

# Grand Lucayan Celebrity Weekend a hit

## The Grand Lucayan exploring ways to attract international and bahamian patrons

The Grand Lucayan Inaugural Celebrity Weekend is history and plans are already underway to stage more cultural and international events.

Reviews on this first installment are still coming in but all seem to recognize and agree that the Grand Lucayan is committed to generating ongoing events and activities for its international and Bahamian guests. The past weekend event was one additional way of ensuring that it's in-house guests were entertained and took away with them wonderful experiences from the Bahamas. Toward this end the resort partnered with Tenner and Associates, a Las Vegas based firm to produce and organize the first celebrity weekend. After months of planning Lisa Tenner unveiled her line up of American talent to perform for visitors and Bahamians alike in what was promised as a star-studded weekend. The line up included American Idols Tim Urban, Didi Benami and Blake Lewis, America's Got Talent Prince Poppycock and Las



International entertainers participate in the Grand Lucayan Celebrity weekend. (Photo by KeenlMedia)

Vegas Headliner Clint Holmes. Also appearing in the pre and post show were Bahamian veteran performer Alia Coley and the amazing Royal Bahamas Defence Force Pop Band.

The event began with a ribbon cutting, followed by a walk on the Red Carpet where Bahamian and international press interviewed the artists and other notable personalities who attended. During the cocktail hour Alia Coley deliv-

ered a great performance by stringing together a combination of Jazz, R&B and Bahamian hits, including her original work, which dazzled the crowd. Numerous patrons purchased her CDs to take a bit of her home with them.

Dinner as expected was delightful. The buffet was varied, attractive and according to guests interviewed, tasty. The main concert began with Tim Urban whose boyish looks,

skillful guitar play and mellow voice endeared him to the crowd. Fellow American Idol alumni Didi Benami put on display her beautiful voice. The headliner for the evening Prince Poppycock lived up to his reputation as a provocative showman with an incredible voice.

The evening was anchored by the sweet Bahamian music played by the Defence Force Pop band. The crowd was waiting to dance and the band gave them a reason to do just that by playing the Bahamian favourites. While the celebrity meet and greet went on back-

stage the audience danced the night away.

Saturday night's show was from start to finish a wonderful experience. Blake Lewis demonstrated why he has topped the billboard chart with his strong voice and ability to create varied sounds that excite and wow the audience. Clint Holmes, who is no stranger to The Bahamas lived up to his reputation as a brilliant performer who moves like Sammy Davis, and sings with similar authority. His smooth sound and remarkable storytelling connected with the intimate crowd that braved

the nippy weather under the stars on the Great Lawn. Hotel executives are listening carefully to the feedback of the public and are taking away the lessons learnt to improve upon what it presents in future. The resort promises bigger and better events going forward. In fact it invites the public to its Bahamian Cultural show this coming weekend at the hotel.

The Grand Lucayan hotel, which is the largest resort on the island, has for the last three months been staging Bahamian cultural shows for its guests. (Continued on Page 5)

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Our Lucaya official rebranding was an exciting event taking place during a star studded weekend of activities. Pictured at third left is Gary Gilbert, CEO during the official ribbon cutting. (Photos by KeenlMedia)

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international media and travel experts. To date seven shows have been organized by Bahamian performers and presented alongside an assortment of Bahamian cuisines. Both the local press and those media houses from the U.S. have celebrated the vibrancy of the local cultural shows and the brilliance of its artists. Included in these recent shows have been the Matrixx Band, Joe Cartwright

and his band, Visage, KB, Stileet, Anita, Geno D, Jay Mitchell, Luscious (Fire dancer), Jullion Collie dancers, a member of the backyard dancers, Javan, Tony Lowe, Doranell Brown, Songbird Shavonne, the Royal Bahamas Police Force marching band, 20 members of the Majestic Crusaders Junkanoo group and other talented Grand Bahamians. One thing is certain-hotel officials are prepared to explore a variety of ways to ensure that the magic returns to Freeport entertainment.

