

HIT FOR SIX!

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID ABOUT THE FILM:

- “It’s a hit for more than six” ZIA of the *Antigua Sun*
- “A tribute to our Caribbean culture through dialect, song and glorious sound of bat on ball...” Nigel Wallace of *The Advocate*
- “...capturing the ‘real spirit and atmosphere’ of Caribbean cricketthe colour and beauty of the region captured in the scenes....all involved in the production and premiere of this feature film about a Caribbean passion could take a bow.” Gercine Carter of *The Nation*
- “It raises the bar for local film production and opens a window of opportunity for the international release of films.” Phil Harden, Managing Director of Olympus Theatres
- “...this movie explores themes of forgiveness, jealousy and spiritual renewal ...a gem we can truly call our own...” Ian Best of *CaribbeanCricket.com*
- “I was drawn by the action and the emotion and the cricket...” Hudson Husbands of Tourism Global Inc.
- “Good camerawork is complemented with a lovely score by Grammy Award nominee Nicholas Brancker and full marks must go to Mrs. Saunders-Franklyn for making this bold step to expose the inner world of cricket culture to the fans of the game in the Caribbean and the wider world.” Ian Best of *CaribbeanCricket.com*
- “Tonight we saw a presentation of that which all of us have been hoping and wanting and dreaming about, for our life as an independent nation....simply that our story must be told.” Hon. Mia Mottley, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados
- “I think the world is going to receive it warmly. Maybe no one has ever depicted so clearly what is depicted in this movie and what I like about it as well, is that it shows a new dimension of cricket.” Rawle Brancker, Cricket Legend of Barbados
- “....an exciting controversial movie with some fantastic scenes of the calypso cricket....” Nari Karnani, Proprietor of Galleria Mall



Alison Saunders-Franklyn The Journey

From as far back as 1994, when Alison was doing an MBA project based on a business plan for a Caribbean film company, she knew she wanted to make feature films.

A stint as a consultant to the West Indies Cricket Board enabled Alison to become acquainted with many people in the cricketing world, and to reflect on some of the issues facing WI cricket. She had been advised that one should write about "an exotic world that you know", and thus decided that, as the cricketing world was definitely "exotic" and well established on the international scene, her first film would be about cricket. But whilst she would draw on her personal experiences, Alison intended that the story be fictional and inspirational to give hope to the legions of aspiring West Indian cricketers and fans.

In 2003, Alison shared her ideas with Dr Basil Springer who had been her mentor when she started her first business, the PR firm Saunders-Franklyn Associates (now SFA Communications Inc). Basil was very enthusiastic about Alison's plans, and his organization, Caribbean Business Enterprise Trust, was subsequently contracted to produce a business plan for Hit for Six! But Basil's involvement did not stop there, as Co-Executive Producer he became a true partner in the venture and along the way brought other professionals on board through CBET and his network of contacts.

In 2004, whilst attending a two-month writing and directing course at The Metropolitan Film School in London, Alison produced a short film of the back-story to Hit For Six! focusing on the relationship between the young Alex Nelson, just 17 and still at public school in the UK, and his cricket icon father. The film was well received at its screenings at The Clapham Picturehouse in London and the African and Caribbean Film Festival in Barbados giving Alison the confidence to proceed to the next level – her feature film.

The biggest challenge facing Alison and Blue Waters Productions, the company she formed in 2005, was the fund-raising. Their plans were initially met by disbelief because a film with this kind of budget - sizeable to the local business community but small by international film standards - had never been made in Barbados. High profile launches for potential investors, donors and sponsors were held in Barbados, Trinidad, New York and Washington. And the work on the business plan paid off as it demonstrated that considerable research had been done and that a business-like approach was being taken to the financial planning aspects of the project.

