

Culture

AC confident 'Crown' would fit

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"Finally, I got it."

Those were the jubilant words spoken by Adrian AC Clarke, moments after being crowned the **Courtesy Garage Pic O De Crop** monarch yesterday morning at the **National Botanical Gardens** in Waterford, St Michael.

It was a long time coming for the 52-year-old veteran calypsonian, who said all was fair in love and war and he meant no ill will towards any of his fellow competitors when he delivered his biting lyrics in his song **Going Fuh Crown**.

He was hugged joyously by the dethroned king **iWeb**,

who did not place in the top four.

AC, who won the crown in 2001 at the **National Stadium** with **Judgement** and **This Melody** and again in 2008 at **Kensington Oval** with **I Am A Bajan** and **Put Dah In Yuh Song** has been looking at the royal throne since then, eager to again be No.1, but alas, ending up more often at No. 2.

He admitted candidly, minutes before the announcement, that he would be "very, very disappointed if I didn't win."

"I had so much to sing. This song was written the way it was written purposely. It was basically about what people was telling me at the **T20 Cricket World Cup**. Because of the way it was written it allows me to do what I did at the end - extempo."

He said people should not mistake his winning number, **Going Fuh Crown**, for what he did in 2003 called **Ain't Going Fuh Crown** - a "faster song and completely different".

Once again, AC told the story of writing the song at the last minute, never sure he was ever going to enter the premier competition days before entries closed.

Going Fuh Crown was written while he was working at **Kensington Oval** during the recent **International Cricket Council T20 Men's World Cup**.

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AC, who has a cleaning firm that was given a contract to work there, said: "I was busy and caught up. I was writing some points down during cricket but I said there was no way I could enter this competition this year."

"The final cricket match was June 29 and I had just about started to write this song. A friend saw me and asked what I was doing at cricket. 'Yuh ain't got a song to go and write? Yuh ain't going fuh crown?'"

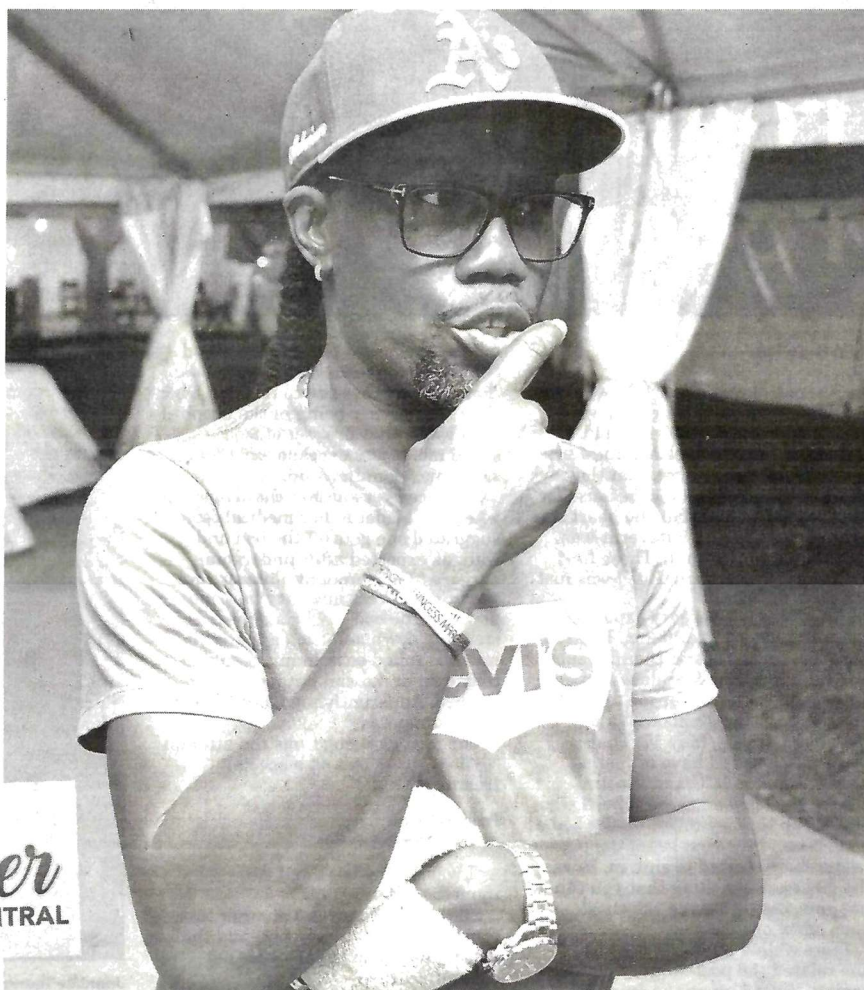
"I said I wasn't sure and then yet another friend told me to get in the tent."

AC said he had other songs but decided on **Going Fuh Crown**, recalling when he came second to **iWeb** in 2014 with a song he started to write in 2004.

AC, who hails from **De Big Show**, sang at No. 16, right behind tent mate and then reigning monarch **iWeb**.

"I can be a bit of what I would call a Komodo Dragon. I would prey on you if I have to, once I can catch up to you. So if you sing before me and we having some clean fun, I can get to freestyle and do that sorta thing."

"It was a good competition



Adrian AC Clarke was **Going Fuh Crown** this year. He told the **Sunday Sun** early yesterday morning before the announcement that he was deliberate in the song's lyrics. (Picture by Reco Moore.)

- good fun - and that is what I went up there and had. I enjoy being able to freestyle and stuff. I am always practising extempo at home and I really enjoyed tonight. I enjoy when people call my name and we have some clean fun. Let us not get personal, though."

He expressed regret at the misstep on stage where **iWeb** didn't sing some of the lyrics coming to the end of his song where he started to do his picong.

"Last year was last year.

Ian won fair and square. He was really good. This year, it was unfortunate what happened, as some people might see him as forgetting words but he was experiencing some health issues before he came on stage."

"Even though I am competing against him I don't want to see these things happening, we want a good swell out. But it happens and I know he will be back next year and he will be back firing," said the new monarch, adding he had mishaps on

stage but was able to push through.

AC said coming into the competition, "no disrespect to the others" he saw **iWeb** as his biggest rival.

"I am being very honest. **iWeb** is a phenomenal artiste. I call him a perfectionist... very, very focused. If I could be as focused as Ian I think I probably could be winning the same way he was winning, too. I don't focus that well because, in all honesty I don't take it that serious. I write my songs very late but I can operate under pressure very easily."

"**iWeb** was my main target as far as competition," the new monarch said, adding: "**Tae** is a young an upcoming calypsonian and I wish her well. **Kid Site** is **Kid Site** is **Kid Site**."

AC, who won the **Richard Stoute Teen Talent Competition** as a 20-year-old and has toured with one of Barbados' biggest bands, **Troubadours International**, came second to **iWeb** last year.

"Being honest, when I

drew first and got No. 16 and **iWeb's** management drew No. 15, I started to sing on the inside because I wanted to come after Webster, I just wanted to, because I knew what I could within the song," he said.

Looking back at his performance AC said there were no major issues.

"The monitors were good. Everything went according to arrangement, of course I made changes on the spot and some things didn't come off my tongue the way I would like it to come off but it is done and dusted."

The veteran entertainer said he still had some misgivings about the choice of venue for the event, "especially with the rain falling... But I liked where the stage is now because last year I could not see the crowd".

The father of two boys and a girl and a former student of **Society Primary** and **Princess Margaret Secondary Schools**, AC has decided to take the 2024 Nissan E Power X-Trail, valued at \$136 000, instead of the cash prize of \$100 000.