

## **GUEDYE ST. JEAN**

### **By Josephine Andò**

*“Opera is more than a beautiful sound; it is the key that speaks directly to people’s heart.”*

Guedye St. Jean, the Haitian-born mezzo-soprano, knew that as soon as she saw her first opera, *The Barber of Seville*. And since then, she has fallen in love with this unique art form.

“When I saw the performance, it really moved me inside; the singers gave me such deep emotions that I decided to devote my time to learn how to become an opera singer and do the same thing,” St. Jean said.

For years, St. Jean has studied to pursue her dream and has been supported by a family that really believes in her.

“My family is my strength and their encouragement has been essential to me,” she said.

Her passion for music and opera is something that she conveys to children whenever she has an opportunity to work with them.

“I do a lot of social and volunteering work, especially with underprivileged kids,” she said. “When it is possible, I talk to them about music and the importance to pursue their dreams no matter how difficult they are to reach. Good will always come from hard work, I’m sure about it.”

St. Jean has to face hard work on a daily basis, because being a mezzo-soprano requires discipline, practice and constant improvement.

“My goal is to become a full artist, somebody who can hold an audience in the palm of her hands conveying genuine emotions to them,” she said.

Being a part of V.O.I.C.Experience and working in her new role as an OTAP have helped St. Jean get one step further toward fulfilling her dream.

“In V.O.I.C.Experience, I had the opportunity to work with legends, understand my strengths and weaknesses and build up from them,” she said. “I have learned being a singer is not only about having a beautiful voice but also about touching people and singing for them.”

That’s why her goal for this year is “to do the job that I love and do it for my audience, because I believe that it is the most precious gift that an opera singer can give.”