



CAYBILL



CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY
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Beef, No Chicken



"Beef, No Chicken" from THREE PLAYS by Derek Walcott.
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PG

CONTENT WARNING: Adult language and sexual innuendo. Reference to violence/robbery and bomb.

Prospect Playhouse


SHOW 2023 DATES (Thur, Fri & Sat)

7:30 p.m. September 7, 8 & 9
14, 15 & 16
21, 22 & 23



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Cayman Drama Society's production of Beef, No Chicken. We are so pleased to be putting on another Caribbean play, having not done one in a while. We are certain that you will find the story poignant and timely.

It's so great having a new Director on board, as well as some new faces on the CDS stage. It is also great to welcome back some familiar faces, and some who have not been involved in a while.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the incredible cast and crew and entire team for putting in long hours, and hard work to make this production a success.

CDS and all we do would not be possible without the amazing time, energy and effort put forth by our team of volunteers. From building the sets, to bar and front of house, to the amazing cast and crew!

We hope you enjoy!!

Erica Ebanks
Chairman 2023





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Otto's Auto Repair and Authentic Roti! We are so happy to have you here. It is my absolute pleasure and honour to share the Cayman Drama Society's Production of Sir Derek Walcott's "*Beef, No Chicken*" with you. What originally commenced as a quest to see more Caribbean work presented on stage in Cayman, has morphed in to such an incredible journey. As such my directorial debut is one that I am immensely proud of and I hope you are too.

Sir Derek Walcott is a name that is well known throughout the Caribbean and the world. He is a Caribbean Nobel prize winning poet and playwright and what I have come to love about his work is how relatable it is to all Caribbean people. *Beef, No Chicken* is no exception and offers a uniquely Caribbean mix of comedy, social and political commentary. During this production, you will journey to 1980s Trinidad and along the way you will probably recognize a few familiar Caribbean personalities and places, from your local corner shop and hangout, with its regular patrons to your politicians and businessmen with their sometimes questionable practices.

We have a wonderful cast of 14 dedicated, hardworking, and enthusiastic people who I have immensely enjoyed working with. This production is truly a team effort as everyone came together to create this experience. While there were lots of laughs and truly hilarious moments throughout rehearsals, there was an acknowledgement and a recognition of the significance and importance of bringing this work to this stage. The production however, was not without its challenges, and I want to commend and thank our cast and amazing crew for jumping in to read for missing cast members when needed and for being so understanding and accommodating through some cast changes. I also want to thank them for going above and beyond in sourcing props, helping with stage direction where needed and costume preparations.

I also want to thank our Artistic Director/Co-producer Kirsty O'Sullivan who was an overwhelming source of encouragement, support and guidance throughout this process, Co-producer Agata Kalicki, my amazing Co-Director Caroline Neale-Allenger, Stage manager Cynthia Powell and theatre manager Paul De Freitas. Most importantly I want to thank the Sir Derek Walcott estate, especially Sir Derek's daughters Elizabeth and Anna for their support and assistance in bringing this production to fruition.

Lastly, I want to thank you the audience for being here and for your continued support of the arts in Cayman. We hope you enjoy the show!

Judith Nicholls

Director





THEATRE MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to Judith and Caroline for bringing a West Indian classic - *Beef, No Chicken* - to stage. Judith and Caroline are first-time CDS directors with a vision of what they wanted for their audience. That vision takes its shape through the performance of the actors and the backdrop of surrounding elements – the set, sounds and lights.

It is late summer, and half of your Theatre Management committee are off-island. And so my thanks to Bill Mervyn for his assistance in getting the set up after an agreement as to look-and-feel was reached with the directors.

You have no idea how difficult it is for two people – of any age – to erect a theatre set. And Bill and I are not spring chickens! I have mentioned before that the average age of the Theatre Management Committee members is in the 70's. But the most important thing is that we love doing it – and we love our twice weekly get together at the Playhouse in the morning to do maintenance, build, adjust or take down sets and so on.

WANT TO JOIN US? Are you retired? Or a student with holiday breaks? Can you pop in for a couple of hours possible up to twice a week or so as in the morning? Do you want to learn the unique arts and the magic of theatrical presentation? Set? Sound? Lights? Facilities? Do you have a special and valuable expertise that we can use? Carpentry? Electrical? Audio-Visual? Painting? Lifting? Humour? Any other?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Call Paul on 916-6331 (theatremanager@cds.ky) Paul, Bill, Frank, Peter and Erica – and you?

