

**For Immediate Release:  
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**TD IRIE MUSIC FESTIVAL  
July 29, 30, 31 & August 1 2011**  
[www.iriemusicfestival.com](http://www.iriemusicfestival.com)  
**FREE! THE FEELING IS IRIE!**

**HEADLINERS ANNOUNCED**

The **TD IRIE Music Festival** is proud to announce diverse and widely celebrated artists. This year headliners include; **Ray Robinson, Bushman, Bunji Garlin** and the **Fab 5**.

The TD Irie Music Festival is a multi-day, family-friendly festival taking place **Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> to Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Join the celebration of music — from reggae to salsa, gospel and soul to African; dance from the African Diaspora, spoken word/literature, a visual arts exhibition, film, international food and refreshing drinks.

The festival launches officially with a media conference at Nathan Phillips Square at noon, Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Things heat up at 9 p.m. with the inaugural **Irie Music Awards** at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne Street. Doors open at 8 p.m.

The reggae super group, **L.U.S.T (Lukie D, Thriller U, Singing Melody and Tony Curtis)** will perform at the IRIE Music Awards. Special guest presenter Donisha Prendergast, the granddaughter of Rita and Bob Marley and the star of the upcoming documentary RasTa: A Soul's Journey will join the group.

Please add this information to your listings. Images are available upon request or by going to: [www.iriemusicfestival.com](http://www.iriemusicfestival.com)

**Artist Bio's**

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**L.U.S.T.**

Performing at the IRIE Music Awards and Queen's Park North on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>

Comprised of Lukie D, Trilla U, Singing Melody and Tony Curtis,

guarantees to have any audience, whether young or old, local or international, rocking all the way through to the end of their performances, with an outstanding repertoire of chart-topping songs. In 1998, LUST set a new record when they won an astonishing five awards at the Jamaica Music Industry Awards, including those for Best New Artiste, Best Live Performance (Group) and Best Vocal Performance (Group). The group also took home two Binns Music Awards.

Over the years, the group has worked with many of the best producers in Jamaica such as Mikey Bennett, Big A from IRIE FM and Mikey John who was responsible for the LUST hit Run Free on his Zion Gate rhythm.

Together, the group LUST is a 'goldmine' as one member puts it, each person bringing his individual success and experience to benefit the group as a whole.

### **Bunji Garlin**

Performing at Queen's Park North on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>

A Reggae Soca artist from Trinidad and Tobago, his real name is Ian Alvarez. He married fellow Soca artist Fay-Ann Lyons daughter of legendary Soca singer Superblue.

Bunji has won Trinidad's Soca Monarch competition on several occasions; 2002 (tied with Iwer George) with "Down in the Ghetto", 2004 with "Warrior Cry", 2005 with "Blaze the Fire". Both songs were produced by then band member Shawn Noel (Da Ma\$tamind) and 2008 with "Fiery". He placed 2nd in the International Soca Monarch 2009 with "Clear De Road".

### **Ray Robinson**

Performing at the TD IRIE Music Festival on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at Yonge-Dundas Square

R'n'B music is blessed to have artists like Canadian singer Ray Robinson on their team. Ray's independent approach to managing his music and business led him to create and compile the content of what became the "What It Is" album with support only from producer Kevin "Kid Kut" Keith (formerly of the Baby Blue Soundcrew, currently of X-Caliber Entourage). On his journey to self-promote the album; he met the woman who later became his manager, Gail E. Phillip of GNOTE MANAGEMENT. Armed with solid production, impeccable vocal delivery and excellent promotional support from his new management team, Ray Robinson's **What it Is** album went on to receive critical acclaim helping him to garner the 2004 (CUMA) Canadian Urban Music Award for R'n'B Recording Artist of the year. Ray Robinson along with

Canadian hip-hop superstar Kardinal Offishall won 3 Much Music Videos Awards in 2006 for the single ***Every Day Rude Bwoy***. His past nominations include Best R'n'B Video (Much Music Video Awards 2004) for his first single ***Missed Your Chance***, New Artist (CUMA 2004), and Favourite Urban Artist (Canadian Music Week Independent Awards 2005). His album ***What It Is***, received a Juno Nomination in 2004 for R&B Album of the Year. The stage is set, and Ray is ready to open up a new musical chapter in his life.

## **Bushman**

Performing Queen's Park North on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Born Dwight Duncan was re-named 'Bushman' and African name for 'Medicine Man'. He recorded his first tracks Studio 2000. Their first song together was "Grow Your Natty", which was followed by the hit "Call The Hearse". "Call The Hearse" became a big hit in Jamaica, and was followed by "Rude Boy Life" and his debut album, Nyah Man Chant (1997). Nyah Man Chant was described in The Rough Guide to Reggae as "as good an example of modern cultural singing as you could hope to find."

Bushman then moved on to work with King Jammy, who produced his next two albums - Total Commitment, which collected most of the early singles he recorded for the producer, and Higher Ground. A Better Place was the fourth album from Bushman. For this album Bushman teamed up with the UK-based Stingray team.

## **Fab 5**

Performing at Queen's park North on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

Jamaica's preeminent popular band, whether measured by record sales at home, hits on the charts, frequency of engagements or major awards won over the years. Their first recording, "Come Back and Stay", was number one in Jamaica. In their first year on the road, and for the following two years, they won the only available awards, the Swing Awards, for best band of 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74. Additional awards to follow were: the El Suzie Award as Joint Top Road, Dance Band for 1975-76, and the RJR Listeners' Award for Best Band in 1980. They backed Johnny Nash on all the reggae cuts comprising most of his platinum album "I Can See Clearly Now". Two singles from that album, "Guava Jelly" and "Stir It Up", established Bob Marley as a major songwriter on the international scene. Fab 5 have enjoyed an endless succession of hits in Jamaica and the "ethnic" markets of North America. This year they are celebrating their 40th anniversary as Jamaica's top reggae show band in the music industry!

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**: 905-799-1630

The TD IRIE Music Festival is a free event that celebrates music, dance, art, food and culture, providing an opportunity to promote a greater understanding between diverse cultures and traditions of Toronto – the world's most culturally diverse city.

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