of her parental backing, and the reinforcing of the mindset that she can do anything that she puts her mind to. In terms of legacy, Aisha wants to be remembered as someone “who stood up for what is right and fair and never backed down from anything”.



Still Rolling

The Barbados Visual Media Festival

by Leah Howell

A crowded debut in a dimly lit theatre at the Olympus Cinema, the car park at the National Cultural Foundation (NCF) brimming with moviegoers anxiously hooked to the story and the spectacle of Caribbean films on the big screen. The Barbados Visual Media Festival must be happening.

The Barbados Visual Media Festival put on by the Barbados Film and Video Association has been dedicated to highlighting this sector of the cultural industry for close to a decade. Since its birth, the festival has given opportunities for home grown filmmakers and content creators to showcase their talents, aided in the growing of the industry and allowed local and regional stories and voices with the likes of

Chrissy, Hall and Too Lickrish to be launched into the forefront.

“At the end of the day, we want to highlight Barbados and filmmakers, then we want to extend that love to filmmakers Caribbean because they are our brothers and sisters and I believe because we have a shared history, that we understand each other,” said Festival Coordinator Kerri Birch.

Now in its seventh year, the annual event typically celebrates the onscreen craftsmanship of local and regional filmmakers through a week of events including its Screen Writer’s Competition 8-hour film challenge, where teams are battle it out with the feat of scripting, filming and editing a short film for submission in this air-tight time frame.

The festival has set itself up as one of the best ways for young artists to network and channel their abilities, while also being a place for them to broaden their skills with workshops conducted by the NCF, created for those at the top of the industry to share their wisdom and knowledge with those who are still upcoming.

The festival is punctuated by the Barbados Visual Media Awards (VIMAS) or Barbados' Oscars as some may call it, to recognize the blooming talents and success those who have honed their craft.

The Coordinator and Director of Thirteen Degrees North Productions said that festivals like these are important for industry workers as serve as a place where "filmmakers can come together ... to share their experiences, make connections and sell their work" and she says that her vision for the next iteration of the festival.



While the festival has been postponed until early 2021, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Birch says that their will have a resurgence with a few changes.

"We are still doing our Script-O-Rama competition ... usually with the winner's script is made into a film, but this time we're making a more developmental process, so this year the winner will be mentored to take their script to completion and then they'll get free access to a adaption screenwriting workshop," Birch said.

She added that the festival would be taking a multimedia route with some aspects being hosted online while fans would be given the cozy drive-in cinema experience for screenings once again to allow everyone to social distance.

While she admits that the pandemic was a setback for the festival and filmmakers, she believes that the creativity of filmmakers could still shine through the aftermath of the lockdown periods.

"What we may see because people were in lockdown and had time on their hands ... what we might see is an influx of short films that are done very creatively and honed very well because of the restriction,



because now we have to dig deep,” said Birch.

The industry has for the past few decades been shifting and growing and this festival is a reflection of the positive changes happening at a glance. With more and more people turning this into a full-time job from a side hustle, Birch says that it shows the growing importance and support for this industry from those who work in it and the society. It’s certain that this festival will continue to shine a light on the country’s shining talents for years to come.





An Agent of Hope and Faith

by Chloé O'Neal

Gospel singer Pastor John Yarde is well-known and loved for songs that exude messages of faith, hope and positivity but there were times in his life that those messages weren't always very clear, even for him. But the belief that music was what God wanted him to do became the catalyst or him to press forward.

Seated behind a microphone in a radio station as he runs a Bible show in the background, he shared with WOAH! a bit on his life and musical journey.

A prominent name in the Barbadian music scene, he compares the feeling of doubt to seeing the light at the end of the tunnel but not knowing if you have the energy to get there. In those times when he didn't know what else to do, he found the energy in his community.

"I've never been in a space where I doubted it [God's intent]. I think it just felt like there were spaces and time where I doubted my ability to. I always knew I was good. But there were several times in my life where I just didn't have the confidence. To do the things that I knew I could do," he says.

