

# Hats on for *Kitch*

ZEN DIONNE JARRETTE

BACCHANAL, comedy, politics, and several other components of the great man's music, were present at the Tribute to Kitchener concert on April 18.

De Nu Pub, on Ariapita Avenue, Woodbrook, was filled with calypso luminaries, but painfully absent were former Calypso Revue colleagues of the late calypso legend, including De Foster, Pink Panther, Cro Cro, Sugar Aloes, Denyse Plummer and glaringly Kernal Roberts, Kitchener's look-alike son.

Speaking to Kernal after the show by telephone, his comment was, "I was not carded to sing at that show." Feel free to scratch your heads at that one: Who better to pay tribute to the man than

his own offspring?

Another sad footnote is that there was a lack of prestigious sponsors for the event and as such it was grossly under promoted; leaving one to wonder how the business community could overlook something as important as remembering the late genius. This also caused De Nu Pub promoters to dip deeply into their coffers to meet expenses.

Nevertheless, everyone took a chip down memory lane and donned hats resembling the Grandmaster's trademark fedora, which were given out by the Cathy George of Diego Martin Pan Institute.

Sprangalang emceed the show and swore he wasn't there to "comede" but had the audience rollicking with controversial is-

sues.

Chief among them was Elton John's impending visit to Tobago for the Plymouth Jazz Festival.

He asserted: "Elton John can't handle Tobago fellas! That go be earth, wind and fire!" That was the mildest of them, the rest were hilarious and unprintable.

Regeneration Now got the show up on its musical feet early on with renditions of the classics, especially their infectious interpretation of Slippery Anne.

No matter who was at bat, Kitchener's music is so distinct that every song seemed sung by the man himself.

Both Luta, the 2006 National Calypso Monarch, and Gypsy were dressed in a replica of



WINSTON "GYPSY" PETERS, sinks his own ship.

from Roberts' amazing 750-strong repertoire.

Gypsy did Sinking Ship at the crowd's request, and almost had his own vessel sunk when a group of hecklers climbed aboard.

He updated a few names in his classic song, Patrick Manning's being foremost among them, and started taking on water. At every instance he did this, a booming heckler would shout "Panday!".

"I shouldn't get into this kind of

scandalousness with allyuh," teased the former National Calypso and Ex-tempore Monarch. The audience couldn't get enough and Gypsy eventually won them over when he extemporised Kitch and added a stammer for effect, so much so he was encored.

Making a brief cameo appearance was popular comedian Tommy Joseph, who did his version of Kitch's Sugar Bum Bum.

Relator was anxiously awaited as he is widely known for his impressions and impressive recollect of song.

With guitar in hand, he took the crowd through Kitchener's best and took requests shouted from the audience.

We Are The Champions, 67, Love In The Cemetery, and Miss Tourist were just a few he touched on brilliantly. And when he sang Gavaskar, it was an event. From youngest to oldest, all voices raised in the lilting melody.

He did a special tribute to both the Mighty Terror and the Grandmaster, noting nostalgically that with both these stalwarts gone, "The Revue is now in Heaven."

Next Wednesday at De Nu Pub will be the interesting Off Shore Calypso Tent, which features actual inmates from Carrera Island Prison singing kaiso. Six inmates will perform and the featured guests are SuperBlue and Black Stalin.

Cultural Odyssey's IDRIS ACKAMOOR (from right) and RHODESSA JONES learn about Lord Kitchener in commemorative hats. With them is Diego Martin Pan Institute director CATHY GEORGE. (Story on p. 42)

