Edna Manley College
of the Visual and Performing Arts

PRESS RELEASE
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Homecoming! JaRIA Returns to Edna Manley College for Reggae Month 2025

Kingston, Jamaica – Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (EMCVPA) proudly announces its renewed partnership with the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA) for Reggae Month 2025. This collaboration marks a homecoming, bringing JaRIA's signature Reggae Wednesdays back to EMCVPA, the very heart of Jamaica's artistic excellence.
This partnership is significant, echoing the early years of Reggae Month when EMCVPA hosted JaRIA's groundbreaking events. The connection is deeply rooted in the legacy of the late Kingsley Michael 'Ibo' Cooper, renowned musician, educator, and co-founder of both JaRIA and Reggae Month. Cooper, a dedicated EMCVPA lecturer for 24 years, continues to inspire Jamaica's cultural landscape.

As the Caribbean's premier institution for artistic training and innovation, EMCVPA plays a vital role in this year's Reggae Month activities. Students, faculty, and staff across disciplines are actively involved, showcasing the College's world-class programs in music, visual arts, drama, dance, stage management, and event production.

"At EDNA, we are not just hosting Reggae Month—we are living it," says interim principal DorrettRCampbell. *"We are thrilled that JaRIA has renewed our partnership and returned many of its Reggae Month activities to our space. We have placed a high premium on this partnership; as the hub driver and enabler of the Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica and the English-Speaking Caribbean, we at EDNA are committed to continue the business of nurturing talent, working with the creative industry, and preserving Jamaica's rich musical legacy. Our students and faculty are central to this movement, and we are proud to contribute to the vibrant cultural landscape of our nation."*

Saluting the Queens: A Star-Studded Celebration

The Reggae Month festivities continue with **"Saluting the Queens,"** a powerful tribute to women in reggae. The concert will be held tonight, Wednesday, February 5th, at EMCVPA's School of Drama Amphitheatre from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Its exciting lineup includes reggae legend Nadine Sutherland, rising star Joby Jay, and internationally acclaimed singer Racquel Jones of Thievery Corporation, among other powerful performers. Notably, both Joby Jay and Racquel Jones are proud EMCVPA alumni, highlighting the College's lasting impact on reggae's next generation.

Beyond the concert, attendees can enjoy an Artisan Village and artistic displays, showcasing the diverse talent nurtured at EMCVPA. Students from the School of Arts Management and Humanities are playing key roles in event execution, while the Multimedia Department provides top-tier technical support.

Reggae Month at EMCVPA: A Month-Long Celebration

EMCVPA is the official home for JaRIA's Reggae Wednesdays concerts, with one exception: the February 12 event will be held in Montego Bay, St. James. However, EMCVPA will provide a live stream of this special staging to ensure continuity and accessibility.
The partnership has already seen great success with the Dennis Brown Tribute Concert and last week's Reggae Open University seminar. These events have set the stage for an unforgettable month of music, education, and cultural celebration.

Edna Manley College remains dedicated to supporting creative industries and shaping the region's cultural legacy. The public is invited to experience the dynamic Reggae Month 2025 events at the College and witness the electrifying synergy of education and entertainment.
Join us on Wednesday February 5 at the School of Drama Amphitheatre for "Saluting the Queens"—an evening of music, artistry, and celebration!

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