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# Masicka, Jada Kingdom, Nigy Boy & Mr. Killa

*to headline*

## Farm Up Jamaica's Climate Smart Concert



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# Articles

# Articles

Vol. #38

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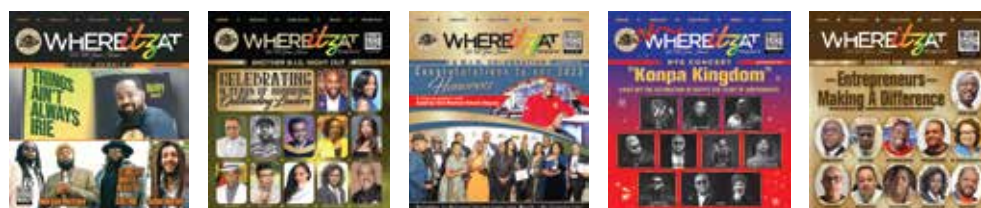
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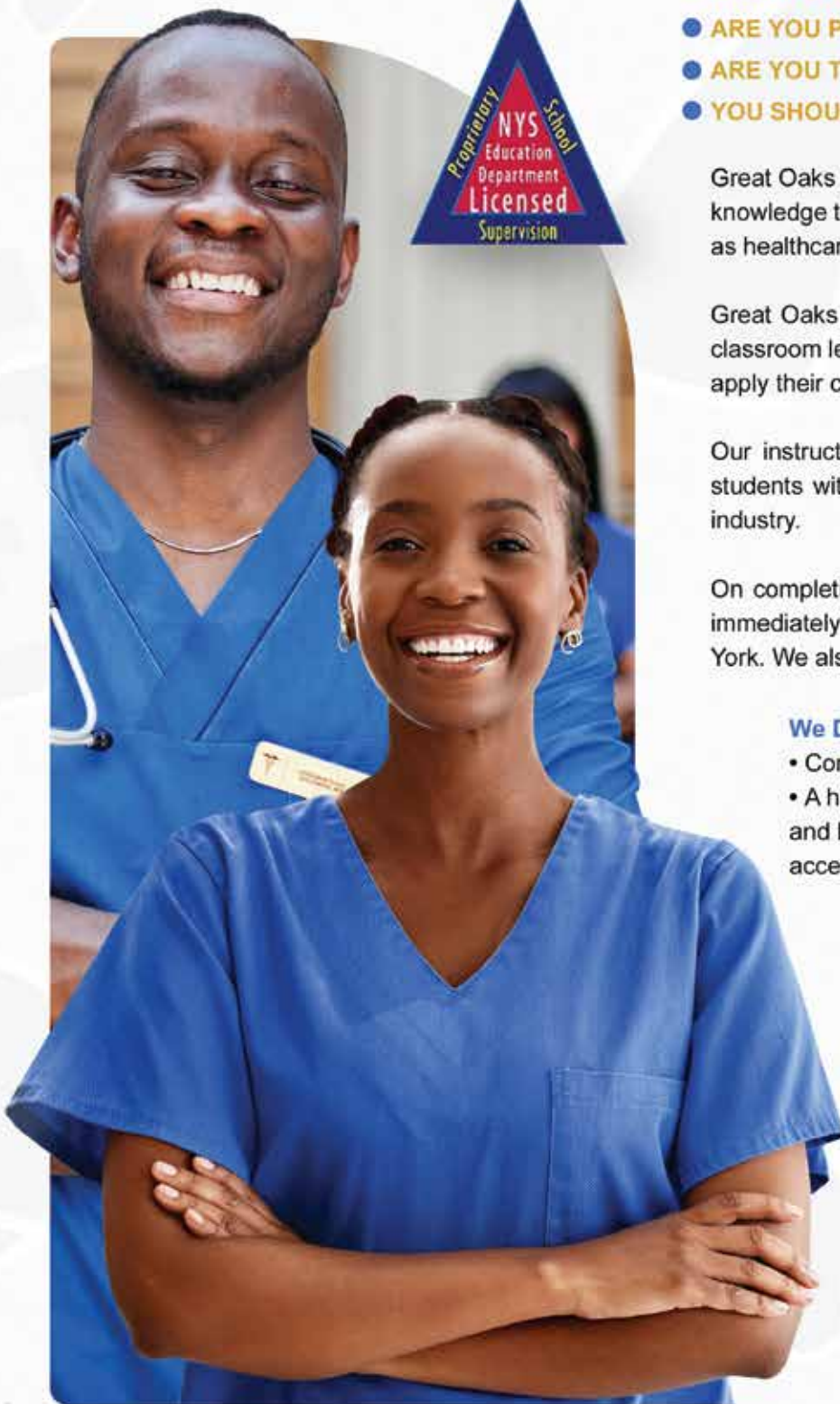
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# "Inspiration is a Precursor to Transformation."



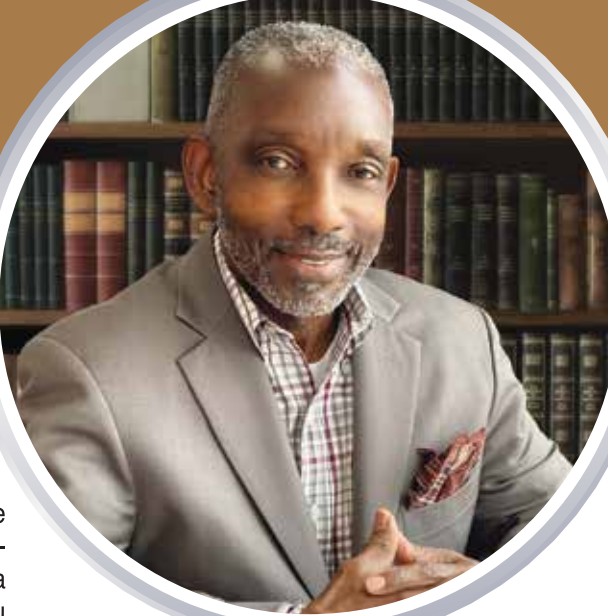
spirits that always gave me hope. I stared at those faces, seeking the answers to the age-old dilemma of losing loved ones, coping with grief, and our human pains of fear, regret, and doubt; they were always the key to unlocking the temporary prison of adversity I so often faced. Why is that? They are not even alive anymore!

Images matched with memories can be inspirational and transformational; inspirational because they evoke an emotion, or a memory that is so powerful it propels you to act with certainty and confidence, which in turn sets in motion a liberation and transformation in the way we think and act. My parents are that trigger for me! They faced it all, personal loss, illness, discrimination, economic insecurity, yet they persevered – long enough to raise me, nurture me and sustain me; so yes, they are my inspiration for every, and any adversity I face! They were my mentors, role models and care-givers and they never flinched; so who am I to even think that apathy, resignation, escape, or inaction are options? So it is! My current state of personal grief is painful, life-changing, it is not the end, but rather the beginning of another phase of my journey through the many mansions of our lives. If you have been reading my column

I sat in front of my computer screen for at least an hour each day for three consecutive days, and each day the word document remained blank, even after several efforts to populate it with my thoughts, which were frozen and unproductive, I was unable to find words that would express my distress in a thoughtful and lucid manner. My thoughts were imprisoned by shock, my mind trying extremely hard to make sense of my wife's diagnosis and eventual prognosis, nothing else seemed to matter; I am sure that I ate and drank, but my discombobulation prevented any sense of satisfaction, that's how I realized my mind and body was on auto-pilot. Disbelief turned to acceptance, and a stubborn acknowledgement accompanied by the tears which welled up with every thought, fear, disbelief, and anguish became companions. The screensaver on my phone grabbed my attention; in every other challenging situation I had been through, I would automatically reach for my phone to receive reinforcement from the reassuring images of my father and my mother on my screensaver, it was their resilience and indomitable

for anytime, you will already know that my message has remained consistent in its commitment to our mental, spiritual, and physical well-being; however, I welcome and embrace those who are not familiar with my thinking, as well as those who disagree with me, so the pushback below is respectfully accepted, and I trust reasonably addressed.

"I hear what you are saying, **man good for you, you had parents**, which means you had two people looking after you, I had none, some of my friends have one - a mother. So you talk about your parents inspiring you, that is "bougie" talk, most of us cannot relate to that." Whenever I get that push back it gives me the opportunity to share a couple of thoughts: we are not responsible for who got us here, but with some luck and management we can shape our destiny. The universe will very often help compensate for our efforts with opportunity. And, this is why the job of mentors, role-models and inspirators are so invaluable as we rebuild the health, wealth, and indomitable spirit of the



Dr. Clive Williams BH(M)  
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Black family.

