

Moum

People of Martinique



LA MARTINIQUE



Martinique may use the euro, fly the French tricolor, and have French as its official language, but its character, cuisine, musical heritage, art, and identity all have distinct Afro-Caribbean roots. The island is at the crossroads of diverse cultures and its Creole nature shines through the fine gastronomy, remarkable architecture, native language, infectious rhythms, and, above all, the warmth of its people.

Meet some of these ambassadors who, each in their own field, have found ways to share their love for their island.

Sincerely,

M. Wiltord

Muriel Wiltord
Director, Americas
The Martinique Promotion Bureau

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*Our boats are open and we sail
them for everyone ...*

- Édouard Glissant, *Poetics of relation*



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No race possesses the monopoly of beauty, of intelligence, of strength, and there is a place for all of us at the rendez-vous of victory.

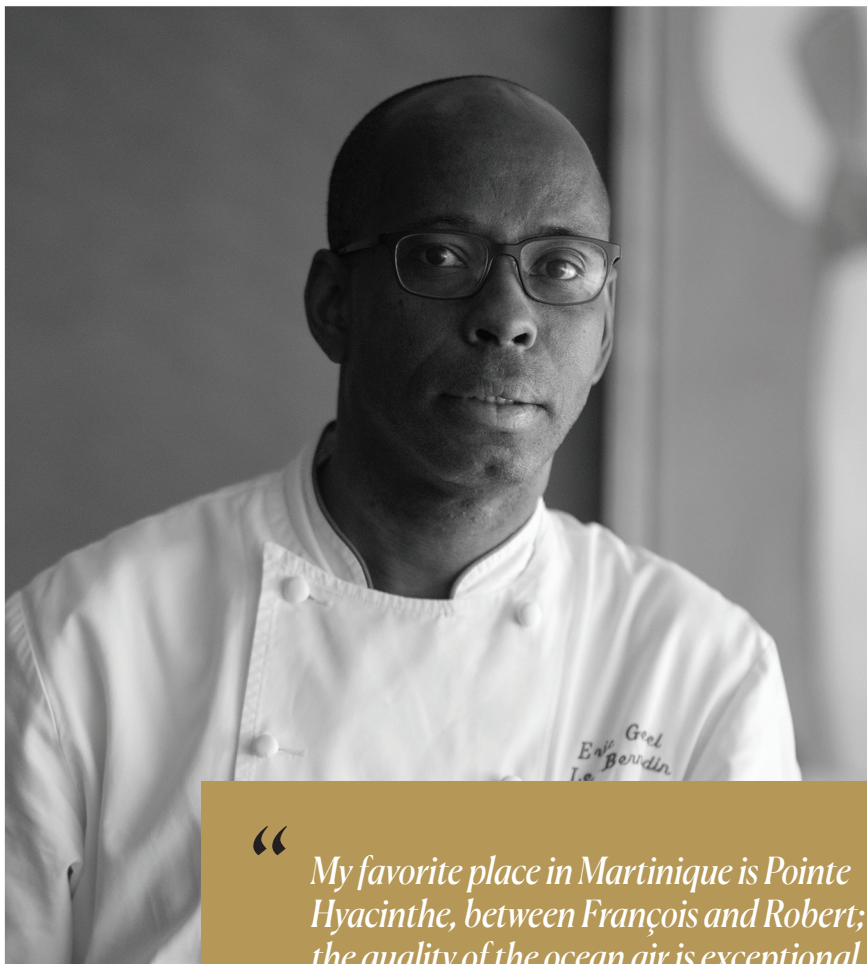
- *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* - Aimé Césaire

Carole Alexis

Carole Alexis's work as a choreographer is deeply informed by her multicultural and intercontinental background and training on one hand, and her interdisciplinary approach to performance on the other. In New York City, she has choreographed and performed—both as a singer and a dancer—at the River to River Festival, the Festival de la Francophonie, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center with guests such as Harry Belafonte, Danny Glover, and more.

Inspired by Aimé Césaire, in 2011, Alexis launched *Ballet des Amériques*, a new venture in dance training, education, and performance, intended to give voice to the world's various dance traditions on the basis of classical ballet training, while self-consciously situating itself in the context of the Americas. The young company has already given over fifty performances in the greater New York City area, in Rhode Island, and in Martinique.

