

PULSE BY BLOODLINE

INVADERS MARDI GRAS J'OUVERT A SUCCESS



(L to R) The water truck was a popular addition to the Shell Invaders Republic Day J'Ouvert.
Phase II Pan Groove icon Len "Boogsie" hugs cultural enthusiast Jennifer Nathan.
The Oil Man cometh.

Shell Invaders Steel Orchestra staged its 12th annual Republic Day J'Ouvert with tremendous success. Held from 4 a.m., on Thursday, September 25, through the streets of Woodbrook and

environs, from the band's Tragarete Road panyard, thousands of costumed revellers paraded the streets to the pulsating sounds of pan and brass.

Revellers in Invaders donned Mardi Gras apparel, complete with colourful beads and masks. There were other costumed revellers, like Animals, a family group that has costumed for the event for many years, costumed all in black. Regulars, like Peter Samuel's Kinetic Mas, Night Owls, 2Js, St James Cavaliers Rhythm Section and Steelpan Music Matters Crew, were also out in their numbers.

From as early as 3 a.m., masqueraders began assembling for the parade. After welcome addresses by Port-of-Spain Mayor Chinua Alleyne and Pan Trinbago Inc President Beverly Ramsey-Moore, the parade began at 4.30 a.m. with Invaders leading, augmented by Brass 2 D World, followed by T&T Defense Force, T&T Fire Services, followed by Power Stars, Phase II Pan Groove and Proman Starlift. Along the route, the TTDF Steel Orchestra was particularly infectious, attracting a large following of revellers.

After making the circuit, the steelbands returned to the starting point, in front of Invaders panyard.

A novel and welcomed twist to the parade was a water truck that soaked revellers. As in all steelband events this year, quite noticeable in Invaders' J'Ouvert were the numerous youths participating and, beside playing the national instrument and pushing pan racks, they enjoyed the addition of the water truck.

After the steelband parade, the revelry continued inside Invaders' panyard at an After-Parade party. Music for this was provided by bp Renegades, Brass 2 D World, Viking Ding Dong and DJ Rawkus.

Torrential showers followed the parade but the people stood their ground and danced in the rain.

Michael Din Chong, manager of Invaders Steel Orchestra, told PULSE BY BLOODLINE: "We started this 12 years ago as an attempt to regain the tradition of pan on the road, with some assistance from the Tourism Ministry.

"Invaders, as one of the longest existing steelbands in the world, felt that we should ensure that young people understand and experience the essence of pan and a steelband."

Twelve years later, the Shell company, sponsor of Invaders for the past six years, has been the major executive sponsor of the Republic Day J'Ouvert.

September 2026

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