

**Interview with Matthew Thomas about his biography and kalenda performance
ID: T1065R02**

J. D. Elder: *Tell me, sir, tell me your full name properly. Talk in the mike.*

Matthew Thomas: *Matthew Thomas, Matthew Thomas.*

J. D. Elder: *Matthew Thomas, how long you been singing this kalinda, sir?*

Matthew Thomas: *Well, since I was a boy about fifteen years of age.*

J. D. Elder: *When did you learn kalinda, who taught it to you?*

Matthew Thomas: *By my own head piece – by hearing the old men singing, and I have the voice for singing.*

J. D. Elder: *Could you tell me some of the old stick men who used to be about here in Mayaro?*

Matthew Thomas: *In Mayaro, here?*

J. D. Elder: *Yes.*

Matthew Thomas: *Now, presently?*

J. D. Elder: *No, the old one in your time, long, long ago.*

Matthew Thomas: *No.*

J. D. Elder: *You remember some of them?*

Matthew Thomas: *No, not here, now presently.*

J. D. Elder: *Where you know good stick men in Trinidad?*

Matthew Thomas: *Tortuga!*

J. D. Elder: *Tortuga.*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *You could remember name?*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes, Carew is one.*

J. D. Elder: *Carew, yes.*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes. Fetty Thomas is one.*

J. D. Elder: *Ah-ah.*

Matthew Thomas: *And Darsamba is one.*

J. D. Elder: *Yes.*

Matthew Thomas: *And others that I couldn't remember them today.*

J. D. Elder: *You can't remember them.*

Matthew Thomas: *No.*

J. D. Elder: *Tell me, what is the length of the stick?*

Matthew Thomas: *The length of the stick?*

J. D. Elder: *Yes, the poui.*

Matthew Thomas: *Three feet.*

J. D. Elder: *Three feet.*

Unidentified: *No, no, no, man! [Sticks are usually closer to four feet.]*

Matthew Thomas: *Three feet.*

J. D. Elder: *Three feet long.*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *What wood you use to make the stick?*

Matthew Thomas: *Gasparee and poui.*

J. D. Elder: *On what days you used to play kalinda? What days and so on?*

Matthew Thomas: *Carnival.*

J. D. Elder: *Yes.*

Matthew Thomas: *Masquerade day.*

J. D. Elder: *You never used to play Carnival any other days?*

Matthew Thomas: *No.*

J. D. Elder: *What about August Day? [Emancipation Day]*

Matthew Thomas: *No, well we never accustomed to that white rum.*

J. D. Elder: *Oh, I see. What about Easter Monday?*

Matthew Thomas: *Easter Monday.*

J. D. Elder: *You used to play?*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *And what's the name? Say the words of that song you just sing for me.*

Matthew Thomas: *"Say way wangala, / ba-mwen sewe, / Malwe whoy." He say, "Hide the stick." Hide the obeah they bring for them.*

J. D. Elder: *Again.*

Matthew Thomas: *Hide the obeah you bring for me.*

J. D. Elder: *Who bring the obeah for you?*

Matthew Thomas: *Well, eh, other stick mens.*

J. D. Elder: *Other stick men?*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*

J. D. Elder: *I see.*

Matthew Thomas: *Yes.*