



26TH – 30th JANUARY 2011

Supporting the Galle Literary Festival

Lush tropical gardens, a mysterious walled city unique in Asia, long lunches with literary superstars and huge crowds of readers from across the globe: is it any wonder that every writer longs for an invitation to the Galle Literary Festival, already one of the literary jewels in Asia's crown?'

- Pico Iyer, 2009

The Galle Literary Festival is now hotly anticipated as an annual event on the international literary circuit. In its very first year the Festival was voted 'No.1 Literary Festival in the World' by *Harper's Bazaar* (UK) and last year *The Guardian* recommended the Festival as one of its top ten winter breaks. The Festival is both intimate and international, taking place within the charmed surroundings of the historic fort at Galle, and drawing writers and visitors from all over the world. Each year over 3000 people from Sri Lanka and abroad have come together in Galle for the Festival, and there is an ever increasing demand for tickets to the Festival's events.

The Festival is a non-profit organisation that recovers in ticket sales a fraction of its overall running costs. We have endeavoured to keep ticket prices at a minimum, to make the Festival accessible to a larger Sri Lankan audience. Delivered by a small team of dedicated individuals, the Festival depends on the generous gifts of sponsors and personal contributions by our Festival Founder. In the current economic climate, these contributions are more critical than ever to ensure that the Festival can continue to take place. It is in this context that we are appealing to you to join us, as a patron of the arts, to support the growth and continuity of a fantastic event.



THE FESTIVAL

'I think it was one of the best literary festivals I have ever been to. There was something very special about the atmosphere which made it stand out from the run of these things – a friendly feeling and an enjoyable programme both worked with one another beautifully.'

- Alexander McCall Smith, 2008

Writers, musicians, architects and other artists gather with audiences in Galle for five days of lively conversation and debate. In its first three years the Festival has welcomed nearly 100 international writers to Galle, including Gore Vidal, Edna O'Brien, Vikram Seth, Thomas Keneally, Tarun Tejpal, Tahmima Anam, Moses Isegawa, Colin Thubron, Pico Iyer, Kiran Desai, William Dalrymple, Alexander McCall Smith, and Germaine Greer. These writers have come together with Sri Lanka's own storytellers and commentators both at home and abroad: new writers in Sri Lanka engaging with familiar voices in the diaspora, including Romesh Gunesequera, Shyam Selvadurai and Karen Roberts.

The Festival includes platform events addressed to audiences of over 500, as well as hands-on workshops led by writers for small groups of festival-goers. Intimate gourmet lunches and dinners in private villas and boutique hotels are a signature feature of the Galle Literary Festival, at which a writer may sit down to dine with just ten of his or her avid readers. Past Festivals have included such highlights as a walking tour of Galle Fort led by one of Sri Lanka's leading architects, Channa Daswatte, a conversation in poetry over breakfast, and a special concert by the Chamber Music Society of Colombo, held in the restored Grootekerk.

Meanwhile, a Children's Festival runs parallel to the main Festival, again with acclaimed international and Sri Lankan writers reading from their stories and working with young people on writing their own. The Children's Festival has also led historical scavenger hunts through the Fort and explored the life of marine reefs around Galle.

'The most companionable of all festivals'

- Michael Morpurgo, 2009



CONTRIBUTING TO SRI LANKA

'The Festival has successfully secured a top place for Sri Lanka on the international literary circuit'

- Ranmali Mirchandani, British Council, (Festival Sponsor)

The Festival is an event that places Sri Lanka on a world stage, each year drawing increasing numbers of visitors from all over the world. During the time of the Festival, business and tourism in the area enjoy a phenomenal boost. In addition to attending the Festival itself, visitors have an opportunity to explore the rich cultural heritage and ecological diversity of southern Sri Lanka, whether by going whale-watching, discovering the rainforest, studying fine temple murals or visiting folk museums.

The Festival is also committed to promoting education and creativity in Sri Lanka, and throughout the year will run workshops on reading and creative writing in schools in the Southern Province, working closely with the charity Adopt Sri Lanka. In addition, the Festival seeks to sustain an engagement with writers in Sri Lanka, leading writing workshops and brokering potential partnerships with publishers both locally and internationally.

Each year we seek to draw more young people into the Festival, whether they take advantage of the 80% reduction offered to students attending events or choose to become involved in the delivery of the Festival, either as a part of the Festival's core staff or its team of volunteers who work closely with authors and audience alike to ensure the Festival exceeds itself each year.

'Some of my happiest moments of the last three years have been at the Galle Literary Festival.

We at Jetwing Lighthouse are proud to be associated with this world class event'

- Hiran Cooray, Deputy Chairman, Jetwing Hotels, (Festival sponsor)



BECOMING A BENEFACTOR

The Galle Literary Festival is an event that has in a new way put Sri Lanka on the world map, drawing more visitors and forging fresh associations for the country. At home, it aspires to be an ever stronger force for cultural enrichment and artistic exchange, for debate and discussion, for entertainment and enjoyment, and for good. We are calling for contributions from benefactors in Sri Lanka and abroad to support this extraordinary event and ensure that it can continue to flourish and return year after year.

Benefactors making an annual contribution of USD 1000 or more, the approximate equivalent of LKR 100,000, will be listed with our thanks in the Festival Programme and on its website, and treated to special events around the Festival. For more details please contact any of the people below at info@galleliteraryfestival.com



Festival Patrons

Her Excellency the Governor of the Southern Province, Kumari Balasuriya
Yasmine Gooneratne
Maithree Wickramasinghe

Festival Founder

Geoffrey Dobbs

Festival Team

Shyam Selvadurai, Festival Curator
Kishani De Silva, Festival Director
Puja Srivastava, Festival Manager



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