



ANTHONY N. SABGA AWARDS E-NEWS



THE
ANTHONY N. SABGA
CARIBBEAN AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE

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The 2019 Awards in Barbados



(L) Corey Lane, Danielle Dieffenthaler, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Her Excellency, Dame Sandra Mason, The Rt Hon Mia Mottley, Kimala Bennett, Mr A Norman Sabga, Prof Michael Taylor.

Our 2019 ceremony in Barbados was hailed as probably our best ever. We were graced with the presence of Her Excellency Dame Sandra Mason (Governor General of Barbados) and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley at the Sandals Resort, along with a packed ballroom of guests from government, business, and civil society from Barbados.

The event was carried live on Carib Vision, and streamed via our Facebook page and our website. It attracted thousands of unique views from across the Caribbean and elsewhere, signaling to us that the reach of the Caribbean Awards was extending across and out of the region. The laureates all

made moving speeches, thanking their parents, and those who had paved the way intellectually, and had created the platforms they built upon. (The Laureates' speeches are published in the following pages.)

Chairman of the ANSA McAL Foundation, and the patron of the Caribbean Awards, Mr A Norman Sabga, reiterated the commitment of his father, founder and first patron, the late Dr Anthony N Sabga, that the awards would continue to be funded by the ANSA McAL Group. A sparkling night was capped off by a performance by Alison Hinds. Photo albums are on our Facebook page.

Laureate Speeches, Arts & Letters



Danielle Dieffenthaler Trinidad & Tobago

many didn't. Kelli, thank you for inspiring me, for putting your money where your mouth is and for championing our latest project, Plain Sight, and for not abandoning ship when the going got rough. Elana for looking out for me and soothing my spirit.

Thank you Helen Drayton for doing such a thorough job in representing me. Georgia, Christopher and Bruce, thank you for recommending me. Thank you to my casts and crews over the years whom I can't name each and everyone. I must thank sisters and brothers, especially my brother Jon, my cousins especially Karen and old friends Sally and Deborah who have stuck by my side practically my

I would like to give thanks to Dr. Anthony N Sabga for bringing this awards programme to life and recognizing that investing in a people is as important as investing in infrastructure. And thank you to his son Norman for ensuring that the programme continues. Thank you to Maria Neilson and her team for making this an unforgettable experience.

This award could not have come at a better time for me personally and I am incredibly humbled. I'd like to thank my parents and forces that brought them together to produce me, in particular my mother for her unwavering love and support over the years, even though my choices have not often been the obvious nor very popular. I'm grateful that my father at least lived long enough to know that it was not all in vain.

I'd also like to thank my sisterhood some of whom are here tonight. Antoinette who's kept me sane since I was 12 years old and has always been ready to wash her feet and jump in with me on most of my ventures or otherwise has bail money put aside for the ones she wasn't too sure of she's always been my reality check. Natacha, thank you for literally saving my life and having the faith in me when

entire life. My babies Xica and Max. you are my heartbeat.

I would also like to acknowledge those that went before me, Horace James Auntie Hazel Ward, Timmy Mora, Tony Hall, Christopher Laird, Dani Jeffrey and the myriad of other creators who had the courage to forge careers in an area that no one thought was viable... and for their conviction to ensure that we join the rest of the world in having images of ourselves reflected on this most powerful medium television. I will never forget the impact seeing images of people that looked like me on a screen had on my life and I aspire to do the same for my children and generations to come.

This award is significant because all too often we look to the outside to validate us before we acknowledge our own excellence. It is encouraging those of us who have committed ourselves to the development of our industries the region and hopefully fuels the creative fires of the future generations. This award gives me renewed energy to continue to fight to ensure that our Caribbean stories and images leave an indelible mark in this rapidly evolving and increasingly noisy world of media.



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Laureate Speeches, Entrepreneurship



Kimala Bennett Jamaica

our value and to inspire others to action. Awards may seem trivial to some but this is more than a statue or plaque. It is affirmation of the brilliance and potential of our people, and a marker of how far we can go.

