



SUNDAR

Producer of new hit musical
on chutney legend pushes
for a Carifesta appearance



BIG IN JAPAN

Denyque goes on a
summer tour



FRIDAY AUGUST 1ST, 2025

TORONTO PANORAMA

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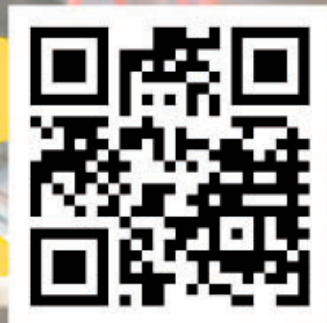
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Sundar the Musical

Producer pushes for play to be performed at Carifesta XV in Barbados

VICTOR Edwards, writer, director and producer of the chutney musical Sundar is seeking a space for it in Carifesta XV. This year the cultural event will take place in Barbados from August 22-31.

“This play cries out for a place in Carifesta for our Caribbean and international audiences,” Edwards said.

The play ran at the Naparima Bowl, San Fernando, Trinidad from June 5-8.

Edwards is in talks with officials from the Ministry of Culture and Community Development, including Parliamentary Secretary Dr Narindra Roopnarine who attended one of the shows.

Edwards said the reviews have been encouraging, with numerous calls for repeats, not only in the south but in Port of Spain and the region.

He has scheduled talks with officials from the Education and Culture ministries to have a repeat at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (Sapa) in September, when he plans to unveil and install life-size portraits of both the late Sundar Popo and Leroy "Black Stalin" Calliste.

Referencing the attendance of Legal Affairs Minister Saddam Hosein, former senator Jayanti Lutchmedial, Princes Town MP Dr Aiyana Ali, and Roopnarine, Edwards said they need to do more than like, love and give good reviews of the play to facilitate it gaining wider audiences.

Roopnarine said under the leadership of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar there has been a sustained emphasis on supporting cultural development as a pillar of national progress.

“The prime minister’s vision recognises that investing in the arts is not ancillary to devel-



Shabir Mohammed plays the legendary Sundar Popo

opment, but rather, it is central to nation-building.”

He said government will continue to sup-

port initiatives that uplift artists, empower communities, and preserve the diverse traditions that define who we are.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO Recalibrate

There is something powerful about the way you choose to show up each day. The way you decide to think, to feel, to engage with the world around you. Have you ever stopped to think about how much control you really have? How much influence you carry over your own experiences? A lot of people believe that what happens around them decides how they feel inside. But what if it is the other way around? What if your attitude shapes everything?

You have probably seen it before. Two people face the same problem, but one gets crushed while the other grows stronger. One sees failure, the other sees a lesson. One gives up, the other keeps going. What is the difference? It is not luck. It is not an easy life or some kind of special advantage. It is attitude. It is the way you choose to see things and respond.

Think about your own life. Right now. Not yesterday. Not next week. Right now. Think about those moments when things felt too hard, when it seemed like nothing was in your hands. Now look back. Were those moments really as impossible as they seemed? Or was there a different way to handle them? A different way to think, to act, to move forward. Maybe at the time it felt like you had no choice. But the truth is, you always did. You still do.

Now pause. Really pause. Let yourself breathe and settle into this thought. What kind of energy have you been walking around with lately? Be real with yourself. What kind of attitude have you been letting shape your day, your thoughts, your actions? It is so easy to slip into worry, self-doubt, or frustration without even noticing. To believe that life is just happening to you. But you are not stuck. You are not powerless. You are more in control than you think. And that starts with a simple but strong decision.

What if today you said, I am not letting what happens outside of me control what goes on inside of me? What if you decided to meet life with strength, calm, and belief in yourself? That is what changes things. Not waiting for everything to be perfect. Not hoping it all gets easier. Just choosing to show up on purpose, with a better attitude.

Stop here for a second. Close your eyes. Let this moment sink in. Picture something that has been bothering you. Something that weighs on your heart. Now imagine looking at it from a new angle. What if you saw it with fresh eyes? What if you stopped fighting it and started shifting your focus? What if there was another way to move through it?

You already know this deep down. You have felt it before. That moment when something just

clicks. When a heavy moment turns into a turning point. That shift? That is power. That is the power of attitude.

Your mind will try to convince you that something needs to change first. That once things are better, then you will feel better. But you know what? That is backwards. Most of the time, the moment your thoughts shift, everything else begins to shift too. It is not about waiting. It is about stepping up now.

You have seen it happen. One small change in how you think can turn your whole day around. That is not just a nice idea. It is real. You have lived it. So why not choose that more often?

So, what if today you made that choice? What if you treated problems like stepping stones? What if you backed yourself with confidence, not hesitation? How would your life feel then? What would happen around you if you just started seeing things from a place of strength?

You do not need to wait to become someone who does this. You already are that person. You just need to trust it. You do not need to know everything or have it all together. You just need to begin. That inner power? It has been with you the whole time.

Now take a moment. Take a breath. Put your hand on your heart if you need to. You feel it now, do you not? That little fire, that spark inside saying, yes, this is me. I have known this. But now it is time to really live it. Time to stop second guessing. Time to stop shrinking. Time to say to yourself, I am ready.

When you do that, life starts showing up differently. Things that used to feel hard begin to feel possible. People respond to you in new



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ways. Doors open that you did not even see before. It is not magic. It is just you stepping into who you are meant to be.

And it starts right here. With you. With a breath. With a choice.

What are you going to choose today?

Not tomorrow. Not someday. Right now. Can you choose one thought that lifts you? One feeling that grounds you? One shift in how you see what is in front of you? Let that be your start.

Then take it into the next thing you do. The next conversation. The next challenge. Notice how it feels. Notice what changes. That is not a coincidence. That is you moving differently. That is the real you showing up.

You have got this. You really do. This is your reset. Your reminder. Your moment. Choose to see it. Choose to feel it. Choose to live it. And keep choosing it every day.

This is how it starts. This is how everything changes. One small, real shift at a time.

If we were sitting together right now, face to face, I would be looking at you with full belief in who you are. I would say, You are not alone in this. You have everything it takes. You really do. And if you are ready to take the next step, I would be honored to walk with you.

So come chat with me for twenty minutes. Let us talk. Let us find what is next for you. No pressure. Just heart. You can connect with me, Dianne, at www.DianneOjar.com.

Let us see what unfolds, together.



SEAN PAUL STYLE

Singer collabs with Crooks & Castles for exclusive dancehall merch

Grammy-winning dancehall superstar Sean Paul is taking his signature style from the stage to the streets with a brand-new collaboration with renowned streetwear label Crooks & Castles. The exclusive capsule collection celebrates the Jamaican icon's legacy and the powerful global influence of dancehall culture.

