

Agriculture on film

CARIBBEANTALES TO SCREEN WINNING SHORT FILMS ON FIRST EVENING

Caribbean youth and agriculture were the focus of attention on the first evening of CaribbeanTales Film Festival 2012 with a screening of the winning short films in the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU 2011 Caribbean Agriculture & Science Film and Video Competition.

The top three films as well as two others which received special prizes were shown at George Washington House Theatre this evening. The competition, which was held last October and required entrants to produce a short film with an

agricultural theme, was open to Caribbean film makers, ages 18 to 35.

Vincent Lewis of Trinidad & Tobago emerged the winner with his entry *Bee wise*, while Jamaican Marlon Johnson's *Trial and Error* took second place and Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe of Grenada copped third with *Food For Thought*. Special prizes were awarded to Kevin Bhall for



Marlon Johnson

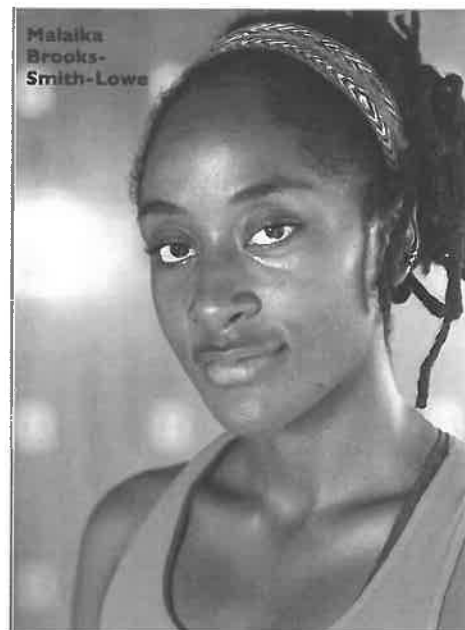
Nightmare 2020 and to Crystal Naipaul for *Step Into Mr. Gregory's Home*.

Lewis and Brooks-Smith-Lowe attended the screening and fielded questions from an audience that included guests from agricultural and youth organisations, such as persons studying science and agriculture at Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. Lennox Chandler, President of the Caribbean Council of Science and Technology, who partnered with Netherlands-based CTA on the project, addressed the gathering.

Reflecting on the film and video competition and the screening, CTA's Senior Programme Coordinator — Science & Technology Strategies, Judith Ann Francis, noted: "Caribbean agriculture is under performing and the region is finding it difficult to respond effectively to the multiple complex challenges; climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, high food prices and soaring food imports."

However, she added, there are a number of talented, skilled and motivated young professionals whose resourcefulness is not being tapped.

"If the agricultural sector is to provide opportunities for young Caribbean people and at the same time provide adequate food at affordable prices, youth must be mobilised. The Caribbean also needs to invest more in science and



Malaika Brooks-Smith-Lowe

innovation.

"CTA saw a golden opportunity to work with key strategic partners to mobilise Caribbean youth and engage them in science and innovation for agricultural transformation," she explained.

"We are pleased with the outcomes of the science and agriculture film and video competition. The youth addressed all the challenges facing Caribbean agriculture and worked with science and film mentors to get their message out. We are happy to be part of CaribbeanTales Film Festival 2012 and expect this partnership will expand the reach of the films produced by Caribbean youth and serve as an additional medium for putting the spotlight on Caribbean agriculture to mobilise investments and encourage policymakers, scientists, society and the youth to collaborate and act urgently."

Movie making in 48 hours

The movie 48 Hours is well known — but can Caribbean film makers create a short film within that time frame?

For those who can and even excel at this, there are big prizes on offer in this week's "48Hr Film Challenge" which is being held as part of CaribbeanTales Film Festival 2012 in Barbados. Apart from a first prize of \$1,000 cash plus a week's cinematic release at Olympus Cinema and a week's full equipment kit, there are also individual cash prizes for the best camera, editor and actor.

Regional film professionals will test their skills, working in teams (maximum of ten persons, including actors and crew) to script, shoot, edit and submit a film in 48 hours, starting from 8 p.m. tomorrow April 11 until their deadline of 8 p.m., Friday, April 13. The completed film(s) — four to ten minutes in length — will be screened on April 15, at the festival's closing ceremony.