The earliest partnerships were formed with two vital supporters: Merville Lynch Productions who provided the camera equipment, and Creative Junction supplier of the lighting and other equipment. Their support gave Blue Waters Productions the confidence to commence shooting while other funds were still being sought. Gradually commitments were received from donors, the first being the Cultural Action Fund of Barbados; and sponsors, the first local one being Hanschell Inniss; and Grace

Kennedy of Jamaica, the first regional. The faith of these early supporters, who were prepared to be the first to sign up and give confidence to others, is incalculable.

Alison took every opportunity to learn as much as she could about the film-making business attending courses, reading books for independent film-makers, reading scripts online and, of course, watching movies. Her efforts took her to a Scriptwriter's Showcase at Universal Studios, Hollywood, where she met industry professionals from around the world, some of whom are now part of her global support network. She has also met with production executives at Disney Studios and BBC Films in LA; and visited Mumbai, home of Bollywood in India, where she was able to engage a sales agent to represent Hit for Six! in the Indian market.

Meanwhile, pre-production on the film commenced in the summer of 2006 buoyed by an atmosphere of enthusiastic and generous support from individuals and the business sector who, aside from financial contributions, enabled Blue Waters to use their locations, products and services. Likewise, the support of the cricketing community, especially the West Indies Cricket Board, World Cup Barbados, the Cricket Legends of Barbados, and the many cricket teams who appear in the film, was invaluable - the film could not have been made without them.

Principal photography took place over six weeks from the beginning of October 2006. Some scenes were shot in January 2007, but the final scene was not shot until mid-February when the construction of the last location, the new Kensington Oval cricket stadium, was completed. Editing (picture and sound), however, had already begun at the beginning of January and was completed to an impossibly tight schedule by early March when the film was sent up to DuArt in New York where the final mix, colour-correcting and transfer to 35mm film were to be completed.

But Alison's long-held dream – to make a feature film, about cricket, and to have it shown during the Cricket World Cup 2007 – became a splendid reality when the World Premiere of Hit for Six! took place on 18th April 2007 at the Olympus Theatres in Barbados.



Statement By
The Right Honourable Owen S. Arthur
Former Prime Minister of Barbados

As Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to Blue Waters Productions and to the writer/director/executive producer of "Hit For Six!", Alison Saunders-Franklyn, on this tremendous accomplishment. She has taken her vision and, with the help of a team of professionals from throughout the region and beyond, has made it into a reality in which the entire world can now share.

Cricket has helped to define the people of Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean for decades. And, like the universal language of love, this game has united millions of fans across the continents. Indeed, the production of "Hit For Six!" bears testimony to what can happen when the people of the Caribbean come together and work to unleash their full potential; we see the kind of entrepreneurial energy released that I have believed, has been bottled up in our people for far too long.

It is no secret that cricket is a game about which I feel very passionate. I am therefore extremely heartened to see it themed in "Hit For Six!" in a way that captures the legacy of the West Indies team and reflects the true spirit of the game. The endorsement offered by the Cricket Legends of Barbados, as evidenced by the members' cameo appearances in the film, speaks volumes to the integrity of the movie. The music of the Caribbean - its infectious rhythms, pulsating beats and cool relaxing melodies - certainly adds to the cultural experience that those viewing this film are never likely to forget.

The making of "Hit For Six!" has accessed a regional and international pool of capital and skills that go well beyond the boundaries of this film. I applaud the investors, sponsors and donors who have supported this venture. It is my wish that this project will signal a new dynamic era of Barbadian and indeed, Caribbean film making. I am pleased to learn that the producers wish to share their experiences with others who have an interest in this industry.

The Barbados Government has placed the development of the cultural industries like film high on our agenda because of the potential to earn foreign exchange and the industries' reliance primarily on our unique resources that exist here in abundance. I refer to the creativity and talent of our people, the beauty of our scenery, our rich culture and endearing stories. We do also recognize the importance of finance and technical skills in the development of our film industry and in this regard, we will continue to seek ways to support our film makers in these areas.

