

Dancehall, Comedy Join Forces For 'MASQUERADE'

Comedian Rohan Gunter has teamed up with dancehall artiste Bridgez and Keyboard Money Mike for a Jamaican sitcom called Masquerade.

The short movie is aired on YouTube.com and lasts for 20 minutes. According to Gunter, the goal is to make a full-fledged movie, however, until they receive sponsorship for the production, short sitcoms will suffice. "The film was created to show Jamaicans that we have talents in all facets. Our intention is to create the full movie, but we're trying to get sponsors to come on board now," Gunter said. The comedian turned actor said a lack of funding has hampered the progress of the Jamaican film industry, however, the island possesses the right talents to execute any challenge the production process might present. Gunter said the film only took the production team three days to complete, and he believes this is an indication that there is a level of competence within the team. MASQUERADE was directed, written, produced and edited by Mike Williams, who goes by the moniker Keyboard Money Mike. Money Mike was also a rapper in the late '90s, however, he now puts much of his efforts into video production. Gunter, on the other hand, received his commercial exposure through the once-popular 'Comedy Buss' series. Following his exit from 'Comedy Buss', the comedian performed at several comedic events, sharing platforms with some of the most popular names in Jamaica's comedy circles, including Oliver Samuels. According to Gunter, this is a new frontier in his entertainment career. "I have always had an interest in acting, so I spend a significant amount of time working on my craft so that when the opportunity comes, I will be able to matriculate to that prestigious class of Jamaican actors. I don't see any limits in my career only new opportunities and provided that Jamaicans get opportunities, we can do wonders with it. If you don't believe me, give wi some opportunity and yu si," he said. Acting debut Dancehall artiste Bridgez made her debut acting appearance in the film. According to the first lady of Bounty Killer's Alliance music group, she always wanted to be an actress. The singer revealed that she became comfortable in front of the camera from doing music videos. She also added that the country could benefit from its budding film industry provided that Government secures investments for small video directors. "As for MASQUERADE, it's more than just a regular Jamaican movie, it's about a different storyline, and I was particularly impressed by that because most Jamaican movies tend to be preoccupied with crime and violence. This one is definitely a breath of fresh air as it relates to the storyline," Bridgez said. Bridgez recently released a new music video for her song, Take Your Time, which features Big Wayne. Jamaica Gleaner