



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Mentoring **by the Masters 2023**

A project of:
The National Registry of Artists and Cultural Workers



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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ARTIST REGISTRY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The National Registry
of Artists and
Cultural Workers



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Programme Overview	4
Award Design Concept	5
The Masters of 2023	6
Biographies	
› Shastri Maharaj	8
› Ellen O'Malley Camps	10
› Maria Lee	12
The Honour Roll 2013–2019	14
Highlights from the Workshops	22
Highlights from the Showcase	24
Highlights from the Launch and Award Ceremony	26
Participants / Assistants / Guests Facilitators	28
Credits	29

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



Mr. Tej Ramlogan
Director of Culture
Culture Division,
Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and the Arts

Among the capacity building public programmes for the Arts and Culture Sector of Trinidad and Tobago, Mentoring by the Masters has shown how valuable mentorship is to the professional development of our creatives. Despite the challenges of the pandemic which placed a halt on the programme bearing in mind the health, safety and well-being of all stakeholders, we at the Culture Division in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, were pleased that interest was sustained as we endeavoured to bring it back in 2023.

A programme like Mentoring by the Masters is usually a fiscal year-long initiative that consists of extensive project planning and management, creative direction and event coordination, training, financing, promotions and documentation. However, we can safely say that this instalment was years in the making but worth the wait as we honoured our pledge made to ensure our cultural icons got the opportunity to engage their upcoming creative professionals.

Therefore, for 2023, we thank Helen Camps in Theatre Arts, Maria Lee in Chinese Folk Arts and Shastri Maharaj in Visual Arts who mentoring just over forty mentees while partnering with creative and cultural spaces to host their workshops. These mentors were selected and recommended by the Assessment Committee for the National Registry of Artists and Cultural Workers, who represent Arts and Culture Sector stakeholders. And we were pleased that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts honoured our commitment to these mentors.

As an altered version of the Mentoring by the Masters programme, in August we launched with the awards ceremony to honour the icons at Queen's Hall, a long-standing programme partner. The mentorship workshop series followed over a three month period from August to October culminating with public showcases in October and November.

The Culture Division continues to greatly appreciate the continued support of all our internal and external stakeholders who make Mentoring by the Masters a reality each time, as we seek to always ensure that people-centered work makes a meaningful impact on the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

AWARD DESIGN CONCEPT

Artist Brief for the Production of Sculptural Trophies

The Mentoring by the Masters Programme resonates with a sense of appreciating the generational transmission of our local heritage relative to practices and processes in the arts and culture. This award was inspired by the work of the late Ken Morris, who has contributed to the local art community and his aesthetic has had a great influence on its design.

The concept behind the design is to showcase how the processes of teaching and learning allow for the continuity of knowledge. Two figures are portrayed as equals, looking upwards, pursuing greatness and sharing in that experience, and this is indicative of what could come out of the Mentoring by the Masters programme, both for the mentors and the mentees. The design is figurative but not gender specific.

The trophies are free standing three dimensional sculptures/ structures crafted in Copper (metal) and placed on a wooden base with wooden accessory. The trophies stand fourteen (14) inches high. The Copper was sourced locally and the trophies were fashioned by Copper craftsman, Glendon Morris, the son of the late Ken Morris. Lacquer coating was added to protect the metal from oxidation.

