

## Eulogy of **Rance Kevin Mohammed**

Funeral Service 07.10.2015

Rance Kevin Mohammed, was the first born, and beloved son of Ishmael (Bobby) and Gina Mohammed. Our family was blessed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1982 with this “one of a kind”, dynamic and talented young man.

Rance meant so many things to so many different people, and his humble life touched the lives of each and every one of them, which has been evident since his passing by the sheer number of people who have called, visited and rallied around us all.

Of course, we're here today to share with you how absolutely special he was and will always be to us! The memories that we have been blessed with and will cherish forever and always; the memories that we cling to that will help us to always honour Rance and the gift of unconditional love that he has given to us. The memories that we have chosen to share with you today.

Rance loved to draw numbers, letters, characters, you name it! Unfortunately, our talented artist never liked to save his art work! He preferred rather, to crumple it and demand of his minions, “hand hand hand hand hand!!” Meaning: take it and throw it away! Our Picasso preferred expensive tools as well, Crayola markers, Pilot markers, and gel pens! Very expensive material to be showcased on crumpled paper in the bin! He was into 3 Dimensional art, you should see how creative he could get stacking and taping together DVDs and CDS, this art labeled with letters or numbers of the artist's choice! It depended on where he drew his inspiration from that day.

Rance loved to watch movies. His favorite movie of all time was the Sound of Music. Oh boy! I would have challenged any one of you to try watching that movie with Rance! What was already a three hour movie, took almost five hours, after Mr. Man kept replaying the scene when the Nuns sang: “How do you solve a problem like Maria?” What problem could Rance have wanted to solve? Huh? Hmm.. As far I could see it, he was the king and we, his humble servants!

Then there was Sesame Street! He even lived on Sesame Street, Guapo; so Rance could tell you, “how to get to Sesame Street”. If you never watched it, one hour with Rance would have made you an avid watcher. His cousins were certainly hooked, until it became a Facebook thing. When Sesame Street changed and became more modernized and boring, as Abbigail would put it, Rance would go on the laptop and search for old video clips.

Fun fact #1: Rance was more Techno savvy than his mother! Shame on you aunty Gina! Rance would YouTube “Ernie and Bert Tomb” and there, he found his video! (Possibly show the Video). This process became so regular Trudi decided to give Abbigail “home-work”. Abbigail had to stay up late researching and looking for videos, download them and convert them just for Rance. This process leads us to:

Fun Fact #2 Abigail is hooked on old school Sesame Street. So much so, that even when she didn't have "home-work" she still searched for and downloaded videos for Rance.

He also enjoyed Walt Disney's: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Sleeping Beauty and the Little Mermaid.

- In Sleeping Beauty, his favorite part was when King Stefan called out to his son to let him know he had found a Princess for him to marry... "PHILLIP!!!!!!", Rance Kevin would keep rewinding that scene over and over, even shouting out "PHILLIP" himself, jumping up and down and giggling hard expressing pure enjoyment and amusement at this scene. He had so many favourite parts from movies and cartoons, it was a pleasure, joy and completely satisfying to sit and watch them with him. Seeing him enjoying himself that way could melt the most frozen of hearts.

Fun fact #3: Abigail's eldest daughter was named after the main character of the Little Mermaid, Ariel. When she was pregnant, Rance would watch that movie over and over. Until she became hooked on singing:

“Under the sea  
Under the sea  
Darling it's better  
Down where it's wetter  
Take it from me  
Up on the shore they work all day  
Out in the sun they slave away  
While we devotin'  
Full time to floatin'  
Under the sea”

If you knew Rance this song was meant for him... He categorically loved the water! It could be the sea, a pool, a bath, a shower or even a 'hose down'.

Music was always a big part of Rance's life. He could spend hours listening to Kanchan and Babla, UB 40 - "Red Red Wine", the Eurythmics - "Sweet Dreams", Charlene Flores - "Spanish Confusion" and of course, there are many more! But, by far the greatest funny story about music and how Rance had us all wrapped tightly around his finger, was the epic story of "Boo Jello 8".

Rance was demanding from Aunty Gina to play Boo Jello. A confused mother wondering, "Who was this Boo Jello?" she began getting frustrated and asked Trudi, who of course, had no clue; Rainier was none the wiser and Abigail well she was at a complete loss but assumed that he meant "Blue Jello".

The ever passionate Aunty Gina threatened her and told her to go buy that Blue Jello because it was her fault! By this time Rance was insisting "Abigail Boo Jello". Abigail

went as far as San Fernando to “Fungs Grocery” at the time looking for “Blue Jello”. Only to find none! Pressure!! Because Mr. Rance could be demanding and had a temper. She said she kept repeating it in her head until it hit her, ALAS! “Boo Jello / Buju Banton - Track 8” from the “Til Shiloh” cd! Rainier and Abbigail were playing it the evening before and Rance kept replaying the track 8. Well, Aunty Gina could have killed Abbi for almost sending her crazy over a song.

Fun fact #4: Abbi only buys “Boo Jello” at the grocery!

Rance’s food choices were just as unique as he was! Mac & Cheese, very cheesy of course, Rice and Stewed Chicken, Rice and Green Chicken aka Curried chicken. Lunch Box aka spring roll from the Chinese Restaurant. When he ate that not a crumb was allowed to fall. His ultimate favourite was KFC, which when they started delivering in Point Fortin was a blessing! Rance made use of that!

So many people wanted to share their special memory of Rance, and so we have comprised a few stories to share.

**Kimberly** said she will never forget how Rance taught her to wear shirts that covered her stomach, how he rearranged his coloured pencils to always be in perfect order, and the keepsake drawing he made of her (large hoop earrings still worn) that she will cherish forever. Kimberly says: Rance, it’s comforting to know that you are now reunited with your father, but you were taken way too young. We lived a lifetime apart, but you were always in my heart.

Aunty **Cyd** spoke of how Rance had his own Bank. A tea Pot downstairs by Aunty Cyd. If anyone gave him money, especially Uncle **Glenn** he would either put it in the Tea Pot himself or give it to Aunty Cyd and say “Tea Pot”. Of course he would save his money a have everyone else purchase his items for him! I heard that when his tea pot was empty or he was “broke” he would go by mammy put out his hands and say “mammy money!”

Aunty **Lana** said she remembers when he said this complete sentence. “Aunty Lana I love you”. Also when he was teaching her the alphabet and whacked her on her head with a yard stick because she said a wrong letter; and when he asked her for \$1000 dollars. May be his tea pot was empty at the time.

Aunty **Vanana** aka **Vana** said she loved his baby soft hair. She remembered once he was on the phone with her and ask her “Aunty Vanana coming?”

He was known to **Kari Dunn Buron** as the “Gentle Giant” and indeed Rance Kevin was. He may have been big in size with the occasional temper, sometimes wondering if somehow he was related to HULK, but at the end of the day he was the most loving Giant there ever was with a “Jelly Belly”.

If you have been one of those who spent time and time again with Rance you would know what I am talking about when I say he was SPECIAL. Not because he had autism but because of who he was, his aura.

“Goodbye, Good Luck!” words well known and famous, by Rance Kevin. Today Rance, we bid you farewell. Thank you for every lesson of love, patience, tolerance, laughter, fun and beauty that you have taught us. We love you, even if we may not said it enough and we will miss you every single day. We will always cherish our memories of you and carry you in our hearts. May you find eternal rest with our Heavenly Father. May you rest in peace. Goodbye our sweet. Good luck!