

# The Nassau Guardian ONLINE

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

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## ▼ National

### Tyler Perry hosts film premiere on P.I.

By Paige Ferguson ~ Guardian Staff Reporter:

It's been more than 30 years since The Bahamas hosted a movie premier of such magnitude. The last time was in 1972 for Sir Sidney Poitier's 'Buck and The Preacher'. But the premiere of Tyler Perry's sequel Why Did I get Married Too? at the Atlantis Theater on Monday night rivaled any Hollywood red carpet.

"We wanted to make this a wonderful affair, black tie, red carpet," said Senior Pastor of Mount Tabor Full Gospel Church Neil C. Ellis, who played host for the event.

Bahamian politicians and dignitaries mingled with cast members and producers of the film, which was shot last year on Eleuthera, and centers around four married couples who traveled to the island for a marriage retreat.

Perry, who recently purchased an island in the Exuma cays, said filming the movie on Eleuthera was spectacular, "it was so bold and so beautiful. It's a beautiful island in and of itself and so it was really great. We were able to control a lot of the environment... and get our own great shots."

The actor, famed for the character Madea, which he created and plays in a number of his movies and plays, said it was important to return to and host the premiere in The Bahamas, following a great filming experience on Eleuthera.

"It was great to come here to The Bahamas to let everybody know how much I appreciate them," he said. "The last movie that premiered here, 'Buck and the Preacher', was way too long [ago]. So this is pretty great."

Speaking about the sequel to his 2007 box office hit Why Did I Get Married?, Perry said, "you cannot leave this movie and be the same in any relationship."

And The Bahamas will get the full attention of millions of viewers during the first 45 minutes of the movie, which showcases the clear blue waters and white sands of Eleuthera. Tourism Director General Vernice Walkine said it was an opportunity tourism officials couldn't pass on.

"It's not every day that we have somebody of the stature of Tyler Perry, who loves The Bahamas... enough that he not only shot a film [here] but he also purchased real estate. So he's showing his commitment to the country; he loves this country," she said.



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"And I think for him to be able to say what a wonderful destination this is for a vacation, for filming and to live is the best testimonial we could ever hope for. Since he filmed in Eleuthera we saw it as a great opportunity for us to begin to communicate more effectively that we are more than just Nassau and Paradise Island; and that's really a key objective of ours. So he has given us the opportunity to use his having filmed in Eleuthera to begin to communicate that message in a very credible way."

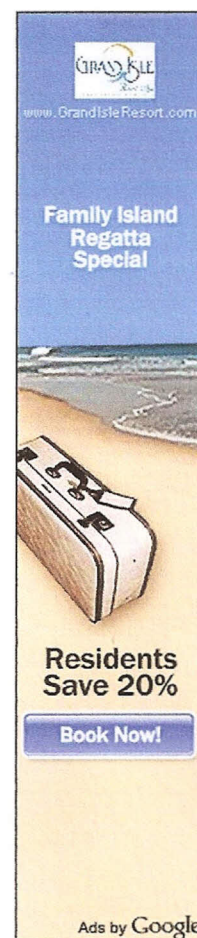
A few of Perry's co-stars were also present at the premier. David and Tamela Mann, stars of Perry's sitcom 'Meet the Browns', have worked with him since he started his career as a playwright in 1999.

"We're excited to be here. Every time he does something we're excited because we've been there from the beginning when there were no movies, when we were just trying to make the plays work," said David Mann. "And now that he's done the movie here in The Bahamas, we had to come and support."

Mann's wife Tamela added, "[We're here] to encourage the married couples. We've been married 24 years this April and we're excited about [the movie] and its message."

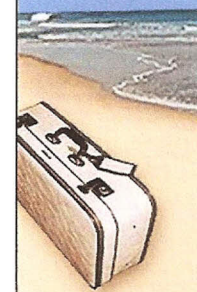
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