

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity inscription for *Shakespeare Mas: A Traditional Component of Carnival, Unique to Carriacou.*

Karen Stiell
Simply Carriacou Tourist Services and Gift Boutique
Main Street
Hillsborough
Carriacou
Grenada
West Indies

To Whom It May Concern:

I fully endorse the above with respect to the Shakespeare Mas, traditional component of Carnival, unique to Carriacou. I have lived on Carriacou since 2003 and during that time have experienced the Shakespeare Mas many many times. It never fails to entertain and amuse the onlookers, with its unique history and style of reciting of Julius Caesar or other plays of Shakespeare.

I am also an active member of the Carriacou Historical Society and the tradition of Shakespeare Mas is one of the elements of history and tradition on Carriacou that the diaspora, tourists and other visitors to the island and the museum on island frequently ask about.

This is a unique component of Carnival celebrations that should be preserved and encouraged to be handed down from generation to generation, from father to son on island.

Yours faithfully

Karen Stiell
Karen@simplycarriacou.com

Belair
Carriacou.
January 12th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My Name is Wintress Shade and I am from Belair, Carriacou. I have been playing Shakespeare mas for the past seven years. I started through a training program at the Mt. Pleasant Government School with Ms. Jennifer Duncan since I was a student at that school then. I was about 12yrs old then. I am just completing TA Marryshow Community College. Since then I have been playing Shakespeare Mas every Carnival Tuesday.

When I first started portraying Shakespeare Mas, I was very nervous. As time went on, I gained more confidence. Playing Shakespeare Mas helped me build my confidence and assisted me remembering things even at school.

As a young lady playing the mas, I will encourage others around my age group that it is something they should engage in. It helps in learning and preserving the culture. It also brings out the best in individuals that they never knew they had in them before. It helps build one confidence and remember things so even your schoolwork becomes easier.

When I got involved in Shakespeare Mas, it was my intention to play for one year then stop. However, I fell in love with it and now I cannot stop I have to continue and after seven years I am still portraying Shakespeare Mas.

Though no one in my family is playing Shakespeare Mas presently, I am working with my seven-year-old niece at home in helping her learn the speeches so she can soon start playing the Mas. I understand by doing so it will aid in keeping the tradition alive and sustaining the culture here in Carriacou.

The excitement starts with me on the Monday night for I am anxious to play the Mas bright and early on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday morning I first journey to Mt Royal to meet with other Shakespearean in my group who are referred to as Hero. There is an area designated for dressing the Mas. When I get there someone assist me in dressing who is referred to in the Mas camp as a 'Backer'.

I will continue playing Mas in years to come because I enjoy doing it and I live it. I will also encourage the younger ones to learn and portray the Mas.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wintress Shade". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the word "Shade".

Wintress Shade

Mt. Royal
Carriacou.
January 15th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Thomas Lawrence and I am from Mt Royal, Carriacou.

From since I can remember, the mas was called "History mas" because the speeches were made up of information directly from their history books. For example:

"Napoleon Bonaparte was born on August 15th 1769 at Ajaccio, on the Island of Corsica. He was the leader of many armies" ...

The name "History mas" was changed to "Shakespeare mas" because of the change of books in the school curriculum. They now use the book Julius Caesar written by William Shakespeare. In my time each player had to transcribe the speeches to their own "Exercise book". (that's because there were not enough books for everyone and it cost too much). Most of the players practice saying their speeches while tending to their animals at pasture. The penalty for not remembering your speech will be whipped.

Each camp is made up of:

King
2nd King
Backers
Peacemaker
Regular Mas players

The Peacemaker is the only one that could grant permission for any mas player to enter the arena. Even the King have to ask for permission to enter the ring.

The backers of each camp will intervene on behalf of the mas player from their camp to prevent any fights from escalating

Long ago Shakespeare Mas was much fiercer than modern day Shakespeare Mas. The men fought with weapons like Brass Knuckles. Players that travelled abroad would return to play the Mas Annually. Camps were ribbons as a form of identification to recognize players from their own camp.

