

Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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Living The Grey Shirt – Nesta “Sekon Sta” Boxill

Sekon Sta represents a new generation of soca artistes, the young, “BRAVE generation”, alongside Nailah Blackman and Erphaan Alves, set to take soca further than it has ever gone. His vocals are on point and this year, with the backing of his band “The Soca Squad”, he delivered a high-quality, entertaining set at Fatima’s All-Inclusive. He also entered the solo concert arena with “Sekon Sunday”, a successful, sold-out event.

We are lucky to get access to the young prolific songwriter and performer, the son of the late ‘Merchant’, right at the cusp of a huge international career.

Q How did you get the name Sekon Sta?

A The name Sekon Sta is basically a name I came up with to represent who I am and my feeling toward the industry. It’s a respect to my father, all letting me know that there are things more important in life than self, such as my duty to culture. It also definitely reminds me that God is first and everything else comes after that. And more recently, it also means that I am second to none. It’s a reminder that it’s easy

to become consumed with self and that you are nothing but a subordinate with a duty to the people, more so than self.

Q What is a typical year like for you? What happens outside of the Trinidad Carnival season?

A A typical year for me is constant travel, spending time with family, building up my brand, meeting with sponsors and stuff like that. And now planning for Sekon Sunday, which is going to be the second Sunday of every year.

Q Which of your songs over the years do you consider to be your biggest hit?

A I put out a lot of the songs and they have different impacts in different parts of the world. But for sure, ‘Kings and Queens’ in Trinidad and Tobago; ‘The Best’, ‘Aye Yo’ are definitely hits in Trinidad and Tobago... definitely songs that have been standing the test of times.

Q How did your father influence your career?



A That is a question that will take the entire day to answer. How does your father not influence every single aspect of your career? Definitely he was an entertainer and I followed in his footsteps. Let’s keep it as simple as that.

Q Your mom was always present in Fatima supporting you with anything Calypso-related. Is your mother still involved in your career?

A Yes, my mother was always present in Fatima not only for Calypso, but also for work related reasons to make sure that her child who gives a lot of trouble was not giving TOO much trouble. In terms of

my career, my mother is no longer as actively involved. I think I have passed what she is capable of providing for me, but she is always there supporting – always the most vocal. A mother will always be a mother – that can't change.

Q Did your time at Fatima College help in developing you and your career in a positive way? How?

A My time in Fatima helped me, and in a way saved my life, because I grew up with a lot of negative influences. I have a saying that where there are negative influences the deterrent must be stronger. And Fatima was a really strong deterrent. It also exposed me to the possibilities of life. It showed me brotherhood (although you won't truly understand the meaning of that brotherhood until you leave the school to be honest). And definitely, Fatima pushed me in a very positive way. It let me know that even though I could get distracted by the "bachannal", you need to spread that message of love, joy...and that there is a duty greater than self. Fatima Boys are Good Boys.

Q Which teachers had the most impact on you as a student?

A I don't know. I feel as though all my teachers, maybe some more than others, had a positive influence on me. I remember Mr. Joseph (Aloysius) was always influential and the thing I will always say about him (rest in peace) is that he was very fair. Sometimes when you gave trouble, he would let it pass but other times when you REALLY giving trouble, he would put you in your place. I apply that same philosophy to my life in that sometimes I will let things slide and allow people to do their thing and other times you make them face the consequences. However, at all times let people understand why they are facing the consequences and always be fair and not just be iron-fisted.

Q Do you do most of your songwriting?

A I don't really write, as in the sense of pen and paper. It mostly comes from the top of my head. But do I do most of it? Yes!

Q Is there really a "Soca Mafia"? Care to tell us more about this?

A I don't know if there was ever a soca mafia. I can say that no such thing can exist now in this era of social media. There are definitely cliques that exist where people check for each other, just like in any other workplace. There would be a

group of people who work better with each other. For example 1st floor would work better with each other than 2nd floor, etc. I won't say there's a soca mafia.

Q What is Carnival missing?

A Carnival is missing that authentic vibe. I think at this point in time it has pulled away from the streets and average persons making less money are not as involved because it's a little more expensive. But I see this slowly being addressed.

Q Rank your top 5 favourite local performers.

