

GENERATION Y DOMINICA PRESENTS

# GEN - U - IN - TALK

GENERATIONS SPEAK ISSUE NO. 6

# GENERATION Y



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Dominica**

# COMING

# 2

# America

Written by Dilma Bastien

## Intro

Everyone gets excited when their favorite comics are being made into movies or their favorite classic movies are remade and released in theatres. From the super hero movies like **Spiderman, Batman and the several others based on famous Marvel & DC comic book characters, to a remake of classic movies like King Kong vs. GodZilla**, there are usually long lines outside of the movie theatre queuing up to buy tickets.

The announcement of a part 2 to **'Coming to America'** raised the same level of excitement and anticipation, and the best part was that it was released off of the big screen and accessible for free on **Amazon Prime Video**. For those of you who haven't seen the movie **Coming 2 America**, part 2 of the 1988 film and romantic comedy featuring **Eddie Murphy, Spoiler Alert!** We've seen it and were about to give a short review.



*Prince Akeem with his bride at the end of part 1*

## Backtrack

As you may recall, in part one **Coming to America**, Eddie Murphy plays the lead character, **Prince Akeem Joffer** of an African Nation called **Zamunda**. His parents **King Jaffe Joffer and Queen Aoleon Joffer (played by James Earl Jones and Madge Sinclair)** propose an arranged marriage with a Royal Princess of another African nation, which Akeem does not agree with.

The Prince of Zamunda then decides to go in search for his future princess and sets his journey toward America for the first time, landing in Queens New York. Along with his trustee confidant **Semmi (played by Arsenio Hall)**, they embark on an exciting experience filled with numerous comical scenes, as they face a huge culture shock living in America vs. princely life in Zamunda.

## Fast Forward

**Coming 2 America** released March 5 2021, is the now 33 years later sequel to this movie. Following the death of his father King Jaffe, Prince Akeem is now the **King of Zamunda** and has a family of his own with his **Queen Lisa McDowell Joffer of New York**, which he married after his adventures in the first movie. The 2 now have a family of 3; **all daughters**.

In this new movie, King Akeem finds out that he has an illegitimate son living in Queens named **Lavelle Johnson**. Wanting to avoid a hostile takeover from a dictator of the **nearby African Nation called Nexdoria** and feeling the pressures of kingship to uphold Zamundan tradition by having a male successor to the throne, the king and Semmi return to Queens New York once more to locate Lavelle, his next potential heir.

Lavelle Johnson along with his mother agrees to come back to Zamunda and the new prince experiences his own culture shock adjusting to Zamundan life. He performs various traditional tasks to secure his princehood including going **face to face with a lion**. He also gets caught up in his own romantic troubles as he is expected to wed the daughter of the Nexdorian dictator to ease tensions between the 2 nations, but falls in love with someone unexpected.

The movie is a glorious mashup of some main characters from part 1, the revelation of new characters like **General Izzy Dictator of Nexdoria** played by **Wesley Snipes** and other famous appearances like actress **Kiki Layne** who played **Meeka the eldest daughter of King Akeem**, **Nigerian American Singer Rotimi** who played the role of the **Prince of Nexdoria** and **Teyana Taylor** who played **princess**. There are also special musical performances by amazing artists of the past like **En Vogue**, **Salt n Peppa**, **Gladys Knight** and more.

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*General Izzy & his daughter princess Bopoto*

## THE REVIEW

Coming 2 America is **light hearted, funny, surprising and sends a strong message that the power of love and family is enough to influence changes in existing traditions for the greater good**. To sum it all up in one sentence, this movie is a **'definite must see'** for our generation.

Overall Generation Y Dominica rates this sequel **4 out of 5 stars** and we encourage everyone who loved the original to check it out and consider watching it for your next family movie night (**Rated PG - 13, parental discretion is advised**).



# 4 New Businesses in Roseau you probably didn't notice

Doesn't it seem like new businesses spring up (and disappear) in Roseau overnight? We think so too.

Here's a look at the **top 4 new businesses** that have popped up, that you probably didn't notice were here.



Dr. Waffle | Federation Dr. Goodwill



Diamond kids | Malborough St



New game shop | Cork St



Titanium grocery | Hillsborough St

A portrait of a young man with long, dark, curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a patterned shirt with blue, brown, and gold tones. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple and blue gradient.

