

Telethon

The pandemic has affected us all in so many ways, and we will all agree that it has had a severe impact on the livelihoods of our visual artists, the music industry and other creatives. Today, the cultural community is united in the strong belief that now, more than ever, there is an urgent need for all partners to engage in, and contribute to, the revival and recovery of the industry.

Whilst recognising the existing limitations presented by the pandemic, we also suggest that there are many innovative ways to generate economic activity, as well as educational events and activities which do not contravene the existing norms of the Seychelles Health Authorities.

It is for this reason that we invite you to join us in organising the biggest ever **Virtual Solidarity Concert** in Seychelles, with the participation of over a hundred and fifty individuals from the industry.

The National Arts Council - representing the National Institute of Arts and Culture, and in partnership with the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation, TéléSesel, FM radio stations, YouTube, the Red Cross and several businesses – supports this innovative project, which will deliver community and national benefits and outcomes.

The event is being produced by two well-known local music companies, Island Music Seychelles of Mr. Gilles Lionnet and TGV Productions of Mr. Patrick Victor. The main concept is to organise, in the spirit of unity and solidarity, a **NATIONAL TELEVISED MUSIC VARIETY SHOW** that will serve as a catalyst, and kick start our progression to a better and brighter future for the industry. In other words we plan to create an entertainment event around the principles of unity, “joie de vivre”, and - more important - a sense of hope. The event will be simultaneously broadcast on SBC, FM Radio and TeleSesel.

The specific secondary objectives are to raise funds for the Red Cross, create economic activity across the industry, and provide much needed entertainment for the people of Seychelles. Finally let me end with this fundamental quote by Jose Manuel Barroso, former President of the European Commission; “there is no stability without solidarity and no solidarity without stability”.

Looking forward to your invaluable support and participation. – Mr. Gilles Lionnet



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL OF SEYCHELLES NEWSLETTER

EDITION 11

DATE: 10.11.2021

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers Ms. Audrey Lavigne, the author of the enthralling children's book series 'Jasper the island hopper' and 'An only child diary'.



Tell us a little about yourself

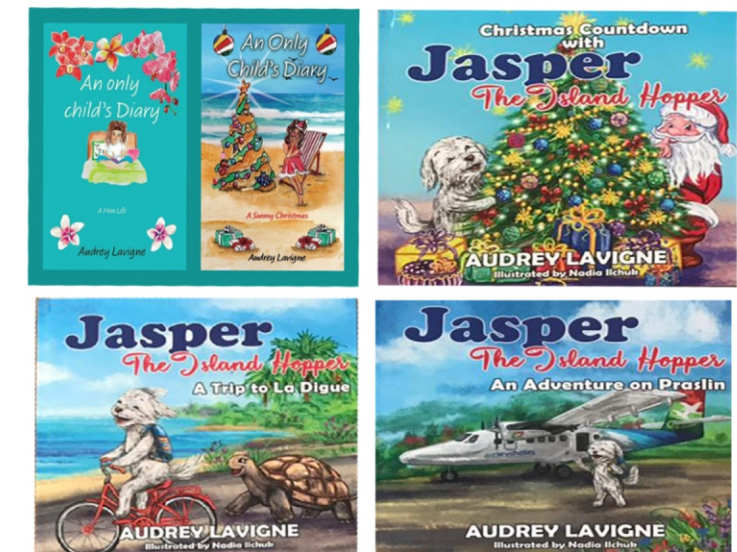
My name is Audrey Lavigne and I was born and raised in Seychelles. I am mother to an amazing daughter - Alyssa Testa - and together with my husband James Lepair we live at Anse Lazio, Praslin. I have a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Business Leadership, both from the University of London. I enjoy writing, cooking, travelling, and spending time with my family and my adorable dog Jasper (who is like a second child to me).

In my teenage years I used to write short stories and poems, in fact one of my stories was broadcast on Seychelles radio. I grew up on Praslin with my wonderful mother Marylene who has been my pillar throughout my life whenever things got tough. I have two sisters, Rose-line and Juliette, as well as my brother Olivier.

From an early age I have been a vivid bookworm; my favourite author as a child was Enid Blyton, well-known for creating the universally popular series 'The Famous Five'.

What inspired you to write and when did you first realise that you wanted to be an author?

I must say that publishing a book has always been one of my dreams, however I did not get the opportunity to turn my dream into a reality until last year, during the lockdown period. I am very grateful today for having published not only one book but a few, and I will say that a lot more will surely follow. Writing is a great way to put down information that one wishes to share to others and this is where my journey started as an author. I want to share and promote the beauty of Seychelles to the world.



