

THE SUNSHINE AWARDS

*P.O. Box 3717, Teaneck, NJ 07666 * (201) 836-0799 * Fax (201) 836-4440*

News Release

Contacts:
Public Relations Department
Kanchan Paser:
201-836-0799

9 October 2007

For Immediate Release

INVADERS AND VADO DIOMANDE PERFORM AT THE 19TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE AWARDS

New Jersey, USA, (Date) ----- The Sunshine Awards organization announced that the Invaders Steelband of Trinidad and Tobago and Vado Diomande of the Ivory Coast will perform at the 19th Annual Sunshine Awards, which will take place on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at the New York Sheraton in New York City.

The 19th annual Sunshine Awards will be held at the Sheraton New York on Sunday, 28 October. Each year the Sunshine Awards is dedicated to an event or issue of particular significance to people of the Caribbean and Caribbean-American communities. This year's program will, in addition to honoring the creative talents of the Caribbean and the Diaspora will also pay special tribute to our African ancestors. The 19th annual Sunshine Awards will be dedicated to the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

To join in the evening's celebration will be dancer, drummer, and choreographer, Vado Diomande of the Ivory Coast in West Africa. Diomande was born into the sacred stilt-dancing tradition of the Mahou people of northwest Africa. He has toured the world as a principal dancer in the Ballet National de Côte d'Ivoire, and has been a guest artiste for

many well-known and respected performers. He has been a part of Tamango's Urban Tap for many years, and has contributed to Maimouna Keita, Umoja, Les Merveilles de Guinee, Seventh Principle, Les Ballets Africains, Ballet Djoniba, Masabo, Spirits SOA, Ancestral Messengers, as well as Haitian, Brazilian, Tap and Modern Dance companies. Diomande is also highly respected for his craftsmanship and the superb sound he is able to achieve in his drum making and repair. He has created drum pieces for a number of performers, and is a much sought-after drum teacher. He has taught at the Djoniba Dance and Drum Centre since 1994, as well as at Alvin Ailey, Fareta, and Ifetayo, and gives workshops to schools and colleges. He considers as his greatest creation, the Kotchegna Dance Company, which he founded in New York in 1994. Kotchegna is known for its masked dances, intricate footwork and explosive energy. At the 19th Annual Sunshine Awards, Diomande will perform the *Tall Mask of the Forest, Gue- Pelou*, a breathtaking sacred mask that brings blessings from the ancestors.

The Invaders Steelband of Trinidad and Tobago has a long history of excellence, and is known throughout the world for its talented players and beautiful musical interpretations. The Invaders Steelband Orchestra was created in 1937 and was renamed Invaders in 1940. Over the years, it has been a most feared steelband during carnival celebrations, capturing top prize at many competitions. Thousands of carnival enthusiasts could always be found "jumping up" with Invaders on J'Ouvert mornings. The Invaders Steel Orchestra was the first Trinidad steelband to record its music on an album. It is known for such classics as "In a Monastery Garden" and "It's Magic". The steelband has spawned many fine pannists and pan tuners who add to the musical legacy created by the band's founders. Today, the Invaders is a vibrant, youthful establishment with over 35 stage side members and 120 players that compete in the annual National Steelband Panorama Competition in Trinidad and Tobago. Young players are infusing the band with new energy and a new spirit as they perform throughout the year at corporate functions, parties, fundraisers and other events. First brought to the world's attention by BWIA, Invaders is today sponsored by Caribbean Airlines. The 19th Annual Sunshine Awards looks forward to the musical contribution of this much-loved and respected steelband orchestra.

The Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards is sponsored in part by Caribbean Airlines, the official airlines of the Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards. Tickets for the black-tie event can be purchased by calling **201-836-0799**, or by fax **201-836-4440**. Reservations can also be made by email at info@sunshineawards.com