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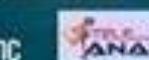
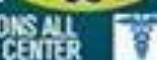
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Multi-Cultural Production & Entertainment Group

Orlando Caribbean Festival 2015

KUOMagazine had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Adner D'Haiti (and yes, that is his real name!). One word that can be used to describe Caribbean people is the word passion, which is evident in how proudly the diaspora represents their heritage. Mr. Adner D'Haiti is one such individual who is actively in pursuit of promoting pride throughout the Caribbean community of the Orlando area. He is the man behind the scenes of the annual Orlando Caribbean Festival, tasked with the overall success of the event. Adding to the pressures of putting on a good show is that coming off a successful event in 2015, expectations are the things this year will be bigger and better. Beyond Karibbean Friends was able to get a hold of the always busy promoter and pick his brain about the upcoming Orlando Karibbean Festival and learn more about the man.

KUOM: So, first off, I understand that D'Haiti is your real last name, is that true? Actually, that is my real name, seriously.

KUOM: Interesting! Ok, On the event website (orlandocaribbeanfestival.com) it is stated that the aim of the Orlando Caribbean Festival is to keep Haitian and Caribbean culture alive, tell us more about that. Specifically, why and how you hope to accomplish that. Our culture is what keeps us alive. As Haitians and [West Indians] we have a lot to be proud of. Our heritage is rich and by not highlighting our music, our talent, and our art, we are doing our country an injustice. The world should know about our wonderful music, other nations should recognize how innovative and talented our artists are. When we brought the festival back, we asked ourselves, "How can we bring Haiti back to the tourist mecca it used to be?" This is the million-dollar question. As you can see, we changed the name of the festival to Orlando Caribbean Festival, therefore it will not be only Haitian bands and artists that will perform in the festival. this year we have some major Caribbean DJs and a couple of artists that have a lot of followers. Next year, we will add one or two major Caribbean super stars and each year we will add more and more. The ultimate plan is to take compas and our culture inside Disney World trust me on that.

KUOM: Most people would not associate Orlando as being a hotbed of Caribbean culture in the US like Miami or NYC, so do you face difficulties with attendance at events and what is the turnout usually like? Orlando has an exceptionally large population of people of Caribbean descent. After Miami and New York, Orlando has the largest Haitian population. We have been blessed to always have a decent turnout at all our events. You must remember that Orlando is the number one tourist destination in the United States and with such a large Haitian and Caribbean community it was important for us to deliver a fun-filled event that everyone can enjoy.

KUOM: Do you only do Haitian or Caribbean events? No, I do not only do Haitian events. In fact, my very first event back in 2000 was a Hip-Hop event. I am a promoter, which means that, while I love to promote my culture and my music, I also love music. So yes, I have focused on Haitian Compas, but I have also done several Hip Hop, Reggae and Zouk parties. I even have one of my partners who does Gospel events and I have invested in those events as well.

KUOM: What are some other difficulties you face in putting on events? With every event there are a million things that can go wrong, but to be honest there are not many difficulties other than the stress of putting on a top-notch show. From the venue, to promotion, to getting the bands that the public wants on our event ticket, there are always things that can stress you out, but we always seem to work things out. There are always little things here and there but this year we wanted to get the park to agree to stay a little later than usual, and we had to negotiate with them a few times but we finally got them to agree to let us close the festival at 11:30pm.

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KUOM Magazine.com

has honored & featured many of our Trailblazers, an advocate to various causes, Health & Prevention, Wellness Recipes, to celebrating our Cultural Heritage over The past 12 years.

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In 2021, to celebrate more of the most inspiring **People** who are Leaders, Warriors, Trailblazers that inspire and demonstrate through their individual talents, on how they live A Greater Level of Wellness 365 (G.L.O.W.)

KUOM: Ok, so you mind if I ask a couple of tough questions? Adner: Go for it, no problem.

KUOM: Ok, cool. In years past, those of Haitian descent have been victim to various forms of prejudice and sometimes outright hate. How has that changed in your opinion, if at all? Well, I have come across prejudice in my life, but we all have. Everyone whether we are Haitian or from another culture has found some type of prejudice to deal with. Even with a black president in the White House, I feel like it should be different, but the reality is that it is not. Hatred and Ignorance are two qualities that cannot be erased [and will not go] extinct, they can only be controlled.

KUOM: Do you believe that there has been prejudice against Haitians even within the Caribbean community, and if so, how has that changed, if at all? Well, that's such a touchy subject, but of course [others within the Caribbean community] have had issues with Haitians in the past, but I think that little by little that has changed because so many cultures are melding together. The world is slowly becoming a melting pot and with that we are learning to accept one another as equals.

KUOM: Are there any issues specifically affecting the Haitian community that people need to be more aware of? Two things I can say that need more attention in the Haitian community is education and employment. The youth in Haiti these days are mostly not well educated, and this leads to a high rate of unemployment which has increased a lot in the last 10 years. So, when people are fortunate to come to the US, they see it as an opportunity to accomplish what they probably could not back home in Haiti.

KUOM: Well said. Now, back to you, how long have you been an event promoter? I have been a promoter for 15 years.

KUOM: And in those 25 years of promoting, have you ever worked with someone you were in awe of or looked up to? I have been incredibly lucky to always work with great people, but my business partner DJO is a model partner. We have been through so much together and we have a bond apart from the business that keeps us tight.

KUOM: Is there anyone you have not worked with that you would like to in the future? To answer your question, yes, but the list is so long that I will not even mention it.

KUOM: Who are some of the people that have inspired you? My dad inspired me, he is the hardest worker I have ever known and one of my biggest role models. He taught me to work hard and never make excuses and I miss him; I would love to see him again.

KUOM: If you were not a promoter what would you be? Well, I do not know many promoters in our community that are simply promoters. We all have expertise elsewhere too. I own my own business and if I were not a promoter, I would concentrate full time on my business and of course my family, but I love promotions.

KUOM: Tell me about your funniest or most embarrassing moment as a promoter or during an event. Well, I am a shy guy in general so when I had to go on stage and announce that a certain band would not be performing. That was difficult for me.

KUOM: Who is your favorite musical artiste? Ti Manno is the original. He has always done it for me. I have yet to hear an artiste, in my opinion, that can compare.

KUOM: Any words for those who may be contemplating, whether to attend the Orlando Caribbean Festival? I am excited about every aspect of the event. It will be a coming together flavors of Caribbean culture with great for and amazing performers like 5 Lan, T-Vice, Klass and Zenglan among many, many others. Simply put, it will be a joyous time for all...

Written by Mea Allman
KUOMagazine's Founder/Editor-In-Chief
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1516 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 305, Orlando, FL 32803

Contact Us On Our Social Media Links & Online at:

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