A Fatima College is not going to get me in any trouble because artists will see this and tote feelings so I am going to say.... Sekon Sta, Sekon Sta, Sekon Sta, Sekon Sta, Sekon Sta.

Q What was the highlight of this 2019 season? Any lowlights?

A The highlights of my season were Sekon Sunday and immediately after that Fatima Fete, because Sekon Sunday was a reflection of my mind, my thoughts and putting it on stage. And Fatima Fete, because it's always good to come back and give back to an institution that gave so much, and also for the mere fact that Fatima has one of the best fetes for the entire year. It's absolutely amazing. So hence why they would be my highlights. My lowlights, I don't think that they were any really, because for every negative there is a positive.

Q Tell us about Sekon Sunday. The positives and negatives and things to work on for 2020.

A Sekon Sunday was thrown up by Sekon Sta, the company, and Empire Entertainment. In terms of the positives and negatives, let's start with the negatives. There were some things that I could work on and make better. Just know that my customers, my audience, my patrons come first. So I would like to fix those things so that it would be the ultimate, ideal experience. The positives are that I now feel like I have a platform to provide for not only myself but also my peers; to highlight and give a stage to those who are looking for one. At the end of the day Sekon Sunday is the Best of Carnival at the Beginning of Carnival. Another positive is the audience turnout, because we were expecting 300 and we had to turn away more than 300 so that was a huge positive. Also, Empire was excellent at hosting the event. There were no complaints there. And also just to see the love that the people have for Sekon Sta is absolutely amazing, because it's not everyday you get to interact directly with your fans.

Q Any closing remarks for the Fatima College Community?

A Fatima boys are good boys. I don't think we really understand how powerful Fatima is as a community until we leave school. Fatima definitely changed my life. It changed my outlook on the world and definitely molded me for success. It gave me a winning mindset and really taught me that anything that you put your mind to through the power of God (and that part is the most important part) will happen.... It will change your life.

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Images from the Fatima 2019 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete, 'This is How It's Done' held on Saturday 23rd February







Photos courtesy **Focus and Warren Parris**. Visit the FOBA Facebook page or FOBA website for full albums

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Images from FOBA's 'Jus Bring It' Cooler Fete

held in collaboration with Kairi People, on Wednesday 23rd January at Salybia





#FatimaFlashback

GIVE US YOUR BEST FR. GREGORY QUOTE

"WHAT IS ALL THIS DEBRIS?!?!?"
(with headchops all around)

Stuart Rajkumarsingh

"Let me use your pen brother". 2 periods later, Fr Gregory "you got my pen? ... "
What pen oh this is my pen" lol classic.

Scott J Salandy Campbell, Class of 2008

"Debris" John Joshua Barkley "Debris!",
Class of 2011 (Form 5)

*BROTHER!! *epic back slap**
Travys Artyst, Class of 1999

"Will you boys be attending the frolic on Sunday?"
Osei Rigsby, Class of 2000 (Form 5),
2002 (Form 6)

"Brothers forming the coup! Please be quiet!" Victor Rodriguez, Class of 2006

"Collect your thoughts" while using his
knuckles to pound u on your head.

Gerard Gray

"Busta! These brothers are good lads and
I am sure what you are accusing them of
they did not do!" (Always gave the benefit
of the doubt)

Adi Dev Barkarr, Grad class of 2004 and
2006

"Brother...this is your pen??.....This is my
pen"He says in his gregorian way know-
ing very well it really was my pen.

Kerron Valere, Class of 2003 (Form 5), 2005
(Form 6)

"Simmer down"
Addae G, Class of 1996

Every scenario was *"Little Johnny and Little*
Susie...."

Anthony Jean-Paul Williams

“

....ooooo jenny is home pregnant,
you have no money for milk and
pampers, and have bills to pay.
That is why you could not do my
homeworkwell.....would the
jackass in the corner please be
quiet". Lol takes your pen and
walks off with it lol "

JESSE CARMINO, CLASS OF 2004

"Good day to all"
Sherrard Church, Class of 2004

"No, nonsense, rubbish" while staring at
you be not being able to make another
suggestion in confidence.
Damian Ramdin, Class of 95/97

"Fatima boys are good boys"
Fabrice Tilokee, Class of 2008 Form 5

WHAT'S YOUR BEST MEMORY OF PAST PRINCIPAL, MERVYN MOORE?