The Mas players were very creative and made up their own speeches also. Example:

1. *Brave boy brave but do not be too brave because you are standing at the tip of your grave. That smile on your face is the pit you dwell etc. (Meaning where you are standing will become a hole/grave and you will die right there).*
2. *I am a young American Buffalo. Though the Wind may blow me like a flamingo feather, my slipper bottom is made from engine dial (Not sure what engine dial is).*

Transportation was 3 pence.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Lawrence". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Signed".

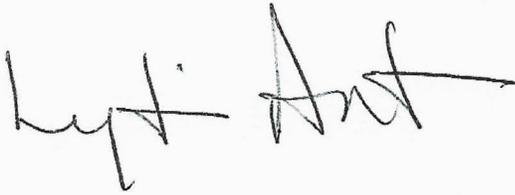
Thomas Lawrence

My name is Lydia Andrew from the village of Top Hill with relatives from the neighboring village of Mt. Royal and beyond. Currently I live in the United States and allocate time to visit Carriacou several times a year. My favorite time to visit is during the Carnival season. Several events occur during this time such as the Grand Bay and Mt. Pleasant Maroon and most importantly, the Shakespeare Mas. Also, I am one of the main leaders of a Carnival Fancy Mas band. Critical to the Carnival festivities, is the portrayal of the Shakespeare Mas. I play a pivotal role in the organization of meetings for the event. As part of the preparation for the Shakespeare Mas, I create key parts of the costumes such the head-pieces, and make the bright colored flags to usher the Mas troupe into the arena.

Carnival Tuesday, the much-anticipated day of the famous Shakespeare Mas, is a day of fun and frivolity but a day that requires a maximum use of my time and effort. Together with some of the villagers, we prepare the food, gather and dress the children and adults in their costumes and organize transportation to and from Hillsborough for all the participating villagers and Shakespeare Mas players. An important aspect of the Mas is the meal that is made for the villagers and the Mas players. The meat which is served during the meal has to be prepped in advance. The day of the Mas, a small group of villagers including myself start the cooking at 6:00 am. The island staple of rice and peas is prepared to be served with stewed pork, stewed chicken, fried fish and ground provisions. The food is served immediately following the conclusion of the of Shakespeare Mas.

My involvement in maintaining this vital part of my culture stems from many trips I made to the island over the years and working with my family members Mislyn, Max and Jenny. I noticed that the Shakespeare Mas was on the decline. When compared to my childhood experiences, I found participation to be lacking, and so, I decided to use my talents to revive the Mas. I organized meetings with the villagers, secured donations and encouraged new players to train for the Mas under the tutelage of the experienced Mas players.

The revival of the Shakespeare Mas has come full circle but a lingering question about the European influence of the Mas remains. It is frequently asked, why is European culture promoted on the island? Since the island was under British rule for much of its history, most of what was taught was Eurocentric. Therefore, elements of English Literature such as Shakespeare plays, namely Julius Caesar, and folk dances like the English Quadrille were incorporated into the culture. This tradition was handed down and evolved over the years to become more Carriacouan in speech and in form.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lydia Andrew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lydia Andrew

2/20/21

Six Roads
Carriacou.
January 11th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Neal Matheson and I am from Six Roads Carriacou. Shakespeare Mas is unique to Carriacou as it is the only place in the world you will see this type of Mas portrayed. It is also the only place in the world you can travel on a Pre-lenten festival to witness the mas. To better confirm it is portrayed the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Besides Carriacou, I heard Greece is the only place that portrays Shakespeare mas in the entire world. I cannot confirm if they still do. However, they do not do it the way we do. They portray it in a special festival and the attire they use is different to ours. I can say for sure Carriacou is the only place in the world one can find this mas portrayed. Many of the persons in the diaspora return home to perform or witness this mas. I know many even travel for it. I lived in England at one time and I know I have travelled home just to participate in the mas and many others do also. For those who cannot travel, there are videos which individuals can view of the Shakespeare Mas.

I do not know for sure about the history, but I believe Shakespeare Mas started through the days of slavery on the plantations. Nowadays, preparations starts Camboulay Sunday with papering of crowns and making of the katas at a central location in the village.

