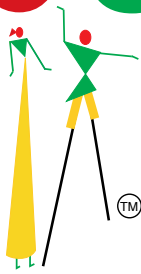
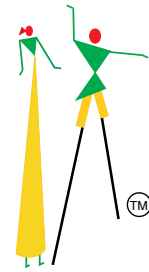


# GUYANA FOLK AND CULTURE



## Letter from the Editor

### NY PREMIERE OF FILMS PRODUCED BY GUYANESE FILM MAKERS

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York is proud to welcome Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Director of the Center of Communications Studies, in the University of Guyana, and a team of filmmakers.

Our board members would like to congratulate CineGuyana as they premier eight inspiring and thought-provoking narrative films, in collaboration with GCA's 10th Folk Festival Anniversary celebrations.

Films such as, Luck Beat Handsome, Three Cards, and The Back Yard, are just three of a category of short-length documentaries and Videos that will showcase the talents of students in the mass-communications program at the University of Guyana. We salute these students, and wish them every success in their careers.

As our celebrations kicks into high gear, we would like to thank you our patrons for supporting us over the past ten years. And to you our new friends, thanks for joining our Face Book group. We feel honored that you have made the same commitment to keep our cultural and heritage alive in North America.

It is hard to believe that this is the sixth issue of our Newsletter. We are delighted that you have taken the time to give us such positive feedback. We will continue to inspire you, and captivate you with our articles and images of our diverse cultural heritage.

Don't forget, take along a Palm Card, and join us for the rest of our rousing events in Brooklyn. Log on to [www.guyfolkfest.org](http://www.guyfolkfest.org) for more information and updates.

Thank you.

*Tangerine Clarke*



GCA Summer Heritage Campers singing "Small Days" at Camp Finale.  
Viewing the art from the Guyana Diaspora at the Art Exhibition.



## "Aal bady, Waan Bady"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011  
SUNY/EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE  
177 LIVINGSTON STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201  
6TH FLOOR 9.00 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.

# 2011 GCA SYMPOSIUM

## "ARRIVALS, ENCOUNTERS, AND EXCHANGE"

The theme for the 10th anniversary of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York and the Guyana Folk Festival is "Aal bady, Waan bady." The goal is to explore the on-going process of (aal bady) becoming (waan bady)—Guyanese.

The symposium, scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2011 at SUNY/Empire State College, 177 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 contributes to that goal by examining contemporary ideas about the cultural similarities, common experiences, and traditions of solidarity and friendship that have developed in Guyana over the past 350 years. The theme for the 2011 symposium is "Arrivals, Encounters, and Exchange."

The 2011 symposium will feature paper presentations, panel discussions, performances, and a parallel video festival. Among the participants are:

### PAPER PRESENTATIONS:

**Dr. Frank Birbalsingh:** "Guyanese literature—Rooplall Monar."

**Dr. Vibert Cambridge:** "Music and the early 20th century Guyanese diaspora in Harlem, NY."

John Criswick: "Cumfa."

**Dr. Walter Edwards:** "Linguistic and sociolinguistics characteristics of Guyanese chutney lyrics."

**Alan Fenty:** "A Plate-a-Guyana Cook-up."

**Carl Hazlewood:** "A possible integrative function of the visual arts of Guyana."

**Harry Hergash:** "Indian-Guyanese words and phrases—arrivals, adaptations, obsolescence."

**Dr. Paloma Mohamed:** "The Creole (1842-1907): Guyana's 2nd Black newspaper."

**Henry Mootoo:** "Transcending Actuality:

The Yard in December."

**Cynthia Nelson:** "Blogging and gaffing: Guyanese food, Guyanese identity formation & digital media."

**Gillian Richards-Greaves:** "Negotiating African Guyanese ethnic identities through Kweh Kweh ritual dance."

**Desmond Roberts:** Transnationalism and retention: The Indo-Guyanese community in New York City.

**Rohan Sagar:** "A visit to my neighbors—4000 years later."

**Romesh Singh:** "Division of labor among Guyanese and Trinidadian Obeah practitioners: A social perspective."

**Rampersaud Tiwari:** "My elders & the Non Pariel Uprising of 13 October 1896."

### PERFORMANCES

Performances are expected from:

**Ken Corsbie-** on being a Guyanese in a new land.

**Terry Gajraj-** on Indian Guyanese folk music  
**The Mighty Rebel-** on political calypsos-1982-2006.

### VIDEO FESTIVAL

Among the productions to be presented are:

**Errol Brewster's: Flambeau.**

**Kean Gibson: Cumfa:** A month for the entertainment of spirits

**Kean Gibson: Kwe Kwe:** African Guyanese dance traditions

**Ingrid Griffith:** Rough cut of new film- **A Potter-Griffith Family Reunion.**

**North West Organics:** Cassava—Our Culture, Our Life.

**Ray Seales: Afro-Guyanese Church service** on East Bank Demerara.

Efforts will be made to use the Internet to facilitate participation by Guyanese at home and in the diaspora.

**We look forward to seeing you at  
the 10th Anniversary Symposium  
Saturday, September 3, 2011 9:00 a.m.**

**SUNY/Empire State College,**

177 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

6th Floor

Aal bady, Waan bady

*Vibert Cambridge*



**FOLK FEST FAMILY DAY****DANCE****SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2011****MEYER LEVIN SCHOOL GROUNDS**

5908 BEVERLY RD., BROOKLYN, NY 11203

ENTRANCE ON RALPH AVE. (BET. BEVERLY &amp; TILDEN)

11.00 A.M. - 8.00 P.M.

**CLASSIQUE DANCE  
COMPANY RETURNS TO  
FOLK FESTIVAL FAMILY  
DAY STAGE**

EXCITING NEW PIECES  
SHOWCASING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF  
GUYANA'S CULTURE & HERITAGE

**ALSO TO  
PERFORM  
AT  
WEST  
INDIAN DAY  
CARNIVAL  
DIMANCHE  
GRAS  
SHOW**

**FAREWELL  
SHOW**

WEDNESDAY  
SEPT 7,  
ST. STEPHEN'S  
AUDITORIUM  
2806 NEWKIRK  
AVE & E28 ST.  
7.00 P.M.

