

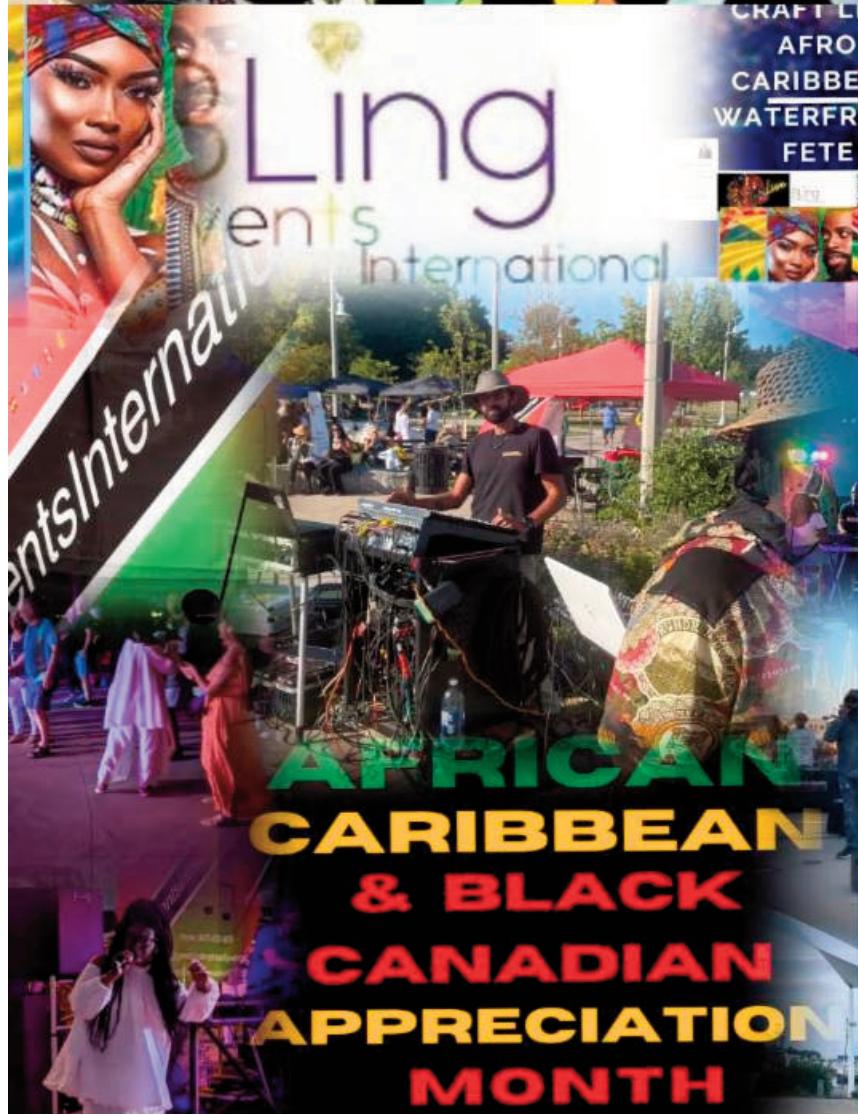
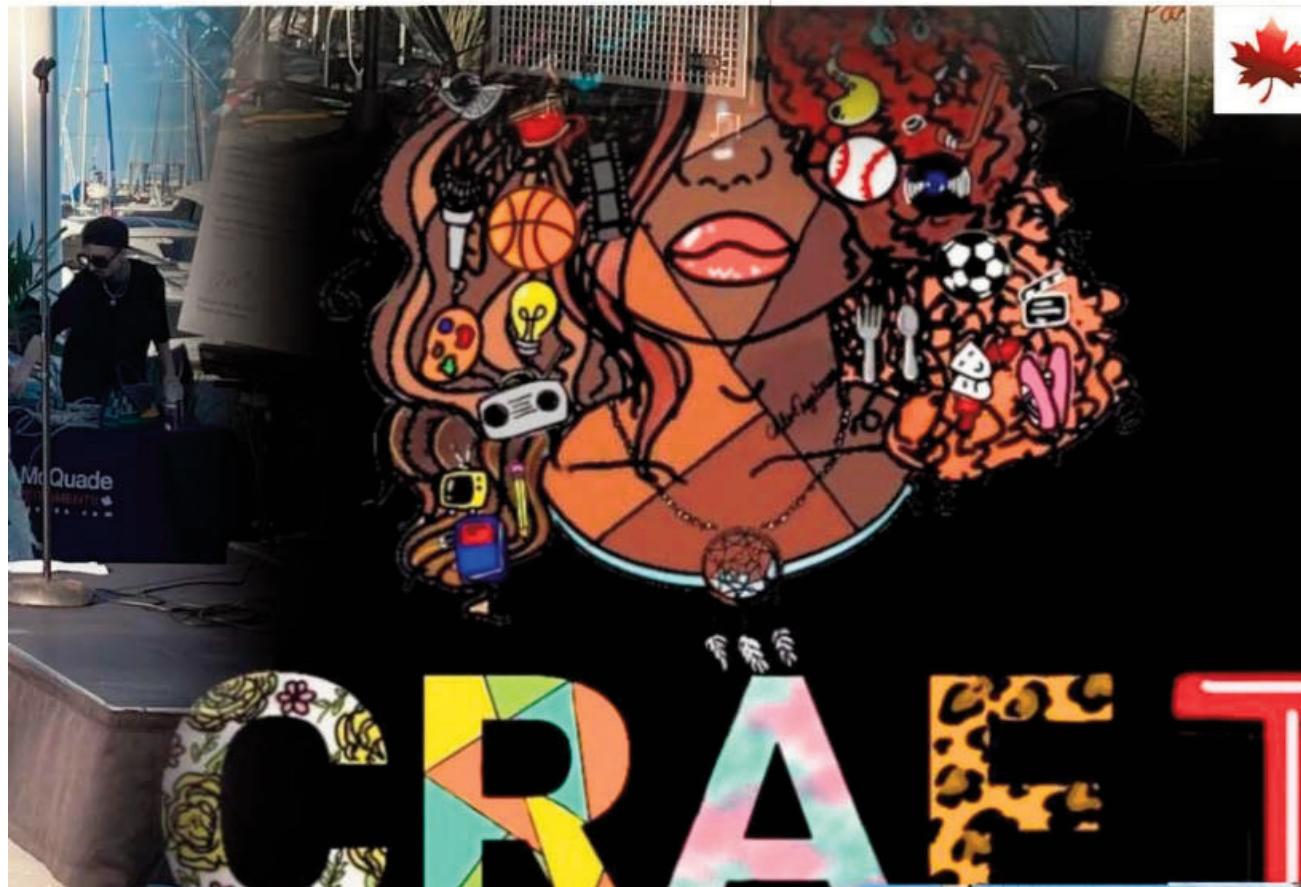


