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For Immediate Release

HAITI'S - TABOU COMBO

JAMAICA'S - FREDDIE MC GREGOR

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO's - PAUL KEENS-DOUGLAS

AMONG SPECIAL HONOREES AT FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
CARIBBEAN SUNSHINE AWARDS

Teaneck, New Jersey, USA, Sept 6th 2003....The SUNSHINE Awards™ organization today issued the following statement:

On Saturday, September 27, 2003 at the New York Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan, the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards will hold its Fifteenth Annual Awards, with the theme of "One Family, One Caribbean." It is a theme, which truly reflects the all-inclusive nature of the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards, as artistes are recognized for their outstanding talents and contribution to the art forms and culture of the English, French, Spanish, Dutch and Creole-speaking Caribbean. The Awards program celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the Caribbean people and has remained committed over the years to the promotion and preservation of their dynamic art forms. This year the program is dedicated to the celebration of the Haitian Revolution.

In addition to the awards in the various music categories, the Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards each year recognizes individuals for their exceptional contribution to Caribbean culture, whether through music, dance, art, theatre or other artistic endeavors. This year's list of nominees for special Caribbean SUNSHINE Awards recognition includes luminaries such as Jamaica's Freddie McGregor, Paul Keans-Douglas of Trinidad & Tobago, Arturo Tappin of Barbados, and from Haiti, sociologist/researcher Jean Julien, movie producer, Frantz Voltaire and the well-known and very popular band Tabou Combo. Each of these honorees is known and recognized for the artistry and commitment to excellence in the pursuit of their craft.

Freddie McGregor has been on the reggae music scene for 40 years. He has survived the evolution of the music and has firmly established himself as a reggae superstar, not only as a singer, but also as a songwriter and producer. As a young aspiring performer in the sixties, he had the extraordinary good fortune of having mentors such as Bob Marley, Alton Ellis and Ken Boothe, who helped to shape his musical style. Freddie was also influenced by America's rhythm and blues as is evident in his early releases in the 1960s. By the mid 70s, his conversion to the Rastafarian faith took his music in another direction. It became the music of roots and culture, with conscious lyrics such as "Rasta Man Camp," "Zion Chant," "Walls of Jericho," to name but a few. His most recent album entitled "Anything For You" was nominated for a

Grammy.

McGregor has entertained fans in a number of countries around the world and has performed for Queen Elizabeth II, President Mandela and Prince Charles. He has also performed with John Holt and the Royal Orchestra at the London Hammersmith Apollo and he was recently saluted by "Live at the Apollo" in New York with a living legend tribute.

Arturo Tappin of Barbados is known for playing a smooth, mean saxophone and has been described as being a cross between Teddy Prendergrass and Kenny G. He is known for his dynamic and explosive performances of roots reggae-jazz fusion music, which has earned him a wide fan base. Tappin's first album, *Strictly Roots Jazz*, was recorded in 1994 during a jam session in London with Denis Bovell and his "Dub band." It wasn't long after that that he released his second album "Java."

Tappin has performed at a number of prestigious Jazz festivals throughout the Caribbean, Europe and the United States, including the Edinburgh Jazz Festival, the Soho Jazz Festival and the Miami AT&T Caribbean Jazz Festival. He has also performed at Jamaica's Reggae Sunsplash and the Miami Reggae Festival. Tappin has played or recorded with many major artists, such as Monty Alexander, Ernest Ranglin, Nicholas Brancker, Red Rodney, Milt Hinton, Roy Haynes, Elis Marsalis, Mutaburaka, The Wailers Band, and Third World, as well as steelbands Skiffle Bunch and Pannaz. He has also worked with R&B superstars Roberta Flack, Luther Vandross, Freddie Jackson, and Anita Baker. A talented and exciting performer, Tappin is considered a musician's musician.

Trinidad & Tobago has produced a number of creative talents, men and women whose contributions to Caribbean art forms can be seen not only in the Caribbean, but also in many countries across the globe. One such talent is Paul Keens-Douglas, one of the most eloquent raconteurs and dramatist in the English-speaking Caribbean. Keens-Douglas has a wide and varied background in theatre and the creative arts, as a writer, performer and producer. He is widely acknowledged as being a leading exponent of the oral traditions of Trinidad & Tobago and Eastern Caribbean vernacular. Very much in demand as an international performer and presenter, he has made appearances at a number of prestigious international festivals and venues including Britain's Royal Albert Hall, Westminster Abbey, Howard University, and the Saidye Brofman Centre in Canada, to name but a few.