I play the role of 'Backer'. Backers have a very important role to play. In that, they ensure the Mas is properly dressed. They ensure the kata and crown is secured on the head so the Masmen are well protected. The Backer role is also to separate the Masmen during performance if a fight were to escalate.

I am very fortunate to have grown up in a house where the Mas was dressed. I grew up knowing about the process so now it is even easier for me to do it. I will demonstrate how it is done once you permit me.

We also have what is referred to as the 'Backing Out'. Once the face goes on the Mas, the Backer will hit the crown three times with the Bull Pistle to ensure the crown is properly secured. The Masmen are often dressed on a hill where the neighbors can easily see and hear when they are ready to start. While journeying to the central location, the masmen will be



Neal Matheson

reciting speeches on their way and whipping the crown in process so everyone in the community will know they are ready. The entire village comes out to witness Shakespeare Mas.

The mas involves the community as everyone be male or female, old as well as young comes out to support and witness. There is no special age group or gender to play the mas. What qualifies one is being able to remember their lines.

The community has an integral part to play in this. Some wives often say they do not want their husband to play. However, on the morning she wakes early to prepare breakfast and she sometimes even leave the house before the man. The wives are often in the crowd giving words of encouragement to their husbands. The children are often present because they want to see their dad play.

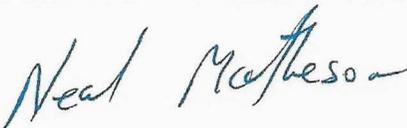
I can speak of the village Mt. Royal. Most of the Masmen there are family. Even in Six Roads I can say the same. It is really a community involvement. The ladies will come together to cook food so that when the mas is finished the men can refresh themselves. Every village cook their food for their mas and supporters.

What makes Shakespeare mas so unique, is the friendly rivalry between both masmen. Shakespeare Mas is between two Mas players going up against each other to see who can out-do the other. While one giving his speech the other listens carefully for errors and if there are no errors he says 'brave boy' to cheer him on. If a mistake is made then he gets whipped on his crown. The speeches are from William Shakespeare.

There are many in the community of Carriacou who are working on getting this persevered. I can make mention of the Grenada Tourism Authority who conducted a training about three years ago. I was in England at that time but followed it on social media and I am happy to see these children still playing. I can make mention of other individuals in the community of Carriacou, like Mrs. Jennifer Duncan, Ms Faithlyn George, Mr. Abraham Pope and Mr. Glenroy Boatswain known as Banga, to name a few. They are training students to preserve the mas.

I know Carriacou's culture is rich and I am happy to see this move to get it documented and listed and I will support to the end because we have one of the richest culture in the entire world. I will always boast about that wherever I go or each time I am on a stage performing because I am a leader of a Stringband group which tours regionally.

Signed



Neal Matheson

Tiff
Carriacou.
January 11th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Mark Adams and I grew up in the villages of Six Roads and Mt Desire. My name is Jean Adams and I grew up in the village of Mt Royal. We are both husband and wife.

I Jean remember growing up in Mt Royal, my dad and uncles played Shakespeare Mas in Mt Royal with Hero as that was the name of the group. I remember us as children standing on the cistern in Mt Royal which was the highest point close to the Masmen. After they played mas in Mt Royal, they travelled to Tiff where my husband and I presently live. When they are finished playing mas in Tiff then they journeyed to the town Hillsborough. My husband and I share something in common as we are connected to Shakespeare mas.

I Mark when I was a boy, and the elders playing mas, they had their rehearsal at my mother's house. The first mas that came out the morning was the Peacemaker to receive all the mas and the last one was the King. They all dressed in an open place on the hill where the villagers were able to see them when they are coming. The final mas the join the group was the King.

However, before the morning of Shakespeare Mas, there is what is referred to as Camboulay on the Sunday night. On Camboulay, the Masmen say speeches and play stick fight. When coming to Monday Morning they will say Shakespeare which acted like a rehearsal. On that morning then the different roles will be selected be it Peacemaker, King and second King Peroit. It involved the entire community.