Paul de Freitas
Theatre Manager



Cayman Drama Society would like to welcome our new Governor, Her Excellency, Mrs. Jane Owen



UPCOMING SHOWS

A Playhouse Family Christmas

Friday / Saturday / Sunday
Nov 24th - Dec 10th 2023

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap

Thursday / Friday / Saturday
Mar 7th - 23rd, 2024



SETTING

Welcome to Couva, a modern, vibrant town in central Trinidad that grew from a little village amidst vast sugarcane fields where, historically, the majority of its inhabitants worked. The town was no stranger to development, with the introduction of the railway in the 1800s, an air base that served the US military during World War II, and in later years, the burgeoning petrochemical industry that would later become the backbone of the local economy. Its rich culture and history were shaped over the years by its diverse peoples, from the native Amerindians to Spanish colonists, French planters, African slaves, and indentured servants from India.

“Ah Trini say....”

Popular Trinidadian words and phrases

“All-yuh” – all of you

“Bazodee” – totally confused, dizzy, giddy

“Corbeaux doh eat sponge cake” – (pronounced “cobo” meaning vultures) people without class cannot appreciate the finer things in life

“Cockroach eh have no right in fowl party” – people should not involve themselves in other people’s business

“Dat cyar work” – that is impossible

“De, dat, dem, dis” – The, that, them, this

“Eh heh” – oh really?; I get it

“Jeez-An-Ages!” – an exclamation of frustration

“Lime, Limin” – to hang out, to pass the time; as a noun, a group of people who hang out together

“Maco” – someone who minds someone else’s business

“Mastana Bahar” – a local TV program that began in July 1970 which showcases local talent in East Indian music, song, and dance

“Nah” – used as “no” (for example, Doh do dat nah)

“One hand cyah clap” – there are things that one cannot do alone

“Rumfle, rumple up” – to crease, wrinkle or mess up

“Roti” – a type of bread of East Indian origin cooked on a griddle (known as a taawa)



THE CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

Presents

Beef, No Chicken

“Beef, No Chicken” from THREE PLAYS by Derek Walcott.
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CAST

Otto Hogan	–	Mike McLaughlin
Euphony Hogan	–	Abena Agard
Eldridge Franco	–	Eldon Chisholm
The Limer	–	Mikhail Campbell
Sumintra Ramsingh	–	Kayla Manderson
Drusilla Douglas	–	Maya Tatum
Cedric Hart / The Mayor	–	Chad Powell
Mongroo	–	Reshma Sharma
Mitzi Almandoz	–	Giji Alex
Alwyn Davies (Cardiff Joe)	–	Athelston Watts
Lai Fook	–	Sheron Campbell
First Bandit	–	Chad Powell Jr
Second Bandit	–	Shrinjan Datta
The Deacon (Cyril)	–	Marcia Campbell



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CREW

- DIRECTOR – Judith Nicholls
- ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – Caroline Neale-Allenger
- PRODUCER – Agata Kalicki
- STAGE MANAGER – Cynthia Powell
- SOUND TECHNICIAN – Aaliyah Powell
- LIGHT TECHNICIAN – Erica Ebanks
- BACKSTAGE CREW – Nivedita Ghosh, Neelam Shahrawat
- SET DESIGN – Judith Nicholls, Paul de Freitas
- SET BUILD – Paul de Freitas, Bill Mervyn
- SET DRESS – Caroline Neale-Allenger,
Michael McLaughlin, Chad Powell
- COSTUME/PROPS – Agata Kalicki and
Caroline Neale-Allenger
- PROGRAMME DESIGN – Our Secret Agency
- PRODUCTION LIAISON – Kirsty O’Sullivan

Special thanks also to Singh’s Roti Shop, for sponsoring our cast party catering, and to Kristen Reid for greatly assisting in the beginning stages of rehearsals.

An additional thanks to cast member Reshma, who wrote our Trinidad and Tobago inserts for this Caybill. And a most grateful and humble thank you to the Walcott family themselves, who have shown us incredible support throughout this process. We hope to do justice to their father/grandfather’s legacy!





TRINIDAD – THE LAY OF THE LAND

Toco – the most northeasterly village of Trinidad and closest point to the sister isle of Tobago. Today a popular spot for surfing with picturesque beaches, in the 1700s it was used mainly for cotton production. The Toco Airfield, built in 1941 by the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, was eventually rendered unusable to aircraft by the Government of the day following the Grenada uprisings in 1983. The Galera Point Lighthouse, constructed in 1897, was an essential feature on the north-eastern coast which was serviced by sea routes (regular overland access for motor vehicles only being established in the 1930s).

Tunapuna – an eastern town serving as a major transit point from east to west. Political folklore says that if you win Tunapuna, you win the elections! The town was the birthplace of singer, composer and director Donald Heywood whose 1926 song “I’m Coming Virginia” became a jazz staple performed by Dixieland musicians. Another of his compositions, “Tuna Puna” featured on a single by Petula Clark in the 1950s.

