



Moonsplash 2006
Newsletter

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Moonsplash 2006 Takes a Voyage to India

Motown artist, India Arie, will headline the upcoming Moonsplash Music Festival, which is loaded with talent and surprises. India is one of the most innovative and creative artists of her generation and one of the few neo-soul artists of the late 1990's to grow and blossom on today's music scene.

India's debut album "Acoustic Soul" garnered wide critical acclaim and her follow up album "Voyage to India" gained 7 Grammy nominations. Since then, India's star has continued to grow as she continues to create great music and expand her philanthropic efforts, including AIDS awareness work across the African continent. Without doubt, this will be the most ambitious show ever put on in Anguilla and will continue to establish Moonsplash as the festival that consistently brings the top talent to the island.

The Anguilla Tourist Board is a major supporter of this year's Moonsplash, recognizing the importance and broad based appeal of the festival. The Tourist Board will be a part of several of the awareness events that will take

place ahead of this year's festival.

2006 will mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of reggae pioneers Roots & Herbs. The band's music changed the face of music in the Eastern Caribbean, and put Anguilla on the musical map. Led by Bankie Banx, the band wowed the crowd at Reggae Sunsplash 1983 and this performance—arguably the band's greatest—is chronicled in the groundbreaking reggae documentary "Cool Runnings."

The Roots & Herbs reunion is one that fans of the band have sought for almost 20 years. "Prince of Darkness," for which Bankie is best known, became one of the most requested songs upon its release in 1977. The song's appeal crossed over reggae, gospel and pop charts. Follow up songs included: "Where I and I Abide", "The Battle's On", "Know Your Roots", "Inspector", and "Duty Calls." After their groundbreaking performance at Sunsplash 1983 the band later moved to Europe, where they were based for three years.

Bankie Banx and the All Star

Band will also be featured at this year's festival. The All Star Band includes reggae guitar legend Cat Coore, bass virtuoso Benjy Myaz, jazz pianist Onaje Allan Gumbs, drummer Tony Ruption and keyboardist Ash Hodge. Vocalists Joanne Williams and Jill Guerra also appeared with the All Star band at Moonsplash 2005. Pat McKay of Sirius Satellite Radio in New York, and Oluwakemi Linda Banks will again host this year's festival.

West coast rockers Slightly Stoopid will bring a blend of ska, reggae, and rock to the festival. The group's influences are diverse, ranging from The Grateful Dead to Wyclef Jean.

In addition to the annual cocktail party at Callaloo Peninsula, live performances, and grand beach party at the Dune Preserve, Moonsplash 2006 will introduce its first annual golf outing for the golf enthusiasts. Moonsplash is a uniquely Anguillian festival and will continue to highlight the diversity of the Anguilla experience. The festival will take place from March 16—19, 2006.

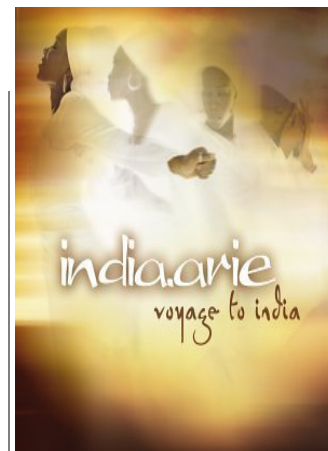
All Star Spotlight - Benjy Myaz www.benjymyaz.com

Music aficionados recognize the integral role of the bass guitar in just about every musical genre. From the up tempo style on Bankie's "Taking Over" to the understated precision on "Chariots of Steel" Benjy is the man holding down the bottom. But there is much more to this unassuming, dreadlocked artist. Born Benjamin Myers, Benjy honed his craft playing gospel music in his native Jamaica. As a bass player, Benjy is widely regarded as one of reggae's finest, and his body of work is immense from being awarded a scholarship

to Boston's Berklee School of Music in 1989, to receiving a nomination medal and certificate from the Recording Academy for his work on Toots & the Maytals Grammy nominated album in 2000. Benjy has also worked with Jimmy Cliff, Third World, Freddie McGregor, Culture, Lieutenant Stitchie and an array of other elite artists. Benjy has been Bankie's musical director at Moonsplash since 1997, and along with Cat Coore were coproducers on "Chariots of Steel."

Despite his collaborations, Benjy is

his own man. His style, while reminiscent of the greats like John Holt and Dennis Brown, is completely original and unmistakably authentic. On November 17th, Benjy released his third solo album "Long Story Short" to rave reviews in Jamaica. On "Long Story Short," the musical world has a unique opportunity to see an artist truly come full circle. Learn more about Benjy on his website at www.benjymyaz.com and see Benjy with All Star Band at Moonsplash 2006.



Did You Know?

Moonsplash is the festival that brings the most international coverage to the island of Anguilla.

The Dune Preserve is the place to be, and Moonsplash is the festival to attend. Just ask Town and Country Travel, MSNBC.com, Bon Appetit Magazine, Essence and VH1.

In one weekend in March 2006 Moonsplash will contribute more than \$800,000.00 U.S. to Anguilla's economy.

For every \$1 brought in at the Moonsplash gates, the festival contributes approximately \$20 to the tourism sector.