**COMING  
SOON**

# **THE CHASE**

The Debut Single by British - born Dominican singer - songwriter Dan Amare

OUR NEW FAVORITE  
SHORT STORY



*Corona & a side of chow mein*

# AN EXCERPT FROM THE SHORT STORY

BY YAKIMA ' JULY' CUFFY

## Her



It is barely dawn, and the village of Layou is swallowed up in sleep and sea breeze. Tessa lays on her living room couch swiping indolently through the gallery on her phone. She lingers for a while on one photo in particular, from her nineteenth birthday exactly one year ago today. This is certainly not how she had envisioned herself spending her twentieth birthday, indoors, and alone as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. It has been twenty-seven days since the State of Emergency was declared in Dominica - twenty-seven days since she has last seen him. She glides her fingers over the screen of her cell phone to make the picture larger...

## Him



There are not many things in life that excite Xing Yeung. At only twenty-two, he has already lived in four different countries and can speak two and a half languages. He has had his fair share of imposter syndrome, having moved to Dominica at the tender age of seven. It is a culture shock for anyone moving from one homogenous society to another, where you look nothing like the people around you. The fact that he has been home-schooled all of his life does not help either. As a result, his only friends are his sixteen-year-old sister, Jia, and his pet fish, Wen. But the night island girl Tessa walks into his father's restaurant, Xing's heart leaps with excitement...

\*\*\*





**C**orona and a side of chowmein is an unorthodox short story written by award- winning Dominican writer, poet and playwright **Yakima Cuffy** and published on **Midnight and Indigo**, an online hub for short stories and narrative essays by Black female writers ([www.midnightandindigo.com](http://www.midnightandindigo.com)). The prominent themes in her writing are patriotism, West Indian identity, migration, faith and sensuality. Some of her work may be found on her Facebook handle, **Yakima July**. Notably, her work is also published in the recently released anthology '**Montage Domnik- New Stories and Poems from Dominica**'.

But If you've ever seen this astounding writer deliver any one of her poetry pieces live, you'll also see with absolute clarity that **Yakima 'July' Cuffy was born to perform**.



Yakima performing a poetry piece

Corona & a side of chow mein is her most recent brainchild and the short story depicts a **forbidden interracial love birthed on the island of Dominica, in modern day 2020/21**. The story's main characters are local girl **Tessa Jones, 20** and young Chinese national **Xing Yeung, 22**. Part of the story takes place amidst the coronavirus global lockdown, which makes it all the more relatable to readers.

**A story written in and for our time, 'Corona & a side of chow mein is a delicious cocktail of a steamy romance combined with the very serious real life racial prejudice that currently exists in today's world.** From Chinese, to locals and the mention of African students, the story gives the reader a snapshot of what the current day demographic composition of Dominica is like.

**A lawyer by profession, Yakima presently works as a Senior Trust and Legal Officer with Meridian Trust Company Limited in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.** In her spare time, Yakima's passion for civil rights, social action, and economic empowerment has driven her involvement in several projects. She's formerly served as the Secretary of the **Dominica Bar Association**, where she assisted with the execution of the Child Abuse Prevention project in Dominica, and also volunteers with the **Lévé Domnik Foundation** as a Child and Gender Rights Advocate.

To get the full flavor of this short story's 4 course meal (**seriously, the story is divided into a 4 course meal - soup, appetizer, entree & dessert**), check it out in full here [www.midnightandindigo.com/corona-side-of-chowmein/](http://www.midnightandindigo.com/corona-side-of-chowmein/). We went **1 on 1** with Ms. Yakima 'July' Cuffy.



# 1 ON 1 INTERVIEW

WITH YAKIMA 'JULY' CUFFY  
ON HER NEW PIECE  
'CORONA & A SIDE OF CHOW MEIN'

## *Generation Y:*

**This short story is such an interesting, modern day, cultural piece. What inspired it?**

## *Yakima July:*

Thank you for appreciating this piece! During the Covid-19 lockdown in Dominica, one of my lifelong friends who is currently studying in China, also a writer herself, was explaining to me that she had to order certain items such as salt fish online as they are not easily accessible over there. She was describing to me the culture shock she experienced as an Afro-Caribbean student in China, and how she had to grow accustomed to the vast differences in food. Of course, there were some of the local Chinese dishes which she enjoyed, and others, not so much. Needless to say, I was intrigued. I started to toy with the idea of bringing that imposter syndrome situation to Dominica, and how food preferences could both separate us and at once bring us together. And thus "Corona and a side of Chow Mein" was born.