To the writer/director, producers, investors, cast and the crew, and to those of you who have committed to sharing in this vision, I say congratulations on your bold initiative. Barbados is proud to have been the birth place of this exciting Caribbean product called "Hit For Six!"

HIT FOR SIX!



Blue Waters Productions Inc focuses on producing film and video and is a subsidiary of Saunders-Franklyn Associates (SFA) Inc, one of the Caribbean's leading public relations and public education firms. SFA Inc is also considered *the* Caribbean firm for public relations, promotions and events related to cricket.

The company has a strong track record of producing quality video and audio productions over the decade of its existence.

The company has produced public service announcements, narrative drama, documentaries and short corporate features for television. The firm has also developed strong event management and coordination skills so applicable to film production, having worked closely with major sporting and entertainment events such as the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 award of matches and the Barbados Jazz Festival.

Blue Waters Productions has assembled the best regional talent in filmmaking for this project.

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HIT FOR SIX!

CSME (Caribbean Single Market Economy) and the Diaspora at work

When director Alison Saunders-Franklyn decided she wanted to use the best Caribbean talent that existed in the world both behind and in front of the camera, she was serious. This quest took her far and wide.

This led to “cold calling” several people she did not know personally and surprisingly they were all interested. “In some cases, scheduling did not allow some people to participate but it is amazing the number of professionals of Caribbean birth or ancestry who are working in the industry at the highest levels,” Alison observes. “For example, did you know that the cameramen on “The Da Vinci Code” and “Inside Man” were both Caribbean people?”

One such person who agreed to be a part of “Hit For Six!” on the first phone call was British-based Trinidadian actor Rudolph Walker. Alison recalls that Rudolph liked the story pitched on the phone and was just thrilled that a film like this was finally being done in the East Caribbean. He subsequently read the script and put off a holiday trip to shoot on the film in Barbados for two weeks.

Similarly, Erik Knight, the production designer from New York is proud to be the son of a Bajan. Erik has visited Barbados every year since he was a child but never knew of anyone there who shared his passion for making movies. “Through the mother of a friend, I got the number that I thought was for Erik’s dad and it turned out to be Erik’s number and he answered the phone. I had much the same response as I did with Rudy and we soon had a very talented production designer on board,” Alison notes with satisfaction.

Erik has worked on very large films as art department coordinator and is a director in his own right. “Erik spent four grueling days with me in Barbados helping me to choose every location and then sent back reams of detailed notes and layouts for the art department to implement. He was amazing!” Alison recalls.

And so it continued with Alison Sealy-Smith who has made a name for herself in film television and theatre in Canada. She could not remember fellow QC (Queen’s College) girl Alison Saunders from school, but was also excited to be a part of the project to be filmed in her homeland.

The search for a Director of Photography was the most extensive since Alison felt she needed someone experienced by her side. She recalls: “I wanted to work with a Caribbean person and we reviewed the resumes and work of several potential DP’s from different parts of the world and then I saw a film called “Third World Cop” which was beautifully shot by a man named Richard Lannaman who had already been recommended to me. The excellent quality of the lighting and camera work on that film sold me on Richard.”

From there we found our sound man in Trinidad in the form of Cedric Smart who came highly recommended by several people. And on and on with the crew and cast including actor Alwyn Bully of Dominica, Lenny Salmon, an actor from Jamaica, Jeanille Bonterre – a Trini DJ in New York ... The Caribbean was indeed at work!

HIT FOR SIX!