CANADA GETS UNRULY
Popcaan bringing his
celebrated tour to the
Great White North



SMURFETTE

Rihanna, Shenseea bring a
Caribbean vibe to new movie



Telling Our Tales

Toronto's Caribbean Film Festival set for its 20th year in September

THE CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF), an event showcasing Caribbean and diaspora cinema in North America, proudly announces its 20th anniversary edition, from September 3-13 in Toronto, and online worldwide from September 3 to October 3.

Under the theme Resilience in Motion, this milestone festival will celebrate two decades of transformative storytelling from across the Caribbean region and its global diaspora with 49 incredible films. Programming will include premieres, retrospectives, talkbacks, tributes, and a global virtual component, underscoring CTFF's commitment to elevating under-represented voices in film.

Founded in 2006 by Frances-Anne Solomon, award-winning filmmaker and advocate for diverse cinema, CTFF has grown into an internationally recognised platform for Caribbean filmmakers. Over the past two decades, the festival has screened more than 1,000 films, supported hundreds of creators, and played a critical role in shifting how Caribbean narratives are represented on screen.

"This 20th anniversary is both a celebration and a call to action," Solomon, who is also the founder and executive director of Caribbean Tales Media Group (CTMG) said. "We look back on a generation of ground-breaking films and look ahead to a vibrant future where Caribbean stories continue to redefine the global cinematic landscape."

For more information, visit <https://caribbeantalesfestival.com/> or follow on

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/caribbeantales/>

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Frances-Anne Solomon directs a scene from *Hero*

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BE HERE AND

Be Seen

Take a breath with me for a moment. Sit still, right where you are. Feel the ground beneath your feet. Feel the chair holding you up. Feel the air around you.

Now, just be here.

Look at yourself. Not only the surface you see in the mirror but inside. Who are you when no one else is watching? What would it feel like if the world saw that person too?

This month is about exactly that.

It is about being seen. Truly seen. Not just for the version of yourself you think others expect to see. Not just the parts you polish and present. But all of you. The strong parts, the tender parts, the messy brilliant alive parts.

I know that thought might make your heart beat a little faster. Maybe even your stomach feels tight. That is perfectly fine. You are not alone in feeling that way.

Being seen is one of the bravest choices you can make.

For so long you may have been taught to keep some parts of yourself hidden. To tone yourself down. To play it safe. To fit neatly into what others want or what you believe they want. Maybe you even started believing that hiding was necessary. That it kept you safe somehow.

But here is the truth. Every time you hide you make yourself just a little smaller. And each time you shrink yourself the world misses out on the real you.

The world needs the real you. And you need the real you too.

Close your eyes for a moment. Take another breath. Feel into this. What is one thing about yourself that you have been hiding? One part of you that you keep tucked away? Maybe it is your voice. Maybe it is your opinion. Maybe it is your laughter, your dreams, your softness, your fire.

Let yourself see it now. Picture it clearly. Let it rise gently to the surface.

That part of you is not something to be ashamed of. It is not too much. It is not too little. It is

just right.

What would it feel like to let it shine?

I know it is not always easy. I understand it can feel terrifying. There is a reason people keep themselves small. You might fear being judged. You might fear being rejected. You might fear being misunderstood.

And yet hiding comes with its own kind of pain. Pretending to be someone else is heavy. It drains you. It leaves you feeling disconnected from others, from yourself, and from life itself.

You do not have to carry that anymore.

If you and I were sitting face to face right now I would say this gently but firmly. You are enough. Right now, as you are. You do not have to earn the right to take up space. You already belong here. You already matter.

What would happen if you chose to believe that?

Take another breath here with me. Place your hand on your heart if it helps. Close your eyes if you feel like it.

Breathe in and imagine what it would feel like to walk into a room as yourself completely unapologetically yourself. Your head held high. Your shoulders soft but strong. Your words clear and steady. Your presence undeniable.

That feeling is not just for someone else. That is yours to claim.

You may be wondering if this is really for you. You may even feel like this message must be meant for someone braver, someone stronger, someone more certain. But let me tell you something important. This is for you if you have ever felt invisible. This is for you if you have ever quieted your own voice to keep the peace. This is for you if you have ever looked in the mirror and thought, there has to be more than this.

It is for you if you have been holding back because you thought it was not your turn yet. If you have been waiting for permission to show up. If you have been

yearning for someone to look you in the eye and say, you matter.

You do matter.

And this moment is for you.

The truth is people are drawn to authenticity. They may not always know how to describe it but they feel it. When you show up as yourself you give others permission to do the same. When you step forward in your truth you light the way for others.

And yet it always begins with you.

So let us talk quietly here about how you start.

First you begin by noticing. Notice when you hold back. Notice when you silence yourself, when you shrink, when you smile even though you want to speak. Simply notice. Do not judge yourself for it. Just see it.

Then choose one small moment each day to show up more fully. Maybe you speak your mind during a conversation. Maybe you wear the outfit that feels most like you instead of the one that feels safest. Maybe you share a story about yourself you have never shared before.

These moments might feel a little uncomfortable at first. That is normal. But each time you do it you build trust with yourself. Each time you let yourself be seen you remind yourself that you are worthy of being seen.

And yes, some people may not understand. Some may not agree. That is their journey, not yours. Your purpose is not to make yourself smaller to keep others comfortable. Your purpose is to show up as who you truly are.

Take a gentle moment here. Let that thought settle softly in your heart.

You do not have to wait until you feel completely ready. You do not have to wait until you feel perfect. There is no magical day when all the fear suddenly goes away. You simply begin. You begin where you are, with what you have, as who you are.

The more you practice this, the more natural it feels. The more



HEART & SOUL

with
Dianne Ojar



you show up, the more you realize that you have always belonged.