On the morning of Shakespeare Mas, we journeyed to Six Road cross to wait for Harvey vale, L'Esterre and Belmont Mas as they were referred to as Ban Roy and we are Freeport. When they arrived, they will say a few speeches then honor the Masmen from Brunswick and Six Roads. Following that, we all travel to Hillsborough to meet with Masmen from Mt Royal, Grandbay, Mt Pleasant etc, who were referred to as Hero. They said speeches and fought. Once they were finished, then they became friends again since it is a tradition.

I Jean remember when my mother and other ladies in the community traveled behind the Masmen they sang songs in support and celebration of the Masmen. One of the song they sang was,

*Jouvert bam weh yo
Bam weh meh ne la sio
Monday morning Carnival
Tuesday morning Bacchanal.*

Some of the ladies held a stick to defend their husband. It was a community involvement with the Masmen, wives and children in support of their loved one. It is one day that the people of Carriacou come together. It is a day we really come together as a Carriacou people because on that day, it will be different types of music in town which involved steel pan and string band.

After the mas is completed then everyone get together for refreshments which was prepared early that morning by community members.

Signed

J. Adams

Jean Adams

Signed

Mark Adams

Mark Adams

Mt Desire
Carriacou.
February 12th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Jeremiah John and I am from Mt Desire Carriacou. I started playing Shakespeare Mas when carnival was revived in Carriacou in 1986. Individuals like Abraham Pope and Alfred Matheson were the ones who encouraged me to play. Mr. Abraham Pope wrote two speeches for me in other to get me started. I was about seventeen years of age. At that time, one of my uncles was playing. He assisted in getting me a boots which forms part of the uniform. I learned my speech very fast because in those days I reared animals. While I was in the pasture waiting on them to graze, I learned my speeches.

My first costume (shirt and petticoat) was sewn by Ms. Millicent Duncan from Mt. Royal Carriacou. She encouraged us to collect our shirt on Camboulay Sunday. When we asked the cost of shirt, she told us to keep the money but to say a speech. After each of us said our speeches, she gave us our costumes. My first performance was when I went to collect my uniform that morning. She placed everyone at separate angles in the house and when we started saying our speeches, masqueraders from Mt. Royal started gathering waiting to see their rivalry. Mt Royal Masqueraders thought it was an invasion of their village by Masqueraders from other villages, since we are Freeport masqueraders, and they are Hero. It was fun on that day.

Shakespeare Mas involves the entire community, men, women and Children. I really got involved because in growing up, I saw the older ones playing and thought one day I would like to be like them.

On Shakespeare Morning, a famous Big Drum Nation dancer called us to her home for libation. Then we travelled to a nearby house to be dressed. The uniform consists of a head piece known as a Kata, Face Mask, Crown (head piece), Whip/Bull Pestle, Colorful long-sleeved shirt with mirrors and wooloh. White Petty Coat with colorful hemming and boots. The first person to be dressed was me since I am the 'Peacemaker'. After I am finished dressing, I am handed my whip and I leave. On my way to the Shakespeare meeting point, I often recite speeches so the community will acknowledge the mas is ready and they will come out in their numbers to support.

Prior to Tuesday morning Mas, I ensure that my costume is ready. On the morning of Tuesday I get up excited and ensure I eat something light. After the backer dresses me, I head out in all my glory. I am the first Mas to leave the camp since I play the role of Peacemaker. The Peacemaker is the one who leads the way.

We often dress on a high point so when we are leaving, everyone can see our beauty and hear our speeches as we depart. To be a Peacemaker you must be able to say your lines fluently and know a wide range of speeches for there is a speech for different occasions.

While I journey to the point of meet up, anyone I see on the way I say a speech because people enjoy hearing these things. Spectators often see Mas players as being brilliant because they can recite lines. I often feel proud of myself. We normally give speech to all corners East, West, North and South.

When I notice a Masquerader coming, I approach him and ask him his name. He must answer with the appropriate speech. I'll then ask what role they are playing the morning and they are required to respond with another appropriate speech. Speeches cannot be repeated between to Masquerader.

We then travel to Brunswick to meet the other Shakespeareans there to continue the Mas. After speeches in Brunswick, we travel to Hillsborough to play against the Masqueraders from Mt Royal. While we journey to town, the band is led by the women with colorful flags and bells singing songs of procession authentic to Shakespeare mas. Just before the meeting up of the Masmen takes place, the supporters will move to the side.

