

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SOLANGE GOVIA DEBUTS FEMALE
MIDNIGHT ROBBER COSTUME FOR TRINIDAD CARNIVAL 2022**

Monday 28th February 2022 – Port-of-Spain, Trinidad



Popular Carnival costume designer and artist Solange Govia has revealed the second instalment of her annual Traditional Mas Series, as she debuts her female interpretation of the Midnight Robber.

Equipped with years of experience in the business, and in collaboration with an all-female creative team, Solange has skilfully constructed a design that perfectly encapsulates the terror, haughtiness and enigma of this revered Carnival character.

The female interpretation of this Midnight Robber creation is covered in a veil of mystery, represented in cascading fringes that fall from her broad-brimmed hat. Like the bones protruding

from her glistening skin, this woman, gifted with the power of poetry inherited from her ancestors, bares it all. There are no skeletons in her closet, and the masterful Griot proudly declares her conquests to the world, in classic "Robber Talk" voiced by The 2 Cents Movement's Shimiah Lewis. Her realness and rawness bleeds through her haunting words as she recounts her deadliest deeds.

According to Govia, this Midnight Robber is a paradox, reminding us of the complexity and humanity of women. She is a protector of tradition and a purveyor of modernity. "I've always felt that it is my duty as a creative to keep the spirit of Carnival alive. The Midnight Robber is a representation of bravado in the face of all sorts of uncertainty and I see her as a particularly important mas character especially during these times of the pandemic," Govia explains. "She is a trailblazer that commands respect, and unapologetically stands in her truth." Shimiah Lewis, a Trinidad and Tobago National Youth award-winning poet, is thrilled by the partnership between 2 Cents Movement and Solange Govia for this year's visual portrayal. "The goal is to show this female Midnight Robber who inflicts pain, understanding and purpose. She invokes fear and admiration. She is equally terrifying as she is empowering. She is sorrow and excitement; she is love and heartbreak. She is all that has ever been and all that will ever be. She is WOMAN."

This female Midnight Robber is Solange's gift to the Carnival community, as she understands that the essence and art of Carnival has long been a source of inspiration to masqueraders around the world wishing to connect with the history and heritage of the Trinidad Carnival experience. Aware of this importance of culture and tradition, Solange wishes to continue her traditional character collection, despite the numerous limitations arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aptly unleashed on the eve of International Women's Month, the Midnight Robber's arrival signals the bridging of a gap between traditional and modern interpretation of mas. During the earliest editions of the celebrations dating back hundreds of years, women were not allowed to play mas, while the honour of portraying characters was reserved by men. Today, women are here to represent in positions of leadership and to be heard and seen, according to Solange. "In a heavily male-led industry with male-dominated voices, it is important that we as women occupy space, remain inspired and stand on the Carnival frontlines. By having a 100% female team, I want to help women have their vision seen because we have the creativity, the tenacity and organizational skills to actualise our goals," said the design expert.

This Midnight Robber project was planned and executed by Solange's talented all-female team, which includes Kenya Baird (model), Shimiah Lewis (poet), Michelle Jorsling (photographer), Latisha Leslie (videographer), Melissa Deane (makeup artist) and Kissa Jones (hair stylist).

Carnival enthusiasts can look out for Solange Govia's Midnight Robber portrayal coming soon to an Art Exhibition to be announced. The public can also expect the official video featuring "Robber Talk" in partnership with The 2 Cents Movement, which will make its premiere on Mrs. Govia's [social media platforms](#) on Carnival Tuesday 1st March 2022.

- END -

For press inquiries, please contact contact@chambersmediasolutions.com or press@chambersmediasolutions.com.