**G**uyana Folk Festival 2011 is proud to present the return of Classique Dance Company of Guyana to the stage at Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 4, 2011.

The performance will feature bodies swathed in radiant colors, against muted backgrounds with graceful lifts and finger-snapping sass. Their New York repertoire will include fast-paced, joyous pieces followed by the slow, measured steps of softer performances.

Clive Powell, choreographer and artistic director hopes Classique's performances at this year's Folk Festival will bring artistic enjoyment and a cultural experience to dance lovers.

## ART EXHIBITION CONTINUES

AUGUST 14 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

**FiveMyles Gallery**

558 St. Johns Place,  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

# ART EXHIBITION

## Contemporary Expressions ART FROM THE GUYANA DIASPORA

The show includes Frank Bowling, R.A., O.B.E., Stanley Greaves, Bernadette Persaud, Andrew Lyght, Philip Moore, Dudley Charles, Damali Abrams, Victor Davson, Arlington Weithers, Carl Anderson and Gregory A. Henry. Collectively, these artists are in Museum collections across the world, including the Metropolitan Museum, NY, the Tate Gallery, London, as well as the National Collection of Art in Guyana.

According to curator, Carl E. Hazlewood, co-founder of Aljira Center For Contemporary Art.

"Sponsoring an exhibit of sophisticated art such as this one is just one way The GCA of New York continues to share its major objective: to Preserve, Promote and Propagate Guyanese Creativity. Poetry, literature, and visual arts are portable means of taking essential cultural values along with us wherever we happen to go. The arts allow us to dream in metaphor; allow us to traverse the subtle and concrete territories of a shared history."

The exhibition runs through September 3rd 2011.

*Carl Hazlewood*



*First pic: Makeda Levine with Frank Bowling painting.*

*Second pic: Artist and photographer, Dianne Arndt with Carl Hazlewood*

*Third pic: Art collector Valerie Coddett takes in the exhibition (picture credit: Jamaal Levine)*





## TOUR OF HISTORIC BROWNSTONE & ART GALLERY

**INTERESTED IN GUYANESE ART,  
INTERIOR DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE ?**

### **YOU'RE INVITED TO TOUR**

THE HOME OF TIMOTHY GRIFFITH  
111 MacDONOUGH STREET, STUYVESANT  
HEIGHTS HISTORIC BROOKLYN DISTRICT



Guyanese art are invited to visit the home of Timothy T. Griffith, Located on 111 Macdonough Street, in the Stuyvesant Heights Historic district of Brooklyn.

Mr. Griffith, who received a first in category, Landmark Commission of the year Award, for Brownstone Facade Restoration, has done a careful and detailed enhancement of his elegant home. He has filled it with a growing collection of excellent contemporary art, which features mainly artists of Guyanese heritage. These include major work in all media by artists such as the late Donald Locke, British based, Frank Bowling, R.A., O.B.E.,



*Picture credit Carl Hazlewood*

The Guyana Cultural Association of New York presents a special event in association with CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS: ART FROM THE GUYANA DIASPORA, the ongoing exhibition of Guyanese art, currently on view at FiveMyles in Brooklyn.

Timothy T. Griffith, the Guyana-born collector and facilitator of the arts, is opening up his renovated 1872 Brownstone to visitors.

### **Dates and Time:**

**Saturday August 20th, 2011 - 1.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**Saturday, August 27, 2011 - 1.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

Days between Aug 20 and August 27  
are by appointment only. Call 917-848-7735 now.

Those interested in interior design, architecture and

Arlington Weathers, Andrew Lyght, Dudley Charles, and others. This house tour is an excellent compliment to the GCA exhibition currently on view at FiveMyles gallery.

Mr. Griffith is concerned with the presentation and preservation of Guyanese art, along with the archives of material related to it. As part of promoting Guyana art he has begun to place work in museum collections for exhibition and study. A Donald Locke sculpture was recently donated to the Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Georgia. The tour presents painting, sculpture, and ceramics in an atmosphere of refinement and respect; it demonstrates a model of commitment for those interested in studying, and supporting the art and artists from the Guyanese-American community.

**Please call 917-848-7735 now,  
if interested in taking the tour.**

## DVD

MASTER WORKS/  
RECENT WORKS**DONALD  
LOCKE**TALKS ABOUT HIS LARGE  
SCALE DRAWINGS AND  
MIXED MEDIA SCULPTURE

In celebration of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York's 10th Anniversary, we are offering a DVD featuring the late Guyanese artist, Donald Locke, who is being honored

