

El Cerro Del Aripo

About the Play and Artistic Director

Davlin Thomas



'El Cerro del Aripo' is an imaginative and funny theatrical production in the genre of Trinidad Magical realism. In this large scale Carnival presentation, three friends journey into a painting and experience (as the artist paints) the horrors and the beauty, the despair and the wonderment that unfolds from the artist's mind. 'El Cerro del Aripo' is not just a play, it is a theatrical experience. The work is a significant signpost to local ingenuity that explores our music, dance, literature and visual arts in a seamless and provocative script by Davlin Thomas.

Davlin is an award winning playwright and director. He has won National Playwrighting competitions twice with 'The Play within the Play' and the tragedy, 'La lune and Annick Coco'. He is also a multiple Cacique Award winner for his plays 'Lear Ananci' and 'Sans Humanite'.

Davlin's work has been commissioned by the University of the West Indies, The International Orissa Congress, the National Carnival Commission, the Government of Trinidad & Tobago and the National Carnival Bands Association. His work is usually situated within the genre of "magical realism" and utilizes Davlin's extensive experience in the contemporary theatre, the Carnival Arts, Best Village, Secondary Schools Drama Festival and East Indian Folk, to engage what he refers to as the "magic of theatre".

"I try to surprise my audience every time; each work is always my first! Creating theatre is conjuring magic... If everyone in the audience could do what I do, there'd be no reason to come see my plays. Each new work therefore, must be exciting, new and invigorating!"

El Cerro Del Aripo
Transcendent Spirits in De Mas

Cast: (In order of appearance)

Artist	Makemba Kunle
Singer	Mavis John
Lal	Arnold Goindhan
Boots	Kevin McMayo
Harry	Mark Nottingham
Josephine/Paria	Delores Alexander
Opera Singer	Anne Fridal
King Candle Fly	Fabrice Barker
Sally (Lal's Wife)	Rachel Lee
Elwin	Elwin Johnson

Production Team

Producer/Artistic Director/Playwright
Production Manager
Technical Director/Lighting Designer
Sound Engineer
Sound Editor & Studio Works
Lighting Assistant
Costume Designers
Costume Construction
Costume Manager
Costume Assistant
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Puppet Master
Choreographer
Choreography (Kuchipudi Dance)
Assistant to Choreographer
Assistant to Artist
Drummers

Guitarist
Saxophonist

Davlin Thomas
Nigel Scott
Curtis Bachan
Trelton Thompson
Omari Ashby
Bente Lashley
Elwin Johnson, Makemba Kunle, Davlin Thomas
Elwin Johnson, Michael Johnson
Veronica Anthony
Maria Julien
Michael Marciano
Ronald Pablo Castillo
Khadine Daisley
Abigail Subran-Small
Fabien Smart
Marlon Darwin George
Allan Balfour
Rachel Lee
Cleavland Serries
Turunesh Raymond
Courtney John
Jeffery Macleshie
Marva Newton
Kensa Thomas

El Cerro Del Aripo

Transcendent Spirits in De Mas

Core Dancers

Shenelle Antoine
Cecile Hinds
Tineal Loney
Latisha Rosales
Tamika Samuel
Renée Alfred
Shadé Alfred
Tenisha Cobbler
Makeeba Gabriel
Kadija Gardiner

Dancers

Keston Agard
Kimberly Alexander
Alicia Archer
Pamela Bain
Marielle Dos Santos
Mckivin Foster
Simone Mcshine
Adam L Pascall
Chanel Philips
Michelle Pilgrim

Dancers Cont'd

Afiesha Charles
Zakita Edinborough
Avalon Edinborough
Nathalie Melissa Haywood
Kerry Ann Julien
Sherelle Julien
Sherniqua Julien
Anthony Mckenzie
Tricia Melville
Johanna Mohammed

Ryanne Harewood
Kelcee John
Shaquille Mitchell
Seon Nurse
Rhea Reyes
Samara St. John
Jelae Stroude-Mitchel
Onella Jack
John Sterling
Natasha Donawa
Carlos Griffith

Renée Reyes
Cleavand Serries
Rickisha Thomas
Keneisha Welcome Pilgrim
Richard Byer
Darlington Theodore
Kathy Ann Gibson
David Pierre
Sherline Chase
Jameila Bennett
Latoya Brown

Stephan Sterling
Kandy Lewis
Nazinga Sadlow
Ashaki Noel
Renisha Alexander
Andrea Bedeau
Christy Ann London
Sheryl Ann Moore
Reece Shawn
Renatta Rodney
Tristan Wallace