My thesis is fundamental to our survival, and it is this; science, technology, and information have all conspired in our favor to offer us a real chance to break the cycle of defeatism, victimhood, and oppression – only if we begin again to be Inspired. Take a good look at our women and how well they are doing in academia, entrepreneurship, and entertainment; they are building wealth, and status in communities all over the country. The music industry has been minting Hip Hop millionaires for decades, allowing diversification to films, investments, and entrepreneurship, and launching a new trend of Black industry.

Here is the extension of my thesis – when we decide to unite and focus on our gains, (instead of our losses) we gain more. When we focus on role-models and desire to be like them, (as a strategy), or utilize the skills of mentors, this is optimizing our tangible and viable resources at our disposal. We are all inspired by someone or something, we are inspired by our institutions, churches, synagogues, colleges. Rekindle that inspiration and use it as your lamp, your north star as you pursue your dreams. Isn't it weird that we know these things to be true, yet we lose our way, and our purpose by looking at the glass half-empty, instead of the optimal choice, which is looking at the glass as half full? The effort to fill that glass is psychologically and physically more desirable, and rewarding as opposed to re-filling a half empty glass – isn't it?

As for me, I will continue to be inspired by the photo of my mom and dad on my screensaver, I get to use their Inspiration as often as I get to use my phone.

*Clive*

## ***Saxophonist Carl Bartlett, Jr., Founder of Serene New You Sax LLC, Helps You Overcome Stress and Anxiety, April (National Stress Awareness Month)***



Photo Courtesy **Buzz B**

Carl Bartlett, Jr. is an Award-winning Saxophonist and Composer, Entrepreneur, and native of St. Albans, Queens, NY. Having performed Jazz and R&B at a high level for much of his life, Carl began to focus on the ever-growing issue of people facing high levels of stress, its deleterious effects, and how developing a unique form of intentional music would provide people with a creative solution to this problem.

Thus, he deepened his entrepreneurial journey by entering the health and wellness space, using music (all saxophones, to be specific) as a healing modality to help people achieve more relaxed and enjoyable lives. Hence, in 2020, Carl founded Serene New You Sax LLC, an innovative online company that helps people overcome their stress and anxiety through Restorative Relaxation Music, which he creates by playing saxophones and a rain stick, to effectuate this transformation. For April, National Stress Awareness Month, Carl has created two powerful new offerings available on the Serene New You Sax LLC website to accompany his relaxation products, for all to benefit from on their paths to wellness.

1st offering (“Your Serene Blueprint”): During April, Carl is including his 15-page self-care PDF, “Your Serene Blueprint”, in all orders of any product on his company’s online store. “Your Serene Blueprint” is a comprehensive packet that explains how the stress and anxiety cycle works and, more importantly, empowers you with insightful, actionable, and clever solutions, backed by science, for overcoming the cycle and thriving. Many of the methods in the PDF apply to Carl’s own routine. Whether you’re ordering Serene New You Sax (Carl’s flagship relaxation music recording), Serene Photos (the 11-photo nature set, depicting the beauty of the four seasons), or Serene Bundle (the audiovisual offering that includes all store products plus a serene movie in MP4 form), you’ll also receive “Your Serene Blueprint” in your order, at no extra cost.

2nd offering (30 Tips in 30 Days): During each day in April, Carl will release 1 stress-relieving tip on the Serene New You Sax LLC website, for a total of 30 tips by month’s end. As you might have guessed, some tips include, but are not limited to, powerful ways to use music to your advantage to bring relief. Along with being on the website, the

tips will also be posted on the company’s social media pages.

Delving deeper into Carl’s “why” for creating Serene New You Sax LLC, we look further back into his life. In 2013, just over three weeks following the passing of his grandmother, Carl began experiencing severe anxiety, which persisted in an unrelenting manner for six months. It was an extremely difficult moment in time. “Each day I’d wake up dreading the symptoms and sensations that would present themselves throughout the day, and I’d ask myself, ‘is this forever?’”, says Carl.

Fast forward to 2018, and, having long cleared his anxiety, Carl keyed in on a news report that deeply moved him regarding increasing cases of stress, anxiety, and panic attacks in young adults and baby boomers. Having already experienced this, Carl shared a commonality with these people, and empathized with what they were going through. Inspired to create positive transformation in those who are afflicted, Carl dedicated the next two years of his life to an intensive study of Relaxation Music and relaxation science and combined it with his existing 20 years of music knowledge to form Restorative Relaxation Music via his company, Serene New You Sax LLC.

Being the 1st place winner in the USA and 2nd in the world in the prestigious International Songwriting Competition (ISC) Jazz Category, Carl fused his form of relaxation music with a bit of Jazz. Thus, it gave the music deeper harmonic meaning while making the overall tone quality distinct in the sound healing space, thanks to the unique timbre of a soothing multi-saxophone soundscape.

This April, and overall, Carl is driven to provide people with a natural, unconventional, and effective approach for helping them relieve stress and anxiety so that they build resilience, flourish, and enjoy their lives to the fullest. Steeped in outstanding results and heartfelt customer success stories, Serene New You Sax LLC is proving to be a go-to resource. As Carl says, “Here’s to your better health and wellness, and to a serene new you!”

***Take advantage of the special April offers and find out more by visiting Carl’s official company website at [serenenewyousax.com](http://serenenewyousax.com).***

# SBS Announces New Grants to Help Small Businesses Shore Up Against Natural Disasters

**Eligible Small Businesses in Floodplains May Receive Grants of Up to \$5,000 for Resiliency Equipment**

**Additional Supports Available to Minimize Vulnerability, Protect Assets, and Expedite Recovery After Natural Disasters**



The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) recently launched a new grant program designed to support small businesses in New York City floodplains become more resilient in the face of natural disasters. With a goal to serve approximately 450 businesses, the new Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program (BPREP) grant offers a free risk assessment to identify business vulnerabilities and accompanying grants of up to \$5,000 for eligible small businesses and commercial property owners to shore up their infrastructure with items like generators, fire and flood-proof storage, and flood barriers.

“As climate change poses a growing threat to our city, it is imperative for New Yorkers to prepare for natural disasters and adapt to the new normal,” said Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer. “SBS’s Business Preparedness Resiliency Program not only helps small businesses assess their climate preparedness but also make investments to enhance it, and it aligns with the administration’s vision of a greener, cleaner, and safer New York City.”

“SBS is committed to providing our small businesses with essential tools and resources to prepare for natural disasters,” said SBS Commissioner Kevin D. Kim. “After more than a decade of historic floods and the accelerating impact of climate change, our city must be resilient in the face of unpredictability. We are proud to announce our grant program in collaboration with our partners at the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice and other city agencies and urge business owners in every borough to seize this opportunity and

enhance their climate readiness.”

As part of Mayor Eric Adams’s commitment to creating a safer and more climate-friendly city, the new program aligns with the administration’s strategic climate plan, which focuses on protecting New Yorkers from

climate threats, improving quality of life, and enhancing businesses’ capacity to adapt in the face of natural disasters. The initiative is a partnership between SBS and the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) to deliver on recommendations made in the city’s The New Normal report, building on the legacy of the previous Risk Assessment and Grant Program.

“New York City’s small businesses are the cornerstone of our city’s economy, offering essential services, creating jobs, and contributing to the unique character of our neighborhoods. But the escalating frequency of natural disasters represents a challenge to these vital establishments,” said NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol. “Our collaboration with SBS has enhanced the Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program, now including targeted flood mitigation measures and a risk assessment service that is based on NYCEM’s Community Risk Assessment Dashboard. Offering up to \$5,000, BPREP grants empower businesses to take proactive measures against future emergencies and are part of a broader initiative to build business resilience, including our partnership with SBS on the ReadyNY for Business guide and resources on our website.”

“Small businesses are the heart and soul of New York City and with this initiative, we are making them more flood-resilient and able to recover more easily from the financial shocks brought by climate change events,” said Mayor’s Office of Climate & Environmental Justice Executive Director Elijah Hutchinson. “Red Hook, hit especially hard by Sandy, and other frontline communities will benefit

from programs that strengthen social cohesion and maintain community wealth – two crucial components of environmental justice.”