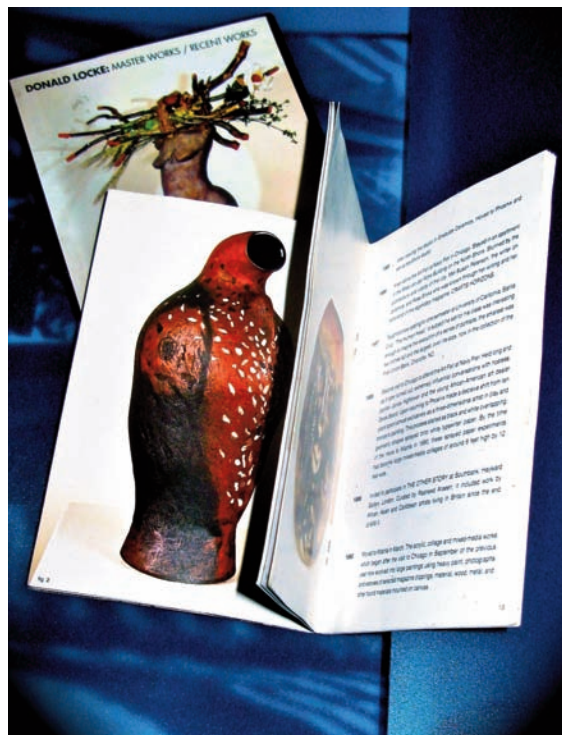
this year by the organization.

All proceeds from sales will benefit the GCA.

Published and donated by collector, Timothy T. Griffith, the DVD package includes a booklet with a brief introduction and an illustrated cronology written by Carl E. Hazlewood. The publication documents Locke's art and life. Born in the village of Stewartville, Guyana, Donald Locke first studied with E.R. Burrowes in Georgetown, Guyana, before attending graduate school in the UK. From London, he moved to the US on a Guggenheim Fellowship and eventually settled in Atlanta, Georgia. His work in painting, sculpture, and mixed media ceramics is in collections around the world including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and Guyana's National Collection at Castellani House.

The DVD is available at a suggested price of \$20. All proceeds go to the Guyana Cultural Association of New York.

*Carl Hazlewood*



**THE B G GROUP**  
ART TALK SERIES  
VOLUME 1

**\$20.**

AVAILABLE  
FOR SALE AT  
ALL 2011  
FOLK  
FESTIVAL  
EVENTS

TO ORDER:  
718 209 5207



# STANDING OVATION FOR GCA SUMMER HERITAGE CAMP STUDENTS AT FINAL PRESENTATION

PARENTS, FRIENDS LOUD  
IN PRAISE OF CAMP

COUNCILMEMBER  
MATHIEU EUGENE  
APPLAUDS GCA FOR  
COMMITMENT TO  
YOUTH AND THE  
COMMUNITY.  
PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR  
FUTURE CAMPS

THE PICTURES TELL  
THE STORY

*Top: Some of the Campers and  
Summer Camp volunteer staff pose  
with Councilmember Mathieu  
Eugene.*

*The “Baby Campers” go through  
their routine to the “Caribbean  
Basket Dance” choreographed by  
Verna Walcott-White*

*Ms Parris, volunteer camp teacher,  
with masks done by campers in the  
arts and craft workshop.*

*The Caribbean “Stick Dance” choreo-  
graphed by Wayne Daniels*

*Arts & Crafts made by the campers*

*( picture credit:Tangerine Clarke)*



## KWE KWE NITE

SEPTEMBER 2, 2011 - 8.00 P.M.  
ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH AUDITORIUM  
2806 NEWKIRK & E.28 STS. BKLYN, NY 11226

# KEEPING UP THE TRADITION

## MENES DE GRIOT TALKS QUE QUEH...

*Tangerine Clarke*



*Menes De Griot demonstrating Kwe Kwe steps*

## CALLING ALL BRIDES & BRIDEGROOMS COME SHOW WE YUH SCIUNCE!

The spirited rhythms of the drums and the merriment the night before a Guyanese couple is wed, is a years old tradition that has been a part of the African heritage for centuries. Kwe Kwe, one of the annual Folk Festival events for the past six years, has grown in popularity to bring Guyanese from around the globe in droves to be a part of its demonstration.

As the festival prepares to host another Kwe Kwe night, on Friday, September 3, at the St. Stephens Church Auditorium, Newkirk and East 28th Street location in Brooklyn, we invited Master Drummer, and the keeper of Guyanese traditions, Menes DeGriot, to give us his take on the Kwe Kwe tradition.

Guyanese tradition to the South Africa culture that begins with a libation ceremony, where water is poured to the ground to honor the Ancestors. The ceremony he said, depending on the extent of the festivities, Kwe Kew could last for one whole week.

The man's family would sing and dance as they make their way to the gate of girl's family with a bunch of flowers, while waving palm tree leaves. They would also bring food items. For example, a bag of rice, a goat, chicken, which would be cooked on a bon-fire in the yard of the groom's family, where the tradition is, the groom's family pays the bride. Where as in the Indian tradition, the emphasis is place on the man, and

Menes, who is a one of the pre-eminent Kwe Kwe purveyors in the Diaspora, said almost every culture around the world celebrates a pre-marriage ceremony, but he traces the

the girl's family pays the dowry.

Menes explains that while the pot cooks, the villagers as customary, would be dressed in African traditional wear or anything that would reflect their ancestry. Beginning at mid night the group would dance and sing as the drums are played. During the ceremony the bride would be hoisted in the air as a significance to her being the foundation of the family and being respected at all times.

During the celebration, the night before the marriage ceremony, a white sheet drapes the bride, symbolic of her virginity. Kwe kwe, known to provoke stirring body movement to the rhythms of the drumbeats, said Menes "teaches prospective brides how to please their groom to bring forth children, which is the custom in the African tradition." According to him, "even though a marriage takes place, in some cultures it is not fully consummated until a child is produced."

Songs like "Come to my Kwe Kwe", "Show Me Ya Science", and many others evoke the steep tradition buried in the Guyanese culture.

