



dateline: UVI

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Sold-Out Starfest 10 Wows Audience

Starfest 10 started with a bang and ended with a bang, leaving audiences asking what could possibly top this year's performance. Starfest, the variety-styled show produced annually by the University of the Virgin Islands Reichhold Center for the Arts, was held on May 8, 9 and 16. Starfest is so much more than a talent show – it is an entire production where everything is at its best – from the performers, to the stage, to the lights. And the dancers can rival those of Las Vegas.

Pop Diva Whitney Houston got favorable play as Kmisha Counts and Besha Liburd, the two opening acts, belted out some of her most popular tunes. A confident 11-year-old Ashlee Douglas took the stage, not missing a note as she sang the theme song from the Lizzie McGuire Movie. Douglas' powerful voice was rewarded with rousing applause.

Starfest 10 was dramatically improved by video biographies, portions of which were taken as the performers went about their day-to-day activities, which afforded viewers a glimpse into the performers' lives.

Soyika Richardson gave an enchanting performance as she executed complicated ragtime pieces on the piano. The white lights of the blue set design danced as she played. Richardson also played classical tunes to the audience's delight. Guitarist Scott Fagan performed an original composition, "The V.I. Song," as scenes and people of the Virgin Islands were displayed on a 50 by 24-foot screen.

Things got hot as Attallah Bertrand performed Beyonce's "Naughty Girl." The performance was complete with caged dancers.



Left to right: Ashlee Douglas, Starfest 10 Dancers and Besha Liburd perform. Bottom: the male quintet All the Way performs.



The Starfest 10 dancers performed a wide range of movements, including hip-hop, praise and worship, disco and jazz – even breaking out into pantomime. The dancers were energetic and graceful.

A moving gospel segment featuring Vietta Ann

Hutchinson, Clint Constantine and Kareem Harrigan took the audience into intermission. But it was the energy of the St. Croix Festival Road March Champs Xtaushun that brought the audience back after intermission. A vigorous performance of the group's calypso tunes set the pace for the second half of the show. The hip-hop segment that followed featured No Mercy along with chanter/rapper Lenea "Lady Souljah" Industrious. The male

quintet "All the Way" was an audience favorite. Code Blue dancers drew gasps from the audience as they flipped, jumped and danced in a dynamic performance.

Chronicling a decade of performances, highlights from previous Starfests were shown on the screen between segments. The sold-out shows on May 8 and 9 prompted the Reichhold Center to hold an encore performance the following Sunday. Reichhold director and Starfest creator David Edgecombe forecasts an even better Starfest 11. We'll be waiting.

Events Calendar

May 25-June 6	Global Leaders Institute	STT
May 25-26	Student Affairs Workshop	STT
May 26, 27	Diversity Workshops	STX
May 27	NLM Workshop	

UVI Wins Big at St. Thomas Carnival

Perhaps it was the colorful costumes, the well thought out themes or the dance routines. Perhaps it was a combination of all. No matter the reasons, the UVI family is celebrating because its floupe in this year's St. Thomas Carnival Adults' Parade won first place and its 4-H troupe in the Children's Parade won second place.

The floupe in the Adult's entry was themed "Knowledge, Culture and More for Carnival 2004" and depicted the various cultures that contributed to the knowledge of the region. Red raffia skirts and beaded red neck pieces depicted the Dogons of Mali, white togas and purple and gold gladiator costumes depicted the Greco-Romans and orange and black skirts with the matching triangular neck pieces depicted the local Tainos. On the float was a brain that symbolized knowledge.

The Cooperative Extension's 4-H won double accolades. The 4-H's Monetrick Olive and Kahlid Blyden won the Junior



Top: Adults Parade. Left to right: An "African" troupe member. Miss UVI Alba Harrigan. A "Greco-Roman" reveler. Bottom: Children's Parade. Left to right: A student from the Family Life Center Pan Panthers performs. A 4-H reveler makes her way up the road. St. Thomas Carnival Junior King of the Band Kahlid Blyden.



Photos Courtesy of Gary Metz and Dale Morton.

Queen and King of the Band, respectively. Olive's costume portrayed a fan dancer. Rose patterned lace, fabric trimmed with frills, and gold lame made up Olive's 4-foot high and 8-foot wide fan costume.

Blyden's costume portrayed Pancho, a little Mexican boy who stands to guard the sign (South of the Border) between North and South Carolina. Pancho's magical hat grows larger and larger as the sun gets hotter. Blyden's golden costume was 8 feet wide.

UVI's Family Life Center Pan Panthers gave impressive performances in both the Pan Jamboree and the Children's Parade.

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