The Cast

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alex Nelson | ANDREW PILGRIM |
| Colin Thompson | RUDOLPH WALKER |
| Janelle Wilson | VARIA WILLIAMS |
| Astrid Jones | JEANILLE BONTERRE |
| Ianthe | ALISON SEALY-SMITH |
| Amir Misra | NIRMAL THANI |
| Bishop Hinckson | TONY THOMPSON |
| Chessie | PATRICK MAXWELL |
| Codgie | LENFORD SALMON |
| Paul Mace | DAVID NIELANDS |
| Bish | ANTOINE WILLIAMS |
| Moohan Roodal | ARNOLD GOINDHAN |
| Barbados Captain | BARRY NICHOLLS |
| Bynoe | DYRSTRA BROWNE |
| Barbados Cricketer | RAMON DODSON |
| Young Colin | SEAN FIELDS |
| Chairman of Disciplinary Committee | CLAIRMONTE TAITT |
| La Montagne | ALWIN BULLY |
| Marvin Dalrymple | VALTON BEND |
| Marcus Sargeant | PHILIP ENO |
| Ali | AINSLEY SAHAI |
| As herself | ALISON HINDS |
| As himself | SIR EVERTON WEEKES |
| As himself | TONY COZIER |
| As himself | GORDON GREENIDGE |
| As himself | DESMOND HAYNES |
| As himself | REVEREND WES HALL |
| As himself | JOEL GARNER |
| As himself | DAVID ALLAN |
| As himself | SEYMOUR NURSE |
| As himself | PHILO WALLACE |
| As himself | GORDON BROOKS |
| As himself | RANDY BROOKS |
| As himself | ANDREW MASON |
| As himself | FAZEER MOHAMMED |

HIT FOR SIX!

LOGLINE: A sidelined West Indies cricketer fights demons of his past, including a match fixing charge, and learns about love in an unlikely quest to play in a major global tournament and earn the respect of his estranged father, a former great West Indies player.

SYNOPSIS

“Hit For Six” is a captivating fictional story of a playboy West Indies cricketer who fights demons of his past, including a match fixing charge, and learns about love while struggling for his last chance to play in a major global tournament and earn the respect of his estranged father, a former great West Indies player.

This emotional drama, punctuated with excitement, intrigue and love, tells the inspirational story of Alex Nelson, a talented but inconsistent cricketer, who has been sidelined from the WI team for scuffling with his coach, Amir Misra of India. Now out of the team for three years, he pursues an unlikely quest to get back on the team for a last chance to play in the Global One Day Series. He is fueled by a burning desire to regain the respect of his estranged and critical father, a former great West Indies player, who was unfairly denied a chance to play in the first Global One Day Series.



About the Cast

ANDREW PILGRIM (Alex Nelson) A talented Barbadian who has been cast in the leading role of Alex Nelson. Considered one of this country's best stage actors with numerous theatrical performances, Andrew's television credits include appearances in the soap operas, "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "Westwood Park". He was also host of his own award-winning show "Pilly Out Front".

RUDOLPH WALKER (Colin Thompson) This British-based Trinidadian actor is a popular star of "Eastenders", now showing on BBC TV. His filmography includes "The Crouches" (2003), "Love Thy Neighbour", "Ali G in Da House" (2002) and numerous stage and television appearances. Rudolph is cast in the role as Colin Thompson, Alex's father. In 2006, he was awarded the OBE for his contribution to British stage, film and television.

VARIA WILLIAMS (Janelle Wilson) Trained in acting in Surrey, England, Varia is one of Barbados' leading actresses. Her stage performances include "Animal Farm", "Waiting", "Talk Tent" and the highly acclaimed "Vagina Monologues".

JEANILLE BONTERRE (Astrid Jones) This New-York based Trinidadian, known as "Empress Jeanille", migrated to New York in 2005 and is currently a host and one of the producers of MTV Tempo. She had a role in "Westwood Park" in Trinidad during the first three seasons.

ALISON SEALY-SMITH (Ilanthe) A Canadian-based Barbadian actress, Alison plays the role of Alex's mother. Her impressive filmography includes "Naturally Sadie", "Take the Lead" (2006), "This is Wonderland" (2004), "Mind Me Good Now", (2005), "Haunting Sarah" (2005), "Dark Water" (2005) and "Kevin Hill".



