

# Local film Joebell & America Captures culture, beauty of rural T&T



Handsome France-based actor **BRIAN GREEN** arrives in Puerto Rico as Joebell, complete with "Yankee" clothes and accent, and false passport and visa.

## **PETER RAY BLOOD**

**TOMORROW**, make sure your television set is tuned in to CCN-TV6 at 8.15 pm for the premiere of Joebell & America.

One of the best locally made movies I've seen, this film succinctly captures not just vivid images of rural T&T, but cultural vignettes of life in the country.

Watching the locations in Joebell & America evoked in me the emotions I felt the first time I saw the critically acclaimed Braveheart, and the manner in which director Mel Gibson captured the breathtaking beauty of the rolling hills of Scotland and England.

Joebell & America director Asha Lovelace was also successful in vividly depicting the activity in a seedy wappie room. Other strengths of the movie are its casting, music and cinematography.

Joebell & America is also ridiculously funny, with its director and camera crew striving for detail. Remember to look for the sign in the wappie room that warns players that credit is not available.

Shot on location in Lopinot, Joebell & America could aptly be renamed The Lovelace Bunch, as all its components are by its co-writer Earl Lovelace and his children.

Lovelace's daughter is credited as co-writer, producer and director, with sons Walt and Che being responsible for some nifty camerawork and editing, and production design and art direction, respectively.

Brian Green of Carnival Messiah fame, plays the lead role of Joebell. A young man from the country vil-



**GABRIELLE GELLINEAU** plays the lead female role of Alicia in Joebell & America. In the background **GRACE MAHARAJ** plays her mother.

lage of Cunaripo, he's filled with dreams, fancying himself as a Yankee and believing his destiny is to live in America, a land with over 100 TV channels, on air 24-7.

In pursuit of his dreams, Joebell takes his audience on a bumpy ride, which eventually lands him in a ticklish situation where he is forced to examine the things he holds dear to himself and to accept his true identity.

Playing opposite Green, as the love of his life Alicia, is the new and refreshing Gabrielle Gellineau.

Complimenting the new faces, the movie's stellar cast also brings together seasoned actors like Eunice Alleyne, Errol "Blood" Roberts and Grace Maharaj.

Based on a true story, Joebell & America has a cameo appearance

by the real life character and by Earl Lovelace himself.

In the music department, Joebell & America includes some truly beautiful tracks by 3Canal, Ataklan and even the late Lancelot Layne.

Media practitioner Eddie "Guna" Yearwood as the Mighty Licks, turns in a commendable role, with some well-delivered extempore kaiso.

Also on Sunday evening, on NBN-TTT, don't forget to catch 10-year-old singing sensation LeAndra Head on Hazel Ward-Redman's Centre Stage.

This amazingly talented child wowed Hugh Masekela and all in attendance at last Saturday's San Fernando Jazz Festival, opening for the South African headline act.