*Menes De Griot can be contacted at 347-488-5010 for all Kwe Kwe ceremonies, funerals and birthday occasions.*



# CHESTER GOES TO AFRICA

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In this exciting read, everyone will follow Chester, the field mouse who longs for the

countryside that had been destroyed for the building of a city, as he embarks on a journey

to Africa. Chester goes to Africa to find clean, wide open spaces with lakes, mountains and

fields. Readers can join him on an adventure of a lifetime as he faces with many fierce

animals that frequent the African landscape. Using his drum that he learned to play in the

city that he left, Chester seeks to befriend these fierce animals with

his music. But will he be

able to find friendship in his new environment? Read to find out.

A beautiful story of adventure, friendship, and the environment, Chester goes to Africa is

brightly colored, wonderfully written, and beautifully illustrated book. If you've ever wanted to find a way to expose your kids to different cultures this book is the perfect fit! BUY THIS BOOK TODAY! I promise you and your kids won't be disappointed.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leyland Hazlewood is an interna-

tional marketing and project development specialist and diplomat. He has been a corporate CEO, lecturer in economics at Baruch College, NY, an executive member of the Board of Trustees for Early Steps, an organization devoted to

promoting diversity in New York City's independent schools and also Board of Trustees, St

Marks College, South Africa. Hazlewood has also produced two editions of "The Green Toys

Directory", a comprehensive guide to green and eco-friendly toys and games. His consulting

activities involving human development, the environment and business have been

transformational in many countries over the span of three decades..



Leyland Hazlewood making a presentation at the 201 annual GCA Literary Hang in June.

# REMEMBERING TWO LEGENDS OF OUR TIME

Wordsworth McAndrew - "Mac"

Monica Choppoerfield - "Lady Guymine"

*Tangerine Clarke*

As the Annual Guyana Folk Festival commemorates its 10th Anniversary, let's take a brief look back, and say thank

trade, a product of the times during the 60s and 70s, wanting the freedom that an artist expected for full creativity. "He dressed differently but appropriately – his way - with dashiki and sandals."

Mac spoke English, and also in a manner that most Guyanese would understand known as – creoles. Most radio listeners would tune in to Mac's Creole Meche Meche. He expounded as a folklorist bringing to the fore many of the charm of storytelling and pride in Guyanese everyday language and mythology, said Girdhari.

"Wordsworth's acting prowess should not go unnoticed. He was active in Theatre Guild, and he is well remembered in Sheik Sadeike's play Porkknockers", said Girdharri.

Mac's exceptional work transcended many generations, and inspired the Guyana Cultural Association in 2002, to inaugurate the Wordsworth McAndrew Awards, a tribute that MacAndrew witnessed.

Mac became a fixture at the Annual Folk Festival, but due to failing health, he, because of a recluse and died in April 2008.

I remember writing – "The curtain came down on a once powerful cultural genius that many called a pioneer of Guyanese folklore, a national treasure. Wordsworth A. McAndrew, a man who lived his life as an active cultural ambassador for over 50 years, stayed still for the first time.

you to cultural legends Wordsworth McAndrew and Monica Choppoerfield, who made significant contributions during GCA's decade of celebrations, and to Guyana's culture as a whole.

Mac and Lady Guymine were outstanding Guyanese. They were in a class by themselves. Ask anyone, and they will tell you that these luminaries were pioneering geniuses who for decades, transfixed audiences with moving presentations, in their own unique way.

Mac's passionate poem Ole' Higue, became a centerpiece at every production, and won the 2000 Commonwealth short Story Competition. His vast body of work included radio serials, writings, and words he coined, can never be duplicated.

Affectionately called Mac, this scholar of life lessons, was an outspoken champion for Guyanese culture. Dr. Vibert Cambridge wrote "For almost five decades McAndrew was an unyielding advocate for the collection, preservation, and celebration of Guyanese life."

Harry Girdhari, a neighbor and fan, hailed Mac as an original in the conduct of his

Wordsworth  
McAndrew and  
Monica  
Choppoerfield  
"Lady Guymine  
at GCA Awards  
Ceremony"



*“Granny Fit,  
Granny Fit,  
Granny Fit,  
Fit, Fit”*



Monica Chopperfield who was known as Lady Monica, Lady Guybau and Lady Guymine was defined by her charming stage presence, wit and effervescence. She was a calypso and cultural powerhouse. Popularly known as “Granny Fit”, after one of her hugely popular hits, Chopperfield’s career skyrocketed after a modest start at the then Olympic Cinema on Lambert Street in Georgetown.

Lady Guymine took the Caribbean by storm, performing with giants like the Lord Canary, Lord Inventor, the Mighty Sparrow, Sam Chase and Jack Mello, and the Syncopators Band, where she performed as one of two lead innovative jazz and swing vocalists. She left an indelible mark wherever she performed.

In 2003, Lady Guymine created a stir during her first performance at the Annual Folk Festival, when it was held at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum. “Granny fit” took to the stage and revved up the crowd with fitness antics, and stirring vocals that attracted a new fan base. After performing for many years with promoters Howard McLeod and Les Slater at the Brooklyn Mother’s Day concerts, Lady Guymine dropped out of sight after a hospitalized illness, and like Mac, faded away from public life.

But with the support of the GCA, Lady Guymine took a final bow in September 2008, at a benefit concert in Brooklyn, where she joined her old calypso colleagues for an emotion, invigorating presentation that got Lady Guymine on her feet for a ‘Granny Fit’ moment.

Sadly, not long after Lady Guymine’s return to her home in Guyana, she passed away, leaving behind a powerful legacy of great entertainment.

