

# PRESS RELEASE

FROM ABAN PRODUCTIONS – OCTOBER 30, 2013

## “GARIFUNA IN PERIL” TO SCREEN IN DETROIT METRO AREA NOVEMBER 9th & 16th

The dramatic feature film “Garifuna in Peril”, produced and directed by Alí Allié and Ruben Reyes, will screen in Birmingham at the Uptown Film Festival on Saturday, **November 9 at 12:45pm**, and in Midtown Detroit at the Charles Wright African American Museum on Saturday, **November 16th at 4pm**. The later showing is presented in partnership with the Belize Garifuna Cultural Organization of Michigan and features a Q&A with co-director Reyes. For details see websites [www.uptownfilmfestival.com](http://www.uptownfilmfestival.com) or [www.thewright.org/upcoming-events](http://www.thewright.org/upcoming-events).



The film follows the journey of a Garifuna language teacher Ricardo (played by Ruben Reyes) in Los Angeles as he struggles to be a good father, husband and brother while taking responsibility to preserve his native language, traditional culture and community lands against the expansion of tourism. Ricardo’s plans to build a Garifuna language school on the north coast of Honduras become complicated by the expansion plans of a tourist resort in the area and personal betrayal by a family member pushes him to travel to Honduras and directly confront land issues in tandem with his educational mission. Meanwhile, Ricardo’s son Elijah (played by E.J. Mejia, Jr.) rehearses a theater play dramatizing an episode from the life of Garifuna Paramount Chief Joseph Satuyé and his last stand against the British army on the island of St. Vincent in the late 18th century.



“Garifuna in Peril” is the first feature film in Garifuna, a language proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The Garinagu (plural of Garifuna) are considered indigenous to the Americas, their culture and language arising from the mixture of African and indigenous Caribs and Awaraks on the island of San Vicente, located north of Venezuela. After successfully thwarting British attempts to colonize the island for over 150 years, they were finally defeated and exiled from the island in 1797 and now live in the coastal regions of Central America.



The film originally premiered at the London Latin American Film Festival last year and since then it has shown all over the United States and at film festivals in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Tanzania, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia, winning several awards. The producers recently toured the film in Belize, Honduras and Guatemala.



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### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Year of production: 2012

Duration: 99 minutes

Country of Origin: Honduras and the United States

Languages: Garifuna, English and Spanish  
(subtitled in English)

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### CONTACT AND PRESS MATERIALS

