



HONOURING GARNETT
Reggae icon's brother to
create cultural yard in
Mandeville in his memory



Monster Soca hit gets
a remix with Chloe
Bailey and Moliy



Unbound

Heeriye is first original release by a T&T act on an Indian record label

Twin brothers Arvind and Amish Ramnarine—the next-generation voices of the iconic Ramnarine family band Dil-E-Nadan—have officially stepped into the spotlight with the release of their debut original single “Heeriye”.

Performed under their artistic moniker Aramish, the soulful duet marks a milestone not only in their personal musical journey but also in the history of Indo-Caribbean music: “Heeriye” is the first original release by a T&T act on Indian label Unbound Records, a rising force in South Asia’s independent music scene.

The track, which explores themes of love, devotion, and emotional surrender, was composed by the duo in a late-night writing session in their shared apartment at The University of the West Indies (The UWI), St Augustine.

“‘Heeriye’ is a song of longing and vulnerability,” said Amish. “We wanted to put that raw feeling into something timeless, a melody people can hold close and make their own.”

The song’s release has already racked up over 100,000 streams in under two weeks, with listeners tuning in from India, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Pakistan, Indonesia, Australia, and more. For the two 21-year-old full-time students, Amish studying medicine and Arvind pursuing mechanical engineering, it’s a dream come true.

“Music is how we stay grounded,” said Arvind. “It doesn’t compete with our studies, it balances us. It’s the space where we feel most connected.”

Sons of veteran musician Richard Ramnarine, Aramish were born into the orbit of Dil-E-Nadan. But while their roots lie in their family’s rich musical legacy, their vision is firmly focused on crafting a unique voice for their generation.

In 2024, Aramish began carving out their



Brothers Arvind and Amish Ramnarine continue the Dil-E-Nadan legacy

own sound with covers of “Ve Kamleya” and “Aaj Mausam,” followed by the Diwali bhajan “Jai Shree Rama.” These early recordings showcased not just their vocal chemistry, but a growing desire to express themselves through original compositions.

“It was the moment we realised that our chemistry—on stage and in studio—wasn’t just natural. It was something special,” said Amish. “The response to our harmonies gave birth to the idea of Aramish Music.”

Their connection to Unbound Records was facilitated by Bollywood singer Abhijeet Srivastava, who met the twins during a visit to T&T. Alongside producer Aman Moroney, Abhijeet mentored the brothers and helped open the doors to their first international collaboration.

“The team at Unbound brought creativity and vision to ‘Heeriye’,” said Arvind. “It was our first original track, and to have an Indian label not just interested, but invested in us, it made the leap feel right.”

Beyond the numbers, the most powerful part of the journey has been the listener feedback.

“People are messaging us saying this is the soundtrack to their own love stories,” said Amish. “That’s why we do this.”

With their debut single gaining traction and a rapidly growing audience across platforms like Spotify and YouTube, Aramish are focused on expanding their artistic universe. That includes more original releases, cross-border collaborations, music videos, and eventually live performances that bring their vision to stage.

“We’re proud of our classical training and Indo-Caribbean roots,” said Arvind. “But we’re not here to replicate. We’re here to evolve. ‘Heeriye’ is just the beginning.”

“‘Heeriye’ is out now on all digital platforms.

Follow Aramish Music on: Instagram: @Aramishmusic, Facebook: Aramish Music, Spotify: Aramish

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BE STILL AND

Be Firm

Sit with me for a moment. Take a breath. Feel your feet on the ground. Let the air move in and out of you slowly, like a quiet wave.

Look at how far you have come.

You decided to step up. You made choices that were not easy. You chose yourself. You spoke your truth. You allowed yourself to be seen.

That is no small thing.

But now comes something just as important. Now comes the part where you stand firm.

Because once you begin to show up as your true self, the world has a way of testing you. Old doubts can creep back in. People around you may not always understand. Life may throw its usual chaos your way. And this is where many people quietly slip back into hiding.

But not you.

This is your moment to root yourself even deeper into who you have become. To hold steady in your choices. To keep walking forward even when it feels uncomfortable or unfamiliar.

If we were sitting across from each other right now, I would take your hands, look you in the eyes, and tell you that you already have what it takes. All you need to do now is trust it.

Let me share something real with you.

I know what it feels like to doubt yourself. To wonder if you really belong where you are. To feel strong one day and completely unsure the next. I have been there too. I remember moments when I almost walked away from my own growth because it felt too hard to keep going. There were days I questioned if my voice even mattered.

But here is what I have learned. Strength does not show up fully formed. Strength is not about feeling fearless. Strength is about choosing to stay true to yourself even when everything

around you feels shaky. It is about deciding over and over that you are not going to abandon yourself.

