

"Brown Skin Gal: Gay Revellers Give Carnival Warm Welcome."

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'Brown Skin Gal'

Gay Revellers Give Carnival Warm Welcome

"Brown skin gals" ignored the calpsonian's advice this morning and joined with "old*mask" revellers to give King Carnival a rousing welcome as his two-day reign opened with customary rejoicing and the discharge of three aerial bombs in Woodford Square.

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The city's celebrations were formally launched by the Mayor, Councillor V. R. Vidale in a short speech from the balcony of the Town Hall while 12 bands paraded in the street below. With the Mayor were Mrs. Vidale, Councillor Charles Ward, Councillor A. James, Mr. E. M. Mitchell, Mr. Randolph Mitchell, and Mr. Harold Dupres, City Supervisor.

Speaking on behalf of the Carnival Improvement Committee, the Mayor said :

"As Mayor of this city, this beautiful city which is second to none in its enjoyment of this festival, I am pleased to be privileged to announce officially the opening of the hectic reign which King Carnival will have over the city for two consecutive days.

"It is your privilege to play mask and play to the full. You have the freedom of the city to enjoy yourselves freely and with decorum. Let us be proud of you.

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"We of the Carnival Improvement Committee would like to feel that our labours have not been in vain. Do your best therefore to encourage us in our efforts.

"There are strangers in our midst, tourists and others, please give them a taste of what a ding-dong carnival is like."

Long before the official opening, however, revellers were already on the streets. Discarding conventional dress and behaviour, bands of masked men, women and children, many in hastily improvised costumes inadequately concealing their identity, swarmed city streets singing, dancing and gesticulating as perspiring young men beat out a pulsating rhythm on multi-shaped pieces of steel and tin pans.

Thousands of less active folk, standing in some places three deep on narrow pavements, gazed

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Carnival

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rapturously at the passing parade of fete-mad humanity. From doors and windows, persons in various types of nightwear, braved the inspection of curious passers-by to catch a glimpse of the merrymaking.

The population of Port-of-Spain has increased by several thousands overnight. Hundreds have abandoned their homes in the rural areas to be in the midst of the celebrations in the city. Besides, excursionists have poured in from the neighbouring colonies and all hotel accommodation has been fully absorbed. Added to that three warships are

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officers and men are ashore.

The city is in a state of enthu-
siastic confusion. The entire
populace is on the streets and
slow-moving vehicles in unendi-
ng streams, are carefully feeling
their way through the dense,
festive-mad crowds. On the side
walks venders of sweetmeats and
soft drinks are busy meeting the
demands of the hungry and
thirsty.

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Everywhere, it is a question of the survival of the noisiest. The passing masqueraders, the happy onlookers among them screaming children, the steel orchestras and the tooting and blowing of wind instruments of music—all go towards creating a tremendous din that can never be equalled outside the two days of carnival.

While bands of "sailors," "warriors," eastern princess," "clowns" etc.. march along "yankees," "pierrots," "tailors" and other forms of coin-collecting masqueraders entertain the onlookers "for a consideration."

The calypsonians are making their rounds reaping the last of their harvests for the 1947 carnival efforts.

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