And here is something beautiful to remember. When you are seen, really seen, you offer others a gift too. You show them what is possible. You show them that they can do it too.

So let this month be your moment.

Let this be the time you stop hiding and start living fully. Let this be the month you say yes to yourself.

Look at me now. You can do this. I believe in you.

I have decided to step it up and be seen. Not seen in an egotistical way, but in how I can help others like myself, my friends, my family, and anyone who needs to hear what I have learned. It is about speaking up. Speaking my truth. And I want you to know, I did not get to this place by choosing only what was easy. I got here because I did what needed to be done, even when it felt hard. I kept going, even when it seemed impossible, and I chose to show up any way.

And you can do the same. Truly.

You already know who you are. You already know what you have been keeping inside. You already know what you are capable of.

Let the world see it too.

Stay with me just a little longer. Breathe gently and feel that truth settle in your heart.

You are ready.

The world is waiting for you. Go ahead. Be seen.

Are you ready to take the next step? Visit masteryourshifthypnosis.com to explore powerful tools, resources, and transformative hypnosis sessions designed by Dianne Ojar, The Experiential Coach. Let Dianne guide you on this empowering journey toward abundance, success, and prosperity. Take action now and step into the life you deserve.

MAS, MIAMI STYLE

Annual event returns October 4 – 12 to celebrate its 41st year

The Miami Broward Carnival Host Committee is excited to announce the return of the Miami Carnival, scheduled from October 4 to 12, 2025. Now in its 41st year, this iconic celebration continues to showcase the richness of Caribbean culture through immersive experiences, live performances, and lively family-friendly events. Early bird tickets are now available at www.miamicarnival.org.

In response to the current economic climate, global tariffs, and immigration-related challenges affecting many large-scale cultural events, the Host Committee will implement several strategic changes to enhance operations and prioritize sustainability. These necessary changes will help secure the long-term future of the Carnival. However, these adjustments are not expected to diminish the quality or integrity of the cherished cultural experience that Miami Carnival offers.

“While we recognize the financial and logistical pressures affecting our industry, our commitment to offering a safe, inclusive, and joyful celebration remains firm,” said Joan Hinkson-Justin, Chairperson of the Miami Broward One Carnival Host Committee. “The spirit of Carnival—its music, its people, its culture—cannot and will not be diminished. We’re adapting to ensure it continues to thrive for future generations.

Recognized as one of North America’s largest and most influential Caribbean cultural celebrations, the Miami Carnival attracts over 100,000 attendees each year from across the U.S., the Caribbean, Europe, and beyond. The event serves as a major driver of cultural tourism and economic growth, generating millions of dollars in revenue for South Florida through hospitality, dining, transportation, and small business participation.

Miami Carnival 2025 – Official Schedule of Events

Experience the vibrant spirit of Caribbean culture through music, pageantry, and a multi-generational celebration.

Junior Carnival – Saturday, October 4

A lively display of culture and creativity, where young masqueraders take center stage in a family-friendly celebration.

Panorama Steelband Competition – Friday, October 10

A lively showcase of talent as top steel bands perform in an energetic battle of melody and movement.

J’ouvert Morning Experience – Saturday, October 11

Celebrate the freedom and tradition of J’ou-



Miami Mas offers vibrant pageantry

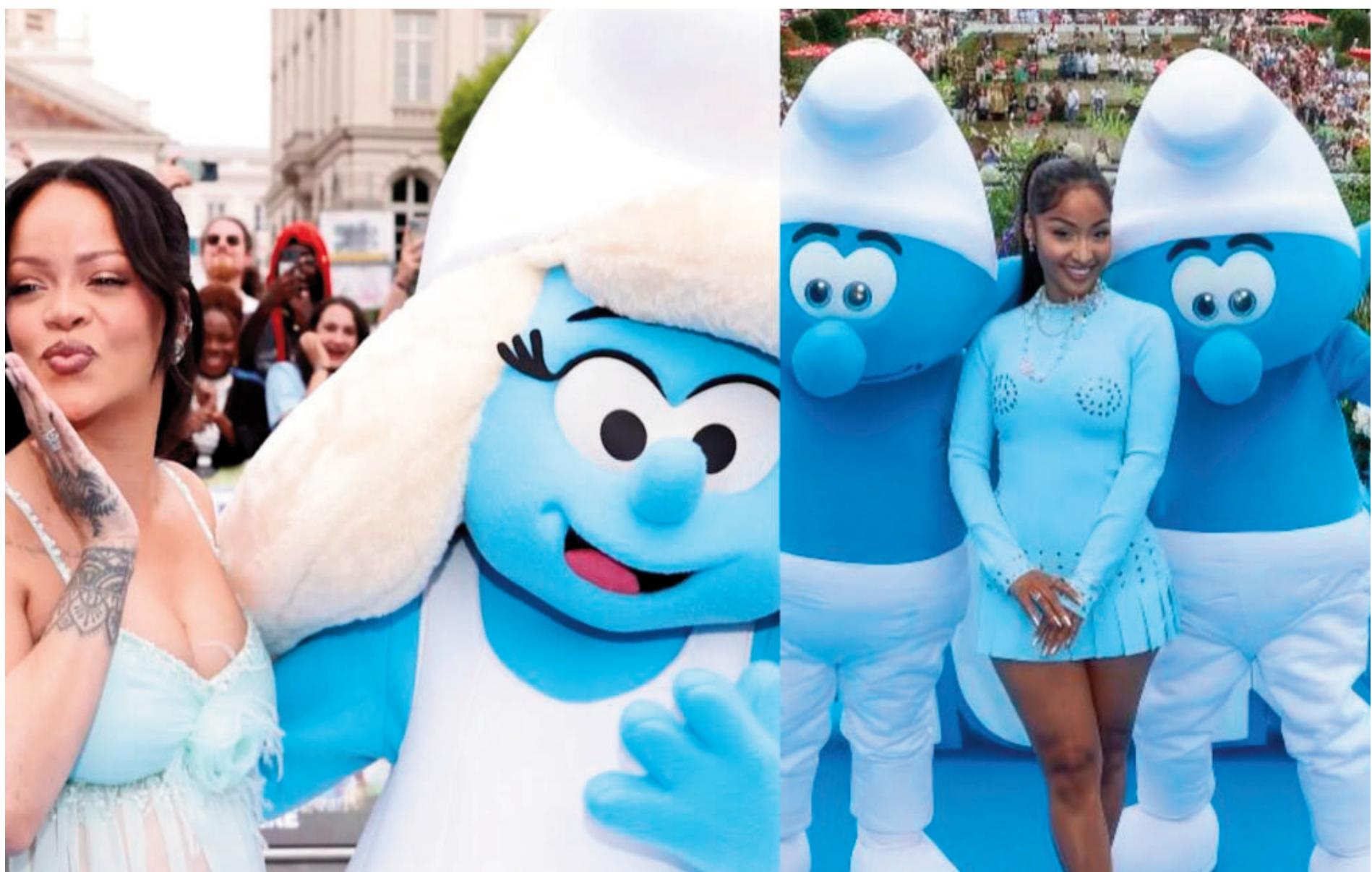
vert with paint, powder, and lively rhythms at an unforgettable early-morning event you won’t want to miss.

