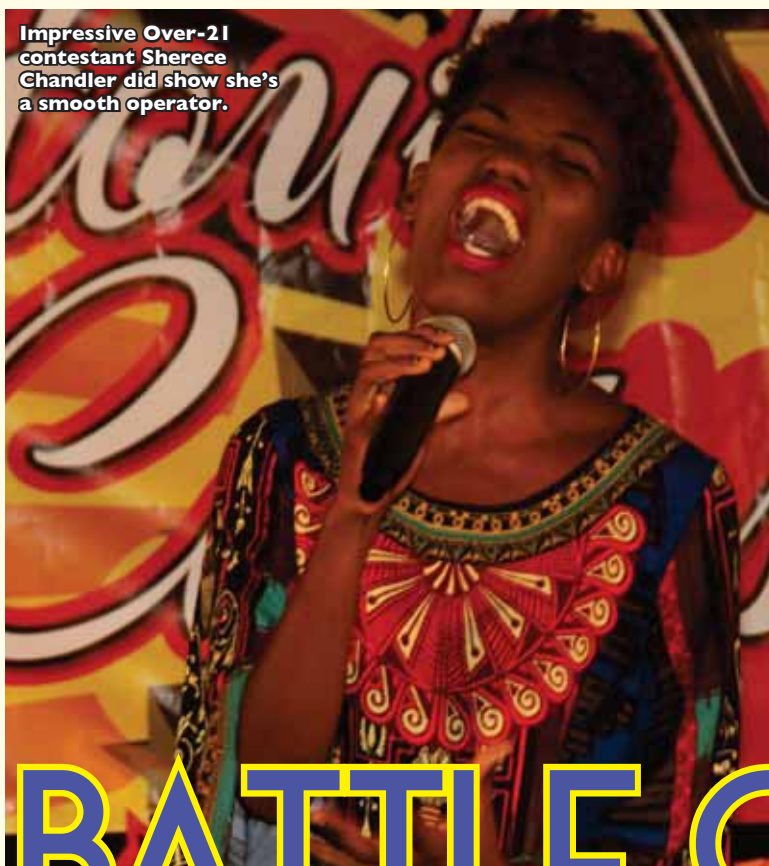


**Impressive Over-21  
contestant Sherece  
Chandler did show she's  
a smooth operator.**



# BATTLE OF THE BALLADS

**by Sandra Sealy**

Sunday's fourth instalment of the preliminaries for the **39th Annual Richard Stoute Teen Talent Contest**, held at Divi Southwinds, featured a tight competition while maintaining the generally high standard.

Of the eight contestants in the 13-21 category, Ziggy Harris' smooth delivery captured first place with 693/800 points, while the sole Over-21 contestant Sherece Chandler, shone with an impressive 761/800 points — the highest score to date. As noted in past preliminaries, the winners consistently enjoyed equally strong performances during both halves, making wise song selections.

Judges for the evening were Sheldon Hope (chief), Don Sir Don Marshall, Hallam Gill and Peter Bryan.

As with all the shows, preliminary contestants from the prior week's show were invited back to entertain at the introduction of the 2 segments and during deliberations. J'Anne Greenidge, Farrah Brathwaite, Kayla Alleyne, Amoura Boyce and Daryan Jordan, all took to the stage again.

Sherece's magnetic stage presence was evident in her sensual jazzy rendering of **Smooth Operator** and **No One In The World**.

"I don't choose a song because I like it. My song choice comes from experience."

The singer is working towards creating her own material to sing. Please do, Sherece!

Young Ziggy's penchant for old standards also found favour with his audience and judges alike. Ziggy who sang **Born Free** and **My Way**, shared with **Barbados TODAY** that "from small I always liked the older classic songs". Part of his preparation entails listening to all of the wisdom of contest founder Richard Stoute.

Rashida Codrington's emotive offerings of **Colour Of My Love** and **Come On Out Of The Rain** earned her second place with 674 points, while Adonnia Freeman followed closely in third position with 647 points by beautifully performing contemporary songs **Stay (Rihanna)** and **Thinking Out Loud (Ed Sheeran)**.

The contestants who delivered well on the evening chose ballads to express themselves. Other 13-21 contestants were Ashanne Larrier (**Beautiful And Unspoilt** and **From This Moment**), Amanda Mascoll (**Chandelier** and **Hurt**), Atrice Joseph (**Fireproof** and **Spaces**) and Peabo Sampson (**I Am Ready For Love** and **Heaven**).

Rhianna Peterkin, who sang two gospel numbers (**He Knows My Name** and **Hallelujah**), was the only 6-12 category entrant.



**Teen Talent prelim  
winner Ziggy Harrie  
surely did it his way.**



**David Comissiong  
(left) here with  
Richard Stoute,  
as he came to take  
in the show.**