The Sean Paul x Crooks & Castles merch line features a limited-edition drop of t-shirts and hoodies, combining the bold, urban aesthetic of Crooks & Castles with visual and lyrical nods to Sean Paul's two-decade reign in international music. From custom graphics inspired by his most iconic lyrics to artwork reflecting his Jamaican heritage, the pieces pay tribute to both his journey and the culture that raised him.

According to the brand, this collaboration is more than just fashion—it's a celebration of movement, music, and Caribbean pride.

The collection will be available online and at select retail stores, and will also feature as official concert merchandise on Sean Paul's upcoming international tour. The release is accompanied by a digital campaign designed to engage both longtime fans and the next generation of dancehall lovers.

This latest move is a natural fit for Sean Paul, who has always fused music, fashion, and lifestyle in his global persona. "This collaboration is all about showing love to dancehall, to Jamaica, and to everyone who's been rocking with me through the years," Sean Paul shared in a statement teasing the launch. "Crooks & Castles gets that real street vibe, and I'm proud to bring our worlds together in this way."

Founded in Los Angeles in 2002, Crooks & Castles rose to fame as a streetwear brand rooted in rebellion, hustle culture, and a deep appreciation for global urban influences. Known for its bold graphics, luxury streetwear sensibility, and edgy campaigns, the brand has collaborated with artists and tastemakers who push boundaries and influence trends. The partnership with Sean Paul marks a high-profile return to music collaborations, with a Caribbean twist.

The capsule drop is just one part of what's shaping up to be a landmark year for Sean Paul. In 2025, he's been headlining festivals across Europe, collaborating with a new wave of international artists, and teasing a new studio project. Earlier this year, he hinted at a multi-genre EP blending dancehall with Latin and Afrobeat sounds—proving that even after 20 years in the game, the Kingston-born hitmaker remains both relevant and revolutionary.

As dancehall continues to expand its reach



A model shows off one of the Crooks & Castles Sean Paul t-shirts

and influence—from fashion runways to TikTok feeds—Sean Paul remains a leading ambassador, bridging cultures and generations with every move.

The Sean Paul x Crooks & Castles collection drops this month.

BYE BYE, SLY

Funk music pioneer dies at 82

Sly Stone, the groundbreaking bandleader of Sly and the Family Stone and one of the architects of funk music, has died at the age of 82 after a long battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

A statement shared with USA TODAY on June 9 confirmed his passing:

“It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved dad, Sly Stone of Sly and the Family Stone,” the statement read. “After a prolonged battle with COPD and other underlying health issues, Sly passed away peacefully, surrounded by his three children, his closest friend, and his extended family.”

“While we mourn his absence, we take solace in knowing that his extraordinary musical legacy will continue to resonate and inspire for generations to come,” the family added.

Born Sylvester Stewart in Denton, Texas, on March 15, 1943, Stone was raised in Vallejo, California, in a deeply musical and religious household. A prodigious multi-instrumentalist, he began performing gospel music with his siblings at a young age. In the 1960s, he worked as a disc jockey and record producer in the Bay Area before forming Sly and the Family Stone in 1966.

The band quickly rose to fame with its genre-defying sound, blending soul, funk, rock, and psychedelic influences. Sly and the Family Stone was also one of the first major American bands to feature a racially integrated and gender-diverse lineup—something considered revolutionary at the time. Their message of



Sly Stone — died in June at age 82

unity and social consciousness came through in hits like “Everyday People,” “Dance to the Music,” “Family Affair,” and “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin).”

Their performance at Woodstock in 1969 remains one of the festival’s most celebrated moments, helping cement Stone’s reputation as a dynamic and visionary artist. Despite his profound influence on modern music, Stone’s later years were marked by struggles with drug addiction, legal troubles, and health issues that forced him into seclusion for long stretches of time.

Sly and the Family Stone was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993,

and Stone received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. In recent years, he made a limited return to the public eye, most notably with the release of his memoir, *Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)*, in 2023.

Stone’s musical innovations helped shape generations of artists, influencing acts from Prince to Public Enemy and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. His work remains a cornerstone of American music history.

He is survived by his three children and a wide circle of loved ones. Plans for a public memorial or celebration of life have not yet been announced.

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Ziggy Marley drops new children's book

PAJAMMIN

Eight-time Grammy-winning reggae singer Ziggy Marley is adding another colorful page to his growing repertoire of children's literature with the release of PaJammin', a heartwarming new picture book set to hit shelves on June 24.

Inspired by Bob Marley's 1977 classic Jammin', the book takes readers on a joyful ride through a cozy family pyjama party, offering a gentle reminder of the power of togetherness in a digital age. In a recent social media post, Marley described PaJammin' as a celebration of "screen-free family time, creativity, and connection."

The 40-page book, illustrated by Leticia Moreno and distributed by HarperCollins, paints a vibrant picture of bedtime fun—complete with games, pillow fights, music, and storytelling. Retailing for USD \$19.99 on Amazon, it is poised to become another

favorite among parents looking to instill values of love, imagination, and bonding in their little ones.

PaJammin' joins an already impressive list of children's titles penned or co-authored by Marley, including I Love You Too, My Dog Romeo, Music Is in Everything, and Little John Crow—the latter written alongside his wife, Orly Marley. He also previously adapted his father's Three Little Birds into the well-loved book Every Little Thing, and released the Ziggy Marley and Family Cookbook, showcasing his culinary passions.

While literature is a growing outlet for the reggae icon, Ziggy Marley's legacy is firmly rooted in music. The eldest son of Bob and Rita Marley, he rose to prominence in the 1980s as the frontman of Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, delivering hits like Tomorrow People and Look Who's Dancing.



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African Chutney

T&T band Dil-E-Nadan headlines Fusion Festival in South Africa

Dil-E-Nadan has cemented its place in the global music history books after a triumphant return to South Africa, where the Trinidad band headlined the inaugural Chutney Fusion Festival to two sold-out crowds and received one of the highest cultural honours of its career.

Led by front-men Raymond Ramnarine and Stephen Marcelle, the family band delivered full-length concert sets at the Durban Exhibition Centre on June 15 and Emperors Palace in Johannesburg on June 21 – bringing Caribbean flair and chutney soca heat to the African continent.

From standing ovations to emotional flag exchanges, the two-night spectacle wasn't just a celebration of music, it was a powerful expression of shared heritage, cultural pride, and diasporic unity.

