

**DEATH OF A POET**  
Celebrated writer who  
defied apartheid in South  
Africa passes on



# NO, DONALD

Guyanese Eddy Grant wins  
lawsuit against Trump over  
use of Electric Avenue

## REMEMBERING ROY CAPE

One Music Legend pays  
tribute to another







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# Parang Time

## Parang History Month offers opportunity to bring visibility to traditional music

Parang has become closely associated with the joy and festivities of Christmas. Groups of musicians, known as parranderos, go from house to house, bringing entertainment to the community through lively singing and dancing, often accompanied by the sharing of food and drinks.

Parang History Month (September), spearheaded by the National Parang Association of Trinidad and Tobago (NPATT), has been growing in significance since its was launched as a public awareness initiative in 2018.

NPATT's public relations officer Joanne Briggs explained the celebration month was the brainchild of the association's current president, Alicia Jaggasar, who wanted to give the artform and its icons due recognition.

Briggs said, while the country's connection to its Spanish roots is evident through place names like San Fernando and San José, parang itself has not always had the platform it deserves. The association sought to change that by using the artform as a means to educate and

engage the public.

"We decided to use parang, being one of the artforms that emerged from our Hispanic heritage, to tell its history," Briggs said.

Parang History Month then became an opportunity to bring greater visibility to this traditional music.

"As soon as September reaches, you would hear new soca music because of Carnival preparations, which outweighed the intention of Christmas and parang. So, starting in September gives us a head start, like a precursor to the parang season," she said.

Taking the spotlight this year was Inside d Parang Band which is a deep dive into the stories behind the music.

"In these short snippets on our social media, we are giving you a window to peep in and see what parranderos do and what we are about."

This unique digital series gives fans an inside look into the bands, their style, influences, and contributions to the parang legacy. The initiative will spotlight the figures and bands

that have shaped the artform.

"Listeners will also learn about the parang icons who may have influenced particular bands," she added, emphasising the deep respect the community has for its pioneers.

The National Parang Association itself boasts a rich history, dating back to its founding in 1971 by Errol Mohammed, a parang aficionado. "He felt the need to bring many parang bands in the country under one umbrella organisation," Briggs recounted.

So why is parang so important to the culture of TT and how does it contribute to the national identity?

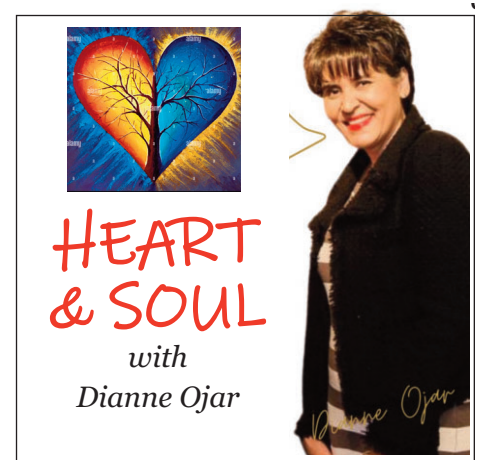
For many Trinidadians, parang is inseparable from the Christmas season.

"Parang is both an activity and music," Briggs said. She pointed out that parang plays a key role in preserving TT's heritage, helping to bridge the gap between English and Spanish. Its Spanish lyrics offer a practical way for young people to engage with the language, especially in a country with many Spanish-speaking students.



# My Hair-Loss Journey

## The Good, the Bad, and the Beauty



There have been days when all I could do was crawl back into bed, pulling the covers over my head to shut out the world. Losing my hair has been an emotional rollercoaster—one that I never imagined I would have to ride. It is not just about vanity; it is about identity, confidence, and facing a version of myself that I never thought I would encounter or share with another however here we are. This is my self-therapy and thank you for allowing me to share. If this resonates with you please do share.

Hair has always been a significant part of how I see myself and to be honest I never had thick full head of hair like my siblings due to a very young childhood illness. It was long fine and frizzy however, it has been my crown, my comfort, and, if I am being honest, a huge source of my confidence. So when I started losing it, I was hit with a wave of emotions. Some caught me off guard, some really shook me, and others made me rethink everything I thought I knew about beauty, strength, and self-worth.

### THE GOOD: UNEXPECTED SILVER LININGS

If someone had told me there was anything good about losing my hair, I would have rolled my eyes. But now, I can see there are a few unexpected upsides.

#### *Learning to Let Go*

Watching my hair fall out felt like I was losing a piece of myself. But as time went on, I realized it was about letting go of the idea that I needed hair to feel beautiful. Shedding those old beliefs actually made me feel lighter. I started to see that beauty is about so much more than what is on top of my head.

#### *Healthier Habits*

Losing my hair forced me to take a good, hard look at my lifestyle. I had to pay more attention to what I was eating, how stressed I was, and how well I was taking care of myself. Surprisingly, making those changes made me feel better from the inside out—no matter how much hair I had.

#### *Redefining Beauty*

Losing my hair made me confront the idea of beauty in a way I never had before. Without the hair I had always relied on, I was forced to look inward. I realized that beauty is something that radiates from within, something that comes from self-acceptance and confidence, not from a particular style or look.

### THE BAD: THE TOUGH STUFF

Let us be real—hair loss is hard. There were days when it felt like my confidence was disappearing along with my hair. Here are some of the toughest parts:

#### *Facing the Mirror*

There were mornings when I would avoid the mirror altogether. I just did not want to see what was happening. It was tough to watch something that had always been there start to vanish. I felt vulnerable, exposed, and honestly, not quite like myself.

#### *Worrying About the Why*

The hardest part was not knowing why it was happening. Was it just stress? Hormones? Something more serious? The uncertainty was terrifying, and the process of figuring it out was exhausting. And to make it worse, the medications I tried did not help at all. They were supposed to be the answer, but instead, they felt like another disappointment.

#### *Navigating Others' Reactions*

And then there were the comments. Some people meant well, but it often felt like they were more worried about my hair than I was. It made me realize just how much pressure society puts on looking a certain way, and that was a tough pill to swallow.