“Extreme weather can wreak havoc on small businesses that don’t have the resources to protect themselves,” said NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Rohit T. Aggarwala. “Through this grant program, Mayor Adams and SBS are helping businesses more quickly prepare and improve their resiliency, and the resiliency of their communities by extension.”

“I applaud the mayor and SBS for creating and implementing this important grant that will reach hundreds of businesses throughout our city,” said Councilmember Oswald Feliz. “This grant will help secure businesses in New York City’s floodplains and prepare them for the threats posed by climate change. Providing critical resiliency support to our small businesses is an integral part of ensuring the future of New York City’s economy.”

“Supporting small businesses as our city and the world grapples with the realities of climate change is an important step for our future,” said Lisa Sorin, President, Bronx Chamber of Commerce. “The new grant program launched by the NYC Department of Small Business Services and the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice provides businesses with the monetary assistance necessary to adapt in the face of natural disasters. We look forward to working with the City of New York to ensure this program reaches Bronx businesses and further builds on the success of NYC SBS’s BPREP Program.”

“Our small businesses were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy and it’s just a matter of time before the next mega-storm hits. All we can do is try to prepare ourselves, our businesses, and our communities,” said Robert J. Benfatto and Erin Piscopink, Co-Chairs, NYC BID Association. “We applaud Commissioner Kim and SBS for taking the initiative to help small businesses in floodplains at the highest risk for a natural disaster to be prepared. As always, our BIDs will do everything possible to help our small businesses and our city to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.”

For the rest of the story visit [gowhereitzat.com](http://gowhereitzat.com)





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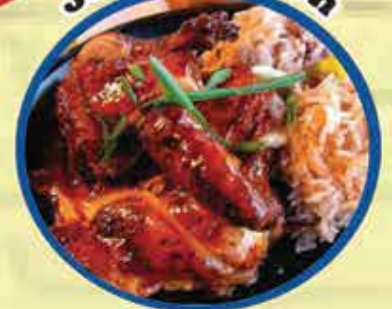
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# Farm Up Jamaica Hosts Inaugural Climate Smart Concert Fundraiser to Revolutionize Agriculture



Farm Up Jamaica is proud to announce its inaugural Climate Smart Concert fundraiser, a groundbreaking event aimed at revolutionizing agriculture and combatting climate change through the power of music. The concert will be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, at UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, New York. Renowned artists such as Jada Kingdom, Masicka, Nigy Boy, and Mr. Killa have all pledged their support and will perform at the concert, leveraging their influence to raise funds and awareness for sustainable farming practices.

Executive Director Neil Curtis emphasized the urgent need for action, stating, "Farming is one of the few ways that humans can contribute to growing better food while protecting the environment." With agriculture accounting for approximately 25% of global carbon emissions, Farm Up Jamaica recognizes the critical importance of adopting sustainable practices.

At the forefront of this movement is Regenerative Climate Smart Agriculture, a revolutionary farming method developed by Farm Up Jamaica. This approach utilizes 66% less water, achieves a zero-carbon footprint, and empowers Gen Z farmers to become advocates for food security worldwide.

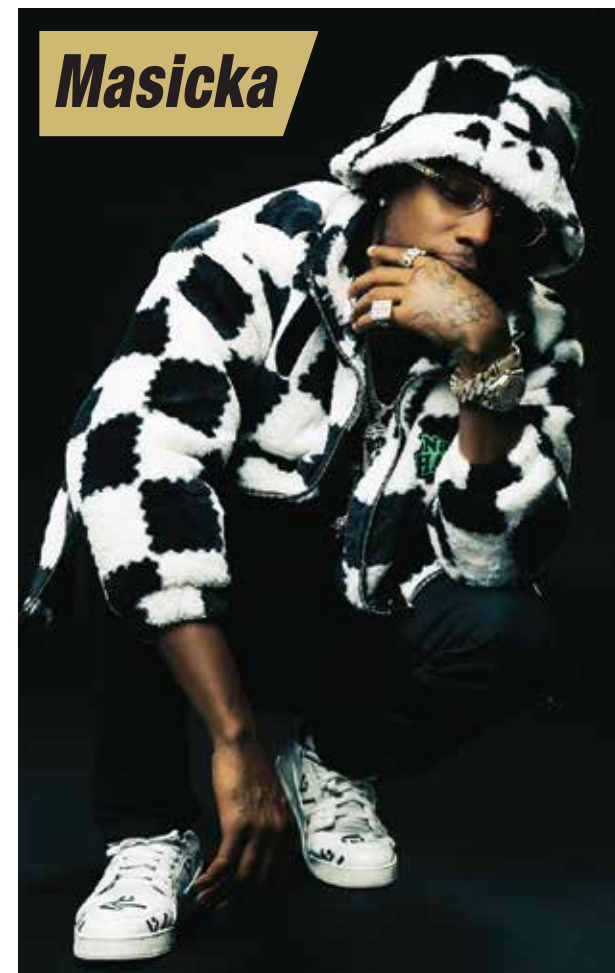
The Climate Smart Concert serves as a platform



**Jada Kingdom**

to connect popular artists with the younger generation, aiming to make farming more appealing and socially relevant. "If we don't engage them now, then who will grow our food in the future?" remarked Dr. Garvey, Director of Strategic Research & Development at Farm Up Jamaica and son of Jamaica's National Hero, Marcus Garvey.

The concert promises to be a dynamic showcase of talent, featuring heartfelt performances by



**Masicka**

artists with chart-topping hits. From Jada Kingdom's "Big Buddy" to Masicka's "Hit and Run", Nigy Boy's anthem "Continent," or Mr. Killa's "Run Wid It" with his explosive Soca performance, attendees can expect an unforgettable experience.

Proceeds from the Climate Smart Concert will go towards transforming defunct farming communities across Jamaica using Regenerative Climate Smart Agriculture. Farm Up Jamaica aims to tell the story of sustainable agriculture and inspire global action to "Farm Up The World."

Farm Up Jamaica believes in the unifying power of music to inspire positive change and guide humanity towards a sustainable future. By leveraging the influence of popular artists, the Climate Smart Concert fundraiser aims to raise

Continued on Page 16

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**Nigy Boy**



**Mr. Killa**

*Friday*  
**MAY 10TH** 2024  
RAISING FUNDS TO HELP  
JAMAICAN FARMERS

Host: MC Nuffy

*Climate Smart Concert*

Featuring...

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JADA KINGDOM  
NIGY BOY  
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funds, awareness, and enthusiasm for sustainable farming practices worldwide.

Farm Up Jamaica is a leading advocate for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation in Jamaica and beyond. Through innovative farming techniques and community empowerment initiatives, Farm Up Jamaica is committed to creating a more resilient and

food-secure future.

Join us as we harness the power of music to revolutionize agriculture and create a more sustainable world for generations to come.

**For tickets to attend the Climate Smart Concert, on Friday, May 10 at UBS Arena, visit [Ticketmaster.com](https://Ticketmaster.com) and search "Farm Up Jamaica Concert" or call 212-347-0700.**



# Reels & Riddims

## Podcast Spotlighting Caribbean TV and Film



(Left to Right): Reels & Riddims hosts Kerry-Ann Reid Brown and Mikelah Rose

There's a new Caribbean focused podcast on the block called **Reels & Riddims** and it's hosted by veteran Jamaican-American digital content creators Kerry-Ann Reid-Brown and Mikelah Rose. The podcast shines a spotlight on Caribbean-led projects on tv and in film that deserve our attention, love, and critique.

**Reels & Riddims** stands as a proud brand of **Carry On Friends**, a multimedia platform dedicated to celebrating and preserving Caribbean culture. It's produced in partnership with **Style & Vibes** and Breadfruit Media.

### Why Tune In?

Kerry-Ann and Mikelah are diving deep into the

in each episode, as Kerry-Ann and Mikelah deliver their raw reactions and reviews. From the much-talked-about Hulu series **Black Cake** to Netflix's gripping **Champion**, they put the focus on content that tells our stories, reflects our heritage, and makes our hearts beat to the rhythms of the islands.

**Reels & Riddims** fills a gap, bridging the Caribbean voices to the world where mainstream marketing falls short. By tuning in, you're becoming part of a movement that amplifies Caribbean narratives that mainstream platforms often overlook or do not make an effort to market to the community that is represented in the projects.

### What to expect

rich storytelling of TV, Film, and Live Entertainment that resonates with the heart of the Caribbean Diaspora. Get ready for engaging conversations and unique insights

An exhilarating new season awaits with in-depth discussions dissecting the layers behind **Netflix's Champion** series and will continue to unravel more stories like *Three Little Birds* that set our souls and screens ablaze.

