



A Scene from "Out The Gate" Edee with Uncle Willie played by Oliver Samuels

After his best friend is killed by gangsters in rural Jamaica, an aspiring musician is sent to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of becoming a dancehall star.

CAST: Paul Campbell (Badz), Oliver Samuels (Uncle Willie), Shelli Boone (Tamika), Everton "E-Dee" Dennis (Everton), Dwight "Father Times" Benjamin (Father Times), Triniti Bhagandas (Ms. Triniti)

Young Everton (Everton "E-Dee" Dennis) has had a rough life. Growing up in a violent, rural community in Jamaica, Everton witnesses one tragic event after another. Concerned about Everton's future in Jamaica, Uncle Willie (Oliver Samuels) offers Everton a one-way ticket to the United States to pursue his musical aspirations. Shortly upon his arrival in Los Angeles, Everton makes fast friends with Father Times (Dwight "Father Times" Benjamin), a fellow dancehall artist. After a rough start, where Everton becomes homeless, he's able to support himself selling Jamaican DVDs and CDs with the help of a local Caribbean market. Both Everton and Father Times are individually making inroads in the music industry, but in different ways. Everton finds a producer that wants to work with him while Father Times finds a sponsor in the form of Badz (Paul Campbell), who invests in his career with an iron fist. On the one hand, Everton's career is flourishing. He even finds love in the form of Tamika (Shelli Boone), an architect. At the same time, Father Times' relationship with Badz sours and threatens to destroy not only him, but Everton and Tamika as well.

Out the Gate, which is loosely based on the life of E-Dee, has some appeal as a travelogue of shorts. The film includes scenes at various popular locations to the Los Angeles Caribbean community. It was also filmed on location in Toll Gate, Clarendon Parish, Jamaica. The cast gives some very energetic performances, particularly Paul Campbell, who seems to relish his role as the villain, Badz. Everton "E-Dee" Dennis is a very likeable scene presence, but despite being the lead character in the film, he's mostly a passive observer. The problem lies with the script by Qmillion (who also co-directed with R. Steven Johnson as The Village Brothers). Although it's based on a story by Dennis, the script seems more interested in the supporting characters rather than him. Instead of being in the middle of the action, the conflict in Everton's life is either glossed over or based solely on misunderstandings. For example, one day Everton is a homeless person and seemingly without much effort he becomes a successful entrepreneur. Meanwhile, a major dramatic subplot in the final act mostly involves Father Times and his falling out with Badz that inexplicably pulls in both Everton and Tamika into the fray.

Overall, Out the Gate may have some appeal to fans of dancehall and E-Dee in particular. It includes cameo appearances by various musical artists including Ms. Triniti, who does a suggestive duet with E-Dee. The film's various musical numbers are a highlight of the picture. The scenes shot in Jamaica, might also be of interest to those curious about the countryside away from the typical Jamaican tourist spots. Unfortunately, Out the Gate is a story afraid of itself. Rather than present what could have been a compelling "rags to riches" story about a rising dancehall performer, the filmmakers instead choose to focus on a generic action plot, involving secondary characters.

Out the Gate is in limited release on a city by city basis in the U.S. It opens in Jamaica on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The film is in Jamaican patois and English with English subtitles.

Official Website: [www.outthegatemovie.com](http://www.outthegatemovie.com)

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