#### *Media and Camera Shyness*

Being in front of a camera has always made me a bit nervous, but losing my hair made it so much worse. I started dreading video calls, interviews—anything where I would be on display. The fear of how I looked became overwhelming, and it made me feel more self-conscious than ever.

### THE BEAUTY: FINDING STRENGTH IN THE STRUGGLE

But here is the thing—there is a kind of beauty that comes out of hard times. Not the kind you can see in a mirror, but the kind that grows from within.

#### *Rediscovering Myself*

Losing my hair made me dig deep and figure out what really makes me, me. I realized that my worth is not tied to my appearance, but to how I live, love, and show up in the world. That realization brought a kind of beauty that no amount of hair could ever give—or take away.

#### *Connecting with Others*

I found so much comfort in talking to others who were going through the same thing. Sharing stories, tips, and just being there for each other created a sense of connection I never expected. There is something truly beautiful about knowing you are not alone.

### EMBRACING MY RESILIENCE

In the end, losing my hair

showed me just how resilient I am. I have learned to face my fears, adapt, and find new ways to feel beautiful, confident, and strong. That is the kind of beauty that sticks with you, no matter what changes on the outside.

### TAKING CONTROL: MY NEXT STEPS

I have decided to take this situation into my own hands. The medications did not help, and I realized that I needed to find my own way forward. I am exploring new methods and techniques to manage and hopefully reverse my hair loss. It is still a journey, and I am learning as I go. At some point, I will share what I have discovered with you, but for now, know that I am committed to finding a solution that works for me.

#### *A Quick Disclosure*

Please keep in mind that everything I have shared is based on my personal experience. What works for one person may not work for another, and it is important to consult with a healthcare provider before making any major changes. I am not a medical professional, but I am someone who is navigating this experience with an open heart and an open mind. I hope that sharing my journey helps others feel a little less alone in theirs.

*For further details or to start your transformative journey, reach out to us at [info@TheExperientialCoach.com](mailto:info@TheExperientialCoach.com).*

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# Trini pride in Toronto



The Trinidad and Tobago consulate in Toronto joined in celebrating National Patriotism Month – August 31 (Independence Day) to September 24 (Republic Day) with a Trinbago Toronto Festival at Nathan Phillips Square on September 7 and 8.

Dubbed "the sweetest lime of the summer," it celebrated culture, history, and impact of the TT diaspora in Canada, said a media release from the consulate.

The event was co-presented by Visit Trinidad and Tobago Beyond and serves as an important platform for both agencies' outreach to the TT community in Canada. Other event partners included Caribbean Airlines Ltd, Carib Brewery and, for the first time, the National Carnival Commission (NCC), the release said.

Festival-goers were entertained by Mical Teja, Andre Donawa, and KI, who energised the crowd alongside traditional Carnival characters who participated courtesy of the NCC. Also pan music, tassa and African drumming, Indian and folk dance, limbo, chutney and a food-festival element added to the festivities.

Petronilla Marchan, founder and organiser of the festival through the Palo Seco Innovations Group was enthusiastic about the event's success.

"We're proud and excited by the festival's tremendous growth. It's an honour to host this year's event at Nathan Phillips Square, an iconic venue that truly reflects the significant contributions of our community to this city," she said in the release.

Acting consul general Tracey Ramsubagh-Mannette said in the release, "This event is a humble attempt to bring all of the things that make us extraordinary and exceptional into one space, for one weekend, in the heart of downtown Toronto, and to proudly tell the story of who we are, what we have created and how much we have given the world.

"We have been happy to support this event since 2022, since it is built on the belief that members of our diaspora are our most powerful and persuasive ambassadors, not just for our country's tourism product, but for all of our cultural and creative assets."

The Trinbago Toronto Festival supports the Caribbean Scholarship Foundation.



**Youngsters at left show off their Trini pride. Above Micel Teja performs his massive hit DNA for the crowd.**

*Photos courtesy Philip dos Santos and Jay Martins Mixed Media Co.*



## Curry in De Six

Congratulations to the winners and competitors of the One Love Duck Curry Competition 2024 at Curry in de Six.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who sponsored, participated, donated, volunteered, performed, vendored and attended!

The Champion is Jamila Habib in the middle and second is Bibi Husain on the left and third is Sue Ann Baksh-Lorray on the right.



# READY FOR CARNIVAL 2025

## After taking a break for fatherhood, Chutney King KI staging comeback

Carnival 2025 could see the return of popular chutney-soca artist KI and the Band 3veni participating in the festival with new music and even a few new faces.

Since becoming a father seven years ago, the Single Forever singer has been devoting more time to parenting.

"I haven't had the chance to come to Carnival for the last couple years with my new commitments, being a father and having to leave for long periods of time," KI (Kris Persad) said.

"We're definitely looking forward to coming back into the Carnival circuit in 2025 with new tracks and maybe a few new faces as well."

KI and his band are working on a few projects and also fulfilling an international touring schedule.

"We are continuing as we have been throughout the years. Touring both band and solo for sure, and yes, new records.

"Carnival is coming up and we're in that season mode now, so a lot of projects are being done simultaneously. Chutney soca, soca, and a mix of a few other genres.

"We do have a few projects...stepping out of the recording and performing that we'll make public soon but we're definitely venturing into different branches of the entertainment world as we have done in the past with promotions, radio, and mas."

As his art continues to bring him acclaim and accolades, the 2012 International Chutney Soca Monarch was recently honoured at the Trinbago Toronto Festival held on September 7 and 8 at the Nathan Philip Square in Toronto, Ontario.

He was recognised by Tracey Mannette, consul general of Trinidad and Tobago in Toronto, with a commendation that acknowledged his craft and his role as a dual citizen of TT and Canada.

Fans, who affectionately call KI the "king of the stage" for his energetic and seamless cross-over performances, were treated to an unforgettable show at the event. The co-owner of the band, 3veni, performed his chutney soca hits, including fan favourites Single Forever, KI Dance, Runaway, and Friends for the Night.

He also offered a special unplugged session during which he accompanied himself on the keyboard to classics like Sparrow's Jean and Dinah, Calypso Rose's Fire Fire, Stalin's Blackman Feeling to Party, and Chris Garcia's Chut-



**T&T Consul General Tracey Mannette presents Kris 'KI' Persad with an award**

ney Bacchanal, leading the audience in a sing-along tribute to TT's musical heritage.