That is what standing firm really means.

Take a breath and think about everything you have already done. Remember where you began. You started unsure, maybe even scared, but you started anyway. You made the brave choice to care for yourself. You leaned into your own power. You chose to see things differently, to adjust your attitude and perspective. You paused to reflect and recalibrate when you needed to. And you made the bold decision to let yourself be seen, to speak your truth out loud, and to believe you belong.

That is not just progress. That is transformation.

But transformation does not end just because you reach a milestone. It deepens. It grows stronger the more you choose it.

So right now, I want you to notice something. Where in your life have you already felt the urge to shrink again. Where have you felt the temptation to go back to old habits or old ways of thinking. Maybe you spoke up and someone gave you a strange look. Maybe you wore your heart on your sleeve and someone did not meet you there. Maybe you felt that familiar fear whisper what if this is too much.

That is normal.

But let me tell you gently you are not too much. You are exactly who you are meant to be.

Standing firm is not about being loud or forceful. It is about being steady. It is about holding your ground quietly but with strength.

Imagine a tree for a moment. Its branches sway. Its leaves flutter. But its roots are deep. Storms may bend it but they do not break it. That is what you are building now. Roots.

So how do you grow those roots.

You begin by reminding yourself every single day who you are. Every morning take a quiet moment to connect with yourself before the world has a chance to pull at you. Place your hand on your heart if it helps. Speak kindly to yourself. Say I am here. I belong. I choose to show up as myself today.

Then pay attention to what you allow in. Not everyone's opinions need to become your truth. Not every passing doubt deserves your energy. Some things you can simply let float by. You are not here to please everyone. You are here to live as yourself.

There will be times when you feel wobbly. That is natural. When you feel that way ground yourself in something real. Take a walk outside. Feel your feet against the earth. Breathe deeply. Call someone who reminds you of who you are. Write down what matters most to you and keep it where you can see it.

Remember you are allowed to take up space.

Here is something else to consider. When you stand firm in who you are you may inspire others to do the same. You may not even realize it but someone is watching you. Someone is quietly encouraged by your courage. Someone is learning from the way you refuse to shrink.

That is not just about you anymore. That is how change happens.

If you find yourself feeling challenged I invite you to pause gently. Close your eyes if you like. Breathe. Imagine your feet sinking into the earth. Picture yourself rooted so deeply that nothing can shake you. Then open your eyes and take the next step forward.

One step is all you need.

You do not need to have it all figured out. You do not need to know the end of the story yet. You only need to keep choosing yourself again and again until it becomes second nature.



HEART & SOUL

with
Dianne Ojar



Standing firm is about trusting the process even when you cannot yet see the outcome.

Think of the times in your life when you felt proudest. Were they the easy moments. Or were they the moments when you stayed true to yourself despite the odds.

You already know the answer.

This is your chance to create more of those moments.

I have decided to do exactly that. To stand firm in who I am. Not in an egotistical way but in a way that allows me to help others, my friends, my family, and anyone who needs to hear what I have learned. It is about speaking my truth and showing others that they can too. 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 uncomfortable. I kept going even when it felt impossible. And I chose to stand anyway.

You can too.

You already know who you are. You already know what you are capable of.

Let the world see it.

Let yourself feel it.

Stay here with me for one more moment. Take another breath and let it fill you. Feel your feet on the ground. Feel your shoulders relax. Feel your heart steady.

You are ready.

The world is waiting for you. Stand firm.

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RESILIENCE IN MOTION

Caribbean Tales Film Festival to screen 49 films for its 20th anniversary

The CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF), North America's premier event showcasing Caribbean and diaspora cinema, proudly announces its 20th anniversary edition, taking place Wednesday September 3rd to Saturday September 13th, 2025, in Toronto and online worldwide from September 3rd to October 3rd, 2025.

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 enduring commitment to elevating underrepresented voices in film.

Founded in 2006 by Frances-Anne Solomon, an award-winning filmmaker and advocate for diverse cinema, CTFF has grown into an internationally recognized platform for Caribbean filmmakers. Over the past two decades, the festival has screened more than 1000 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," says Frances-Anne Solomon, Founder and Executive Director of CaribbeanTales Media Group (CTMG). "We look back on a generation of groundbreaking films and look ahead to a vibrant future where Caribbean stories continue to redefine the global cinematic landscape."