Email us: ms2006@bankiebanx.net

2006 Committee:

Oluwakemi Linda Banks
Perin Bradley
Mike Giordano
Tom McInerney
Kimberly Michele
Yanchie Richardson
Doug Russell
Bob Saidenberg
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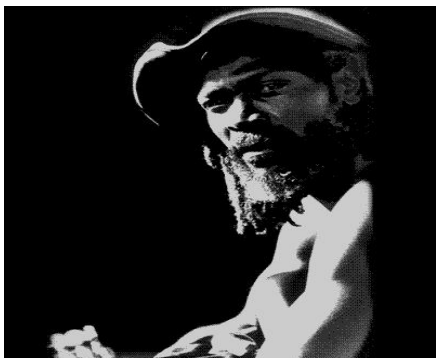
For more information check us out at www.bankiebanx.net

Moonsplash Honor Roll

Bankie Banx
Bacon Brothers
Benjy Myaz
Black Uhuru
Bullitt
Cat Coore
Culture
Freddie McGregor
John Holt
Junior Jazz
Kinayah
Lloyd Parks and We The People
Marcia Griffith
Oluwakemi Linda Banks
Omari Banks
Onaje Allan Gumbs
Pam Hall
Pat McKay
Rita Marley
Ritchie Havens
Richard Hickson (1970 - 2005)
Sheriff Bob
Uncle Shep
Tahirah Banks
Third World
Toots & The Maytals

Join The Team

Moonsplash supports the community. One hundred percent of the net proceeds of Moonsplash 2006 will benefit the Stingray Program on Anguilla. The Stingray Program is a non-profit organization on Anguilla committed to providing productive alternatives to crime and violence through education in music and the arts.



All Star Spotlight: Onaje Allan Gumbs

People who know jazz know Onaje Allan Gumbs. They know that Onaje has worked with singer Betty Carter, trumpeter Woody Shaw, and drummer Roland Shannon Jackson. They might not know that Onaje provided the arrangement for "Betcha By Golly Wow," which became the signature piece for the late great vocalist Phyllis Hyman, or that Onaje's most recent project "Remember Their Innocence" has made the first cut for the 48th Annual Grammy Awards in eleven different categories including Album of the Year, and Best Jazz Album. The much deserved recognition that Onaje has received for "Remember Their Innocence" is even sweeter, given that Onaje independently produced, marketed and funded the album.

Onaje took up music full time over thirty years ago and has never stopped since. Onaje was born in New York, but his father and his father's family are all from Anguilla and Moonsplash has provided an opportunity for him to reconnect to an important part of his heritage. Moonsplash 2005 was Onaje's first, but he had performed with Bankie before and is now an essential part of the All Star Band.

Despite his strong ties, and industry wide recognition, Onaje has never had the opportunity to showcase his full array of jazz skills on Anguilla, but that may not be true for much longer. Onaje's start in the business came as a 20-year old back in the early 1970's when he composed and arranged a song for the David Frost Show. The song was commissioned by the musical director, Dr. Billy Taylor, one of the foremost figures in jazz. Onaje has been working, producing, composing and arranging ever since. Look for Onaje on the Grammy's stage in February 2006 and the Moonsplash Stage in March 2006.

www.onajeallangumbs.com

Moonsplash 2006 Preparation Olaide Banks - obanks@bankiebanx.net

Preparing and planning for the Moonsplash Music Festival is a year round job. When Doug, Jason and I boarded the American Airlines flight in St. Maarten we vowed to take a three month sabbatical from Moonsplash and restart in earnest in May. Of course nothing ever goes according to plan. Once we got back to Houston we were still buzzing over the festival, the beaches, the food and the people. Everyone we ran into in Houston wanted to see the pictures, wanted to know if we had CD's of the festival or if we had video.

Once we got past sharing the pictures, we shifted our focus to the logistics of the festival and what we could do differently to improve the 2006 festival. We also discussed the production and presentation and agreed that we would definitely need more volunteers and we would have to get an early jump on 2006. Since then we have come up with concrete plans and strategies for the week of the festival and on the evenings of the performances.

We recognized that for the festival to achieve its full potential we would have to find some innovative ways to publicize it in the Caribbean and in the States. Doug, Yanchie Richardson and Tom McInerney have been invaluable in that respect. In March, Doug and I embarked on an ambitious plan to bring Bankie, the face of Moonsplash, to the States and put him on the road for a Month or so. For anyone who has ever considered putting a tour together - a few words of advice - think long and hard before you do it. From sending out press kits, to knocking on doors, to making phone calls Doug and I did it all. We also got a lot of help from some people around the country including Tom McInerney, Kevon Glickman, Yanchie Richardson and the Anguilla Tourist Board. Once the dust had settled Bankie had traveled to Houston, San Antonio, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Bucks County and Lancaster, PA, New York, Nashville, Atlanta, Palm Bay and Miami (see Bankie's Tour Journal: www.bankiebanx.net/OnTour.html). This year was truly special since we had a chance to present Moonsplash and Anguilla to a lot of new markets. We also learned that there are a lot of people, in a lot of places that we've never thought about, who know of Bankie and want to see him perform.

While in Atlanta, Bankie met India Arie's bass player through our man on the spot Marc. Bankie also touched bases with Irino Hodge who is responsible for the guitar licks on the original Roots & Herbs recordings. While in Palm Bay, Yanchie introduced Bankie to Jah-D a really cool saxophonist and artist. In Houston, Bankie connected with Houston's top reggae band D.R.U.M., and in New York he shared the stage with one of our favorite artists - Alana Davis. Both Alana and Jah-D will be performing as part of the Dune Preserve concert series beginning in December. If you've got an idea on something we can do differently I'd love to hear it. Please email me at obanks@bankiebanx.net.