"South Africa embraced us with so much love, it felt like coming home," Ramnarine said, visibly moved during the final show. "When I held both the Trinidad and Tobago and South African flags and the crowd rose to their feet, I knew this moment would stay with me for the rest of my life."

The tour, produced by Fusion Life SA, marked Dil-E-Nadan's second appearance in South Africa following a sold-out debut in 2024. This year, the reception was even more explosive, solidifying the band's growing international profile and the surging global interest in chutney soca.

The performances weren't the only highlight of the trip. In a historic moment at the Durban leg of the festival, Ramnarine was presented with a prestigious award by the president of the Sanatan Hindu Maha Sabha (SA) for his cultural contributions and for "infusing spice into Durban's cultural scene." The honour marks the first time a chutney soca star has received such recognition on South African soil.

"This award isn't just for me," he said. "It's for every fan, every musician, every pioneer of this genre who believed chutney soca deserved a global stage. We've carried the rhythm of our ancestors across the ocean, and now it's dancing in the hearts of people thousands of miles away."

A ceremonial flag exchange between the South African and TT flags added symbolic weight to the moment – reflecting a deepening



Dil-E-Nadan frontman Raymond Ramnarine works the crowd in South Africa

bond between the two nations through the power of music.

Sharing the stage with Dil-E-Nadan were several international acts including Dutch-Surinamese Baithak Gana singer Shivam Rajaram, Indian stars KK, DesiBlue, Aadhya and South African-based performers Shay Ramji, Risa Raeanne, and dance troupe Kashvita – underscoring the festival's commitment to cultural fusion and diasporic excellence.

For Dil-E-Nadan bandleader Richard Ramnarine, the experience was nothing short of spiritual.

"From Durban to Jo'burg, the energy was electric," he said. "We weren't just performing, we were exchanging culture, building bridges. This is what chutney soca was born for, to connect people through rhythm, melody, and heart."

The success of the South Africa leg follows earlier tour stops in Canada and the US and marks a high point in Dil-E-Nadan's 2025 calendar. The band landed in Amsterdam, Netherlands this week, ahead of a series of upcoming shows in Europe as they continue their mission to take Caribbean music further than ever before.

"This isn't just a tour," Ramnarine said. "It's a movement. Chutney soca is rising, and we're proud to be taking our music – and our people's story – to the world."

The Chutney Fusion Festival organisers have already confirmed plans to expand the event in 2026, with Dil-E-Nadan once again in the conversation as marquee headliners. As the curtain falls on this leg of the journey, one thing is clear: Dil-E-Nadan's sound knows no borders.



Beenie Man — workshops are his way of giving back to the community

TEACHER BEENIE

Legendary dancehall artiste launches free music workshop for kids

Dancehall artist Beenie Man is giving back to the music community in a meaningful way. The Grammy-winning artist has announced a series of free music workshops for children aged 6 to 14, which began on June 14 in the Kingston 5 area. Future dates and locations are to be announced.

The initiative, shared on Beenie Man's official Instagram page, aims to nurture young musical talent and introduce participants to the many career paths within the music industry.

Beenie Man, who began his own career as a child performer, says the workshops are a way of giving back to the industry that has shaped his life.

"I'm giving back to the industry that catapulted me to global fame," he shared on social media.

The workshops are being led by Beenie Man and a team of experienced musicians, producers, and industry professionals. Together, they will guide participants through the basics of several music-related fields including: Vocal performance, Instrumental training (guitar, drums, saxophone, and more), Music production

and beat-making, Audio engineering, Selecting and DJ techniques, Songwriting and composition.

By offering exposure to a range of roles within the music ecosystem, the program hopes to encourage children to explore their interests — whether they want to perform, produce, or work behind the scenes.

The workshops are open to all children with a genuine interest in music. While the first session is based in Kingston, Beenie Man has indicated that the program will expand to other parishes over the coming months.

Beenie Man's new initiative stresses the importance of mentorship and cultural investment.





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Jail Time

Veteran entertainer 'Ruffian' sentenced to nearly 14 years in gun court

Jamaican entertainer Sharon "Ruffian" Peterkin was recently sentenced to 13 years and nine months in prison following her conviction on firearm-related charges in the Gun Court Division of the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston.

Peterkin, 59, was found guilty of illegal possession of a prohibited weapon and unauthorised possession of ammunition. She was arrested in May 2023 after members of the Area Five Fugitive Apprehension Team executed a targeted search of her Portmore, St Catherine, residence. The team, acting on intelligence, discovered a 9mm firearm — with its serial number removed — and a quantity of ganja. Although Peterkin was initially charged in connection with the ganja, she was not tried for any drug offences.

Detective Windell Reid, the investigating officer, told the court that the recovered firearm bore a striking resemblance to the weapon Peterkin had previously been licensed to carry. That firearm had been seized by the Firearm Licensing Authority amid a separate investigation.

Peterkin, who maintained her innocence, took the witness stand in her own defence during the trial, which was presided over by Supreme Court Justice Calys Wiltshire. She testified that she earned a living through a car rental business and clothing sales.

The Area Five Fugitive Apprehension Team — a unit established to pursue high-priority suspects with pending case files — led the operation that led to Peterkin's arrest. According to Commissioner of Police Dr Kevin Blake, the unit was launched to address the growing number of wanted individuals connected to serious crimes.

According to Jamaica Gleaner, Peterkin reportedly came under the police radar following a



Ruffian — has had several run-ins with the law

high-profile Beryllium robbery in Portmore in 2023, although no charges were laid against her in that case.

The entertainer has had several previous run-ins with the law. In 2016, she was listed as missing on the Jamaica Constabulary Force's website. It was later revealed, however, that she had been detained by law enforcement authorities in the United States.

At the time, Ruffian explained that she had travelled to New York for an event. While en route to the venue, the individual assigned to pick her up ran a red light, and police later discovered marijuana in the vehicle.

Despite insisting she was simply in the

wrong place at the wrong time, Ruffian was detained by U.S. authorities. She returned to Jamaica in 2017.

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COFFEE TO GO!

Trinidad entrepreneur gives the phrase a whole new meaning

AT 38, Theon Morales is reshaping the coffee industry in Trinidad and Tobago, establishing himself as a true entrepreneur in the process.

A video of Morales, owner of Brews on D' Road, went viral, as he was captured serving coffee to motorists in Trincity.

He shared his idea with fans.

"Honestly, I always wanted to be in business from ever since. In TT, everyone was always doing the same things over and over – doubles, fruits and coconut water."

Motivated to do something new, Morales was gifted the idea through a client.

