



### **EMA Youth Ambassadors to host first Eco-Concert**

“We are the Environmental Management Authority’s Youth Ambassadors (YAs) and we are ready to take the public by storm.” These are the words from one of the EMA’s young environmental enthusiasts, Shahad Ali as he prepares for the first eco – concert in Trinidad and Tobago entitled “**OMG – Orient My Generation**”. This concert for the environment will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 6pm at Queens Hall.

The EMA Youth Ambassadors is a group of young, eager, environmental aficionados who have emerged from the various EMA educational programmes, such as the Secondary School’s Dramatic Envirologue Competition and the Environmental Youth Workshop.

Since 2008, the EMA’s annual youth workshop has been successful in educating and informing young people about environmental management issues in Trinidad and Tobago. The result – a group of fifty, talented youths dedicated to portraying their perspective on local environmental issues. Their mission is to encourage and influence peers, to think and act in an environmentally responsible manner. While they utilize educational tools such as video productions, posters, arts and crafts, song and dance, their primary vehicle for education is theatre, since it allows the audience to see and learn about important linkages to the environment.

EMA’s Managing Director/CEO, Dr. Joth Singh, spoke highly of its youth arm, “Our Youth Ambassadors operate with the support and guidance from the EMA. We believe that the key to changing negative attitudes towards the environment is public education, and these youths have been taking our messages far and wide, even via social media ...” Dr. Singh added that “Changing behaviour starts with early education and involvement, and our educational programmes allow for greater involvement and increased awareness among the youth in Trinidad and Tobago.”

Over the years the Youth Ambassadors have produced exceptional, informative, dramatic pieces that speak to local environmental issues such as: Biodiversity, sustainable development, the environmental impacts on the Northern Range and ‘green’ living among other topics. Their creativity also involves incorporating local culture by including elements of Carnival, as one of their pieces is called “Band of the Year,” and local folklore into their dramatic representations.

#### **So what can you expect at O.M.G., The Concert?**

The YAs are planning a fun-filled evening packed with a compilation of their entertaining and educational dramatic pieces. This unique eco-experience will be hosted by Terrin Callender, also known by the sobriquet **SuperJigga TC** and also includes a special performance by him as well.

Apart from the dramatic presentations, the costumes and stage props were also created by the Youth Ambassadors and some of the pieces were written by the Youth Ambassadors themselves with guidance from the Brown Cotton Theatre Ensemble. Some of their pieces include: **The Last Tree in the Northern Range, Halfway Green and Sustainable Livelihoods – Green Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** among others.

Dr. Singh said, “that educational awareness through the arts and theatre provide an opportunity for the Youth Ambassadors to showcase and develop their various skills in either designing costumes, writing scripts, and learning social skills such as team work and confidence. They are well on their way to becoming future environmental leaders.”

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, O.M.G., The Concert, would be the first of a series of educational programmes to be executed by the EMA in 2012.

***Courtesy the Environmental Management Authority***