Artist
Daniella Carrington



MEET OUR 2023 MENTORS



Helen Camps

Maria Lee

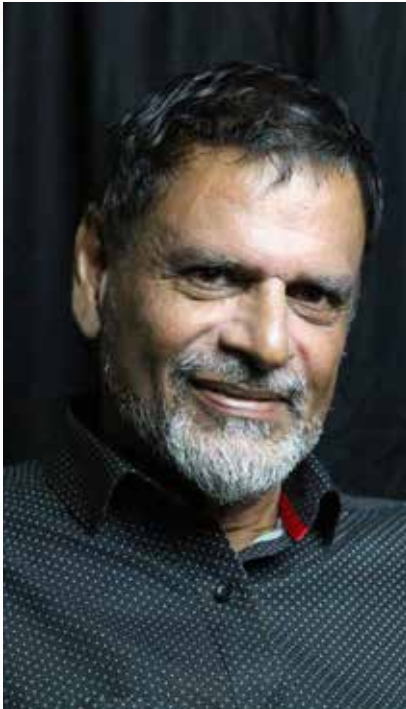


Former Deputy Permanent Secretary
Jasmine Pascal

Shastri Maharaj

BIOGRAPHY

Shastri Maharaj



Shastri Maharaj reflects a cross section of themes presented in different artistic mannerisms in his extensive volume of work, ranging from personal to cultural subject matters. In 2019, he received the Public Service Medal of Merit (Gold) for his work as an artist, teacher and former co-ordinator in Visual and Performing Arts.

Shastri Maharaj is a contemporary Trinidad and Tobago artist whose art is representative of subject matter that can be experienced throughout the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a visual commentator whose paintings deal with the cultural landscape of this country. His style of work continues to evolve and redefine itself from Expressionistic to Minimalism to the Figurative.

Maharaj has 42 years of experience as a visual artist. He has hosted 20 solo exhibitions and participated in numerous mixed exhibitions locally, regionally and internationally. His solo exhibitions were done in locations such as Galerie Hansen in Bonn Germany, Spence Gallery in Toronto, and Gurgagon in Delhi, India.

His works have been shown in mixed exhibitions in Jacob Javits Convention Centre, New York.

ACP House, Belgium, Meridian International Center, Washington, DC. Florida. Centre for Fine Arts , Brooklyn Museum , Connecticut, Wadsworth Museum USA., Commonwealth Institute London, 2nd Cuban Bienale Havana, Cuba. He has also done art workshops in Chile, Mauritius, and Hyderabad, India.

In 1985, Maharaj completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at The University of Manitoba in Canada, and in 1992, he did a Master of Education at the University of the West Indies (St. Augustine). From 1977–2003 he worked as an art teacher at the secondary school level. He subsequently became a lecturer in Visual Arts at the Valsayn and Corinth Teachers' Training Colleges. His last position was Curriculum Coordinator for Visual and Performing arts at the Curriculum Planning and Development Division of the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago.

Maharaj is the author of "Visual Arts for Secondary Schools" an approved textbook distributed by the Trinidad and Tobago Government to all secondary schools, and the "Visual Arts for Primary Schools" workbook.

In 2005, Maharaj was given an award by the MERE DESH organization in recognition and appreciation for outstanding and dedicated service to Trinidad and Tobago in the field of visual arts. He received this award during the celebration of the 160th Anniversary of Indian Presence in Trinidad and Tobago. He also received an Award for his contribution to the arts from the San Fernando Arts Council, in 2008.

In 2019, Maharaj was recognized for Outstanding and Meritorious Service to Trinidad and Tobago in Art and Education, and was awarded the Public Service Medal of Merit – Gold (a National Award). Maharaj's artistic talents also encompasses experiences in drama, both on stage and film. He served as a carnival judge for seven years, and is a member of the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago. He is also a member of the National Council for Indian Culture and the Yoga Meditation Society.



BIOGRAPHY

Ellen O'Malley Camps



Helen Camps (Ellen O'Malley Camps) is a Human Enrichment Facilitator, Counsellor (Psychosynthesis & Education Trust, London) and Mediator (UWI, St. Augustine) and Theatre Actor/Director/Producer/Writer with a background in teaching (Teacher's Training College, Dublin) and theology (University of Dublin)

She is a recent director (Projects) for the Network of NGOs of Trinidad & Tobago for the Advancement of Women and part-time lecturer at the Creative Arts & Festival Centre UWI, St. Augustine.

She has worked regionally and internationally as a Director/Facilitator/Teacher in both the public and private sectors.

