



Miami Carnival 2018 Band Reviews

Band: Ramajay Mas

My experience with Ramajay was terrible. The communication was lacking since costume payments. Customers were waiting for them to send out invoices but they failed to do so in a timely manner. It was a hot mess when distribution came around. A lot of customers had problems picking up costumes and contacting Ramajay. Some orders were messed up and some people didn't even get their costumes. I played with Sherzel productions. Her section was called Poison Dart. The costume pick up time was on Friday at 3 p.m. While I was on my way to Miami, the pickup time changed to 1p.m. So I decided to go to the hotel before checking into my Airbnb. I arrived sometime after 1p.m, only to find no one there. I called Sherzel and she changed the pickup time to 6 p.m. My Airbnb was an hour away so I decided to wait 4 hours for her to get there.

When she did arrive her staff was not there. They were too busy partying to help her. She said it herself. She had to have her staff's kids help her give the costumes to people! And the kids didn't know what they were doing. I ended up checking into my Airbnb at 8 p.m. instead of 2 p.m. because of this. Fast forward to Jouvert. Ramajay did not post anything on their Instagram in regards to this event. I had to rely on my section leader (Sherzel) to post the time and location. That in itself was an awful experience. I have typed it so many times so I will send you a screenshot of it. They may be good in New York but they have lots of work to do in Miami.

This was my first time playing mas and now I'm scared to do it again because of this bad experience. They gave us costume bags with cups and wristbands to get into Jouvert and carnival. These wristbands also gave us food and drinks. I did not get a carnival wristband in my bag. I was starving on the road for 7 hours! It was a good thing I bought breakfast before I got there. The lady on the food truck felt sorry for me so she gave me water. Even if I did have a wristband they ran out of food on the road!

[Name redacted] from Ramajay had personally reached out to me in my DM's. She had apologized for the inconvenience during distribution and I shared my Jouvert experience. I sent her the pictures of the food and the truck with no banner and people standing waiting on the music truck. She left me on read. No answers. No public apology **[Ramajay has since issued an apology on October 10, 2018]**. I can't believe how unethical these people are. Pretending like everything is okay. I hope this will be brought to light.

Band: Ramajay Mas

This year I played with Ramajay and overall I give it a C. The only reason is because my section leader Sherzel (Poison Dart) was amazing! Her service from down payment to crossing the stage was excellent. Her staff was full of vibes too! However, the Ramajay camp was a mess – I had to go back twice just to get my jouvert things because they gave it to my section leader late, which was annoying because driving down south beach is the worst. Because I got it late, I couldn't really customize the jouvert shirt, but that's whatever. On to jouvert, Ramajay ran out of liquor because we even started the march, they only had beer and water left. Here's the worst part, for the snack they gave me tin sausage (and I don't even eat pork) Last, on actual carnival day I was pissed because they didn't have any snacks, only peanuts, which I am most definitely allergic to. So basically

Ramajay tried to kill me with they "snacks". Honestly, the costumes were gorgeous yes, but the service was nonexistent!

Band: Ramajay Mas

So I've heard a lot of terrible reviews about Ramajay and normally they are much more organized. I played with Sherzel/Poison Dart section and although she changed the pickup times, I received my costume in 30 minutes. She even gave me an extra fanny pack and upgraded my backpack. Now as for on the road, I arrived late, so I just got food from my friend's truck, bartenders on the Ramajay truck were rude AF. One woman just stood there only to look down and laugh. I think I got about one drink, came back later and they ran out of alcohol.

Band: Ramajay Mas

So what can I say about Ramajay... I've never played with Ramajay in New York but I saw that they were starting up in Miami last year so I figured hey let me give them a shot. I know their costumes are amazing and I've seen what they produce in New York. So last year for 201, 7 I played with Ramajay and I didn't expect much because I knew that it would be their first year in Miami. The band was small but my overall experience was pretty OK minus having to wait about two hours for my costume, I enjoyed the road experience with Ramajay for 2017.

So this year I decided hey let's give them another shot, maybe they would make some improvements. Not only did I have to wait over three hours for my costume they didn't even have everything ready in my bag when I went to go pick it up. So they said to come back after Jouvert and they would have everything else that I was missing. So I went back after Jouvert and they STILL didn't have it. Finally, I went Sunday morning to get the rest of my costume. So we go on the road, they start serving drinks and they had no ice the whole time. So I had to drink my Johnny with no ice and drink their hot ass punch with no ice. So after that they decided to stop serving drinks until all the food was done!! Why did they do this?! I have no idea! So after that they started to run out of chasers way before we cross the stage. They ran out of ginger ale and pineapple juice. All they had was orange juice, cranberry juice and something else. One more thing: **WHERE WAS THE SECURITY!!!!!!** It's safe to say that Ramajay needs to stick to New York!! Miami is not for you!!

Band: Ramajay Mas

I have played mas in Miami for the last 5 years, (One Island, Revel Nation), this is the first time I will say it, Do not jump with Ramajay! It was a total and complete scam. The band launch & registration was incomplete and delayed. I paid for my costume in full 3 weeks before carnival. I upgraded my costume to frontline and messaged the section leader to confirm.