Don't just listen—become a part of the **Reels & Riddims** family. Follow on Instagram, stream on your favorite podcast platform, or catch the visual vibe on YouTube. Engage with Kerry-Ann and Mikelah as they champion the riddims and reels of the Caribbean perspective. It's more than a conversation; it's about connecting, celebrating, and championing our Caribbean essence through every story told.

**Follow, listen, and watch the Reels & Riddims** - because our stories aren't just to be told. They're to be revealed in, with the community that knows and loves them best.

### Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/reelsandriddims>  
<https://reelsandriddims.buzzsprout.com/>  
<https://www.carryonfriends.com/reels-riddims/>

# Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba - Shines the Light on Good Vibes

**Announces Headliners Mariah Carey, Boyz II Men, Earthquake, DJ Jazzy Jeff**

**Get Ready to Groove Memorial Day Weekend May 22-27**

**Comedy Night and Live Music Performances by an Array of Artists**



Earthquake has mastered his craft as a comedian with almost 30 years of selling out rooms to cultivating a loyal fanbase with shows like BET's *Comic View* to HBO's *Def Comedy Jam* and continues to revel in the success of his critically acclaimed comedy special, *Chappelle's Home Team – Earthquake: Legendary* for Netflix. Unparalleled mastery of a turntable paired with infectious energy, DJ Jazzy Jeff, is a music producer, and entrepreneur with a thriving career that spans beyond his multi-platinum, Grammy-winning collaborations to his acclaimed production company, A Touch of Jazz. The lineup of stunning performances at the 22nd edition of Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba is a testament to the event's commitment to delivering a world-class experience pulsating with the beat of music legends performing

genre-defying acts under the Caribbean sky for an immersive fusion of curated entertainment on Memorial Day Weekend, May 22 – 27, 2024.

“For its 22nd edition, we are thrilled to host The Soul Beach Music Festival on the One Happy Island” said Ronella Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA). “The Soul Beach Music Festival provides Aruba the opportunity to welcome music aficionados and immerse them in the island’s natural beauty, lively culture and unmatched hospitality. Celebrating the shared love of music and culture, we know travelers will create unforgettable memories that will stay for years to come.”

Aruba's beauty and soulful exuberance provide the perfect backdrop for thousands of music lovers embarking on a melodic journey to bask in the sun-kissed ambiance where time stands still, and happiness knows no bounds. Beyond the captivating melodies, travelers can indulge in a plethora of island experiences, from exploring Aruba's rich

cultural heritage to savoring the island's delectable cuisine and adventurous water sports. Serene escapes and unrivaled discovery await thousands of festival-goers reveling in the vibrant atmosphere of harmonious fellowship. Palm Pali Coco studded beaches, a wind surfing scene, golfing, shopping, and sophisticated nightlife offer an elevated scene in a thousand shades of Caribbean blue. Whether you're a seasoned soul devotee or a curious newcomer, the 22nd edition of the Soul Beach Music Festival hosted by Aruba offers something for everyone. Bringing together a stellar lineup of internationally acclaimed artists, and drawing in crowds from far and wide, this year's festival guarantees an experience like no other. Embark upon the sixth sense of wonder and explore Aruba's effortless splendor from shore to sea, paradise à la carte, along with a wealth of possibilities to discover the hidden treasures of the Arubian culture on Memorial Day weekend.

“We are thrilled and honored to welcome Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men -- such esteemed iconic voices for this year's festival, Mark Adkins, CEO & Executive Producer of Soul Beach Festival Productions. “We also look forward to the excitement of this year's comedy night and featured DJs at the after-parties. All of this, coupled with the beautiful island and people of Aruba makes this a "can't miss" weekend for both our loyal fan base and first-timers (newbies). We hope you join us in creating a lifetime of memories this Memorial Day Weekend!”

Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary celebration of soul music in one of the world's most enchanting destinations. Book your tickets now and get ready to indulge in the magic. The 2024 Soul Beach Music Festival, #SBMF24, will roll out more highly anticipated announcements of performing artists in the weeks to come. For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, by visiting <http://www.soulbeach.com>.

Ensure you catch every note, join the social community @SoulBeachMusic on Instagram and Facebook. Get real-time features on the day parties, concert tickets, partner and sponsor offerings by downloading the Soul Beach Music Festival App on GooglePlay and AppleStore.

The 2024 Soul Beach Music Festival is sponsored by Aruba Tourism Authority; additional sponsors include JetBlue, AHATA, Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, Divi Resorts, Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino, Embassy Suites by Hilton Aruba Resort, Courtyard by Marriott, Aruba Airport Authority, Amigo Rent-A-Car Aruba, and Suriname Airways.

The countdown to the most electrifying weekend of the year has officially begun as the 22nd edition of Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba gears up to take centerstage announcing iconic headliners Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men along with Comedy Night Headliner sensation Earthquake, and music aficionado DJ Jazzy Jeff. Renowned for her powerful vocals, five-octave range, and chart-topping hits, Mariah Carey is the best-selling female artist of all time with more than 200 million albums sold to-date and 19 Billboard Hot 100 #1 singles (18 of which are self-penned) - more than any solo artist in history and she has been recognized with multiple Grammy Awards and numerous American Music Awards to name a few. The trio, Boy II Men, holds the distinction of being the best-selling R&B group of all time, with an astounding 64 million albums sold and the group's 4 Grammy Awards are just the tip of the iceberg: throughout their 30-year career, the trio has penned some of the most celebrated classics to create timeless hits that appeal to fans across all generations.

# Introducing Jérémie Kroubo Dagnini



*Jérémie Kroubo Dagnini Photo by Celim Hassani, The Entrevues Belfort International Film Festival, November 23, 2023*

Jérémie Kroubo Dagnini (JKD) is a French academic, specializing in Jamaican popular music and culture. He holds a PhD in Anglophone studies from the University Bordeaux Montaigne (France). He is an associate researcher at the Center for Contemporary Political Studies at the University of Orléans (CEPOC). JKD is the author of numerous books and articles and has also translated the biography of Lee “Scratch” Perry written by journalist David Katz. In 2013, he co-wrote a book with American artist, Lee Jaffe, *Bob Marley & The Wailers: 1973-1976*, revealing, among others, precious details about the daily life of the band in Hope Road

and Trench Town in the mid-70s, the links Bob Marley had with local Mafia, and the 1976 smuggling operation that raised money to fund Peter Tosh’s groundbreaking album, *Legalize It*.

JKD also co-wrote a documentary on reggae, “Le Souffle du reggae”/ “Blowin’ In The Reggae Wind”, directed by Jérémie Cuvillier, broadcast on the French free-to-air TV channel France Ô and screened at the Francophone Film Festival in Kingston (Jamaica) in 2018. In March 2017, JKD was awarded by the Charles Cros Academy for his book, *Musiques noires. L’Histoire d’une résistance*

sonore/ Black Music. The History of a Sound Resistance. JKD regularly gives national and international conferences on reggae and Jamaican music. In November 2023, he gave lectures at the Entrevues Belfort Film Festival (38th edition) on the Small Axe British anthology film series, created and directed by Steve McQueen. JKD is of Ivorian descent through his father side. In other respects, he is a 3rd Dan karate black belt.

**For direct links to JKD’s website, find this story on [gowhereitzat.com](https://www.gowhereitzat.com).**

# The ball is back in Jamaica's Appeals Court as UK Privy Council quashes dancehall star Vybz Kartel's conviction

*Continuing the trial with a corrupt juror was 'fatal to the safety of the convictions'*

By **Emma Lewis**

(Originally appeared on [GlobalVoices.org](https://www.globalvoices.org/))

At 11 o'clock on the morning of March 14, the Jamaican media waited breathlessly for the UK Privy Council to present its ruling on the appeal in the case of 48-year-old dancehall deejay Adija Palmer (stage name, Vybz Kartel) and three associates (Shawn Campbell, Kahira Jones and Andre St. John), hoping to be the first to break the news. Almost exactly 10 years earlier, on March 13, 2014, the four had been found guilty of the 2011 murder of Clive "Lizard" Williams, whose body has never been found.

In April 2020, six years after the murder, Jamaica's Court of Appeal upheld the convictions after a 2018 petition by the defense, a result that dejected the flamboyant artist's many fans. The next move by Kartel's legal team was to take the appeal to the UK Privy Council, which remains the final Court of Appeal in Jamaica, along with a number of other Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

Local journalists were abuzz, trying to predict the ruling.

