



# Take Over Tent

## Our Mission

To develop exceptional calypsonians with the ability to perform, locally, regionally and internationally, thus providing all our customers with a superior product that enriches, informs and entertains. In doing so, TOT will help build on its reputation as a value for money tent, whose well-being is in their customers' interest and whose calypsonians, are well respected for their performance and integrity.

## Motto

"The Calypsonian is not bigger than Calypso."

In 2010 the exceptional talent within the tent again rose to the top of the calypso season. Our members captured the Calypso Monarch, Groovy Soca Monarch, and the Caribbean Party Monarch titles. The tent has strung together success after success by not forgetting its basic mission which is to provide the best possible entertainment to its customers. We are proud to be the leading tent on

island

Success does not come easily and overnight as the members of the Take Over Tent have come to understand. It has taken thirty years of fight and hard work from management and calypsonians to achieve the level of success we have attained. Management meets with members throughout the year lending support towards achieving higher standards and greater

preparedness for the following calypso season. As a result of this continuous contact, patrons, sponsors, the media and all involved in the Calypso art form continue to recognize the levels that the Take Over Tent has risen to year after year in spite of the hard economic times.

The Take Over Tent has always been a tent which is interested in the youth. In our thirty years we have had the honour to introduce St. Lucia to some of the most prolific calypsonians in our history. We often refer to ourselves as the “cradle of calypso” as many of the calypsonians competing today were at one time members of the Take Over Tent. This year is no different. We present our cast of calypsonians where we continue to pave the way for the youth and new aspiring

Calypsonians and/or Soca Artistes. These individuals have recognised the product which the tent has to offer and have therefore placed their confidence in the tent due to the tent’s history, successes and management styles.

We have prepared a celebratory season where patrons will enjoy a total Calypso experience as we have a reputation of providing a relaxed atmosphere which is welcoming. We are synonymous with fun, entertainment, hard hitting lyrics and unorthodox performances. Every year will be no exception, as we embark on shows geared at keeping the standard higher than before.

## **A Short History of the Take Over Tent**

The Take Over Tent has been in existence for thirty calypso seasons; founded on December 5th, 1981 by Trescott “Soukou” Augustin and Cyril “Get Through” Felix. Under their leadership Take Over Tent made its debut on the local calypso scene on February 7th, 1982, at the Castries City Hall. Calypsonians featured in that show were the likes of Professor, Lord Bristo, Educator, Short Pants, Sky Hawk, The Sleeping Serpent, Observer, Comptroller, and Get Through.

As the years progressed, the tent has exposed patrons to some of the most innovative performers in this art form. It also provided local patrons with some of the most scintillating calypso shows, providing new and interesting interpretations of life’s social and political events through this fabulous art form.

TOT has always lived up to its motto –

“The Calypsonian is not bigger than the Calypso.”

and has made presenting a quality product a hallmark of its outing every calypso season.

## **The early years**

In its rookie year 1982, the tent won the Road March crown with the political commentary entitled “What De People Chanting” written by Trescott “Soukou” Augustin and performed by Cyril “Get Through” Felix. Subsequently, Get Through captured the first runner- up in the Calypso Monarch Competition. In 1984, TOT reintroduced

Herman Hippolyte, after his low key debut in 1982 as the “Young Surpriser.” The “Ashanti” as he is now well known came to be a legend in the Calypso arena with the writing genius of then tent manager Trevor “Jah T” Anthony and later Nahum “Happy” Jn. Baptiste. “Ashanti” went on to shape the tent’s public image, with the assistance of song writers like “Jah T”, “Happy”, “Soukou”, and “Herb Black”, and performers like “Get

Through”, “Black I”, “Observer”, “Simplicity”, and “Walleigh”, placed the tent firmly in sympathy with the plight of the working man and the disadvantaged. Ashanti’s 1985 hit “Malayway”, written by “Jah T”, is perhaps the most iconic specimen of authentic St. Lucian Calypso. After twenty-five years this song is more popular than it was when it first debuted.

### **T.O.T Icons**

In 1990 Herman “Ashanti” Hippolyte won the first of his three crowns. The tent enjoyed the status of not only being the most imaginative tent (as it fueled interest among its patrons as they were always left wondering what would come next) but earned cult status with loyal patrons who were addicted to the TOT sound.

