

*dance the limbo*

*dance the calenda*

*dance the calypso twist & snap  
(chiropractor's delight)*

**Dancing Calypso**

# BELLY TO BELLY

with those musical quarterbacks

for Port-of-Spain's social scrimmagers,

Clarence Curvan

Johnny Gomez

Vin Cardinal

Tom Charles

Fitz Vaughn Bryan

and their hard-driving calypso orchestra

— the big names in Port-of-Spain

**WHO'S DANCING?**

Belly to Belly

COOK-ED-90750

RESEARCH USE ONLY

PROPERTY OF INVESTIGATION OFFICE MEDICAL



with this record you can dance:

guaracha Merengue Bolero  
Calypso SLOW MAMBO

## The Jazz Dancer

In dancing to the music of this record do not be alarmed if you find yourself moving new muscles. Free association is the essence of calypso dancing. It is to this music that many dance the wild, provocative and sometimes disorderly improvisations of the calypso dance floor. Here is the meeting place between African and European dance styles.

The tourist may think he has been case-hardened by experience with the overt motions of rock-n-roll or the twist. But at first glimpse he will blush at these manipulations of hip and buttock muscles, the simulations of sex play that hark back to African ritual dance origins. To the bush Negro they are no more immoral than the European belly-to-belly dances are to white persons; to *him* the idea of a man and woman dancing with their arms about each other is positively indecent. Ponder that one for a moment and then proceed.

In Port-of-Spain a doubly sophisticated West Indian dancing public mixes up the liberties and conventions of both Africa and Europe. Naturally the result goes into orbit superbly. It is calypso dancing.

## Location Recording

The most spirited performances take place midstream in the contagion between an orchestra and a dance floor jammed with abandoned aficionados. In playing this album your loudspeakers will be out in that torrential flow with the best of Trinidad orchestras, a creamy choice of the best-of-the-best. Actually a few had to be left out, spoiled by the inappropriate insanities of tourists carried away in the unforeseen intensity.<sup>1</sup>

Vin Cardinal and Fitz Vaughn Bryan represent opposites in the approach to calypso music-for-dancing, — sophisticated modern vs. massive 'swing'. The most recent and perhaps most versatile of them all is the Clarence Curvan band. This group had a break-thru on radio in 1960 using *Teensville* (Atkins) — similar in orchestration to *Delicado*, herein — and within two weeks there was hardly a gramophone in the entire territory not grinding away on Curvan. Clarence never looked back, and his popularity especially with the younger set has never waned.

Trinidad's Johnny Gomez orchestra, a veritable musical dreadnaught, blasts out in rare flashes of fire from its berth in Port-of-Spain's Yacht and Country Clubs.<sup>2</sup> The Tom Charles group, best band in British Guiana, is on the Georgetown radio frequently, sparks much of the social dancing in this country of bush, cane and gold.

## The Assembly Line

Today record companies operate a regular assembly line of new dance steps for the U.S. public. Studios of the dance stagger under this burden undismayed. Every few hours these hipster hippodromes graduate new classes of happy eager victims of nonsense like:

IF YOU CAN WALK WE GUARANTEE TO MAKE YOU A POPULAR DANCER IN 2 HOURS!

This record is for expert dancers who are not afraid to risk social disgrace and a trip to the chiropractor.

