



News Release
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Scotiabank Jamaica Wins Silver Screen Award in Hollywood – Also collects Certificate for Creative Excellence second year in a row

Scotiabank Jamaica is now a repeat winner and visitor to Hollywood as its Teller Production team, led by Zoë Welsh, won a Silver Screen Award and Certificate for Creative Excellence at the US International Film and Video Festival. The team was awarded for its docu-feature entitled *Speak Up! Speak Out! The Grand Final* which focussed on capturing the spectacle of the 2007 Grand Final Debate, won by Hydel Preparatory School with Retreat Primary School in second place.

The Debating Competition, going into its third year (2008 – 2009) after an exciting face off at the second staging (2007- 2008) between Corinaldi Avenue Primary and Lannamans Preparatory School, seeing Corinaldi emerging victors, is organized by Scotiabank and targets Primary and Preparatory schools across the island. The programme is endorsed by the Ministry of Education and Youth and the Ministry of Health. The award winning *Speak Up! Speak Out! The Grand Final* was an exciting feature, which captured the essence of the culmination of months of hard work from the teams, schools and coaches and illustrates the energy, spirit, commitment and talent of the young debaters. The overall event and the televised Grand Final achieved its goal of putting HIV and AIDS awareness on the school agenda and in so doing on the Jamaican agenda.

The programme was produced and directed by Ms. Welsh, Programme Production Specialist at Scotiabank, and covered via multi camera outside broadcast and a single camera and sound unit which comprehensively covered the atmosphere of the event by featuring behind the scenes footage and comment from competitors, organizers and the general public. Music and graphics were commissioned and produced locally to enhance the finished product. *Speak Up! Speak Out! The Grand Final* event was a unique experience, which took debating out of the studio setting and into the community; this in turn made the televisual component a unique viewing experience for the Jamaican viewing public.

Last year, the Bank won a Certificate for Creative Excellence from the US International Film and Video Festival for the dramatised story *A Letter to Pearl*, which was also produced and directed by Zoë Welsh. Featuring internationally acclaimed storyteller Amina Blackwood Meeks, *A Letter to Pearl* is an innovative and creative take on the age-old Jamaican tradition of storytelling and a simple presentation of a childhood pleasure – the bedtime story. Reworking a Macmillan Caribbean original, *A Letter to Pearl* was translated into Patois and told in the rich, lyrical voice of Blackwood-Meeks.

President and CEO of Scotiabank William E. Clarke noted that Scotiabank is proud to organise the ***Speak Up! Speak Out! Educational Programme*** and explained, “It is the most intensive and rewarding educational initiative that Scotiabank has undertaken. We are very pleased that we were able to initiate discussions among students, teachers and parents on a most sensitive and ‘taboo’ topic.”

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