John explains that as a student of his craft, he is well-practiced in recording

inspiration as it occurs. It may come from books, devotional times or songs, but the most important thing for him is that he writes it down.

"Then when it comes time to actually write the song, I've already started collecting my thoughts or channelling my emotions in that particular direction."

And he notes that when you feel like you

have fallen short or that the pieces aren't falling into place, be it in song or performance, he find the courage to push through by remembering God's purpose for him and stick to the plan.

"When I say stick to the plan, I don't mean stick to the steps. The plan ultimately is to serve the people. . . . As a team, we've already discussed [serving] our audience, so we're already prepared for whatever could possibly present itself.

This commitment to serve his community has seen him broaden his outreach across the Caribbean.

"I am defined by my purpose. I'm not defined by what I do, I'm defined by who I am. What I do is the result of who I am," he maintained.

On whether his music can be a bridge to spirituality for young Barbadians, John was very positive that it can.

"I hope so," he says with a laugh.

He believes that it's very easy for people to give thought to their spirituality outside

of God, but fundamentally, because He made man in His image, He must be the highest source of spirituality and faith. Thus, John tries to reflect this in his music while also trying to remain as relatable as possible.

"I hope that in me sharing my life in song and also my experience with faith and the Word in song, it causes some to consider their spirituality or something far greater than their spirituality – causes someone to really consider God," he revealed to WOAHI!

To the young Barbadians who hear his music and want to dig deeper, he encourages them to listen past the entertainment and listen to the heart of what's being said.

"Search for something far more than within you," he says firmly.

"Look for the God that's being spoken about in the music. Listen to what's really being said, then challenge yourself to pursue that journey."

Now, Gospel music has a vast variety of sounds, with John's music blending



Barbadian influences with contemporary influences. He explains that he experimented with various sounds, keeping an eye on the international scene while maintaining his own Caribbean flair. He gives credit to radio personality Tracy Fowler, who he said was “super instrumental” in the process of him finding his own sound.

“She made a big deal about myself and a couple other entertainers finding and knowing ‘what your sound is’. Once you know what your sound is, don’t stray from it. This thing becomes like your bible for creating music.”

This musical bible was something he used to filter through all of his musical choices, from collaborations he wanted to do to which songs he didn’t want to make.

“It really looks like just wanting to marry Caribbean with urban and with contemporary. That really helped me to create my own [sound]. And I just bring my own personality to the music.”

While, there are many mainstream artists who start off singing in the church choir but as they grow up and sign to music labels, they start to make more mainstream or secular music, John has been able to remain true to who he is.

He says that though there is nothing wrong with an individual choosing secular music, for him here is no need because of the vast nature Gospel.

“It touches life, it touches love, it touches politics.”

For him, it’s more about the morals and values influencing the message. For instance, ‘This Is Why I Love You’ by Major

only made sense to him once he discovered it began as a worship song.

“... When I listened to the content of the song or when I listen to any love song, I can tell who is of a particular moral perspective to those who are not. Not to say that someone is of faith or not, but I just get an insight into what is your perspective on love and marriage versus somebody else.”

As a believer, his moral persuasions allow him to enter any space and context, regardless of the content. Chiefly, his music is there for people of faith, but he has on occasion crossed over into other areas to connect with more people.

Consequently, he knows he can’t ignore the reality that some people do abandon what they know to do what is commercial.

“In many instances it’s because of the monetary rewards.”

His journey was different because his faith is the filter which he writes and looks at life through. However, he insists he has no problem with making music outside of the Gospel genre.

Finally, he offers a reflection on complacency.

“I was just listening to this book and the guy was making the point that one can become so accustomed to winning that they get complacent and stop doing the things that made them successful in the first place, destroying all of their progress. So I think that if I was to recognise that my audience was dropping after each project, I think I’d have to take a step back and question why. Is it something that I need to be doing better? With something like that, I don’t think it’s a 1,2,3 analysis. I think it’s

something where you would have to look at the full picture to see where it went wrong.”

