

February/March 2015
Volume 1 * Issue 3

Between Karibbean Friends



On The Cover
Tiffany Ashley

On Karibbean View
Bol'Face Productions

Their Mission for **LOVE**,
SPiRiT and **UNiTY** for
Orlando Carnival and for
their Caribbean
Community!

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Karibbean View Full Disclosure

De Bol'Face & De Beautiful



I come from a rather large family in a somewhat small town in south Trinidad, numbering over 100 members (on my mother's side alone!). New additions to the "David Clan" was one of many causes for our frequent family gatherings at clan headquarters, located in Morne Diabale (pronounced Mon Diablo, or just, de Jab, for short). As a young child at one of these gatherings, I found myself the recipient of a "hard clout" from a senior David council member for first, commenting that a certain aunt (that will remain nameless), "does cook food with no taste". Then an instant later, pointing out that the precious baby of another nameless aunt, "head shape rel funny". And then, SLAP! I was quickly ushered out of the bedroom and informed that I was "too blasted bol'face!" Ever the inquisitive one, I turned to my aunt rubbing the back of my head and asked, "Aunty Titta, what is bol'face?"

KUOM/BKF: So ladies, introduce yourself to the world.

Bol'Face Productions: Our names are Tamara Nunez and Alana Nunez-Bennett, founders and band leaders of Bol'Face.

KUOM/BKF: Explain the term "Bol'Face" to those who may be unfamiliar.

Alana: Bol'Face means "bold face". It means that we will speak our minds, we are not afraid of the product we produce; we stand by it.

KUOM/BKF: Tell our readers how Bol'Face Productions came into existence.

Tamara: Bol'Face came about because there were several years where Orlando Carnival wasn't that good in terms of the mas bands, selection, the costumes, attendance, etc. We absolutely love playing mas and at one point, I was willing to pay a band to play mas, but the catch was that I brought my own costume. Alana said, "No way. I refuse [to do that] and I won't let you." It just so happened that there was band on the road that year who was looking for someone to bring a section in their band. That year, we made 30 costumes in 2 weeks and we brought 30 [Text Box: Alana Nunez-Bennett @ the Bol'Face band launch] masqueraders to play mas. It was a collaborative effort. We toyed around with names a year or so prior because we were asked to consult in a few carnival meetings and we wanted to be viewed as one entity.

KUOM/BKF: What's the best and worst things about the process of being a band leader?

Alana: The absolute best thing is seeing the joy on our masquerader's faces, adults and kids. There's nothing like it. The worst is probably that we are actually expected to 'work' on the road when all we want to do is get on bad.

KUOM/BKF: Where do you draw inspiration for your costumes?

Alana: Inspiration is a funny thing. It can come to you in the form of a dream, an outing, commercial, etc. This year's theme is Sin City and the inspiration came from a girls' trip to Las Vegas. It was wonderful, from

the colors, noise, lights, people; inspiration was everywhere. The problem surfaced when I realized that we could've taken the design in so many directions, Trying to pinpoint what I truly wanted to capture about Las Vegas was a bit tricky. And if you know Tamara, you know she isn't creative at all. I could literally show her 20 different things and she'll say that she loves them all.

KUOM/BKF: If one was looking for a band to play mas with for Orlando Carnival, why should they choose to play mas with Bol'Face as opposed to another band?

Alana: Because Bol'Face is the truth! We are the number one mas band in Orlando, providing the ultimate Caribbean experience. We are not only band leaders, we are masqueraders and feting partners. We work full time jobs, have families and children, run our mas camp making our own costumes, but we still make time to fete with our masqueraders. Orlando is not the biggest carnival, but when you're with Bol'Face, you feel as though it is. We pride ourselves in making sure everyone has a good time.

KUOM/BKF: In your experience, how would you rate Orlando carnival as compared to others?

Tamara: This is a tough question. This is Orlando's 28th Carnival, however, we are still not considered a major Carnival. This is a rebuilding year(s) for us. It is going to take time to get where we are supposed to be. The only other Carnivals that we've attended were New York, Miami and of course Trinidad. I don't think Orlando can compare to any of those.

KUOM/BKF: What changes would you like to see take place with Orlando carnival?

Alana: We could be here all night answering this question. Orlando has come a long way but we haven't even begun to scratch the surface. We need more participation all around. Standing on the sidelines pointing out the issues does nothing. We need Caribbean [people] to be more active within the community. We need those in local government offices to push for more participation from the government agencies. We need the carnival association to be accepting to new ideas. Equally, we need those with the new ideas to actually listen and learn from the older heads. We need promoters and band leaders to work as one unit and stop trying to one up the next man.

KUOM/BKF: Is there any sibling rivalry between you ladies?

Tamara: I am all about knowing your strengths and weaknesses. No rivalry; we each play a part under the Bol'face umbrella. We work well because we complement one another; yin and yang. Many people tell us that we act alike and in several ways we do; however, we are quite different. We've been around long enough to know when to walk away. Often times, one of us is fired up about something but we both can't lose it.



KUOM/BKF: What?!? I don't believe you ladies. Let's play a game called, "Who's Better", where I list some activities and you tell me who is better at it. First one, who's the better winner?

Tamara: We have different wining styles, but I'd say they're equally effective.

Alana: [Laughing] is slim enough to jump on your neck, and she enjoys catching guys off guard too. For me, the bumper is kind of lethal. We are similar in that we truly cannot control ourselves once we hear the music.

KUOM/BKF: Better cook?

Tamara: Again, we're different. We can both cook, however, we have specialties. Alana is more of a baker and I'd say that I'm more of a chef.

KUOM/BKF: Better feter?

Alana: Both

KUOM/BKF: Costume maker?

Tamara: Alana. They won't even let me glue any gems on the costumes!

KUOM/BKF: Who's crazier/more fun?

Tamara: [Laughing] I'd have to say we both have our moments.

KUOM/BKF: What is the most Bol'Face thing either of you have ever done?

Alana: Hmm, that's a really good question. We were at a party one night and jamming hard. The MC decided to question how bold we really were. He decided to play "Expose" and a few of our members took our shirts off. He actually stopped the music because he was not expecting that. Later on that night, the DJ played "Drop on de Ground and Roll" and a few of us did just that.

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KUOM/BKF: Another game. I'll ask if something is bol'face and you answer yes or no, rapid fire fashion. **Tamara:** Sure, let's go

KUOM/BKF: Okay. Asking a woman her age?

Alana: No & **Tamara:** No

KUOM/BKF: Asking a married woman for a wine?

Tamara: Have you met Alana? She's married and all she does is wine on everything.

BKF: Leaning in for a kiss on the first date!

Tamara: Depends.

BKF: I said yes or no answers only!

Tamara: Okay. Then, yes.

BKF: What if I said I think Tamara is really cute?

Alana: Get it!

Tamara: She's just trying to marry me off.

BKF: Last question. Where do you see Bol'Face in the next 10 years? **Alana:** On top baby!

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On behalf of KUOMagazine, we would like to say thank you to Bol'Face Productions for the interview and congratulations on winner 3rd place for best King & Queen costume, Mas Band on the road for 2015 Orlando Carnival and 2015 Kiddies Carnival. We look forwarding to see what you have next coming up!

~ Written by A. Jax Senghor, De Mas Queens contributing writer

Tamara & Alana "Miami Carnival 2014"



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