When the Privy Council issued its decision to quash the convictions of the four and return the case to Jamaica's Court of Appeal, which will decide whether or not there should be a retrial, there was a predictably joyful response from Kartel's fans, while journalists, talk show hosts and legal pundits rushed to analyze the judgement and predict the next legal moves.

In "Gaza," the popular name for the Waterford housing scheme located in Portmore, where Kartel and his crew had their base, celebrations began immediately, with many supporters believing that their idol would be freed by the Court of Appeal.

Social media was flooded with the reactions of delighted fans.

There was some confusion among Jamaicans as to the meaning of the Privy Council's ruling, however. Was Vybz Kartel "free" or not? The Jamaica Gleaner clarified:

*WILL KARTEL AND HIS CO-ACCUSED BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED FROM PRISON? No. A bail application will have to be made. The Privy Council only said the Court of Appeal should determine if the accused should be retried for the murder of Clive 'Lizard' Williams.*



Bert Samuels, the outspoken defence lawyer for defendant Shawn "Shawn Storm" Campbell, gave numerous media interviews immediately after the ruling, telling journalists that there are strong grounds for a bail application and calling his client's murder conviction a "travesty of justice and a breach of the Constitution."

Kartel's lawyer, Isat Buchanan, observed, "It is very significant that persons know that they are now cloaked in the presumption of innocence, can't be referred to as convicts — that's a big thing in the Jamaican space — and the Constitution reigns supreme."

Columnist and retired lawyer Gordon Robinson had a different perspective:

"The Privy Council found that the Judge should have declared a mistrial&started over. None of the Defendants have been exonerated. The Court of Appeal's task is to decide whether it is still feasible to do what the Judge should have done. The accused's inconvenience is irrelevant."

A summary of the case is set out on the UK Privy Council website.

The 64-day trial, one of the longest in Jamaica's history, involving some 30 witnesses had been exhausting, sensational, complex, and the subject of much media attention. Voice notes and confusing telephone communications formed a large part of the evidence. Significantly, controversy also surrounded the news that one juror had attempted to bribe other jury members to acquit the accused — which was only revealed

on the final day of the trial. That juror was subsequently charged and sentenced to nine months in prison. Despite this serious development, the trial went ahead. Another juror had already been dismissed eight weeks into the trial, bringing the total number of jurors to only 11.

As it turned out, the Privy Council made it clear that "juror misconduct" was the primary reason for quashing the convictions since this would likely have affected the jurors' reasoning and their verdict one way or the other. The judge, it is suggested, should not have allowed that "allegedly corrupt juror" to remain

and should have ruled for a retrial. The emphasis was on fairness: "Allowing Juror X to remain on the jury is fatal to the safety of the convictions which followed. It was an infringement of the appellants' fundamental right to a fair hearing under the Jamaican Constitution."

What does the Privy Council ruling say about the state of Jamaica's justice system? Will Vybz Kartel and his associates get justice, given the already high levels of publicity and the continued high-crime environment of Jamaica? Has too much time passed? Jamaicans now await the Court of Appeal's decision.

Meanwhile, the "World Boss," as he is known by his fans — who had earlier complained about bad prison food in a social media post — commented simply:

*Thank You GB*



Jamaica's director of public prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn, who is usually most accessible to the press for interviews, has not yet commented on the ruling.

# Bad Reviews Do Not Prevent Bob Marley Biopic From Dominating The Box Office: The Dogs Bark But The Caravan Goes On...

By *Jeremie Kruobo Dagnini*

The post-Pandemic Covid-19 era is marked by the fact that people seem to be fed up with being told how (not) to behave, what (not) to eat, who (not) to vote for, who (not) to support in wartime and so on. And culture is not spared, this new and welcome autonomous self-thinking trend. *Bob Marley: One Love* is a perfect example. Indeed, despite receiving mixed reviews from critics – even before its official release on February 14, 2024, opinions based on trailers were already negative – the movie directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green and starring Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley and Lashana Lynch as Bob's wife, Rita, has been achieving an exceptional audience score.

Why such a gap between critics and audiences? Most critics complain that the film is too much conventional, too much Hollywoodian, not to say Disney-like, that it does not faithfully reflect the reality, that Kingsley Ben-Adir does not even look like Bob Marley who was shorter and one must admit less dashing, that beauty queen Cindy Breakspere – who had a relationship with Bob Marley, who remained married to Rita Marley until his death – hardly appears in the movie nor does legendary producer Lee “Scratch” Perry, that Jamaican record producer Coxsone Dodd is wrongly depicted, blah blah blah...

On the other hand, it is more than obvious that audiences see things differently, considering its phenomenal success in worldwide theatres. People do not seem to focus as much on details, which most of them anyway do not know about, but on the feeling emanating from the movie, and this feeling will be quite different to viewers depending on their personal background. For example, African people, Afro-descendants, not to mention Jamaicans, might not be able to help experiencing a feeling of pride and dignity when seeing this great Pan-African advocate projected on the screens all around the world. And in a way it is similar for Rastafarians, outcasts, rebels, protestors, punks, and others from all over the world who will experience a feeling of recognition when seeing this anti-establishment supporter portrayed on big screens. Indeed, one must not forget that *Bob Marley: One Love* is first and foremost, a celebration of Rastafari as well as anti-establishment projected on the screens worldwide, which is not a trivial matter. That is truly a serious thing because Bob Marley used to sing



against the system which, today, dubs him a symbol of peace and unity. Moreover, as for the others, they will certainly relate to his general message of love, peace and unity that transpires from the movie.

As a PhD holder and scholar specializing in Jamaican popular music, one could think that I would stand on the professional critic's side, intel-



lectualizing the film, paying attention to its historical inaccuracies, or pointing an accusing finger at the sometimes-awkward acting. None of it. I have put my academic hat aside and stood on the people side. As a matter of fact, a few days after its release, I went to see this biopic with my whole family – with my wife, my three kids, my brother and even my mother – and we all watched it through the prism of positive vibrations, music, and symbol. That is as simple as that. And what emerged from this emotional pilgrimage was that we did not come out of the theatre unscathed but much more appeased.

Different opinions do matter but the ones conveyed by haters and other cynics do not. As the old sayings go: “Empty vessels make the most noise” and “The dogs bark but the caravan goes on.” One Love folks.

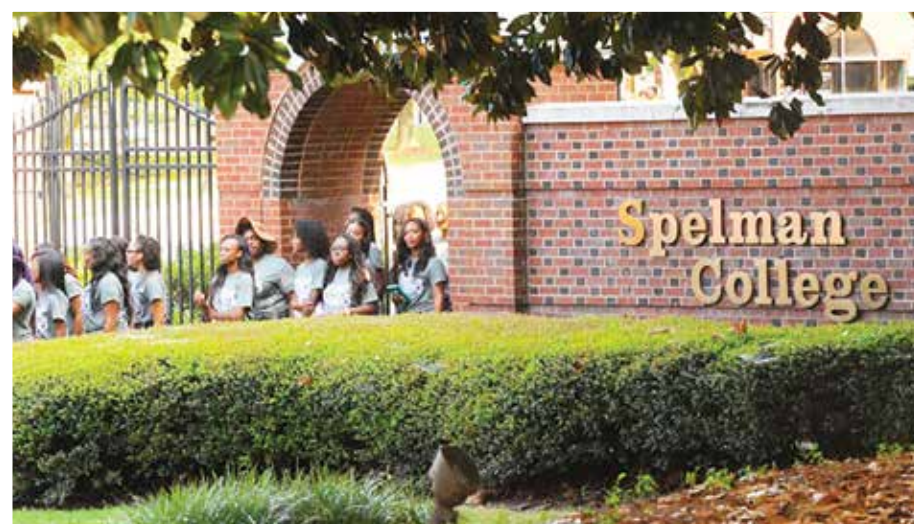
(JKD)