"Two months ago, I was transporting a man and was in traffic and he said, 'I feeling for a coffee boy.'"

Confused, Morales asked, "A coffee?" and there the idea was born. What seemed like a simple question ignited an idea he believed was new and innovative.

Morales began his research and found out ways he could possibly have his coffee portable.

He found a "backpack" supplier in Germany and made contact.

"They took a while to respond, but when they did, they said they would construct a backpack for my business.

"It sounded sketchy at first because they wanted the full payment, but I said I was going to take the risk."

Morales paid US \$1,100 for the backpack and received it a month later.

While waiting on the backpack, Morales ran the idea by a friend, who had his doubts.

"He asked, 'You sure that would work boy? That different, nobody will understand that.'"

This scepticism, however, did not deter Morales, whose mind was sold on the idea.

"At that point I needed someone to understand me and back my vision. I went by my family in Chaguanas and explained the idea and they were totally on board."

Morales obtained the backpack, which holds 19 litres of coffee – equivalent to 101 cups.

The backpack is equipped with cup holders, as well as a secure dispensing line that distributes the coffee.

In his research he found Hong Wing coffee



Morales with his unique coffee dispenser, selling his product on the highway

to be in high demand and bought the brand for his business.

He launched Brews on D' Road on June 16, setting up his main location along Trincity Central Road due to the heavy traffic in the area.

Operating from the island (middle section of the road), he serves customers from 6 am to 8 am, Monday to Friday.

Asked about how the business operates, he proudly explained the process.

"The process takes about five to ten seconds, really. I already pull the cup from my backpack and I have the cup in my hand, so when someone hails me, I'm pouring the coffee in the cup and walking to them. I hand it over, lid, cream or sugar, and that's it.

"I told someone my business, the end product is coffee, but it is also about efficiency. It's about getting people coffee in their car, hot and quick."

Morales said he was shocked by the positive reception he has received thus far.

"This whole thing has been crazy. People are taking photos and videos. I believe customer service is very important.

"I think that is what is winning people. On a

morning, seeing someone smiling, looking clean and serving coffee, conveniently."

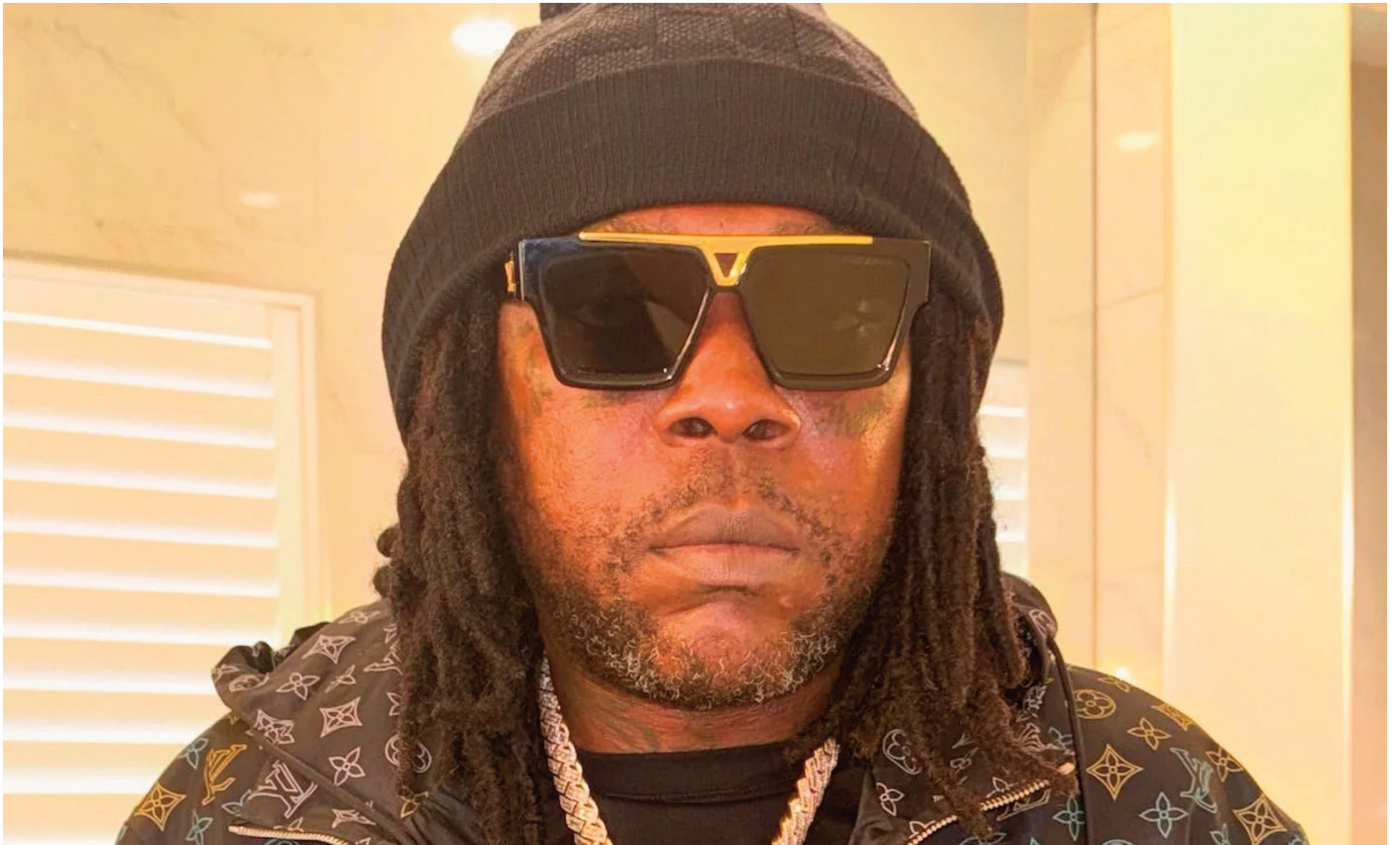
He also attributes social media to his quick rise.

"It is a massive thing. People have been asking when I am coming to Port of Spain and San Fernando and many parts of the country, wherever they are. Everyone wants to have this experience.

"My goal is to retire at 45. I don't want to work for anybody. I saw this idea as something huge and I plan on expanding this."

Morales also aspires to one day launch his own brand of coffee, rather than relying on existing ones.





Vybz Kartel – did not show up for a highly anticipated concert in Port of Spain

NO SHOW BLUES

Trinidad Promoter Claims ‘Life In Danger’ Over Vybz Kartel Concert

The Trinidad promoter behind the failed Vybz Kartel concert is now claiming that his life is in danger.