## OL' HIGUE

by Wordsworth McAndrew

*Ol' woman wid de wrinkled skin,  
Leb de ol' bigue wuk begin.  
Put on you fiery disguise,  
Ol' woman wid de weary eyes  
Shed you swizzly skin.  
Ball o' fire, raise up high  
Raise up till you touch de sky.  
Land 'pon top somebody roof  
Tr'ipse in through de keyhole - poof!  
Open you ol' bigue eye.  
Find de baby where 'e lie  
Change back faster than de eye.  
Find de baby, lif de sheet,  
Mek de puncture wid you teet',  
Suck de baby dry.  
Before 'e wake an' start to cry  
Change back fast, an' out you fly.  
Find de goobie wid you skin  
Mek de semidodge, then - in!  
Grin you ol' bigue grin.  
In you dutty powder gown  
Next day schoolchildren flock you round.  
"Ol' bigue, ol' bigue!" dey hollerin' out  
Tek it easy, hold you mout'  
Doan leb dem find you out.  
Dey gwine mark up wid a chalk  
Everywhere wheb you got to walk  
You bridge, you door; you jealousy  
But cross de marks an' leb dem see  
Else dey might spread de talk.  
Fly across dis window sill,  
Why dis baby lyin' so still?  
Lif' de sheet like how you does do,  
Oh God! Dis baby nightgown blue!  
Run fo' de window sill!  
Woman you gwine run or not?  
Doan mind de rice near to de cot.  
De smel l o' asafoetida  
Like um tek effect 'pon you.  
You wan' get kyetch or what?  
But now is too late for advice,  
'Cause you done start to count de rice*

*continued on page 18*

# GUYANESE FILM MAKERS, ACTORS FOR NEW YORK PREMIERE SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011-4.00 P.M.

**BILLIE HOLIDAY THEATRE AT RESTORATION PLAZA**

The Guyana Cultural Association Film & Video Festival will on Sunday, August 21, 2011 premiere eight new short films produced in Guyana by Guyanese film makers. The screening at the Billie Holiday Theatre at Restoration Plaza on Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, will start at 4.00 p.m.

The films which range in length from 12 minutes to 20 minutes are on varied themes from love to loss and back again. The films are also of various styles ranging from pseudo-horror ( Bunny Alves- The Encounter starring Jennifer Thomas ), to fable ( Smolana Varswyk's " The Bottle, starring Henry Rodney" ), to tragedy ( Shaudel Philips – Hope, starring Lisa Punch or Kojo Mcpheson's Beached starring Leslyn ), comedy ( Errol Chan's Luck Beat Handsome starring Sheldon Braithwaite or Denise Harris' Backyard starring Tenica Defreitas) or drama ( Tradition starring Lavonne George)

#### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS & DIRECTORS:

**Dr. Paloma Mohamed,  
Executive Producer**

Dr. Paloma Mohamed is a social scientist by training and an artist by practice. She is an award winning poet, essayist, playwright and director has

written several books including, 'Con-  
doned by Our Silence: Issues Impacting  
the Abuse of Children in Guyana,  
(UNICEF, 2000)'; 'Caribbean Mythology  
and Modern Life: 5 One Act Plays  
for Young People ( The Majority Press  
and UNESCO, 2004)'; "Song" ( 200)  
and "Com Fiah" ( 1998) and " Commu-  
nicative Power and Social Change in  
the Caribbean" (Hansib, London,  
2011). Mohamed has also published  
articles on communications and social  
change in academic journals such as  
"The Journal of Caribbean Studies".

Paloma Mohamed is currently  
Director of the Centre for Communi-  
cation Studies at the University of  
Guyana where she also teaches social  
psychology, television production and  
communications research.

She is also the Chairperson of the  
Theatre Guild of Guyana.

Mohamed is a three time winner of  
the Guyana Prize for Literature. She  
has won the several other awards for  
her work in the Theatre including a  
Cacique Lifetime awarded by Trinidad  
and Tobago. She was recently awarded  
a Presidential Medal of Service for her  
work in arts and education in Guyana.

**Brian Zahm, Co-Executive  
Producer** of CineGuyana 2011.

"Brian Zahm, M.F.A. has worked  
professionally in the film industry  
since 1994. His work as cinematog-  
rapher, director, producer, editor has  
been shown at film festivals, clubs,  
galleries, and on television the world  
over. He earned his MFA from Ohio  
University's School of Film. Brian  
first visited Guyana in 2010 as part of

team that worked with Guyanese  
students and professionals to produce  
Pepper Pot--an innovative documen-  
tary series for Guyanese television.  
He returned in March 2011 and  
directed the three (3) month training  
program on film making which  
resulted in the eight (8) features films  
made under the President's Film  
Endowment Project 2010--  
CineGuyana 2011."

#### THE BOTTLE

**Director: Smolana Varswyk,**  
is a 34 year old resident of the Essequi-  
bo Coast. She is a teacher at the Cot-  
ton Field Secondary School and moth-  
er of three lovely children. This is the  
first film that Varswyk has written and  
directed. This film is based on a tale of  
the legendary ' baccoo' told to her by  
her grandmother and mother.

**Producer: Crystal Stoll** - Born  
on the 5th of July, 1992 in Georgetown,  
Guyana to Sherlock Stoll and Olive  
Obermuller. The third of five children,  
she attended Annandale Secondary  
School where she became actively  
involved in Drama, Music and Dance.  
Crystal then ventured into the field of  
Public Communication at the Universi-  
ty of Guyana where she developed her  
skills through the various media of  
communication. Being a member of the  
President's Film Endowment, she  
gained her first experienced as a Pro-  
ducer for the short film "THE BOT-  
TLE". Ms. Stoll's greatest dream is to  
continue her work in the film industry,  
since her passion craves for creativity  
and satisfying the public with hard  
work and entertainment.