Keens-Douglas has authored nine volumes of work, and has produced fifteen albums, three videos and several CDs. His work has been featured in many anthologies and well-known international publications and has been highlighted on the BBC, Canadian and American radio and television, and throughout the Caribbean media. In his performances, he has created a number of characters, which have all become an indelible part of the Caribbean literary landscape. He is the recipient of several national and international Awards, such as the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the Caribbean American Intercultural Award, The Character Club of Canada Award, the Beryl McBurnie Foundation for the Arts Award, the National Drama Association Cacique Vanguard Award, the Trinidad & Tobago National Award and the Hummingbird Silver Award.

One of the main features of this Fifteenth Annual SUNSHINE Awards is the fact that it is being dedicated to the Bicentennial celebration of the Haitian Revolution. It is therefore only fitting that there will be two special recognition awards for nationals of Haiti. Jean Julien was born in Port-au-Prince. His professional life has had taken him on many interesting and diverse paths. He received a law degree from the University of Haiti Law School in 1957 and practiced law until

1964. During this period, he also taught French literature and regularly published articles in a local newspaper. In 1966 he received a scholarship to study sociology at New York's Columbia University. He then went on to Baruch College, where he received a BA and an MBA in Business Administration.

Jean Julian worked for many years as a social worker at Harlem Hospital and the New York City Department of Social Services, and as an accountant and commercial finance auditor. He has also taught Financial Accounting and Economics at Essex County College of the State University of New Jersey. Jean Julien, now retired, has been devoting his time to researching the story of the Haitian people and has completed a video history of the Haitian people in Creole.

When one speaks of Haitian music, the first group that comes to mind is Tabou (sacred) Combo, a band, which has successfully incorporated the rhythms of rock and Brazilian samba into the infectious rhythm of Konpa, Haiti's national dance music. Tabou Combo has been around for 36 years, and had already established itself as Haiti's preeminent band before migrating to New York in 1971. Tabou draws from musical rhythms from around the world -- meringue from the Dominican Republic, French quadrilles and contra dances, and funk from the American soul era of James Brown. This rich musical mix makes for an exciting and electrifying rhythmic experience.

Perhaps as a way to emphasize that music knows no language barrier, Tabou performs in Spanish, English, French and their native Creole. While theirs is a music made for dancing, the group also uses lyrics to highlight Haitian social issues, with songs such as Zap Zap (dealing with the issue of AIDS), and Yo (addressing the Haitian people's struggles to end their political and economic misery). The group's last three albums were produced by their own production company, Zafem Productions.

Tabou Combo has toured extensively in the Caribbean and throughout Asia, Europe, South and North America. The group's release of Aux Antilles in 1989 topped European and Caribbean charts for six consecutive weeks. It also won Best Album for Haitian dance music at the 1991 1st Annual Caribbean Music Awards. Kitem Fe Zafem (Let Me Do My Things) was voted among Beat Magazine's Best of 1988. Original members of the group, since its formation by drummer Herman Nau and guitarist Albert Chancy in Port-au-Prince in 1967, are lead vocalist Roger M. Eugene (Shoubou), back-up vocalist and songwriter, Yves Joseph (Fanfan), and percussionist and songwriter, Yvon Andre (Kapi). Tabou Combo is a group, which has audiences dancing from concert halls to the streets and nightclubs around the world. They are widely acknowledged as Haiti's Ambassadors of Konpa.

The Fifteenth Annual SUNSHINE Awards will take place at the New York Sheraton Hotel at 811 Seventh Avenue & 52nd Street on Saturday, September 27 at 6 p.m. The Awards is sponsored in part by Propel Fitness Water by the makers of Gatorade, Hennessy, Keyspan, BWIA, Air Jamaica, The New York Carib News, Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation Calypsociety, Travel Span Vacations and WWRL 1600 Radio.

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send a fax to (201) 836-4440 for reservations**