

Stars Shine At Village Benefit

By Jose Rivera de Jesus

On April 16, an all-star cast of entertainers wowed a crowd of over 300 at The Village Bar during "Esperanza...Razón para Vivir." The night-long extravaganza raised over \$2600 for Puerto Rico Community Network for Clinical Research on AIDS (PR CONCRA), which provides testing, treatment and clinical trials for people with HIV.

Produced and directed by Cukie Jones and co-hosted by Annie Conde, the show featured "padrina" Lourdes Chacón and "padrino" José Medina, the "Father of Merengue." Other performers who donated their talents included Luis Raul, Las Chicas del Clan, Rubén DJ, Jelly D, Zuleyka, Frankie Chaviano, Ambar, Bobby Herr, Rudy Martinez, Felix

Chevremont, Angel Yambo, and Joshua Melendez.

Village owner Tony Rodriguez and the entire Village staff were on hand to keep the crowd satisfied with their usual charm and good service. This is the second CONCRA benefit that the Village has sponsored in the past year, raising over \$7,000 toward providing free services to people with HIV and AIDS.

During the evening, CONCRA raffled off two tickets to Grenada, donated by Travel Incorporated, and two to San Jose, Costa Rica, donated by LACSA.

Cukie Jones, who organized the involvement of over 40 participants in the fundraiser, leaves Puerto Rico in June for a whirlwind five-week tour of performing engagements in New York, Virginia, and Venezuela. He will represent Puerto Rico during the New York Gay Pride Festivities

and make a special appearance at the Miss Latina Continental Contest at New York's La Escuelita bar. ▽

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MC Cukie Jones and Lourdes Chacon