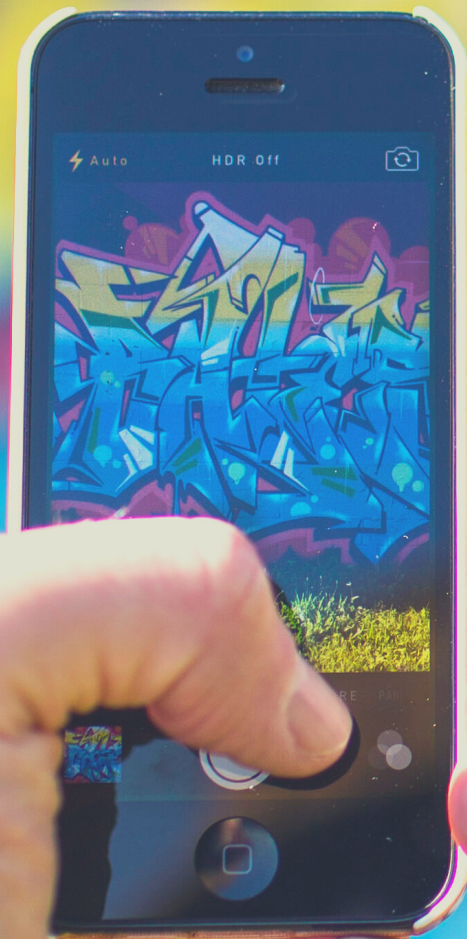


GENERATION Y DOMINICA PRESENTS

GEN - U - IN TALK

ART & CULTURE ISSUE

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WHAT'S INSIDE

1 ON 1 WITH DELROY N WILLIAMS

A beneath the surface interview with
Dominica's award winning writer & poet



1 ON 1 INTERVIEW WITH GEN Y

DELROY NESTA WILLIAMS, 39
WRITER | POET | YOUTH ACTIVIST

Generation Y:

Hi Delroy, we are excited to have you, thank you for being a part of our interview.

Delroy:

Thanks, I was surprised but still pleased that you all reached out. I haven't done an interview in quite a while.

Generation Y:

As you know, Generation Y Dominica is an online community that promotes youth empowerment and you've definitely caught our attention. Thank you again and let's get right into it!

Generation Y:

We've seen you active in various social campaigns. We especially note leve' Domnik and your advocating for lupus awareness among other things. Tell us a bit about these campaigns, others and the roles you have played in them.

Delroy:

I've been involved in many different campaigns but I'm most passionate about child abuse, HIV/AIDS and gender issues. Lévé Domnik, of which I am the co-founder along with Khadijah Moore, started as a social media campaign against gender-based violence with the main objective of raising awareness among the general population but also seeking avenues for empowerment of survivors. I became involved in Lupus awareness because I had close friends who had the autoimmune disease.

I'M MOST
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It was a means to support my friends, particular Danika Hurtault, who has since succumbed in her fight but whose memory still drives the local group.

I was also involved in the Shine A Light campaign that focused on child abuse and several initiatives that deal with sex and sexuality, HIV/AIDS, gender, etc. through my involvement with the Bureau of Gender Affairs.

Generation Y:

Delroy thank you for sharing, we can tell that you're very passionate and we are sorry for the loss of your friend. I personally knew Ms. Hurtault & she was a great personality, genuine spirit & one that will certainly be missed.

Generation Y:

Delroy N. Williams is a familiar name and face when one thinks of Dominican writers and poets.



INTERVIEW BY DILMA BASTIEN

Contd...

Delroy:

I would hope so (laugh out loud), because I've tried to capture the authentic Dominican experience in my writing. I've tried to showcase island lifestyle, not just the typical sun, sea, sand and romantic getaway that we mostly get revered for in the Caribbean. We have legitimate stories that need to be told and that will capture readers.

Generation Y:

You certainly have a natural gift for poetry, the spoken word and story writing. Tell us a bit about how you got started on this journey as a writer?

