

Film

BUILDING A FILM ECONOMY

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION: The Blanchisseuse Bridge gets thumbs up from Stone Douglas. Behind him are Mickey Barold, right and Kip Konwiser.

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preliminary scout to see if in fact we can make the movie here. We are very encouraged. It's a wonderful country and seems to have incredible resources.”

Barold said he was very pleased with the organisation and the attitude of the TTFC, describing them as ‘very accommodating, pleasant and helpful.’

“The natural beauty of the island and the various scenes we would need for the most part we believe that we capture it very successfully. They are very encouraging to bring film makers here, they want to do something and see it as a stepping stone to building up their own film economy. There's a whole economy that supports film making and can also support tourism and so many other things because there is a cross over. I think they have identified and understand that.”

When asked if he would recommend these islands to other producers he knew Barold exclaimed: “Absolutely!”

He added: “There is a lot of beauty here, a lot of smart, educated, hard working people which I think is essential anywhere you go as a film maker.”

Barold said that Trinidad had a natural, earnest desire for films.

“It's very difficult to start from a base of nothing. You have to have some foundation and I think Trinidad has that foundation and lends itself very, very well as opposed to some similar island nations.”

The other half of the partnership, Stone Douglas, said they were looking for places outside the US to tell stories in general. He also echoed Barold's sentiments that the TTFC's rebate package was also a huge incentive.

“This is definitely a beautiful and vibrant place,” he said. “It's full of passion and that says a lot about an island. As far as locations go for filming in the Caribbean you've got everything you need; beaches, mountains, jungles, rivers and the city.”

He added: “You've got the interest here and I think if you add a couple more elements to what the TTFC is already doing—which is a great thing—you've got the potential to grow a real great cottage industry here both to tell indigenous stories and also attract outside film making.”

Douglass said that film is a

LOCAL FOOD: Stone Douglas left & Mickey Barold centre learn about doubles from location scout Asha Lovelace (right).

fabulous industry to be in during the recession.

“What do people do when times are tough? Not necessarily going out and spending on lavish dinners and vacations. They are far more likely to end up going to the movies or renting one. Both bring revenue to the business. I think you're going to see a lot

more family fare but in general all movies will be doing, if not a well, better during this time.”

The film will be directed by Andi Baiz of *Satanas* fame, Colombia's Official Submission to the Best Foreign Language Film Category of the 80th Annual Academy Awards.



HOLLYWOOD CAMERAS EYE TRINIDAD

CAPTURING NATURAL BEAUTY
Mickey Barold photographs
a stream in Santa Cruz
-Photos Courtesy The Trinidad
and Tobago Film Company

By Sateesh Maharaj

When the first film of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy showcased the natural beauty of St Vincent and the Grenadines it generated interest not just from tourists and local entrepreneurs, but film makers based outside the region. And while a worldwide recession has shaken the foundations of many sectors, the entertainment industry has seemed to be only getting stronger.

In an effort to make this twin island state more attractive to producers wanting to step out of the norm, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC) is offering a competitive rebate programme with a view towards attracting International producers to these shores. This incentive, the Production Expenditure Rebate Programme, provides cash rebates up to 30 per cent for expenditures accrued while filming in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mickey Barold and Stone Douglass created Stick N'Stone productions four years ago as an independent financing and production entity. The duo were recently in Trinidad scouting the location for a feature production. They were attracted by the TTFC's rebate package.

"Independent producers need to find the harmony of art and commerce. Stone and I are linked to and do projects that have a great deal of taste, meaning and purpose to them. In coming to Trinidad we were attracted because it is a country that offers rebates. In offering rebates that makes the finances for our film much more palatable for investors and lessens our financial burdens."

He continued: "What we are doing now is a

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