About the Filmmakers

ALISON SAUNDERS-FRANKLYN (Writer-Director-Executive Producer) is a Barbadian/Trinidadian who has written and produced corporate and public education television programming over the last 20 years. A graduate of Syracuse University with a Masters in Television Production and the University of the West Indies with an MBA, she wrote the script for her first feature film with a view to fulfilling her dream of over a decade - to produce a commercially viable feature film.

In the summer of 2004 Alison wrote, produced and directed a 13-minute film, *The Second Innings* in London while she attended a film course at the Metropolitan Film School. The film was well received in London at the Clapham Picturehouse cinema and the African & Caribbean Film Festival in Barbados.

Alison is the founder and managing director of one of the Caribbean's most successful public relations firms and in this capacity she has scripted, produced and directed "edutainment" programmes and public service announcements on a variety of subjects for organizations such as UNICEF, CARICOM and, the Barbados Government. Most of these productions have been shown throughout the Caribbean.

With a strong background in local theatre, Alison produced one of the most successful local pay-per-view concerts ever shown in Barbados – The Square One 10th Anniversary Concert.

In previous roles as consultant to the West Indies Cricket Board she gained close insight into the little known inner world of Caribbean cricket.

DR. BASIL SPRINGER (Executive Producer) was a Management Consulting pioneer in Barbados and established Systems Caribbean Limited that was sold in 2000 to local interests as the largest indigenous business-development consulting firm in the Caribbean. During this period he specialised in Project Management primarily in the areas of Agricultural Development and Tourism Linkages to other sectors in Caribbean economies.

He was Chairman, Barbados Agricultural Marketing Corporation (1981/4), Chairman, National Productivity Council (1995/2001), Deputy Chairman, Barbados National Bank (1994/2003) and is a member of other public and private sector boards.

Dr. Springer was also instrumental in launching the Caribbean Business Enterprise Trust Inc (CBET) where he now leads the organization as project manager/change engine consultant.

COLLEEN HUE (Producer / Unit Production Manager) has produced television and radio programmes for the UK broadcasting industry. She also has experience in intellectual property law, copyright management and licensing contracts, having headed up the UK record industry's collecting society responsible for licensing music videos to terrestrial, cable and satellite broadcasters.

RICHARD LANNAMAN (Director of Photography) is Jamaica's foremost practitioner in his field. He was director of photography on "Third World Cop" and has worked on camera for Hollywood films like "How Stella Got Her Groove Back".

ERIK KNIGHT (Production Designer) is an art department coordinator and a director in his own right. His filmography includes "The Departed" (2006), "World Trade Centre" (2006), "Brooklyn Rules" (2006), "Romance and Cigarettes" (2005), "Analyze That" (2002) and "Beautiful Mind", (2001).

MOUSSA SENE ABSA (Creative Consultant) from Senegal is the award-winning director of "Madame Brouette" and "Tableau Feraille". He is an artist, writer and musician as well as a film director.

JON JAREMA (Script Supervisor) a Vancouver-based professional.

PHILO WALLACE (Cricket Consultant) played for Barbados and the West Indies teams and earned a reputation as a powerful top-order batsman, scoring a century against South Africa in 1998.

EMILY ANDERSON (First Assistant Director / Assistant Editor) is a US-based professional

SHERNELLE BLACKMAN (Location Manager / Line Producer) has extensive experience of location sourcing and production co-ordination for international film productions.

MERVILLE LYNCH PRODUCTIONS (Camera & Equipment) is a leading production house in Barbados.

CREATIVE JUNCTION (Lighting & Other Equipment) is a sound and video production house and is the main supplier of film equipment in Barbados.

MAHMOOD PATEL (Production Support) is the Barbadian executive producer of "The Shoes" and "La Diabliesse". He is managing director of the Bridgetown Film Festival and is also the founder of The Film Group, a body of filmmakers in Barbados who share the vision of a vibrant film culture in Barbados and the Caribbean, and hosts of the annual Bridgetown Film Festival.