- Collection day was a nightmare! The average wait time was 5hrs. When many masqueraders finally made it in they found out their costume was not there. Some sections had no costumes and we didn't know! My costume was incorrect. But I wasn't really bothered.
- J'ouvert's trucks didn't have signs, so we didn't know where our food truck was.
- Mas - complete BS. My costumes straps fell broke because they glued them together. I had to stitch them back myself. Jewels were coming off.
- Food truck ran out of food and they claimed a second one was coming, I don't think it showed up. One of the drink vendors shared that they didn't load all the food.

Band: Ramajay Mas

First time playing mas and made the mistake of playing with Ramajay. From the jump their communication was horrible. They did not answer emails, DMs or the phone number they posted on their Insta. The only time I got an answer to my question was asking in the comments. Got in touch with my section leader Marlon who I must say was very helpful and accommodating.

Distribution was a NIGHTMARE. Got there a little before 7pm didn't leave until 10pm with my costume. There were people who were there before me who left empty handed so I guess I was lucky. My costume was beautiful but gems and chains started to fall off before I even got on the road. It's true when they say that your crew makes the difference in whether you'll have a good time at carnival and THANK GOD FOR MY CREW. We had vibes on the road despite the fact that Ramajay had NO ICE THE ENTIRE TIME and ran out of food before 5pm. They also ran out of drinks waaaay too early. I would NEVER play with them again. Oh and their music truck caught on fire on the road 😞

Band: Ramajay Mas

I played mas with Ramajay-Sherzel Production. I chose her section because it was closest to me and I had a fear of reaching my destination and my costume bra being too small for me because I'm not a small breasted individual. Payments were easy and I had a slight advantage over some because I knew a few people from her camp but that is neither here nor there. Got my measurements done and I thought things were good. 2 weeks before Miami, they had to make some adjustments to the monokini but again, better late than never. Got to Miami and I wasn't able to try on my monokini but I didn't think anything of it. Come distribution day and it was chaotic because Ramajay, not Sherzel Productions, had changed the pickup time, no jouvert packages were ready on Thursday pickup dates so people had to come back the following day to get packages.

Fast forward to jouvert now. Jouvert was amazing except, Ramajay didn't have a truck on the road until later on in the day (basically towards the end) so the djs from Ramajay and Freaks Mas ended up on the same truck and there was no food. Fast forward to Carnival Sunday. Smh. I will never play mas in Miami again and if I do it definitely won't be with Ramajay. How do you run out of food and ice before 5 pm when you have so many masqueraders on the road? Then I think after 7pm they ran out liquor. I was completely over it. On top of all of that, my monokini still didn't turn out good but thankfully my hair and makeup made up for all of that so I wasn't too pissed off but I was extremely disappointed.

Band: Ramajay Mas

So my boyfriend and I played with Ramajay mas for Miami. Usually Ramajay has amazing service so that's why I spend my coins on their costumes every year. My section wild orchids was a somewhat smooth process. Getting my BF's costumes (Goddess of Amazon) was absolute hell. I went to distribution on the first and second day but the second day was the worst. I had waited on their super long line at the Doubletree for nearly 3 hours and it wasn't until the final hour that I heard his costume was, only to be picked up in MIRAMAR. We had other parties planned and were too drowsy to drive there so I contacted the section leader. Section leader said I could get his jouvert package on the day of jouvert in the truck at 7am and that wasn't happening after partying all night. Long story short, He couldn't go to Jouvert, and half only part of his costume on the road Carnival day. It was his first time playing mas and all of this upset him more than anything. This year the band as a whole lacked. Communication (Despite having social media, asking for everyone's contact info via registration forms, and having a business phone), preparation, organization, and urgency. Would I play Ramajay again? Who knows (Shrugs)

Band: Savage Mas Productions

This was my first and LAST year with Savage Mas. Never in my years of carnival have I been put through so much stress and unprofessionalism. Nothing was prepared, it was complete and utter chaos and dysfunction during the distribution schedule. Dates and times were continuously pushed back to the point where some people did not even receive their costume at all. I received my full costume at 4AM on carnival morning. I was told it would be ready at 10PM on Saturday. I waited all night, in the lobby of the hotel, missed my fete I paid for that night and fell asleep in the lobby ultimately. I do not recommend Savage Mas for anybody, especially if it is your first Carnival experience. Maybe they will get it together next year, but I would never ever take a chance with them again.

Band: Savage Mas Productions

I played with Savage Mas, on distribution day we were told 15 minutes before it was scheduled to star, that they were pushing it back, they were to start at 5pm. They "started" at 7. I didn't get my costume until minutes to 10 because they were distributing randomly instead of using the sheet they had us sign in with. My costume was poorly made. I have bigger boobs and "the full coverage bra", had no coverage at all, the bone in the middle was broken so I had no support and the gems were falling off of the bra. There was hot glue all over the whole costume. I contacted them via IG, message read, no response; emails sent, no response.