There has been a big uproar among concertgoers in Trinidad who feel fleeced after buying tickets to see Vybz Kartel headline the One Caribbean Music Festival concert last month on the Caribbean island.

Promoter Odane Anderson, head of Jacho Entertainment, has come under fire from the dancehall legend and the Trinidad government over the failed show as concertgoers demand a refund. Vybz Kartel shared a video response explaining his no-show, citing a breach of contractual agreement. Other artists like Sizzla Kalonji’s camp have also echoed similar sentiments.

According to reports, Kartel was contracted to perform at the event for a booking fee of US\$1.35 million. Reports suggested that he had

received US\$950,000 of the amount. Other dancehall artists were booked for the show, like Rvssian, Sizzla, Malie Donn, and Chronic Law.

The Trinidad Ministry and Finance have since launched a probe into the concert dispute amid ongoing backlash from ticket holders and the artists. Finance Minister Davendranath Tan-coo raised concerns over the foreign currency payment amid ongoing foreign exchange challenges in that country. Anderson is now alleging his life is in danger because of the dispute.

“Kartel said the fans get robbed, his supporters get robbed,” the promoter said. “I get robbed too because right now my life is in danger because of borrowing investors’ money; (I) cannot pay it back. The shareholders have to get paid. Other service suppliers have to get paid. So, my next step is to try to find common grounds to work it out.”

The promoter says he had no issue with Kartel pulling the plug on the performance but took issue with the timing of his cancellation.

“My problem is not him cancelling, my problem is the time he do it,” Anderson continues. “If he knew he was uncomfortable with the Government restriction on him, I find weeks before or days before he could have said it and make a notice to the public, ‘Well, I’m not comfortable performing in Trinidad at the moment because of the stance the Government take’ and I would make preparations to postpone the show to move forward.”

Vybz Kartel maintains that he did nothing wrong and had no issue with the Trinidad government and places the blame squarely on the promoter’s breach of contract and adding things to his itinerary that had nothing to do with his performance at the event.

HITTING THE ROAD

Shenseea and Denyque headline summer tours

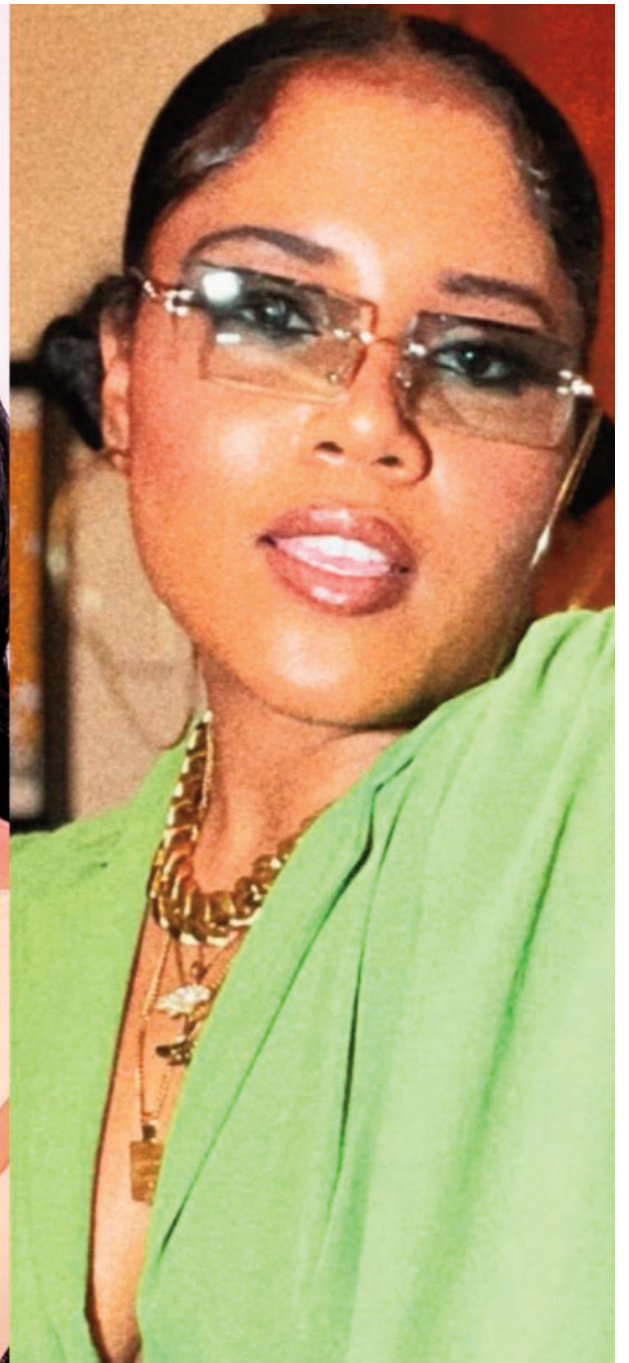
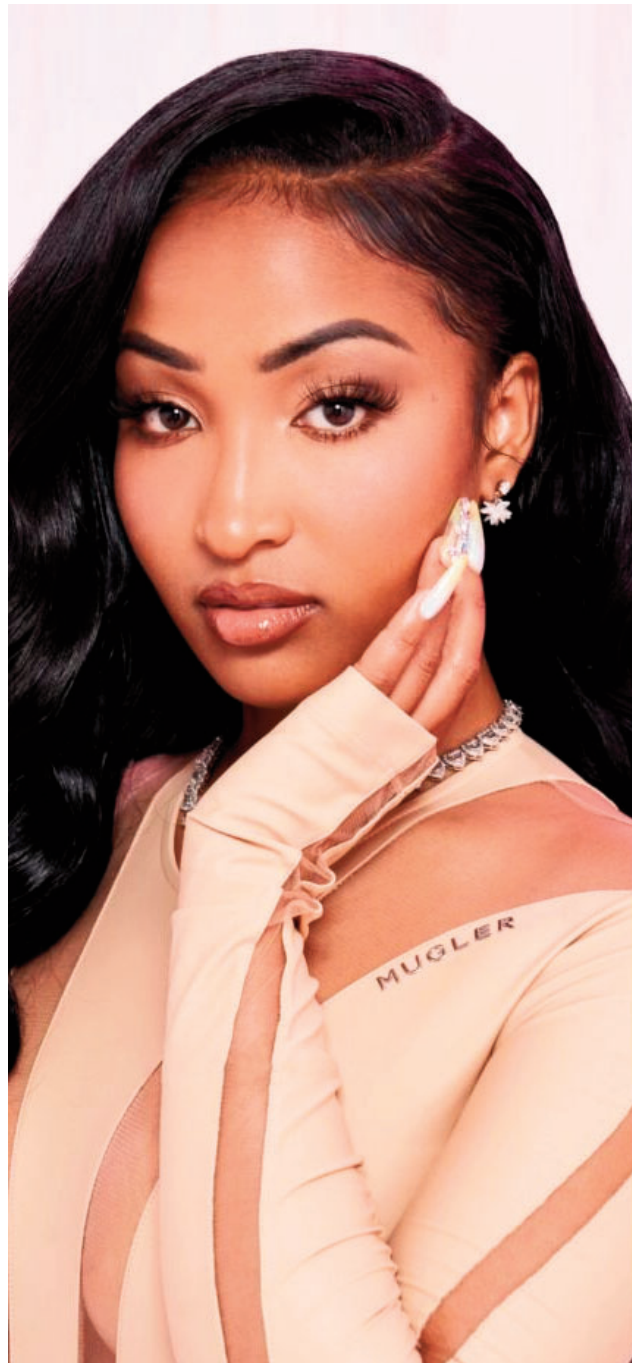
Caribbean music is taking center stage on the global circuit this summer as two of dancehall's leading ladies, Shenseea and Denyque, gear up for international tours that are set to amplify their global reach and Caribbean pride.