Extras

Kris-Ann Alexander
Petra Andrews
Ria Anthony
Jabari Armstrong
Jenelle Bedeau
Jaala Blake
Semon Brereton
Tia Bynoe Jack
Tamara Bynoe-Jack
Dinah Callender
Curlissa Charles
Michelle Corridon-Charles
Delia De Souza
Alana Doyle
Zakiah Edinborough
Deniel Estrada

Extras Cont'd

Keron Goddard
Shelly-Ann Griffith
Jalisha Guerra
Keston Hamilton
Ojay John
Naomi John
Kiola Maitland
Julia Mohammed
Leona Nanan
Elia Nero
Chanda Persad
Shantel Richards
Sheniqua Richardson
Roger Roberts
Telicia Taitt
Jamal Zamore

Puppeteers Joy (Woman)

Jamal Campbell
Ler-Bev – Charles
Abraham Cyrus
Shane Dyer Jr.
Keyron Greenidge
Kern Pereira

Snake/Caterpillar

Ajani Campbell
Kyle Campbell
Nkosi Campbell
Mathew Daniel
Natakki Dasent
Shane Dyer
Terrence Francis
Marlon George

Snake/Caterpillar cont'd

Edwin Hill
Eion Hosford
Emon Hosford
Tacuma Jones
Anthony Mendes
Alvin Moraine
Orville Herbert



Mavis John

Singer

Entertainer of the year nominee 2004, actress, performer, songbird Mavis John continues to thrill audiences at home and abroad and is a much sought after artiste in Trinidad and Tobago. Mavis is a very diverse artiste with a solid reputation on the stage as an actress/singer skillfully blending her acting talent with her wonderful voice in theatrical productions such as Derek Wallcott's 'Steel', Davlin Thomas' 'Monument' and 'The Road Make to Walk' which honoured the late Lord Kitchener. In addition, Mavis graces the stage at the annual Dimanche Gras, adding her warm sultry voice to the production that features the best of Carnival. She is happiest on stage and brings her considerable talent to her role in Thomas' 'El Cerro del Aripo'.

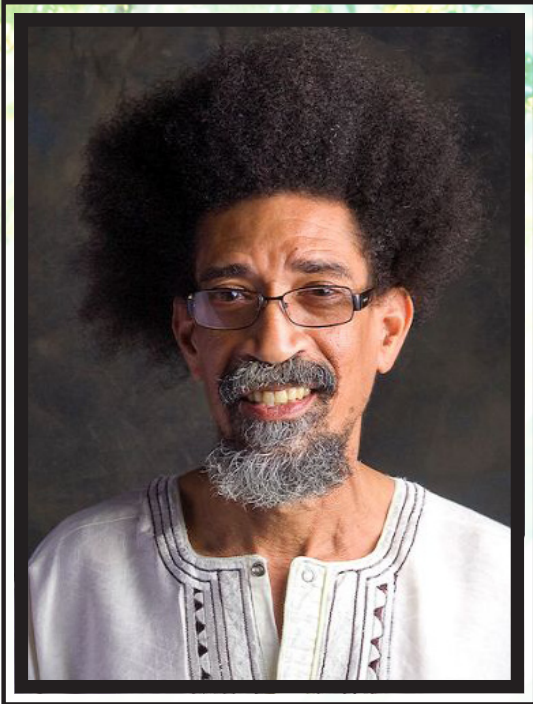


Anne Fridal

Opera Singer

Anne has sung at The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the New York City Opera, Glyndebourne Opera, and many more houses around the world. She has also toured the world singing the role of Serena from Porgy and Bess and has performed this role in countries including, Russia, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Europe and the Far East.

Ms Fridal recently debuted at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and opened the grand occasion of the 5th Summit of the Americas with the National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago in the presence of 34 heads of state and the President of the United States of America Barack Obama. Anne is particularly pleased to be working again with Davlin Thomas in 'El Cerro del Aripo' having graced the stage earlier this year in the Dimanche Gras 2010 production.



Makemba Kunle

Makemba Kunle has been immersed in his Art for over two decades. During this time his artistic obligation has seen him creating avenues of opportunity for new and young artists while continuing to grow in his own sphere. Kunle's active involvement in arts administration and education led to the formation of the Caribbean Arts Community and the Studio 66 Art and Support Community. His first public showing was in 1973 at the Art Society's Annual Exhibition. Since then, Kunle has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally in the USA, France, The United Kingdom and the Caribbean including Cuba. Notable collaborations have included those with Pamperi SteelBand (The Last Warrior), Leroi Clarke (Carnival Art 1: An Experiment and Turunesh (Prayers in de Yard, Return to the Source and Art on de Ground).

Kunle elicits innovative ways of expressing Caribbean culture, history and traditions - the painting inside the painting. This is his first theatrical appearance working as an artist on stage as part of Davlin Thomas' 'El Cerro del Aripo'.