## About Belly to Belly

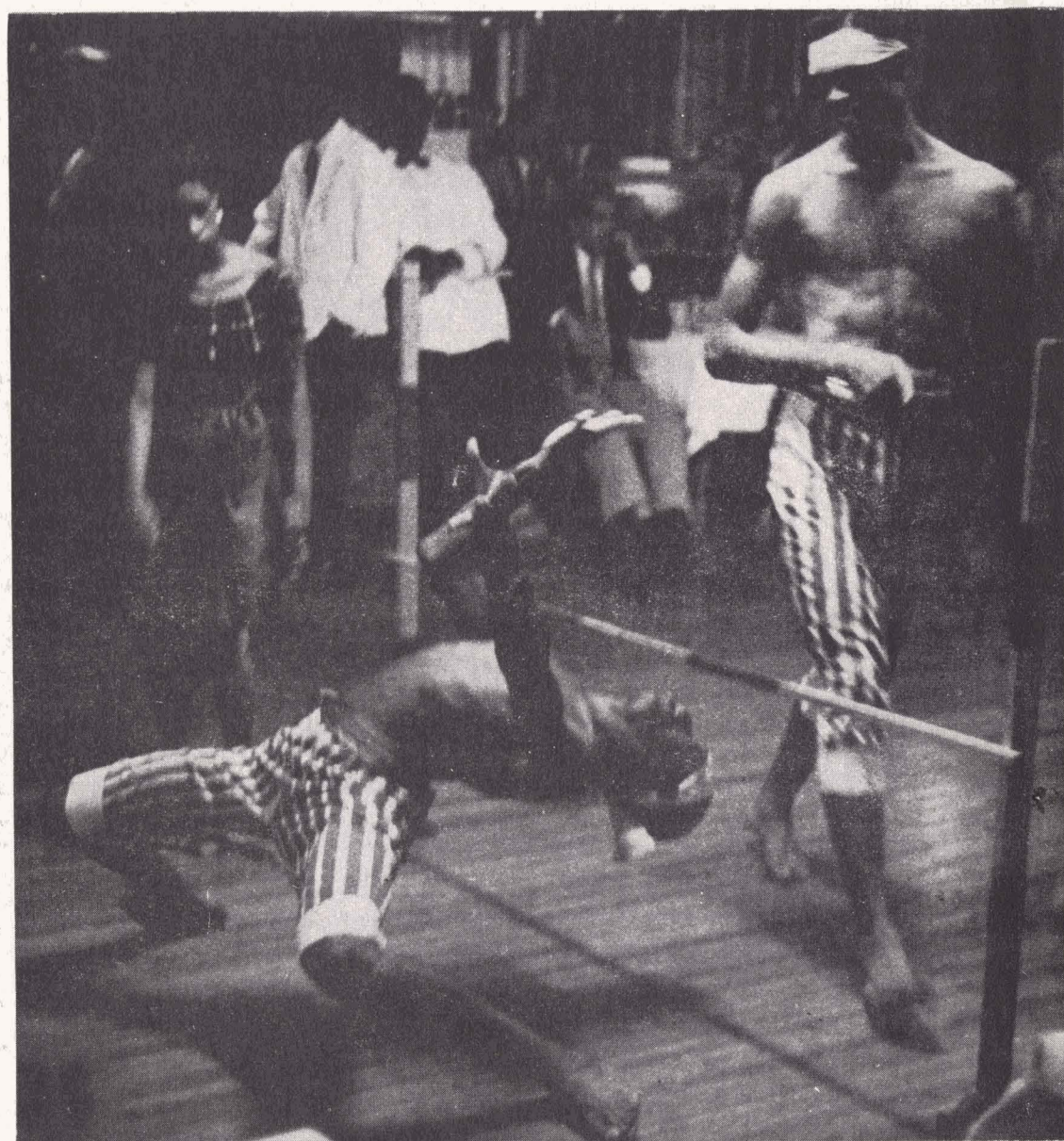
Make no mistake, Arabian belly dancing is not the same — for calypso it takes two. In Port-of-Spain they say they are *belly-to-belly* when they are calypso dancing.

If you are still answering, this music is guaranteed to call.

Emory Cook

<sup>1</sup>An uninhibited Saturday night dance off Tragarete Road in Port-of-Spain is crashed on side B, Cook LP 1082 *Le Jazz Primitif* \$4.98 (also in stereo); the wild euphoria is somehow captured. John Buddy Williams orchestra at Little Carib Theatre benefit dance.

<sup>2</sup>Four earlier examples of Gomez are on Cook LP 1180 *Dance Calypso* \$4.98; some of it is pretty hard to take, — 'If you're seeking the authentic, we suggest it . . . — HIGH FIDELITY.



Tom Charles & Orch.

*Creole Licks*  
3 in 1 Saga

Fitz Vaughn Bryan Orch.

*Pepe*

Vin Cardinal Combo

*The Continental*

Johnny Gomez Orch.

*Pa Deupe de Moin*

Clarence Curvan Orch.

*Rip Van Winkle*

610 Saga

*Portrait of My Love*

*Delicado*

*Clair de Lune*

*Mattinata*

*Royal Jail*

you too can limbo,- after treatment

if your dealer does not stock — write direct

**COOK** Laboratories, Inc.

375 ELY AVENUE,  
NORWALK, CONN. 06854

**RETURN TO ARCHIVE**

CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Printed in U.S.A.

930