She has been in the theatre since 1967 when she joined Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott's Trinidad Theatre Workshop and worked as an actor, adapter (Stage, T.V, and Radio), script/continuity and costumes (Film)

In the Seventies she co-founded the Trinidad & Tobago Housewives Association (H.A.T.T), set up a production company (All Theatre Productions), helped rebuild and establish the Little Carib Theatre as a theatre space with a technical and administrative infrastructure. In the Eighties, she inaugurated the experimental Trinidad Tent

Theatre Company, which attempted to create a style and theatrical form suited to the resources and the realities of the Caribbean.

She led the participants at the World Conference on New Psychologies and Psychotherapies (Findhorn, Scotland) in an exploration of national symbols, celebrations and rituals – the aim – to make conscious the possibilities for re-visioning, for personal development and transformation inherent in ritual, theatre and performance art.

In 2000 she founded and became first artistic director of St. Lucia's Téryat Toutafé.

In 2003 she began – what has become a life commitment – to delivering human enrichment programmes in Trinidad's Maximum Security Prisons (Men and Women). She developed her Carnival/Inner Theatre psychologically based programme backed by theatre techniques and folk/carnival rituals; designed in part to create a carnival/theatre ensemble (The Transformer Performers) rooted in ritual and folklore using appropriate quotes from Shakespeare.

The aim of the programme is to initiate a self-realization journey for the participants. The long-term goal is to contribute to the reduction of anti-social behaviour and social conflict in Trinidad and Tobago. The programme is meant to become self-sustaining.

In 2004 she co-founded and became artistic director of Trinidad's Brown Cotton Tent Theatre Ensemble. As with the Trinidad Tent Theatre Company they worked and trained out of a tent with matching aims and objectives.

She also established EMERJ Associates a company working out of a restorative justice philosophy dedicated to human enrichment, empowerment and transformation.

In June 2011 EMERJ Associates and Brown Cotton Tent Theatre Ensemble merged to become Brown Cotton Outreach (incorporated as a not-for-profit NGO).



BIOGRAPHY

Maria Lee



Maria Lee is the founder of the Chinese Art and Culture Studies Society in Trinidad and Tobago. Maria Lee has taught various Chinese folk art like the dragon, fan and ribbon dances among others. She is the first Mentor selected to represent Chinese art-forms.

Maria Lee started off her journey in Zhongshan, Canton, China, in a poor rural family. She migrated to Trinidad, at the age of 19, in 1964 for an arranged marriage to Tommy Lee, a grocery tradesman in San Fernando, in an attempt to escape the hardships of communist China. Her ambitious personality, coupled with Mr. Lee's aspirations led to the growth of My Fair supermarket into a fast food outlet and restaurant.

Maria's passion for both cooking and culture together with her desire to create a better life for herself and for her family stimulated her to create new avenues.

With respect to cooking, she enrolled in several classes in China, Hong Kong and in the USA to hone in her skills specialising in Southern styled Chinese food, in roasting, dim sum and pastries.

In 1984, she diversified into food manufacturing which allowed her to launch the Sincere's brand of goods; a household brand which captures the essence of her original recipes. A spin off to this project was the Chinese Grocery Store which markets commercial kitchen equipment. Her love for cooking inspired her to share her recipes and methodology with the Trinidadian community. She has hosted two series of Chinese Cooking programmes on TV6 and on TTT. In addition, she has offered numerous free cooking demonstrations and lessons at her establishments and at supermarkets nationwide. Now she spends most of her time teaching her skills to new and upcoming food lovers and entrepreneurs.

Concerning her love for culture, Maria Lee is a pivot for Chinese culture in Trinidad. In China, she was immersed in Chinese opera and performance in her home town. In 1998, in Trinidad, she co-founded the Chinese Arts and Culture Studies Society. She encountered obstacles such as funding and the availability of qualified teachers to run the society. However, the nationwide recognition of the 200 years of Chinese arrival and contribution to local society, in 2006, marked a turning point for the Society. She became motivated to personally invest financially in Lion and Dragon dancers, musicians, fan dancers and martial arts performers from China. This initiative was well received locally and the demand for Lion Dancers grew tremendously. Maria Lee has led several Chinese cultural public and private performances throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

She not only continues to be dedicated to the transmission of the richness of Chinese arts and culture but she also seizes the opportunity to demonstrate how Chinese and Trinidadian cultures have merged and complemented each other over the years.

