

HEALTH & LIFESTYLES

Ventriloquist Patrick Murray and Jamaica's #1 comedian puppet Matilda at the D Hotel

By Sandy Zimmerman
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Photos by Sandy Zimmerman

You may have heard of the song "Matilda" with lyrics by Harry Belafonte from his Jamaican album.

Comedian Ventriloquist Patrick Murray must have visited Jamaica because he created a puppet called Matilda. Jamaica's #1 comedian Matilda is sassy, outspoken and has a mind of her own. With Patrick at the controls, he argues with Matilda and takes the audience on a laugh-a-minute ride.

The Jamaican touch adds so much to the show. Patrick calls his show, "Ja-Makin'-Me-Laugh." The show brings humor without X-rated jokes and insults which makes it great for families.

Patrick has the ability to do two things at once and he does it so well. The ancient art of ventriloquism and puppets has been modernized and brought to the stage at the D Hotel.

Patrick Murray's family was a little taken aback when he told them he wanted to be a ventriloquist when he grew up. Especially since when he told them he was 23 years old. Up until that time, although he was a clever mimic and full of funny voices, he made his living unloading freight trains.

After teaching himself ventriloquism from Izzy Rizzy's *Home Study Course* a \$4 booklet from Izzy Rizzy's House of Tricks and School of Ventriloquism on Chicago's South Side. He decided to stop throwing freight and start throwing voices. His newfound talents landed him in top nightclubs where he honed his craft and sense of humor.

After a few successful years he decided to see the world and started tours that covered the entire U.S., Caribbean, South America, Australia, Europe and Asia. His greatest successes came after introducing Jamaican Comedy Diva, Matilda into his act.

Matilda was born into a talented family. Her father Winston is a world-class Limbo Dancer, who always taught her the importance of raising the bar. Her mother Camille is listed in The Guinness Book of Records as the world's fastest basket weaver and hair braider. Brother Clive an airline pilot with Air Jamaica, although he was never able to overcome his fear of heights, he gets by pretending a DC 10 in nothing more than a Buick with wings.

This character was developed at the encouragement of West Indian friends and co-workers who thought that Patrick's talent for the West Indian accent and sense of humor warranted a character that highlighted the islands. She was an



Matilda and Patrick Murray on the red carpet at the D Hotel

instant hit and a beloved character.

Matilda and Patrick Murray return on April 29, at the D Las Vegas Hotel, 301 Fremont Street. For information call 702-388-2400 or visit <http://matildaandpatrick.com/shows.htm>

Award winning Sandy Zimmerman is a syndicated columnist featuring Show and Dining re-

views, travel, health, luxury and more. Sandy is talk show host of the Las Vegas Today Show programs and Discover the Ultimate Vacation

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Matilda posing for the press



Matilda and Patrick Murray on stage at the D Hotel