

Spunky, bright Danielle takes crown as Miss College of Hospitality.

High emotions as audience upset at some choices

Jovel Johnson

Saturday night at the Falcon Crest Hotel saw excitement, pleasure and disappointment as the Miss College of Hospitality 2005 made its fifth run. The October 8 competition showcased not only beauty, and talent, but also bravery, as each contestant had to show what she was made of, in standing up to the sometimes boisterous and noisy crowd. Each contestant had to have nerves of steel. Unfortunately, that was not to be so with some of the contestants. As the competition progressed, it was clear to most of the crowd that Miss Hamilton, the Entertainment student, was going to be the winner.

The 15 contestants were Ruchelle McNaught, Danielle Hamilton, Vandian Nelson, Sade Priestly, Caveen Stone, Avere Spencer, Shanakay Hannigan, Jessica Readdie, Jackylin Leachman, Anika Robinson, Francine Robinson, Margarita Compass, Tanya Brissett, Latoya Hamilton and Sherian Hobson.

MC for the night, the ever-energetic Mitzie "Tutu" Russell, made the event all the more exciting.

ENERGETIC START

The ladies, in their first stage appearance, came out looking rather sexy in tight white blouses and very short blue shorts dancing to Beenie Man's "King of Dancehall", all showing how well their dancing talents were.

Then came the segment where the ladies came out in their tropical wear, courtesy of the Ocho Rios Craft Market. The ladies wore it well and their bodies expertly

showed the correct way tropical wear should be worn. This was where they did the introductions and it was from then that audience members started picking their favourites. Ruchelle McNaught was the first contestant to face the crowd and apparently, her nerves got the better of her. In the middle of her introduction, she faltered, telling Mitzie that she couldn't go on, even with the crowd cheering her on to continue. She went off stage without finishing her introduction.

Danielle Hamilton came out next and her introduction had the crowd going as she was fluent, confident and showed that she could handle the crowd very well. She was seen as one of the favourites for the night. Other contestants did fairly well with other nervous candidates being, Jessica Readdie and Jackylin Leachman. Jessica, after recuperating from her nervousness, compared herself to CVM TV (she is looking out, looking in, looking even better), Milo and Dragon Stout (she gives maximum satisfaction). After everyone else came on, Ruchelle took the opportunity to reappear to do her introduction again. She still faltered, but finished this time.

MAJOR ENTERTAINMENT

The ladies showed more skin (in some instances a lot) and sass in a semi-dramatic feature which was entitled "Wife and Matey Link Up" in which wives and their husbands'

"mistresses" met up for a face to face in "confrontation".

Parading in their Dancehall wear, these

ladies made it clear that they had the body to carry off these clothes. The swim wear section had the contestants coming out to 50 Cent and Olivia's "Candy Shop" sucking actual lollipops, bending over and sitting down in suggestive ways.

The Creative Boyz was one of the highlights of the event. These 2003 Tasee winners did funny and hilarious imitations of icons of today and yesteryear in reggae, and rock and roll such as Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, James Brown



COLLEGE QUEENS: Miss College of Hospitality 2005, Danielle Hamilton is flanked by her runners-up Latoya Hamilton, (left) first runner up and Shanakay Hannigan, second runner-up.

and the Jamaican duo Twins of Twins. They also reenacted some well known clashes done by top artistes in dancehall: clashes between Beenie Man and Capelton; among Ninja Man, Merciless and Bounty Killa, and the famous clash/altercation between Vybes Kartel and Ninja Man. Even the judges were going wild.

TALENT TIME

It was now time for the ladies to showcase their talents. Dance pieces were done by Ruchelle (a medley of hip-hop, dancehall and oldies); Shanakay Hannigan (did something different dancing to Bob Marley's "Chant Down Babylon"); Margarita Compass (danced to a calypso song) and Tanya Brissett (did some of the latest dance moves to Elephant Man's "Willie Bounce"). The singers and DJs were Daniel (who set up her own props to go with her song); Vandia Nelson superbly "Died" an original telling young girls to stay in school; Jessica Readdie sang (along with the track) Gypitan's "Serious Times", and Sherian Hobson who gave her own version of Mariah Carey's hit "We Belong Together".

Poems and dramatic pieces were done by: Jackylin Leachman who acted to Jah Cure's "True Reflections" (with her plate, cup and actually looked like she was having a hard time behind "metal bars"). This had the crowd laughing. Caveen Stone posed as Miss Sexy Tuff showing off her hot body, but very black teeth. Francine Robinson was very hilarious and did her piece well as a young schoolgirl who eventually got pregnant by having unprotected sex. Her facial expressions had people sides splitting. Avere Spencer, Anika Robinson and Latoya Hamilton were the other poets.

After another break, the ladies came out in evening gowns which accentuated their beauty. This was also the time when five ladies were each going to have a small chance of being the next Miss College of Hospitality.

QUESTION TIME

This showed the women from the girls. Some faltered on their questions and others answered with ease. Danielle once again showed that she could handle any situation and answered her question with great fluency. Vandia, Caveen, Avere, Francine and Latoya gave good answers as well. By this time, many eyes were on Danielle, Vandian and Latoya.



Francine Robinson had the crowd in stitches with her dramatic piece.

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From the start, Danielle showed much confidence.

TOP FIVE

The top five was a bit of a disappointment, as, while there were expected faces in the top five, there were other candidates that should have made the cut which left many audience members upset. Anyway, the show went on and Vandian Nelson, Shanakay Hannigan, Latoya Hamilton, Jessica Readdie and Danielle Hamilton went to the next round.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Asking the questions to the five finalists gave a view to the winner, even before the name was called. Each contestant was asked the same question and you would have thought that with the same question being asked, the others would at least have an opportunity to formulate an answer in their heads before it was their time to answer the question. It was not so, as one or two failed to answer the question effectively. Danielle again showed that she was destined to be the winner.

The results were then given in: second runner-up went to Shanakay Hannigan, first runner-up went to Latoya Hamilton and the winner, inevitably, went to Danielle Hamilton. Audience members were livid, showing their disagreement and disappointment in the second runner-up winner who they said was not deserving of the title.

The winner walked away with \$67,000 in cash and prizes, the first runner-up won \$33,500 in cash and prizes and the second runner-up won \$18,500 in cash and prizes. The sectional prize winners were Vandian Nelson, Best Smile; Latoya Hamilton, Most Aware and Most Congenial; Jessica Readdie, Best Gown and Best Figure; Danielle Hamilton, Most Intelligent and Shanakay Hannigan, Most Talented.

The judges were Francine Pinnock, Sales manager of Crane Ridge Resort and top 10 contestant in Miss Jamaica World 2005; Kerry-Ann Seaton, Executive Assistant of Crane Ridge Resort; Christine Rodway, Spa Technician at Royal Plantation and Vanessa Gordon of Juice TV.