

Jamaicans Hungry for Return of World Reggae Dance Title

For two consecutive years, the Japanese have snatched the World Reggae Dance Championship title, but for the 2014 staging, the Jamaican dancers are pulling out all the stops to recapture the Dance Championship.

In 2012, the Ivan Squad won the Championship and in 2013 it was the Attack Dem Squad who will return to the island to defend their title. All eyes will be on the Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre on Monday, August 4 when the 12 Jamaican finalists along with Attack Dem Squad, 2013 second place winner Japanese group Yellow Yellow and the 2014 Japanese finalist JA to JA will compete for the Dance title.

The 12 Jamaican finalists include Overload Skankaz, Dynamix Team, STR8 Edge Society, Hectic Dymond, Equanoxx, Untouchable Squad, High Voltage, Endevarous, Inkursion Unit, X-Klusive Dancers, Flava Flava Dancers and Ice Lynk Skankaz. The Jamaican groups and the three international groups, all from Japan have been going through a series of developmental workshops to enhance their presentations. Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) Competition Coordinator Juliet Cowan-Morgan noted that "the JCDC has increased the duration of the workshops compared to other years to assist the groups with their skills, stage presentation and choreography. In regards to the Jamaicans, they have improved significantly compared to previous years and in interacting with them I can see that they are eager for the Championship title this year." This year's entrant Shawn Williams representing the "Ice Lynk Skankaz" believes that a Jamaican team will indeed take home the trophy as "we are hungry for it and we are well prepared now. We have been waiting for this a long time and we plan to go hard." The JCDC World Reggae Dance Championship which began in 2006 in an effort to give national and international exposure to talents that exist in Reggae, Roots and Dancehall genres is steadily becoming a global event while promoting Brand Jamaica. The Championship has received a wide support from Jamaican and overseas talents since its inception. Dancehall artistes Voicemail and Mr. Vegas will provide entertainment for the National Finals which will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the Show can be had at the Portmore Mall Pharmacy, Sangster's Book Store (Mall Plaza, Portmore, Sovereign, King Street), JCDC Offices and online, www.jcdcjamaica.com. Adults can purchase tickets for \$900 pre sold, \$1000 at the gate and children \$400 while public sector employees are able to purchase tickets at \$800 with identification.