Miami Carnival Parade of Bands & Mega Concert – Sunday, October 12

The grand finale—an impressive display of vibrant costumes, electrifying performances, and international music stars, all coming together for

the ultimate celebration of Caribbean pride and unity.

From the hypnotic rhythms of steelpan and soca to the vibrant pageantry and storytelling of masquerade bands, Miami Carnival remains a staple celebration for families, cultural enthusiasts, and travelers seeking a festive and meaningful getaway.



Rihanna (left) and Shenseea with characters from the Smurfs movie

FEELING BLUE

Rihanna, Shenseea add some Caribbean flair to new Smurfs movie

Caribbean music and star power took center stage last weekend as global icons Rihanna and Shenseea lit up the blue carpet at the world premiere of the highly anticipated Smurfs movie. The dazzling event, held in Brussels, Belgium, saw both artistes paying tribute to the beloved franchise with light blue ensembles that were as bold as their contributions to the film's soundtrack.

Rihanna, the Barbadian mogul and musical powerhouse, isn't just lending her star presence,

she voices the lead character Smurfette and serves as one of the film's executive producers. The live-action animated reboot follows Smurfette on a daring quest to save Papa Smurf, with Rihanna breathing new life into the iconic blue heroine.

Meanwhile, Jamaica's own Shenseea is also making waves in the Smurfs universe. Her infectious track "It's A Party" is featured on the official soundtrack, which also includes songs by Rihanna and South African pop sensation Tyla.

With its upbeat, radio-ready pop sound, Shenseea's contribution showcases her versatility and marks a clear stylistic pivot from her dancehall roots—a move that continues to broaden her international appeal.

The latest Smurfs movie, now in theaters, promises family-friendly fun infused with flavor and flair. With Rihanna's voice guiding the story and Shenseea's song turning up the energy, the film's soundtrack is poised to resonate far beyond the big screen.

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DIDDY GUILTY

After nearly two months of testimony in a closely watched federal trial, music mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs was found guilty on two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution, but acquitted of racketeering conspiracy and both sex trafficking charges, a Manhattan jury decided on in early July.

The split verdict comes after a trial that began on May 5 and centered on explosive allegations from multiple women, including Combs’ former partner Cassie Ventura and another accuser identified only as “Jane.” The jury, composed of eight men and four women, returned unanimous verdicts on four of the five counts after deliberating for just under 13 hours.

Combs, 54, had faced five charges in total: two counts of sex trafficking, two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution, and one count of racketeering conspiracy. Prosecutors accused him of orchestrating a two-decade criminal operation that used his celebrity status, financial

power, and network of associates to lure and exploit women.

However, the jury rejected the government’s broader claims that Combs led a criminal enterprise under federal racketeering laws or committed acts that rose to the legal threshold of sex trafficking — charges that could have brought a minimum of 15 years to life in prison.

Instead, they found Combs guilty of arranging interstate travel for Cassie and Jane for the purpose of prostitution. Each of those counts carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison, which would run concurrently.

Combs, who has been incarcerated without bail at Brooklyn’s Metropolitan Detention Center since his arrest on September 16, 2024, reportedly sat with his head bowed as the jury entered the courtroom.

A sentencing date has not yet been set, though prosecutors have signaled they may push for the maximum penalty.



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Summer Vibes

Machel & Friends plan to heat up Barclays Centre in Brooklyn

As summer winds down, the vibes are heating up in Brooklyn. On Saturday, August 24, Caribbean music and culture will take center stage at the Barclays Center as soca legend Machel Montano headlines a massive showing of Caribbean music and unity with his electrifying Machel Montano & Friends concert.

Presented by Planet Brooklyn, the concert promises an unforgettable night of soca and dancehall, with a heavyweight lineup that blends iconic veterans with red-hot rising stars. Joining Machel are soca powerhouses Bunji Garlin, Lady Lava, Problem Child—who recently took the crown as Vincy Soca Monarch Champion—and Ravi B, the chutney soca star beloved by fans across the Caribbean diaspora.

Also on the bill is Vincentian Soca Star Skinny Fabulous, whose unstoppable momentum this year includes being named a brand ambassador for LIAT Airlines. Expect anthems, energy, and non-stop vibes.

Representing dancehall are the genre's new-generation firestarters Skillibeng and Ayetian, both known for their gritty lyrics, street hits, and magnetic stage presence. Skillibeng is riding high this year as his collab with Ghanaian songstress Moliy and fellow dancehall trailblazer Shenseea for Shake it to the Max (remix) continues to climb international charts. Ayetian is enjoying the summer of his dreams as his "Tip" (remix,) which also includes Shenseea, Nvtzz, and DJ Mac, continues to trend local charts. It has amassed almost 1 million views on YouTube.

The show is shaping up to be one of the biggest Caribbean musical moments of the summer in North America.

But the celebration doesn't stop at Barclays.

Planet Brooklyn has crafted an entire weekend experience around the show. Leading up to the main event, the city will be buzzing with cultural energy through additional performances at the Brooklyn Paramount and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). The festivities also include a massive outdoor block party, set to feature a curated lineup of Caribbean and local food vendors, live street performances, artisan markets, and showcases from some of Brooklyn's most dynamic creatives. As if that wasn't enough, the weekend kicks off early with a prelude concert on Saturday, August 17, when Dominican dembow



Machel Montano — bringing summer vibes to Brooklyn

king El Alfa takes over with El Alfa & Friends—an explosive blend of Latin trap and hip-hop. Sharing the stage will be A\$AP Ferg, Lil Pump, and more surprise guests still to be announced.

