

Confessions of jazzoholics

THE 2010 Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival runs from January 24-30 with the main event set for its new home at the Trelawny stadium. With the 14th staging just weeks away, two jazz addicts reveal what keeps them coming back each year.

The Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival for me is a refreshing interlude from the hard-hitting, pulsating, enjoyable dancehall beats that I love. It allows me the time to appreciate other genres of music and live performances that are as melodious onstage as on the CD, all within an arms reach. Definite highlight! Some persons worldwide cannot boast having the opportunity of seeing the likes of Diana Ross, Air Supply, Brian McKnight, Anita Baker, Maxi Priest, Earth, Wind and Fire – and the list goes on.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The whole atmosphere of jazz festival is like a huge get-together. Shooting the breeze, lying with good friends, meeting new acquaintances and the ambience of the location are the attractions that I enjoy the most about the festival and they keep me coming back.

My most memorable experience at Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival was in 2008 when I attended with my mom. Seeing her having a blast was enough to make me happy! She went missing in the venue for almost 45 minutes. When I checked, she



COOPER

was at the front of the stage being thrilled by Al Green.

The show would, as you put it, 'sell off' with acts such as a Mariah Carey or a Celine Dion that have so many hits, which appeal to a wide cross section of music lovers.

When I close my eyes and peak my ears to the sounds of the festival, an unmatched feeling of relaxation enriches my senses. I've left the office behind me and it's time to chill.

Safia Cooper
Brand Manager
Red Stripe and
Red Stripe Light

My name is Tara and I'm A jazzaholic! The Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival is one of the few annual events that I look forward to each year. It goes beyond the music – it's an experience. The beauty of the historic grounds, the ambience and warmth of those in attendance serve to make that one night or your entire weekend more than memorable.

This wonderful event also gives me an opportunity to have a fantastic weekend in Jamaica's Second City with my friends enjoying all that Montego Bay has to offer from the beautiful beaches, great restaurants and the exhilarating night-life, making it an overall adventure.

The line-up at Jamaica Jazz and Blues has never failed to be entertaining and there's no doubt that each night holds an amazing array of talent from around the globe – the energy, vibes and the sweet sounds of great music that are carried on the cool Caribbean breeze just can't be beat. Where else can you kick back and relax under a starry Jamaican night next to an aqueduct, built hundreds of years ago, while listening to the amazing sounds of Anita Baker, Arturo Tappin, Alicia Keys, Beres Hammond, Hugh Masekela, Jill Scott, KoKo



PLAYFAIR-SCOTT

Taylor, John Legend or Third World?

I look forward to another electrifying weekend at Jamaica Jazz and Blues 2010 and know that "I'll be caught up in its rapture" yet again ... I'm a jazzaholic for life.

Tara Playfair-Scott
Marketing Consultant

Musical treat for Jazz and Blues opener at Pegasus

THE 2010 week-long Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival kicks off at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in Kingston on Sunday, January 24. This is the second such partnership between The Jamaica Pegasus hotel and TurnKey Productions as in January 2007, the vibrant Latin funk sounds of Spanish band Yerba Buena invaded the cool gardens of the hotel, much to the delight of patrons.

The gardens of The Jamaica Pegasus hotel will again be transformed into an amphitheatre featuring Roy Ayers and Jamaica's Tony Greene, Ricardo Suave and a lovely songbird to be announced soon. The event will feature TurnKey Productions' signature live performances and excellent production technique with some of the country's best behind-the-scenes operators.

Vibraphonist/vocalist Roy Ayers is among the best known, most loved and respected jazz/R&B artistes on the music scene today and is now in his fourth decade in the music business. Ayers, known as the Godfather of neo soul, continues to bridge the gap between generations of music lovers. Today, the dynamic music man is an iconic figure in great demand and whose music has been sampled by music industry heavyweights, including Mary J. Blige,

Erykah Badu, 50 Cent, A Tribe Called Quest, Tupac and Ice Cube.

Ayers recently recorded with hip-hop artiste Talib Kweli (produced by Kanye West) and jazz/R&B singer Will Drowning. Many of Ayers' songs including, **Everybody Loves the Sunshine**, **Searching** and **Running Away** have been frequently sampled and remixed by DJs worldwide.

The 2010 staging of the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival will be a seven-day celebration of 'The Art of Music' that will see Jamaica engulfed in the awesome sights and sounds of the TurnKey Productions event from January 24-30. The signature performance nights will take place from January 28-30 at the Trelawny stadium, which is 15 minutes away from the previous location at Rose Hall in St James.

Having seen performances from the likes of Alicia Keys, Kenny Rogers and many more, the festival stage will this year welcome Gladys Knight, Joss Stone, Erykah Badu, Jon Secada, Deborah Cox, Kelly Price, Tamia, Machel Montano HD, Caribbean Jewel, Billy Ocean, as well as reggae band Third World.



GREENE

FILE
Roy Ayers

CatEyes here to rock Jamaica

SHE MIGHT be based in Boston, United States (US), but Rochelle 'CatEyes' Farquharson is looking to take the Jamaican music scene by storm. The 23-year-old has been around music from the age of four when she began tagging along with her dad and mom, Edgerton and Michelle Farquharson, to Anchor Studios, owned by Gussie Clarke.

"I've been in the studio all my life. My dad has worked in the industry and he's worked with Beenie Man, KC and Joe Joe of Jodeci and many others. But it was at age 14 that I started writing my own music with the help of my dad, and I told him that music is what I really wanted to do," said CatEyes (who kept the nickname she was given in school).

Since then, music is exactly what she has been doing. Her latest singles **It's You** and **Come Back Home**, featuring Little Hero, have been getting airtime on local radio. And CatEyes, who is managed by Madstorm Production, is set to release her collaboration with Sizzla, **Baby Baby**, which is being wrapped up in the mixing labs by Dr Marshall.



CATEYES

"I've already done my part and we've sent it down to Dr Marshall and Sizzla," CatEyes said during a telephone interview. "I can't wait for that to be released because if Sizzla breathes on a track, it's a hit. So that is very exciting for me to have the exposure to work with Sizzla," she added.

CatEyes feels her sound will bring a new dimension and crossover appeal to reggae and dancehall, and describes her musical style as "inspired by love".

REAL MUSIC

"My music is everything that I live through. It is inspired by love; it is how I feel and the music I grew up listening to – Tony Rebel, Beres (Hammond) and Garnett (Silk) – real music and from the heart," she said.

Though born stateside, CatEyes describes her music as authentically Jamaican and hopes her music will appeal to the audiences in Jamaica and the world.

"I am privileged to know both the experiences of the US and Jamaica. Even though I was born in the US, my dad made sure that I experienced Jamaica while I

was growing up. I even attended school there at (Stella Maris Prep) for a few years," she pointed out.

CatEyes explains that all her rhythms are produced in Jamaica by Delroy Christie and M'Telwa and she records either in Boston at I-Hear Studio or makes the trip to the notable Anchor Recording Studios in Kingston (that studio has recorded hits like **Boombastic** by Shaggy, **Night Nurse** by Gregory Isaacs and **Champion Lover** by Shabba Ranks. Sly and Robbie also do much of their work there).

"I try to come to Jamaica as often as I can – maybe five or six times a year," she said.

With her single **Come Back Home** featuring Little Hero bubbling on the airwaves, she may make a few appearances with the stage veteran, who worked with her father a few years back.

The singer has a deep, soulful sound, with an R&B influence that she believes will go beyond the one-hit wonder formula that now pervades that music culture.