Anthony “Herb Black” Lewis after making his debut in 1986, and up to the time he took a leave of absence from the calypso season in 2001, was the designated ‘high priest’ in the calypso tabernacle. He was looked upon as a hard worker and a social outsider. The depth and sincerity of his lyrics, coupled with his haunting melodies epitomised in hits like “One Day’s Work” “Calypso Jail”, “It’s All In Me”, “Black History” and “How Did The Guy Die” is everlasting testimony to the social conscientiousness that pervades the music coming out of the Take Over Tent.

In 2005 Herb Black took a Hiatus from the calypso arena he returned with a bang in 2008 winning the Calypso Monarch and Groovy Monarch Titles. He also nabbed the Wave’s People’s Monarch title as voted on by members of the public.

Who cannot forget the energetic “Alpha” with his smashing hit in 2004 “Down de road’ which had St. Lucians wanting more. That song won him the National Party Monarch and Road march title and he also placed third in the OECS Soca Monarch that year. In 2005 and 2006 he repeated the feat for the National Party Monarch for an unprecedented third time. He has definitely proven to be a force to be reckoned with also Ricky T.

### **T.O.T Collaborations**

Since 1985, in association with renowned musicians **Ronald “Boo” Hinkson** and **Luther François** and songwriters **Kenny**

**James** and “**Jah T**”, the tent has experimented with the socazouk rhythms through performers like “**Ashanti**”, Kerwin

“**Rootsy**” Pierre, “**Black I**”, and Agnes “**Black**

**Pearl**” Louis. These experiments were vindicated with T.O.T’s diva “**Black Pearl**”, when she was crowned Soca Monarch in 2002.

To this day, she is known as the ONLY female Soca Monarch here in St. Lucia. She has made a significant contribution to the tent and will be hoping to capture another crown this calypso season.

In 1984, the tent won its first monarchy with “**Comptroller**”, but his stint with the tent was short-lived. During the next six years the tent did not win another Calypso Monarch title (the titles won by tent members Professor and Educator are attributed to the Ambassadors Tent). The tent has won the following titles:

- 1982 Road March Get Thru
- 1984 Calypso Monarch Comptroller
- 1985 Road March Ashanti
- 1986 Calypso Monarch Professor
- 1986 Road March Inspector reds
- 1990 Calypso Monarch Ashanti
- 1991 Calypso Monarch Ashanti
- 1998 Calypso Monarch Ashanti
- 1998 Road March Twop  
Chans
- 2000 Soca Monarch Rootsy
- 2000 Road March Rootsy
- 2002 Soca Monarch Black Pearl
- 2003 Road March XMan
- 2004 Road March Alpha
- 2004 Party Monarch Alpha
- 2005 Calypso Monarch Walleigh
- 2005 Party Monarch Alpha
- 2006 Party Monarch Alpha

- 2007 Road March Ricky T
- 2008 Calypso Monarch Herb Black
- 2008 Groovy Monarch Herb Black
- 2008 Soca Monarch Ricky T
- 2008 Caribbean Soca Ricky T
- 2008 Road March Ricky T
- 2009 Groovy Monarch Alpha
- 2009 Soca Monarch Ricky T
- 2009 Caribbean Soca Ricky T
- 2009 Road March Ricky T
- 2010 Calypso Monarch Invader
- 2010 Groovy Monarch Alpha
- 2010 Caribbean Soca Ricky T
  
- 2011-2023 various Titles and Artist

The 2008 and 2009 seasons proved to be a rather productive one with the tent winning all titles but the 2009 Calypso Monarch.

### *T.O.T and the Youth*

The Take Over Tent has always taken a special interest in the youth and in 1995 the tent took the decision to place emphasis on their development. Since then, the tent has introduced “**Nadiege**”, “**Running Man**”, “**Trish**”, “**Alpha**”, “**Lady Strong**”, “**Tiny Terror**”, “**Papa Lima**”, “**Ronald Darius**”, “**Ratchie**”, “**Sara Lee**”, “**Sunshine**”, “**Flopsy**”, “**Soca Princess**”, “**Marianne**”, “**Crazy D**”, **Senator** to the national calypso stage. In 2003, seven year old “**Lil D**” made an appearance on the TOT stage.