I clearly remember him on the grounds
with his beautiful wife and a few busy little
offsprings.

Rex Griffith, Class of 1963/64.

Mr. Moore was the Manager of the Fatima
Football team that toured Martinique. We
stayed in this little town called Francois. Mr
Moore was really caring on that trip. It was
the year after we won our first Intercol. Some
players were leaving school, while some of us
were staying on to play another year or two.
That was probably Fatima's first overseas tour.

Ed Reid, Class of 1966/1968

Convincing Mr. Moore to allow us Prefects a
day of rest and reflection, to which he agreed.
We ended up spending the day at Macqueripe.
He did send Mr. Clifford Roach to check up on
us halfway through the day, forcing some of
the non-Prefects, who broke biche to partici-
pate, to tread water out in the bay for about 30
minutes to avoid being seen.

Damon Hutchinson, Class of 1990 (Form 5),
1992 (Form 6)

I remember watching a football match and
Mr Moore was close by. He was arguing with
himself and with the Fatima goalkeeper be-
cause the keeper kept kicking the ball to far
upfield and in his opinion wasting control of
the ball. He was shouting and was so angry at
the keeper, it was almost like the keeper and
him were arguing. The joke was we were in
the pavilion and the Fatima keeper was by the
goal close to the main road.

Darryl Roach, Class of 1998 (Form 5)

Mr. Moore out in the blazing mid-morning sun
in the height of the dry season having a stern
word with the sprinklers about the state of the
grass (or lack thereof) on the quadrangle.

Rory Scully, Class of 96/98

His welcoming assembly announcing to us
new Form Ones how we were in the top 3%
of the island reinforcing what we already knew
but really building that confidence-level in us
to start our 5 or 7 yr journey.

Adi Dev Barkarr - Class of 2006

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Living The Grey Shirt – Ryan Pankar, Patrick Anthony Alexis and NUPHORIC

FATIMA ALUMNI, RYAN PANKAR AND PATRICK ANTHONY, BOTH GREW UP IN HOMES THAT LOVED MUSIC. THEY WERE WELL EXPOSED TO DIVERSE SELECTIONS OF AND IMMERSSED IN THE COLLECTING OF OF RECORDS AND CASSETTES SPANNING MANY ERAS.

Ryan, a St. James boy, got into the DJ game early in 2009 with the "Platinum Sound System" comprising other Fatima boys, playing the party circuit, especially around UWI. Over the years, he would traverse different groups and brandings with his reputation growing, becoming a regular at nightclub 510 and at Carnival parties. Finally, in 2011 Ryan's path would cross and merge with Patrick Anthony's, forming the big brand "Nuphoric" ("Life one beat at a time").

Patrick Anthony, also sharing a similar history of DJ-ing at University parties, but in Canada, toted his PC around, not being able to afford a laptop. Nuphoric was memorable, not just for their brilliance on the turn-tables, but for also giving birth to the "Hypeman". Patrick Anthony's voice could be heard from a mile away as the team brought the vibe and energy to many parties, fetes, weddings and corporate events, locally and internationally.

In 2017, after 6 years of bringing the hype to the brand Nuphoric, Patrick Anthony announced his departure. "Change is inevitable. The hype does not stop. It simply evolves."

Now, onto the next phase of their careers!



INTERVIEW WITH RYAN PANKAR

Q What years did you attend Fatima?

A 1993 - 2000

Q Which teachers inspired you?

A Straight out of the blocks in Form 1, Mr. Ramdass injected fear in most, as the Dean. And that in itself inspired me to do well in my school work. But the main teacher than inspired me over the course of my seven years at Fatima was my Form 6 Physics teacher, Mr. Garcia aka Frico.

Q Mr. Moore would have been the Principal during your time at Fatima. Share some fond memories of interactions with him if you can.

A Not only was Mr. Moore Principal during my time at Fatima, he was also my Form 4 Religion teacher. He always had an interesting story to share with us about his many life experiences.

Q Did you participate in Sports or extra-curricula activities in Fatima?

A I represented the school in Cricket at Under 14 level in Forms 1 & 2. I also played a lot of football during my time at Fatima but never represented the school.

