

## Meet the CEO



**Mr. Jimmy Savy**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Welcome

It has always been the wish of NAC to publish its own News Letter. The time is more opportune now to do so, as we are at a crossroad which obligates us to be more innovative in the ways we function and the ways we communicate. Effective communication and decimation of information are very important at this junction.

Although, NAC is already very active on its Facebook page, website, instagram and lately on YouTube, the council strongly believes in continuous and never ending improvement.

This newsletter, offers us an additional platform that complements the latter. We are now more organized to interact with our members, the various associations, the Arts Award laureates and our international counterparts.

We may be in a time of crisis, whereby Artists are facing difficulties to make ends meet. However this is also a time for reflection, a time to re-strategize, rebrand, innovate if we want to survive this moment, where COVID-19 have taken the world by the neck.

The platform will promote Artists, their aspirations, their work and their achievements. It is one, where we can exchange ideas and reflect on pertinent issues affecting the creative sector.

I take this opportunity to wish all Artists courage in this difficulty moment. Please continue to interact with us, as we here for you. It is you who makes us relevant. Prosperity will come again, and the mind has to be ready for it. COVID-19 will not last.

A special thank you to my team for your initiative to make this happen. Together we are strong. This is only the beginning of a beautiful journey.

## Welcome from the Editor

The National Arts Council of Seychelles is pleased to present it's first Newsletter.

This production comes in a time where the access to pertinent and factual information is crucial. During the COVID-19 NAC had noticed the great necessity of having publications and news coming directly out of the Council, and the hope is that this Newsletter facilitates this.

NAC's newsletter will convey the work the Council is doing and also allow us to showcase some of the local Artists from all art forms and their current ongoing projects, community development initiatives and much more.

The world is changing and our objective is to align our work and goals with those changes. To do so we have established a strong communication platform which should compliment each other accross the board, with our Social media platforms, revamped Website and our internal publications such as this one.

We hope this Newsletter closes the existing gap in communication between the general public, especially our artists who we aim to support and encourage their development.

Art is what makes the Seychelles culture what it remains to be, without it we have no culture. So, let's protect it together.

## Registration of Artists

A process which has been on-going at the National Arts Council of Seychelles is the registering of artists, so as to have a comprehensive database on all existing artists in the country.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, the Council has been encouraging and mobilising all artists in Seychelles from all art forms to register with NAC so that we have factual and up to date information available on local artists as the mandating body for arts.

Registration forms are available on the NAC website and at the office since the offset of the outbreak of the pandemic. This will facilitate the Council with contacting and offering

assistance to all artists in the future, specifically in unforeseen events such as the current pandemic.

The registration process is one that is ongoing and aims to register approximately 80% of all professional and semi-professional artists with the Council by the end of 2020.

All registered members will be given a membership card and number as a means of identification as an NAC affiliated artist. The statistics NAC gathers will also help in decision making and the formulation of policies in the future.

The hope is this initiative brings the sector a step closer to being the best it can be for the years ahead.

## Art tackling COVID-19

### Online Music Shop

The COVID-19 pandemic sprung onto the world at a time most unexpectedly. When the tourism sector got hit, the performing artists were the first to be laid off and for the artists who depended full on this activity for their well-being it immediately became a crisis.

In Seychelles this was no different as the arts industry involves mainly shows, public events, exhibitions and more.

This called upon a 'Call for Action', where NAC took the lead and conducted a series of consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders including arts associations, the Department of Culture, the Ambassador for Culture, CINEA, ESA and SCCI.

As such, this means that there is a need for artists to adapt to the 'new normal' and find alternative ways to practice their art with the aim of generating some income.

The National Arts Council is open to receive any project which is feasible and in which we are able to support so as to alleviate the arts industry from this crisis we have found ourselves in.

This project was presented to NAC by Mr. Gilles Lionnet who is a fellow Artist in Seychelles.

Mr. Lionnet's objective is for all musical artists to modernise and learn about alternative ways of selling their music such as online, where there is a wider market for their music.

The first training will be facilitated by Mr. Lionnet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2020 and any artists who are interested to participate can contact the council.

With the continuous aim of tackling the pandemic and also creating a new platform for artists to showcase and sell their art which in this case is their music, the National Arts Council of Seychelles will be encouraging and providing support for artists who wish to go digital.

The NAC welcomes other projects for other art forms and is readily available to provide assistance, guidance, knowledge and technical skills to successfully implement them.



# Visual Art Danny Sopha

Mr. Danny Sopha is a Visual Artist who was elected to participate in the 2020 Biennale of Contemporary Arts. He is also the Chairperson for the prominent Visual Arts Association 'SEYLAR'. His unique approach to art is to involve the audience directly to write their direct opinions of his art which is what he wanted to do for Biennale this year.

For the exhibition he wanted his art to have an effect on the viewers on a number of levels ; intellectually and aesthetically, but perhaps most importantly, spiritually and morally.

He hopes that people who sees this work will think about its various strands and the great deal of the human condition present in his work.

"All an artist can do is open possibilities and minds. I want the viewer to be able to comment on the work, how he/she feels about it and, perhaps, what inspiration can be found in my installation."



Ms. Joubert is well known as a performing poet in Seychelles. She has performed regionally in countries such as Mauritius, Reunion and South Africa.

She is currently the Chairperson of the Bling Bling Poetry Association and has contributed a lot in the development and promotion of the art of poetry in Seychelles. Apart from poetry, she is also an actress and a member of the Modesti Theatre Group.

"My vision is to see the art of poetry establish its place as one of the well respected art form in Seychelles."

One of her favourite poetic quotes is by poet Victor Hugo which says "A writer is a world trapped in a person."

