

'OnePeople' premieres Independence Day

Jamaicans will have one more reason to celebrate their national pride when the official documentary features for the national celebrations of Jamaica 50, OnePeople makes its international debut on Independence Day.

The documentary will premiere tomorrow at 4 p.m. simultaneously at the Jamaica 50 Jubilee Village at the National Stadium in Kingston and on Flow TV, channel 100. The feature will also premiere at the O2 arena in London at 4 p.m. and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in New York at 7 p.m. where it will be repeated at 9 p.m. The highly anticipated feature was based on the simple premise of capturing the spirit of Jamaica by asking Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica locally and overseas, one question: "What does Jamaica mean to you?" After foraging through thousands of entries and plundering through months of editing, producers of the film, Zachary Harding and Justine Henzell, have compiled a riveting feature of contributed footage with candid and entertaining views of Jamaica. The final product is anticipated to further stimulate a heightened sense of national pride on the day that Jamaica and the rest of the world celebrates the country's milestone achievement. According to Harding, "We were amazed with the number and quality of submissions. Our editors then did a mind-blowing job of stringing the footage together to reflect the magic of what it means to be Jamaican. Justine and I are proud of the final product, and hope that it will inspire and motivate audiences for generations to come. As Jamaicans, we need to see ourselves in a new light: energised and united as 'OnePeople' to make the best of the next 50 years." Grateful to FLOW Harding also thanked Flow for its partnership and contribution to making the film possible. Michele English, president of Columbus Communications Jamaica Limited, operators of Flow and Columbus Business Solutions, said she was happy to be associated with the documentary, which highlights Jamaica's global reach 50 years after Independence. "This is a very significant time for Jamaica and its people and we felt that it was important to support this project, which we see as a ground-breaking piece of work from Jamaica's film industry," she said. The premiere of the OnePeople documentary comes on the heels of the recent launch of another significant documentary on Jamaica, set within the context of the jubilee celebrations, by HBO in collaboration with Flow, featuring the musical tradition of Jamaica through the Jamaica Jazz and Blues festival. Henzell endorsed the move by Flow, adding that, "Flow continues to support the creation and distribution of high-quality Jamaican content with their sponsorship of OnePeople - The Celebration." The production team for OnePeople includes Henzell, Harding and Kevin McDonald (director of Marley and the Oscar-winning The Last King of Scotland) as executive producer. Viewers will also have an opportunity to see the feature on Flow OnDemand on August 10.