# Spelman College Celebrates Expansion of Cosmetic Science Program

Research shows that Black women spent more than \$7.4 billion on cosmetics and personal care products in 2022. However, Black beauty brands comprise 2.5 percent of the market. Spelman College is working to change that trajectory by ensuring that beauty products are developed with people of color in mind. The College is proud to announce the expansion of its STEM programming to include a concentration in cosmetic chemistry for those majoring in chemistry, and a minor in cosmetic science for those majoring in other areas. The program, scheduled to be offered in the fall, is the first of its kind at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). “This expansion of our curriculum speaks to Spelman’s innovation and commitment to giving voice that empowers Black women,” said Spelman Provost Dr. Pamela Scott-Johnson. “The program will be far-reaching and will support our students and faculty in making a difference in a field that caters to Black women as consumers, fueled by the scientific expertise in this area. We are thrilled to continue this evolution of creating new academic offerings that address industry demands.” The goal of the cosmetic science program is to promote careers in the beauty industry, enhance the technical knowledge of students seeking to work in the beauty industry or pursue advanced studies in cosmetics, and ensure a gendered and racial perspective in product formulation and development. “I am excited that we now offer a course of study that connects students’ Spelman experience to the beauty and personal care industry. The new major concentration and minor will ensure our students’ competitiveness for advanced study and careers in the field,” said Dr. Leyte Winfield, professor of chemistry and biochemistry and division chair for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. “I am equally excited that this endeavor positions us to offer a culturally relevant perspective that is needed in the conversation on black hair and skin care and the development of cosmetics.” The cosmetic chemistry curriculum creates a signature program at Spelman that harnesses the College’s unique academic character. The program focuses on the molecular sciences related to product formulation and development, providing a fundamental understanding of the origin, structure and function of ingredients. The cosmetic science curriculum was initially conceived as a certificate offering in the eSpelman online program and was launched in January 2023. Since its introduction,



the program has grown from 150 to 750 applications for its fourth term, emphasizing student interest in the cosmetic sciences and a need for the expanded undergraduate program. “We believe this exciting new venture will lead to many new research opportunities and collaborations with leaders in the beauty care field,” said Dr. Michelle Gaines, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Spelman. “My research is rooted in studying the surface chemical properties of curly hair. There are many students who are very interested in working on this project with me, and I’m looking forward to growing this research within the new program.” To complement the program, Spelman will offer a one-week Cosmetic Science Summer Lab Intensive that will focus on fundamental cosmetic formulations. This event, to be

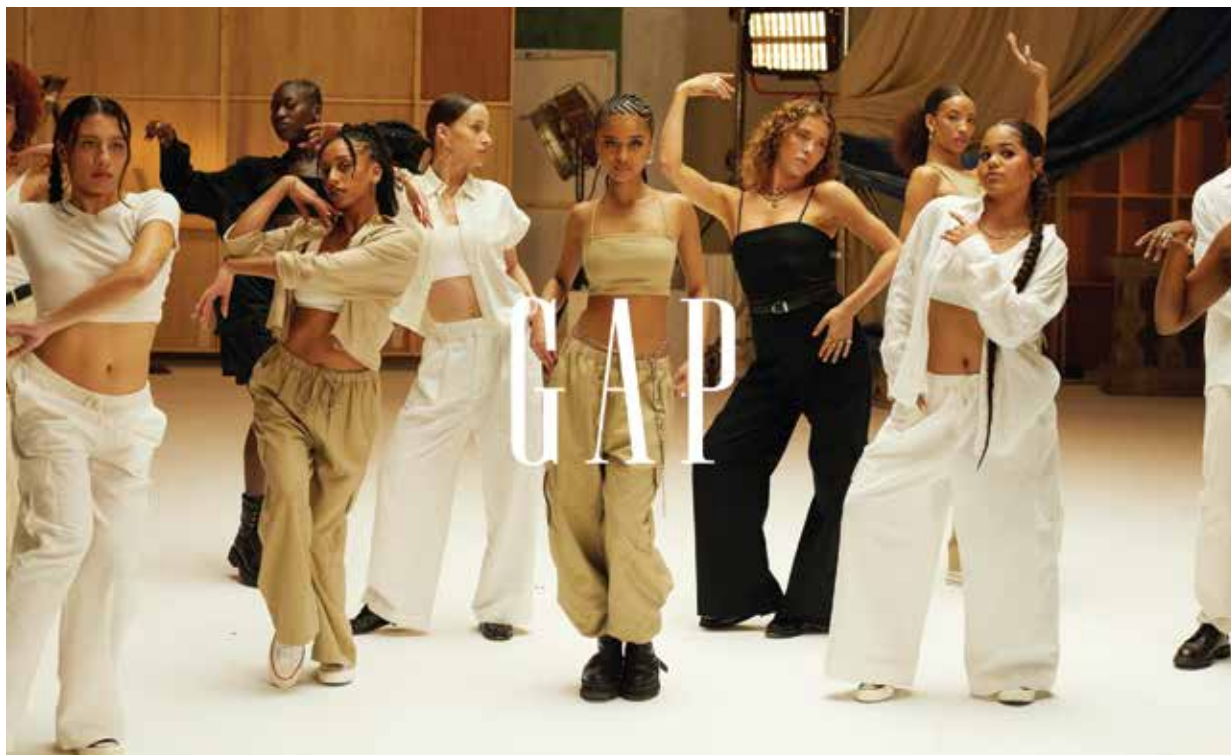


held June 2 – 8, 2024, will bring together Black female product developers, formulators and researchers to convene for informative seminars and panels. The intensive is available to eSpelman learners, Spelman students, and participants from other HBCUs based on availability.

***Additional information on the Summer Lab Intensive will be posted on the Spelman College website ([www.spelman.edu](http://www.spelman.edu)) in the coming weeks.***

# Gap Champions Originality in New Spring Campaign Starring GRAMMY® Award-Winning Artist Tyla

*The Iconic American Fashion Brand Returns to Its Musical Roots with British Band Jungle for Latest Campaign Spotting Gap Linen*



Gap, the iconic American fashion brand, is proud to debut its Spring 2024 campaign featuring linen as a canvas for original style. The campaign serves as a celebration of self-expression and individuality through fashion, music and dance.

Starring GRAMMY® Award-winning artist Tyla, the campaign embraces Gap's roots as a pop culture brand working with artistic originals across fashion and music. Each frame showcases seamless motion and effortless movement of the brand's newest Linen Collection, inviting wearers to make each piece their own.

Featuring worldwide hit "Back On 74" by the BRIT Award-nominated Jungle, with original choreography by Shay Latukolan, the campaign is directed by Jungle's J Lloyd and Charlie Di Placido and inspired by the track's official video, which became a global phenomenon on TikTok and inspired a dance craze with over a billion views.

Tyla, the 22-year-old sensation born and raised in South Africa, is making waves with her recent Billboard Hot 100 hit "Water." With a massive following, she has captivated audiences with dance routines and song covers, showcasing her unique style and individuality.

Tyla's creativity and authenticity align seamlessly with Gap's commitment to championing originality.

"It's an absolute honor to be in a Gap campaign – so many iconic artists have worked with Gap and I now get to be one of them," said Tyla. "I'm excited for my fans to see me do a new type of dance where I'm styled in comfortable clothes with my own personal touches. It was really fun – a true celebration of music, fashion and dance."

Founded by childhood friends J Lloyd and Tom McFarland, Jungle's genre-blurring mix of timeless disco, hip-hop, funk and future-facing production, along with their expressive and inventive visual aesthetic, have cemented their status as one of the UK's biggest and most exciting bands.

"Working with talent who embody the spirit of originality is not just a choice, but a commitment to our brand's heritage," said Mark Breitbard, Gap's President and CEO. "This campaign pays homage to Gap's iconic musical ads of the past while embracing the diverse voices and talents that shape our present and future. We continue to draw inspiration from artists who authentically express themselves, using Gap style to reflect their unique personalities."

The campaign highlights the ease and versatility of Gap's latest collection of iconic silhouettes in its signature linen fabrications. As a canvas for self-expression, the pieces in the Linen Collection allow for free-flowing movement and effortless style. Gap Linen is easy to wear, versatile, and conveniently machine washable. Collection staples include the Linen Cropped Boyfriend Shirt, 100% Linen Boyfriend Shirt, Linen Button-Up, and the 365 Linen-Blend Trouser.

The campaign cast wears a mix of several linen and linen-blend items dressed in neutral and tonal styles. Tyla wears the Linen Cargo Pant and Crop Top alongside the rest of the cast styled in other loose fit and utility-focused items from the collection, such as the Linen Halter Vest, the Linen Cargo Wide-Leg Pant, the Linen Long Sleeve Button-Up, and the Linen '90s Loose, which is a new take on the classic pant.

Gap's Spring 2024 campaign launched across digital media, out-of-home, video, social and Gap brand channels on, February 27. Gap will also collaborate with Jungle and Tyla to create an in-store playlist, which will also be available on Spotify. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to inspire and empower individuals to express their own originality. Follow @Gap to learn more.

