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Calypso music : identity and social influence : the Trinidadian experience

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Glossary of Terms¹

<i>arawak</i>	Indigenous Indian tribe of the Caribbean
<i>bamboula</i>	a) Neo-African song genre and dance b) Type of African drum
<i>belair (bélé)</i>	Afro-French Creole dance and song genre
<i>broken English</i>	Colloquial lingo of Trinidad and Tobago – a mixture of Spanish, French Creole, and English that utilizes faulty grammar and syntax, contains words that have been mutated or otherwise altered, and are sometimes difficult to trace to any one of the three languages
<i>calipso, calyso, careso, cariso (kaiso)</i>	Names by which calypso was previously called
<i>calinda (calenda, kalenda, kalinda)</i>	(a) Call-and-response type of songs accompanied by drumming, and sung during stick fighting (b) Stick fighting duel (Fr. bois bataille)
<i>cannes brûlées, canboulay, camboulay</i>	Recreation of fire drills, symbolic of the burning of sugarcane at harvest time during slavery, that are performed during carnival in commemoration of Emancipation
<i>carib</i>	Indigenous Indian tribe of the Caribbean
<i>chantuelle, chantwel, (shantwel, shatwel)</i>	Lead singer of calindas and lavways
<i>cock-man</i>	Casanova, playboy, womanizer
<i>extempo, extempore (picong)</i>	Verbal competition in song
<i>fte</i>	Public indoor or outdoor party with dancing and singing
<i>gayelle</i>	Stickfighting arena in Trinidad and other parts of the Caribbean
<i>ghouba, giuba (juba)</i>	Neo-African song genre
<i>jamette (mutation of Fr. diametre)</i>	The underclass sector of society, or a member of that group

¹ Words not found in the Standard English dictionaries are italicized unless they appear in this glossary. Other words that appear in the text of the calypsos referenced, but are not found in the Standard English dictionary, derive from Broken English. See footnote 4 on page 51.

<i>jooking</i>	Delivering pelvic thrusts simulating the sex act
<i>juba</i>	See <i>ghouba</i>
<i>jump-up</i>	Street dancing to calypso music during carnival
<i>kalenda, kalinda</i>	See <i>calinda</i>
<i>kaiso</i>	See <i>calipso</i>
<i>lavway</i> (mutation of Fr. la voix)	Processional masquerade song of the chantwels
<i>mamagism</i>	Act of cajoling someone
<i>mardi gras</i> (Fr./Patois-Grand Tuesday)	Last day of carnival when costumes are displayed in their grandest splendor
<i>mas</i> (Trinidad-tr. lingo for masquerade)	Costumed topical portrayals
<i>mulatresse</i>	Woman of mixed (black and white) ethnicity
<i>negre de jardin</i> (Fr.)	Negro field slave
<i>negue jardin</i> (Fr. Creole)	Negro field slave
<i>patois</i>	Common name for Fr. Creole and other dialects
<i>picong</i> (tr. lingo)	Alternate name for extempo
<i>road march</i>	Most popular lavway/calypso performed in the streets during carnival
<i>sanimanité</i> (mutation of Fr. sans humanité)	a) Term designated to calypso genre in which competition is characterized by exchanges of insults and ridicule rendered in song rhyme b) Term interjected at, and signaling the end of each sortie of ‘sans humanité’ calypsos, literally meaning without pity, or without mercy
<i>shak-shak</i> (of Afr. origin), also <i>chac-chac</i> (Fr. Creole)	African musical instrument of the percussion family, the same as the maracas (Sp.)
<i>sortie</i>	Verbal attack sung during picong competition
<i>tamboo-bamboo</i> (Fr. tambour-bambou)	Percussion ensemble consisting of various lengths of bamboo struck against the ground or beaten with sticks
<i>vaps</i> (singular noun - a <i>vaps</i>)	Whim or feeling of being propelled into action
<i>wining</i>	Sensual gyration of the hips simulating copulation while dancing

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