

CAN A MASQUERADER STEPS BE DUPLICATED?

Leroy Prieto chronicled his own foot prints as masquerader extraordinaire (fr.) among the universe of omnipotent masqueraders, from his early exposure at Mon Repos R.C School, where “the stage was set.” This initiation emboldened and enabled him to continue unabatedly until he exited the streets and stage in Marabella, March 2011.

His foot prints traversed cities in the United States, also Germany where he demonstrated his masquerading craft at the 2006 Soccer World Cup Competition, as part of the inaugural cultural psyche in support of his country’s team-“Soca Warriors” - a fete for Trinidad and Tobago’s first appearance.

Viewing his accomplishments and snap shots will enable us to glimpse at the artistic genius, as he compels us to glean how the transformation process evolves, thus leaving us at awe to lament and conclude that Leroy’s task is incomplete. Hence, his exit is transitory because his soul is in preserving the art of masquerading. Inevitably, he will share his experience by nurturing young minds in the dexterity of “this cutting edge art form” – being and authentic indigenous masquerader – wearing and carrying the costume – under disguise – “no wheels”-as the “mantra.”

- Time for amplification and introspection – in motion – Voice of the Voiceless – OPEN THE UMBERALLA - No Rain –

1999 * Fire on Ice * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Masquerade Competition.

2000 * Dancing Hummingbird * Placed 2nd in the South’s Monarch King Competition, also qualified at the semi-finals in the National Finals in Port of Spain Trinidad.

2001 * Nocturus – “Keeper of the Dark” * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Individual of the year. At the National Finals in Port of Spain, he qualified for the Semi-finals and got most Outstanding Costume.

2002 * The Creature from the Black Lagoon * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Competition, and qualified in the semi-finals in the National finals in Port of Spain.

2003 * Timuchin – The Mighty Ruler * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Competition and also qualified in the National Dimanche Gras Finals in Port of Spain.

2004 * Peacockatoo * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Competition, and also was Masquerader of the Year in Marabella.

*Women are the “key” to the holistic liberation of the planet/planets.

No Way Out- poetry, prose, short stories, essays, articles and anecdotes – By Arnold Bathersfield

2005 * Magazani – the Bazaar Bufoon King of the Clowns * Placed 1st in the South’s

Monarch King Competition, and First in Marbella. He also Qualified at the National Dimanche Gras finals in Port of Spain.

2006 * Oris the Avenger * Placed 1st in the South’s Monarch King Competition, and first in Marabella. He also qualified at the National Dimanche Gras Finals in Port of Spain and represented Trinidad & Tobago at the World Cup in Germany, as the King of Carnival.

2007 * The Lion Mane Jelly Fish * Participated in the National Dimanche Gras Finals. Masquerader of the Year in Marabella and placed 4th in the South’s Monarch King Competition.

2008 * The Dancing Joker * Qualified for the semi-finals in the National Finals in Port of Spain, and was Masquerader of the Year in Marabella.

2009 * ONAGA * Participated in the National Dimanche Gras finals. Placed 2nd in the South’s Monarch King Competition. He won Masquerader of the Year in Marabella.

2010 * Masquerader Eyo * Placed 1st Runner up in the National Finals in Port of Spain, and 1st runner up in the South’s Dimanche Gras Competition, including Masquerader of the Year. He was King of the band in Marabella.

2011 * Mukasa - The God of Water – Participated in the National Finals in Port of Spain and was Masquerader of the Year in Marabella.

Empowering – But! The conclusion is yours to make: Relax – Take the breath, breathe cautiously, touch your heart physically – Pulsating Ah! Rhythmically vibrating – open your eyes, salivate, digest, - the dots are connected 1999 to 2011. Have you embraced the dimension of the ever elusive evolving art form of Masquerader extraordinaire (fr.), Leroy Prieto – the cultural ambassador – at the center – no half truths – He is author, architect in the scope an annals in modern history of the universal stage of masquerading, which is iconic. “Speak your word”.

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