# Jamaican musicians and fans shocked at passing of soulful roots reggae singer 'Peetah' Morgan at age 46

By **Emma Lewis**  
(Originally appeared on [GlobalVoices.org](https://www.globalvoices.org))

Lead singer with the Jamaican “family reggae band” Morgan Heritage, Peter (“Peetah”) Morgan, passed away on February 25. Although the Morgan family did not disclose the cause of death, a close associate of the band commented that he may have suffered a stroke (unconfirmed by the family).

On its X page (formerly Twitter), Morgan Heritage wrote, “It is out of sincere love that we share that our beloved husband, father, son, and brother and lead singer of Morgan Heritage, Peter Anthony Morgan, has ascended today. Jah come and save us from ourselves because love is the only way. [...]”

Peter, the son of well-known reggae singer Denroy Morgan, who died in 2022, was one of five siblings. Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1977, he moved back to Jamaica with his family soon after. The family formed the group Morgan Heritage in 1994; that same year, they released their debut album “Miracles” and gave their first performance at Reggae Sunsplash in Jamaica. Two original band members, Una Morgan and



Nakhamyah “Lukes” Morgan, subsequently left the group, which then consisted of “Peetah,” Roy “Gramps” Morgan — who now lives in Nashville, Tennessee — and Memmalatel “Mr. Mojo” Morgan.

The group became known globally as a “conscious” reggae band, with lyrics infused with social awareness backed by roots reggae rhythms. They were more popular overseas than in Jamaica itself, and toured the United States and Europe many times performing many of their most popular songs, including “Don’t Haffi Dread (To Be Rasta),” “Down by the River,” “She’s Still Loving Me,” and “Reggae Bring Back Love.”

Younger Jamaicans, though familiar with the name, had not heard much of their music, although the group won a Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album in 2016 for their album “Strictly Roots.” The album spent 44 weeks on the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, peaking at Number One. The band, which has produced 12 studio albums to date, was nominated for another Grammy in 2017.

## Prime Minister Andrew Holness posted:

*“My heart is heavy to learn of the passing of Peetah Morgan of the world renowned Morgan Heritage. I send my deep condolences to the Morgan family as they grieve this tremendous loss which is also a colossal loss for Jamaica and for Reggae Music.”*

The prime minister shared photographs of himself with the brothers, “Gramps” and “Peetah,” at an Independence Day celebration on August 6, 2023, when he and Minister of Culture Olivia “Babsy” Grange presented Morgan Heritage with the Reggae Icon Award.

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**Minister Grange shared:**

*"I am shocked and deeply saddened by the passing today of Peter "Peetah" Morgan, lead singer of Morgan Heritage.*

*It was not so long ago in 2022 that I was assisting with funeral arrangements for his father Denroy Morgan and now to lose Peetah who was only 47, it's really heartbreaking.*

*Led by Peetah, Morgan Heritage won three Grammy Awards and the Group has had major*

tributes was from Jamaican deejay Buju Banton, who, on Instagram, recalled first hearing Morgan Heritage over 25 years ago in Bushwick, Brooklyn: "I was completely in love with the sound, the work ethic and the good vibe I felt. That day, I immediately added them to my European tour dates and would go on to bring that sound to the world [...] We have always kept it honest with all we have done for our people and people of the world by extension."

Banton shared that he and "Peetah," whom he regarded as "the brother [he] never had," spent

hits such as *Don't Haffi Dread (To Be Rasta)*, *Down by the River*, *She's Still Loving Me*, and *Reggae Bring Back Love*. We honoured them at the 2023 Grand Gala at which they also performed.

*My sincerest condolences to his wife Marie, the other members of Morgan Heritage Group and other siblings, the rest of the family, relatives, friends and to the music fraternity here in Jamaica and abroad. I shall surely miss Petah's calm, unassuming and respectful manner. Rest well my son."*

Tributes poured in from many local and overseas reggae musicians once news of his death came in, with many expressing shock.

Among the most powerful and emotionally charged

the last two weeks together "working on a very special project." Lamenting that he was saddened by the sudden turn of events, he added, "You are totally a reggae music superstar who gave from where our father said we should, our hearts. All those memories, all that laughter, all those tours. I am going to miss you Peter and I will comfort myself with this thought. You cannot come to us but we must come to where you are. Until then Peter, I love you."

Fellow Grammy Award-winning singer Kabaka Pyramid also posted on Instagram, "Physical life is temporary. Thankfully the soul is eternal. Cherish life each and every day. My deepest condolences to the @morganheritage family. Such a great human being and impeccable singer @peetahmusic. An inspiration to us all. Give thanks for a great life that seems so short lived".

One radio station and sound system operator shared an excerpt of Gramps Morgan's 2009 song "Wash The Tears".

Veteran British reggae DJ David Rodigan shared:

*"Shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Peetah Morgan, lead singer in Morgan Heritage. His voice was so special and his contribution to Reggae music globally was incredible. Heartfelt condolences to his family."*

The popular Jamaican music festival Reggae Sumfest posted footage of the singer performing at last year's festival (July 2023).

Peter Morgan was known – and much loved – for his soulful interpretation of socially conscious lyrics. One fan posted:

*"The more I listen to Peetah Morgan the more I 100 percent agree that there will never be a more heart dripping voice like his. #HeritageforLife"*

Another posted on TikTok that his lyrics were always thought-provoking.

"If you follow reggae music and country music, it's a lot of storytelling," Morgan told The Associated Press in 2018. "In reggae we tell the story of people suffering."

His sweet tenor voice certainly expressed the struggles of life beautifully.

## Deborah L. Jean is a Brooklyn-born Haitian Woman Who Has a Passion for Cooking and Eating Food



Deborah says it best on her website – “I’m a private chef based out of Brooklyn, NY. My parents are from the Caribbean country of Haiti. My pop-up dinners showcase Haitian-French food. I’m a Brooklyn native surrounded by the flavors of the Caribbean, so it’s only right for my food to represent such. From familiar peppers like scotch bonnet to epis (Haitian green seasoning) the food served at my pop-ups showcase Haitian culture with French techniques. You’ll find a wide range of technical sauce works like béarnaise, sauce chron, beurre blanc all infused with epis just to take it up a notch.”

“I started my catering company LI BON LLC early this year. LI BON translates to “it’s good” in Haitian Creole. I want every guest to learn something new about Haiti, through my food and conversations.”

Her love for the culinary arts started when she was a little girl, helping her grandmother prepare traditional Haitian dishes for the family. As she grew older, she knew that she wanted to pursue a career in the food industry. After completing high school, she decided to go to culinary school to further enhance her skills. She studied hard and graduated with an associate degree in culinary arts. But she didn’t stop there; she went on to obtain a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management. With all her education and experi-

ence, she became a part of several opening teams in New York City, where she learned the ins and outs of the culinary and hospitality industry. Quality Meats, Dominique Ansel Bakery, Le Coucou, French Louie, La Mercerie are some of the NY eateries we love today.

Later on, she joined a New York-based baby food company and led the team that created organic and healthy baby food using fresh and seasonal ingredients. Despite her successes, she never lost sight of what truly mattered to her. She wanted to bring attention to Haitian cuisine, the food that has been a part of her culture and heritage for generations. She believed that the world was missing out on the unique blend of spices, herbs, and flavors that Haitian food had to offer. So, she left her corporate job and started her own private catering business that specializes in Haitian-French cuisine.

Her passion and expertise in cooking led her to create dishes that combined traditional Haitian recipes with French culinary techniques, creating a fusion of flavors and textures that were unique and delicious. As word spread about her catering business, she began to share her cooking knowledge with others, hosting cooking classes and demonstrations for those looking to



learn more about Haitian cuisine. Her classes were a hit, and soon enough, people from all backgrounds were learning about her food and culture.

Deborah’s business, Li Bon LLC, has become a huge success, with clients booking her for weddings, parties, and special events. Still, she remains humble and true to herself, always putting her love of food and culture first. Her dedication and hard work not only helps to put Haitian cuisine on the map but it’s also paving the way for other minority chefs to showcase their own talents and flavors.