Fresh off the growing success of her Billboard-charting remix "Shake It To The Max (FLY)" with Moliy, currently sitting at No. 55 on the Hot 100, Shenseea is riding a wave of international momentum. The dynamic Jamaican star is now preparing to ignite stages across Europe with a nine-city tour that promises high energy and undeniable dancehall flair.

The tour kicked off June 28 in Brussels, presented by renowned French promoter JP in collaboration with Shenseea's manager, Dizzy Cleanface. The European leg continued with a Paris show on June 29, which will be followed by a return appearance in the City of Light on July 4 for the Yardland Festival.

Shenseea will then grace the stage at Summerjam in Cologne, Germany on July 5, one of Europe's most iconic reggae and dancehall events. Additional stops include Toulouse, Helsinki, Oslo, and Stockholm, before the grand finale at Sunsplash Festival in The Hague, Netherlands, on July 13.

Meanwhile, fellow dancehall singer Denyque is also hitting the international stage this summer with a pair of performances in Japan. Known for hits like "Proud Wifey", Same Guy and "Supergirl", Denyque will bring her sultry vocals and island swag to Tokyo on August 16, and then to Fukuoka on August 22. She'll be joined by DJ Reem from the renowned Champion Squad, promising a dancehall-filled experience for Japanese fans.



Shenseea will tour Europe, while Denyque hits the road in Japan

These tours not only mark a milestone in the careers of both women but also underscore the growing appetite for Caribbean music on the world stage. From Europe to Asia, Shenseea and Denyque are flying the dancehall flag high, bringing the energy, rhythm, and spirit of

the islands to international audiences.

As the summer heats up, Caribbean music lovers across the globe can look forward to vibrant performances and unforgettable vibes—straight from Jamaica to the world.



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Artist's rendering of the new Hilton Resort in Roxborough, Tobago

TOBAGO BOUND

Hilton to open Elephant Tree Resort and Villas in 2028

Hilton has announced plans to bring its Tapestry Collection brand to the shores of Tobago with the signing of Elephant Tree Resort and Villas Tobago, a 21-acre beachfront development in the charming town of Roxborough. Expected to open in 2028, the new resort will mark the brand's debut in the twin-island republic and join a global portfolio of nearly 160 uniquely styled Tapestry Collection hotels.

"The signing of Elephant Tree Resort and Villas Tobago, Tapestry Collection by Hilton is a significant milestone in our efforts to bring Hilton's award-winning brands to sought-after destinations across the Caribbean, where we have 49 hotels today, and a pipeline to nearly double our portfolio of hotels and resorts in the region," said Pablo Maturana, vice president, development, Caribbean and Latin America, Hilton.

"We remain committed to collaborating with outstanding owners to strategically align the right brand with the right location at the right time."

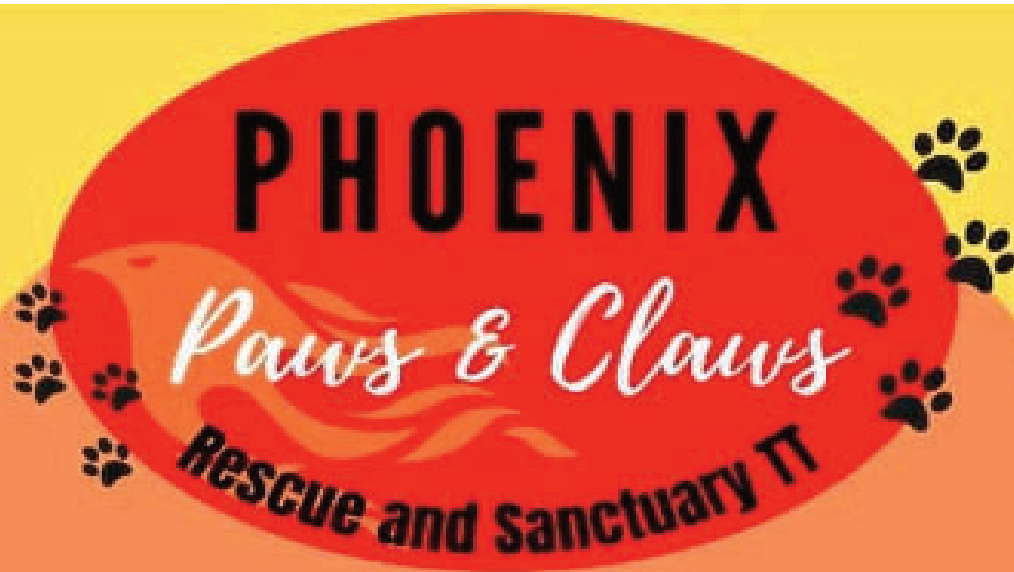
Located along more than 1,000 feet of oceanfront in Roxborough, the resort will feature 40 guest rooms and 126 fully furnished branded residences—88 three-bedroom units and 38 two-bedroom units—with up to 1,560 square feet of living space. Villas will include private terraces, high-end finishes like quartz countertops, and access to an optional rental program.

Managed by Hotel Equities, the resort aims to deliver a boutique experience rooted in Tobago's natural charm. Amenities will include a modern spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center, three swimming pools—including a three-story waterfall—400 square feet of meeting space, and

a variety of dining options, from a beach club grill to an all-day indoor-outdoor restaurant and a lobby bar.