The "48Hr Film Challenge" is open to all — from first-time film makers or students to industry veterans. To prepare for the two-day event, teams will participate in an intense three-hour session on Wednesday, April 11, at Island Inn. Led by Chris Cooke Johnson and Akley Irebel Olson, the workshop will cover: Screenwriting, lighting and filming techniques, managing workflow, editing on a tight schedule, and music for your film.

To ensure no team starts with an advantage over another, they will all collect their registration packets — which will include: the randomly selected genre, one line of dialogue and one prop — at the same time.

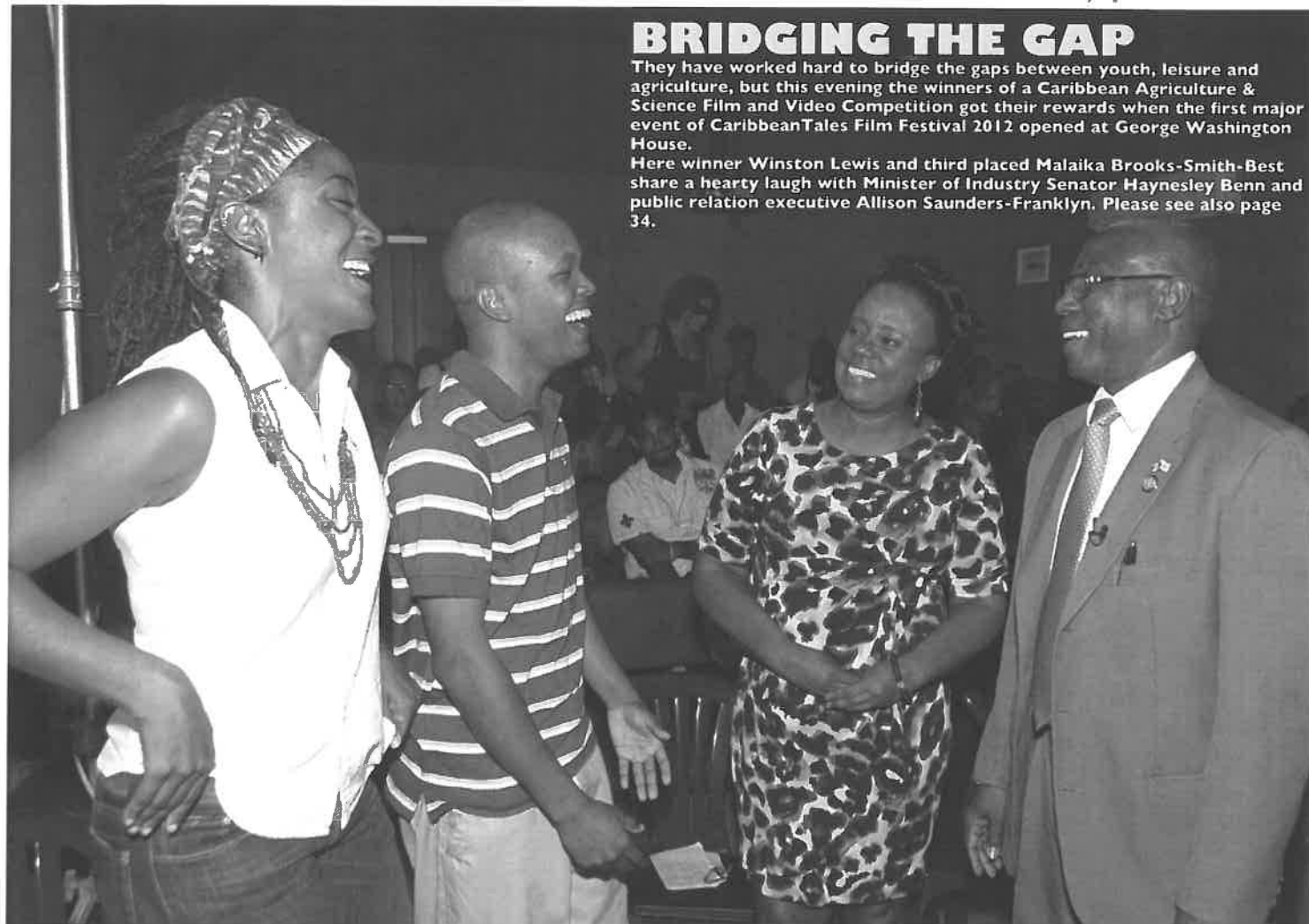
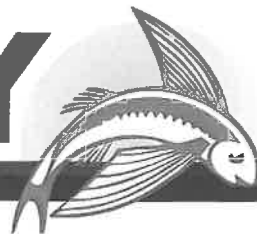
While resources, cast, crew and equipment and locations can be sourced and reserved before the challenge begins, all writing and other elements of production must be done during the 48 hours.