My mother is now a professional seamstress because of my love for Shakespeare mas. She started sewing my costume and is now sewing for other people.

I will encourage the youths to get involve in Shakespeare mas because that is our culture.

I showcased Shakespeare mas most recently on the National Stage during our Independence Celebrations this year. They enjoyed my performance and wants to know more and get involved in Shakespeare mas.

Signed *Jeremiah* *John*

Jeremiah John

Mt Royal
Carriacou.
January 11th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Glenroy Boatswain and I am from the village of Mt Royal.

I believe Shakespeare mas is unique to Carriacou because individuals from many countries travel here to participate in the mas. If someone wants to witness Shakespeare mas they can travel to Carriacou yearly on Carnival Tuesday which is the Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday.

On Carnival Tuesday morning it is a morning where many gather in Mt Royal cross road to witness the mas. On that morning if one wants to witness the mas they have to come very early since the crowd is usually huge. Supporters island wide travel there to view the mas.

Everyone participate in the mas young as well as old, female as well as male. Nowadays, there are many female who participate as opposed to long ago. Children from age five (5) years participate in the mas. Children once they know their speech often challenge the adults.

How I started still remains a mystery to me. I cannot recall picking up a book to learn any speech or anyone training me to play. My dad was a really good shakespearean so I believe I have it naturally. I cannot even remember him playing Shakespeare mas because I was still a baby when he did. I can remember though when I was very young looking at the mas played. I remember my aunt in law telling me my father was a really good Shakespearean and I should follow in his steps. At that time she was training younger kids and gave me one of the speeches. I then learned that speech and it was what I starting reciting when I first played the mas. Now I can say many speeches but was only thought one. They gave me a book but I never opened it.

I do not have to necessary train to place Shakespeare Mas. I do not necessarily have to train for a whole year and can go the exact morning and still be good at what I do. I am so good at what I do that I play the role of King. After performing mas for the first time the community decided to make me the king the following year. I have been playing Mas for the last thirteen or so years.

Women and children often lead the band into town on Shakespeare morning which are referred to as followers. I cannot confirm when they started for since I started playing mas some thirteen years ago it has been a norm. Following the supporters is the Peacemaker of the group.

There are many individuals in my group who are currently working with students in ensuring that the mas is preserved. Many in my group were also trained in recent times. Even to date many of these

students will approach me when they see me to say they are learning their speeches. I also train students to play the Mas. I've been doing so since my second year in playing Shakespeare Mas some eleven or so years ago. I've trained many children who are currently playing the mas today. I often train students in and out of schools. Wherever I see them and they are willing to learn I work with them.

I also trained a number of schools through the Grenada Tourism Authority training program. I did that at the Tourism office which was used as a classroom. The students then were very excited about learning and I can say that was one of my best training classes I ever had.

I believe the mas is here to stay with the many training programs and the excitement of the younger generation. I will continue doing my best in getting them trained and even though I am not here I know there are other individuals who will be willing to work with them. I am very motivated to continue with the interest of the younger generation. I believe with the commitment this mas is here to stay and will be showcased in time to come worldwide.

Signed


Glenroy Boatswain

Tophill
Carriacou,
21st February, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is George Andrew and I am from Tophill Carriacou. One of my earliest memory of Shakespeare Mas is from my uncle Whim. He organized a trip with Shakespeareans from Carriacou to showcase the mas at a university in Puerto Rico many years ago.

I played Shakespeare Mas sometime in the 1960's but at that time it was called 'History Mas'. I believe the old people referred to it as 'History Mas' because history was a subject thought in the schools and Shakespeare is based on history. With the younger generation understanding better that it was William Shakespeare who wrote the book, which is used in recent times, today it is referred to as 'Shakespeare Mas'. Back then the uniform was the same as it is to now.

I remember my Uncle Patrick Akins started playing the mas from Mt Royal on Shakespeare morning and ended at Hillsborough. For the entire day I never heard him repeat any speech. Each time he met with a masquerader; he said a different speech.