Thank you Directors of the ANSA McAL Foundation, the EPP, the Jamaica Nominating Committee chair Mr Morin Seymour. Thank you to Maria Neilson who has been so helpful throughout this process and captured my story. Maria you delivered the good news on my birthday and you made that day one I will truly never forget.

I am honoured in this moment to recognize those that forged the way before me, who showed me the way, who supported me when I failed, and I did fail, many times. It is therefore fitting that I begin by thanking the first people who ever caught my stumbles: my parents Mikey and Judy Bennett. Thank you for standing close by but never overshadowing, allowing me to grow but never too far away that they could not catch me when I fell. Mom and Dad, thank you for giving me both roots and wings.

Shoot for the moon and you'll at least reach the stars. That was my thinking when 12 years ago I and my two best friends, now business partners, Tricia and Melissa sat together around a small laptop and began to forge our path into the world of filmmaking. Fashioning ourselves as music video producers we could never have imagined this winding road would have taken us into advertising, and I, a passionate director at the time could not have dreamed that I would be the entrepreneur you see before you today. I am humbled to say that in being named Sabga Laureate for Excellence in Entrepreneurship, I've taken my first step on the moon.

When we landed in Barbados I didn't know there would be this much fanfare and I am grateful for the warmth I have felt since my arrival. In my many musings I never pictured my face on a billboard and to have it be for something so profound was deeply touching. I want to thank our patron Mr Norman Sabga and the ANSA team for giving us within the region this beautifully crafted platform to show

In my 11 years at the helm of my firm The Limners and Bards (the LAB) Limited we not only attained our dream of Hollywood lights, producing music videos for some of the world's most renowned stars, we transcended our younger vision and evolved into an end-to-end creative agency. Our growth has been rapid, and our successes great, but with the frenetic pace of our labour it is often only in moments like these that I get to step back and take it all in.

We have produced more than 400 ads for clients like Grace Kennedy, Digicel, and NCB. We have produced music videos and feature films for household names like Drake, Rihanna, and Nick Cannon. In the past year we have added a digital content arm, a public relations division, have purchased our own 5000-sq ft property, and launched The LAB



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Think Tank, a networking and enrichment platform that focuses on marketing trends within our region. It is sometimes hard to absorb that we did what we set out to do. But here I am.

I want to thank Melissa Llewelyn who was my founding business partner you helped us move from laptop to board room. Even now as we work in different capacities we remain connected. Melissa your international production expertise has kept us ready for the blockbuster opportunities that we have been blessed to be a part of. I thank you for being bold, never fearing your own power and helping me to be the same. I would not be standing here without the groundwork we laid together. Deepest gratitude to Tricia Knott Francis for always answering the call. Tricia you produced my first event for Teacher's Day when I was head girl at Holy Childhood High School and you have been my magic maker ever since. To my general manager Tashara Lee Johnson, you are a superstar, thanks for being my right and left hand and keeping our engine running. Thanks to Keneea Linton who designed this dress, and whose creative mind is always open for bouncing ideas.

To team LAB back in Jamaica, including our set crew and the original dream team Mykal Cushnie, Cadien "Kritik" Christie and Gareth Daley who are some of the island's most talented film-makers, I salute you for your never-ending drive to produce world-class material. Your boundless positivity helps me to get up on the toughest mornings. Thanks for showing up each day, staying up late nights, and bringing fun and energy to our LAB family. You are all a testament to the talent and professionalism that the Caribbean has to offer.

Thank you to Minna Israel, for leading both by action and example. Thank you for seeing potential in me constantly encouraging me to be excellent and move toward greatness.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize those upon whose shoulders I stand. To the legendary Maxine Walters who gave me my first job in production and who encouraged me to continue on this path. To Janet Davidson

whose strength and entrepreneurial spirit sparked my own. I want to recognize Andrea Coy for telling me to be bold and to go forward in building a creative agency. Thanks to Angeline Gillings for allowing the LAB to bring our brand of sparkle to Grace Foods. Thanks to Nadeen Matthews Blair for entrusting me with the NCB brand and also for being a constant resource on leadership and the life of a working woman. Gratitude to Peter Lloyd and Monique McLeod for always keep the LAB top of mind for the exciting ride that is Digicel. A special thank you to Novia McDonald Whyte for pushing me firmly into the spotlight and encouraging me to shine.