How many books have you written so far?

I have successfully published seven books so far; 'Jasper the Island Hopper' series, which is for kids aged six to ten years old and comprises the following titles: 'Jasper the Island Hopper; A Day On Mahe', 'Jasper the Island Hopper; An Adventure on Praslin', 'Jasper the Island Hopper; A Trip to La Digue', 'Jasper the Island Hopper; A Boat Ride' and 'Christmas Countdown with Jasper the Island Hopper'.

I have also created another series, an Only Child's Diary which is more for girls aged between eight to twelve years. It is about the life of a twelve-year-old girl living in Seychelles and told through her diaries. They are; 'An Only Child's Diary', 'A New Life, An Only Child's Diary' and 'A Sunny Christmas'.

The Jasper series is based on my lovely dog and is therefore rooted in my real life. He is now three years old and I treat him like my own child. I chose Jasper to be the main character in my picture book series 'Jasper the Island Hopper' because children in general adore animals - even more so if they bring an adventurous story for them to follow, which Jasper does very much.

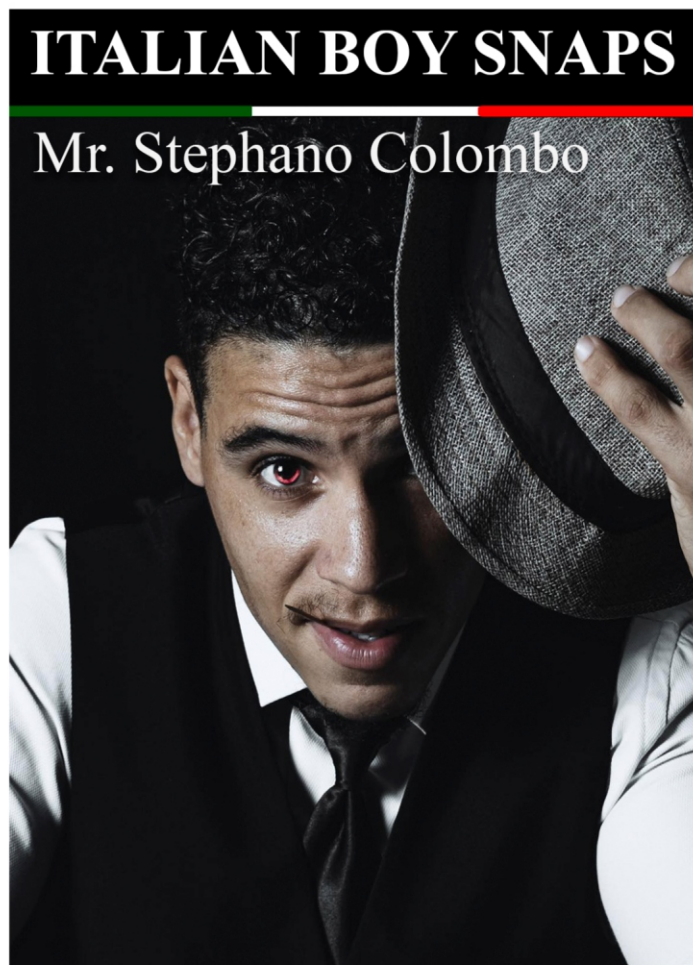
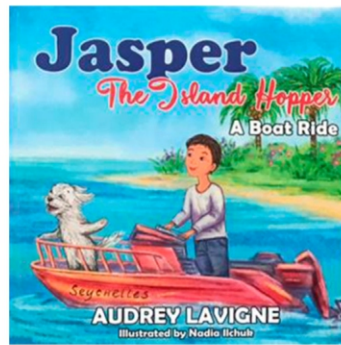
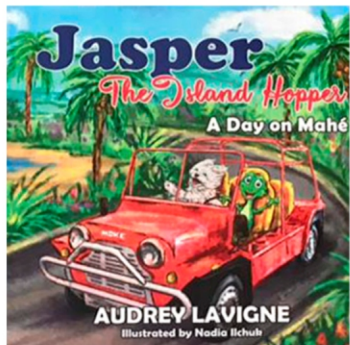
The other series, 'An Only Child's Diary', is about my beautiful daughter Alyssa. Despite being the only child in the family Alyssa has an imaginary sister to whom she writes about her challenges and secrets in her diaries. The books teach young girls how to deal with the process of growing up and talk about important issues such as friendship and family. Through these books children can also learn great facts about the Seychelles. I strongly believe that reading should be encouraged from a very early age and I wish to communicate this message as much as possible to both adults and children. Hence, I have donated some of my books to local schools.