Born in Martinique, Carole Alexis trained in France, where she attended the Mudra Béjart Dance School, and in Martinique, the Caribbean, and Africa. She also found her inspiration in the teachings of the founders of the Negritude movement, Aimé Césaire, Léopold Sédar Senghor, and Léon-Gontran Damas. She believes that art expresses the infinite possibilities of humanity, a kind of universal consciousness, a way to cultural enlightenment and social change.



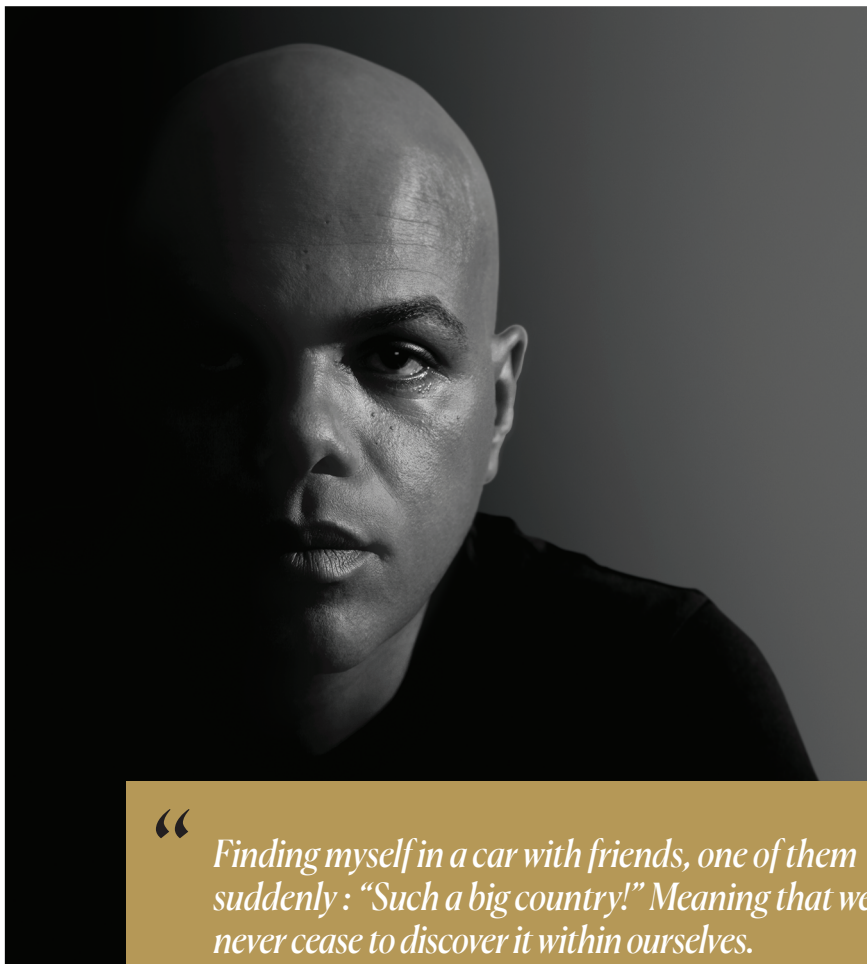
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My favorite place in Martinique is Pointe Hyacinthe, between François and Robert; the quality of the ocean air is exceptional.

Eric Gestel

Eric Gestel was born in Martinique and at the age of eleven moved to France, where he lived with his aunt and uncle. Gestel's culinary training began when he landed a coveted position at restaurant Jamin in Paris, where he worked under the legendary Joel Robuchon and first encountered Chef Eric Ripert.

In 1996, after moving to New York City, he joined the team at Le Bernardin, an upscale French restaurant, where he is currently executive chef and a key player in the kitchen, expediting with culinary director Chris Muller during service, training staff, and contributing creatively to menu development.

Gestel is also Chef Ripert's right hand when it comes to representing Le Bernardin at all outside meals, photo shoots, and charity events for the restaurant. He is also a partner in Ripert Consulting, a restaurant consulting service that shapes restaurants all around the country.



