



Celebrating Our Women of Kulture

USHANA KHUBLAL

Ushana Khublal

Ushana Khublal a Karibbean Girl Who Works Hard & Plays Harder as a Businesswomen, in my Family, and in my Culture 3



My Family: (L) Ushana, Dad, Mom, (brother) Raymond, (sister-in-law) Sharmin, (sister) Nadia, (brother-in-law) Naresh, (bottom) my niece Aaliyah

KUOMagazine was honored to feature Ushana Khublal, whom I've gotten to know over the years. She allowed us to get up close and personal on how she vybez as a Karibbean Girl. I have admired her style and how passionate she is about being a wonderful aunt, a businesswoman and in her culture. Ushana Khublal shared how family is the most important part of her life. She was honest about not being a very religious person, but she does believe in a higher power. Ushana is not afraid to say that she puts family first above all. She's also "God Fearing" but, however chooses not to give that "Power" a specific name. Ushana believes we all take different paths to get to the same destination (*The path in this case: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, etc.... to get to the same destination: A better life after this*). She also mentioned that work and play go hand in hand for her. She works hard and plays just as hard and hope to say one day, "**Work Hard, Play Harder.**" She loves to travel and being in the promotion business, it now gives her an added excuse as to why she should travel more. **AND SHE TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE!!!** If she's not at her regular 9 to 5, she's helping with events or promoting Soiree Events. Ok, Ushana, let's chat while sipping a some Karibbean Tea, seeing that neither one of us drink alcohol or smoke, lol!

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KUOMagazine: What is the one misconception that a lot of people have of you? The one misconception people have of me is that I drink alcohol, or I smoke. Now let me preface this: I see nothing wrong with either of these two activities, I just choose not to part-take in them. I do not drink, smoke, or do any drugs (I also do not eat pork), it was a decision I made in my teens that I have stuck to and will continue to stick to. It does get annoying when people ask, "*Were you high or drunk last night?*" or "*Did you finally have a drink last night?*" All I need to have a good time is good friends, family, music, and coconut water. It's what makes me high :).

KUOMagazine: Ushana, I agree with you 100% when it comes to religion, because we all have our own beliefs that's your own and who are we to judge. Now, that saying "Work Hard, Play Harder", when you truly enjoy what you do it really doesn't seem like work at all and I truly love what I do as well as meeting so many people within my community and worldwide. Can you share a little about how you take pride in being part of Care for the Community, it's mission, how it gives back in the community and who's all involved? I take pride in being part of *Care for the Community*, which is a non-profit 501(c) entity. Care for The Community's mission is to "*provide assistance to urban communities in hopes of building a stronger tomorrow*". We work together to give back to the community through charity events and some of our proceeds from our shows also go back into the community that so strongly supports us. Between travel, work, and partying (which isn't really partying because most of it is networking and promoting events, sometimes I have so much fun doing it that it doesn't really feel like work). I also love spending time with my niece, Aaliyah. She is the one person that I can always depend on to make a good day great and a bad day better. She inspires me to do better and try to make better decisions in my life. My parents are an inspiration, they will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary this year and that in itself is a milestone that most couples can only dream of. Even though they were strict (and still are), I thank them for raising me the way they did, or I would not be the person that I am today. My sister (Nadia) and brother-in-law (Naresh) are also a huge part of my life and they play an integral part of my success in almost all aspects of my life. For two young individuals to have accomplished what they have in so little time, I can only contribute it to hard work, dedication, and love. They too work hard and play just as hard. I also have a brother (which most people are unaware of because he lives down South), my brother (Raymond) was always there for me when things were not going right in my life and at one point, he became the "little big brother," as his life evolved, he got married and is expecting a baby girl within the coming days. I can't wait to meet my second niece.

KUOMagazine: That's so amazing the wonderful things Soiree/Care for the Community is doing locally. Thank you all so much and congrats on your new nieces. If you had to make three (3) changes in your Caribbean community that reflect on (Cultural Events, Carnival, uniting Promoters) so that we can all come together, what would it be? If I had to make three (3) changes in our Caribbean Community that would reflect our culture so that we can come together I would:

1. Have a Community Ambassador and a Caribbean Congress that are both elected by the public (Promoters, business owners, masqueraders, band leaders, etc...), but it would be different folks from different Caribbean Communities, so that EVERYONE has a voice (Guyanese, Trinis, VI, Bajans, Africans, Haitians, Americans, Puerto Ricans, etc...). The same way they are elected, is the same way they can be voted off.
2. Have a meeting every quarter with this group so that we as a community can unite and bring **EVERY-ONE** together by sharing events, ideas, and thoughts. This way we can ALL SUPPORT everyone. Support breathes support, it breathes unity, and it will breathe success.
3. Involve the corporations, Disney, Universal, major hotels, Walmart, Publix, etc... in our initiatives and bring them on board as sponsors for our events. But these companies will not work with a community that is divided. We all have to be on the same page. Individual goals and business goals are important, and everyone wants theirs to succeed. However, learning to not be selfish and not bring down the next person is something that we **AS A COMMUNITY** is lacking and what is bottlenecking us as Caribbean's/West Indians/Islanders/Foreigners.

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KUOMagazine: Being from the Caribbean Heritage, what does your culture mean to you and how do you embrace it and what's your motto?