Growing up as a child, we looked forward to Shakespeare Mas. When we went to the fields to tender our animals we used that opportunity to recite lines. Many can remember to date being at home or nearby places listening to us, pretending it was Shakespeare morning.

Villagers throughout Carriacou performed Shakespeare mas. Men came from far and wide supported by women and children to participate in the mas. I vividly recall old stalwarts like Gifford Mills from Belair, Whim Andrew my uncle, John Collins, the Lang brothers all from Mt. royal, etc masquerading in the 60's. It was Hero, Freeport and Banroy. Hero was masmen from the North, Banroy from the South and Freeport which were the masqueraders from Central who were able to join which ever group they preferred.

Masqueraders from long ago took the mas very seriously. They started preparing just after the Christmas season and even before. I can recall my uncle reading the Shakespeare book daily. It was like a religion to them for they studied it and when the day was drawing close they were all excited.

History Mas as the older generation referred to it and Shakespeare Mas which is the language of the younger generation, is the same. The costume and speeches are no different. The stick they used back then, was what was used in the community during camboulay when they performed big drum dance the night.

From since my time playing mas in the 60's, the ladies were always part of the mas, leading and singing lauvway songs in partwar like 'Orino' and 'Jouvert Bam Wah Yo.

I can remember the ladies dressing with their beautiful petticoats for the mas. I can recall the masqueraders back then borrowing it from them to play.

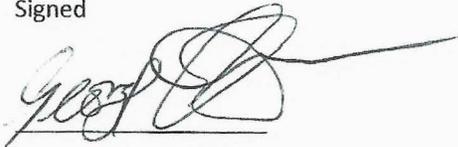
In those days we walked from our village heading to town portraying the mas. It was not easy but we got it done. I remember we did not have a watch to keep abreast of the time so we looked at the sun. The sun was like our clock. By looking at the sun, we knew what time it was in the day and was able to reach to the different points for portrayal on time.

There are training programs in all the schools in an effort to keep our culture alive. In my village Mt Royal, we are currently training young persons because once they are involved, we know it will be here to stay.

One of my sisters is working closely with the community in keeping the mas alive. She purchased microphones which is currently assisting with better audio. My sister and I also purchase cloth to sew the uniforms and donate because we understand the importance. We pay seemstresses to sew the uniforms for the Shakespearea. We understand the mas is very costly and if we do not join collectively to sustain it then it will be no more.

There is also the tourism component. Many persons travel here from the Diaspora to participate or support the mas. I can also say there are people who have heard of it and travel here to witness it and always return. I am aware of that because I have ties there. There are persons who live in Trinidad whose festival is celebrated the same time with Kayak Mas and they travel here for our carnival and more so Shakespeare Mas instead of remaining in Trinidad.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Andrew', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

George Andrew

Belmont
Carriacou
20th February, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Faithlyn George and I am from Belmont, Carriacou.

My earliest childhood memory of Shakespeare Mas is in the 1970's. I was 10 yrs old then. I grew up in the environment of Shakespeare Mas since my grandfather played. It could have been even before but that's when my recollection was clear. I remember him playing the Mas in the yard during the Carnival season. I heard him during those times and started practicing as it became part of me. As I grew older I was able to recite speeches on my own.

My father returned home after residing in England for some time and started playing. While he was practicing to recite speeches, I told him I know some of the speeches. He asked me to play. I was fearful of the whipping so I told him no. At that time he shared with me of what took place long ago when the Mas was more aggressive which escalated into fights but it does not take place anymore. He told me once I know my speeches I can play. They only whip when people do not know theirs.

The first time I gained confidence to play was in 2000. At that time I was thirty – nine (39) years of age. I've seen women supporting the mas but never playing with uniform. Dad encouraged me to play and made me the shirt. I remember when I started playing I was the only woman. People referred to me then as the "Queen" of Shakespeare. I played for Ban Roy for a number of years since I live to the South of the island. My father who played that year supported me. I can remember whipping some of the men who did not remember their lines. It brought joy to me.

The following year I asked my cousin Theria Lendore to play with me since I wanted a female as company. I gave her the book with speeches. She learned them and that year she played.