- 20th Anniversary | 49 Films | Canadian premieres | 15+ Countries represented
- Opening Night Film: Bankie Banx: King of the Dune (Nara Garber, Anguilla/USA, 2024), featuring reggae icon Bankie Banx (aka Anguillan Bob Dylan), singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffet, actor Kevin Bacon, Stephen "Cat" Coore (founding guitarist with Third World)
- Closing night Film: The Last Meal (Maryse Legagneur, Canada/DR, 2024)
- September 6th – Honouring Our Legends: Celebrating the 88th Birthday of The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine at The Harbourfront Centre Theatre, film screenings and the presentation of the Jean Augustine Excellence Award to Steelpan Ambassador Wendy Jones
- September 7th – Canadian Premiere of Nomad in No Man's Land (Hester Jonkhout, Netherlands/Curaçao, 2024), a film about pioneering director Felix de Rooy, who is an openly gay celebrated artist in the Caribbean
- Virtual CTFF from September 3rd – Oc-



tober 3rd, an extensive online platform accessible to global audiences.

Over the years, CTFF has been a launchpad for acclaimed works that have gone on to receive international recognition, while also serving as a

cultural bridge between the Caribbean and broader international film communities.

The full festival lineup and ticketing details will be announced on August 3, 2025, via the festival website: www.caribbeantalesfestival.com.



Jazmin Headley with Bounty Killer and Richie Stephens

FIRE INSIDE

12-year-old Canadian turning heads with new reggae collaboration

Jamaican Canadian rising star Jazmin Headley is turning heads with her latest reggae release "The Fire Inside," featuring none other than dancehall legend Bounty Killer and reggae icon Richie Stephens.

At just 12 years old, Jazmin is proving she's a voice to watch. Her new single pairs youthful fire with seasoned artistry, blending Stephens' soulful vocals and Bounty's commanding delivery into what the Warlord himself calls a "musical masterpiece."

"When you carry a fire inside, no one can

shatter your dreams," Bounty shared while in Toronto, marking his first visit to the city in 20 years. Stephens added: "It's a powerful song filled with emotional depth and an empowering message."

The track follows a milestone year for Jazmin, who made her film debut in MGM's *The Fire Inside*, the critically acclaimed biopic of boxing champion Claressa Shields. Starring Ryan Destiny and directed by Academy Award-nominated cinematographer Rachel Morrison, the movie gave Jazmin her first taste of the

global spotlight—now extended through music.

Released via VPAL Music, the single is already resonating with fans for its uplifting lyrics and cross-generational collaboration, bridging the gap between Jamaica's musical past and its future.

Headley is a Canadian singer, actor and voice-over artist who just completed a successful run as Judah Joseph's brother in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream coat.' She is also a cast member of the CBC Kids Series *Ukulele U.*

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A STAR FOR BUSTA

Jamaican-American rapper Busta Rhymes is now immortalized on Hollywood Boulevard with the unveiling of star number 2,818 on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The ceremony celebrated the Grammy-nominated artist's three-decade-long contributions to the recording industry as a member of the Walk of Fame Class of 2025.

Born Trevor George Smith Jr. in Brooklyn to Jamaican parents, Busta Rhymes has sold over 20 million records worldwide, earned 12 Grammy nominations, and racked up more than 60 million gold and platinum certifications. Known for his rapid-fire lyrical delivery, electrifying stage presence, and genre-blending creativity, Rhymes is widely regarded as one of hip hop's most influential figures.

"I've been fighting some tears, bear with me," Busta said, visibly emotional during his acceptance speech. "I worked so hard, and I never asked for a shortcut. I never asked for a cheat code. I was never raised by people who made it seem OK to go around honestly

earning your rite of passage."

The rapper also paid heartfelt tribute to his parents, particularly his mother, whom he called his "greatest superhero." He reflected on his upbringing in a Jamaican household, where reggae legends like Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, and Buju Banton played a major role in shaping his musical identity. His father, a licensed electrical contractor, hoped Busta would follow a more traditional path—but summers spent on job sites only further solidified the young artist's determination to forge his own way in music.

Busta Rhymes' career began in the early 1990s with the group Leaders of the New School, but his solo breakout came in 1996 with the album The Coming, which featured the high-energy hit "Woo Hah!! Got You All in Check."

His follow-up album, When Disaster Strikes..., delivered iconic tracks like "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See," "Dangerous," and "Turn It Up," solidifying his star power.



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Irie Jam honours Heavy D

Jamaica-born Hip Hop legend recognized for trailblazing work

Eulahlee and Clifford Myers, parents of the late Jamaican-born hip hop legend Heavy D, recently accepted the Purpose Talk Legacy Honor Award on his behalf. The award, presented posthumously by the Irie Jam Foundation in New York, recognized Dwight Arrington Myers — better known as Heavy D — for his trailblazing contributions. The plaque read: “His voice of the diaspora: from island roots to global impact, vision, and vitality transcended borders.”

