

Saturday 7th June 2003

Crowd goes Crazy in Sweden

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Former Road March champion, Crazy performs at the Nalen music hall in Stockholm, Sweden.

Calypsonian Crazy was in the capital of Sweden, Stockholm, last month's end for a live concert with Sweden's number one soca band, Soca Rebels.

Caribbean Travel, a tour operator that has been bringing groups to Trinidad for years to play mas with Barbarossa, promoted the event. The venue for the event was a famous music hall called Nalen.

Soca Rebels, the most travelled soca band in Scandinavia, opened the show and after a while the veteran Trini soca star emerged and the whole crowd went crazy.

The Loveable Lunatic performed a mix of his old soca hits, like "De Party Now Start", "Dis Is How" and "Nani Wine", and songs from his latest album (Crazy On De Loose), such as "Rosie" and "Cash It". He was backed by Soca Rebels his entire performance.

Crazy also treated his captive audience to a superbly composed calypso, predicting the future called "In Time To Come".

Crazy, who has been in the entertainment business for more than 30 years, showed the audience that he still is at the top, with more to come.

This collaboration between Crazy and Soca Rebels was not the first. In 1992, they teamed up for a successful tour of Sweden.

Crazy had a packed house of Swedes going wild at the fete. If anybody ever thought Swedes were shy and reserved people, Crazy showed them wrong. Sweden has not seen a party like this in years.

Swedes were waving their flags, blowing their whistle, and wined down the floor and, if it was not for the fact that the majority of the posse were white, one would have thought this was a fete in Trinidad during Carnival time.

Blonde, sexy girls invaded the stage and wined with Crazy, and would not leave the stage. Crazy mixed his old and new songs and had the crowd going frenzied.

They loved the show and called Crazy and Soca Rebels back on stage twice. All copies of Crazy's CDs were sold out in no time.

Crazy also invited some Swedes to come and wine on the stage. The show went on for an hour and a half and after extra songs the crowd still wanted more.

For us, as the promoter of the fete, the night was a huge success.

To throw a fete like this, where people enjoy themselves and can see what T&T culture is like gives back more than any ad in a newspaper can give us.

Having an artiste like Crazy lets people in Sweden learn about T&T culture and music.

Hopefully, this is the beginning of a tradition where other calypso and soca artistes, or steelbands from T&T, would come to Sweden and promote their country and culture in a country where people love travelling but do not know much about Trinidad and Tobago, yet.

As for the future, for his next CD, Crazy will record a track with Soca Rebels.

Soca Rebels comprises Lars Hansson (lead vocal/guitar); Evelyn Jons and Maria Tranefeldt (vocals); Mats Hansson (keyboards); Björn Hansson (bass); Anders Howerdal (drums); Fredrik Håkansson (trumpet); and, Kristian Gustafsson (trombone).

(Olle Stalberg of Afro-Caribbean Travel)