To date, Theria and I are training students in the community to play the Mas. It started because of my passion for the culture on my island. The first year was in 2015 when I trained three students.

I wanted to get females involved and that year I got one. The following year students were very interested and more students joined. We are continuing to training to date. I also sponsor the costume for them to play.

Besides Shakespeare Mas, I also perform Big Drum Nation Dance. This too was passed on to me through generations since my Grand Mother was a very good Big Drum Dancer.

My daughter is also assisting with training the students for Shakespeare Mas. Her daughter is presently four years old and she too recites lines. She has been doing that since she was even younger. During my spare time at home, I often put on a show with my three and four years old granddaughters. They both can recite speeches.

I served as Chairperson of the Carriacou Maroon and Stringband Music Festival which is the second annual festival celebrated in Carriacou. During that period, I always invited young Shakespeareans to showcase the mas for those who were unable to see their performance during the carnival celebrations. I love the mas and will continue supporting wherever possible.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Faithlyn George', written over a horizontal line.

Faithlyn George

Tophill
Carriacou.
January 11th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Deasry Andrew. I reside both at Mt Royal and Tophill in Carriacou. I support the mas because I am part of a women group which provide both breakfast and assist in cooking lunch for the Hero Masqueraders. We wake very early to prepare breakfast for the Shakespeareans and supporters in the community. When the mas is finished, in Mt Royal, by then we often finish cooking. There are individuals who assist in transporting the food to our Mas camp in the town of Hillsborough, so that when the players are finished, they can be refreshed.

When we get to town, we often gather ourselves together. We as supporters lead the Masmen with bells and flags singing and cheering them as they travel to the middle of town where we meet with the players from the south and central who calls themselves Banroy and Freeport. While we travel to the location where the mas is played. it is great excitement and cheer. Singing songs of threat loudly making a grand entrance into town. During that time, everyone lines the street of Hillsborough to view us. The police often block off the traffic preventing vehicles from disturbing the flow of the mas. It is really a good feeling on that day as we come together as a community where age neither gender matters.

While we proceed into town, one of the songs we sing is

Who in the way clear out the way; tell them hero coming down (Repeatedly)

Supporters to the south have their own songs they sing. Both sides must meet the location together so there is someone on each side who often contact each other during the journey. When we get to the final minutes, it is very exciting. When we look to lower Mainstreet we see supporters followed by Masmen journey into town. I am sure they feel the same viewing our supporters and Masmen coming from the North. During that time, the Backers will be coaching the masmen ensuring that they all ready for a showdown.

If soon there will be no more Shakespeare Mas, I will be very disappointed. I doubt that will happen though, since I know of training programs that are currently done to preserve the mas. I can recall there are five students in our immediate group while there are other students from other schools in our area, for example Mt Pleasant Government, who are currently playing the mas.

Signed Deasry Andrew

Deasry Andrew

Mt. Royal

Carriacou.

January 15th, 2021.

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Inscription for Shakespeare Mas, a traditional component of carnival Unique to Carriacou.

My name is Anthony Modeste and I am from Mt Royal Carriacou, one of the main villages in Carriacou where Shakespeare Mas is portrayed.

Shakespeare Mas is unique to Carriacou because this is the only island in the world that portrays this type of Mas. Shakespeare Mas is played at different villages in Carriacou. There are some young children who are currently being trained in the Belmont - Harvey Vale area, by individuals in the community in an attempt to preserve the Mas. One can witness Shakespeare Mas in Carriacou on Carnival Tuesday Morning which is a pre-lenten festival. I stand to be corrected but I believe Carriacou is the only place in the world one can witness this mas during a Carnival festival.

I am one of the main organizers of the Mas. My role includes:

- Encouraging people to play
- I assist in papering crown and getting uniforms
- Organizing refreshments
- On the day of Shakespeare Mas I play the role of backer (will intervene on behalf of the mas player from their camp to prevent any fights from escalating).

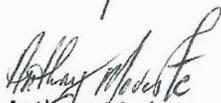
I assist in cooking food for the Mas players which is shared after the Mas is displayed. The food is cooked early morning of Shakespeare and transported to a central point in Hillsborough where the mas gather/Mas Camp.