# Profiles of some of our past and present members



**Cyril Felix {Get Through}** is beyond doubt a veteran in the business. He made his debut in 1982. He is one of the founding members of the tent and a true and committed calypsonian . His aim for forming this tent was to create an avenue whereby young and aspiring calypsonians could express themselves, without fear

of discrimination because of social status and to create a nurturing environment for development both personally and in the art form. His initiative afforded many young persons the opportunity to express themselves thereby changing the public perception on the art form in St. Lucia. As a calypsonian, he has won a Road March title and has sung many

fan

favourites such as “Marchand”

**Anthony Sylvester Lewis {Herb Black}** is from the fishing village of Anse La Raye, a writer in his own right. He writes and composes all his songs and music. His 1991 composition “**It’s all in Me**” was published in the Grade Three Reader for Caribbean



Primary Schools as an example of a well written calypso. He made his debut in the calypso arena in the year 1986 and made it to the finals that same year. He has been in the finals ten times since then. He has held the position of Tent Leader of the Take Over Tent in the past and assisted in achieving the level of longevity which the tent

enjoys. He has been dubbed the people king due to the fact that he had not won a calypso Monarch title. In 2008 he finally fulfilled his dream as becoming King by winning not only the Calypso Monarch title but also winning the Groovy Monarch title. He also came first runner up in the Road March competition.



**Herman Hippolyte affectionately known in calypso as ‘The Ashanti’** has made his name in local calypso for many years with his popular hits which

to this day is sung by old and young once played. He has won the Calypso Monarch on for three years; 1990, 1991, 1998 respectively. *Prices Too High, They Lose, Jail, Shanti Tell Them So, Growing Population and Dem Alcoholics* are songs which are still relevant in these times as the issues dealt with are still going on at present. He continues to warm the hearts of his fans and has been called the “Peoples King” for years. He has immense stage personality which causes the crowd to go wild upon the announcement of his name. He is looking forward to pleasing his many fans in this year calypso season.



**Ricky Joseph {Ricky T }** joined the tent in 2005, but did not compete. He blazed the scene with his controversial ‘**Mange Mamou**’ that earned him household fame. He has been singing for the past four (4) years doing mostly reggae and dub. He is also known in local circles as the Remix King. He captured the Road March Monarch with the song “**Container**” in 2006. In 2007 he made a name for himself internationally with the hit “**Pressure boom**” He followed up this success in 2008 with the hit ‘**Wham to Dem!**’ That year he won all local soca Titles and

the Road March Titles. Not to be out done in 2009 he successfully defended all his local titles with the song “**Like a Jumbie**” He represented St. Lucia at the Caribbean Soca Monarch Competition in Trinidad for three consecutive years and each year he made the finals He is making a name for himself on the international carnival circuit and has become a regular at Miami, London, Boston and Labour day Carnival celebrations.



**Wenhel Gerald {Alpha}** made his calypso debut whilst attending the Vide Bouteille Secondary school in the year 1995, at which time he captured the monarch. His love for the art form motivated him to take part in the National Monarch

competition in 1995 and placed second at this show. In 1997 he became a member of the T.O.T calypso tent. Since then he has been a semi finalist in the

years 2000, 2001 and 2003. A former lead vocalist of the Reasons Orchestra, one of the top calypso back up bands in the country. In 2004 his smashing hit **“Down De Road”** took not only St. Lucia by storm, but also the Caribbean earning him the Party Monarch and Road March title respectively. In 2005, he again won the Party Monarch and had fans begging for more of his smashing hit **‘In de Ark**. He also captivated the calypso fans with his slow groove **‘Dancing’**. He captured a third consecutive Party Monarch in 2006 with his **“Happy Birthday to Calypso”** becoming the first soca artist to do so. He returned to his winning ways in 2009 with the Groovy hit **“Cyan wait”**



**Agnes Lewis [Black Pearl]** is a daughter of the fishing village of Anse-La-Rayé. This village boasts a proud tradition of producing some of the island's best calypsonians. She made her debut in the year 1989 and three years later became a crowd favourite with the song **“Sha Sha á Terre”**. She persevered and in the year 2002 became a finalist with her smashing hit **“Bouché Yo”**. She also won the Soca Monarch that year.

debut in the year a crowd favourite. Hoping to go all the way to the commentary he 2005, he astounded the calypso crowd with his bouncy number **‘Hush Twash’** which cemented him in the soca genre. In 2009 his tunes **“Holiday in Bordelais”** and **“Standing Ovation”** won him a spot in the spot in the Calypso Monarch Semi-finals.



