

Caribbean CARNIVAL Extravaganza

➤ In 1991, the Caribbean Carnival Extravaganza started with a bang and had its World premiere at the prestigious Barbican Hall, with 10 sold out performances, Wayne Berkeley who also directed the production, designed all the costumes. The show then toured the Theatre Royal in Nottingham, De Montford Hall in Leicester and the Cheltenham & Portsmouth Festivals.

The Caribbean Carnival Extravaganza has always included Steel bands as part of the programme. Steel bands featured included Skiffle Bunch, Phase One, Ebony, London All Stars, Mangrove and Metronomes.

The production has performed at most major venues in the United Kingdom, including the Royal Albert and Festival Halls, Symphony Hall in Birmingham, De Montford Hall in Leicester, Theatre Royal in Nottingham, St. David's Hall in Cardiff, the Queen Elisabeth Hall and many festivals including the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Arundel, Portsmouth, Southend -on-Sea and Bristol Festivals. The show also toured Holland performing 28 sold out shows in 32 days and featured Calypso Rose, Sannell Dempster and Kurt Allen; it was the first time that a Trinidad production had toured Holland with such great success.



The Extravaganza also performed in Istanbul and scaled down versions at the Tivoli in Denmark and Sweden where Ebony Steel band was featured.

It is envisioned that the Extravaganza will be brought to the London's West End with top Caribbean names in the music business taking the lead parts, employing special effects to enhance the quality of the production. At present, the production has been surviving on a shoestring budget and inadequate funding to realise its full potential as a major theatrical event.

by Sonny Blacks

