

# Prince Moko

Finding Home in a Crazy Carnival City



Written by Camille Selvon Abrahams

# Title: The Moko Prince©

Written by Camille Selvon Abrahams 15.04.19 Draft 03

**Synopsis:** Akeem is a vivacious young performer who enjoys the frenzy and splendour of the annual 'Carnival' celebrations. His journey takes an adventurous turn as he is forced to protect his family's tradition by defending his crown as the 'Moko Prince.' To do this he has to cross the waters to the 'Big Island' only to discover that the grass is not always greener on the other side. On his journey he is motivated to earn the admiration of his Dad, who himself never fulfilled his own childhood dream of crossing the waters. A whimsical and exhilarating roller-coaster ride through Caribbean fantasy with wonderful, music, costumes, rhythms, and culture never seen or heard before. The story crosses borders and teaches a universal story of appreciation of self and others. A story our today world needs to hear.

**Format:** Feature Length Animated Film 3D Format

**Audience:** Children and Adults

## CHARACTERS

**The Moko Prince** - Akeem is a young artistic genius who loves his annual crazy carnival celebrations. It's a time of street parades, costume wearing and he can put all his years practice into play for the annual Moko competition. Through the guidance of his father Akeem has excelled in his artform. His constant yearning for perfection and his boredom of always winning pushes him to reach for more. When faced with a traumatic family crisis Akeem is ever so ready and yearning for something more. The perfect excuse to journey to the 'Big Island' where he strips away his traditional act and applies modern trends only to be flabbergasted to realise that on the 'Big Island' he is just like everyone else. This realisation forces him to reach deep inside with help from his dad to find that special something that makes him stand out among the rest.



**Dad** – Akeem's Dad better known as 'Teach' on the Island, is a creative whiz. He has carried on the family tradition for the last four decades. Living vicariously through his son his only dream is to keep the ancestral traditions of his family alive and intact.

**Daria** - Daria is Princess of the Carnival costume competition. She is self-assured, spoilt and there only because her mother, being a helicopter mom lives vicariously through her. Her real dream is really to simply travel the islands and see what is out there Daria wants to go to the Big Island but not for what her mother has in mind. Daria's journey on the Big Island is eventful and she returns to a new appreciation to what was in front of her all the time.

**Brothers Bunnie and Kester** are Akeem's best friends. Their carnival group is tight. They play together and perform together and are Akeem's biggest fans. Both are from the other side of the bridge and

**The Midnight Robber** – Lurking in the background but always in Akeem's eyesight this costumed character is sneaky and obviously out to get something that Akeem possesses. The story takes a mysterious turn when its true identity is revealed.

# Draft Storyline

Title – THE MOKO PRINCE

## The Moko Prince

Trinity is a beautiful island on the other side of the world. Full of happy people, rich with pride for their annual Carnival celebrations. Akeem is from a family of Mas Makers. Steeped in tradition and proud of the lineage of Carnival Kings, Queens, Prince and Princesses. They are considered the Royal Family of the Carnival Season. Every Season the family proudly competes and unfailingly takes their crown home. It is a family tradition that goes back to Akeem's ancestors of Kings and Queens and though the island is now run by the local Mayor the family holds tight to what is left of their dynasty.

## The Carnival

Every year the islanders excitedly prepare for 'The Season' It is a time for dancing and singing and bringing in the New Moon when all of the farmers plant their corn for the August harvest. Although Akeem loves his tradition he is bored by its simplicity. He has grand ideas of fantastical lighting costumes and electric effects like the performers on the 'Big Island'. His father however is very concerned of the loss of the traditions and is always reminding Akeem of his ancestors and their way of being.



## No More Mas!

One day Akeem's father, the patriarch of the family and main designer at his Mas Camp is threatened for foreclosure as the city mayor announces a ban on Carnival. Akeem is saddened as he sees his chance of winning back his crown and his family tradition slowly drift away.

## Is The Grass Greener?

Akeem is forced to reach outside himself to find a solution when his father is forced to close his mas camp. He aims to journey out to the Big Island to compete on the iconic Savannah Stage. A place where legends are born. A place where Akeem's Dad dreamt of one day going but never had the guts to leave the island. His Dad is saddened as Akeem does not accept the Magic Costume that has been passed down by the ancestors. For the Big Island Akeem is going all out! "Dad this is modern times, we have to follow the trends of the Big Island or we will fail!" His father could only shake his head in surrender. Akeem and his Dad set out to new pastures, to a place where he can become the Prince of Moko once again. Where he can win the Key to the City and reinstate his family name back their position as the Royal Family of Moko.

**AND THE JOURNEY BEGINS...**

## FERRY

Dressed in full Carnival regalia, Akeem his father and his friends takes the ferry to compete on the Savannah Stage. On the ferry a mysterious 'costumed carnival monster' is lurking around. Akeem notices it lurking in the background but is not deterred as the excitement and fantastic music filled journey on the ferry keeps him focused on his mission.



## MAS CHAOS

On arrival the city is manic. Akeem loses his friends in the Carnival fiesta. The energy is different to the peaceful fun of the small island. The mysterious mas is always in Akeem's sight and he is on his own and left to manoeuvre the city to get to the Savannah Stage.

## COMPETITION FOR THE KEY TO THE CITY!

Finally making it to the Savannah stage Akeem realises that everyone else looks like him, sounds like him and what he thought was a unique costume was a replica of everyone else. He has to dig deep to find something that makes him stand out from the rest, something his father taught him about his tradition and culture of the small island. To Akeem's relief his father appears side stage with the authentic costume worn by his ancestors. Akeem runs off stage and hugs his Dad apologising for not respecting the magic of his ancestors. With that memory Akeem dance the Moko to the delight of the audience.

## BATTLE WITH THE MIDNIGHT ROBBER

He wins the competition and the large golden key to the Island but the 'costumed carnival monster' (initially seen on the ferry crossing) grabs the key from his hands and a battle ensues. All his friends come to his aid and it eventually reveals the true identity of the masked costume... the mayor who sabotaged the entire Carnival celebration on the small island so that he could reap the benefits of winning the crown. Akeem makes his way back home with his friends as he realises that the grass is not always greener on the other side and that the 'old way' still has power and therefore must be used with respect and honour.