I got involved in Shakespeare mas through my elder brother and cousins. I started by papering crowns which is the back piece used for protection. Then I started learning speeches but I never actually played the mas.

I also encouraged my children to play Shakespeare Mas . One of my son is presently playing Shakespeare mas from since he was about ten years. He was trained by someone in the

community by the name Jennifer Duncan, who thought him and others the art and speeches. He is now a teacher at the L'Esterre Primary School in Carriacou and is training students in that school to play. Right now we are trying to get as much children involved so that the Mas will continue in generations to come.

Signed



Anthony Modeste

CARRIACOU AND PETITE MARTINIQUE FESTIVALS BOARD

Main street, Hillsborough, Carriacou

Phone: 1473-443-2000\407-2001

Email: ccoupmbf@gmail.com

March 2nd 2021

Carriacou and Petite Martinique Festivals Board
Hillsborough
Carriacou

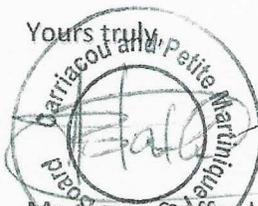
To the UNESCO Committee:

Subject: Letter in support of UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity inscription for Carriacou Shakespeare Mas.

The sister islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique are widely referenced as being home to a 'melting pot of Culture'. The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Festivals Board is the established body charged with the responsibility of ensuring these rich, dynamic, and diverse cultural offerings are well managed, coordinated, and preserved through the annual staging of various festivals between the islands.

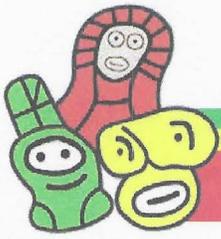
Carriacou Carnival, dubbed 'Kayak Mas' offers an unforgettable experience where one can witness a truly one-of-a-kind celebration, unique to Carriacou and the world, in Shakespeare Mas. It is the most authentic aspect of Kayak mas. This explosion of colour and magnificent show of theatre can be witnessed nowhere else. The actors of the Mas demonstrate great skill with their dynamic recitals of Julius Caesar and Shakespeare Acts all while captivating their audience with the dramatic activities and equally enchanting functional dress code that is carefully crafted by the locals.

Along with my board members, we submit our full support and consent for this process towards an inscription. Being recognized by UNESCO on their Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity will further strengthen our efforts to preserve and promote this world class heritage, locally in Carriacou & Petite Martinique and across the globe.

Yours truly,

Mr. James Stafford
Chairman

**Carriacou and Petite Martinique
Festivals Board, Chairman**

Carriacou & Petite Martinique Festivals Board



Grenada Cultural Foundation

A clearing house for the development of culture and the creative arts industry in Grenada

Suite 134-135, National Stadium, West Wing Gate, NO.6 Queen's Park, P.O. Box 724, St. George's

5 March 2021

Endorsement for UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity inscription for Shakespeare Mas in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

To Whom It May Concern

The Grenada Cultural Foundation operates as the main hub for Grenada's culture and heritage and is responsible for the development and sustainability of its valuable cultural assets. As the organisation directly responsible for the preservation of the country's culture and heritage, it is with great pride and enthusiasm we take this opportunity to endorse this very important undertaking.

Shakespeare Mas is considered as one of the traditional masquerades of the islands. This unique mas is steeped in the Shakespearian Era and forms a part of the caricature suite of mas in Grenada.

Unique to Carriacou it forms part of the annual carnival celebrations and is said to be the only masquerader portrayal of its kind in the world. The elements reflect the mimicking of the slave masters who inhabited the island at the time, who it is alleged read the works of Shakespeare. People from across the islands travel to Carricou for the rivalry and pageantry of the display of the mas and is thrilled with the reciting of the plays.

The Shakespeare Mas speaks to the cultural history specifically to the concept of slaves and masters engagements during slavery.

The Foundation looks forward to the recognition from UNESCO that will augur well for the preservation of the wooden boat building in the islands.

Sincerely,



Shirpa Wells
CEO