

January 20th, 2011

The Galle Literary Festival 2011

26th - 30th January

From humble and inspired beginnings the Galle Literary Festival goes from strength to strength with each passing year. 2011 will see the festival, which has endeared itself to the hearts of audiences and participants alike, celebrate its 5th anniversary.

“The most friendly and attractive literary festival imaginable.”

Colin Thubron

“This is a jewel of a festival...”

Thomas Keneally

This year's festival will see a few new additions. The first being the spotlight which will focus on Malaysia, with Malaysian writers, poets and chefs providing a glimpse into the country's multi ethnic society. Other new features include: Round Table Readings which is an extension of our popular panel discussions so as to allow authors time to provide context to their thoughts on their life's work and experiences; Breakfast Book Club, an intimate gathering over breakfast that allows the audience to quiz the author over their creative process; Tea and Poetry, just as the title describes, allow the magic of poetry to take you away as you relax in the afternoon with a tea on the many terraces and verandahs or in a secluded garden. There will also be free events during lunchtime that highlight Indian and Sri Lankan music, dance and drama.

Another first will be the BBC World Forum, a show that brings together innovative thinkers to put forward new ideas, hosted by BBC diplomatic correspondent Bridget Kendall which will be broadcast to over 40 million listeners.

The festival will start this year in Colombo on the 20th of January with a special event with renowned British author Louis de Bernieres. The famed author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin will share his thoughts on his famous novel and mingle with his audience over cocktails and dinner.

A widely anticipated event this year is the Sex in the Sarong Dinner with Candace Bushnell and Jay McInerney in the most intimate location in Sri Lanka, Taprobane Island. After dinner guests can choose to dance the night away at Aqua, the latest boutique hotel on the Thalpe Riviera, or

head to Dick's Bar at The Sun House to listen to the De Lanerolle brothers singing jazz and your favourite showtime classics.

Our outreach programme for children in the southern province continues to grow. We have conducted creative writing workshops, debating tournaments, art exhibitions and training & development for teachers throughout the year. In September a creative writing competition for the 230 students that have taken part this year was conducted, the overall winner will have their story read at the upcoming festival.

Once again the festival will have a school day, on the final day, which will be completely free for local school students, where attending authors will help them improve their English skills and gain an appreciation of literature.

The North-South University Collaboration, a programme sponsored by the American Centre, will bring university students from the North, East and South to the Festival. The students are chosen to reflect the linguistic, ethnic and social diversity of our country. In an atmosphere of learning they will interact with their peers to gain a better understanding of each other.

With our festival curator Shyam Selvadurai, our festival director Kishani De Silva and with the continued assistance of our festival manager, Puja Srivastava, this year is set to be the best yet.

We are grateful to Sri Lankan Airlines our Festival Carrier and to all our sponsors who continue to support the Galle Literary Festival, for their generosity and commitment.

For media inquiries please contact Rameez Abdeen: [rameez.abdeen@gmail.com](mailto:rameez.abdeen@gmail.com)

For general information please contact [info@galleliteraryfestival.com](mailto:info@galleliteraryfestival.com)

More information can be found at [www.galleliteraryfestival.com](http://www.galleliteraryfestival.com)