What does your family and friends think about your work?

Everyone is very proud of my hard work and I get a lot of support from my family and friends as well as from the general public.

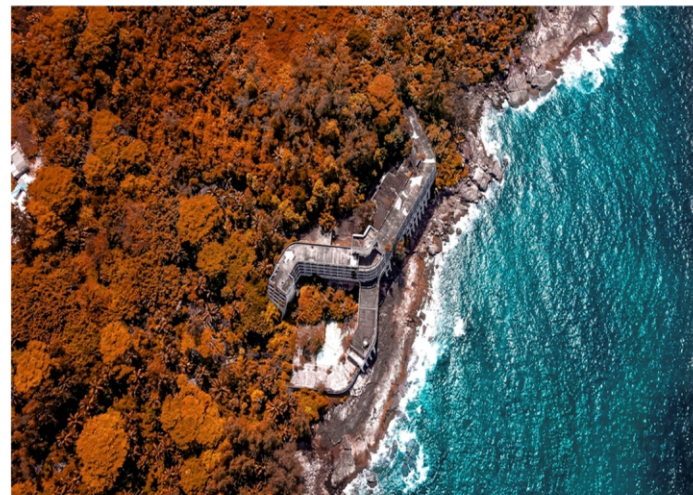
Where are your books sold?

My books are available to purchase online at Amazon, Barnes and Nobles Online stores, and Good Reads for anyone outside the Seychelles. On Mahe they can be physically purchased at Chanterelle and Antigone bookstores, Etoile des iles Boutique in Victoria, La Palme D'or Boutique at Eden Plaza and in the departure lounge at the international airport. On Praslin, they are available at Souvenir des iles Boutique Anse Kerlan and at Anse Lazio Souvenirs.



Mr. Stephano Colombo was born in Italy and moved to Seychelles when he was twelve years of age. He tells us that he is proud and honoured to have experienced life on the beautiful islands of Seychelles during the past eighteen years.

When asked about his style of photography Mr. Colombo says "I am a devotee of good scenery and will always select a good background when composing and taking portraits. I am someone who loves bright colours, although such an intense palette has to be well balanced. One person who has sparked my passion for photography is Mr. Peter McKinnon, a well-known photographer and videographer".



In your view, what makes a good photograph?

"A good photograph should be well composed and have a good story line which is shown through good colour values and balance".

What has been your best working experience?

Recently I was on Deroches Island for a working project. I was very impressed with how different it is from the inner islands. Its natural environment is just so pristine.

Lastly Mr. Colombo says that his dream one day is to be a travel photographer, where he would love to capture and show locations, including the Seychelles, through his lens. He says, "My true inspiration is my love of discovery and adventure, whilst experiencing and seeing new locations".



Zwenn Santez Therezia Labrosse



Manman de (2) zanfan e osi santer e konpoziter sanson Gospel. Avek sitan pasyon Therezia I dekrir son lanmour ki annan pour sant e konpoz sanson gospel.

"Mon Lanmour pour lanmizik ti konmans byen lontan-letan mon ti Vilaz Prezidan, mon ti kontan zwe Klari-nette en lenstriman mizikal. Lo gran maten letan mon dan moman refleksyon avan mon konmans mon lazournen, e menm parfwa ler mon dan legliz ou ler paster pe prese". Mon ti fer sorti mon premye album an Zilyet 2020 avek tit 'My Time to Shine'. Mon panse ki dan tou keksoz I annan son moman, I annan entan. Entan pour anmize e entan pour mazinn lo laverite'."

Lo mon album I annan en sanson par tit 'Reveye'. I sanson lo mon album ki mon annan plis latasman personnel avek aköz mon war pou dir la I moman ki bondye pe apel bokou nou enkli mwan osi, pou viv en lavi pli meyer avek li dan nou kote.

Valer lavi pour mwan I fodre ou annan en leker prop, sa ki enportan, pa vreman larelizyon, si ou annan en leker prop ou pou al bokou lwen dan lavi.

Lekel ou artis prefere?

Msye Jones Camille I mon lenspirasyon. Mon vreman kontan e apresye son sanson avek tit 'Ou pilye mon lavi'.

Mon swe I ki tou dimoun dan Sesel, I travay for avek linite dan lanmour Kris, sa pou ed nou bouz pli devan dan nou lavi.

E pour nou osi ed bann zenn, sirtou bann ki dan fleo sosyal, pou annan pou meyer fitir.

Mon tya kontan ankouraz tou santer, pou zot osi ed bann zenn ki annan talan dan lanmizik. Annou donn zot tou nou sipor pour zot kapab avans pli devan.