PRESENTATION BY  
DR. PALOMA  
MOHAMED,  
DIRECTOR, CENTER  
FOR COMMUNICATION  
STUDIES, UNIVERSITY  
OF GUYANA ON THE  
STORY BEHIND THE  
DRAMATIC  
DEVELOPMENT IN  
GUYANA FILM  
MAKING  
AND  
MR. LOUIS KILKEN-  
NY,  
FORMER DIRECTOR,  
GUYANA FILM  
CENTER



From Director Simolana Warswyl



# The **BOTTLE**





**BEACHED****Director: Kojo McPherson** -

His first writings were poetry and he also became involved in performing. He joined the Janus Young Writers' Guild and became a known face in performance poetry. He pursued a Degree in International Relations from UG. He wrote his first play in 2010 during a Playwriting Workshop, a part of the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival. 'BEACHED' is the first film he has written and directed. Kojo is also a photographer.

**Producer: Mosa Telford** - She was introduced to Theatre at a very tender age by attending plays at the National Cultural Centre with her family. She began by writing a few skits and poetry for the church she attended. She was also involved in a Youth Group called 'Youths with a Motive' headed by Mr. Eusi Kwayana. It was during this time that she wrote her first play called 'DREAM LESSON'. Most recently, she participated in a playwriting workshop headed by Dr. Paloma Mohammed during which she wrote a play called 'SHADOWS'. Though she had written a number of plays, it is the one that she is most proud of because of the craft she learnt while writing this play. This play was a part of the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival. 'BEACHED' is the first film she co-wrote and produced.

**THE ENCOUNTER****Writer/Director & Editor:**

**Bonny Alves** is regarded as the Pioneer in the rebirth of our local Music Industry, an effort that started in 1991 which saw the reintroduction of local recordings. Since then he has been a major contributor working with over 100 local & overseas artistes, producing & arranging over 700 recorded songs, producing radio & television commercials for some of the major companies, directed over 160 music videos, has 8 road march titles, produced 5 calypso monarchs, and has written, directed and co-produced 6 short movies, making this new movie his 7th. He has performed at the renowned Apollo Theatre in New York and to-date stands at the only Guyanese Composer & Arranger to have won an international song competi-

# GUYANESE FILM MAKERS, ACTORS FOR NEW YORK PREMIERE

tion His productions have been played on Radio & Television Stations in Guyana, the Caribbean, USA, Brazil, France, Malta, Norway, Costa Rica, England and Canada, the high point of which was the achievement of the Album "CONSCIOUSNESS 2" gaining No 1 Status in Guam KPRG 89.3FM and France Radio 99.2FM.

**Producer: Charmaine Blackman**

- has been singing for 21 years professionally and has contributed quite significantly in the development of music in Guyana. She has done more than 100 Radio & Television commercials for major companies, over 40 music videos and recorded over 300 songs, appeared on stage with the cream of crop of Caribbean & International Artistes such as Machael Montano, Beres Hammond, Alison Hinds and the Manhattans just to name a few. Ms. Blackman has performed in 23 countries, the high point being at the RINGBANG MILLENNIUM CONCERT in Tobago, televised by the BBC to 2.5 billion viewers around the world, headlined by Eddie Grant. Charmaine moved to another level by being the co-producer for the locally produced movies 'RIGHT CHOICES', 'KING OF DRUMS', and 'DECEPTION'. Her voice was also used in 2 locally produced animated short films.

**3 CARDS****Writer/Director: Michael**

**James** - Born in the village of Buxton on the East Coast of Demerara but grew up in Blue Berry Hill Wismar, Linden. As a song and play writer he has produced fourteen stage plays and numerous Gospel concerts. He has directed and produced four movies: "THE COAL POT SAGA", "OLE HOUSE PUN OLE HOUSE PARTS ONE & TWO" and most recently "TAN-TIMERLE AND SHE JUNKY".

**Assistant Director: Wadecia Devonni Donald** Wadecia is pursuing a degree in Communications Studies

at the University of Guyana, where numerous opportunities arose for her to harness her skills in television production. These skills she has been putting to good use by being a part of the CCS first independent school production titled 'Cellink Kidstage'. She is an avid dancer and aspiring social researcher.

**TRADITION****Director: Margaret Lawrence**

**A.A.,** Maggie Lawrence (as she is known to many) is an alumna of The Bishops High School and comes from a background of over thirty years in Broadcasting and the Performing Arts. In 1991 she received a National Award, The Golden Arrow of Achievement for Drama & Broadcasting. Ms. Lawrence was trained at The University of Guyana, Carimac, University of the West Indies and The BBC. She's also the recipient of the Prime Minister's Medal for Public Management (2000). She is the Executive Director of Merundoi Incorporated a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) specializing in behaviour change communication by utilizing drama and other media. Maggie has been trained in acting, writing & directing for Stage, Television, Film and Street (Forum) Theatre by the BBC, Theatre Guild, Trevor Rhone, Denis Scott, Dr. Malcolm Rodrigues, Al Creighton, Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Rebecca McCutcheon and Brian Zahm.

**Producer: Richard Pitman**

Richard Pitman is a scriptwriter at Merundoi, Incorporated for the past 5 years. He is pursuing a Diploma in Communication Studies at the University of Guyana. From news reporting, infomercials, public awareness campaigns to poetry, he has always had a creative way of writing to get the message across. Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Trevor Rhone, Rebecca McCutcheon and Brian Zahm are persons who have influenced his writing career so far.