For Eulahlee, who migrated from St. Elizabeth in 1968 with five young children, the recognition from the Irie Jam Foundation carries deep personal meaning.

“Dwight has received a whole lot of awards over the years. But this one means a lot because it’s our Jamaican heritage,” Myers said.

She hopes the award serves as a reminder not only of Heavy D’s achievements but also of the importance of staying grounded in one’s roots, embracing culture, and lifting others.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Syntyche ‘Syn’ Clarke, Co-Chair of Irie Jam Foundation, said, “Heavy D was more than a musician. He was a movement. He carried the rhythm of the Caribbean and the soul of Black Excellence wherever he went. Through hip-hop, film, and his presence in the community, he didn’t just entertain — he uplifted. He created space for those of us searching for our reflection in the world. And in doing so, he reminded us that representation doesn’t just inspire; it affirms our right to be fully seen and celebrated. Mr. and Mrs. Myers, we thank you for raising a son whose light, legacy, and leadership continue to resonate around the world. We are so proud to present this award to him.”

Looking back at her family’s life after migrating to the Bronx, New York, Eulahlee shared that it was far from easy.

“It was very hard,” she recalled, describing years of working nights as a nurse at Einstein Hospital while her husband worked days as a film technician. They eventually purchased their first home in Mount Vernon in 1973 and kept their Jamaican roots alive by taking the children “home” to St. Elizabeth every summer.

Heavy D — her youngest son, who was born in Mandeville, Jamaica — grew up in the Bronx and later Mount Vernon, where he became a piv-



Eulahlee and Clifford Myers, parents of late Jamaican-born hip hop legend Heavy D

otal figure in the hip hop genre. His contributions not only shaped the sound of a generation but also built bridges between hip hop and reggae. She confessed he was inspired by his father’s background in film and the family’s work ethic. Initially skeptical of the rap industry, she set firm rules when Heavy D chose to pursue music as a career.

“No profanity and one year to make it, or back to college,” she commanded him.

Regarding Heavy D’s death, his mom shared that he was asked to perform at a Michael Jackson tribute event in England weeks before his passing. The event, billed as the Michael Forever — The Tribute Concert, was held in the United Kingdom on October 8, 2011. The concert was a benefit dedicated to Michael Jackson and commemorated the 40th anniversary of his solo career.

“The ironic thing is, three times he called and said he didn’t want to go because he was

scared of flying. I told him, if the spirit tells you that you shouldn’t go, don’t go. The day before he left, he called and told me Janet (Jackson) called. He said, ‘Mommy, I’m going to go,’ and I said, ‘Okay,’” she recalled.

Eulahlee, reflecting on the journey of a mother who had watched her son rise to fame, navigate the complexities of the music industry, and ultimately leave an indelible mark on the world, remembered him as “very kind” — a man who would give away his last dollar.

“He did what made him happy,” she said. “That, to me, was his greatest accomplishment.”

Heavy D’s music, which often infused themes of love, unity, and resilience, continues to resonate with listeners today, echoing the sentiments of a generation that cherished his work. He released his final album, Love Opus, in September 2011. The rapper died in Los Angeles on November 8, 2011, of pulmonary embolism. He was just 43 years old.



Sean Kingston is still facing state charges but will spend the next 3.5 years in a federal prison in the USA

3.5 YEARS FOR SEAN

Kingston sentenced to jail in Federal prison for his role in \$M fraud case

Jamaican-American singer Sean Kingston has been sentenced to three and a half years in federal prison for his role in a \$1 million fraud scheme that also involved his mother, Janice Turner.

Kingston will also serve three years of supervised release following his prison term. Turner was sentenced in July to five years in prison.

Kingston, whose legal name is Kisean Anderson, and Turner were convicted last March by a federal jury on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and four counts of wire fraud.

The pair were arrested in May 2024 after a SWAT team raided Kingston's rented mansion in Southwest Ranches, Florida. Turner was taken into custody during the raid, while Kingston was later apprehended at Fort Irwin, an Army training base in California, where he was performing. He waived his right to fight extradition and was returned to Florida.

According to federal prosecutors, Kingston and Turner orchestrated a scheme to acquire high-end items—including a luxury SUV,

jewelry, expensive watches, and a wall-sized TV—without paying for them. They allegedly provided false wire transfer receipts to make it appear as though payments had been completed, but investigators confirmed the transfers never occurred.

A key piece of evidence included a text message from Kingston to his mother instructing her to create a fake receipt, writing: "I told you to make [a] fake receipt... so it [looks] like the transfer will be there in a couple [of] days." Prosecutors said the scheme allowed the pair to retain more than \$1 million in goods and assets without paying.