“*Finding myself in a car with friends, one of them suddenly : “Such a big country!” Meaning that we never cease to discover it within ourselves.*

- Édouard Glissant, *Caribbean Discourse*

Olivier Glissant

Olivier Glissant is a composer, musician, and producer from Martinique. Born in 1969, he grew up in the Caribbean, where he was immersed in music from the Americas, and in Paris, where he trained in classical piano. Fascinated by jazz and all styles of music stemming from the mixture of European and African cultures, he moved to the U.S. and enrolled in the music production and engineering program at Berklee College of Music.

After moving to New York City, Glissant began performing with a wide variety of musicians and singers from Africa and the Americas, with his tango quartet and Brazilian forró trio, and accompanying other bands, including Haitian Rara fusion groups and Bahia percussion ensembles. He produced records for such artists as Thione Ballago Seck, Tico da Costa, Vinicius Cantuaria, and Thiago Thiago de Mello, and has collaborated either as engineer, arranger, or producer with Philip Glass, Norah Jones, Bill Frisell, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, and more.

In 2016, Glissant created the Brooklyn Orchestra, a symphony orchestra dedicated to new music. He just completed the recording of his first symphony, along with a tone-poem entitled *Charmeuse de Serpents*, and is now in the process of fundraising to establish a regular concert season of the Brooklyn Orchestra.



“ I have a different idea of a universal. It is a universal rich with all that is particular, rich with all the particulars there are, the deepening of each particular, the coexistence of them all.

– Aimé Césaire





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*Martinique, a land of memories,
an island where time stops...*

Ingrid Jean-Baptiste

Ingrid Jean-Baptiste was born in Paris to Martinican parents and raised in Paris and London. After graduating from Sorbonne University, she began her career in journalism and worked for different French magazines at publication group EMAP France.

After living in Los Angeles for several years, Jean-Baptiste moved to New York in 2010 to study a different career: acting. She is now a graduate of the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute.

In 2013, Jean-Baptiste and her mother Sonia Jean-Baptiste were in a car accident along with six other people, which changed the course of their lives. Ingrid suggested the idea to her mother of creating an international hub for up-and-coming artists in Chelsea, New York, where she currently lives, and the Chelsea Film Festival was born.

Ingrid Jean-Baptiste is also an active advocate for many causes, including human rights, women in film, and gender equality. Jean-Baptiste received the WOW Award for International Women's Empowerment in 2016, and recently won the Audience Award at the French foreign affairs ministry's presentation of trophies to French citizens living abroad.



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*My favorite place in Martinique is
the Cap Chevalier beach.*

