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PAN JAZZ OPENS TONIGHT

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By TERRY JOSEPH

FRESH from the frenzy of election '95, culture lovers will, from tonight, return their attention to the celebration of the national musical instrument, calypso and chutney music.

The Republic Bank Junior Steelband Music Festival, which took a break to allow for the recent poll, resumes tomorrow, with its finals being held at the Jean Pierre Complex in Port of Spain from 4 p.m..

Tonight, the curtain raises on Pan Jazz VII, the annual fusion festival of pan music and contemporary jazz, which has brought the indigenous instrument greater international recognition, kicks off a three night run, with its premiere performance at the Spektakula Forum in Port of Spain.

TMORROW NIGHT, the finals of the 1995 Police Calypso Competition will be held and on Saturday, calypsonian Rikki Jai launches his first chutney album.

Promoters of the Pan Jazz Festival say that both major musical inputs have a lot in common, with jazz being born out of the Black African experience in the new world at the turn of the century in New Orleans; while pan evolved from similar experiences here during World War II.

Since 1986, the Pan Jazz Company has imported a series of the finest jazz performers to these shores to supplement the local talent at the festival. The likes of exiled Cuban Paquito D'Riviera and master-trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, who have now been adopted by the St Lucian Jazz Festival, speaks of the pioneering spirit that Pan Jazz has been able to maintain, although not all of their efforts have been successes in economic terms.

THE FESTIVAL has also given star billing to the best in local jazz, including Toby Tobas, Fitzroy Coleman, Raf Robertson, Clive Zanda, and Andre Tanker.

Among the pan-nists, Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe, Annise Hadeed, Rudy 'Tulef' Smith, Othello Molineaux, Robbie Greenidge and Andy Narrell have played their wares in august company and maintained the musical integrity of the instrument, through their virtuosity.

Pan has been featured both as solo

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Caribbean rhythms at Spektakula

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instrument and part of small ensembles, such as would fit well into the jazz setting.

This year, the festival features three of the nation's best steelbands, with a number of top flight acts from North America and Europe to complete the jam.

Amoco Renegades, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band and Claude Sommier's DJOA Quintet from Paris (featuring Annise Hadeed) will perform tonight.

The Fort Apache Band is described as one of the authentic standard bearers of what can rightfully be called Latin Jazz. The sextet's milestone album "Crossroads",

demonstrates the completeness of their approach to the execution of the musical hybrid.

Born of Puerto Rican Heritage in New York, Apache's Jerry and Andy Gonzalez, and Steve Berrios all grew up with their ears and hearts open to both jazz and Latin music.

JERRY TOLD *Down Beat* in 1990 that his ears were filled with the sound of Monk, Coltrane Miles; but he heard the Cuban rhythms with it all along.

The result of that fusion is evident in their works and tonight will be available for all locals to hear at the Spektakula Forum from 8.30 p.m. for a mere \$50.

They will hear the prize-winning Amoco Renegades ensemble trot out

many of the more intricate pan pieces, together with their Panorama successes and a series of songs, many of which will be familiar to the foreigners.

Annise Hadeed, who will provide a musical link between the styles, tonight performs with the Claude Sommier DJOA Quintet.

Hadeed, a Trinidadian, has been campaigning in Europe and North America for many years and has earned for himself a great level of respect from some of the more famous names in the business.

He first ventured to London in 1979, to work with the Breakfast Band, with whom he released the album *Dolphin Ride* and two singles "LR 14" and "Such a Feeling".

He has also worked with

Japanese musician Akira Inoue, local star David Rudder and in 1981 recorded with Billy Ocean on the tune "Calypso Funkin Through the Night".

"WHEN PEOPLE learn that I'm a steeldrum musician, they automatically think island music, calypso — end of story", says Hadeed, adding: "Its our job to open up the person's mind to understand that the steel drum is an instrument capable of playing any kind of music".

Tonight that process of opening up begins afresh, with the premiere of Pan Jazz VII, which continues tomorrow night at the Spektakula Forum, then moves to Pier 1 on Saturday for the finale.



RUDDER