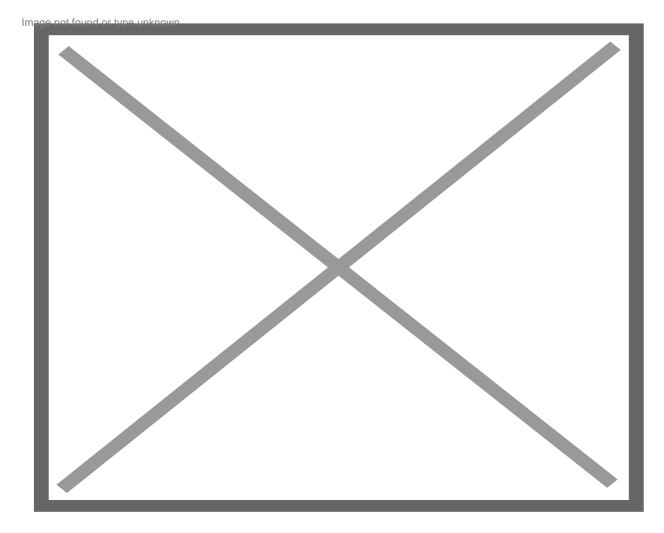
New Children's Troupe "Calypso Festival" Debuts for Upcoming Festival Season

The first-time troupe invites children ages 4-10 to experience Virgin Islands culture through a vibrant parade theme, with registration open until December 15 and a goal of year-round cultural engagement

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Calypso Festival troupe models wearing the group's 2024-2025 parade costumes. By. JAAEPHOTOGRAPHY

ST. CROIX — A new children's troupe, Calypso Festival, is set to make its debut at this year's festival celebrations, inviting boys and girls ages 4 to 10 to participate in a vibrant cultural experience. This is the troupe's first year, and registration is now open, with both online and inperson options available. Online registration closes on Sunday, December 15, 2024. For those who prefer to register in person, the group will have a table at Kidsville in Budhoe Park during the Soup Festival on December 15. A deposit of \$50 is required to secure a spot in the troupe. Look for their sign marked "CALYPSO" at these events.

The Calypso Festival troupe was formed by a group of Virgin Islands creatives who specialize in entertainment, including party planning, art, design, beauty, teaching, and music. Recognizing a gap in the festival for younger children, the team aims to create a high-quality and memorable experience for participants.

"We truly believe the children are our future, as cliché as it sounds, and they deserve an amazing cultural experience that will last with them for a lifetime," said the organizers. The troupe's theme for this year is "Spices", and it will feature two sections named "Ginger" and "Cayenne."

The group has planned exciting entertainment for Parade Day, with performances by DJ Genius/Mr. Energy and DJ Chubby.

Looking ahead, the team behind Calypso Festival hopes this initiative grows beyond just the festival season. Their goal is to maintain connections with troupe members throughout the year, offering opportunities to learn about Virgin Islands culture, art, and music. The aim is to engage children with the rich heritage of St. Croix and the broader Virgin Islands community.

For updates and more information, visit their official website at <u>calypsofestivaltroupe.com</u> or follow them on <u>Facebook</u>.

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