Delroy:

My journey started in high school. The first poem I ever wrote was a love poem, for a childhood crush. But I only decided to pursue writing when I attended the first Nature Island Literary Festival in 2008 during reunion celebrations of that year. I performed during the open mic segment and because of the positive feedback, I decided to pour more of my efforts in that direction. I subsequently joined the festival's organization and became a member of the planning committee along with Danika Hurtault (see, we did a lot together).

Generation Y:

Wow. And your writings paint such colorful and vivid descriptions for readers. Where does your inspiration come from?

Delroy:

My inspiration comes from every day things. I've written poems and short stories while taking public transportation. I've gotten inspiration from every day conversations & social media posts, but my first writings were mainly from personal childhood experiences and stories that people told me that I added my own flare to.

Generation Y:

Interesting. And you've recently had one of your short stories featured in a US magazine 'Gumbo'. Congratulations! Would you say it's another milestone accomplishment for you? And what are some others?

Delroy & group at a walk for lupus



GUMBO US MAGAZINE



Delroy:

Yes, it was indeed a momentous occasion for me. It was the first for me. I've had my writing featured in many Caribbean countries and in various anthologies but never by a major US magazine, especially one focused on the black experience.

Being shortlisted and then a finalist for the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival Writer in the Caribbean Award in 2020 is also another milestone. It was my second time being shortlisted for a Caribbean award and I am hoping that one day I will cross that hurdle and win one of the awards. One of the things I'm also proud of is my contribution to the Dominican anthology, *The Flying Crapaud*, as it seeks to breathe new life into our folklore.

Generation Y:

Amazing! I imagine that this is a great achievement for you and is definitely something that Dominica is proud of as well.

Apart from poetry, the spoken word and other written art forms, I've heard that you have also played roles in various youth organizations?

Delroy:

I've played numerous roles in various organizations, I started at the community level in Bath Estate and went as far as to hold the post of president for a few national organizations: The National Youth Council of Dominica, The Dominica Youth Environment Organization and the National Association of Youth in Agriculture. I also represented Dominica as its representative on the UNDP Caribbean Youth 'Think Tank' for three years. If I really have to list them all, we would be here for a long time :-)

Generation Y:

Ha Ha, certainly you are quite an active member of society when it comes to youth development.

On a separate note, give us a little bit of insight about who you are as a person. I'm sure everyone wants to know, who really is Delroy N Williams?

Delroy:

I am just a simple man, trying to do good. I like simplicity. These days I spend most of my free time on my farm, my new passion when I am not working, writing or supporting Arsenal. I am also an avid reader, I read almost anything that I come across.

More than anything, I love to volunteer especially for causes that impact children and focus on community development.

Generation Y:

And your name Delroy sounded so unique that we did a bit of research. It means King or 'of the King' in various translations; very powerful. Do you think this contributes in any way to your personality?

Delroy:

it's funny you researched that because I had done so years ago... and since I've found the meaning, I've tried my best to be regal in the things I do. So yes, my name has influenced the way I behave. I think a name has power and in my name, I feel powerful but also a great responsibility to put my best foot forward and to be an example to those around me.

Generation Y:

Thank you for sharing!

So what's next for you? Any future plans, activities, or writing publications that we could be privy too?



Delroy:

Besides farming, I am working on a number of things... key among them is a compilation of short stories. I am also working on an adolescent/teen book based on Dominican folklore and heritage. I am hoping to finish that before 2020 ends. My next collection of poetry, *Moods and Attitudes*, is basically complete in terms of entries, I just need to confirm that final 30 pieces that find their way onto the pages. In a few years I hope to get involved in agro-processing but that's an initiative I'm keeping close to my chest for now.

Generation Y:

Thank you so much for hanging out with us, we appreciate you conversing and sharing with our Gen Y community.

**I HOPE THAT
MY STORY
CAN
INSPIRE
SOMEONE..**

Delroy:

Thank you for reaching out. I appreciate that very much. I hope that my story can inspire someone to get involved in activism, writing or even farming.

Generation Y:

We are sure that many viewers will be grateful for all that you have shared with us today, thank you again for coming by.

*Exclusive
interview*

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WITH

