

London JOUVERT

In the early hours of Sunday the 27th August 2006, the Jouvert celebrations inched its way down Ladbroke Grove led by the London All Stars Steel Orchestra. The affair is a BAS all steel band event and without doubt, the crowds were drawn to the sweet strains of infectious steelband music that broke the pre-dawn tranquillity. Everyone joined in the celebrations, adorn themselves in mud, powder, and brightly coloured paint depicting the celebration of emancipation.



For more than a century Jouvert pronounced 'Jouvay' meaning 'day-break' processions have marked the opening of Trinidad Carnival. Jouvert evolved from 19th century Canboulay festivals, these nighttime celebrations saw ex-slaves gather to masquerade, sing and dance in commemoration of their emancipation. When this tradition was incorporated into Trinidad's Carnival, it became an arena for African derived percussion, sardonic costuming, and, more recently lively steelband music with revellers jumping and dancing fuelled by the copious amounts of alcohol consumed and the exhilaration of the occasion.

2004 saw the revival of the London Jouvert celebrations when Stardust, London All Stars and Ebony steel bands took to the road at 6a.m. filling the air with the sweet and captivating sounds of steel.

The London BAS Jouvert 2K6 celebration left the Sainsbury's car park, Ladbroke Grove at 6:00 a.m. promptly and made it way around the specified route before returning to the starting point.

London All Stars were victorious in the 'Bomb' competition (tune of choice) in 2004, 2005 and 2006 leaving revellers begging for more when the bacchanal ended at 10:00 a.m. This British Association of Steelbands event is well received by the public and growing in popularity. Everyone is looking forward to an even more successful Jouvert in 2007 with BAS working laboriously to ensure its growth is sustained through the inclusion of more bands and masqueraders. The 2007 Jouvert will see many more steel bands take to the road to compete at the BAS 'Bomb' competition and treat their revellers to infectious steel band music.