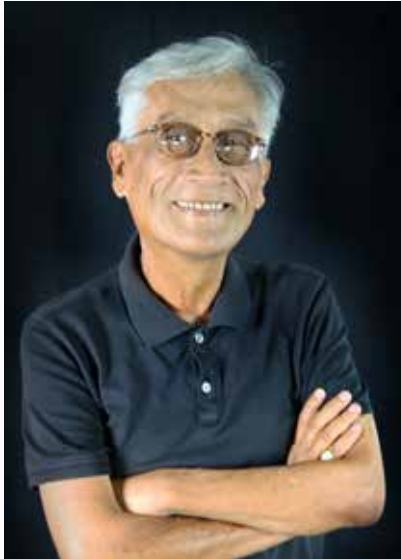


THE HONOUR ROLL

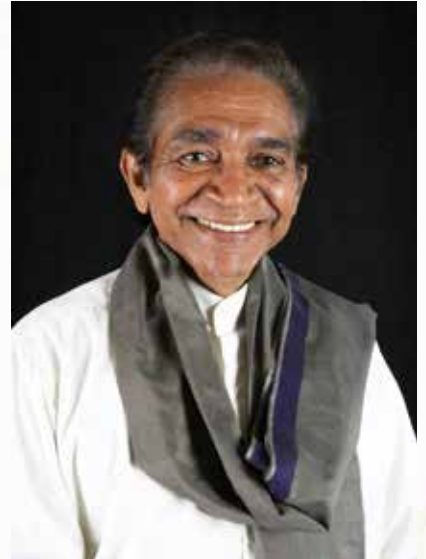
OUR MASTERS OF 2019



Nancy Herrera
The Art and Practice of
Caribbean Classical Ballet



The late
Raymond Choo Kong
Self Development through
the Theatre Arts



**Dr. Satnarine
Balkaransingh**
Indian Dance in the
Contemporary Caribbean



Barbara Jenkins
Life Writing:
Your Story; Your Voice



Gillian Bishop
Contemporary Jewellery
Design



Lisa Wickham
From Script to Screen

THE HONOUR ROLL

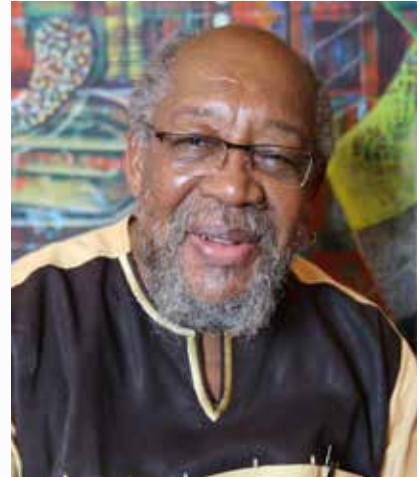
OUR MASTERS OF 2019



Christopher Cozier
Expanded Visual Process
and Exchanges



Heather Jones
Harnessing your Creativity
& Improving your Fashion
Product



**Dr. Lester Efebo
Wilkinson**
Doula Dramaturgy –
The “We” Experience
Re-Imagining a Life
in the Theatre



Dr. Carol La Chapelle
Choreography in Theatre
Performance as Neo
Caribbean Transformation



The late
Dr. LeRoy Clarke
Towards Vicissitudes:
Understanding the
Philosophy of The
Paintings of LeRoy Clarke