To Randy Rowe, thank you for reminding me to think bigger and keeping us punching above our weight. Thanks to Brian St Juste for having my back. To my fiancé Adrian thank you for being you. For always pushing me to go after my goals and never allowing me to settle for less. I know I am blessed to be in a relationship where we share our victories. I love you for allowing me to shine and for never trying to dim my light. You're my star. To my son Liam thank you for making this all worth it. For grounding me and keeping me focused on the important moments of life, and for also keeping me aloft even after the heaviest days. You bring me balance and unconditional love and remain my greatest achievement.

Finally, and symbolically I want to thank Delano Forbes of Phase 3 Productions for giving The LAB our first big TV commercial they say the road to success starts with the first step, so a warm Jamaican big-up to Delano for believing in me and this vision that has now become a reality.

As I leave the podium I want to take this moment to say that it is heartening that the panel of the Anthony Sabga Awards saw fit to recognize a creative entrepreneur. I am proud to represent our region as we forge our own trail in the media space, and I want to encourage our creative professionals to keep moving, keep forging ahead. The talent and vibrancy of our art and storytelling has on just scratched the surface, and I am excited to see what role The

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Corey Lane Barbados

who taught me about discipline and dedication: “jobs done by half Corey are never done right. Get it done. Or else”. I want to thank especially my scout leader, who taught me so many things, least among them scouting — knots, drill — but taught me about life. Gave me a thirst for current affairs that held me in good stead on the call-in programs, sharpened my debating skills which held me well on the call-in programs and in the youth parliament and maybe one day [will hold me] in the Parliament of Barbados.

As the little engine that could, many of you would have provided oil and fuel, of course, like those I refer to as the Power Puff Girls: Diana Egdehill, Alies Jordan and Dr Jacobs. For believing in me from a very young age and appointing me on a national committee, the National HIV Commission. I must give thanks to Jason Carmichael, my head and chief advisor. I give thanks to my brothers and sisters because you may not know, but at many points where there were times I felt I could not carry on but I did it for you, because mummy’s last words were “take care of those young ones”. And I knew that that would be my life’s work.

Good evening. Governor General Dame Sandra Mason, Governor General of Barbados. The right honourable, Mia Amor Mottley, Ministers of Government, members of parliament, Chairman, A. Norman Sabga, Sir Shridath Ramphal.

I want to thank each and every one. I want to tell you, as I stand before you today, and say that small but powerful word: *Thanks!* I stand here before you tonight, deeply humbled, with deep gratitude in deep reflection.

I want to say to the people of the Caribbean, particularly the young ones, I am the little engine that could. I am the engine that did. And you are the little engine that can. I want to start by giving thanks to almighty God, through whom all things are made possible. Of course, I want to give thanks to my parents who made me possible. Particularly my mother who, although the life was short, was very impactful,

I want to thank particularly my brother Anderson Gill, my deputy, my rock. The guy who allowed me to go out there and do other things and maintain the Ranch and come back to see there was still a Ranch, when I had to leave on various assignments. And of course, his right-hand Gabriel Gill. To one of my long-standing members Jerosha Small for being there and being that reminder of the work that I have done and the work that I need to do. Of course, my best friend Romero Husbands, who I remember when I was made Parish Ambassador of St Michael in 2001, and the people in the community said, “you are an ambassador now



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you can't run outside in your boxers". And I said to Romaro: "you have one task and one task alone: that is to ensure that I remain humble and to never let any of this get to my head". And he has done that ladies and gentlemen. To my best man, my cousin Renaldo Lane, the one I can always call on any time day or night, when I am feeling daunted with many calls coming from distressed parents, from sometimes suicidal young people, Renaldo is that one I turn too.