## Literature Stephanie Joubert

# Fashion Johanna Didon

Ms. Didon's life in art began after NYS, where she followed a 3 year course at the Seychelles polytechnic and successfully completed her O' and 'A' level in fine arts. In January of 1991 she became an Art Teacher with the Ministry Education and developed as a teacher for 17years before devoting her life to being a fashion designer.

Early in December 2017 she launched her clothing fashion brand under the name 'KATITI SEYCHELLES'. She has designed wears for affluent pageants such as Miss Seychelles, Miss Regatta and Miss Creole. She has also participated in Accra Fashion Week in Ghana in 2018. She also participated in the first and second Seychelles Fashion Week of 2018 and 2019. Her participation in the Africa London Fashion week was a fruitful one where she successfully promoted Seychelles culture and her brand 'KATITI SEYCHELLES' through her designs.

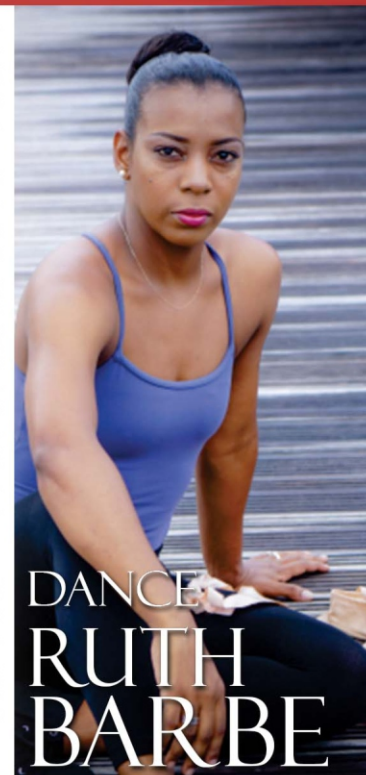
"I hope to be a well-known and established fashion brand both locally and internationally in the next 5 years. Without the willingness to work hard and put everything into a venture, business success is nearly impossible. Some great essentials to success is perseverance, passion, sacrifice, drive, devotion, willingness and determination but most of all, you have to love what you do."



Ms. Ruth Barbe has been dancing for 32 years. She started dancing with the National Conservatoire of Performing Arts at the age of 4 and at the age of 6 she passed her first dance exams. She moved on to become a teacher at a very young age.

She received a 3 years scholarship to attend the prestigious Academy in the west of Australia the "Western Australian academy of Performing Arts". After graduation she returned back to Seychelles where she taught dance as a Senior Dance Instructor, choreographer still at the National Conservatoire of Performing Arts with the School Of Dance at Mt fleuri and also teaching dance classes on Praslin. Ms. Barbe has been given opportunities to direct and choreographed events over the past few years, such as National day show, Cable and wireless Cable Tune Awards amongst others. In 2019 she won the Arts Award Dancer category.

"We are now in a very difficult time with Covid 19 pandemic. This will with no doubts make the path harder but do not quite, stay consistent and discipline. Hard time doesn't last, follow your dreams because making it real will be a lifelong accomplishment. Dance means freedom and it make a happier world!"



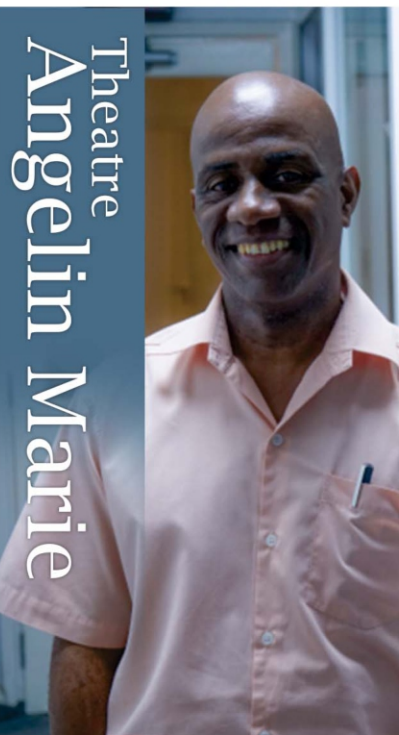
## DANCE RUTH BARBE



## Music Patrick Victor Cultural Ambassador

Passionate about his island's Culture and Art development, Patrick Victor's quest is forever taking him on a music business venture, whether National or International. Although, Patrick Victor is mainly known for his musical endeavours, the stage has always been his first love, his temple, where he is most at home directing or performing.

Patrick Victor focus like most Seselwa Artists is to see Seychelles Music and Art on the World's Chart. This versatile Artist has worked and collaborated on numerous regional and International projects. He is presently pre-occupied with the Moutya Revival, a form of Seychellois Music banned by the colonial powers in 1930's.



## Theatre Angelin Marie

Mr. Angelin Marie was born on October 1968 and attended Anse Boileau primary School for 9 years, where he discovered his artistic talent through his participation in drama productions organized by the school. He was among the few top poets to receive awards for his poems in the late 80s in Seychelles.

Mr. Marie was an actor in the National Theatre Troupe where the opportunity presented itself for him to attend the MASA Festival organized in Ivory Coast in mid 90s.

For the last 10 years Mr. Marie has been in a private drama group (Modesti Theatre) and produced a local drama yearly. He was the Chairperson of the Theatre Association of Seychelles (TAS) for 8years.

Nowadays transforming his writing, acting, directing and video editing skills into another good use. As a Television Programme Producer, he has now entered the world of film where he has produced two films for Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC).

"One of my greatest dreams is to direct a major concert which incorporates all genre of Arts. I dream that one day drama could make Seychelles proud internationally."