Q Tell us about the foundational years of you becoming a professional DJ.

A In 1999 in Form 6 a group of us decided to start a DJ group aka Sound System, initially called Platinum and then changed to Titan Sound System. We pooled up whatever money we could to buy equipment and we would constantly have to purchase records to build our crates. I never took any DJ courses or had any professional training but instead was self thought through hours of practice behind the scenes. We would DJ mostly at house parties at that time, for free or minimal payment.

As we left Fatima, the brand started to grow and we began getting gigs at clubs such as Base, Pier 1, Anchorage, Tsunami, Liquid and even throwing our own parties. In 2004, Nicholas Pena and I branched off to form a new entity called XTC, which would go on to secure contracts with 51 Degrees, TRIBE, Jamboree and Island People to name a few.

Q What is the genesis of the name "Nuphoric"?

A Nuphoric is not an actual word but was created as a portmanteau of the words New and Euphoric. Coming on the heels of the DJ group XTC we wanted to encapsulate the same level of intense excitement and happiness in the name.

Q Did Nuphoric or a previous incarnation of it ever DJ at Fatima Mayfair?

A Titan played at Mayfair in 2001 and 2002. It was unfortunate that we didn't get the opportunity to play while still attending Fatima.

Q Are you able to maintain a living solely on entertainment?

A I worked as an Electrical Engineer from 2005 - 2016 while also DJing professionally. In 2016 I was forced with the difficult decision to choose one, as my travel schedule picked up in the DJ career. Since that time to now I have been comfortably maintaining a living solely on entertainment.

Q Have you ever reconsidered your career choice?

A There have been times when I considered giving up DJing to be a full time engineer, but it always boils down to sticking with your passion. As the saying goes "Follow your passion and you will never work a day in your life"

Q Nuphoric is popular in all seasons, for example, Carnival, wedding, Christmas. Is there an industry more financially sustainable for you than Carnival?

A Christmas period tends to be busy with corporate events and parties. However, there is no greater financially sustainable period than Carnival, just based on the sheer volume of events there are in such a short period.

Q How has the Nuphoric brand evolved since you started?

A Nuphoric was launched as a new entity after XTC was ended in 2011. The aim at that time was to launch a new brand with a fresh new face on the mic (Patrick Alexis) and to revolutionize the way music was delivered to the patrons at an event. From that time to now the Nuphoric brand has definitely evolved to being a household name not only in Trinidad but in other



parts of the world for various Carnivals and Caribbean rooted events.

Q What are your future plans for your business?

A My hope is that the Nuphoric brand will continue to evolve and build in Trinidad (especially with the younger crowds), while also continuing to build outside of Trinidad. It is also my goal to seriously dive into music production this year and hopefully gain some momentum in the music industry going into Carnival 2020.

Q What is your advice to present Fatima students who may be interested in pursuing a career in entertainment?

A I would say: always push for a foundation in academics as a backbone. That being said, if you have a dream of pursuing a career in entertainment don't be afraid to go after it - especially if it is your passion. Always have patience, especially in the entertainment industry as it may take a while to climb the ladder to success.



INTERVIEW WITH PATRICK ANTHONY ALEXIS

Q What years did you attend Fatima?

A 1993-2001

Q What academic subjects were you good at?

A Spanish, Business, English literature.

Q Were you active on the house party scene back in Fatima days?

A Lol! Not at all. I had strict parents. No liming, no parties, just school.

Q Were you a hype man in Fatima?

A Lol! Most definitely not. Because of my parents it was work, more work, then lessons, then some more work before bed... and no TV during the week, unless Michael Jordan was playing.

Q What does it take to be a professional Hype Man?

A Same thing it takes for any profession: belief in oneself when others do not, persistence, dedication to one's craft, desire to become better at what you do, commitment as a key to succeed.

Q Do you practice your craft or does it come naturally?

A To be honest, at the beginning it was pure love, fun and energy. No structure, purely impromptu...just pumping on the stage to bring happiness to others. It started basically as just a hobby that became a professional hobby that evolved into a career. As you get older in your field, you will want to improve on your craft to evolve, to become better, learn new techniques. So now I say I must continuously learn if I want to stay competitive in my field

Q Are you able to maintain a comfortable living solely on the entertainment industry?

