

7-year-old lights up Pan Ramajay

By DAVID CUFFY ML1040

A STANDING ovation for seven-year-old Keitha Codrington's performance on the tenor pan highlighted the opening of Pan Ramajay 2001 at The Amphitheatre on the Western Main Road, St James last Saturday night.

The tiny lass' interpretation of the Mighty Sparrow's "Doh Back Back" in the preliminaries of the soloists competition won the heartfelt approval of patrons and a place in the semi-final of the contest scheduled for the same venue on Saturday, July 7, from 8 pm.

Organisers of Pan Ramajay, Exodus Steel Orchestra, re-introduced a competition aspect to the event this year in which soloists and duets are showcasing their skills in a bid to earn valuable cash awards and qualify for appearances at the major Ramajay showcase at the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, Port-of-Spain on Saturday, July 14. Eighteen soloists and nine duets appeared before a judging panel

comprising experienced improvisational musicians Clive "Zanda" Alexander, Rudy Wells and Michael Boothman. They were required to pick from a box, a selection from a list of 15 calypsos that included, in addition to "Doh Back Back," "The Hammer," "Old Lady Walk A Mile," "Rebecca," "The Will," "Somebody," "Pan In Danger," "Black Man Feeling To Party" "Bassman" and "Stranger."

Contestants were accompanied by an aggregation made up of Pelham Goddard on keyboards, Anthony Voisin on rhythm guitar, Emmanuel Ector on bass guitar and Sean Thomas on drums. Keitha Codrington impressively played the National Anthem to open the programme, and according to manager of Exodus Steel Orchestra, Ainsworth Mohammed, the little miss is following in the footsteps of another talented junior pannist, Atiba Williams who was introduced to the public at the Ramajay competition a few years ago. "In the same manner that we brought

the talents of Atiba to the attention of the public, Pan Ramajay is showcasing another of the country's young, highly talented pannists," he said. Keitha competed successfully with her brother, Kareem and father Cary, who were also among the 15 soloists advancing to the semi-final round. Others were: Sheldon Peters, Duvonne Stewart, Roger Charles, Kareem Brown, Astar Bishop, Pat Mc Nelly, Anthony Rose, Avis Bruce, Bruce Roberts, Carlon Harewood, Kurt Edwards and Darril Edwards. Qualifying for the semi-final in the duets category were Anthony Rose/Kenneth Clarke, Cary Codrington/Kareem Codrington, Darril Edwards/Roger Charles, Duvonne Stewart/Carlon Harewood, Kareem Brown/Avis Bruce and Kurt Edwards/Hayden Ifill. The final round of both categories is scheduled for Friday, July 13 at The Amphitheatre.

Making a guest appearance on last Saturday's programme was Innocogen Pamberi Steel Orchestra. Show host was Phil Simmons. Pan Ramajay 2001 is sponsored by Fernandes Black Label Rum, National Flour Mills, BP Trinidad and Tobago and CCN.

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Keitha