

Subliminal Voice of “The Masquerader”

Leroy Prieto’s photogenic posture commands attention, whenever he enters a room or strides the streets or corridors. His magnetic stately charismatic personality precedes him. He is independent and self disciplined. No task is too big for him to perform because he understands the patriarchal and matriarchal systems and the problems woven in the former.

He is a good conversationalist and understands the divisive nature of competition and his role of fostering harmony while creating and forging a way to perfect the form that he loves---“being a masquerader”. His ascendancy to national prominence as a bicyclist and a masquerader never altered his ego, as he continues to remain humble and ready to explain his craft and techniques, even to his competitors. He is never detracted. He perpetuates a team concept-knowing when to assert himself and always giving credit to his team, wherever he resides. His domain is set in the elevation and uplift of all, particularly the community and children, whom he refers to as his “fans”.

In Mon Repos and, in particular, Dos Santos Street, he is known for his wood carvings, design of children’s toys, a keen sense of humor and a revere dancer and a lover of music. Masquerading to Leroy is reverberating, creative, crafty, objective, inventive, artistic, power, balanced, fluidity, poise, color, dexterity and love/hate. He, “the masquerader”, must encompass all “beings”; everything and anything is within his scope and grasp, which he embodies and, therefore, assumes the depicted character/characters –role/roles.

Within his view, he sees masquerading as a pictorial portrayal of art on the move—“No Wheels”. It Must be built using the body as the anchor, an instrument of support and the masquerader submerges /emerges with the scope of what is depicted- “carrying it”-and the musical steps must evolve --- choreograph as the elusive masquerader takes “flight”---flows, and moves graciously, vibrating in “one” in character, which is representative of a true masquerader-creativity and artistry-wearing or carrying his “mas” while flouncing with it –“no mumbo jumbo” or “sour grapes”. Masquerading is an art, and one must preserve it ---as he continues to forge ahead.

I once submitted that masquerading involves the dynamic universe of movement and fluidity, and must be based on the streets, where the masqueraders can display their artistic ingenuity of total freedom from “self” ---.

Zero – poetry, prose, short stories, essays, articles and anecdotes – By Arnold Bathersfield

Listing of accomplishments precludes one from asserting Leroy's humanistic characteristics. He is meticulous, ingenuous, trustworthy and a devoted father and family man, who serves the interest of the "common good". Leroy Prieto continues to demonstrate and transmit the kinetic energy of the form ---"the masquerader" which permeates one's being. The "peoples' king" whether he places or not –Miami, Texas, Orlando, Atlanta, WashingtonD.C., Germany, Dimanche Gras in Port Of Spain, Marabella, or San Fernando.

Engage "the masquerader" and he will fill you in with all his accomplishments. And I am also asking! Who can judge a masquerader? "The Mask". Can there be objectivity?

This poetic gesture will further solidify the nature of the festival which "the masquerader" excels and invokes the persona.

AH WE THING!

The carnival (carne-vale)
An Afrikan thing – a universal festival
Emerges in any modern society from the "Nile Valley" to the streets of
the world.....
A true festival that transforms the "being" ---
Before the fast.....
A ritual celebration of spiritual offerings of thanksgiving ----
----Good/Evil ----Good Evil----
The common good.....
You must, and have to prepare for "the carnival"
Initiation...traditional feast
Feast ---offerings!
Free up the spirits...
Free up the minds..
Liberate bodies....water/blood—life/death....
Sacrifice ---self sacrifice --- purging

"The carnival" is unrehearsed, but choreographed
"The carnival" is divine ---sacred.....
The carnival is power...it is pure and natural –no demons...
You embrace "the carnival"
It emerges

It is assertive – it generates and creates solidarityoneness of
purpose.....

Movement with rhyme and rhythm through varied vibrational and non-vibrationalinstruments

“Beings” sounds-songs—the drum-the drum – the drum –

Silence....silence....

Instruments...claves, bottle, spoon, iron, cuatro, mandolins, guitar, violin, bamboo, maracas, DJ'S, pan, flute, masqueraders...

mokojumbie...

Jumbie....

You cannot sell ‘the carnival’

You define “the carnival”

It is jouvert

It is “bacchanal”

It is Kemite

It is Afrikan

It is universal

It is literary ---high extraordinary...prodigious, artisanship, clamorous, exquisite, intense, stately--

splendid, visual, gallant....spirited....yes spirited---

You dig! Spirited!

Afrikan incarnate....

African incarnate

Ah! We thing!

Afrikan incarnate....

It is universal

Ah! We thing!