## GCA 2011 FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

### HOPE

**Director/Writer: Shaundel Phillips** - Shaundel Phillips is a Guyanese schoolteacher for over 20 years. Ms. Phillips resides in Berbice and enjoys writing about issues reflecting her environment and experiences. Her love for drama and The Arts has led this mother of one to pioneer the teaching of Theatre Arts at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate level in Guyana. She has a passion for people and their way of life, which are issues reflected in the four plays she has written and staged locally. She enjoys challenges and eagerly anticipates doing what she knows best, which is, making a difference in a person's life.

### LUCK BEAT HANDSOME

**Errol Chan - Writer/Director** - Errol Chan has been writing, directing, performing and producing since 1994. In 1996 Chan directed the winning play which was performed by Bartica Secondary School at the first ever National Drama Festival. He then directed Guyana's play at the Caribbean School Drama Festival which was held in 1997. In 2005 Chan wrote and directed his first play 'SHATTERED' and has since written and directed several other plays such as 'FLAWED' 'INFLUENCE' and 'WHEN JASON RETURNED' to name a few. This is Errol Chan's first attempt at writing and directing a movie.

**Producer: Troy Azore** - Troy Azore has a career in The Arts that spans more than ten years. After starting his career as a singer, performing with one of Guyana's most popular reggae groups "First Born", Azore found a love for editing and video. He has since produced videos for some of Guyana's most recognised artistes like Fojo and Fire Clann. This is his first time producing a movie.

### BACKYARD:

**Director: Denise Harris** - now holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theology from the Caribbean School of Theology, and an Honour Certificate from Lever Brothers as a media coordinator, a profession that she has embraced in excess of thirty years.

Denise is the CEO of her own company 'Harris Art' and also serves as the Assistant Pastor of the Ruimveldt Life Improvement Centre (RLIC). Additionally, she is the wife of the Senior Pastor of RLIC and a loving mother of four children. She also directs music videos.

**Assistant Director/Screenwriter: Tiffany Vasquez** - From the age of five, Tiffany's passion has always been to write so it came as no surprise when she first started writing songs. Now, at age nineteen she is constantly following her dreams of a becoming a full fledged writer by pursuing studies at the University of Guyana. Tiffany is a Christian and a singer and her whole life revolves around The Arts. 🍏

## IN THIS ISSUE

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*Page 10: Legends*

*Editor-in-Chief -*  
*Tangerine Clarke*  
*Layout & Design -*  
*Ashton Franklin &*  
*Claire A. Goring*  
*Copy Editor- Edgar Henry*



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COME OUT  
AND SUPPORT  
THESE EVENTS

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF  
**QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF  
GUYANA & BISHOP'S  
HIGH SCHOOL**

### LABOR DAY SUNDAY JAM

SEPT 4, 2011

**ROSE GARDEN**

CPAC 1020 E.48 ST., BROOKLYN,  
NY (Off Farragut Road)

**X2 DUTCHIN & JOMO**

**NINJA BAND**

SHOWTIME: 1.00 A.M.

VIP Lounge - \$50.

ADMISSION - \$25.00

FOOD & DRINKS ON SALE

TICKETS:

347-232-8930

917 689 5129

917 692 8322

**PARBAMEL INC.**

### FUNDRAISING DANCE

**SPECIAL COVER ALL  
FOOD & RINKS FREE  
SATURDAY SEPT. 24, 2011  
9.00-2.30 A.M.**

**THE MC AULLEY HALL  
1377 BROOKLYN AVE  
(Bet. Newkirk & Foster Ave)  
\$40.00**

Entertainment by:

Yonette Hooper

Dave & Welch Crew

Tickets:

Penny Bascom-347-254-  
0607; Lynette Welsh: 718 287  
2389; Avril Hope: 718 235  
0718)

### GUYANA DAY PICNIC IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

12:00pm

Location:

**BAISLEY PARK**

Rockaway Blvd & Sutphin Ave

Sponsored by Guyanese  
Community Groups, includ-  
ing Corriverton, Enmore,  
Hampshire, New

Amsterdam,  
Georgetown,  
Essequibo.

**Walk with your picnic  
baskets, chairs, tables, tents, etc.**

For more information:

Call Chuck Mohan at  
917-697-8142

Harry Bissoon at  
718-776-5792

### LINDEN FUND FUNDRAISING LABOR DAY DANCE

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

**TROPICAL REFLECTIONS  
BALLROOM**

4501 Glenwood Rd  
(Corner E.45 ST)

10.00 p.m.

**\$20.00 donation**

### BARONIANS AND FRIENDS

### 21ST. ANNUAL FUND RAISING DANCE

TO BENEFIT THE BV COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MUSIC BY:

De Untouchables Band

D.J. Hannah's Supreme Sounds

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 27, 2011**

10.00 P.M. - 4.00 A.M.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT  
PROMOTED IN  
FUTURE GCA  
NEWSLETTERS:

Contact  
Tangerine  
Clarke at  
tcitrus@aol.com

# A Bakoo in Thailand

by: Derrick "John" Jeffrey

Across two oceans, seventeen international date lines and more than ten thousand miles away from Guyana you can find the Kingdom of Thailand, formally Siam. For those who are old enough to remember, it is just a place in a 1956 movie, *The King and I*, starring Yule Brynner. For me, it is a surrogate home for a number of reasons such as: The abundance of pine-apple, mangoes, psidium, douns, bora, karila, bread fruit and sorrel at prices reminiscent of Guyana 1960. This also comes with the added attraction of living in a developing country in tropical Southeast Asia. After a few years one gets accustomed to the humidity, rain, flooding, mosquitoes and gossiping neighbors.

