

FILM

Children's TV shows, movies get TTFC green light

NINE film and TV projects for children have been approved for funding under the Production Assistance and Script Development (PASD) programme of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC). The applicants were given PASD awards on August 2 at the TTFC offices, Bretton Hall, Port-of-Spain, during a brief ceremony.

At the ceremony TTFC Chairman Christopher Laird noted how scarce Caribbean children's content has been. He said that in spite of the demand by advertising agencies, educators and psychologists for Caribbean children's content in film and TV, it is still difficult to get sponsorship for these projects.

Laird added, "Much more care has to go into children's programming than to adult programming" because of how sensitive and vulnerable children are to what they see on TV and in films."

The TTFC received dozens of applications from the 2013 call for submissions of children's content, which closed on May 31. There were 25 completed applications accepted, and these were passed to an international jury in July. The jury met at the TTFC on July 26 and 27 and chose the nine successful applications.

Jim Corston, Cosima Amelang and Debbie Jacob comprised the jury. Corston is a Toronto-based executive producer with some 40 years' experience in both general and children's TV production for channels in the US, Canada and the UK. Amelang is assistant festival director of the Children's Film Festival Seattle. Jacob is an author of children's books, a teacher and librarian, who was born in the US and has lived in Trinidad and Tobago for 30 years.

Corston said the jury's role was to decide on the "yeses, nos, and maybes", and to decide on the level of funding to be given to successful applicants. Though each brought their own criteria to the table, given their diverse backgrounds, they found it relatively easy to agree on the top selections, they said.

"I was looking for compelling themes, something that was fun to watch and entertaining, something that was colourful and spoke to how dynamic this country is - but also something that kids around the world could relate to; and something that we could fit into our programming, that could fit into our structures," Amelang said.

Jacob said, "I'm always looking for the literary element: structure, theme, character, conflict, and something that represented Trinidad and Tobago but also could transcend the culture and have an appeal outside of here too."

Corston was "looking for something that brought a Trinidad and

Tobago flavour to a story that was logical, not just something pasted on. For those that really got it, it was so beautifully integrated into the story that it was a tremendous celebration (of TT culture)." He added, "Those that did well did extremely well. Those that struggled only struggled because of lack of experience. They all had their hearts in it."

PASD-supported projects are mentored by a monitoring committee of local industry experts. Laird asked the grantees to strive to work with the committee. "We will help as much as we can to get you to get (the projects) right. None of us have the amount of experience that big filmmakers have abroad, so it's always useful to have feedback."

The projects green-lighted were: *Sally's Way* (Joanne Johnson and Louris Lee Sing); *Avocado and Zaboca* (Sonja Dumas); *A Steelpan Story* (Beverly Singh); *Super Sensei* (Cathy-Mae SitaRam); *Hey Leroy!* (Roger Alexis); Pijohn (Christopher Din Chong); *JJ and Friends* (Rodney Seemungal); *Super Me* (Jaime Lee Loy); and *Why the Fox Left Trinidad* (Steven Edwards).

Roger Alexis, whose comedy "I'm Santana" was one of the most financially successful local films ever, said his project was a series of 20 TV fillers — very short pieces each under five minutes long — featuring a Caribbean boy named Leroy. Like Santana, Leroy is a puppet. "What I want to do is take it regionally, and teach our kids from a Caribbean eye," he said. "We all know about apples and pears, but let's talk about mangoes; instead of vampires, let's talk about soucouyant."

Joanne Johnson based *Sally's Way* on an illustrated reader she wrote that was published in 2002. The 50-minute script about a girl orphaned by HIV/AIDS was also developed with a PASD grant. Johnson said she was moved to "present Sally as a possibility for our children, where she is able to tap into the creative potential to change our circumstances."

Rodney Seemungal, well known for his popular TV series and live shows *JJ and Friends*, will make six additional episodes of the series with his PASD grant.

He said the show is distributed by Tempo to some 26 stations in the Caribbean.

A Steelpan Story, Beverly Singh's project, is a short film based on one of a series of books she has produced; it follows the film *A Parang Story*.

She said she had already produced a version of the steelpan film and it was a hit with audiences when she screened it, but that she wanted to make it over with higher production values. This was her first application for a PASD grant.



TTFC Chairman Christopher Laird (centre) pose with some of the award-winning children's film and TV projects.

THE COMPANIES ACT CHAPTER 81:01



NATIONAL FLOUR MILLS LIMITED (N 763) (95) (A)

NOTICE OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FORTIETH (40th) SPECIAL MEETING of National Flour Mills Limited (NFM) will be held at NFM's Sports and Cultural Club situate at N 27-29 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain on Tuesday the 27th day of August, 2013 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon for the following purposes:

Ordinary Business:


1. To receive and consider the Report of the Directors and the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the Year ended December 31, 2012 together with the Report of the Auditors thereon, and
2. To approve the payment of the dividend of \$0.08 per share as recommended by the Directors and
3. To re-elect and/or elect Directors, and
4. To appoint Auditors and to authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration, and
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Record Date:

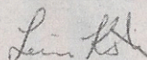
The Directors of the Company have fixed the 31st July, 2013 as the record date for determining shareholders who are entitled to receive Notice of the Meeting. Therefore, only shareholders whose names are on the register of shareholders as at the close of business on 31st July, 2013 are entitled to receive Notice of the Annual Meeting and in that regard, a list of such shareholders is available for examination by shareholders at the Company's Registered Office during the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm Monday to Friday and at the Annual Meeting.

Dated the 2nd day of August, 2013.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

 KASIEL SERVICES LIMITED

by its duly authorised officer



Company Secretary