During the event, KI who is from Barataria, paid homage to the late musical legend Roy Cape, a gesture that endeared him even further to the crowd.

Showcasing his versatility, he mixed in some popular soca hits as well, keeping the audience fully engaged.

In the spotlight for 14 years, after initially starting as the band's keyboard player, KI's journey has been marked by growth and success.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported him.

"Receiving this recognition is a priceless feeling and it is something I will hold close to my heart forever.

"I'm a proud Trini, born Trini, but of course spent a lot of my time sharing dual citizenship and growing up in Toronto. After all the years of hard work, countless hours and everything that went in, it's flattering to be acknowledged on behalf of my country of birth in the other country that has played a pivotal part in shaping who I

am today."

Asked if he ever imagined reaching this level of success, KI responded, "I've never really spent a lot of time thinking about how far I would reach career-wise, but more so just kept working and will continue to do so, with the ultimate goal being to continue rising and representing our people and culture as best as possible.

"I'm no doubt truly grateful, however, for making it this far. Every time I reach the top of the staircase and accomplish something new, it's almost as if I once again took the first step of a new and more challenging flight."

Reflecting on his career, KI said, "Hmm...I think I surprised myself winning that first Chutney Soca Monarch in 2012.

"Prior to that, we would be the backup band for all competitors throughout the years. We would joke that we would never have a chance to compete on these stages as we weren't singers. Then it just so happened we went down that road, and yeah, it happened. I couldn't believe it for a while (lol)!"





**A DANCE LEGACY:** Dance Caribe Performing Company celebrated their 35th Anniversary (1989-2024) with a spectacular performance titled *Danse - La Nuit Victwa*, led by Martin Scott-Pascal, showcasing the rich heritage of Caribbean Trinidad and Tobago culture. Held in North York, the event featured *The Frontline Drummer*, led by Roger Pascal, with

Henry Gomes and Earl La Pierre Jr., adding rhythmic brilliance to the performance alongside 21 dancers from the company and production designer Deborah Chang-Kit Minott. The celebration culminated in a Gala Awardee Dinner, honoring the company's legacy of bringing Caribbean Trinidad and Tobago culture to life.

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# REMEMBERING ROY CAPE

## Eddy Grant pays tribute to his 'brother-in-arms'

*EDDY GRANT is a Guyana-born, world-renowned musician and businessman who has had numerous hits, such as Electric Avenue and Do You Feel My Love.*

*He has had longstanding relationships with TT and Caribbean musicians around the globe.*

*Here is an excerpt from a tribute Grant pays to the late Roy Cape, whom he revered for his professionalism and his respect for Caribbean music and musicians. Cape died on September 5:*

No one comes from Nowhere. Meaning that likewise, everyone comes from Somewhere. This indicates that with the person, comes not only skin, flesh, bones but all the other material that enables the human person to stand as an effigy in our world. We are also given genetic, geographical and cultural location. Who you are is a weird mixture of these. All of them good and bad, as much as there are such definitions in truth.

I have been moved to write this appreciation for many reasons, as I have been taught that we should never let a great spirit pass without we, the people whom that spirit served, making a great noise to the Universe. We should cry out to our maker that the Book of Life should be checked, to make sure that there hasn't been a mistake of gargantuan proportions.

This brings me to my brother-in-arms Roy Francis "Roystan" "Pappy" Cape.

Now, in this time in the world of music, you can almost not call Roy's name without mentioning the name of Leroy Calliste, Black Stalin. These two people, though so different in their hue, were, for much of their lives, musically, culturally, and ideologically, like twins, like salt and pepper.

My admiration for their brotherhood knows no bounds. What is signal in the case of Roy and Leroy is their manifest dedication to Trinidad and Tobago.

They were unshakeable and seriously dedicated to the fight, the struggle for recognition of the African voice in political affairs at home, in Africa, and its diaspora, without seeking to disrespect, dispossess or denigrate any of the other races, either in TT or elsewhere.

Roy had an incisive vision when it came to the music he played behind the calypsonians. He knew their tempo and their temperament, which enabled him to be the perfect intermediary in all



**Legends together: Roy Cape and Eddy Grant in happier times**

matters, both musical and personal.

Even Stalin said: "Edworrdd, da is de boss out dere, boy, and Roy putting reaaal fiah in he tail. Da is a reaaal professional out dere, boy, da is Roy Cape."

Roy Cape was no ordinary bandleader. He had serious testicular fortitude. He would starve, and I'm sure his dear wife could attest to more than that, before putting his band in that position.

Time would come when I'd be vindicated of all the nonsense bacchanal, but Roy Cape, with

his ever-present even hand, would come out to the TT media in open defiance on my behalf. A plethora of others would follow, but that first leap of faith belonged to Roy Francis "Roystan" "Pappy" Cape, my brother eternal in humanity and music.

Roy Francis Cape's memory will live on.

To his wife and extensive family, his friends, fans and well-wishers, I offer the most sincere condolences on behalf of my wife, my children and my staff, all of whom knew and loved and respected the man Roy Cape.



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# RUM POWER

## Barbados unveils car that runs on sargassum & rum wastewater

Rum and Sargassum Inc., a local deep-tech start-up, and The University of the West Indies Cave Hill campus have launched the first vehicle powered by bio-compressed natural gas (CNG).

The bio-CNG uses rum distillery wastewater and a sargassum-based biomethane, an innovative fuel source derived from the invasive seaweed which is plaguing the region's coasts.

The seasonal issue posed by sargassum on the island's beaches is now being turned into a valuable resource as the country seeks to achieve its goal of becoming a 100 per cent renewable energy and carbon-neutral island state by 2030.

The project, spearheaded by Rum and Sargassum Inc., is an achievement for sustainable development in the Caribbean, thanks to partners like the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE).

Dr. Legena Henry and her team from the Renewable Energy Development Laboratory at the Cave Hill Campus are the innovators of the biomethane fuel.

