

Profile of Authors



DEBORAH MATTHEWS has been a cultural worker in the field of theatre for almost 20 years. A current PhD student in Cultural Studies at the UWI St. Augustine in Trinidad & Tobago, she uses creative expression as a tool to cultivate conversations about lived experiences, community building, active resistance & kinaesthetic memory.



JOANNE HAYNES is a Trinidadian author, filmmaker and educator. Her publications include fiction: *Walking, Sapotee Soil* and *The Corals' Tale*, and creative non-fiction 'Sleep Tobago, (MaComere Journal of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars) and 'Myths and Legends', (University of Trinidad and Tobago Journal of Pedagogy). She is a Commonwealth

Short Story Finalist, Winner of the Derek Walcott Literature Prize, and recipient of a Lifetime Award for Literature. Her films include: 'The Fallen People of the Black

Land', selected for the Anime Caribe and Trinidad and Tobago Film Festivals and 'Legends Revisited', which premiered at the Cannes Pan African Film Festival and was nominated for a People's Choice Award at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. She is the creator of LegendizeU, a creative, connective concept of educating and building identity, which she has carried out in schools in Trinidad.



KELA NNARKA FRANCIS is an assistant professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. She earned her PhD in Caribbean Literature from Howard University in 2012 and continues to research topics in Caribbean literature, culture, and society. She is particularly interested in the secular rituals in the Caribbean and the wider African diaspora. Some of

her publications, available at <https://u-tt.academia.edu/KelaFrancis>, include: *The African Masking Process* (2015), "Beyond Genre: Black Elements in Radiohead's 'Bloom' or Black Music/White Music, What's the Difference?" (2017), "The Spirituality of Carnival: Using Yoruba Cosmology to Read *The Dragon Can't Dance*" (2015), "From Old World Gods to New World Ritual: Kamau Brathwaite's *Islands*." (2014), "Approaching Literature from an 'African World View': A Reading of Masks and Masquerades in *Purple Hibiscus*" (2013), and "Calypso Poetics" in *A Companion to African Rhetoric* (2022). She is working on a monograph on the Ritual of Carnival: *The Litany of a National Ritual*. Her other projects include an essay on the influence of the Black Power Movement on calypso--"TTBAM: The Music of the Black Power Movement in Trinidad and Tobago".



KHION DE LAS holds a Masters in Music degree from the Northern Illinois University (USA) and a Legal Education Certificate from the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School (T&T). He also holds a BA in Musical Arts degree, a Bachelor of Laws degree and a PG Certificate in University Teaching and Learning, all from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Cultural Studies at the

UWI. Mr. De Las is a lecturer in music at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) at UWI. He is a multi-instrumentalist, a music producer, songwriter and avid composer. Khion De Las is also an attorney-at-law who specialises in Entertainment Law and Intellectual Property.



MARTIN RAYMOND is a musician, record producer and engineer. For over 40 years Martin worked extensively in the UK before returning to Trinidad & Tobago in the late 90's. He is known for his work with artists such as David Rudder, Brother Resistance, Mungal Patasar, Andre Tanker, Machel Montano and many others. As a mastering engineer, he is responsible

for shaping the final sound of many recent Road March, Soca Monarch and

Calypso Monarch hits in the region. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad & Tobago with responsibility for the Digital Media Arts Programme. Martin holds an MA in Carnival Studies from UTT. Photo by Ghansham Mohammed.



Studies.

O'NEIL JOSEPH is a PhD candidate in History at The UWI (STA). His research and writing explore the social and cultural histories of Caribbean societies, issues of identity and the intersections of gender and sexuality. His work has appeared in *History-The Journal of the Historical Association*, *Women's History Review* and *Tout Moun: The Journal of Caribbean Cultural*



RAYSHAWN PIERRE-KERR is an award-winning storyteller, theatre director, and cultural researcher whose work is anchored in using the Caribbean, specifically Trinbagonian folk narratives and traditional lore for the purposes of education and entertainment. She has had her performing arts work featured in Carifesta and other regional festivals

and has copped top national titles in Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a double Major Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts & Carnival Studies (with first class honours) from the UWI, St. Augustine Trinidad, and a Practitioners Certificate in Drama/Theatre in Education. Currently, she is an MPhil candidate in Cultural Studies, where she is seeking to marry her passion for cultural documentation, Drama-in-Education, and community (yard) development. She is the Artistic Director of the Tobago Performing Arts Company (TPAC) and the former Artistic Programme Manager of the UWI, DCFA's Arts-in-Action. A former Miss La Riene Rive and UWI Valedictorian (2018), Rayshawn's goal is to create space for critical pedagogy through the arts.



SEAN SAMAD is currently a candidate for the Ph.D. in Cultural Studies whose research is centred on the investigation of the sociocultural conditions that impact the composition of Soca and Axé musics. His first degree was in Speech Communications and Latin American Studies at Pace University and currently lectures courses on Communication Studies and Brazilian and Lusophone

cultures at the UWI, St. Augustine. Trinbagonian by birth, global citizen in mindset, he has always had a passion for culture and communication. Sean is a Caribbean Brazilianist through and through with a passion for all things Brazilian. He speaks Portuguese, Spanish, some French and Italian, and is an avid traveller. Sean is a quintessential Caribbean person, being of mixed heritage and has lived in North America, Europe and Brazil. He is a melophile and music is his passion.



YVONNE WEBBER has worked in various forms of theatre in different cultural spaces always with a focus on connecting performance with community. She is currently a PhD student in Cultural Studies at the UWI St. Augustine in Trinidad & Tobago.