I was born in Georgetown, Guyana. My family and I left Guyana when I were 9 years old and migrated to Queens, NY. 9 years later, in 1996 we then moved to Ocoee, Florida and 20 years later (this Thanksgiving), this is where we call home. The one thing that remained constant in my life was family. My parents always made sure that we respected not only our elders, but our siblings, our neighbors, and our friends. They always made it a point to never look down on anyone and to always include these people in our lives, no matter how different they were. My mom is Muslim, my father is Hindu, and we were exposed to those religions as well as Christianity (among others) because some of the most celebrated holidays in our household were: Christmas & Easter. As Caribbean children we didn't know the "difference" between the religions because it never played a part in our celebrations. We had Hindus at our Islamic Prayers, Muslims at Dewali celebrations and everyone was over for Christmas and flying kites for Easter. This is what Caribbean Culture means to me: Unity, peace, and love. My motto would have to be "From many people, color, race & beliefs, we rise as one."



KUOMagazine: Yes, we all need #Unity #Peace and #Love in our lives. I've dealt with many obstacles What advice would you give other women who have trouble embracing their true self, loving who they are and love the culture they were born within? I'm not the best person to give advice as I am always looking for it myself. The only words I can share with other women who have trouble embracing their true self & culture would be to: Find something that you love to do and make it a part of your life. Once you make it a part of your life, it will make you happy and then you will learn to apply that happiness in other areas of your life. Never bring the next woman down, no matter how their body is shaped, what they have, what they have been through in the past or what they are going through currently. We already are seen by some as an inferior species because we are females, then we have to deal with the fact that we are from a Caribbean Culture that seems to only want to drink, party and dress scantily. **LOVE YOURSELF, BE PROUD AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHOW IT!!!!** People will come around and if they don't, our fire will outshine their light.

KUOMagazine: Is there anything here in your community you would like to get more involve in that you don't see happen? There is so much that I would like to get involved in, in this community, but the main thing on my list would be educating our children when it comes to sex and sex education. I'm not sure why, but it seems that Caribbean/West Indian parents have the hardest time speaking to their children about sex (I know the conversations in my household were almost nonexistent when I was younger). I see so many children having children. It's heartbreaking because these young mothers and fathers are missing out on a huge part of their lives because they have to become parents too soon. Some are successful but the majority of them end up making poor decisions for their future and it becomes a cycle that repeats itself. It doesn't have to be a never-ending cycle.



KUOMagazine: When dealing with day-to-day stress, where do you go to find peace within or techniques to get yourself grounded? When dealing with day-to-day stress, I like the peace and quiet of my room. I just lay in my bed and let the silence take over. I'll also clean, from top to bottom, I'm not sure why, but that action alone gives me a peace of mind, no matter if I just finished cleaning the day before.

KUOMagazine: Being single and loving my independence of my own choice, have you found love yet Ushana? If not, what is your ideal man that would truly make you happy? I have found love. But at this moment, I'm single and doing me. What's the saying: "It's better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all?" I definitely haven't lost but found love and appreciative of everything it has and is still doing for my life.

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KUOMagazine: Are there any hidden talents you have such as singing, playing an instrument, dancing, etc.? The only hidden talents I have is baking and cooking. I make a mean cheesecake (and I don't even eat cheesecake), deviled eggs, stuffed shells, Honey BBQ Wings, Potato Salad, etc.....but, that's about it. Pretty boring :)

KUOMagazine: Finally, finish the question "I Vybe as A Karibbean Girl because"? I Vybe as a Karibbean Girl because I love the music, the food, the people & the culture. I embrace all the islands and countries. I try to be as diverse as possible when it comes to the different Caribbean communities, I try to embrace all the cultures as I would my own.

KUOMagazine: How's the culture different when visiting various Caribbean Islands and which ones have you gone to? I have been blessed and fortunate to have traveled to Trinidad, Tobago, The Bahamas, Mexico, The US & British Virgin Islands, Guyana, The Cayman Islands (off the top of my head). The 1 thing that I see that's common with the folks in all of these "Caribbean Communities" is happiness. I think that comes from a simplified lifestyle, love for the little things and appreciation for the greater things. These people value their culture, their heritage, they like to cook, eat, dance, and enjoy themselves. They work hard but never seem to forget to take time and enjoy all the fruits of their labor. So honestly, I don't see much of a difference in their cultures...but, I see a difference in their cultures compared to the American and European Culture.



KUOMagazine: What's next for Ushana and where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? Next, hmmmmmm....that's a loaded question. I have a venture in Guyana with my dad that I'm contemplating. Sticking with the promotion business and starting a family. That should keep me busy for the next 5 years.

KUOMagazine: Any final words you would like to share, also add all your social links and Soiree's? #LifeIsWhatYouMakeIt

On behalf of KUOMagazine, we would like to say thank you to Ushana Khublal for sharing how she vybez as a Caribbean girl by Working Hard & Plays Harder throughout her endeavors. We look forward to seeing what Ushana has instore for her Caribbean community and beyond. Don't forget to follow Ushana on her personal and business social media links at:

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Website: www.careforthecommunity.org/home
Website: www.thesoireeco.com
Website: www.OrlandoCarnivalGuide.com

*"I AM A little Guyanese girl that was brought to America to live the "American Dream"
"I AM A Woman of Kulture....in my Business....and each and everyday!"*

KARIBBEAN



UNDER ONE MAGAZINE



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