Kingston's attorney sought to humanize the rapper, describing him as "a soft guy who grew up poor when he rose to fame overnight," and said he had "no idea how to run a business [and] no idea how much money is in his bank account." The jury reached its verdict in about three hours.

In addition to federal charges, Kingston and Turner are facing separate state fraud charges.



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Bend-over & Come Back

Chloe Bailey, Moliy join Yung Bredda in explosive remix of hot soca song

Arguably, the Caribbean's hottest soca song of the year is getting a little international star-powered boost. The Greatest Bend Over, the chart-topping hit from Trinidadian breakout star Yung Bredda, dropped a sizzling new remix on August 15, bringing together an unexpected but electric trio of voices.

Joining the track are Grammy-nominated American singer Chlöe Bailey, one-half of R&B sister duo Chloe x Halle, and Ghanaian sensation Moliy, whose hit Shake It to the Max featuring Jamaican stars Shenseea and Skillibeng dominated global charts earlier this year.

Together, they're adding fresh fire to Full Blown's popular "Big Links" riddim, layering sultry verses, bold ad-libs, and carnival-ready vocal stacks over the zess-infused production that's been ruling the airwaves since December 2024.

For Yung Bredda, this remix comes at a high point in his skyrocketing career.

Since its release, The Greatest Bend Over has racked up over 11.7 million official on-demand U.S. streams and a staggering 44.4 million global streams, while also earning him three nominations at the upcoming Caribbean Music Awards on August 28, including Zess-Steam Artist of the Year, People's Choice, and Soca Impact Award.

The song's infectious rhythm has already inspired multiple remixes, including one from dancehall icon Sean Paul just weeks ago.

The new Chlöe and Moliy version landed just in time for Notting Hill Carnival (held on August 23–25) and is accompanied by a vibrant music video celebrating the spirit of carnival across the diaspora, from St. Lucia to London.

Chlöe, who attended St. Lucia Carnival in July, has a personal connection to the region; her



Yung Bredda with Chlöe Bailey

2024 sophomore album Trouble in Paradise was inspired by her time on the island. She teased the collab to her fans with a playful Instagram post dancing to the remix, captioned: "Surprise! The Greatest Bend Over remix out 8/15."

For Moliy, whose Shake It to the Max peaked at No. 44 on the Billboard Hot 100 and claimed the top spot on U.S. Afrobeats Songs and Rhythmic Airplay charts, the collaboration could be pivotal. While she's enjoyed the runaway success of that single, another breakout hit has yet to follow, and this high-profile soca meets Afrobeats moment may be just the push she needs to reignite the charts.

With its blend of soca energy, Afrobeats

flair, and R&B polish, this remix of The Greatest Bend Over could easily become one of the defining sounds of the summer.

Lime Magazine published in Canada by
The Independent Media Group
Publisher
RAYNIER MAHARAJ
Editor
MILAN MAHARAJ
Digital Manager
KATHY PLACE
email: independentnewspaper@aol.com
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REMEMBERING GARNETT

Brother Paul Casanova to open cultural yard in Silk's memory

More than three decades after the tragic death of reggae icon Garnett Silk, his younger brother Paul 'Silk' Casanova—aka Lij Amlak—is preparing to open a cultural yard in the family's hometown in Mandeville to honor Garnett's life, music, and legacy.

Paul, who was seriously injured in the same house fire that claimed the lives of Garnett and their mother, Dulcie Grey, said the project, which will be named Silk Kulcha Yaad, will transform the site into a community space for reflection, music, and celebration.

"That ground is historical," Paul said.

"When people come, they must feel the vibes and see the respect we hold for Garnett. It's not just about the tragedy, it's about celebrating his life and the message in his music," he added.

Garnett Silk, remembered for timeless anthems such as Hello Mama Africa and It's Growing, died at the age of 28 on December 9, 1994. The year prior to his death, Garnett had signed an international distribution deal with Big Beat Records, a subsidiary of Atlantic Records. He was working on an album for the label when he tragically passed away. Songs from those sessions were later released on the album titled "The Definitive Collection".

Three nights before his death, Silk was in Kingston and performed at the Mirage nightclub, where he shared the stage with his friend Richie Stephens, both delivering a scintillating performance.

He then travelled to Mandeville to visit his mom. Reports indicated that a shotgun accidentally discharged and struck a gas cylinder at the house, triggering the blaze.

Though he initially escaped, Garnet re-entered the burning house in a desperate attempt to save his mother, who was trapped inside. Both perished in the fire, a devastating blow to Jamaica and the global reggae community.

Paul, who was present that night, still carries the scars—both physical and emotional.