Speaking during the launch of the vehicle, she said, "UWI Cave Hill Campus is really an incubator for creativity and innovation. Why I celebrate Cave Hill so much is because Barbados is a creative society, and we are leading the region right now in the energy transition."

Additionally, she drew attention to the contributions from The CCREEE, stating that the re-



The CCREEE Sargassum Car

gional body has been incredibly supportive of the project.

Dr. Henry noted that the launch of the bio-CNG vehicle would not have been possible without The CCREEE, which offered the use of its electric car for the test drive. It is now the flagship vehicle bearing the slogan 'Runs on Sargassum'.

Building on this success, Dr. Henry also out-

lined the next phase of the project, which involves establishing a biogas station.

She said they currently have a small station at the Guinea Estate on four acres of agricultural land and described it as a perfect example of the circular nature of this process.

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# Economic Mobility

**Buju Banton donates US\$200,000 to Jamaica's Maroon community**

Buju Banton has made a significant financial contribution to the Accompong Town Maroons, donating US\$200,000 (over J\$31 million) to support infrastructure and economic development in the north-western St. Elizabeth community.

The donation was presented during the Washington, D.C. leg of Buju's Overcomer tour at the Capital One Arena, where members of the Accompong Town Maroon Culture group joined him onstage.

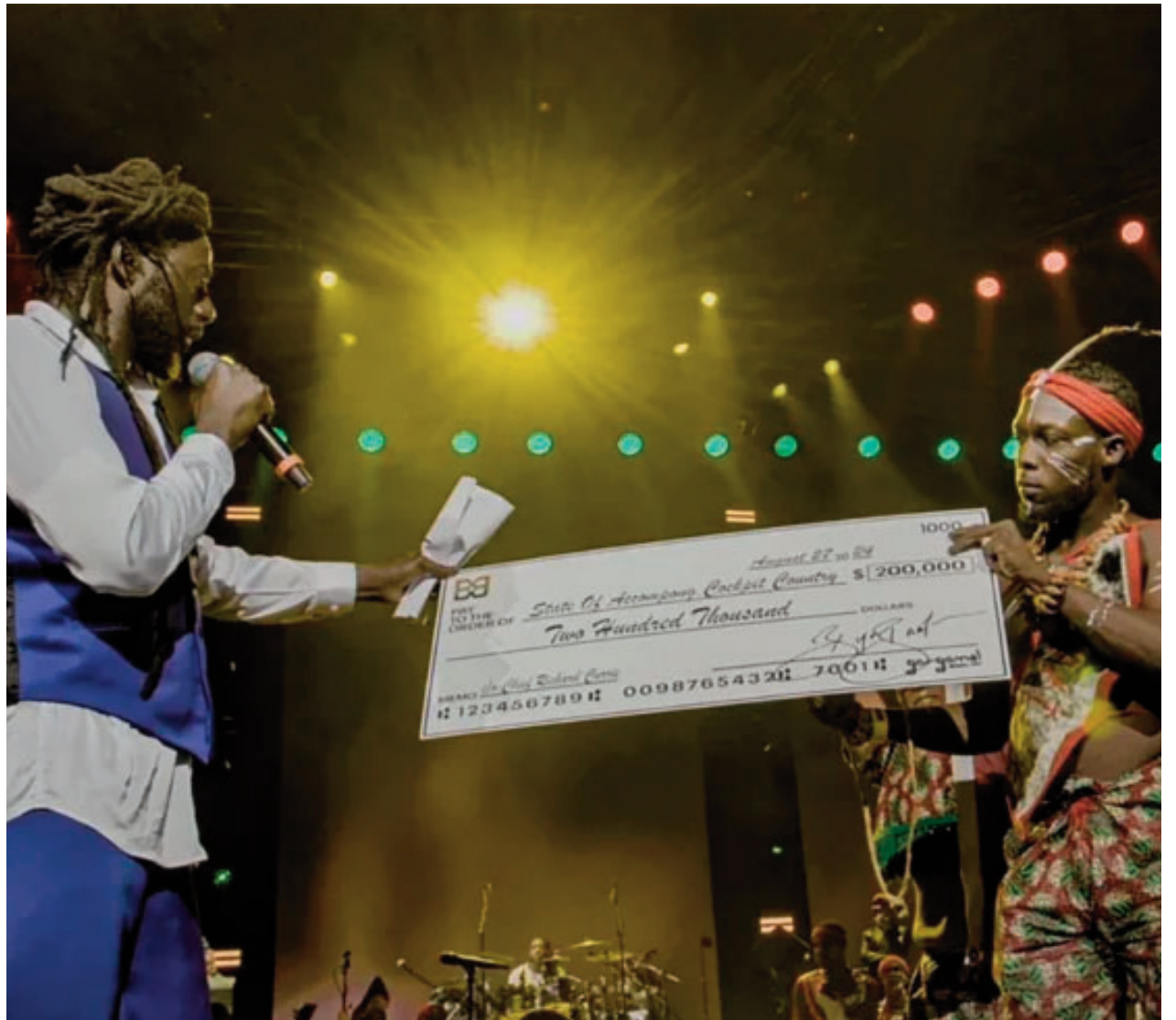
The legendary Dancehall/Reggae artist, whose real name is Mark Myrie, made the presentation to the group, reaffirming his commitment to the Maroon community.

Accompong Maroon Chief Richard Currie paid tribute to Buju Banton, who serves as the Cultural Ambassador for Accompong, in a heartfelt Instagram post. Currie shared photos and videos of the presentation, expressing deep gratitude for Buju's continued support.

"On behalf of the Maroons of the Sovereign State of Accompong, I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Buju Banton for donating USD\$200,000.00 towards infrastructure development and the economic mobility of our Nation," Currie wrote.

Although Currie was unable to attend the event, the cheque was received by Avion Barnes, the Abeng blower for the Accompong Maroon Cultural group. Currie noted that his "spirit and energy was present" at the event, describing it as a "very special and one for the history books."

"Buju Banton, you have been chosen by the ancestors for this great walk. Your indomitable legacy as a freedom fighter using word, sound, and power will place you in history among the Greats that walked before us. Honor for always supporting our community and leading the way for others with a platform to join the movement



**Buju presented the cheque for \$200,000 during his concert in Washington DC**

and take the great leap of faith by simply trusting our Ancestors," Currie added.