Of course, there is the wife you heard about, the one who told me about seven years ago. "Unfortunately, I can see that you want to be happy, but I want let you know you are destined to be great". You clap but that means more work for me and less relaxation. I must thank the Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence on a personal level for facilitating this and making this possible, but also because I think it is important that we can look inward and award excellence from within. I believe that unwittingly and subconsciously, a lot of these great awards come externally. And it reinforces again, unwittingly, an inferiority and a superiority that does not need to be reinforced. When we can look on our own and say well done at such a prestigious level, I say thank you, you should take a bow. I want to close by saying to anyone that I have forgotten, it means I love you even more. I want to say to all the supporters, even those of you who would have made sure you reached out to me and allowed me to know how much it was deserved and who much you appreciate the work that I did. It reminds me to give thank to Adrian Elcox, who knew I was in Praxis to get my suit and said "The suit is on me". It reminds me of the customer behind me who said "if Adrian didn't do that I would, I appreciate your work". Sorry for that loss of sale Adrian. And even to the critics, con-

structive and otherwise, you caused me to dig deep. I want to say to each and every one of you here today, any contribution you would have made I want to dig to the deepest part of my heart, to all of the nominating committee, to Jason Marshall who called me three times a day to get information, who ensured that when I got that call I was still surprised. I remembered I screamed out something, but it wasn't that bad because Maria said, "I have heard worse". I just want to say thank you to everyone and to say that with the tangible support given by this award, *I am just getting started.*

Good Evening.



Laureate Speeches, Science & Technology



Prof Michael Taylor Jamaica

overtaken us since hearing about the award. Since receiving Maria's call some months ago, I will unashamedly admit that there are at least three states of being that would at varying times overcome me, when I encountered the reality that I was being given this prestigious award. These fleeting states would take hold, for example, when someone stopped me and said: "I saw your picture in the paper today", or when a word of congratulation was out or the blue received from someone I never even thought knew my name, or when I heard my bio read at the announcement function, or when I saw the face of my loved one as they narrated how they saw my picture on a billboard on the highway, or even as I watched the vignette this evening. During those kinds of encounters with the reality of this award, I admit that at least one of three different states of being would on occasions overcome me - and if

I am a scientist, and scientists are not known to be the best communicators. And when words fail us we very often reach for an equation. For equations for us represent an effective but elegant modality for first describing the constituent components or states of a system, summarising the way those components interact, and then finally, telling the resultant state after the interactions. This evening, with the few minutes I have been allotted, I want to tell you an equation which I have come up with, which I think sums up the final state of equilibrium I have now reached since hearing about this award some months ago. Allow me to explain just a little more.

I think I speak not just for myself, but also for Corey, Kimala and Danielle, when I say that our current state here tonight, i.e., what we now feel at this very moment, really arises out of the sum of at least three other fleeting states that have on occasions momentarily

my simple hypothesis is correct - those three states of being now sum to give the resultant state I feel tonight. So in leading up to telling you my equation, let me first quickly tell you the fleeting states.

Fleeting State number 1 is the state of having "a full heart". Now scientists are not known to be emotional persons, but just for tonight I will admit that many times, when I encountered the reality of this award, my heart would become full. Full because I am deeply conscious that if I am at all in any way deserving of this award it is wholly and solely due to those who have invested in making me what I am today.

My heart is full when I think of my wife Yvette who would prefer to go to bed at night but listens patiently to me talk science till the wee hours of the morning. My heart is full when I think of my parents (Burchell and Ann Taylor) whose principles and examples have



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shaped my views on humanity and are the real reason I attempt the things I do in the name of a better region. My heart is full when I think of my siblings (Mark and Jeremy and their families), my children (Amanda, Melanie and William), the countless other family members and a church community, who all put up with me and support me in both direct and indirect ways. My heart is full when I think of mentors like Prof Chen and other colleagues who have looked out for me along the way and never made me feel like a “mad scientist” even when they should have. And my heart is full when I think of for my students who endure my many rants about climate change but still pass the course and graduate with their degrees.