Richard Lannaman
Director of Photography

He holds a top award but no one can accuse expert Jamaican photographer Richard Lannaman of being boastful.

Richard won the award for Best Cinematographer at the 2007 Bridgetown Film Festival for his admirable work on "Hit for Six!" He had this to say about the accomplishment: "I am certainly proud of the award and I thank the Bridgetown Film Festival; I don't know if I deserve it."

A modest claim from the man who was director of photography on "Third World Cop" and has worked on camera for Hollywood films like "How Stella Got Her Groove Back". Yet Lannaman, admits that producing Barbados' first full-length commercial feature film was no simple task.

"It was not an easy film to shoot because of the sporting situation - re-creating cricket scenes and having to watch and work with the weather. Otherwise, it was fine," he recalled.

Over the years, Lannaman has been the recipient of several awards. He won one of Jamaica's national awards, the Dr. Bird Award, which is bestowed on cinematographers, professionals in the arts, as well as media practitioners who excel. "I was honoured to have one of those under my belt," he quipped. He was also featured in the famed American Cinematographer magazine, and has won awards for still photography and was nominated twice for the Peers Awards, a Jamaica award open to media, photography, film and literary professionals.

Director of "Hit For Six!", Alison Saunders-Franklyn, applauded the awardee, describing him as a well-deserved winner. She said, "Richard is also a painter and brings that sensitivity to light, shade and colour to his work with the creative use of lighting to great effect."



Nicholas Brancker Composer

What is a movie without a score – that enthralling, riveting,, enchanting music that keeps us all engrossed and moves us seemingly unaware from one scene to the next?

We watch movies every day and take this almost magical experience for granted, yet the effort that goes into its production is not to be taken lightly as Nicholas Brancker, one of only two Barbadian Grammy nominees, will attest.

The award winning musician, who has worked with international artistes like Roberta Flack and Cyndi Lauper, says writing the score for “Hit for Six!” was a very worthwhile challenge.

“It was extremely rewarding; one of the most exciting things for me was going into the editing studio and seeing how the music enhanced the film, seeing how the director and other members of the team responded to it – that made it very worthwhile for me,” he says.

The opportunity to present the best of Caribbean musical talent was also an intriguing factor for Nicholas, who not only took pride in producing original music for the movie, but also selected the music of some regional artistes which he believed to be appropriate. He recalls: “The challenge was to be appropriately Caribbean, within the constraints of a limited budget but still have the grandness of what a score really is; it is much more expansive than doing a five-minute song, it gives you lots of room to develop the ideas because you develop with the scenes.”

Now, thanks to Nicholas, viewers of “Hit for Six!” can not only see the beauty of the Caribbean, but can also hear its uniqueness which has been so wonderfully captured in the score.

“This movie will definitely live up to expectations. It is a true example of what Barbadians can do when we believe in ourselves and believe that we can export our ideas just like others around the world. I want musicians to hear the music of this film and say ‘that is good, but I can do better’; it’s about stepping up and knowing that you don’t have to do somebody else’s music to be good,” Nicholas declares.

And he has certainly proved this in “Hit for Six!



**OFFICIAL SELECTION
in the following festivals:**

Bridgetown Film Festival 2007

American Black Film Festival 2007, Los Angeles

Pan African Film Festival 2008

D.C. Caribbean Film Festival 2008

Caribbean Heritage Film Festival 2008

National Black Arts Festival 2008

Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival 2008

International Film Festival South Africa 2008

Redemptive Film Festival 2008

bfm International Film Festival 2008

African Diaspora Film Festival 2008

Punjab Film Festival 2009



FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Awards Won:

Bridgetown Film Festival 2007
Best Barbadian Film
Best Actress – Jeanille Bonterre
Best Cinematographer – Richard Lannaman

Redemptive Film Festival 2008
Redemptive Storyteller Award

Nominations:

International Film Festival South Africa 2008
Best Feature Film – International

Honorable Mention:

Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival 2008
Best Feature Film Competition