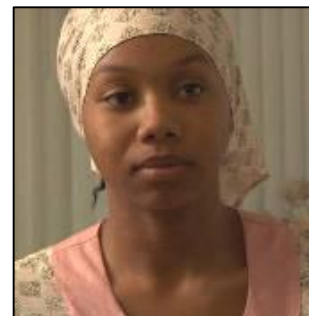
Contact: (310) 954-7137

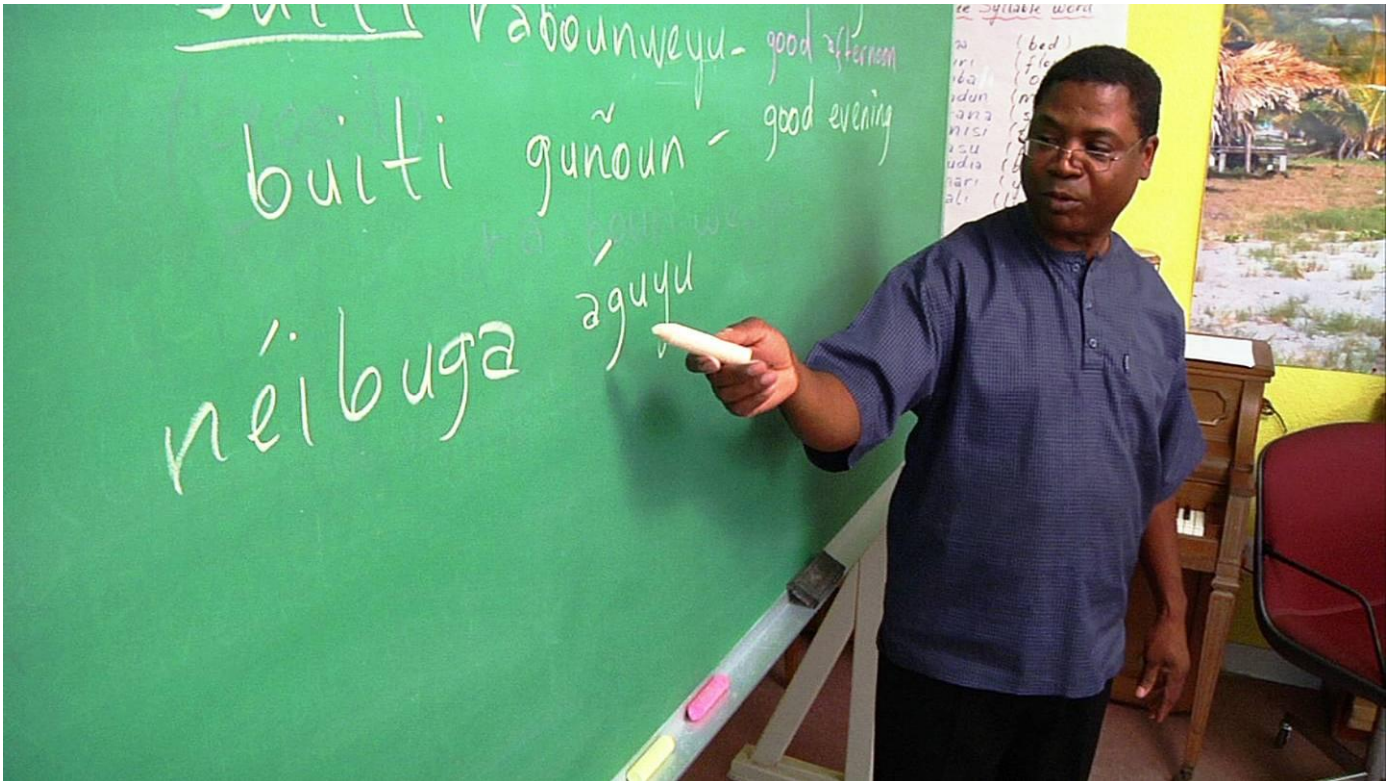
[press@garifunainperil.com](mailto:press@garifunainperil.com)

Website: [www.garifunainperil.com](http://www.garifunainperil.com)

Kit & Photos: [www.garifunainperil.com/press](http://www.garifunainperil.com/press)

Facebook: [www.fb.com/GarifunaInPerilMovie](http://www.fb.com/GarifunaInPerilMovie)





Ricardo, the Garifuna language teacher (played by Ruben Reyes)



Chief Joseph Satuyé and his wife Barauda (played by E.J. Mejia, Jr. and Khalia Davis)

## ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

### Alí Allié (Writer/Producer/Director)

Alí Allié is an independent filmmaker and cinematographer living in Los Angeles, California. Allié's initial foray into the world of Garifuna culture began when he worked as a volunteer in an orphanage in Honduras run by a Garifuna man. A few years later, Allié returned to La Ceiba, Honduras to direct the first feature film relating to Garifuna culture and spirituality, "El Espíritu de mi Mamá" (Spirit of my Mother) which told the fictional story of a Garifuna woman's spiritual journey of re-identification with her own culture. This film showed at many prominent film festivals and is in wide release.

### Ruben Reyes (Writer/Producer/Director)

Ruben Reyes, a Garifuna scholar and educator, is the top trilingual expert in the Garifuna language and has a vast knowledge of Garifuna culture and history. He has taught Garifuna language classes in Los Angeles and has guest lectured at universities across the United States. In addition to designing the Garifuna clock and flag emblem, he has translated the national anthems of Honduras, Guatemala and the USA into the Garifuna language. He edited the first Garifuna trilingual dictionary (Garifuna-English-Spanish) which was published in 2012. He is a founding member of the Garifuna Hope Foundation and the Garifuna Museum of Los Angeles.