For the Caribbean diaspora and lovers of

global music, August in Brooklyn is shaping up to be a true cultural moment. Whether you're there for the riddims, the food, the fashion, or just the pure island energy, this is one weekend you won't want to miss.



Baby Cham with Stephen and Damian Marley

HUSTLING IN MY BLOOD

Baby Cham, Stephen Marley, & Damian Marley join forces on new track

Three giants of Jamaican music—Baby Cham, Stephen Marley, and Damian “Jr. Gong” Marley—have joined forces on a powerful new single titled “Hustling in My Blood”, released by Lawless Army Music.

The track marks the lead single from Cham’s upcoming fourth studio album *Sherlock*, which is set for release on July 25. Produced by UK hitmakers The FaNaTiX—whose resume includes work with Vybz Kartel, Giggs, Stylo G, and Nicki Minaj—the song blends haunting horns, militant drums, and razor-sharp lyrics into an unapologetic anthem of resilience, ambition, and survival.

“This song is an anthem—a true hustler’s song,” said Cham, known for hits like “Ghetto Story” with Alicia Keys, “Vitamin S,” and “Joyride.” “It reminds people that they can get through anything. You can’t give in.”

On “Hustling in My Blood,” the trio trades verses bar-for-bar, delivering a unified message of perseverance:

“Hustling ina mi blood, guh for it ina di mud / Listen to every word I say, even if it is true that the fire or the flood is coming / We

are the strongest of the strong!”

The single is accompanied by a gritty, high-energy video directed by Jay Lenz—known for his work with Finesse2tymes and Plies—shot on location in Miami. The visuals bring the track to life with raw, urban imagery and compelling performances from all three artists. The video is now streaming on Baby Cham’s official YouTube channel.

A veteran with undeniable staying power, Cham continues to evolve as one of dancehall’s most versatile voices. Still working closely with longtime collaborator Dave Kelly, he maintains a foothold in both the streets and the global music scene. *Sherlock* promises to be a bold new chapter in his legacy.





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Saltfish Concert

Top entertainers join in tribute to Mighty Sparrow on his 90th birthday

UNFORGETTABLE was the word used to describe the tribute concert for the living legend Slinger "Mighty Sparrow" Francisco, the undisputed King of Calypso, in commemoration of his 90th birthday.

It is what Spektakula Promotions promised and delivered at the first of two thank you tributes, held at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA) on July 26.

It should have been called the "Saltfish Concert" because that was the theme which resonated throughout the three-and-a-half-hour show featuring ten of his protégé who traversed his over six-decade career to reminisce on some of his gems.

A member of the audience, sitting in the front row with two women, neither of whom, they later confessed, were his wife, started the saltfish mischief.

Claiming he, like Sparrow, was its greatest lover, he engaged in picong with hosts Dr Ross and Tommy Joseph as the curtain rose and the singing of the national anthem ended.

He kept the audience laughing loudly with his many saltfish interjections and accepted the invitation from Dr Ross to join him and Joseph on stage, to deliver a commendable performance of the calypso.

As Sparrow "singing students" mounted the San Fernando platform to reminisce and bring to life his more memorable hits, one of them, Luta (Morel Peters) said, "Sparrow is looking on at the show and told me to do this song (Saltfish) for the fella."

The crowd broke out in an uproar singing line for line with Luta, who also gave memorable performances of Slave and Good Citizen to end the first half of the show.

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Mighty Sparrow — turned 90 in July

"This song, Slave, is most appropriate and timely as we celebrate Emancipation, reflecting on the saddest time African people ever experienced," Luta said.

It was an evening of music par excellence, delivered with gusto by the chosen artistes, reflecting, past, present and future generations, to cram decades of history into one show.

Opening the show was young Zachary Ransome who showed no nerves as the opening. Instead, he claimed the stage, exuding confidence as he performed the appropriate, Education, the first of three selections.

Seasoned performer Pink Panter (Eric Taylor) also used the platform to put to an end to

questions about his selection to pay tribute to the "Birdie," as he was a Kitchener (Aldyn Roberts) supporter.

Mr Walker and All Dem Tobago Guyl were chosen by Oscar B to celebrate the icon who has won many calypso and road march crowns.

Ronnie Mc Intosh encountered some challenges with the band and abruptly ended his set after performing Congo Man and Drunk and Disorderly.

Bringing the curtains down on a fantastic show was College Boy Jesse who ended with Margarita, Marajhin and Jean and Dinah.

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BEST OF THE BEST

Indo Caribbean Music Awards to honour achievement

The Indo-Caribbean Music Awards is an annual event celebrating the diverse and vibrant musical landscape of the Indo-Caribbean community. This event will honour the achievements of artistes, producers, and industry professionals who have significantly contributed to the region's music industry.

A media release said, the first ICMA is being done in partnership with the National Council of Indian Culture and will be held at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts on September 11.

The first stage of voting was completed on July 18. This first stage was done to identify the final list of nominees for each category. The voting is being done by members and industry professionals from the entertainment industry.

Four categories that are being decided by a special committee – International breakthrough artiste, Most promising indo-caribbean dance group, Posthumous award and Lifetime achievement award.

The 103fm Fan's Choice Award will be decided through a special 103fm promotion.