"I went through ten years of stress. Mental and physical stress...it wasn't easy," he shared. "When you lose your brother and your mother in one night, there are no words. Only the Almighty kept me going."



The last known photo of Garnett Silk, taken two days before his death

Now, Paul is focused on creating a lasting tribute. Through his Silk Kulcha Yaad Records, which he launched with distribution support from New York's VPAL Music, he and his brother

Omar Silk are already releasing new music. The next step is to develop the Mandeville yard into a hub for Garnet's fans and the wider reggae community.



Oswald Abioseh with his salt water generator

SALT WATER POWER

Sierra Leonean invents generator that runs on sea water

Sierra Leonean innovator Oswald Abioseh Dundas has developed an energy system that generates electricity using saltwater. His innovation can provide up to 600 hours of uninterrupted electricity.

Oswald, 34, is no stranger to the innovation space in Sierra Leone. As the founder of Oswald Tech Company, he has developed numerous innovations over the years. In 2012, he built Sierra Leone's first locally made robot, named Dot.Nasa, using scrap materials. He drew inspiration for the robot from the movie Pacific Rim.

In April 2025, Oswald advanced to the semifinals of the West African Startup World Cup, which was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He stood out among 30 Sierra Leonean startups for his sustainable energy solution, which generates electricity using seawater or a mixture of salt and water.

The West African Startup World Cup was hosted by Sierra Leone's Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation, in partnership with the FeliCity Project. It was the first-ever Startup World Cup semifinals held in

Sierra Leone. As a result of his outstanding performance, Oswald will represent Sierra Leone at the Startup World Cup Finale in California on October 17, 2025. There, he will compete with other startup founders from around the world for a chance to win a \$1 million investment, along with access to world-class mentors and funding opportunities.

Oswald's innovative spirit runs in the family. His grandfather, Alphus Dundas, developed Sierra Leone's first eco-friendly stove, known as the Alphus Stove, back in 1985.

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YARDIE GOES GLOBAL

Tubi picks up Jamaican television pilot for international audience

From Yard, the award-winning television pilot based on David G. Heron's autobiographical novel *Yardie*, is now available for international streaming on Tubi.

The immigrant urban drama follows Heron's life from his childhood in Jamaica to his turbulent young adulthood in New York City, where he served as an NYPD parole officer. Adapted by Heron, Noel E. Dunn, and Maya Hall, the one-hour pilot was directed by Leland Benford and produced by Leland and Phaedra Benford of Cupcake Rapture Studios, with Heron as executive producer.

Distributed by Wish Love Media, the pilot is intended as the launch of a full season. Heron said the Tubi deal is a key step in securing that goal: "Streaming on Tubi enables us to reach a wide international audience, which we hope will help us produce a full season of episodes. This moment represents years of passion, dedication and tenacity, beginning with the original publication of *Yardie*."

Following its 2023 red-carpet premiere at Kingston's Palace Cineplex, *From Yard* screened at several international film festivals, earning critical acclaim and multiple awards, including Best Short Drama at the 2024 Shoot Your Shot Film Festival and a Special Recognition Award at the 2025 Spotlight Short Film Awards. It was also a finalist at the Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival and an official selection at both the Black Film Festival Atlanta and Caribbean Tales International Film Festival.

The cast, led by Shevrado Oliver as David G. Heron, also features Glen "Titus" Campbell, David Heron, Joe Herrera, Darron Donaldson, Miranda Melhado, and Adam Christian. Since



Darron Donaldson (left) and Shevrado Oliver in *From Yard*

filming, many cast members have seen their careers soar: Oliver won Best Actor at the 2024 Accolade Global Recognition Awards and debuted on the New York stage, while Campbell secured Jamaica's Actor Boy Award for Best

Actor in Room 513. Joe Herrera appeared in STARZ's BMF, and Heron himself won the 2024 Broadway World Award for Best Supporting Performer in *The Tempest*.

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The Royalton Vessence, an all-inclusive experience for modern, mindful travelers

ADULTS ONLY

Royalton launches new resort in Barbados

Royalton Luxury Resorts has announced the debut of a new adults-only brand, Royalton Vessence, which promises to reimagine the all-inclusive experience for modern, mindful travelers. The first property under the new banner, Royalton Vessence Barbados, An Autograph Collection All-Inclusive Resort – Adults Only, is slated to open in Summer 2026 on Barbados' scenic Platinum Coast.

Previously introduced as Royalton CHIC Barbados, the property has been redesigned to better reflect the spirit of its surroundings, offering a more authentic and creatively immersive atmosphere. According to Jordi Pelfort, President of Blue Diamond Resorts, the launch is timely as the company marks its 15th anniversary in the all-inclusive space.

