

Long finale for Pan Jazz

By ESSIBA SMALL

TECHNICAL difficulties and an eight-hour programme made for a tiring finale of the Pan Jazz Festival VIII.

Held Saturday night at the Pier 1, Chaguaramas, a scanty \$100 a ticket audience sat on wet plastic chairs for an evening of Indo-Calypso-jazz from Mungal Patasar and Pantar, calypso music from David Rudder and the sweet sounds of steel from the Swiss group Holiday for Pans.

The audience was tolerant.

They came for a 6 p.m. show which started at 6.45 but didn't end until well after 2 a.m. yesterday morning.

And as the evening wore on, many open-

ly expressed boredom.

Holiday for Pans was the first on stage. Then came the Linear Ensemble--a group of four out of Germany--who performed to a restless audience, but nevertheless impressed with their unique tuba playing.

Led by Mungal Patasar and featuring Marlon Charles on the tenor pan, Pantar followed with a commendable performance--which came off well considering a sound system which made the band sound loud one minute and soft in the next.

Their act was one of the few on the programme which managed to hold the audience's attention with a set that included originals --like "Stay Conscious", "Nostalgia" and "Dreadlocks" and the jazz

standard "All of Me."

Few remained in their seats to see trumpeter Antoine Illouz play.

But the performer's music was heard as patrons filled the tents housing drinks and food.

The Joe Lovano Quartet would get the same treatment later, in spite of the fact that the band's leader is currently Downbeat magazine's Jazz artiste of the year.

The set comprised songs from their current album featuring the soprano vocals of Judy Silvano.

One could say however, the evening belonged to Liam Teague and Friends. With a song list of favourites, the band -- under

the musical directorship of pianist Ovid Alexis--began with the catchy "Hands Like Lightning", following with "Mack the Knife" and "The Look of Love." And for the fans who abandoned Baron's concert, also held last Saturday night, Teague played jazz style, the calypsonian's "This Melody Sweet"-- David Rudder and his Ministry of Rhythm (featuring pannist Andy Narrell) were then announced, but by then it was too late. Patience had run out and only a faithful few stayed on to enjoy the sermon.

Rudder was excellent --as usual-- but unfortunately four hours too late. By the time he got his act together only empty chairs were visible.