

PRESS RELEASE

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“GARIFUNA IN PERIL”

SCREENS IN SOUTH SIDE CHICAGO AT ENGLEWOOD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The dramatic film “Garifuna in Peril”, produced by Honduran Garifuna Ruben Reyes, and Ali Allie of the United States will be presented at the Englewood International Film Festival on Saturday, October 26 at 4:45pm at Chatham 14 Theater, 210 W. 87th Street.



The film follows the journey of a Garifuna language teacher Ricardo (played by co-director 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 invasion 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.) rehearsals a play dramatizing an episode from the life of Garifuna Paramount Chief Joseph Satuye and his last stand against the British 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 expelled from this island in 1797 and now live in the coastal regions of Central America.

The film originally premiered at the London Latin American Film Festival in November 2012. Since then, it has been shown in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Tanzania, Belize, Guatemala and Colombia. It won three awards in the United States at the Boston International Film Festival, Arizona International Film Festival and WorldFest Houston.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Year of production: 2012 Duration: 99 minutes
Country of Origin: Honduras and the United States
Languages: 55% Garifuna, 30% English, 15% Spanish (subtitled in English)
Written, produced and directed by: Ali Allie and Ruben Reyes
Additional Dialogue Writer: William Flores



CONTACT AND PRESS MATERIALS

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



Chief Joseph Satuye 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.