**Anthony Charles {De Achiever nee Strugler}** made his 1992. An advocate for the poor working class makes him He has made it to the semi finals three times and is Hoping to go all the way to the commentary he 2005, he astounded the calypso crowd with his bouncy number **‘Hush Twash’** which cemented him in the soca genre. In 2009 his tunes **“Holiday in Bordelais”** and **“Standing Ovation”** won him a spot in the spot in the Calypso Monarch Semi-finals.





**Joseph Saltibus {Twop Chans}** originally from the village of Choiseul he now resides in Castries. He made his debut in 1997. He is one of the most colourful members of the tent. He is well known for his stage antics and is a fan favourite. He won the

Road March crown with the hit "**Hospital Burnin**". In 2008, Twop Chans made wave locally, regionally and internationally with his hit "Gros Popot" He continued his comedic ways with the well received "**Take It (pwen)**" in 2009.



**Ronald Darius:** This calypsonian is from the Babonneau community. He is currently employed with Sandals Halcyon in the capacity of electrical /air condition technician.

He made his debut with T.O.T in the year 2003 and instantaneously became a crowd favourite with his sensational hit "Michelle, which earned him a spot in the finals

Soca Monarch  
**Ricky Adonis**  
Primary and  
driver he has  
mark in the



**{Super D}** made his debut in 1995. He attended the S.D.A. Secondary school. A professional mechanic and minibus made his genre of social and political commentary.



**Everton Hippolyte {Floopsy}** is a product of the R.C. Boys' Primary School. This young man has won the R>C. Monarch in 2002 and Junior Calypso Monarch that same year. He is no stranger to the stage performing at numerous school shows and even on Mas on the Square. A student of the Bocage Secondary School at fourteen he became one of the youngest calypsonians to participate in the Calypso Monarch finals. He made the tent proud when he placed first runner up in the competition in his debut with

the song "**Mama**".



resides in

**Benedict "Supernatural" Arthur** has been away from the competitive stage for a number of years. Although he has not been competing for a number of years, he is an integral and vital member of the tent. He sometimes makes guest appearances during the tent shows.

**Chanel Christophe {Double C}** hails from the community of Micoud but now resides in Castries.



Chanel's opportunity to test the waters came in 2005 when he decided to represent Digicel in the then growing Inter-Commercial House competition. His participation in that forum lasted four consecutive years and saw him winning the crown in 2007 with a composition entitled 'JC'.

In 2009 after honing the skills on the Inter-Commercial stage he joined the Take Over Tent and make the step to the Big Yard. Chanel who writes all his material believes that calypso is his creative avenue to address social issues.



Saralee Smith is no stranger to the performing arts or calypso. In 2003 she represented Castries Comprehensive at the National Junior Calypso competition placing fourth. was encouraged to join the Take Over Tent where she made a few appearances.

Locally, Sarah as she is commonly referred to has been a member of the National Youth Choir since 2002 and was a cast member for the remake of Roderick Walcott's Banjo Man (2004).

**Mark Sebastian Joseph (stage name:-Sebo)** His interest in calypso began at an early age as he got his inspirations from his father. He released his first Groovy single in 2008 entitled "Soca

Jumbie". In 2009, he has joined up with the 'big guns' of the Take Over Tent with the intention of improving his skills and making himself proud as this year will be the first year in which he is entering into competition.

**Lady Spice** is the first female Calypso Monarch in St. Lucia in 2000 with the songs entitled 'This Woman Vex' and 'Can't Find That Man'. She has made it to the semi finals on many occasions and continues to make an impact on the local stage.



**Marilyn Baptiste better known as 'Lady Leen'** is a veteran in the calypso arena and has made it to the Semi-Finals on numerous occasions. She has a connection with the crowd when she performs and has a passion for Calypso. She started her Calypso career with the Ambassador's Calypso Tent and joined the TOT family in 2009.

**Livingston Norville stage name Crazy 'D'** made his debut in TOT in 2008 and is looking forward to taking the stage once again in 2009.