It wasn't until the day I got a number for somebody in the band who offered to give me another piece at no additional cost, which i ended up getting an hour before I went on the road because she wasn't answering the phone. I won't lie, the vibe on the road was amazing. It was easy to get what I needed from the truck. The DJs did the damn thing. But from jump Savage has been communicating poorly, through the whole costume pickup, I felt like just going to my damn bed and not playing mas. I feel the road experience ALMOST made up for it but I'll never play with them again.

Band: One Island Band

Opinion #1

One Island was horrible with customer service, construction of some costumes, communication and delivery.

Opinion #2

A group of us played with One Island and had a DAMN GOOD TIME. There was a little wait to pickup costumes/jouvert packages but that was all made up for on the road both days. The DJs/vibe/people were on point. Thanks One Island!

Band: Freaks Mas

My costume with freaks didn't fit and it ripped the moment I put it on... the only reason it looked somewhat presentable was because my friend super-glued it. I also didn't get all the pieces of my costume, no neck piece, no arm pieces in my box. I only got arm pieces because they gave the girls I was with that did front line extra pieces.

Also, tell me why one side of Freaks truck was saying no liquor and the other side was saying another thing...[yelling emoji] y'all on the same truck y'all can't see?! Literally people were getting turned away when the other half of the truck still had alcohol

Band: Freaks Mas

I played with Freaksmas. The “karma carnival” section and was amazed by the costume and wowed by their customer service. By far one of the SEXIEST costumes I have ever played mas in. I was worried about the cut of the wire bra but the section leader knew his stuff. We were able to get the right fit for my body and I was very very content. For a first time reveller in Miami, I was extremely impressed. Although the “road” isn’t what I’m used to, the vibes from the band and the others following was on point. I went back and forth between Freaks and checking my cousin in Dingolay. Both bands held their own. The drinks truck never left me standing for more than a few minutes before filling my bottle with Henny and a splash of coke. Needless to say, I had a sun filled, rum filled, enjoyable jump. Oh I need to hear more Lucian soca on the road eh... that is all. Sincerely, Movay Tuh.

Band: Freaks Mas

I played with Freaks Mas in the elite mas designs section “carnival is tantalizing”. I played with freaks a few times in NY and this was my first time in Miami. I picked up my costume in NY since I’m from jersey and would not have been able to pick it up in Miami. Distribution was slow. There were only 2 people doing the costumes so I was waiting over an hour at 9pm. The parade was awesome. There was lack of communication when it came to where to go to meet the trucks. We never got instructions

We were told freaks was #1, then #16, then #12. We were told to meet at 2pm, 4pm, then 12pm. Getting drinks was horrendous. They were not giving out drinks, not even water at times. When they were, it was like a jungle with everyone fighting for a drink. People had to stand by the truck with cups in the air for service. People almost got ran down by others and even the truck. Food distribution was good. They passed out jerk chicken wraps and platters with rice peas and chicken.

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

I played my first official Mas in Miami with Revel Nation this year. I've been following them for the past couple years so I knew that they would be my band of choice once I hit Miami. I had a lot of questions since it was my first time but they responded well and on time. When it came to distribution day, my friend and I arrived 15 minutes early (they were supposed to start at 4). They had us start filling out forms and by 4:08 we were getting our costumes!

They showed us the contents of our bags before signing off. And the quality! I expected it to be good but it was even better. The details on my bra were amazing--I played in spider wasp. On the road, drink service was practically flawless --the wait to get drinks at the truck were not long plus they had the staff that were pouring shots in your mouth. There was also absolutely no way you could get hungry on the road even when you are not ready to use your food chit. The patties, festival, conch fritters and other snacks they had on the road were unlimited so you really could eat to your heart's content. I'm glad I chose Revel Nation and would not hesitate to do so again. Well worth the money!

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

I was supposed to play with Revel Nation but couldn't due to an injury at the last minute. Before I decided Miami was a no go, I would say their customer service was A1 - answered all my DMs and were willing to make special accommodations so I could pick up my costume since I was supposed to get to Miami at an odd time. Because of their service, I will definitely play with them next year. Had friends who played with them and said

their experience was bess. They even contacted me when they realized my costume wasn't collected - never heard of that happening from a band.

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

Played with Revel nation, impressed with the constant food and drinks on the road, the DJ was really good and the costumes were gorgeous! Probably why they cost so damn much but I see why! One day I would make enough money to afford a front line! I wish my monokini wasn't a thong-o-Kini LOL none-the-less a good time!

Band: Revel Nation Carnival

As per your suggestion my girls and I played Revel. Everything was pretty seamless. Literally the only complaint I have was Revel had way too many variations to choose from. Staff was professional and friendly and pick up was seamless we were able to swap things out with ease.

My costume stayed intact the entire day and I look beautiful from beginning to end. Didn't even expect my costume to come with so many extras for the price I paid. Overall had a great experience! Even the color changing cups were a nice touch.

Yours in Mas,

Global Carnivalist