"Rightfully titled 'The OverComer' tour – Washington, D.C., Buju Banton's performance was a continuation of his return to the worldwide stage," he continued.

Buju Banton has been a steadfast supporter of Chief Currie since 2021, when Currie, an alum of Munro College, sought to lead the Accompong Maroons. That February, the "Til Shiloh" artist publicly endorsed Currie, who was challenging then-leader Colonel Ferron Williams.

In October of the same year, Buju donated two horses and a tractor to the Accompong Maroons to support their sustainable development and self-reliance initiatives—a gesture Currie also acknowledged in his tribute to the Reggae/Dancehall icon.

"Buju Banton, a born indigenous Jamaican Maroon, has always proclaimed his identity and culture through his music and performances worldwide. Since 2021, Buju has done a tremen-

dous amount of philanthropic work in the Accompong Maroon community, helping numerous individuals and the indigenous community as a whole," Currie noted.

He further stated that Buju Banton was appointed as a Cultural Ambassador due to his active work with the Accompong Maroon Council and the Office of the Chief.

"A true testament to the power of perseverance, determination of his faith, and triumphant career, Buju Banton has now shown the world the power of his Maroon bloodline," Currie added.

"Now that Ambassador Myrie, known to the world as Buju Banton, has returned to the United States to share his legendary music and performances with his fans after 15 years, he can represent his people on the world stage as a cultural Ambassador where he can advocate for indigenous rights, especially for the Accompong Maroons. Honor Ambassador Myrie. God is the Greatest," Currie concluded.

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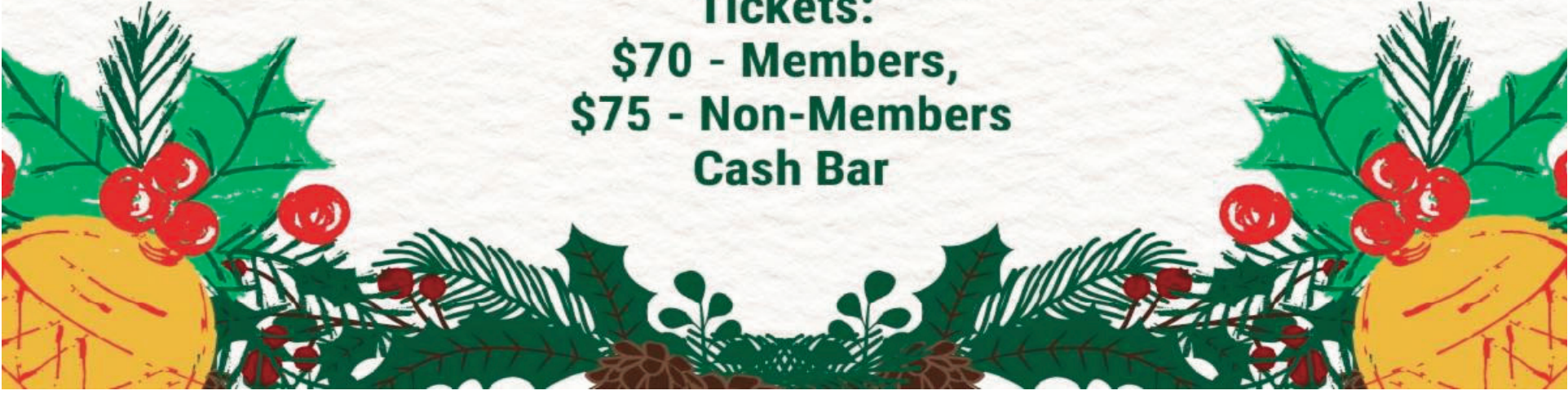
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# Tito Bows Out at 70

**Legendary Jackson 5 Pop Band loses one of its key players**

Tito Jackson, guitarist, singer, and original member of the legendary Jackson 5, has passed away at the age of 70, his sons announced late Sunday.

“With heavy hearts, we share that our beloved father, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Tito Jackson, is no longer with us,” his sons Taj, Taryll, and TJ, who make up the music group 3T, wrote on Instagram.

They posted a photo of themselves with their father, expressing their grief: “We are shocked, saddened, and heartbroken. Our father was an incredible man who cared deeply about everyone’s well-being.”

The statement concluded with a tribute to Tito’s values: “Please remember to do what our father always preached — ‘Love One Another.’ We love you, Pops. Your boys, Taj, Taryll, and TJ.”

Family friend Steve Manning told Entertainment Tonight that Tito passed away from an apparent heart attack on Sunday while driving from New Mexico to his home in Oklahoma.

Tito had recently performed in Germany, England, and California with his brothers Marlon and Jackie as part of The Jacksons.

As an original member of The Jackson 5, alongside his brothers Jackie, Jermaine, Marlon, and Michael, Tito helped shape the group’s iconic sound. After signing with Motown Records in 1969, the Jackson 5 released a series of international hits, including “I Want You Back,” “ABC,” and “I’ll Be There.”

Tito’s younger brother Michael, who achieved solo superstardom, passed away in 2009 at the age of 50.

In 1997, Tito and his brothers were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame by Motown legend Diana Ross. Since 2003, Tito had been performing with his own blues and funk band, and in 2016, he became the last of the Jackson siblings to have a solo Billboard hit with the single “Get It Baby.” He followed that success with his debut solo album, *Tito Time*.

In 2021, Tito released his second album, *Under Your Spell*, a blues project featuring collaborations with George Benson, Bobby Rush, and Stevie Wonder.

Tito is survived by his three sons. His former wife, Dolores, the mother of his children, passed away in 1994.



**Tito Jackson died of a massive heart attack while driving home**



# SHOCKING!

## Eddy Grant wins 'Electric Avenue' copyright case against Donald Trump

Guyanese-British singer Eddy Grant has won a copyright case against former President Donald Trump over the use of the 1980s hit, "Electric Avenue."

On September 20, in a 30-page decision, US District Judge John G Koeltl found Trump liable for damages in a hotly-contested copyright battle.