Arnold Goindhan

Arnold is one of Trinidad's leading character actors. His journey began 12 years ago in the Christopher Rodriguez play 'Clearwater'. Since then his major stage credits include 'One of our Sons is Missing' (2000), 'Orphans' (2002), 'La Chunga' (2003) 'Mantalk' (2004), 'Steel' (2005) and 'The Road Make to Walk' (2007). The winner of 3 Cacique Award for acting excellence, Arnold is also regularly featured on television in soap operas (Westwood Park) and currently appears as Rajin in 'Mathew in the Middle' for the Government Information Services' series on public information. In 'El Cerro del Aripo' Goindhan brings his unique humour and acting style to the role of Lal.



Kevin McMayo

Kevin enjoys all Art, Theatre, Painting and Music, being the three he spends the most time in developing his skills. Theatrically, he has worked on many styles from Street Theatre in communities and schools to representing this country twice in our regional Carifesta. No stranger to Davlin Thomas's Theatre, Kevin has been a member of the Mount Hope Theatre Company for over 10 years. You can see him now, submerged in his role as Boots in Davlin Thomas's 'El Cerro del Aripo'.



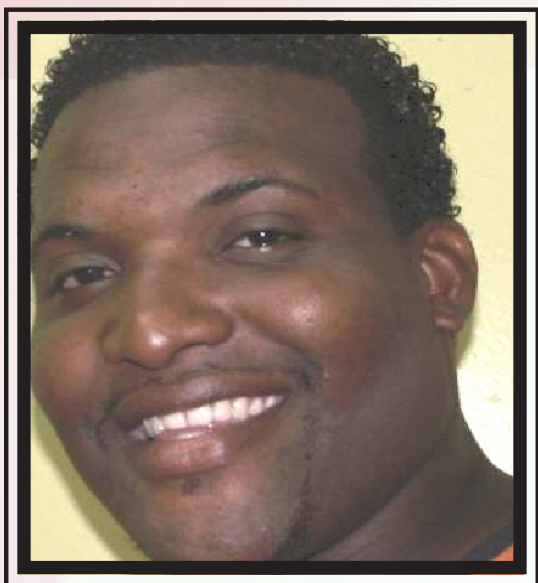
Mark Nottingham

Mark has been walking the boards for twelve years beginning with Christopher Rodrigues' play 'Clearwater 'in 1995. Since then he has found work with several leading theatre companies performing roles in 'The Breaking of Lord Harris; Wild, Wild Westmoorings; Fools; Man with a Dirty Mind; Sex, Lies and Income Tax and most recently Choo Kong and Penny Tell It Like It Is. A teacher by profession Mark enjoys imparting his knowledge and skill in acting and singing to his young charges. Mark is the founder and CEO of Urban Jungle Entertainment an upcoming promotional enterprise involved in the entertainment industry.



Delores Alexander

Delores has redefined the meaning of the word "Drama" Her hair, clothes, makeup and tattoos combine to project a fierce image of which she is profoundly proud . She has represented the Barataria Community Council for numerous years wining individual trophies in 1997, 2008, 2009. The awards were Best Actress, Best Dancer and Best All Round Performer. "D" as they call her on stage, has since moved on to a new group of talented performers Bon Bassa Productions. She also performs with Sonja Dumas Continuum Dance Project, yet still she finds the time to be a brilliant hair stylist by day.



Fabrice Barker

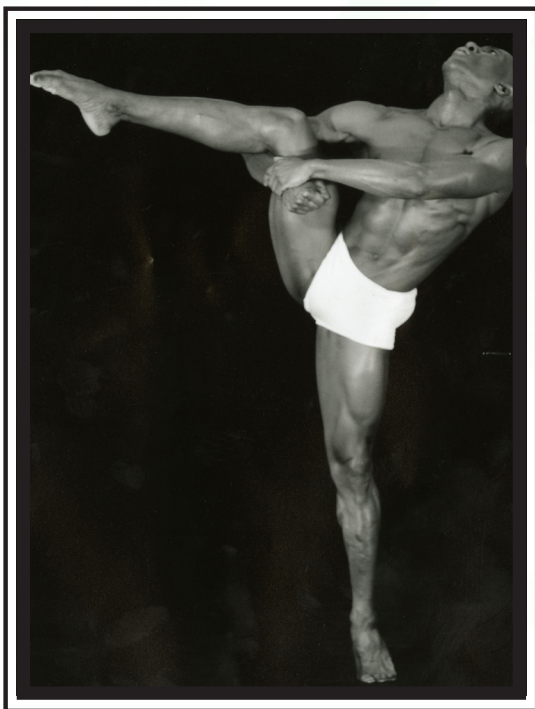
Fabrice started his singing career as first tenor and Head of Rosary Boys Choir moving on to first tenor Tranquility Government Secondary School in 1995 and 2000. He participated in the Secondary Schools Music Festival, winning three years in a row both in choir and as a soloist. He is currently head of the Events Management Committee of Bon Bassa Productions. Fabrice was Lead Actor for the group in the 2009 Prime Minister Best Village Competition acting alongside lead actress Delores Alexander as 'Queenie' in the production 'In the House of Carlton King' which placed second. Fabrice brings to life his role as Candle Fly in Davlin Thomas's 'El Cerro del Aripo'.