He goes on to highlight once again the key role his community plays in supporting him, ensuring that such reflection is something he doesn’t have to do alone.

And if the next album was the last album he ever released, what would it say?

He laughs heartily and said: “Well, that album is already finished so the messages they are going to get are messages inspiration and of faith.”

Messages of hope, inspiration and faith are indeed what is needed right now in these times of uncertainty.





Von' Passion For Art

by Annastacia Bernard

For some people, art is just a painting or a drawing that you hang on the wall and forget about.

For others, it's "just a hobby". However, in the case of visual artist Kevon Hall it is much more than that, it is a way of life.

Von, as he is affectionately called, grew up in Howell's Cross Road St. Michael, and kick started his artistic dreams a short distance away at the Barbados Community College. There he studied and was awarded with an Associate and later, a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts.

Art can mean different things for people and for him, it is understanding and expressing who you are.

In his words, "It is a way of recording yourself in history...because once you are

gone, the art remains."

Von, who is known for his very bold, monumental murals and creative pieces, knew that art was his calling from a young age when he realised that it was not something that he was just interested in and good at, but something he was very passionate about.

"There was a period in time when I used to dance and was pretty good at it but, there is a difference between being interested in something and having a passion for something," he told WOAHI during an interview.

The things he found himself not passionate about eventually fell off and striped themselves down to just visual arts.

Growing up, people would always advice

Von to have a “plan B”, but he knew from the beginning that it would not be necessary because his first option was not going to fail him.

“My path is not going to change, it’s just gonna keep getting stronger,” he declares.

As his passion grew stronger, and he perfected his craft, Von was able to be a part of some very monumental moments for Barbados. Back in August 2020, he was able to pay tribute to the proclaimed king of Barbados’ indigenous Spouge genre Jackie Opel, with his creativity.

This was by way of a commissioned monument to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Opel’s death. Opel died in a car crash on Bay Street, The City on March 9, 1970.

In Von’s eyes, his and Opel’s journeys were very similar. Opel was a very popular Barbadian singer who had a powerful voice, and was not only credited with creating Spouge but served as an inspiration for many Jamaican reggae stars, namely Bob Marley and the Wailers back in the 1960’s. Von saw Opel as an artist and someone that was pushing his craft. So even though he never met him, he was able to associate with certain things and that built a



connection between him and his creation of the Jackie Opel impression.

Von was also given the opportunity to create a mural for the Samuel Jackman Institute of Technology in honour of their 50th anniversary. He stated that this opportunity was a delight for him as it was a way to open Barbados to a greater form of expression in terms of scale, concept and moving forward.

When it comes to creating his unique pieces, Von’s secret is that he is as free spirited as possible.

“I try not to have a strict plan because sometimes you are only as good as your plan, and that can be a bit rigid, but if you allow yourself to open up, be free and explore you may see that you can learn even more,” he maintained.

Each process is a learning experience and that is the path he is on to increase his knowledge and skill set based on materials he would use.

Von, is part of a group of four young men who launched their art event, Pmsplash. This event premieres the Caribbean’s Fine and Modern Art and their mission is to drive the forces of art in Barbados and beyond.

Von adds: “Even though it’s four men and

we are the face of it, Pmsplash is really an open platform for creatives to come together in a place where art can be for everyone”.

This event has been in existence for about four years and they were able to develop a culture in Barbados where art is no longer seen as a hobby but as entertainment.