In the first legal determination, the judge found that the song was properly copyrighted. In the second, the judge rejected the only defense offered in the case: a claim that Trump had made "fair use" of the song.

"It's everything we asked for," Grant's attorney Brett Van Benthysen said in an interview with Business Insider. "One-hundred percent."

Grant, a UK citizen who lives in Barbados, has been informed of the decision, said another of his lawyers, Brian Caplan.

"Mr Grant believes that the ruling will help other artists and owners of copyrights defend against similar infringement," Caplan stated.

"This is a complete victory for Plaintiffs as to liability. Plaintiffs will be seeking attorney's fees in the subsequent damages phase," he added.

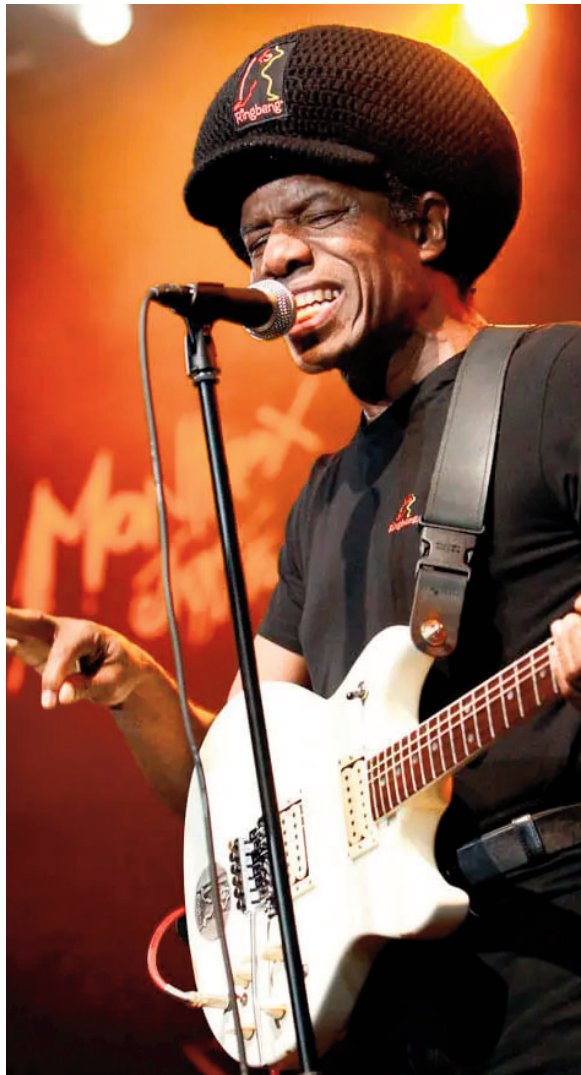
It remains unclear if the parties will agree to damages among themselves or go to trial and let a jury determine the amount.

"There will either be a trial just on damages, assumedly before a jury, or we could agree to a number without a trial," Van Benthysen explained.

Grant's lawsuit demanded that Trump pay him US\$300,000, although that amount could increase if the former president must also pay the thousands of dollars in legal fees the artist has incurred during four years of litigation.

Both Eddy Grant and Trump were compelled by subpoena to give depositions in the case, and former Trump adviser Dan Scavino was also deposed.

Grant sued Trump in 2020 over a campaign tweet — a 55-second animation that showed then-presidential candidate Joe Biden feebly



**Guyanese singer Eddy Grant**

puttering along a railroad track in a push cart while a high-speed "Trump-Pence" train zoomed past. About 40 seconds of "Electric Avenue" played as part of the soundtrack.

In summarizing the history of the case in his decision, Judge Koeltl revealed that it was Scavino — Trump's director of social media and deputy chief of staff for communications at the time — who uploaded the video to Trump's personal Twitter account on August 12, 2020.

"Scavino testified that he saw the video on a Trump supporter's social media page either on the same day or the day before he posted the tweet," the judge wrote Friday.

"Scavino also testified that he spoke with former President Trump before posting the tweet and that former President Trump 'let [him] go with [his] instinct on it and post it,'" the judge added.

the judge added.

The video was viewed more than 13.7 million times, was liked more than 350,000 times, and was retweeted more than 139,000 times.

Grant's lawyers immediately sent Trump's lawyers a cease and desist letter, but it wasn't until Grant sued on September 1, 2020, that the video was taken down.

Business Insider reported that in rejecting Trump's claim that Grant had never properly secured a copyright for the "Electric Avenue" sound recording, the judge said it was sufficient that Grant held the copyright for a compilation record that included the song.

Decisions in multiple prior legal cases support that finding, the judge noted. Trump, meanwhile, was unable to cite a single supporting case, according to the judge.

In rejecting Trump's claim that the animation was a "fair use" of the song, the judge methodically went through the four-factor standard for fair-use exemptions to copyright in his decision.

The first factor looks at how the copyrighted work was used. In Trump's case, "Electric Avenue" was used for a commercial purpose, not for an allowable non-profit, research, or educational purpose, the judge wrote.

The second factor examines whether the copyrighted work was "creative" or "factual." "It is clear that 'Electric Avenue' is a creative work and therefore is closer to the core of copyright protection," the judge wrote.

The third factor weighs how much of the copyrighted work was taken for an unauthorized use. Here the judge found that "the song plays for the majority of the animation; the excerpt is of central importance."

The final factor asks "whether, if the challenged use becomes widespread, it will adversely affect the potential market for the copyrighted work," the judge wrote.

"In this case, there is no public benefit as a result of the defendants' use of 'Electric Avenue,'" the judge wrote.



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The Hilton brand will offer Hilton Georgetown and Double Tree Suites by Hilton Georgetown

# Upscale Comfort

## Hilton announces plans to build two hotels in Guyana

Luxury Hotel brand, Hilton, will be constructing two new hotels in Guyana. In a statement, the company said the dual brands of Hilton Georgetown and DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Georgetown, will be the company's first two hotels to be built in Guyana.

Almost four years ago, a private company had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government for the construction of two Hilton branded hotels in Guyana, but that project never commenced, and it appears as though the main hotel company has decided to do the work itself.