For more information about the "48Hr Film Challenge", contact: Nancie Yearwood at CaribbeanTales@gmail.com.



Proud agriculture film winners.

Bee Wise 2011



BRIDGING THE GAP

They have worked hard to bridge the gaps between youth, leisure and agriculture, but this evening the winners of a Caribbean Agriculture & Science Film and Video Competition got their rewards when the first major event of CaribbeanTales Film Festival 2012 opened at George Washington House.

Here winner Winston Lewis and third placed Malaika Brooks-Smith-Best share a hearty laugh with Minister of Industry Senator Haynesley Benn and public relation executive Allison Saunders-Franklyn. Please see also page 34.

SHUT DOWN

PEACH AND QUIET CLOSING DOORS NEXT WEEK

by Shawn Cumberbatch

The end is near for Peach and Quiet Hotel, owned and managed for the last quarter century by outspoken small hotelier Adrian Loveridge.

After 24 years in the business, the former Barbados Tourism Authority director, and his wife Margaret, will close the doors of their Inch Marlow, Christ Church property for the final time next week Tuesday.

The hotel has been on the market since last year for \$9 million and the Loveridges are in negotiations with "an overseas investor" for sale of the property, but he told **Barbados TODAY** when the 22 room property closed next week it would be the end of his tenure as a Barbados hotelier.

"We have had expressions of interest, but nothing has started rolling yet, but we think one negotiation will lead to a sale but it's going to take a little while, although traditionally we would close in the summer anyway," he said.

"What we are basically going to do is close on the 17th of April and then maintain the property at least until early December. In the interim we hope to find a buyer that will keep it going as a going concern, to keep the hotel open from December onwards, if not then basically we will decide at that stage if we are going to close permanently.

"So we don't really want to lose any goodwill because we have spent some 24 years building the business up, we already have a lot of forward bookings for winter 2012/2013 so clearly if somebody purchases the hotel that's a very valuable resource to have if they know they have got a lot of forward deposited bookings," he said.

Loveridge said it would be "unfair" to disclose who he was in talks with, but he did say "it's an overseas investor that already has property here on Barbados and they are part of a large family and they feel that this would give the family an interest in a business that they could happily run and we would prefer to see that go into good hands".

"I would hate somebody to come along with a bulldozer and just destroy the place and then build lots of tacky condominiums in its place, so we would really like to see it survive as a hotel," he stated.

"Ideally we would like somebody to take it over and run it like we have and hopefully take the hotel to a higher level. We have just come to a stage in life where we're old and

we're tired and we don't have the energy we had 24 years ago when we bought the property.

"We feel that somebody out there with the same type of enthusiasm that we had 20 odd years ago could put money into it and take it to a higher standard," he added.

Loveridge said it was a bittersweet time for him, management and staff, since the hotel was closing after having possibly its best ever winter tourist season.

"We have been full basically up until about three or four days ago, we are down to about fifty per cent occupancy now. The season I think for everybody died very early, we thought we would get a bit of business from the Australians coming in to see the cricket, but that hasn't happened," he noted.

"Usually we stay fairly busy up to and including Easter whenever that may be, but this year it just seemed to have falling away just a few days before Easter. So we are about fifty something per cent full and we will go down to about 40 per cent until about we close."

The hotelier said his guests, many of them repeat visitors, were disappointed at news of the closure, but had been understanding.

His advice for any new owners was to "just look after your guests and treat them like they are special people". shawncumberbatch@barbadostoday.bb