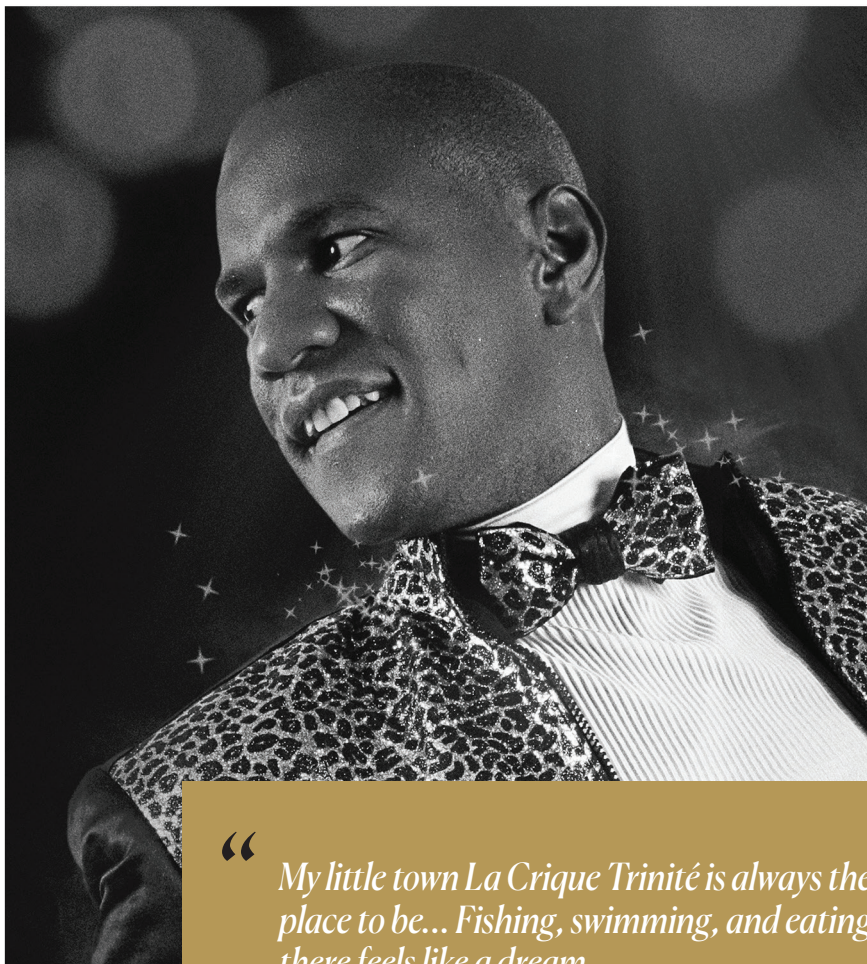
Moana Luu

Moana Luu is a Martinican public figure and media expert. She is a creative leader, interior designer, TV host, producer, and philanthropist. She has been ranked among the most influential women in Martinique.

She currently serves as the Chief Creative Officer of TRACE media group in New York and Paris. TRACE is a global entertainment and media enterprise with television channels in over 160 countries reaching some 200 million people each month. Moana's unique experience allows her oversight to include all aspects of creative expression across mediums such as fashion, art, design, and film. As an interior designer, she designed corporate offices in New York and a luxury boutique hotel in Martinique.

Perhaps most importantly, as a philanthropist, she has been deeply involved for over 10 years in healthcare for developing countries and in leading the communication strategy for The Heart Fund.

Her mission is to push the boundaries of beauty and fashion to empower a generation of young women worldwide.



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My little town La Crique Trinité is always the place to be... Fishing, swimming, and eating there feels like a dream.

Franck Muhel

Born in Martinique, Franck Muhel is a dance performer, teacher, and choreographer renowned for his dynamic creative energy that inspires and electrifies audiences all over the world. Having taught dance for more than 20 years, Muhel specializes in Latin, Afro, salsa/mambo, and traditional Caribbean folkloric dance.

As principal dancer with Eddie Torres, the Mambo King, and featured soloist, Muhel has performed with internationally acclaimed musicians: Joe Bataan, Mitch Frohman Latin Jazz Quartet, The Mambo Legends, Frankie Morales Orchestra, Jimmy Delgado Orchestra, Jimmy Bosch Orchestra, Orlando Marin Orchestra, Roberto Rodriguez Band, Eddie Montalvo Band, Frankie Vasquez & Los Soneros Del Barrio, Bobby Sanabria, and many others.

In 2005, Muhel created the Franck Muhel Dance Company, which specializes in Afro-Caribbean dance. He performs yearly at Central Park SummerStage, BRIC Festival, and Salsa in the Park in New York City. He currently teaches Afro-Caribbean dance at the prestigious Ballet des Amériques school and dance company. Muhel also gives open group classes at several venues in New York City.



Meet Martinique and its people

With awe-inspiring natural beauty, a rich cultural history, warm welcome, distinctive culinary delights, and superb rums, the French Caribbean Island of Martinique stirs passion. It is a special place, with so much to offer.

Ranked among the most alluring and enchanting destinations in the world, its beautifully unspoiled beaches, volcanic peaks, rainforests, hiking trails, waterfalls, and other natural wonders make the Island a true gem of the Caribbean. Martinique, c'est Magnifique!

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Isodale Alexis

André Alier • Pierre Alier

Marie-Line Ampigny • Josiane Antourel

Coralie Balmy • Behanzin • Ben L'oncle Soul

Jocelyne Béroard • Jean-Charles Bredas • Clémence

Bringtown • Khris Burton • Mario Canonge • Aimé Césaire

Suzanne Césaire • Patrick Chamoiseau • Mino Cinelu • Homère

Clément • Raphael Confiant • Joséphine de Beauharnais • Paul Hervé

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Thélèphe • Ronald Tulle • Ronny Turiaf • Laurent

Valère • Sylvain Wiltord • Joseph Zobel

And many more...

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