Owned by an affiliate of Assets Group and managed by Hilton, the two properties will have more than 400 rooms and form part of an ocean-

front, mixed-use business and entertainment complex in Georgetown, the company said.

"We believe in investing in Guyana, a country poised for significant growth and a promising future in tourism and hospitality," said Moutaz Al Khayyat, chairman, Assets Group.

"Our choice to debut in this emerging market reflects our commitment to investing in high-potential destinations and our confidence in Guyana's trajectory. These properties are meticulously designed to offer a diversity of high-end experiences," the company announced.

The 11-story Hilton Georgetown will feature an elevated stay experience with 253 guest rooms and suites.

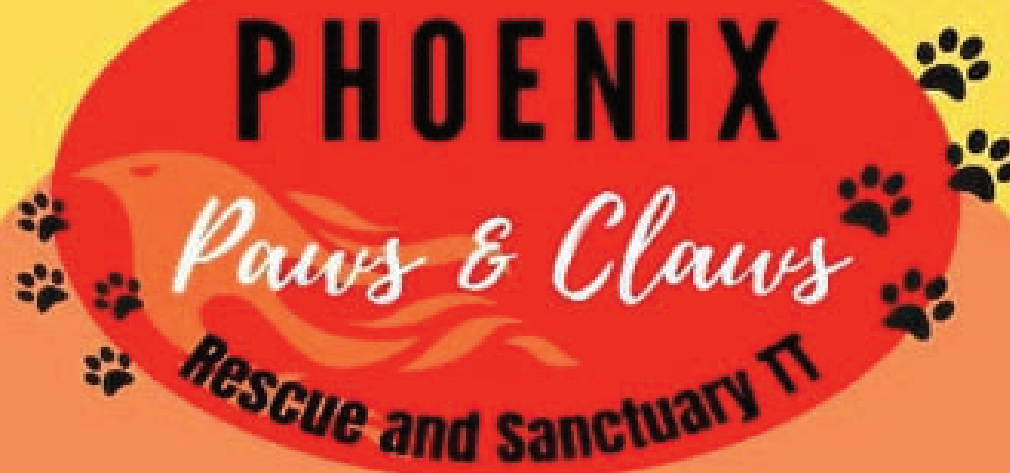
The brand-new DoubleTree Suites by Hilton

Georgetown will offer 158 contemporary suites with spaces.

"We are proud to bring the flagship Hilton Hotels & Resorts brand, which continues to set the standard for travel, and the renowned DoubleTree by Hilton tradition of warm welcomes and upscale comfort to Guyana," said Gary Steffen, global category head, Full-Service Brands, Hilton. "We look forward to welcoming travellers and bringing Hilton's iconic hospitality to Guyana through our award-winning brands."

The company said the hotels will stand as a testament of its dedication to creating premium and luxurious spaces that cater to the discerning needs of its guests.





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# P. Diddy's Nemesis

## Jamaican American Attorney pursuing indictments against rap mogul

Damian Williams, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and son of Jamaican immigrants, is at the center of a major legal storm following his office's indictment of Sean Combs, also known as "Puff Daddy" or "P. Diddy."

Williams, who was born in New York City and raised in the Atlanta metropolitan area by parents from Frome, Westmoreland, Jamaica, has made significant strides in his legal career. He is the first black U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

An alumnus of Harvard University and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Williams furthered his legal education at Yale Law School before embarking on a career that would eventually see him leading one of the most high-profile cases in recent memory.

On Tuesday, Williams, alongside William S. Walker, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), announced that Sean Combs was arrested and charged in a three-count indictment. The charges include racketeering conspiracy, sex trafficking, and transportation to engage in prostitution. The indictment alleges that since 2008, Combs led a criminal enterprise involved in a wide array of crimes, including sexual abuse, forced labor, and obstruction of justice.

According to the indictment, Combs orchestrated elaborate sex performances known as "Freak Offs," during which he allegedly subjected women to days-long sexual activities with male commercial sex workers. Combs is accused of using violence, intimidation, and his financial influence to control his victims, often recording these events and threatening to expose the footage if they did not comply. The indictment also details claims of repeated physical abuse, including striking, punching, and dragging victims, and leveraging his business empire to conceal and cover up his criminal activities.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams described the indictment as a pivotal moment, emphasizing that Combs used his business empire to exploit and abuse women. "As alleged in the indictment,



**Damian Williams is the US Attorney for Southern District of New York**

for years, Sean Combs used the business empire he controlled to sexually abuse and exploit women, as well as to commit other acts of violence and obstruction of justice," Williams stated. "Today's charges reflect our commitment to pursuing justice for the victims of such egregious crimes. If you have been a victim of Combs' alleged abuse – or if you know anything about his alleged crimes – we urge you to come forward. This investigation is far from over."

Williams continued, "The indictment outlines a disturbing pattern of abuse and manipulation. Our office remains steadfast in our pursuit of justice for the victims and will work tirelessly to hold those responsible accountable."

Damian Williams, with his deep connections to Jamaican heritage and his distinguished legal career, represents a significant figure in the on-

going battle against high-profile crime.

As for Combs, he was denied bail and will remain in custody, a federal judge ruled. His lawyer said after the hearing they would appeal the decision. Combs also pled not guilty to the charges against him.

Combs will be held by himself at the Special Housing Unit in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn until his next court appearance Wednesday afternoon, according to a law enforcement official.

The special housing unit is separate from the general prison population and is used to house inmates who require additional protection, among other reasons. Many high-profile individuals have been temporarily held in MDC – including R. Kelly, Sam Bankman-Fried, and Ghislaine Maxwell.



# FYAH IN THE AIR

## Kumar teams up with The 18th Parallel for new album

Following up an incredible summer of touring alongside the legendary Third World Band, Kumar, the former lead singer of GRAMMY-nominated roots reggae band Raging Fyah, returns with a new album on CD & Vinyl and all streaming platforms on October 18th. Collaborating with Switzerland's The 18th Parallel, Kumar is releasing, *Tales of Reality*, through a joint effort between Fruits Records and Easy Star Records. The album, which also features dub mixes by Zion I Kings members Tippy I-Grade and JAH David, offers both vocal and dub versions of each track.