THE HONOUR ROLL

OUR MASTERS OF 2018



Dr. Suzanne Burke
The Enterprise of the Arts



Felix Edinborough
The Pierrot Grenade
In and Out of Carnival



Meiling
Discovering the
Fashion Industry



Wendell Manwarren
Let's Make a Show



Eintou Pearl Springer
The Art and Practice of
the Story

THE HONOUR ROLL

OUR MASTERS OF 2017



The late
Janice Patricia McLeod
Ifa/Orisa Traditions



The late
Lionel Jagessar
Fancy Indian Mas



Rosalind Gabriel
Children's Mas



Sharon Pitt
Professional Development
in Broadcasting

THE HONOUR ROLL

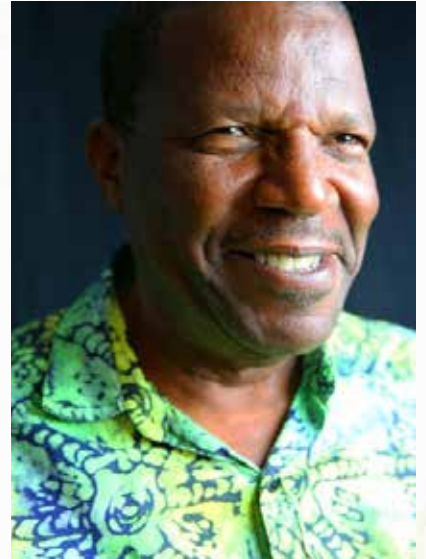
OUR MASTERS OF 2016



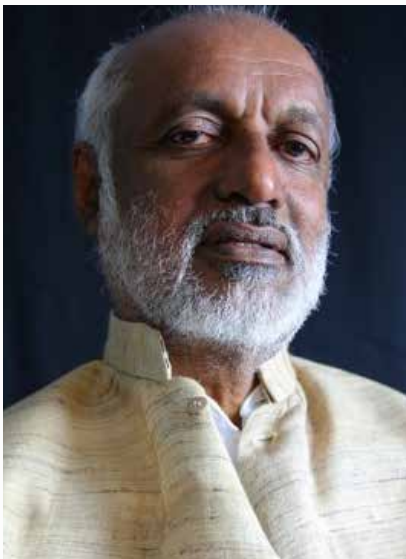
Simeon Sandiford
Music Production and the
Business of Music



Glendon Morris
Copper Arts



Kenwyn Crichlow
Professional Development
for Visual Artists



**Ravindra Nath
Maharaj**
Festival Development with
a focus on Ramleela



**Rudylynn De Four
Roberts**
Heritage Architecture
Preservation



The late
Stephen Derek
Carnival Arts

THE HONOUR ROLL

OUR MASTERS OF 2015



Albert Laveau
Developmental Theatre



The Late
Narcenio Gomez
Carnival Arts with a focus
on wire bending and
mas making.