"Introducing Tapestry Collection by Hilton to the beautiful island of Tobago was a natural fit," said Elizabeth Scruggs, brand leader, Tapestry Collection by Hilton. "Tobago is renowned for its rich culture, breathtaking natural landscapes, and warm hospitality. Our collection celebrates the individuality of each location, and this resort will truly embody that spirit."

Situated near natural attractions such as Argyle Falls and Speyside—the latter known as a diving hotspot with some of the Caribbean's best coral reefs—the resort's location complements Hilton's focus on immersive, locally inspired stays. The project further expands Hilton's footprint in Trinidad and Tobago.



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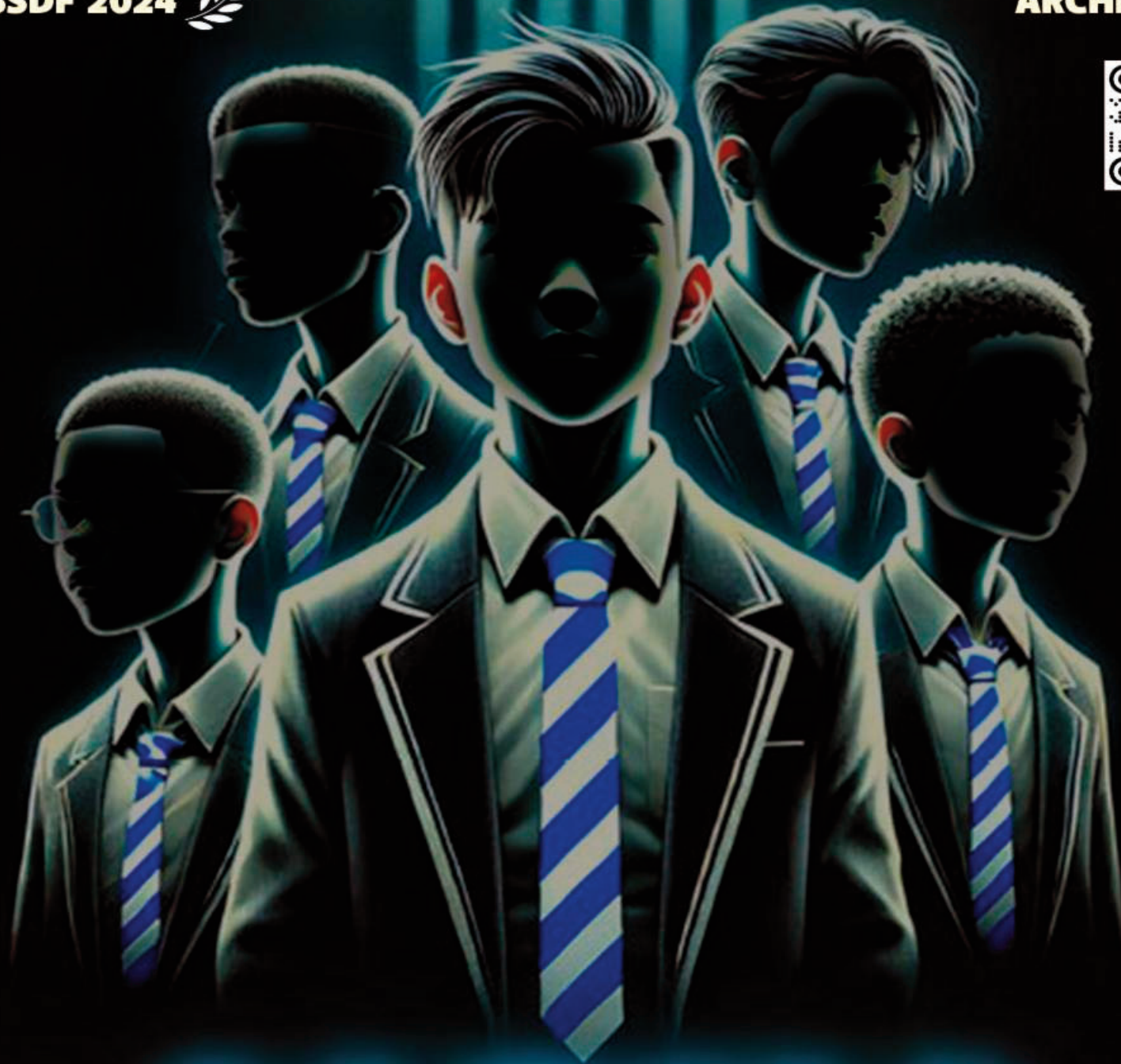


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July 7th
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7:30 pm

July 10th
6:00 pm

July 11th
12:00 pm

July 13th
3:00 pm

Dutch Justice

Jah Cure remains in custody in Netherlands as substantive hearing delayed

Reggae star Jah Cure, born Siccatore Alcock, has once again been remanded in custody in the Netherlands following a court appearance last month.

The singer's long-awaited substantive hearing, scheduled for June 18, was abruptly postponed due to the absence of a court-appointed interpreter.

According to a spokesperson from the Netherlands Prosecution Service, "The substantive hearing was scheduled but because the interpreter was unable to attend at the last minute, the case has been adjourned." The new date for the hearing has been set for October 9 at 2 p.m.

Until then, the "Longing For" singer will remain in pre-trial detention in Amsterdam as legal proceedings continue over the Dutch prosecutors' appeal of his 2022 conviction for attempted manslaughter. That conviction stemmed from a stabbing incident in October 2021, when Jah Cure attacked Dutch concert promoter Nicardo 'Papa' Blake over unpaid performance fees.

Initially sentenced to six years in prison, Jah Cure was acquitted of the more serious charge of attempted murder. His legal team has appealed the attempted manslaughter conviction, and Dutch prosecutors are seeking to reinstate the attempted murder charge. The upcoming substantive hearing—classified as a key stage in legal proceedings where a judicial decision is expected—will be pivotal in determining the trajectory of the case.

This is not the first time Jah Cure's legal woes have made headlines. The Grammy-nominated reggae singer, whose music has captivated global audiences with hits like "Unconditional Love," "Never Find," and "What Will It Take," has spent much of his career under the shadow of controversy. In 1999, he was convicted of rape and robbery and served eight years in a Jamaican prison. His release in 2007 marked a celebrated musical comeback, though criticism and skepticism never entirely faded.

In 2022, the backlash reignited following his conviction in the Netherlands. What began as concern within reggae music circles soon evolved into a larger informal boycott. Across Europe, se-



Jah Cure: charged with attempted manslaughter

lectors and disc jockeys began removing Jah Cure's songs from their playlists, citing the violent nature of the incident.

