

PAN ON THE MOVE

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Carlton Francis
making mini pans
that sound like
real thing for
export market

MINI PANS that sound like the real thing are now being made to be sold abroad. The man behind the "pan-on-the-move" venture is Carlton Francis, better known for his dancing achievements.

The pans Francis is working on carry two scales and 14 notes and are sold at \$65 each. The wholesale price is \$40.

Francis's base of operations is his home at Harding Place, Cocorite, Port-of-Spain. He employs five people, including two of his children.

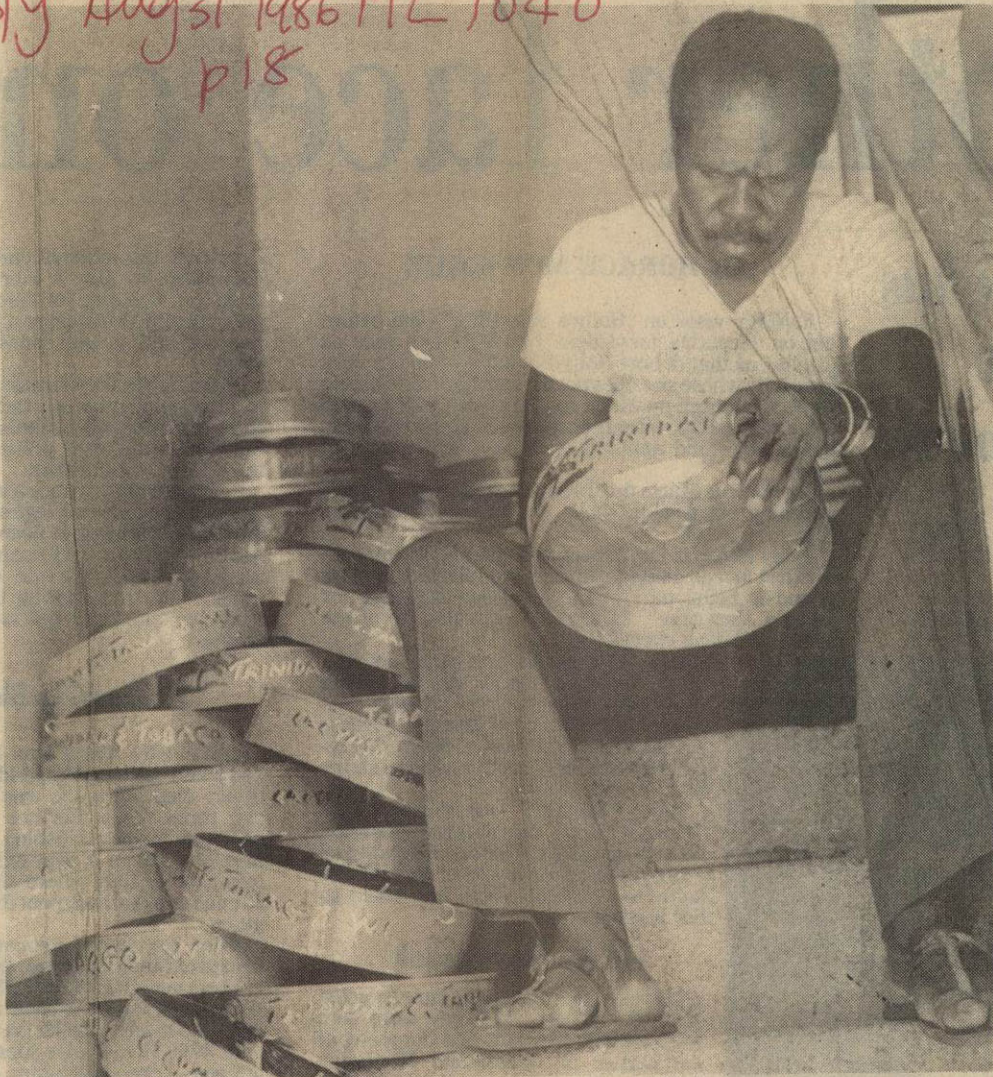
Final Product

The child, he said, could not find jobs anywhere and his way they can earn an honest living. His pan manufacturing set-up is not new as he first started in 1962 when a pan was sold for \$3. Around that time, Francis became a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Cooperative Handicraft Society and exported pans to Canada and to trade fairs in the United States through agent H.G.M Walker. He also supplied a number of Port-of-Spain stores. He attributes his beating skills, which he attained at the age of 15, to Henry Harper, Kelvin St. Rose and Winston King who taught him. In the early days, Francis said he only sank the pans but he later learnt how to groove them and make the final product.

The manufacture of pans, he confided, was just a passing phase, as now he has a permanent job with the City Council.

With his kids falling victims to the recession, Francis decided to get them interested in making pans and playing them. He said he received assistance from the Development Finance Company to purchase the tools necessary to produce the musical instruments efficiently. The DFC is also trying to put him and his business on a stable footing by finding him customers.

Some of the pans, he said, have been purchased



Dance cheographer Carlton Francis wearing a different hat, that of pan manufacturer. The pans are a favourite with tourists.

by the Export Development Corporation. Francis is assisted by Andrew Contant. "I really have to thank Andrew for encouraging me back into this business," he said.

UWI Certificate

Given the orders, Francis says he can turn out anything like 100 pans a week.

Francis is a member of the Indigenous Culture Committee of the National Cultural Council of

Trinidad and Tobago, the National Festival Committee, a trustee of the National Dance Association, a holder of a certificate in ritual and cultural arts from the University of the West Indies, and has a diploma in contemporary dance from the Martha Graham Contemporary School of Dance.

Francis has directed 22 full length productions in the theatre and television for the Arawak Dance Company. And now he is making another contribution to our culture by giving to the world a mini pan that sounds like the real thing.