The nominees are as follows:

Best male artiste

Raymond Ramnarine

Ravi B

Vicadi Singh

Anil Bheem

Rakesh Yankaran

Best female artiste

Savita Singh

Katelin Sultan

Rasika Dindial

Reshma Ramlal

Rawytee Ramroop

Best original song

Adesh Samaroo – One Nip of Puncheon

Rakesh Yankaran – Kaisa Bahaar

Rasika Dindial – Dudu Kat

Rooplal Girdharrie – Char Balma

Suresh Maraj – Wok De Land

Best chutney soca collaboration

Ravi B and Nisha B – Lawa

Raquel John and Hunter – Plenty Iron

Captain Kendal, Dawg E Slaughter and LTron – Suga Water



Ravi B and Rawytee Ramroop are among the nominees at the ICMA

Ravi B and Tempa – Chutney Steam

Hemlatha Dindial and Rawytee Ramroop –

Daaga Piya

Song of the year

Kenneth Salick – 4x4 Van

JO-E – Miss Me Again

Anil Bheem – Indian Anthem

Ravi B – Wedding Party

Raymond Ramnarine – Touch De Ground

Best new artiste

Katelin Sultan

Vanita Willie

Tony Cuttz

Vicadi Singh

Sunil Ramsundar

Best chutney soca

Jo-e – Miss Me Again

Ravi B – Shirley Gyal

Rick Ram – Luzaar

Rasika Dindial – Jing-a-ling

Kenneth Salick – 4x4 Van

Best taan singing/baithak gana

Sunil Ramsundar – Ab Choliya

Rasika Dindial – Dudu Kat

Suresh Maraj – Wok De Land

Dubraj Persad – Shaadi Karo

Rooplal G – Char Balma

Producer of the year

Big Rich – D Pungalunks Factory

Rishi Gayadeen – RG Productions

Rishi Mahatoo – Maha Studios

Kishore 'Wizzy' Ramdath – Wizzy Studio

Professor Bounty – Bounty Target Productions

Best music video

Savita Singh – Bachupan

Ravi B and Nisha B – Lawa

Kenneth Salick – 4x4 Van

Raymond Ramnarine & Rakesh Yankaran – Chande Jaisa

Raymond Ramnarine – Touch De Ground

Best indo-caribbean band

Raymond Ramnarine & Dil-E-Nadan

Ravi B & Karma

RG the Band

Avatar



Tosh Alexander has a genre-blending approach to her music

SHE'S A LIVEWIRE

Tosh Alexander bringing it in the global space

With a sound that seamlessly fuses R&B smoothness with the pulse of reggae and the swagger of dancehall, Tosh Alexander is carving out a space all on her own in the global music landscape. The Jamaican-born, US-raised singer is returning to local stages with renewed energy and a message rooted in love, self-confidence, and cultural pride—just in time for her upcoming performance at the much-anticipated LiveWIRE show in Kingston.

Tosh's musical journey reflects the duality of her upbringing. "I grew up between Jamaica and the States," she explains. "I was heavily influenced by R&B and also vocally trained in R&B, but as I got older, I really started embracing my culture more. My music started to sound like me—sometimes very proper English, other times full of patois. It's a natural fusion of all my worlds."

That genre-blending approach has become her signature. "People say my sound is contemporary, eclectic, a fusion. And it is. I tap into my soft side for R&B, but I pull on my dancehall and reggae energy when I want to be more edgy and fun."

Musical legends like Brandy, Monica, Lauryn Hill, Aaliyah, Whitney Houston, and Mariah Carey shaped her early influences. But Tosh also found inspiration closer to home: "Diana King was a big one for me. She was such a real vocalist but would go straight into patois in the middle of a song. That made her feel familiar and authentic to me."

Tosh's career has been rich with defining moments. Fresh out of college, she signed to an independent label and recorded a standout EP produced by hitmakers Kool & Dre. "It didn't get the recognition I hoped for at the time, but I was

proud—it really captured where I was as an artist trying to figure out who I am." She later collaborated with industry giants like Pharrell and Busta Rhymes, even scoring a single with the latter.

Most recently, Tosh added "actress" to her resume with a feature role in the film *Love Offside*, which also included two of her original songs. "That was a huge accomplishment," she shares. "I love exploring creativity in all its forms."

Now, she's preparing to unveil a deeply personal new body of work. "It's very R&B and very vulnerable. Probably my truest work to date. Being so open is uncomfortable, but I think it's important to share that part of myself."

The first taste of this upcoming project comes in the form of a new single, "Bring That," set to drop in the coming weeks.

'THEO' GONE

Beloved star of The Cosby Show drowns while on holiday

Malcolm-Jamal Warner, best known for his iconic role as Theo Huxtable on the groundbreaking sitcom The Cosby Show, died in mid-July in an accidental drowning off the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. He was 54.

Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department confirmed that Warner was swimming at Playa Cocles in the province of Limón when he was caught in a strong current and pulled out to sea. According to authorities, he was rescued from the water by bystanders, but emergency responders from the Costa Rican Red Cross were unable to revive him. He was pronounced dead at the scene and transported to the local morgue.

Warner's death comes as a shock to fans globally, including those in the Caribbean diaspora, who grew up watching him as the witty and relatable teenage son in one of television's most influential Black families. From 1984 to 1992, Warner portrayed Theo Huxtable on The Cosby Show, a role that catapulted him to fame and earned him a Primetime Emmy nomination at just 16 years old. His portrayal helped challenge negative stereotypes and contributed to a cultural shift in American television, presenting a middle-class African American family in a positive, aspirational light.

Following The Cosby Show, Warner continued to evolve as an actor, director, musician, and spoken word artist. He appeared in a range of television series including Malcolm & Eddie, Reed Between the Lines, and more recently, The Resident and Suits. In 2015, he earned an NAACP Image Award for his performance in American Crime: The People v. O.J. Simpson, where he played A.C. Cowlings.



Malcolm Jamaal Warner - drowned in Costa Rica

That same year, he won a Grammy Award for Best Traditional R&B Performance for his contribution to Robert Glasper's song "Jesus Children."

In addition to his on-screen work, Warner was a respected voice in the world of poetry and jazz, frequently blending performance art with music. A longtime advocate for arts education and social justice, he often used his platform to speak on issues of race, masculinity, and creative freedom.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Warner was raised by his single mother, Pamela

Warner, who also served as his manager throughout much of his early career. Named after Malcolm X and jazz legend Ahmad Jamal, Warner embodied a unique blend of artistic talent and cultural awareness throughout his life.

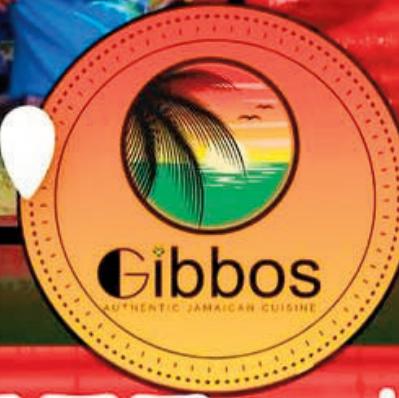
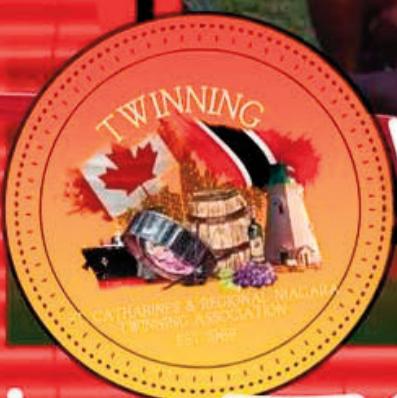
News of his sudden passing has prompted an outpouring of grief from across the entertainment world, with tributes flooding social media from fellow actors, musicians, and long-time fans.

