

EXPRESS  
**WOMAN**  
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## The new face on TV6

FOR YEARS viewers have seen her on the set of a competitor station, but she recently switched gears and is now the new co-anchor on the TV6 7 p.m. newscast.

And Desha Rambhajan is quite the package... professional, knowledgeable and all business.

And to hear her tell it she is certainly loving this new gig.

The attractive and articulate news anchor admits to being a great admirer of the journalistic skills of CNN's Robin Meade and Hala Gorani, and cautions viewers to not mistake her shyness for aloofness.

The graduate of the University of Toronto and Ryerson University opened up to writer Kimberly Castillo and revealed a lot about herself which the public never knew... but which they do now.

They are doing it all over the world, these entrepreneurial Trinbagonians who contribute to Trinidad and Tobago by telling, and in most cases showing the international community our favourable attributes. Some do so through music, culture and food and former model Beverley Gabriel, now Frederick, is no exception. She is spreading the word of T&T by introducing foreigners in England to our unique Trini flavours.

The wife and mother of two, started with cakes and has now branched off into a full fledged business with her line of condiments, "Tantie Lorraine".

Her wedding cakes, pepper sauces, jellies and chutneys are doing so well that her lime pepper relish was awarded a Gold Star at the Guild of Fine Foods 2013 Great Taste Awards, a prestigious event open to food producers worldwide.

She tells writer Jovan Tobas how she caught the business bug and how she let it fly.

There are some men who are just plain adventurous; there is just no stopping them. And when you find a man willing to explore and discover new countries and cultures and thinks nothing of jumping on a plane to Kenya, Egypt, Rwanda or England to name a few, you know there is an adventurous spirit lurking within that individual that cannot be contained.

Tian Watson is such an individual and the subject of this week's When Men Speak.

Enjoy and remember just one more thing, be kind to each other.

Editor  
Angela Martin

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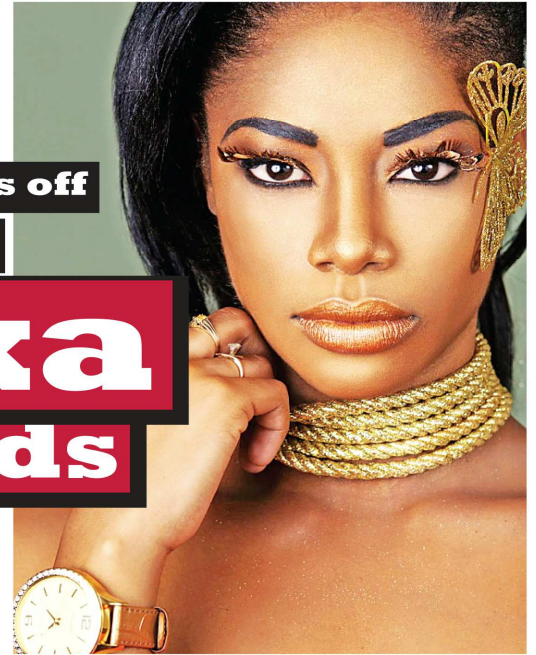
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This model shows off

the artistry of

**Onika  
Edwards**

on Pages 8 & 9



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Looks created by Onika Edwards

**ONIKA EDWARDS**

**FROM THE CORPORATE LADDER TO  
COLOUR PALETTES**

By Nicole S Farrell

**S**he embodies a cheerful spirit that can put any client at ease. But although still a 'baby' in the business of make-up artistry, Onika Edwards who only began professionally just shy of three years ago, has certainly made strides.

Hers is not a fairytale of having always loved make-up where she fantasised about becoming a successful make-up artist. In fact, her desired career path was far removed from the world of make-up. "I fell into it. It was not in the books," she says.

The Sacred Hearts Girls' and Bishop's Centenary College alumna, had planned to climb the corporate ladder and with that in mind, she went on to acquire an Associate Degree in Operating Systems Management, followed by a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computing. Eventually, she obtained certification in Event Management and a Master's Degree in International Business. The 33-year-old is also proficient in web design and graphics. She pursued one course locally, however, schooling for her Master's Degree saw her braving the bitter cold in England.

"I was the only black girl. I had classmates from all over the world. Even the way they prepared group projects was so distinctly different – and I was the one left with the task of putting everything together." She rolled her eyes. "I hated group projects!" she says jokingly.