Drawing inspiration from the golden age of reggae, *Tales of Reality* is filled with powerful roots rhythms and uplifting, positive messages.

There are also two brand new visualizers featuring Kumar in Jamaica. *World Wide Love* was shot and edited by Little Lion Sound and *Salvation* was shot by videographer Tizzy Tokyo and edited by Touch The Road. Alongside the album release, Kumar will feature a third music video for *Never Give Up*. Kumar says, "Never Give Up is a powerful anthem that embodies resilience, hope, and determination in the face of life's challenges."

Kumar has been active on the reggae scene, contributing to high-profile projects like Jesse Royal's GRAMMY-nominated *ROYAL* and Winta James' *Gratitude Riddim EP*. The 18th Parallel, the house band for Fruits Records, has previously worked with reggae legends such as Max Romeo, Big Youth, and Lee "Scratch" Perry.

Kumar's relationship with Fruits Records dates back to the label's foundation in 2015, when he was connected through reggae elder I-Kong. Their first collaboration was on I-Kong's song "Pass It On" in 2016, leading to multiple projects and performances. Their work together has culminated in *Tales of Reality*, an album four years in the making, paying tribute to classic Jamaican roots reggae while offering a fresh, modern take.

Kumar's solo journey began in 2018 after leaving Raging Fyah. He released a handful of



**Kumar was the lead singer of the Grammy-nominated band Raging Fyah**

singles and the album *Kulture Walk* in 2020 under his own imprint. His contributions to tribute albums for reggae legends Dennis Brown and Bob Andy further solidified his presence in the genre. In 2023, he was awarded Best Reggae Act at the Caribbean Afro Music Awards (CAMA) in the UK. That same year, he collaborated with JAria during their 2024 Reggae Month celebrations in Jamaica.

Despite his solo success, Kumar reunited with three of his founding Raging Fyah bandmates in 2023 to form Kumar & the Original Fyah. Together, they hosted the 2024 edition of

the Wickie Wackie Music Festival in Bull Bay, Jamaica, in February. Additionally, Kumar tours with legendary reggae band Third World, opening their shows with his acoustic set.

Kumar will be featured on the October cover of the prestigious *Black Echos Magazine* in the UK with featuring and interview with respected Reggae journalist, John Mausori.

*Tales of Reality* represents the next chapter in Kumar's illustrious career, blending his roots in reggae with global collaborations, bringing together the best of traditional and contemporary reggae sounds.





# It's a Girl!

## Cardi B gives birth to third child in the midst of divorce proceedings against Offset

Cardi B reportedly gave birth to her third child, a baby girl, with estranged husband Offset who is dealing with mounting rumors about his romantic life.

Not only did Cardi B file for divorce from Offset earlier this year, but she also announced on August 1st that she was pregnant with her third child for the former Migos rapper. This would be her third time filing for divorce, but so far she had yet to show any signs of withdrawing her divorce docs.

According to AllHipHop, Cardi welcomed a baby girl on September 7, 2024. The outlet reported that she announced her pregnancy at an advanced stage of her pregnancy. In her post on Instagram, she wrote, "With every ending

comes a new beginning! I am so grateful to have shared this season with you, you have brought me more love, more life and most of all renewed my power! Reminded me that I can have it all!"

In the meantime, Offset is dealing with mounting rumors about his love life as reports surfaced claiming that he is currently dating Spanish singer/model Bad Gyal. The Atlanta rapper posed for a photo with the singer at NYFW leading some fans to speculate that the pair were doing a soft launch of their relationship.

However, Offset quickly shut down the rumor amid reports that he recently welcomed a baby girl with soon-to-be ex-wife Cardi B. The

rapper shared a photo of himself with Anna Wintour on Twitter with a message, "I took a pic with Anna Wintour the same way. I CAME ALONE [cap emoji]."

Bad Gyal has not responded to the rumors and instead shared one of the clips on her Instagram Story.

Cardi B and Offset have not addressed the reports of them welcoming their third child. The two came together recently to celebrate their son, Waves, birthday party marking the first time that the two were seen together since the start of the year. Both rappers shared clips from the lavish birthday bash showing a united front for their baby boy.



# DEATH OF A POET

## James Matthews was the voice of South Africa's oppressed people during apartheid

World renowned South African poet James Matthews has died at 95. His was the last great voice of an era of writers who worked against South Africa's repressive and racist system of apartheid, which resulted in him being relentlessly harassed, detained by police and his work banned.

Schooled in District Six, an area of Cape Town where black people were forcibly removed to make way for white development, he was most famous for his poems. But he was also a journalist, cultural worker, short story writer, novelist, proponent of the Black Consciousness movement and a one-man cultural institution who never stopped speaking truth to power, even after the country's first democratic elections in 1994.

Hein Willemse is an esteemed literature scholar who was a friend of Matthews and who wrote a book on him. He explains why the death of this remarkable man is such a great loss.

James was born on 24 May 1929 in the Bo-Kaap district of Cape Town, the eldest of six children. He worked various menial jobs. One was as a messenger running errands, what was called an "office boy". He was later employed as an editorial clerk and telephonist at the Cape Times newspaper. He also worked as a reporter for the legendary black South African newspaper Golden City Post in Johannesburg, and later wrote for Muslim News, under the editorship of Imam Abdullah Haron, one of the first anti-apartheid activists to have died in police custody in 1969.

Even as a young boy, James was always interested in writing. Some of his teachers noted his talent and even encouraged him. Even though he left school prematurely, midway through high school, his passion endured. Matthews published his first story in a Cape Town newspaper, The Sun, at the age of 17 and from then on there was no turning back.

Initially, he wrote short stories and published these in various magazines such as Hi-Note and Drum, as well as in a collection called Quartet (1963), edited by celebrated South African writer Richard Rive. His collection of short stories Azikwelwa (1962) was published overseas. It was later republished locally as The Park and other stories (1983). He published an autobiographical novel, The Party is Over (1997), initially published in 1986 in German.



**James Matthews was a leading poet and journalist whose books were banned**



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