Warner is survived by his partner and their daughter.

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

LOVE AND HARMONY CRUISE

Easter 2026 sailing will feature a gospel twist

The Love and Harmony Cruise is preparing to make waves in 2026 with a historic first, an onboard gospel concert to mark Easter Monday. Known for fusing Caribbean vibes with world-class reggae music, the cruise will introduce a spiritual celebration during its five-night journey at sea, offering passengers a more diverse and soul-stirring musical experience.

The 2026 sailing is scheduled for April 1 to April 6, coinciding with the Easter holiday weekend. As the vessel floats through Caribbean waters on Easter Monday, guests will be treated to an uplifting gospel showcase featuring Minister Marion Hall, formerly known as Lady Saw, and gospel legend Carlene Davis. Adding even more range to the lineup is reggae stalwart Pinchers, known for timeless hits like "Bandelero" and "Agony".

Setting off from Miami, Florida aboard the luxurious Norwegian Jewel, the cruise will dock in Freeport, Bahamas on April 2, followed by a stop in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on April 4, before returning to Miami on April 6. This marks yet another exciting itinerary in the ongoing tradition of Caribbean music, sunshine, and celebration that the Love and Harmony Cruise has become famous for.

Since its launch, the Love and Harmony Cruise has carved out a unique space in the entertainment travel world, offering fans an intimate experience with their favorite reggae and dancehall artists. Past performers have included icons such as Beres Hammond, Marcia Griffiths, Freddie McGregor, Beenie Man, Buju Banton, Wayne Wonder, Cham, Queen Ifrica, and Tony Curtis, to name a few. The event has become a

must-attend for reggae lovers from across the Caribbean, the U.S., and beyond, many of whom return year after year.

The addition of a gospel concert signals a thoughtful expansion of the cruise's musical offerings, one that reflects the spiritual significance of the Easter weekend while maintaining the joyful energy that defines the event. "It's a beautiful move," one returning guest shared. "We party and celebrate life every day on this cruise, so it's nice to also take a moment to reflect and give thanks, especially on a day like Easter Monday."

Love and Harmony is a full cultural experience. From themed parties and comedy shows to impromptu artist interactions and authentic Caribbean cuisine, the cruise blends leisure with live entertainment in a way that keeps patrons coming back for more.

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Mother of rapper Sean Kingston sentenced to 5 years in prison for fraud

Janice Turner, the 63-year-old mother of Jamaican-American singer Sean Kingston, was sentenced Wednesday to five years in federal prison for her role in a \$1 million wire fraud scheme involving her son. Turner, who holds Jamaican citizenship, also faces possible deportation after completing her sentence and may be barred from reentering the United States.

Turner and Kingston—whose legal name is Kisean Anderson—were found guilty in March of one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and four counts of wire fraud. Prosecutors said the duo fraudulently acquired more than \$1 million worth of luxury goods by submitting fake wire transfer confirmations to vendors.

The items obtained included a Cadillac Escalade, a custom luxury bed, a \$150,000 custom LED television entertainment system, and over \$400,000 in jewelry. Authorities described Turner as orchestrating many of the transactions and providing false documentation as part of a deliberate scheme to defraud multiple businesses.

Kingston was arrested in May 2024 at Fort Irwin, a U.S. Army training base in California. At the time, he was serving two years' probation for trafficking stolen property. His sentencing hearing is scheduled for August 28, 2025.

The arrest warrants detailed losses occurring between October 2023 and March 2024, including nearly \$500,000 in jewelry, \$200,000 from Bank of America, \$160,000 from a luxury SUV dealer, over \$100,000 from First Republic Bank, and \$86,000 from a custom bed manufacturer.

Turner previously pleaded guilty to bank fraud in 2006 and served nearly 18 months in prison for stealing more than \$160,000, according to court records.

During her sentencing, Turner became emotional and asked the judge for mercy for both herself and her son. Her attorney, Humberto Dominguez, said:



Sean Kingston with his mother Janice Turner

“It was a hard-fought sentence, so we have mixed feelings on it. We won on some points and obviously lost on others. All of which will be handled on appeal. Overall, the judge tried to do what was right and what was fair.”

After serving her prison term, Turner will be on supervised release for three years. A restitution hearing is scheduled for October 16 to determine the financial repayment owed by Turner

and Kingston.

Kingston rose to fame in 2007 with his No. 1 hit “Beautiful Girls” and later collaborated with Justin Bieber on the song “Eenie Meenie.”

Due to her non-U.S. citizenship, Turner faces deportation proceedings following her release, potentially barring her from returning to the United States.

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SUGAR SWEET

Shenseea, Mariah Carey & Kehlani team up in new collab

Dancehall-pop princess Shenseea is once again proving why she's one of the most exciting global voices to emerge from the Caribbean. The Jamaican star has teamed up with R&B legend Mariah Carey and critically acclaimed singer Kehlani on a sizzling new single titled "Sugar Sweet," set for release on Friday, July 25, 2025.

The record, an intoxicating blend of R&B, pop, and island flair, is shaping up to be one of this summer's most talked-about releases.

Produced by Mariah Carey herself alongside HARV, "Sugar Sweet" was recorded across several prestigious studios, including Larrabee Studios and Honey West Studios in Los Angeles, and Mix Factory in Dania, Florida. The track features lead vocals from Carey, with standout verses from Kehlani and Shenseea, whose unmistakable voice and patois-laced delivery infuse

the record with vibrant Caribbean energy.

For Shenseea, "Sugar Sweet" is the cherry on top of what has already been a record-breaking year. Since the start of 2025, the Jamaican star has been topping charts, breaking streaming records, and landing historic endorsements, all while representing the Caribbean on the global stage.