Chaguanas - located on Trinidad’s western coast and situated between the two main cities of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, it was named for an Amerindian tribe. It is the location of many significant expressions of Indian culture, including the Divali Nagar and the Sewdass Sadhu Shiv Mandir (commonly known as the Temple in the Sea). The Borough, and in particular the village of Felicity, has some of the most beautiful displays during the annual Hindu festival of Divali (known as the Festival of Lights).

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cayman Drama Society, through our CayStage division, offers scholarships to deserving kids who cannot afford our training classes. You can help – please take the time to make a donation, however small – just point your smartphone camera.





ACTS AND SCENES

The play is set inside Otto's Auto Repair and Authentic Roti shop, in the rural town of Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, in the 1980s

ACT I

Scene 1

Daybreak

Scene 2

Later that same night

Scene 3

Three days later

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene 1

The following morning

Scene 2

Late afternoon on the next day

Scene 3

Local TV News station - Sometime in the future





CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Mike McLaughlin
Otto Hogan

Michael obviously loves the theatre, as evidenced by his involvement in numerous productions since his high school years. This production is especially important as it was written by Caribbean laureate Sir Derek Walcott. Michael feels so privileged to be cast in this production as, even though it was written in the 80's, the subject matter is so very relevant to our Styrman of today. Something to make you laugh out loud but also to stir the inner thoughts. He hopes you will enjoy joining us on our journey.



Abena Agard
Euphony Hogan

Abena is an exciting and enthusiastic newcomer to the world of acting, bringing her natural flair and passion for storytelling to the stage as a first-time actor with CDS. However, she is no stranger to a stage and public speaking, having been involved in numerous choirs and being a trainer over the years. Beyond the stage, Abena is an avid learner, who actively participates in various charitable endeavors and is known for her genuine and bubbly demeanor. Thrilled to be working with such experienced actors and directors at CDS, Abena hopes that her portrayal of her character's journey will entertain and mesmerize the audience. She looks forward to sharing the show with you and welcomes you to Couva!!



Eldon Chisholm
Eldridge Franco

Eldon Chisholm is an Iraq War veteran and amateur thespian who honed his acting craft while working many years in the hospitality industry. You've seen him in *Rundown*, local commercials, and now, for the first time, at CDS.



Mikhail Campbell
The Limer

Although this is his first formal acting role, Mikhail is no stranger to the stage. As a long time recording artist and producer, the Limer, an aspiring calypsonian, was a natural fit for his first role. Mikhail is excited to take on this new challenge and experience a different type of performance with the rest of this amazing cast.



Kayla Manderson
Sumintra Ramsingh

Kayla is a big performing arts enthusiast whose first choice for high school electives was Performing Arts, as it was a childhood dream to pursue this line of work professionally. She has been featured in two prior CDS projects - the drama *Sistahs'*, and the musical *Into the Woods*. She is super excited to now have the opportunity to be a part of a comedy!



Maya Tatum
Drusilla Douglas

Maya Tatum is an 18-year-old Caymanian. She has performed in several plays with the Prospect Playhouse (including *The Women, Blood Brothers*, and *A Playhouse Family Christmas*). She is so excited about performing in *Beef, No Chicken*.



Chad Powell
Cedric Hart / The Mayor

In a theatrical debut that's sure to raise eyebrows, Chad tackles not one, but two roles in *Beef, No Chicken*. As the bribe-loving Mayor, and the fame-hungry TV Reporter Cedric, Chad is set to deliver a performance that's as multifaceted as a politician's promises. Don't miss this double dose of drama and deceit!



Reshma Sharma
Mongroo

Reshma returns to the CDS stage after too long a hiatus. She is delighted to be part of this production, an ode to sweet T&T as it was back in the day, and a celebration of the hallowed institution that is the roti shop. She has just ordered a chicken with pumpkin and spinach (hold the pepper) and a Peardrax to go.



Giji Alex
Mitzi Almandoz

Giji's not shy when it comes to being on stage, as she has grown up performing in dance competitions and events. But she thought it would be fun to switch it up and take a stab at acting. She is very excited to be on stage for her first acting role in *Beef, No Chicken!* Possibly more in the future...TBD!



Athelston Watts
Alwyn Davies (Cardiff Joe)

Athelston Antonio Watts, a native of Clarendon, Jamaica, found his calling in the captivating world of drama and the arts during his years at the esteemed Clarendon College. His flair for drama was undeniable, as he passionately participated in the Drama and Arts club, leaving a lasting impression on all who crossed his path. In 2001, Athelston made his way to the Cayman Islands, where he embraced a new chapter in his life as an esteemed member of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS). His involvement in the arts remains an inspiration to all those who dream of living life to the fullest with a touch of spice and a heart filled with joy.