While she now applies her corporate-type training to her make-up business, while she was studying in England, she had to learn to not apply her bad habits that she cultivated in Trinidad. "I once went looking for an apartment and the appointment was for 10 o'clock. All after 10, I was like, 'Oh, it's fine. We'll reach.' I got there about quarter to 11 and no-one was there! I was like, 'What?!' I had the 'Trini time' mentality. I was even locked out of a class once for being five minutes late!"

Returning to Trinidad, a friend's request changed Edwards' focus and her life. Her friend needed a make-up artist at the last minute and she turned to Edwards for her skills. Edwards recalled the exchange. "I laughed! I said, 'What makes you think I can do your make-up?' and



Onika Edwards.  
Photos: Ishmael Salandy

she said, 'Well, if you can do your make-up, you can do mine!' She obliged and that changed everything. She was subsequently tutored by well-known beauty professional, Ephraim Hunte. "I don't believe in doing things half-way. I am not opposed to learning. I have gotten advice from other make-up artists, some people who have been in the business for many, many years." She is now extremely skilled at several types of make-up and eyelash applications, including creative Carnival make-up.

After a friend advised her to do a portfolio, she put the wheels in motion. Developing herself, she fortunately received assistance from many heavyweight individuals and entities in the associated industries like Marlon Grant, David Foster, ISLANDpeople and Tribe. Apart from doing make-up, she worked events, including the concert featuring John Legend and Rihanna several years ago. "I used to say to myself, 'Hmm, yuh doing an IT Degree but doing events!'"

Edwards has also provided her services for such film projects as *A Story About Wendy* and *Escape From Babylon*; she was the head make-up artiste for the film project, *Jab In The Dark*. Her credits also include make-up services for local commercials for major corporations.

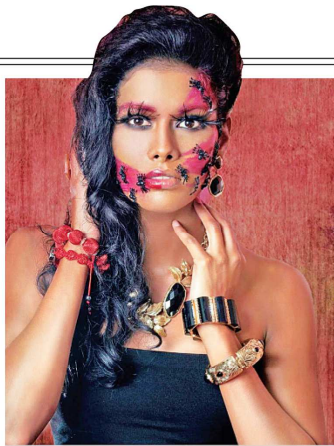
One thing she has learnt is that some people will always have a warped perception of you, whoever you are. "My father would always say, 'Don't treat the cleaner like a cleaner'. I would always ask what that meant. One day while at a mall overseas, I was reading a book and a cleaner passed and said that was a good book. I was like, 'Okaaaaay...' I'm a friendly person so we struck up a conversation. I found out that she had a degree but couldn't get a job. She told me that it was either stay at home or find something and make money."

A time also came when Edwards herself was dealt that card by some young women. While at a gig with a friend, during some down-time, some girls in the room started talking about their educational accomplishments, and according to Edwards, they were essentially 'throwing words' at her and her friend, who was well qualified like Edwards. "People think that make-up artists aren't educated people. It's as if they couldn't do anything better, so they're doing make-up. Not every make-up artist has a degree but many are well educated."

Another lesson she learned was to refrain from comparing herself to other make-up professionals. "How could I be in make-up for four months and compare myself to someone in it for eight years?"

"Many people are brand-oriented but it's not about the brand. It's about the technique, how well you can use the product." She shared some advice for women. "Get foundation that matches your face and even neck, not your hand! Test it on the jaw line. Your concealer should be at least one shade lighter than your skin tone and a colour corrector can be used for dark circles. Always be





true to your skin tone. In order to have long-lasting make-up, primers are important." While she admitted that Milk of Magnesia was a good remedy for controlling facial shine, she said, "You really shouldn't use it every day because it can clog up your pores after a while. Just use oil-absorbing strips instead to control shine.

"If you have to touch-up your powder, use a brush and not a sponge as the brush holds less product, and so, you won't end up with a caked look after time. Just blend, blend, blend.

"If you're into make-up for the glam, you won't last long. Put in the work! It means eating out less, partying less. There will be times when you're wondering 'why isn't my phone ringing?' and then there will be times when it can't stop ringing. Also, remember that it's not always that someone simply won't hire you. Many times people form relationships with their make-up artist. So even if you make them up because their person wasn't available or whatever, they will go back to the other person."

"At the end of it all, I just want to give you ...a smoother, pristine version of you!"

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