You see, I am the cumulative contribution of all these people, and it is their investment which is paid off with this award. So I hope you understand then why I say that every now and then - yes every now and then - when I think of the reality of this award, my heart is full and I enter the fleeting state of “a full heart”.

And what of Fleeting State 2? Every now and then, when I come face to face with the reality of this award, I not only experience the state of “a full heart”, but I also experience the state of “a shaking head”. Let me quickly explain. Think of those times when you have pondered something for what seems like a long time and yet you still don’t get it. So you try to look at it from a different angle and yet, even after pondering it some more, you just still don’t get it. When after further pondering you still don’t get it very often you decide it is best to just put it out of your mind and move on. Usually you do so with a look of bemusement, maybe with a shrug of the shoulder, and often with a little side-to-side “shake of the head”.

I admit I have shaken my head from time to time in this process, including tonight, simply because, after much pondering, I am just not sure it is me that is being spoken of. My shaking head then is my outward manifestation of an inward incredulity that those things which I think I do as part of my everyday life - could they actually be that significant for others? I shake my head when I think that those

dreamt up initiatives which keep my wife up at night and which I then fight to turn into reality because of a deep passion for science and a belief that good science can come from the Caribbean - could they really be perceived as inspirational and transformative?

I shake my head when I think that those actions done out of a strong sense of duty to and respect for those communities of individuals who have invested in me, and which I take for granted as just ordinary things that must get done - could they really be worthy of this level of commendation? I admit that fleetingly - ever so fleetingly in this process - I have fallen into a state of head shaking, and I think I can speak for Danielle, Kimala and Corey too, that we shake our heads because, the truth of the matter is, we do what we do because we are convinced it is what we are gifted and purposed for and it is our small contribution to our region. I hope you understand then why every now and then when I encounter the reality of this award, not only do I enter into a state of “a full heart” but I fleetingly also enter a state characterized by “a shaking head”.

Finally, I admit, that over the last few months, every now and then when I have encountered the reality of this award, I have not only experienced the state of: “a full heart” – awed by the legacy of all who have contributed to my being here; and the state of “a shaking head” – overwhelmed that the ordinary I do may actually inspire and change lives; but I have also experienced the state of “a mind made up”. You see, every now and then a sense of determination would come to the fore inspired by this award to simply continue doing my very best. My mind would become made up to not be daunted by the challenges that will inevitably come nor by the risk of failure which always seems to loom large, but rather to do my best to honour the potential seen in me by those who nominated and advocated for me for this award. My mind would become made up to try to live up to the legacy of contribution of the past winners of this award, enormous as that challenge is. My mind would become made up to continue trying through my chosen field of science to create the kind of future

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Caribbean that is liveable for my children. My mind would become made up to try, with God's help, to simply be an example, of a good human being for my children and others looking on. In the long run we can do nothing more than just do our best. And so I think you understand my admission that every now and then when I have come face to face with the reality of this award, I have experienced the state of "a made up mind"

And so I end where I began. Here is the equation describing the equilibrium state I have come to tonight, forged over the months since hearing of this award: *With a full heart, plus a still shaking head, bracketed by a made up mind I stand here before you with a truly "thankful spirit"*. Indeed a full heart plus a shaking head bracketed by a made up mind equals nothing else but a thankful spirit.

Thank you ANSA Caribbean Awards for honouring those who have invested in us and contributed to our being here by giving us this award - our hearts are full. Thank you ANSA Caribbean awards for causing us to stop and think that the ordinary that we do can, perhaps, just maybe, make a difference - I still shake my head that you should so recognize this. Thank you ANSA Caribbean awards for inspiring a sense of determination

to continue what we do and to do it well – my mind's made up.

Please accept my immense thanks and my equation: *a full heart plus a shaking head bracketed by a made up mind equals nothing else but a thankful spirit.*





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Moments from Barbados



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