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cool entertainment

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Reggae Fest Features Crowd Favorites, Rising Stars

ISLAMORADA, FL Keys – Six reggae bands, plus some surprise guests, are set to play at the 2nd Annual BayJama Reggae Fest in Islamorada on Sat. Nov. 27. Some 1,700 fans attended last year's event, and one of the crowd's favorite – Kevens – returns to headline this year's Reggae fest.

Kevens is known for a unique fusion of Reggae, rock, and lush drum-n-bass with a distinct brand of performance art. The former DJ and MC is all musician, part performance artist, actor, and writer. His first album, "We Are One" was released on Rumbum records worldwide just this week.

In addition, rising star Jahfe will be featured at the Reggae fest. According to the Miami Herald "Jahfé, is one of the hottest roots /Reggae groups to come out of Miami in years." Led by their authoritative front-woman Esther Fortune, this band of highly skilled musicians pumps out real-deal roots reggae.

"Because we got rave reviews from both the fans and the performers at last year's event, we've decided to make this Reggae fest an annual event," said David Feder, president of ICE. "In addition to our headliners, we've brought in Reggae bands with a Keys flavor and this year will have an exciting Reggae MC -- Lance-O from Ft. Lauderdale – keeping everything moving."

Other bands that will be performing include Fourth Dimension, 20 WT from Jacksonville, the Keys own Baga Tricks, and from Hollywood, FL, the up and coming Mixed Culture.

Dubbed as "South Florida Reggae legends" by the Miami Herald, Fourth Dimension features a likeable, buoyant live-band sound with catchy hooks, layered harmonies, electric guitar riffs and a bi-lingual Spanish – English edge.

20 WT, whose members are all originally from the Keys, plays throughout the Southeast and has a large following for their unique mix of ska, metal, and Reggae music.

"This is a great 'what to do on the Saturday after Thanksgiving' event for everybody who loves reggae or just loves great music in a fabulous setting," said Feder. "This the best way to support our local art and dance students while dancing off that Thanksgiving meal."

The 2nd Annual Reggae Fest runs from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the TIB Amphitheater in Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87. Tickets are \$25 the gate and children 12 and under are free. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs, but no coolers or glass containers are permitted.

Food from local restaurants and beer, wine, soda, and water will be available from vendors. Go to www.keysice.com for complete details.

ICE is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing quality entertainment and cultural events to Upper Keys residents and provides art, music, and dance scholarships to local students.