Sheron Campbell
Lai Fook

Sheron is ecstatic in becoming a recent member of the Cayman Drama Society. Over countless years, her love of the arts propelled her to write her very own comedic personal life experiences, called 'episodes', over social media. These 'episodes', leave her readers in hysterics and stitches, continuously seeking more content, whilst encouraging her to publish these 'episodes' in book format. Sheron's goal is to bring more laughter to a broader audience and showcase her love of theatre arts.



Chad Powell Jr
First Bandit

Chad is 17 and has been doing theatre for as long as he can remember. He is used to performing in musicals, so he is excited to step into new opportunities. He has also worked with CDS many times before, including most recently backstage. He's especially ecstatic to perform in a play by a Caribbean playwright.



Shrinjan Datta
Second Bandit

Shrinjan Datta is a 20-year-old university student who is also working full time. He has been in many productions in St. Ignatius Catholic School, Family Life Center, and Cayman Music School. He has joined CDS because he wanted to be part of a bigger production, and also due to an influence from a friend.



Marcia Campbell
The Deacon (Cyril)

Marcia has been a huge movie fan from as long as she can remember. Always imitating actors she's seen with family and friends. This will be her debut. Now she becomes a part of the world she has watched and has admired for years. She says you're never too old to live your dream.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage extends congratulations to the Cayman Drama Society on another notable production. We are always pleased to support opportunities where the community can engage in the performing arts and have exposure to the cultural aspects of theatre here in the Cayman Islands. We recognize that self-expression and creativity are vital to the development our people and our society; and these productions provide artistic channels for the displays of creativity. Caymanians have long since been performers and storytellers and the Ministry is proud to support entities that allow that legacy to continue.



**Ministry of Youth, Sports,
Culture & Heritage**

Cayman Islands Government

**We give you
a standing
ovation for
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our local
talent.**



CAYSTAGE MESSAGE

We had a fantastic summer with our “Play In A Week” camps this July, creating a murder mystery set in a fantasy world, and a surreal battle of different characters thrown together from completely different kingdoms. This year saw our classes put on mainstage performances, and this really allowed them to showcase their talents and creative skills! It is always a joy to speak to parents afterwards and see how they have received the young people’s plays. Most commonly they are often pleasantly surprised at how much the actors can do, and to such a high standard. I am also thrilled to say that our Director, and Assistant Director, for this production came from our Directors Course earlier this year. Not that Caroline, who has experience in Directing and much theatre training and expertise, needed much guidance, but the course served as a refresher as well as to inspire new talent. I am so proud of all Judith has done as the head of this production, and think the pair have made a fantastic creative team. We have some actors on stage tonight from our adult acting course as well, which is an absolute thrill to watch as an acting coach. I am particularly proud of Chad Powell Sr, who we had to literally drag into the audition room but who was born for the stage, just like his son (also in our acting classes) who joins him up there tonight too.

As Artistic Director of the theatre, I am looking to create more variety within our season’s offerings. So, when Judith proposed a play from Sir Derek Walcott, I barely took a breath before saying I would love to see it happen and it had my full backing. It is a privilege and an utter joy to be granted the rights to a play that is so rarely put on, out of Mr Walcott’s impressive canon of work. This play has such a great mix of humour, political musings, and recognizable characters. I hope you will love it as much as we do. We give special thanks to Singh’s Roti shop here in Grand Cayman, who have kindly sponsored the cast party food (and helped us secure some Peardrax for you to enjoy in the bar). If the play has you craving an authentic roti by the end...you know where to go!

Next up we are toying with the idea of a summer pantomime, and a more family friendly offering. If you are interested in Directing with us, then please get in touch by emailing productions@cds.ky.

Don’t forget to SHARE THE SHOW! Spread the word and get as many people enjoying this production as possible.

Kirsty O’Sullivan

Artistic Director and Head of Drama Training





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CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

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\$1300 KYD (Season)

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SECRETARY – Mike Bishop
TREASURER – Renae Ferguson

With

Fay Anne de Freitas, Agata Kalicki, Gavin McDougall, Judith Nicholls, Caroline Neale-Allenger, Cynthia Powell, Adam Roberts, and Melanie Wright.
We also welcome Juliet Pilgrim as our Inclusion Advisor.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cayman Drama Society is committed to providing quality live theatre to educate, enrich and entertain, while providing lifelong learning opportunities and fostering creative expression.

The Cayman Drama Society was founded in 1970 and continues to be the leading provider of live theatrical entertainment on Grand Cayman.

Supporting the
Cayman Drama Society since 2009.

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