A Yes, yes and yes. I have been blessed to be good enough at my job that I have been able to fly the world to do it. I do radio, television, endorsements such as Heineken. There is money to be made if you willing to work hard at your craft .

Q Describe a challenge you've faced in the entertainment industry?

A The first challenge was definitely being accepted into the DJ fraternity. I had no experience, but just pure desire to do the job. It was a hard first year. No one liked my voice, they could not understand why I was so excitable and hype. But I stuck with it and remained true to my style and eventually I was accepted into the fraternity.

Q In terms of your business, describe what a typical year is like for you? (Christmas season, wedding season, carnivals around the world, Trini Carnival, etc.).

A The year starts with Trinidad Carnival which is crucial for the international bookings that will follow. Just like an artiste trying to have a hit for Carnival so that they can be booked internationally after Carnival, it works the same for DJs and MCs. This year I'm doing Guyana, Bermuda, Bahamas, Barbados, St Lucia, Jamaica, London, New York, Miami. I will do weddings when I am available but it's hard to lock down weddings with a busy travel schedule. December is definitely corporate month for Christmas office parties which are very important to a MC's calendar year. And, of course the parties in between. This year I am heading back to Dubai and Australia for the first time.

Q Why did you leave Nuphoric?

A Nuphoric was my first job, the first DJ company I worked for. Just with any other job, I reached a point where I felt it was time for me to walk my own line and discover my own potential. And so I did. I travelled the world, honing my craft, learning how to work with DJs from all over the world. And now in 2019, we both grew in our different directions and bring more value to our mutual efforts.

Q How has your brand evolved since you started in Nuphoric?

A When I first started with Nuphoric eight years ago, I had no experience, never spoke on a mic, never been in front of thousands of people in a public speaking forum. Today, with years of experience and always pushing the edges of my potential, I am able to perform my job at the highest level, with the confidence and capability to entertain thousands.

Q During seasons like Carnival, when you have scores of events across a couple weeks, how do you maintain your energy level?

A Lol! Nothing can beat sleep to keep one's voice and energy. Taking care of my voice by drinking tea, honey, staying hydrated. And trying my best to keep physically fit (but truth be told, I hate exercising!).

Q What are your future plans?

A To continue to push my craft to the limit, discover new crowds to entertain across the world, to continue to be an ambassador of Soca and also to discover new hobbies to keep my life balanced, interesting and fun.

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Images from FOBA's, 'Splash On Land – The Cooler Event'

held in in collaboration with St. Francois Girls College Alumnae and St. Joseph's Convent Port of Spain Past Pupils Association, on Wednesday 27th February.



#FatimaFlashback

WHAT'S THE FURTHEST YOU TRAVELED IN THE LEGENDARY FATIMA BUS?

Driving down to Fyzabad and Barrackpore with the U19 cricket team to play a couple games....

Vijay Sawh, Class of 1991/93

As a bruiser playing football for Masters in the early 1970s. - **Peter Prospere**

We went to Paria Falls on a hike. Anyone who was on that bus remembers *"Shut up Ayne!"*

Lol - **Ian Reid**

Barrackpore with the First Eleven cricket team. **Robert Wickham, Class of 1985**

Flying Fish Swimming Club

Adi Dev Barkarr - Class of 2006

U-16 Colts football team drive to Toco for practice match against Toco Composite during July-August pre-season training. Coach Gibbons was in charge then. We had a Police encounter on that drive; no details of that in this forum, sorry.

Damon Hutchinson, Class of 1990 (Form 5), 1992 (Form 6)

Furthest with the Fatima bus was with Mr Moore driving when we went to Granville for a Fatima and Friends football. I also went with Fatima and Friends to Cedros, San Fernando and I think Mayaro as well. Having Mr Moore driving was a wonderful exciting experience-basically my first experience on a roller coaster. Lol.

Darryl Roach, Class of 1998 (Form 5).

Matura....to see leatherback turtles.

Richard Burgess, Class of 1988/90

Retreat at Memisa Centre in Arima.

Rory Scully, Class of 1996/98



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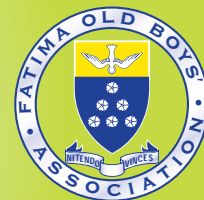
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