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Andre Craig, CEO of Diamond Productions in an interview with the Barbados Advocate.

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## Wendy Alleyne to be honoured on Independence Day

11/25/2009

By Patricia Thangaraj

**RENOWNED** Barbadian singer, **Wendy Alleyne will be honoured on Independence Day – November 30th – at the Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium.**

"Titled 'Wendy Alleyne: Live in Concert,' this one-night show will be held under the patronage of the Prime Minister, the Honourable David Thompson, who will present Alleyne with an award on the night," said Andre Craig, CEO of Diamond Productions, the organisers behind the event.

The first half of the show will be one and a half-hours long and will feature Carolyn Leacock, Mike Grosvenor, Tony Grazettes, Desmond Weekes, Richard Stoute, Adrian Clarke, Dwayne Husbands and Tanya Clarke.

The second half of the show will be 90 minutes where "the Queen of song" will perform solos as well as duets with Leacock – also known as "the first lady of song" –, Grazettes and Grosvenor.

The artists will also pay tribute in song to the late Cheryl Hackette, best known for "Beautiful and Unspoiled" and the late Midge Springer, best known for "Perdeonemie."

Craig said that he felt it was time to honour Alleyne, known for such hits as "Midnight Blues," "This Time I'll Be Sweeter," "Stand By Love" and "He's So Fine" because she is the highest selling female artist in Barbados and the Caribbean. Yet, she has been "overlooked" when it comes to receiving honours.

He added that tickets are going fast. They originally started out as an early bird special at \$40 each, which went fast and now the tickets are \$60. Persons can also pay at the door of the Gymnasium, which seats 5 000 persons.

Craig encouraged Barbadians to come out and see the show because Alleyne has not lost her touch and it would be a good show.

This is the first show that Diamond Productions is organising. The company was registered in June 2009 and is an event planning company that organises and hosts music shows that are "clean and up to standard," said Craig.

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Their motto is "Bringing the best in entertainment to you" which they aim to do. They also believe that organising shows is not just about earning money, but about giving back and hence, they plan to give back a part of the proceedings from shows that they organise to homeless people and/or charities. They also plan to cater to all music lovers, regardless of musical tastes or genres and age.

Craig said that he was always interested in music and dreamed of owning an entertainment production company from a very young age. He advises persons to follow their dreams.

"Go after your goals, Keep your head on. Stick with it and you will succeed. There will be challenges you have to go through, but once you have the mindset and faith, you will get through."

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