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# THE MAILBAG

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Milli Perkins and Misela Collin

## Ouch Festival 2021

The annual 'Ouch' Festival is a Performing Arts festival for Bridgetown youth and the youth from across the district.

The 2021 Ouch Festival will be held on the 14th August at Bridgetown Theatre. Chris Shedley and Meegan Cullen are working with members of the Bridgetown Youth Theatre group to promote and manage this year's event.

Meegan talks to us about the festival, "We encourage entries from all areas of the arts including Music, Drama, Short film, Dance, Photography, Visual Arts, Stand-Up Comedy or any other art form you can contribute.

"We have the Visual Arts and Photography displayed in the Foyer of the theatre.

"The Bridgetown Youth Theatre will be performing one scene of their new self-devised play, a play with a murder mystery thriller theme. The full play will be performed at the theatre at the end of term three in September.

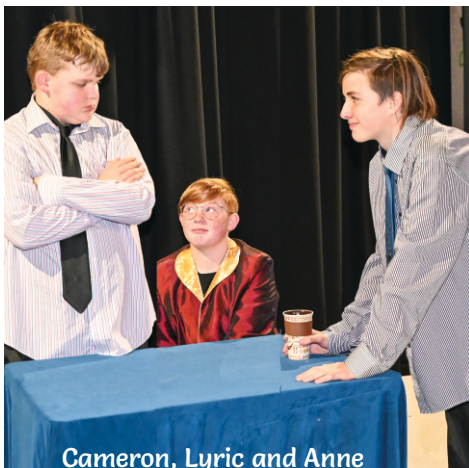
"The performances for Ouch Festival are along the lines of a talent quest, in that we have as many different performers on stage as we can on the night."

Part of the philosophy of the Ouch Festival is to involve teenagers in the planning, promotion and management of the event. This process gives those involved skills that enable them to visualize, plan and implement community activities, making them valuable community leaders wherever they may end up.

Chris continues, "The other major part of our philosophy is that performance of art forms by young people in a supportive environment can dramatically improve their self-confidence, self-discipline and independence. To perform well on stage an individual must take full responsibility for their own behavior, but must also learn to work well in a group and to trust their fellow performers.

"This first performance can be difficult (hence OUCH) but is usually also life changing.

"We also hope to encourage performers to go on to bigger and better things by offering master classes, festival entries and performance opportunities for outstanding performances at bigger and higher profile events." *Continued page 15*



Cameron, Lyric and Anne



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