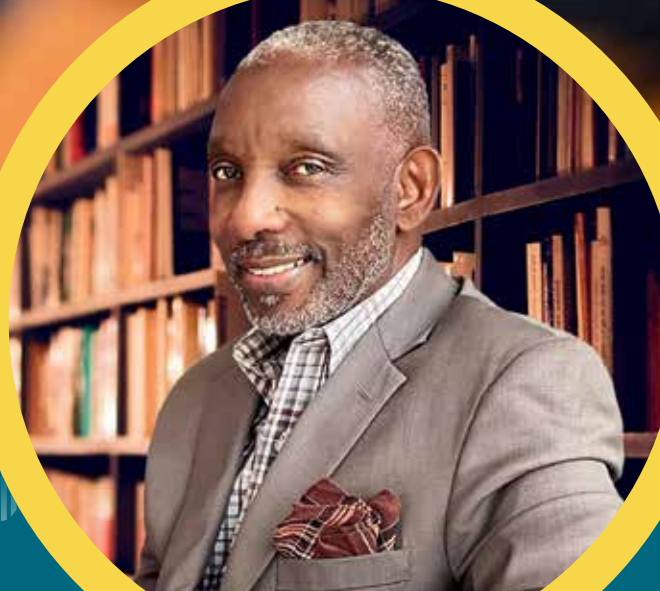
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# Elect Tania Lawes as your next Elmont Union Free School District Trustee



where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Recognized as the Elmont/Valley Stream Herald Person of the Year and honored as Assemblyman Tom Alfano's Woman of Distinction, Tania is driven by a passion for service and a dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

As your next elected school board trustee, Tania says "I will be committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment while ensuring I dedicate time to advocate for policies that prioritize scholar well-being and academic success."

"I look forward to collaborating with families, educators, and community members to strengthen our school system."

With her experience in community service, with a proven track record of leadership and positive impacts Tania commits to improving on the following goals:

- Excellence in education, striving to empower every student to reach their full potential. Commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and valued.
- Fostering the belief that every child deserves access to high-quality education and opportunities for growth, and ensuring a safe and nurturing environment where scholars feel valued, respected, and supported.
- Fostering a collegial and collaborative board that strives to address challenges and implement innovative solutions for our schools.
- Commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of school governance and decision-making.

"I am Tania Lawes and I respectfully ask that you vote for me as your next Elmont Union Free School District Trustee on May 21st, your polling location will be open from 6 am to 9 pm. Please remember to register to vote."

Tania Lawes is dedicated to leveraging her professional experiences and life skills in public service. She is a seasoned leader committed to meeting the diverse needs of the Elmont community. Currently serving as the Director of External Affairs & Community Engagement at the New York Islanders in Floral Park, NY, Tania collaborates across departments to identify and seize new business opportunities while fostering positive corporate engagement with schools and civic associations. With a solid foundation in community relations, Tania previously managed external affairs for the New York Islanders, facilitating communication between the arena and surrounding communities, spearheading initiatives like the NYI Mentoring Program, and secur-

ing essential grants for local schools during the pandemic.

Prior to her tenure with the New York Islanders, Tania served as a Constituent Engagement Representative in the New York State Senate, where she built constituent databases, resolved issues, and organized impactful community outreach programs. Tania's commitment to community extends beyond her professional roles, as evidenced by her extensive volunteer involvement with organizations like the Elmont Chamber of Commerce, GYO Access Program, and more.

A graduate of the Elmont and Sewanhaka school districts, Tania attended Tuskegee University

# “Give Righteousness A Chance to Evangelize”

## Chicken Coop Caribbean Pledges J\$6M to Poultry Farmers of Faith



New York based evangelism organization, GRACE (Give Righteousness A Chance to Evangelize) Conduct is committed to being a brother's keeper with its backyard poultry farming ministry, **Chicken Coop Caribbean** committing to J\$6.5 million in grants to aid Caribbean parishioners in need over two years.

Already in operation, the organization has disbursed approximately J\$750,000, to faith farmers in St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, and Hanover. It also has similar projects in the Caribbean Island of Grenada and looks to target farmers in Guyana and Trinidad later this year.

“We may never be able to eradicate poverty in the Caribbean, but we can all aspire to make an attempt through tangible support opportunities. Led by the biblical principle of being our brother's keeper, GRACE Conduct Ministries is committed to doing its part in making a difference through its Christian based initiative - **Chicken Coop Caribbean**,” said Program Administrator, Janice Julian.

She said the initiative, a fully funded small farmer poultry assistance program looks at empowering struggling Christian families by “giving them a start” transforming them into entrepreneurs and setting them on a path to self-sufficiency.

Julian reiterated that Poultry farming by tradition is quite popular in the Caribbean, especially in the rural areas, and it is a favorite go to for many low-income families looking to raise their immediate standard of living. Although popular, aspiring entrepreneurs face difficulties raising the financial and other well needed resources to get their businesses up and running.

She said, “Because these farmers operate on a smaller scale, often informal, they are not able to qualify for government assistance but with a grant from GRACE Conduct, their dreams can be realized.”

Through the local church, farmers are identified by their pastors, and then encouraged to apply. During the two-week application process, farmers are assessed for one-time financial assistance depending on their area of need. Once meeting all the prerequisites, funds are disbursed to either the church or a local farm store to purchase 50 chicks, 10 bags of feeding, vitamins, bulbs, feeding trays and water pans.

Recipients of the program are singing praises to God. Reverend Owen Johnson, Pastor of Maidstone Restored Church of God reports that his congregants are very grateful for the outreach and are happy that they benefitted from this wonderful project which is still in progress. He said that the poultry farmers are recycling and giving God the glory.”

Several recipients are on numerous harvesting cycles. Pastor Derick Smith of Greater Grace Temple in St. Catherine said, “I am very excited about the blessing and continue to pray for GRACE Conduct and Lighthouse Baptist Church. Our recipients are doing well. They first received fifty chicks and have been increasing ever since. One sister is currently raising 100 chickens of which she slaughtered 61 today.”

Pastor of Longwood Gospel Temple, Rev. Uriel Boothe, shared that he is giving God thanks that his parishioners are given a start to assist themselves,

their families, and the wider community. He said, “We give God thanks for the persons and organization that have been so thoughtful to us for giving us this great start. I pray that God will continue to bless the giver, who has been so grateful to us.”

Members of Gregory Park Baptist, Trinity Baptist Church, and Fairfield Moravian Circuit of Churches are also grant recipients as well as Fairfield Bible College.

The program executive also shared that small grants are available to not-for-profit Christian ministries missioned to serving the poor in marginalized communities.

**Chicken Coop Caribbean** is administered by GRACE Conduct under the advisory of Lighthouse Baptist Church, Queens, New York. The initiative is funded by GRACE Conduct, Lighthouse Baptist Church, corporate partners Caribbean Food Delights and Royal Caribbean Bakery as well as private individual support.

For inquires, churches may contact Chicken Coop Caribbean at [chickencoopministry@gmail.com](mailto:chickencoopministry@gmail.com).

**CONTACT:**

Sis. Janice Julian, MBA  
 Program Administrator  
 E: [chickencoopministry@gmail.com](mailto:chickencoopministry@gmail.com)



Left to Right Sister Daxie Ashman also of Longwood Gospel Chapel collects her supplies from her Pastor Rev Uriel Boothe



Left to Right Pastor Uriel Boothe of Longwood Gospel Chapel presents Bro. Astley Cross with 50 chicks and 10 bags of feeding

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## Patmar Bake Shop Inc.

### Lunch Menu

Lunch Special on Chicken Dishes are served Mondays - Fridays between 11am - 3pm for \$3.99



### Soup

Sm - \$2.50 Med. - \$3.50 Lg. - \$6.50

Monday ..... Chicken  
Tuesday ..... Red Peas & Chicken  
Wednesday ..... Chicken  
Thursday ..... Cow Foot & Chicken  
Friday ..... Chicken  
Saturday ..... Goat Head & Chicken

Chicken Soup  
Sm - \$2 Med. - \$3 Lg. - \$6



MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Sm.	Lg.	Sm.	Lg.	Sm.	Lg.
Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99	Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99	Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99
Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99	Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99	Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99
				Cowfoot	\$7.99 \$8.99
THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Sm.	Lg.	Sm.	Lg.	Sm.	Lg.
Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99	Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99	Oxtail	\$8.99 \$9.99
Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Jerk Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Br. Stew Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Fried Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99	Curry Ch.	\$6.99 \$7.99
Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99	Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99	Curry Goat	\$7.99 \$8.99
		Stew Peas	\$8.99 \$9.99	Escov. Fish	\$9.99
				Br. Stew Fish	\$13.99
				Steam Fish	\$13.99



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