

# PANORAMA GOES TO HYDE PARK!

*Ebony captured their  
16th Panorama Title!*

The 29th Notting Hill Panorama 'Champions of Steel' competition was hosted in Hyde Park for the first time in its history. Since its inception it has been hosted at a number of venues including the Scrubs and Kensal road. On Saturday the 25th August 2007, Hyde Park brought to life with a touch of Caribbean ambience as the sweet strains of steelband music coupled with the mouth-watering smells of the West Indian cuisine blended with the warm summer weather.



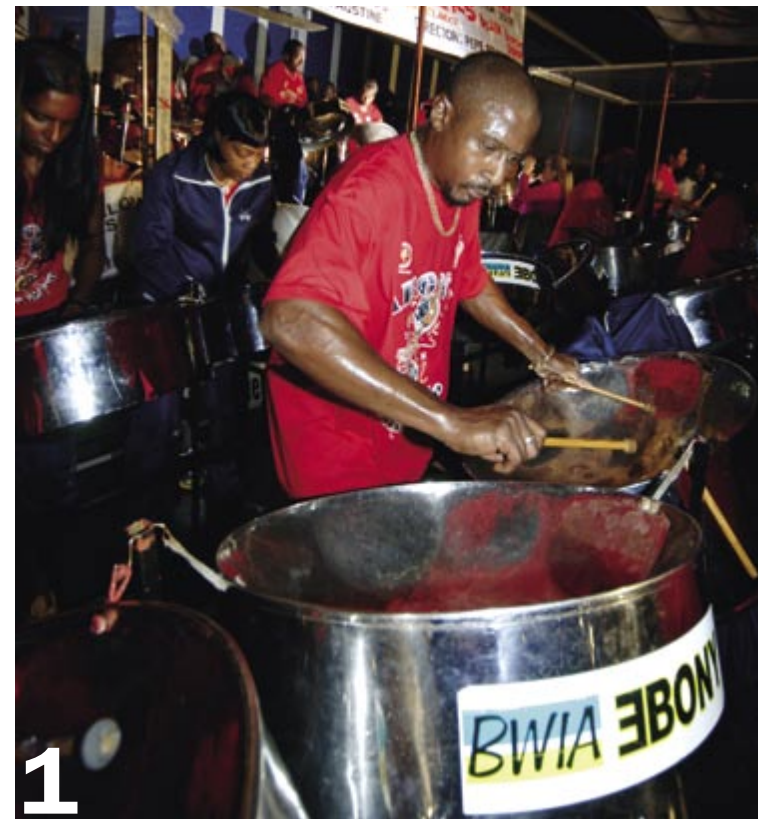
➤ The theme for the Notting Hill Carnival 2007 was 'Set All Free' celebrating the bi-centenary of the abolition of the slave trade, as well as remembering that slavery continues in many forms across the world. 2007 marked a new beginning in partnership working between London Notting Hill Carnival Ltd (LNHCL), the Mayor of London and the British Association of Steel bands (BAS) to host the Steelband Panorama competition in Hyde Park.

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone said: "The plan to stage Panorama in Hyde Park is a very welcome development, building on Panorama's historic position as a key part of the Carnival celebrations and as the successor to Caribbean Showcase, which has previously been held in the park. "I am very pleased to be backing Carnival again, particularly in the year that we are marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in England."

Nine steel orchestras with over 600 pan musicians who practiced for hundreds of hours and played thousands of pan instruments on the night Ebony Steel Orchestra captured their 16th Panorama 'Champions of Steel' title when the UK steelband community celebrated the 29th anniversary of this renowned competition. The evening was truly blessed for this highly fuelled national steelband musical battle. ABC Brass, the champions of the Battle of Drums competition at the 2007 Rotterdam Carnival opened the show with some energetic drumming accompanied by choreographed dances. Their appearance at the Panorama competition was made possible through an exchange program brokered by the British Association of Steelbands and the organisers of Rotterdam Carnival, Ducos, in Holland. In return, Ebony Steel Orchestra will appear as a guest band at their 2008 Rotterdam Carnival.

Over the past five years, the UK pan community has seen an influx of young 'local' arrangers enter this competition in the likes of Kyrion Akal, Leroy Clarke, Brent Holder, Paul Dowie, Chris Storey and Samuel Du Bois, a new entrant for 2007.

Samuel Du Bois's vibrant musical rendition of Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe's,



'Sharing Licks' saw Ebony capture their 16th Panorama title in this competition with 264 points. A newcomer to this competition as an arranger, Samuel has certainly made his mark and proved that the UK's young arrangers are a force to be reckoned with. In second place was Stardust led by world champion soloist, Brent Holder, whose musically

arranged rendition of 'Sharing Licks' saw their energized and harmonious delivery awarded 263 points. Len 'Boogsie' Sharpe's musical arrangement of his composition, 'Sharing Licks' saw Mangrove's highly charged performance attain third place with 257 points. In fourth place with 255 points was Metronomes with their musically