Having avoided all of the depressing pit-falls I occupy myself by teaching English at a bilingual high school. It was during this episode two years ago when it all happened. Periodically during teaching I would punctuate my class with stories from my childhood days in British Guiana (Guyana)-- Masakuraman, Moongazer, Ole higue and other jumbie stories. It was during one of these sessions when I was relating the adventures of two Bakoos, Bai and Boise, which according to my aunt Mazie, were responsible for the disappearance of items or small amount of cash around the house including money she thought she hid under the oil-skin table cloth. After getting no reasonable answer from the children in the house she would conclude, with pot-spoon in one hand and after wiping her face with her food-stained apron, "Well, I guess Bai and Boise come in de house and tek it." According to aunt Mazie's husband, uncle Eustace, Bai and Boise were two spirit-like people not more than eighteen-inches tall that were once owned by a rich Asian man in Robb Street. The Bakoos were responsible for his wealth and obeyed his every command just as long as he kept them fed with milk and bananas. However, the owner of the Bakoos died and the Bakoos had to fend for themselves. So, in their invisible state they would go from place-to-place creating all kinds of mischief including stealing money.

As I unfolded the adventures of Bai and Boise to a class of high school seven-graders I noticed one of the female Thai teachers following my every word with intense interest.

When the session was over the Thai teacher came to me and wanted to know more about

desire, I could take you to my friend's house to see a real live Bakoo.

"Since I was knee high my parents warned me about Backos. I just don't feel comfortable going to a house knowing that here is a Bakoo inside. Thanks but no thanks."

Bakoos. I explained to her that I was only repeating what I heard when I was not more than ten-years old. I asked her why the interest in a folk tale that was spawned more than ten-thousand miles away. She told me that she had never heard the word Bakoo before and it sounded nice.

With the passage of time we both drifted apart and I was told that the female teacher who I was once a colleague of was not teaching at an international school in a province south of Bangkok. One holiday week end I was in a southern province and ran into the same teacher I spoke to about the Bakoo story. He remembered me and proceeded to remind me about Bai and Boise. With a smile on her face she said, "I got married eighteen months ago and I would like to show you my new house and would like you to meet my husband. He is from Australia."

I have never passed up a chance to make new acquaintances, shake hands and shot the breeze. My reply was, "Hey, I would be glad to meet your husband so I could wish you both success in your marriage."

Her smile got even bigger as she noticed that I was willing to go with her to the family home. As I climbed into the back seat of her car, she turned around and said, "By the way, I have a new born baby boy at home, his name is Bakoo."

"Stop, stop the car," I said.

With a surprised look on her face she asked what the matter was. Without showing any signs of worry I said, "Since I was knee high my parents warned me about Backos. I just don't feel comfortable going to a house knowing that here is a Bakoo inside. Thanks but no thanks." I came out of the car and headed for the safety of a crowded coffee shop.

If you ever come to Thailand and you so

## OL' HIGUE

by Wordsworth McAndrew

continued from page 11

*An' if you only drop one grain*

*You must begin it all again.*

*But you gwine count in vain.*

*Whub ah tell you?*

*Day done, light an' rice still mountin'*

*Till dey wake an' kyetch you countin'*

*An' pick u p de big fat*

*cabbage broom*

*An' beat you all around de room.*

*Is now you should start countin'*

*Whaxen! Whaxen! Whaxen! Plai!*

*You gwine pay fo' you sins befo' you die.*

*Lash she all across she head*

*You suck me baby till um dead?*

*Whaxen! Whaxen! Plai!*

*You feel de manicole 'cross you hip?*

*Beat she till blood start to drip.*

*"Ow me God! You bruk me hip!*

*Done now, nub? Allyou done!"*

*Is whub you sayin' deb, you witch?*

*Done? Look, allyou beat de bitch.*

*Whaxen! Whaxen! Pladai! Plai!*

*Die, you witch you. Die.*

*Whaxen! Whaxen! Plai!*



TEN YEARS  
CELEBRATING  
GUYANA'S  
CULTURAL HERITAGE

# **FOLK FESTIVAL**

## **2011**

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **GCA SUMMER HERITAGE CAMP**

Arts in the Community

**JULY 11-  
AUGUST 18, 2011**

**St. Stephen's Church  
Auditorium**

2806 Newkirk Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY

**REGISTRATION CLOSED  
TEL: 718 209 5207  
Website: [guyfolkfest.org](http://guyfolkfest.org)**

### **ART EXHIBITION**

CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSIONS  
"Art from the Guyana Diaspora"

**AUGUST 14 -  
SEPTEMBER 4 - 2011  
FiveMyles Gallery**

558 St. Johns Place,  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

### **FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL**

**NY PREMIERE OF 8 FILMS  
PRODUCED BY GUYANESE  
FILM MAKERS**

**AUG 21, 2011 -  
4.00 p.m.**

**The Billie Holiday Theatre  
at Restoration Plaza**

1368 Fulton Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11216

### **GCA AWARDS CEREMONY**

**AUGUST 31, 2011  
(By Invitation Only)**

**Brooklyn**

**Borough Hall**

209 Joralemon St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

**KWE KWE NITE  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2011**

**- 8.00 p.m.**

**St. Stephens Church  
Auditorium**

2806 Newkirk Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY

### **GCA SYMPOSIUM**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2011  
SUNY/Empire State  
College**

177 Livingston Street, 6th Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

### **FAMILY FUN DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2011**

**Meyer Levin School  
Grounds**

Ralph Avenue  
(Bet. Beverly-Tilden)  
Brooklyn, NY 11203

### **PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25,  
2011**

**C.L.R. James -  
"Minty Alley"**

**Meyer Levin  
Performing Arts  
School Auditorium**

Ralph Avenue  
(Bet. Beverly-Tilden)  
Brooklyn, NY 11203

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