

CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

When the Northern Grenadines and National Independence Committee invited the R.I.P.P.L.E.S. group to participate in celebrations for the 27th anniversary of Independence, it was time for serious preparations for what was hoped would be their best public performance so far.

Their presentation was based on the journey from colonization and slavery, to independence. As a reminder of the island's colonial past it was a very satisfying exercise as they cut out stencils and spray painted the t-shirts with the Union Jack, as part of their costumes for the big event. They also enjoyed making paper chains for the slavery act.

27 YEARS, a chant written by Leah Belmar, provided a bit of a challenge for the younger children. The word "identity" was new to some of them. In order to make life a bit easier for them, some adjustments had to be made to the original poem.

In fulfillment of one of the aims of the project—training the children to drum so that they could use their talent at their respective schools—the Principal of the Paget Farm Government School requested that the R.I.P.P.L.E.S kids from her school provide musical accompaniment for the march from the school to the community square on October 25, 2006. Kino, Keemo, Cordell (and Neri from the Anglican Primary) did not disappoint the crowd.

The value of the drumming program and its application to school and other situations was realized during the school rally. One of the patriotic songs being sung contained the word "identity". One of the R.I.P.P.L.E.S. kids who first had difficulty with the word, whispered, "Miss, they're saying our word!" Although it was amusing, it showed the connection between words and music. Adding music to school work appears to make it more appealing.

On Independence Day, 27th October, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. the schools and other community groups assembled in a sea of colour under the Almond Tree in Port Elizabeth in preparation for the march to the Clive Tannis Playing Field.

After a late start, the programme, which included messages from various government officials and the presentation of awards, proceeded reasonably well. The R.I.P.P.L.E.S. kids proudly marched on stage in their beautifully hand-painted t-shirts, to the sound of their own drums, and the playing of "God Save the King" by their coordinator on the accordion. This was followed by "Old Black Joe", a song about slavery, which gave way to the much-practiced "27 Years", which spoke about the 27-year journey since independence was granted to St. Vincent and the Grenadines by Britain.

It was a little disappointing that the group had to forgo the performance of another cultural piece which they had been looking forward to (because of the late start) but the day was a memorable one. The 27th anniversary of independence was blessed with beautiful weather under blue skies. Lots of children turned out for what is hoped will be an annual event, with fun, music and games in the wide open space where memories are made and a sense of community and national pride is experienced.



R.I.P.P.L.E.S. assembling for 27th Independence Parade

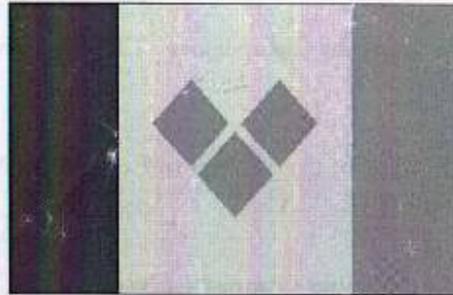
THE NORTHERN GRENADINES INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

&

THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

Present

“Parade and Cultural Exhibition”



**SAINT VINCENT
and the GRENADINES**

Clive Tannis Playing Field

Friday 27th October, 2006

9:00am

PROGRAMME

- 9:00am - Assembling of groups under the Almond Tree
- 9:30am - March - Almond Tree , around the Tourism Office, around Anglican Church, down to Knights Trading, Up Hospital road to the playing field - Seating in stands.
- 9:48am - Arrival at park
- 9:50am - National Anthem – Layou Path Finders Marching Band
- 10:07am - Invocation - Pastor St. Hillarie
- 10:10am - Welcome by Chairpersons - Clayton Ollivierre and Jozelle Peniston
- 10:15am - Reading of the Minister of Education's Message - Vernette Ollivierre
- 10:20am - Musical Solo - Pannist – Elvis Seales (St.Vincent my Homeland)
- 10:25am - Address – Hon. Dr Godwin Friday N.G. Representative
- 10:35am - Musical Solo - Elfic Grant or Elvis Roots Gordon
- 10:40am - Address - Deputy Director of Grenadines Affairs- Mr. Herman Belmar
- 10:50am - Diamond Village Pre School

- 11:00am - Presentation of Awards presented by Patsy Chambers and Mr. Sylvester Tannis

Four Posthumous Awards

- 11:25am - Musical - Dermott Ollivierre and Jonathan Williams
- 11:30am - Other Awards – Mark Ollivierre, Camille Jacobs

Cultural Package

- 12:00pm - Cultural Presentation - RIPPLES
- 12:15pm - Cultural Presentation B.A.P.S. Brownies
- 12:25pm - Sunshine School
- 12:35pm - Paradise Primary School
- 12:45pm - Evangelical Pre School
- 1:00pm - S.D.A. Primary
- 1:05pm - Paget Farm Primary
- 1:15pm - Bequia Anglican Primary
- 1:30pm - S.D.A. Secondary
- 1:45pm - Bequia Community High
- Snack Break for School Children**
- 2:20pm - Other Cultural performances

Spontaneous Games

Food and Craft Fair



Paget Farm Government School preparing for pre-Independence rally



School rally in the village of Paget Farm, Bequia





Bequia youth groups participating in the 27th Anniversary of Independence Parade



R.I.P.P.L.E.S. performing "27 Years"



Music by R.I.P.P.L.E.S.



R.I.P.P.L.E.S. entertaining the crowd

27 YEARS

27 years of struggling together
27 years past "God Save the Queen"
27 years we're proud to remember
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

27 years of trials and testing
27 years building i-den-tity
27 years in people investing
27 years we built S.V.G.

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

27 years—let's journey together
27 years —to things yet unseen
27 years—good time to remember
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

Optional:

27 years of struggling together
27 years of trials and testing
27 years let's journey together
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

By Leah Belmar - RIPPLES

27 YEARS

27 years of struggling together
27 years past “God Save the Queen”
27 years we’re proud to remember
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

27 years of trials and testing
27 years of i-den-tity
27 years in people investing
27 years we built S.V.G.

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

27 years—
27 years -
27 years—
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

Optional:

27 years of struggling together
27 years of trials and testing
27 years let’s journey together
27 years of gold, blue and green

In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence
In-de-pen-dence [pause] (drumroll)

By Leah Belmar - RIPPLES