## *Generation Y:*

**We especially appreciate that all the characters are multi-racial and in a sense represent the new Dominican society that we live in. Were the characters based on your own life experiences and interactions with people or were they completely fictional?**

## *Yakima July:*

I would say that though the characters are fictional, they were loosely based on cultural experiences that I have either personally had, or those shared with me in conversation with friends and colleagues. The world is increasingly becoming a global village, and I feel like race and diversity are such important and relevant conversations to our time. Some of the largest racially inspired protests in the U.S occurred during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. I recall seeing hundreds of persons lying on lawns yelling "I can't breathe" following the death of George Floyd, an African American man who was tragically killed at the hands of the Minneapolis police on 25 May, 2020. This was at a time when it was not even safe to congregate. I believe this shows that in the human psyche, there are certain causes that transcend the very threat of death, and as my story would suggest, racial injustice and love are two such causes.

*(continued on page 10)..*



***Generation Y:***

**How were you able to take key aspects of both Chinese and Dominican culture and mix it in so seamlessly in this wonderful piece?**

***Yakima July:***

What an accolade! I don't presume to know a lot about Chinese culture, but I think that as a writer you take certain risks and creative licenses and sometimes it just pays off! I am fortunate that this was such a case.

***Generation Y:***

**What do you hope readers will grasp from reading this short story, other than the exciting, forbidden romance of a young couple.**

***Yakima July:***

I hope that readers recognize the story as an appreciation for two very distinct, yet very rich cultures. I also trust that readers will be able to relate, even if they do not belong to one of the races identified. The reality is that true love can only thrive when two separate lives converge completely, celebrating the differences that cannot be changed and compromising where possible. I hope that my readers can identify with this.

***Generation Y:***

**Where can someone find more of your work?**

***Yakima July:***

You can find more of my work on my Facebook handle "Yakima July". Last year, I was shortlisted for the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival Short Story Prize, and my entry can be found on their website. One of my pieces was also recently selected for publication in The Caribbean Writer Magazine, and another piece is featured in a recently published compilation by Dominican Writers called 'Montage Domnik – New Stories and Poems from Dominica' which is available for sale at Jays Book Store for \$25 EC. I hope to publish a full length collection of my work in the near future.



# 5 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU'RE STUCK AT HOME AND SUPER BORED (FOR ADULTS)

Our Generation Y Dominica Gen - U - in Talk e- magazine caters to a wide range of readers outside of our **home island Dominica**. Shout out to our readers from all over the Caribbean like Antigua, St. Kitts, St. Lucia & Guadeloupe. May we also mention our international readers? UK, Canada, USA, France & all the way to China, **thank you for reading our short, easy to download and totally shareable e- magazine (please feel free to share some more!)**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we recognize that there's still a lot of indoor time going around for most of our readers.

So here's a little something to show our support in the face of all these new Covid -19 variants (**who can even keep track anymore**), and just in case we're stuck inside for a little while longer.

01

## READING

This is the easiest thing you can do. Reading a good book can make time fly by and before you know it the day is almost done. There's lots of interesting & educational books that you may have been wanting to read, but have been too busy to devour. Now's the perfect time!

02

## DIY PROJECTS

Another good use of time while home and bored is DIY (Do It Yourself) projects. These can range from something as simple as an arts project to fixing an actual problem on a section of the house (you know you've been meaning to repaint). Whatever it is, get engrossed in your own special project and keep going.



# A note for our super readers

THE FULL VERSION OF THIS WRITTEN BY ANDREA LOUIS IS AVAILABLE HERE  
<https://generationydominica.org/2021/03/26/5-things-to-do-when-youre-stuck-at-home-and-super-bored-for-adults/>

03

## GET SEXY FIT

There are two groups of people out there, people who work out, look hot and stay fit, and others who say they want to work out, look hot and stay fit. Don't be a procrastinator. Use the new abundance of time that you have on your hands to work up a sweat (it'll also help with the anxiety). Ease your way into the stay fit lifestyle by starting off light and easy and working your way up the progress bar.



Photo credit: Afrobella.com

04

## CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET

We're not talking about your secrets, we're talking about your actual closet. It's high time you did some pre Easter cleaning. How often do you complain to yourself that there's just so much work to do around the house but no time to do it all? Well, a few boring days at home is the perfect opportunity to get some, if not all of it done. You'll be glad you did!



05

## WATCH TV

This last one is one of the most entertaining things you can do when you're super bored at home. Unless you're like my good friend Anthony who's maxed out every series in his Netflix account, there's a lot of exciting new shows and documentaries out there, with more emerging each day. A handful of these shows are actually educational, plus watching TV is a great way to teleport yourself out of boredom and into the scenes unfolding before you.

**ESSENTIAL  
QUARANTINE  
TV SHOWS**

# Talisman

COLTON T

**IN STORES**

**May 17th**