Her genre-bending style has earned her collaborations with the likes of Megan Thee Stallion, Calvin Harris, and now, Mariah Carey, a legend whose influence spans generations.

Shenseea, born Chinsea Lee, has carved out her own lane—unapologetically Caribbean yet globally fluent. Whether on red carpets, award show stages, or magazine covers, she continues to shatter glass ceilings for Caribbean women in music.

No stranger to pushing boundaries herself, Kehlani brings her soulful tone and lyrical honesty to "Sugar Sweet," continuing a 2025 run that's seen her headline major festivals, earn Grammy buzz, and advocate for mental wellness and inclusivity in music.

With her deep catalogue of hits, including Nights Like This and Honey, Kehlani's presence on the track adds emotional depth and cross-genre flair, making this a true trifecta of powerful women in music.

With a career that boasts over 200 million records sold, 19 Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 singles, and a 5-octave vocal range, Mariah Carey needs no introduction. But with "Sugar Sweet," the "Songbird Supreme" is once again demonstrating her timeless relevance—not just as a performer, but as a producer and songwriter.



Canada gets Unruly

Popcaan to bring his Unruly Fest to the Great White North

International Dancehall artist Popcaan is preparing to take on another global staging of his Unruly Fest, this time heading to Canada for what's expected to be a historic staging of the event.

The St. Thomas-born entertainer made the big announcement via social media, sharing a post on X (formerly Twitter) that read: "Unruly Fest Canada, stay tuned!" While an official date and venue are still under wraps, excitement has already been brewing among fans and dancehall lovers across the Canadian diaspora, with many pouring their approval with comments and shares.

This marks yet another milestone for Unruly Fest, which began in 2018 in Popcaan's home parish of St. Thomas, Jamaica. The festival quickly cemented itself as a never-to-miss staple on the local events calendar, bringing together fans from all corners of the island and featuring an electric mix of veteran hitmakers and rising stars. After a three-year pause, the festival made

its much-anticipated return in December 2023. That staging, though abruptly ended by police due to time restrictions, reaffirmed the festival's significance.

Earlier this year, Popcaan successfully exported Unruly Fest to London, making the event an international fixture and extending his influence as a global ambassador of Dancehall music.

Popcaan, born Andrae Hugh Sutherland, has long been considered one of the genre's most versatile and forward-thinking artists. From early collaborations with Vybz Kartel as part of the Portmore Empire to his current solo success, Popcaan has evolved into a bona fide global act.

Signed to Drake's OVO Sound, Popcaan has scored international hits like "Party Shot," "Only Man She Want," "Silence," "My Type," and "Family." He has collaborated with a diverse slate of international artists, including Drake, Davido, Gorillaz, Jamie xx, and Burna Boy, helping to elevate dancehall into new sonic territories.

ries.

His 2023 album *Great Is He* debuted to critical acclaim, adding to a string of successful releases that include *Where We Come From* (2014), *Forever* (2018), and *Fixtape* (2020). The deejay also recently received the Impact Award at the Caribbean Music Awards for his contributions to the genre and culture.

Unruly Fest has featured the who's who of reggae and dancehall in previous years. Past performers include Bounty Killer, Beanie Man, Sizzla Kalonji, Tarrus Riley, Jada Kingdom, Quada, and even surprise appearances from Drake, who famously shared the stage with Popcaan in 2019, solidifying the event's global pull.

While details are still forthcoming, one thing is certain—Unruly Fest Canada will be a highly anticipated affair, expected to blend explosive performances, authentic Caribbean vibes, and Popcaan's signature flair. As fans eagerly await further announcements, this move signals yet another chapter in Popcaan's musical journey.

NO MORE GANGSTERISM

Vybz Kartel's first year post-prison has been legendary

On July 31, 2024, Vybz Kartel was released from prison after more than a decade behind bars, following the Jamaican Court of Appeal's decision to overturn his murder conviction on the grounds of juror misconduct.

Exactly one year later, the dancehall veteran stands not just as a free man, but as a Grammy-nominated artist, a global performer, and a renewed cultural voice in Jamaican music.

Within hours of his release, Kartel dropped the mixtape *First Week Out*, featuring fellow dancehall artist Squash. The project sparked widespread attention, reintroducing the "Worl' Boss" to fans old and new. Over the following months, he remained prolific in the studio, building toward his next major release.

In January 2025, Kartel released the 10th Anniversary edition of his album *Viking (Vybz Is King)*, featuring seven new tracks recorded post-release. The deluxe reissue marked a symbolic celebration of his return to music and was promoted ahead of the 2025 Grammy Awards.

His 2024 EP *Party With Me* earned him a nomination for Best Reggae Album at the 2025 Grammy Awards — his first Grammy nod in a decades-long career. The nomination placed him alongside international heavyweights, cementing his return to global recognition and validating the strength of his post-prison creative output.

Live performances followed swiftly. Kartel made his highly anticipated return to the Jamaican stage on New Year's Eve 2024, headlining the Freedom Street concert at Kingston's National Stadium before tens of thousands of fans. In July 2025, he appeared at Wireless Festival in London, marking his first major UK appearance in 20 years. The performance — which included a surprise joint moment with Drake — was hailed as one of the standout sets of the festival. A few weeks later, he was crowned "King of the Dancehall" at Reggae Sumfest.

In the U.S., Kartel played back-to-back sold-out shows in Brooklyn, drawing massive crowds and reaffirming his place as one of dancehall's most enduring figures. The events kicked off the Worl' Boss Tour, which includes stops in North America, the Caribbean, and Europe, with ap-



Vybz Kartel — remarkable year since his release from prison

pearances scheduled across Germany, France, the Netherlands, Trinidad, and Guyana.

Kartel has also spoken openly about prioritizing his health after years of incarceration. He continues to manage Graves' disease and other related conditions with regular doctor visits and a commitment to daily workouts and clean eating. In his personal life, he confirmed his engagement to longtime partner Sidem Öztürk in late 2024 and has remained closely involved with his children, particularly his sons pursuing music

careers.

In early 2025, Vybz Kartel also relocated to South Florida, where he's been recording new music and re-establishing his presence in the U.S. entertainment scene.

Perhaps most significantly, Vybz Kartel's message has evolved. In interviews since his release, he has encouraged young people to turn away from violence and toward education and progress. "Stay away from gangsterism," he said in an interview with *The Guardian*.



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