"We're truly excited to introduce our new

brand at a time when we celebrate 15 years of trajectory in the all-inclusive industry," said Pelfort. "This reflects everything we do best. We create forward-thinking concepts that speak to evolving guest expectations while pushing the boundaries of what an adults-oriented escape can be."

The resort will feature locally inspired design, rotating art exhibitions by regional artists, and suites styled as luxurious, art-forward accommodations. Premium room categories like the Chairman Suites and Diamond Club™ suites will offer curated artwork, elevated views, and personalized butler service.

Unique to the resort is The Studio, a central hub that offers art, pottery, and culinary workshops by day, and live acoustic performances by night. Guests will also have access to glow-lit pools for late-night swims, digital detox zones,

and Moddo by Royalton FIT, a wellness program that includes yoga, breathwork, and expressive movement sessions.

Royalton Vessence Barbados will also be the first in the destination to provide complimentary airport shuttle service as part of the all-inclusive package.

"We've been deeply inspired by the creativity, energy, and warmth of Barbados," said Pelfort. "This brand was created to bring each destination to life through every experience at the resort. From the artwork on the walls to the music that plays after sunset, it's all about living the culture without ever having to leave the hotel."

The new resort aims to set a fresh standard in adults-oriented Caribbean travel, blending coastal elegance with cultural immersion.

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Rae's Ready!

Singer plans new EP for T&T Carnival 2026, hopes to see bigger stages

AS Raechael "RAE" Nancoo-Purcell approaches her seventh year in soca music in 2026, she is looking back on her journey with pride. And not just because of the accolades she has earned, but also overcoming moments of fear and self-doubt. She said she is excited to step into the 2026 Carnival season with confidence and good energy.

Based in the US, the Santa Flora-born singer was dubbed by her fans as the "Sweetheart of Soca."

And getting a title in the soca industry was a full-circle moment for her, as she gushed about her adoration for "the Wining Queen of soca" while growing up.

"I loved me some Denise Belfon, hands down. I still do. Her performances were everything," she said in a phone interview on August 20.

"I always considered myself a winer girl, too, so that was something that really resonated with me...It was the way she gave her performances and the way she fixated on this idea of being a wining queen."

She also admired other female singers like Destra Garcia and Patrice Roberts.

And as much as she loved singing as a child, she said she never thought she would eventually become a soca artiste, too.

In fact, she recently had a candid conversation about this with soca star Lyrikal when they were in Canada.

"I was like, 'Had somebody told me that I would have been standing here one day with you as a soca artiste, I would not have believed them.'"

She attended the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in the US and said she did genres like jazz and opera, but for fun, she mainly did R&B and pop.

She recalled thinking that her voice may not have been well-suited for soca music because of



Rae is hoping to get a new EP out by Carnival 2026

the singing styles she was accustomed to. But a technical issue at a show she attended helped change her mind.

"I don't remember what happened, but the music stopped as Patrice Roberts was singing at a fete, and she kept going acapella. And I was like, 'Wait, no, but she's singing, though. Like, really singing.' And I think it was that moment something clicked in me, and I said I can do soca music."

For the upcoming season, she said she will

focus heavily on the groundwork as usual, but is hoping for bigger opportunities.

"I want to see bigger stages. I want to see just bigger platforms, bigger moments."

"I am also working on an EP that is something that I would love to hopefully get out in 2026."

"And also putting on, while it might be small, I'm looking into putting on (a show) of my own in the near future, whether it be the end of this year or sometime next year," she added.

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WHO OWNS THE LAMBO?

Dancehall star detained in Ghana over \$M sports car

Shatta Wale was detained in Accra on Wednesday (August 20) by Ghana's Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) in connection with a 2019 Lamborghini Urus.

Shatta Wale, whose real name is Charles Nii Armah Mensah, surrendered the vehicle earlier this month to authorities following an ongoing investigation by the FBI and the EOCO into a \$4 million fraud scheme in the US that landed Ghanaian national, Nana Kwabena Amuah, in prison.

Amuah allegedly defrauded the city of Lexington, Kentucky, when he reportedly impersonated nonprofit organizations and tricked city officials into sending multiple wire transfers to several shell companies. He was sentenced in 2023 to seven years in federal prison. However, authorities have since been actively trying to re-

cover the stolen money and have been seizing assets, including the Lamborghini from Shatta Wale.

The EOCO said in a statement that the investigation is part of a "\$4 million crime that occurred in the U.S. involving some Ghanaians and the recovery of the crime's proceeds."