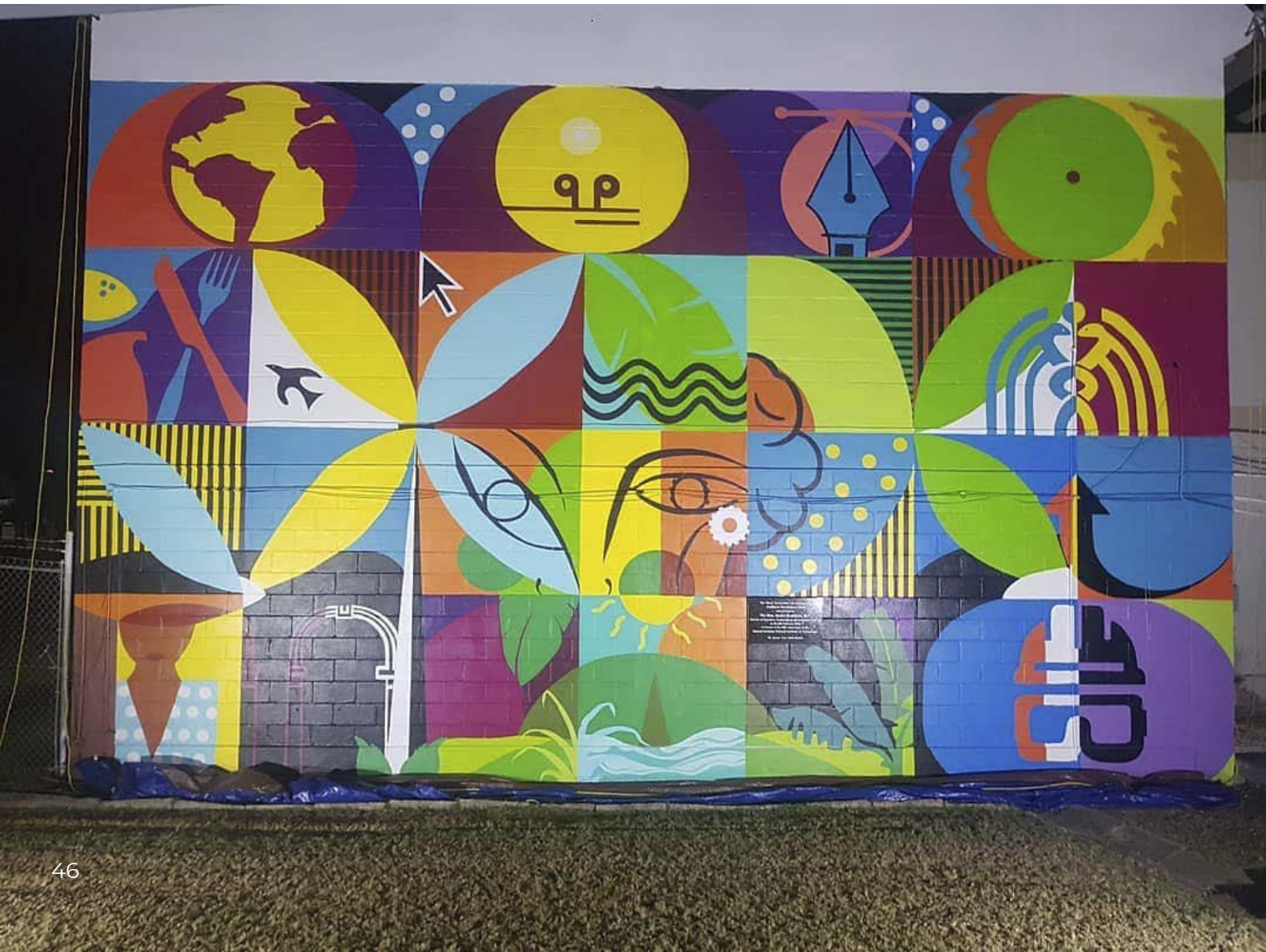
Pmsplash has also evolved into a cultural and sold out event where people converge to see work being created, as opposed to just seeing it on the walls. By doing this, the team is able to have people more in tuned with the arts, the learning process so as to build their appreciation for it. Not only do they showcase visual art, the team also incorporates other art forms in that process such: as fashion, music, dance, fire breathing and deejaying, etc.

When Von is not creating art, this visual artist still finds time to indulge in his many video games at home.

“I love video games hands down. . . . I’m a gamer in the hard-core sense of it.”