Rachel Lee

Rachel has been dancing for the past twenty nine years. She has studied under well renowned tutors such as Rajesh Seenath (Kuchipudi) and Predeep Shankar (Kathak). In 1995 - 1996 She attended the Alvin Ailey American Dance centre in New York where she studied, Tap, jazz, ballet, Modern and Pilates.

With this wealth of knowledge, Rachel has now been choreographing for the past fourteen years. As part of her creative process, Rachel strives to combine local dance genres with what she has been taught internationally and so develop her own own unique technique, something that says, Trinidad.



Allan Balfour

Allan Balfour began his dance career in 1982 and has had a strong history of performing and choreographing in the concert and commercial arenas. As a young veteran of twenty four (24) years, he is privileged to have worked locally in Trinidad and Tobago and abroad.

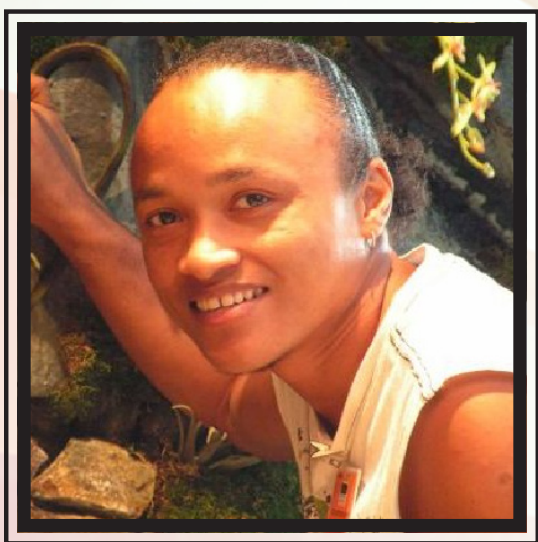
In 2003, he became the first male Caribbean dancer to perform with Disney's Production of "The Lion King" in London's West End, and credits this experience as an enriching one, full of artistic growth and opportunity. On his return to Trinidad in 2004, he founded The Trinity Dance Theatre of Trinidad and Tobago. Recently with Trinity Dance he has presented works at festivals in Maracaibo, Venezuela and Ecuador, as well as mounted choreography on Puerto Rico's' Ballet Concierto. Allan brings his considerable choreographic talents to bear on this June 2010 production of 'El Cerro del Aripo'.



Marlon 'Daww' George

Daww is a multi-talented theatre practitioner, beginning his career with the Mount D'or Cultural Performers at the tender age of 11, moving on to become President of the said group in 2006. A trained stage manager he has worked with Brian McFarlane on the Summit of the Americas and CHOGM opening ceremony presentations. Marlon runs his own clothing design business and is always looking for other business opportunities. His high energy and assertive leadership style

infuse the Puppet team in 'El Cerro del Aripo' with the motivation to perform with considerable enthusiasm and skill.



Elwin Johnson

Elwin began his career apprenticing with the renowned Carnival band leader/designer Wayne Berkeley straight out of school at 19. Since then Elwin has designed and manufactured mas for leading carnival bands, among them, Poison, Funtasia, Masquerade and Tribe. He has also designed for carnival bands in Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, including Kings and Queens and further afield in the USA and Canada. Having grown in skill, experience and confidence he started his own business, Johnson's Designs and Concepts which is regularly contracted to build sets and sculptures for expositions and theme parks. Elwin has been associated with Davlin Thomas' productions for several years and is pleased to be once again with this production of 'El Cerro del Aripo'.



Veronica Anthony

In 2002 Veronica became involved with the National Carnival Bands Association of Tobago serving as Secretary under the late Wilma Bedlow. This position involved her directly with the organization and management of Tobago Fest and Carnival in Tobago until 2006. This precipitated her inauguration into arts and culture which was sealed with the 2002 launch of J.D. Fantasy a small Tobago band. She was trained by Geraldo Vieira (snr), Charles Mendoza (Berlin), and Peter Greaves in the art of costume designing, wire bending, colour coordination and balance and costume construction.

Veronica was introduced into the Theatre forum in the 2007 Davlin Thomas' production of 'Monument' as Costume Manager. She was called again to serve in the 2010 Dimanche Gras production of 'El Cerro Del Aripo' and continues in the role as Costume Manger for the June 2010 Production.