Paul Keens-Douglas
Storytelling and Oratory
Traditions



Winsford Devine
Songwriting, Music
Composition and
Arrangement



Dr. Bruce Paddington
Festival Development

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OUR MASTERS OF 2014



Earl Lovelace
Literary Arts



Joseph Valley
Heritage Preservation
through Film



The late
**Lindyann
Bodden-Ritch**
Music Accompaniment



**Marina
Salandy-Brown**
Festival Development



Renée Cummings
Professional Development

THE HONOUR ROLL

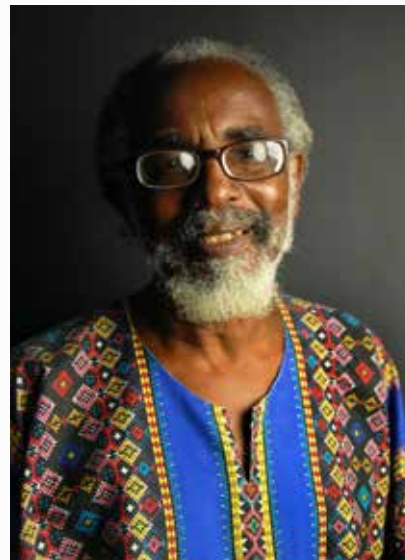
OUR MASTERS OF 2013



Errol Ince
Music



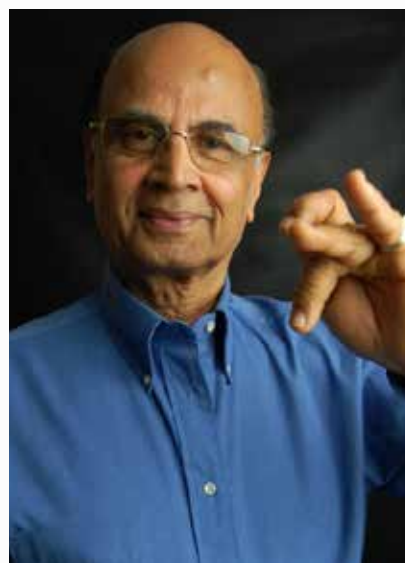
Dr. Kim Johnson
Film



Zeno Constance
Theatre



Rodney Ramjit
Ramleela, Costuming
and Props



Dr. Krishna Persad
Dance

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 MENTORING BY THE MASTERS WORKSHOPS

A journey through photography capturing months of intense workshops.

For Mentoring by the Masters, the workshop is the main forum in which Mentors impart their knowledge, and participants learn and hone their talents and skills in their field over a four month period, participants worked in classroom settings, went on field trips and overall immersed themselves in their respective fields of endeavour.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 SHOWCASES

A journey through photography capturing the Showcases that highlight the skills learnt during the programme.

As the mentoring by the masters programme progresses over the years, the importance of participants showcasing what they have learnt from their Mentors has grown more and more into public events. Participants relish in the opportunity to exhibit months of learning and training to audiences. The public showcases also serve as a chance to support the participating venues both public and privately owned, as contributors of the programme.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The Launch and Awards Ceremony for Mentoring by the Masters happened at the beginning of this year's programme. It is the defining moment where we say a heartfelt thank you to our Mentors. We honour them for their contributions to the programme, the Arts and Culture Sector and Trinidad and Tobago on a whole. It is very important for us at the Ministry, to recognize the efforts of those who do their best to advance our Trinbagonian art forms and culture.







PARTICIPANTS

Chinese Culinary Arts

- › Anir Chackan
- › Anya Palackdharrysingh
- › Hayden Smith
- › Jonathan Chan
- › Jonathan Kong
- › Marisa Joseph
- › O'Neil Jones
- › Sherry Madho

Theatre Arts

- › Camille Pierre
- › Cherisse Berkeley
- › Gillian Moor
- › Keomi Serrette
- › Marie Guerra
- › Mikhail Cooper
- › Nia Thompson
- › Nicole Wong Chong
- › Nishard Mohammed
- › Ocean Davidson
- › Sade Budhlall
- › Triston Wallace
- › Vidya Thurab
- › Zacary Sosa

Visual Arts

- › Anastazia Andrews
- › Anton Callister-Leigh-Hadaway
- › Avind Ganesh
- › Candice Sobers
- › Denise Williams
- › Peter Sheppard
- › Shalise Thomas
- › Trister Hosang
- › Wayne Perrott

ASSISTANTS

Chinese Culinary Arts

- › Sarah Boodram

Theatre Arts

- › Wayne Lee-Sing

Visual Arts

- › Kajal Mahdo

GUEST FACILITATORS

Visual Arts

- › Edward Bowen
- › Carlisle Harris

Theatre Arts

- › Christopher Sheppard

CREDITS

Photography and Videography

- › Luvo Cinematography

Printer

- › Scrip J

Graphic Design and Booklet Design

- › Sadeisha Folkes
Corporate Communications Unit
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Participating Venues

- › Shastri's Art Studio
- › Madam Lee's Kitchen
- › Queen's Hall
- › St Ann's Learning Centre,
Ministry of Sport and Community Development
- › The Rotunda Art Gallery

Crafter of Award

- › Glendon Morris

Project Management

MTCA Culture Division – Cultural Industries Team

- › Daniella Carrington
- › Nadya Shah
- › Maria Waldron
- › Vanessa Matthews
- › Jaime Bagoo

Event Coordination

- › Kimmy Stoute-Robinson

Publisher

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AUTOGRAPHS

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Mentoring **by the Masters 2023**

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CULTURE DIVISION

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