Shatta Wale was granted bail in the amount of 10 million Ghana cedis, with two sureties, which the authorities are verifying before his release from jail. His lawyers say they are "fully engaged and actively working with the authorities to resolve this matter."

Wale reportedly told investigators that he bought the Lamborghini from the streets for \$150,000 from a WhatsApp contact that he said he has since discarded. However, EOCO said the artist has yet to produce any purchasing paper-

work for the luxury vehicle.

In the meantime, Shatta Wale's supporters have since mounted a protest outside the EOCO headquarters in Accra. Popular Ghanaian music manager Bullet also criticized authorities for targeting successful musicians. He says the system is designed to keep Ghana's celebrities "poor" despite the success of musicians like Shatta Wale.





War of the Words?

50 Cent doesn't hold back on Ice Cube's new movie War of the Worlds

50 Cent says he is afraid to watch Ice Cube's new movie, War of the Worlds, because of the very low ratings the film gets.

Not even Ice Cube is off limits to 50 Cent's attacks on social media. With Instagram being his platform of choice, the G-Unit rapper sounded off after learning that his fellow rapper and actor Ice Cube is getting a lot of hate for his new film. On its debut weekend, the movie had a 0% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and single-digit ratings on other review platforms.

"How you get a 0 percent rating," Fifty wrote in a post that he has since deleted, perhaps after feeling bad about trolling his peer in the film industry. He added, "Nah somebody mad at cube. Now I'm scared to watch it LOL."

At the time of this posting, the movie's To-

matometer ratings stood at 3%, a small improvement but still quite low. "I had no idea anyone could make something so horrifyingly bad and awful. I cannot express, with actual words, how awful a movie this was," one person wrote.

Ice Cube has not responded to 50 Cent shading him, and Fif has since deleted the post he shared on Instagram, but not before fans grabbed a screenshot of it.

War of the Worlds premiered on July 30 on Prime Video and was heavily promoted on the platform before the negative reviews started rolling in. The science fiction thriller, which is loosely based on H.G. Wells' 1898 novel, was directed by Rich Lee. The movie boasts a star-studded cast that includes Ice Cube, Eva Longoria, Iman Benson, Clark Gregg, Andrea Savage, Mi-

chael O'Neill, and Henry Hunter Hall.

In the movie, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer Will Radford (Ice Cube) works for a government surveillance program that can monitor every person on Earth. His relationship with his pregnant daughter Faith and son Dave is strained due to his use of the program to constantly monitor them.

While helping FBI agents try to find a mysterious hacker, known as "Disruptor", meteors begin striking all over the planet. When large machines emerge from the meteorites and start attacking humans, Will and his friend Sandra from NASA conclude it is an alien invasion.

When the president authorizes a military response, Will notices the machines are concentrating around data centers around the world.

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TEMU-PAC?

Drake buys chain supposedly owned by Tupac, but it's fake

Drake added another piece of Tupac Shakur's artifact to his collection, but now there are questions about its authenticity.

Drake shared a photo on Instagram of a new Death Row Records chain owned by Tupac. The photo caused quite a stir on social media among 2Pac fans. Some fans hail the Toronto rapper as a worthy owner of the iconic piece of jewelry, dated back to the mid-1990s, while others questioned the authenticity of the chain.

Former head of Death Row Records, Suge Knight, weighs in on Drake's new acquisition, alleging that some fans might be correct in assuming the chain is fake. "I'm the only person that got Death Row chains and I'm the only one handing them out. I gave one to Snoop at first, and Snoop felt that the Death Row chain was gonna cause too much controversy," Knight said in an interview on The Art Of Dialogue.

Suge Knight shared a small list of people associated with the label who received custom Death Row Chains, stating that Tupac was one of them and remembered small details about the chain. He also shared that he believes that Drake is a genuine fan of Tupac, but says he was duped into buying a fake chain.

The incarcerated label exec added, "My Death Row chain at the time was full of diamonds on the chain and diamonds on the bezel. 'Pac came home and got that chain. I don't go hard about it because it ain't Drake's fault. I believe Drake really admired 2Pac and liked 2Pac."

Artist manager Wack 100 echoed similar sentiments in his interview with DJ Akademiks. According to Wack, there are too many inconsistencies with the chain that Drake bought to the one that was given to Tupac in 1996.

Drake has not responded to Suge Knight or Wack 100's allegations that the chain he bought is fake. However, he shared a photo of 2Pac wearing the original Death Row Records chain in a photo for his All Eyez On Me album cover. He also shared two photos of the diamond-encrusted chain he bought, showing up close images of the front and back.

As to whether or not the chain is authentic or fake, there is no way to know.



Drake watches on as the Sacramento Kings play the Toronto Raptors in Toronto



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