

**PRESS RELEASE
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INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING AUTHORS ARRIVE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's inaugural literary festival, **The Galle Literary Festival**, was launched today in the newly renovated Law Court Square of Galle Fort - the magnificent UN World Heritage site.

The festival which is running over 4 days 10th to 14th January 2007 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 Gunasekera** and author, gastronomic & esteemed actress **Madhur Jaffrey**.

The festival is proudly sponsored by both international and local companies. Peter Hill, CEO Sri Lankan Airlines and a Gold Sponsor of this inaugural festival says "In a country that has been inspirational to so many writers and artists over the years, it should come as no surprise that a Literary Festival is being held in Galle, from the 10th until the 14th January. Sri Lankan Airlines is pleased to support this event as one of the main sponsors, by providing air travel to a number of eminent authors and well known personalities from around the world, who will be participating in the festival"

The festival focusses on celebrating Sri Lankan literature and raising the 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**, **Ashok Ferrey**, **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, a children's program and much more.

The festival's events cover a wide variety of topics all aimed at providing participants with an opportunity to express their views & share with the audience thought provoking insights. One topic is "What makes Sri Lankans one?" A topic that will generate an exciting discussion amongst panelists and the audience.

His Excellency The British High Commissioner, Dominick Chilcott says "The British High Commission is delighted to support "What makes Sri Lankans One?" at the Galle Literary festival which will bring together participants from a cross the country who have all been

involved in promoting peace. This thought provoking panel event will remind all of us of what brings the people of this island together at a time of conflict when we are too often reminded of what divides them. We are privileged to be associated with the Galle Literary Festival and we wish the organizers all the best for what will be a highly successful event.”

In addition to events providing opportunities for expression, thoughts and discussion on literature The Festival organizers today launched a ‘Festival Grafitti Wall’ in the Law Court Square in Galle Fort. The wall will be present for the duration of the festival and is there for the public to come and pass comment or create an artwork of their own.

Festival Director, Libby Southwell says “The Festival Grafitti Wall is a great way to get people of all ages actively involved in the festival.

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.

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

The Galle Literary Festival is proudly sponsored by: **Sri Lankan Airlines, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, , Dilmah Tea, The British High Commission, Lunuganga, Amangalla, The Dutch House, The Lighthouse Hotel & Spa, Barefoot Gallery, The Sun House, The Fort Printers, The Fort Gallery, Perera Hussein Publishing House, Samakanda, Cathay Pacific, Six Senses Resorts & Spas, The British Council, Pyxle PVT Ltd, The Fortress, Aditya, Casa Colombo, Emirate Airlines, USAID, The Tourism Cluster, The Competitive Project, Grant McCann Erickson, Response Marketing (PVT) Ltd, The Favourite Group, Samayawardhana Printers (PVT) Ltd, The Economist and The Australian High Commission, Colombo, Emirates, Sri Lanka InStyle, Closenburg Hotel.**

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