

# BOOK

# Review

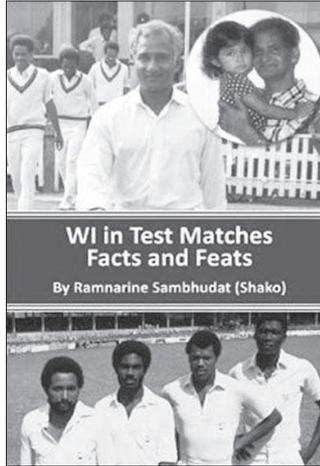
**Book: WI IN TEST MATCHES: Facts & Feats**  
**Author: Ramnarine Sambhudat (Shako)**  
 Formerly of Crabwood Creek, Guyana

Reviewer: **ALBERT BALDEO**

"Can a batsman be dismissed by one ball bowled? Who is the only West Indian (WI) batsman to have made a century on test debut, but was dropped immediately-never to have played another test? Who is the only bowler to take 9 test wickets in an innings, but never played for the WI again? Where and when did the legendary Rohan Kanhai make his epic 256, and when did he become an immortal (scoring 2 hundreds in a test)? Which innings are rated as Alvin Kallicharran's and Roy Fredericks' greatest feats? In what match winning partnership did Chanderpaul and Sarwan script their record breaking run chase against Australia? Was Clive Lloyd WI's most successful captain? For how long did Lance Gibbs' and Courtney Walsh's world record for the most test wickets stand? How long did Sir Garfield Sobers' record highest test score of

365\* not out stand, and how many times did Brian Lara accomplish this feat?"  
 For cricket lovers, players, and officials-indeed, the global cricket fraternity, the answers to these and other questions will amaze your cricket instincts. Noteworthy records and cricket feats of West Indians are repletely memorialized in this cricket lovers' compendium. In forwarding what can only be described as a painstaking labor of love by the author, Lance Gibbs, the greatest off spinner the West Indies has produced, captured the essence of Mr. Sambhudat's collection of facts and feats relating to West Indies Test matches when he said of this masterpiece, "In this pioneering reference book, the author has drawn all the

strands together to produce descriptive and statistical sections, which in my opinion has made this book a must for all those interested in WI cricket."



Indeed, cricket lovers and statisticians all over the world will welcome this enduring work as a worthy collection to their libraries. It will be hard to find another

work on West Indies test cricket that chronicles such complete and indepth factual data. Highlights of West Indies' first test series in 1928 to their last test match against Zimbabwe in 2013 are well researched and documented. No cricket fact-however small or trivial-is omitted. The hard facts are all there, including the indelible contributions of the great players of the game, who have all enriched the tapestry of cricket. There are also chapters on "West Indians sent home for disciplinary reasons, the great cricket grounds of the West Indies, Do you know, cricket jokes and funnies." There is even a trivia section. Crabwood Creek, and all Guyana, and indeed, the Caribbean, would be proud to acknowledge the work of one of its sons. WI records from 1928 to 2013

in batting, bowling, wicket keeping, fielding, partnership, all-round, individual, records in the WI, records against the WI, WI records against all Test playing countries, WI players who have played over 100 test, WI best opening batsmen, Guyanese contributions to WI cricket, all East Indians who represented the WI, all WI cricketers from 1928 to 2013 with their statistics, WI captains, all centuries scored by WI batsmen and foreign batsmen in and against WI and all centuries scored on all WI cricket grounds-424 pages of wide ranging research are captured. 62 nostalgic black and white photos-some very rare, abound plentifully, as are a host of other topics of interest a true cricket fan would love.  
 Photos of the inimitable triumphant falling hook

of Kanhai, WI's first ever test team, the famous run out by Joe Solomon that sparked the 1960-61 tied test, "Supercat" Clive Lloyd, Basil Butcher, the feats of Shivnarine "Tiger" Chanderpaul, Ronnie Sarwan, Carl Hooper, and the great legends-IVA Richards, Sobers, Lara, Headley, Lealie Constantine, the 3 W's-Worrell, Weekes and Walcott, Hall and Griffith, Ramadhin and Valentine, the feared quartet of Roberts, Holding, Croft and Garner, followed by Malcolm Marshall, Ambrose, Walsh and other WI greats are all reproduced in photographs-in addition to their iconic cricket feats. This is certainly a work I would recommend to all cricket connoisseurs and fans. Priced at \$24.95 US, it is a small price to pay in appreciation of the author's sleepless nights of research.

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## COMMUNITY

# Do West Indian Stand-up Comedians Exist?

By: **ALEXANDER NARINE**

Here in the United States, American natives typically understand West Indian people as being hard working, slow to anger, and possessing a great sense of humor. Positioning this premise to be true, and in fact being as satirical as they claim, then why have West Indians yet to call a stand-up comedian one of their own?  
 Upon attending an Indian-Western fusion concert emceed by Kishore Seunarine last month in Richmond Hill, I was thoroughly impressed by his jokes in between songs that



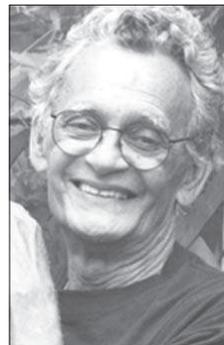
Alexander Narine

I was almost certain that he developed a routine. If I'm right, and he indeed spent time catering to an audience, working on tonality, and developing content, then would I be correct to call him a stand-up comedian?  
 Historically, one does not need to look far for comedic narrators from the islands of the West Indies. Our two living legends, Ken Corsbie from Guyana and Paul Keens-Douglas from Grenada, still perform to this day; their material evolving, fresh and still relevant in 2013.



Kishore Seunarine

It's also a safe assumption that because of their efforts, West Indian performers such as Mahadeo Shivraj, Michael Ignatius, and Alisha Persaud (to name a few) can attribute a part of their success to the efforts of Corsbie and Keens-Douglas. However the Caribbean has yet to see one of its own rise to the prominence of say, a Russell Peters, or a Chris Rock, or a Bill Maher. Here's my opinion why.  
 As Indians undertook their second mass migration, this time from the West Indies to the United States, they placed great emphasis on labor, savings, and education. Thus as early



Ken Corsbie

migrants specialized in labor and savings, they enabled their offspring to commit to education. In terms of education, the common paths typically involved the "big three," of medicine, law, and accountancy. In this roadmap to success, one can verily see that a career in comedy was not going to garner the praise of intended-in-laws anytime soon.  
 However, that's slowly beginning to change. West Indians are now fast becoming successful business owners, travel agents, singers, musicians, writers, playwrights, filmmakers, chemists, public planners, engineers, IT professionals,



Mahadeo Shivraj

social workers, investors, aspiring politicians, and even poker players (e.g. Victor Ramdin). As West Indians begin to utilize the entire roadmap to success available here in the United States, more and more are realizing that the American Dream is available to anyone willing to use their vision, natural ability, and determination to create an income stream most desirable to one's lifestyle needs. Hence, it's my prediction that in the near future a West Indian will take the art of comedy to the level of Jon Stewart, Jay Leno or Chelsea Handler, and will have his/her own show on



Paul Keens-Douglas

Comedy Central, NBC, or E! News.  
 In Alex's vision of a perfect world, I would love to go with my future wife one day to a comedy club in New York. While at that comedy club, I'd like to see a West Indian on stage at some point in the evening, with ageless looks, a hard working attitude, and a wicked sense of humor. Then, I can safely say that West Indians not only make great lawyers and doctors, but also great stand-up comedians too.

The views expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of THE WEST INDIAN.

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