

Fashion

about helping Children at home

By Clare Douglas and Stacy Lee Kong
Photos by Tony Sladden and Tristan Laughton.

Fashion Has No Borders (FHNB) kicked off on July 25th at Palais Royale in support of **Sick Kids Foundation** and **Watoto Canada** – a charitable organization that works on projects to benefit children in Uganda and East Africa. Hosted by the diva of Canadian fashion Jeanne Beker, and international Supermodel Yasmin Warsame with performances by Jarvis Church, David Kirton and others – the who's who of fashion and entertainment came together to celebrate Caribbean designers and to show that they care about children here at home and abroad. ■

FRANCIS HENDY (Trinidad)

On his fashion beginnings – “Well, I could never find any pants that fit my legs properly, and I wanted to look good so I had to learn how to make my own!”

On being persistent – “I’ve only ever wanted to design clothes. I’ve been doing this for 20 years now, and it was 15 years before I got a [big] break.”

Francis Hendy NY Western



Jarvis Church

One-on-One with David Kirton

Reggae singer David Kirton isn't as famous as fellow Bajan Rihanna – yet.
Stacy Lee Kong

Exposé Entertainment Magazine: When did you know you wanted to be a musician?

David Kirton: I knew from early. But it's only when I saw Bob Marley play that it really hit me. Seeing him, one of the first Caribbean superstars, that's what led me to learn to play guitar and trying to write my own songs.

EEM: Your latest CD, *Time for Change*, is your third studio album (not counting your children's album). Do you feel like you're established now?

DK: I felt so lucky to be able to make my first album [1999's *Stranger*], and I wondered whether I would be able to make a second and a third. This is a big album for me because, like the title says,

YASMIN WARSAME

“I’m more than proud to wear [the designs]. [Caribbean Designers] are so talented and to have this platform for them, of course I want to support it.”



David Kirton

Cares

and abroad

KIMYA GLASGOW (St. Vincent)

On her fashion beginnings – “Designing is as natural as breathing to me; it’s what I’ve always wanted to do. I’ve always drawn, but it was always sketches of clothes.”

On having what it takes – “If you want to succeed on the Caribbean fashion circuit, you can’t just be a designer. You have to be an entrepreneur.”

MICHELLE GORDON

(Jenez9designs Inc. Canada)

“I’ve been in the fashion industry for 15 years now and still going strong. I’m based in Toronto, representing Jamaica. It’s exciting, [and] nerve racking [to be here] but it’s awesome. I love it.”



SHARON CORNWALL,

President FHNB

“FHNB celebrates the energy and substance of style across races, classes, sizes, and cultures”.

Sharon Cornwall



Kimon Baptiste

Just Cause



Jeanne and hubby

JEANNE BEKER

“People from the Caribbean just have such a great attitude towards life. They live in such beautiful surroundings and they’re really inspired by that. The level of talent and creativity is really awesome.”

KIMON BAPTISTE

(Kimmystic.Clo, St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

“I’ve been designing for over 10 years, half of it as an amateur, then I got into runway designs about 5 years ago. This is actually one of my biggest shows. So it’s an honour and a real privilege to be here. Caribbean people are very colourful, very diverse, so I describe my clothing line as an explosion of colour. It’s very fun, funky, fresh and it’s vibrant. It ranges from casual clothing to very formal gowns.”

The award-winning and critically acclaimed musician chatted with us recently about Bob Marley, camo pants and music with a message.

things are changing for me now. I just finished shooting my first music video; I never made one before now!

EEM: Of all your songs, which one is your favourite?

DK: “Green Camouflage”, from Time for Change. It’s a song that really touched Barbadians. You know, camouflage is illegal in Barbados, and it struck me that it was not fair. We don’t

have any organized militia, you know? I say, in the song, “Gimme the green camouflage for the peace march.”

EEM: Regarding the kind of music you wanted to make and the song “Green Camouflage”, is that message an important part of your music?

DK: I would love it if my song could make change, for “Green

Camouflage” to change cultural feelings. But that is what reggae is. It came with a message.

EEM: What has been the hardest part of your journey so far?

DK: I am not Jamaican, but I make reggae music and I’m heavily influenced by Jamaican musicians. I had to learn how to keep my identity as a Barbadian, as me.

EEM: What’s the best advice you’ve ever gotten?

DK: The best advice I got is from Selwyn [Brown] from Steel Pulse. I met them before I was even heavy into music, but he told me to find a song that’s your own. That is how I write my songs. I sit down with my guitar and say, “Okay, universe, what have I got to offer?” ■