Gaming is a huge part of his life and it is very important to him. At the Pmsplash art studio on the south coast, the team also has a set up for gaming, where they game and do work at the same time. They often have their gaming competitions among themselves, and as he put it, “It does get real serious, real fast.”

Moving forward, Von tells WOA! That he and the Pmsplash team want to venture out and open up another art gallery studio with a fully functioning bar on the south. The idea behind it is to have a formal event where people can go to bid on work, watch performers, and enjoy the “jazzy” vibe. This event is going to be by invite only, but the Pmsplash experience which premieres the Caribbean’s fine and modern art here in Barbados, will remain for everyone, because as their Pmsplash slogan states **“Art is for everyone”**.





WOAH! Media Productions is a multimedia productions company registered as a Sole Trader with Corporate Affairs under the business No. 47983. The company is owned by its principal investor and operator, Andre Craig.

MOTTO: TO CAPTIVATE AND STIMULATE BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

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WOAH! Media Productions is in the business of offering multimedia services in the Entertainment Industry on a wide platform base:

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Mobile Media
Event & Planning
Sponsorship Packaging & Sales

Advertising Space Sales on Our Digital Platforms
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The Magnificent Harrison's Cave

by Andre Craig | Editor in Chief

Signature Tram Tour

Barbados' greatest wonder – Harrison's Cave, can be found in the central uplands of the island. This breathtakingly beautiful, limestone cavern is truly a testament to nature's mastery. The one-hour tour takes you on a journey by tram through the cave past streams, waterfalls, crystal clear pools and towering columns. As you gaze in wonder at the flowstone and the crystalized stalactites and stalagmites which adorn the cave, you will be awed by this ultimate underground experience.

Eco-Adventure Tour

The Eco-Adventure Tour experience is perfect for adventure enthusiasts. Visitors trek along the surrounding nature trails

before embarking on this underground exploration, in some cases on hands and knees, crawling through the caverns as the early explorers did. They get an intimate look at the cave's formations and venture to breath-taking points not seen on any other Cave tour. Bottled water and an energy bar are provided. **Requirements: Change of clothing, towel, toiletries, soft wear, or hiking shoes.**

Walk-in Cave Tour

The Walk-in tour experience gives visitors the opportunity to trek along the tram path getting a closer look at the cave's formations in small groups of guided tours. Requirements: No slippers/sandals or open toe footwear. Soft wear or hiking shoes.

This tour takes guests from the grounds of Harrison's Cave on an exploration by foot through Jack in the Box Gully which lies in the central uplands of the island, learning about the abundance of flora and fauna and their medicinal values. Apart from the seeing the various plants you are sure catch a glimpse of the green monkey. This off the beaten path experience does require a moderate level of fitness. Our guides provide an entertaining yet educational insight into Barbados' natural heritage, highlighting the importance of the gully system in the development of our island. Bottled water and an energy bar are provided. **Requirements: Soft wear or hiking boots, comfortable clothing, sun screen and hat if preferred.**

UNEARTH THE LOVE WEDDINGS AT HARRISON'S CAVE

Harrison's Cave is one of Barbados' newest wedding venues, catering to both locals and visitors alike. Our unique venue provides the backdrop for a memorable and unforgettable occasion. Whether it is an intimate gathering, or a more elaborate affair, there are a few location options around the grounds that can be used to create the perfect setting for the exchange of marital vows. Located in the central uplands of the island, couples have the option of reciting their vows on the Amphi-theatre, surrounded by well manicured lawns and lush vegetation, or have a breathtakingly unique experience in the Crystal Room of the cave, with the sound of cascading water in the background.

Couples may choose to have either the ceremony or reception with us or certainly may opt to have everything here at one location. Our experienced events team is available to assist with all aspects of planning for the big day and we work closely with several wedding planners and service providers on island to ensure the couple's dreams are realised.

Our in-house caterer offers several delightful food and beverage package options, or they are happy to work with the couple to customize a menu tailored to their specifications.



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