The boycott, while unofficial, has had a significant impact on the artist's visibility in Europe—a market traditionally receptive to conscious reggae music. For a genre like reggae, where global airplay is crucial to sustaining visibility and touring opportunities, the consequences of such a boycott can be severe. Jah Cure was also excluded from the MOBO awards.

Still, not all broadcasters have turned their

backs on the singer. As Jah Cure awaits his next day in court, questions persist about the legacy of his music and whether he can—or should—be rehabilitated in the eyes of the public. His October hearing may provide legal clarity, but the cultural verdict, particularly in Europe, may have already been delivered.

For the reggae diaspora, especially fans who once saw Jah Cure as a symbol of personal transformation, the ongoing case is a sobering reminder of the complex intersection between talent, trauma, and accountability.



FIGHT CLUB

Ky-Mani Marley and Trabass announce celebrity boxing match

Ky-Mani Marley, son of reggae legend Bob Marley, is set to participate in a friendly celebrity boxing match against Jamaican comedian and social media personality Anthony “Trabass” Johnson.

The announcement was made in a recent TikTok video filmed in the Bahamas, where the two men appeared together and agreed to train for three weeks before stepping into the ring. The video quickly gained attention online, with fans sharing their thoughts on the unexpected match-up.

For Trabass, this won't be his first time in the ring. In 2023, he faced fellow content creator Worl Dawg in a boxing match that ended early when Worl Dawg left the ring due to heat-related breathing issues. Trabass was declared the

winner. Now, the content creator, who has built a massive following across YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok thanks to his comedic skits and unfiltered commentary aims to prove himself once again.

On the other side of the ring, Ky-Mani Marley is best known for his role in the 2002 Jamaican film *Shottas*, a film that has remained a fan favorite in the Caribbean and diaspora communities for nearly two decades and has developed a strong following over the years. His appearance in the boxing match has sparked renewed interest in the film, with several fans calling for a sequel. While Ky-Mani has largely kept a lower profile compared to his more commercially visible siblings, he's carved his own niche in music and film.

Trabass rose to fame through his comedic YouTube sketches and has since built a large following across various social media platforms. His content often reflects life in Jamaica and the Caribbean diaspora, mixing humor with commentary on current events.

Celebrity boxing has become a growing trend, mixing entertainment with athleticism and offering fans an entirely new way to engage with their favorite stars. For Caribbean audiences, the Kimani vs. Trabass match-up hits particularly close to home—representing two very different but equally influential voices in Jamaican pop culture.

The date and location for the match have not yet been announced. Both men are expected to begin training soon.



Tokyo meets Kingston

VIGORMAN and Stalk Ashley unite for single 'Fading Away'

A sonic bridge between Japan and Jamaica is taking shape with the release of *Fading Away*, the debut collaboration between Japanese singer-songwriter VIGORMAN and Jamaican alt-R&B star Stalk Ashley.

The genre-blending single drops this week, offering a bold fusion of reggae, hip-hop, and R&B wrapped in emotional storytelling and sleek production.

Produced by VIGORMAN alongside Jaxx and Gacha Medz, *Fading Away* is more than a musical experiment—it's a statement of global artistic connection. The visuals, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Shane Creative (444), am-

plify the emotional weight of the track with haunting cinematography and a heart-centered narrative.

To mark the international milestone, VIGORMAN is celebrating in Jamaica with a listening party and visual premiere on June 26 in Kingston. The event will feature a live performance by both artists, an exclusive screening of the music video, and a DJ set by Silent Addy, the Billboard-charting producer best known for *Shake It To The Max (FLY)*.

Over three years in the making, *Fading Away* represents VIGORMAN's first official international release, signaling his readiness to

step into the global spotlight. Known in Japan for his emotionally honest lyrics and genre-fluid sound, VIGORMAN has carved a niche in his homeland's hip-hop and reggae scenes. This latest move suggests a broader vision: music without borders.

Stalk Ashley, celebrated for her sultry blend of dancehall, R&B, and soul, brings her signature sound to the track, further solidifying her role as one of Jamaica's most versatile rising stars. Her growing international fanbase and respected industry co-signs make her the perfect collaborator for a project that's as cross-cultural as it is cutting-edge.

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TIPSY MUSIC

Grammy winning artiste Tyla set to make Caribbean debut at Festival in Barbados

GRAMMY Award-winning global sensation Tyla is set to make her Caribbean debut at the 2025 Topsy Music Festival (TMF) in Barbados. The multi-platinum South African singer will headline Day 2 of the festival — the iconic TMF All White Experience — on Sunday, July 20, during the island’s electrifying Crop Over season.

Tyla, whose breakout hit *Water* propelled her to international stardom, has captivated global audiences with her genre-blending sound that fuses Amapiano, R&B, and Pop into a style uniquely her own. Her self-titled debut album, *TYLA*, made history as the highest-charting album by an African female soloist on the Billboard 200, while *Water* also became the highest-charting track by an African female soloist on the Billboard Hot 100, earning her a GRAMMY Award for Best African Music Performance in 2024.

Now, with performances at Coachella, global award nominations, and a fanbase that stretches across continents, Tyla’s upcoming performance in Barbados is being hailed as a cultural moment for the region.

“We are proud to welcome Tyla to the TMF stage for the very first time,” said TMF organiser Zamani Moodie. “She is one of the most exciting global voices of this generation — a trailblazer whose energy, artistry, and cultural relevance make her a perfect match for the Caribbean’s most dynamic summer festival. TMF has always been about creating experiences that blend international energy with Caribbean soul — and Tyla is the perfect match!”

Adding to the excitement, TMF 2025 boasts a cross-genre lineup that includes none other than Soca king Machel Montano, who will join Tyla on Day 2 in what’s expected to be a high-energy showcase of Afrofusion meets Soca.

Other headline acts across the two-day event include Caribbean power couple Bunji Garlin and Fay-Ann Lyons, alongside top-tier DJs, per-



Tyla — will share a stage with Machel Montano and Bunji Garlin

formers, and surprise guests.

Day 1 – TMF Beach | Saturday, July 19

A beachside daytime celebration with live DJ sets, performances, and island vibes — setting the tone for a full weekend of revelry.

Day 2 – TMF All White Experience | Sunday, July 20

A world-class concert experience featuring

Tyla, Machel Montano, Bunji Garlin, Fay-Ann Lyons, and more. Expect stunning visuals, premium brand activations, exclusive table zones, and a high-energy crowd dressed in all white.

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