

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21st November 2006**

INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING AUTHORS HEAD TO SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's first literary festival, **The Galle Literary Festival**, will be held from the 10th to 14th January 2007 and promises to be a world class event providing locals and international visitors with a chance to come and enjoy their favourite Sri Lankan & International authors and engage in conversations about a wide selection of books & topics.

Fans of the recent 2006 Man Booker Prize winner, **Kiran Desai**, will be able to hear her discuss her award winning book *The Inheritance of Loss*. Internationally acclaimed author and historian **William Dalrymple** will take you on a dramatic journey as he unveils his enthusiasm for India's last Mughal emperor with his recently launched book *The Last Mughal*. World renowned, ex BBC India correspondent and author **Mark Tully** will join other leading journalists from the region including foreign correspondent **Christopher Kremmer**, author of 3 books, his latest being *Inhaling the Mahatma*. Distinguished biographer **Victoria Glendinning** will bring to life her latest biography *Leonard Woolf - a life*. 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist **Suketu Mehta** will share his passion for the throbbing metropolis of Bombay with his book *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*. Other authors in this incredible line up of authors are **Sir Arthur C Clarke**, London's River Café owner - **Rose Gray**, Sri Lanka's **Romesh Gunsekera** and author, gastronomic & esteemed actress **Madhur Jaffrey**.

Festival Director, Libby Southwell says "I am delighted to announce a line up of such internationally acclaimed authors for the first of many Galle Literary Festivals. The festival will provide local and international visitors with one of the most exciting & powerful programmes the South Asian region has seen - a truly world class event."

The premier festival will focus on celebrating Sri Lankan literature and raise awareness of the great depth and diversity of Sri Lankan authors & their contribution to the English language and will honour one of Sri Lanka's renowned and international authors, the late **Nihal De Silva** whose work has assisted raising the awareness of writing in English by Sri Lankan authors around the world. **Yasmine Gooneratne**, **Carl Muller**, **Tissa Abeysekera**, **Elmo Jayawardena**, **David Blacker**, and **Jagath Kumarasinghe** are among the finest of Sri Lankan writers who will also be participating in this international event.

The four day programme will be filled with writing workshops, panel discussions, topical debates, literary lunches & dinners, poetry readings, cooking classes, theatre workshops, a children's program and much more. More information can be found on the official festival website - www.galleliteraryfestival.com

The Galle Literary Festival will be held in & around the historic city of **Galle** and its magnificent UN World Heritage Fort. Galle offers the perfect location for the literary festival providing a range of unique & memorable venues for individual events as well as providing the perfect springboard for which visitors can explore the rich culture & history of the coastline & villages of the Southern Province.

Tickets are available online (www.galleliteraryfestival.com) or at any of the festival box offices in Colombo and Galle.

It's time to bury yourself in books for what promises to be an exceptional event.

The Galle Literary Festival is proudly sponsored by: Lunuganga, Amangalla, The Dutch House, The Lighthouse Hotel & Spa, Barefoot Gallery, The Sun House, The Fort Printers, The Fort Gallery, Samakanda, Sri Lankan Airlines, Cathay Pacific, The British Council, Pyxle PVT Ltd, Casa Colombo, AdoptSriLanka, Grant McCann Erickson, Response Marketing (PVT) Ltd, The Favourite Group, The Economist and The Australian Government.

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