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THE MIGHTY GABBY TO PERFORM IN GUYANA FOR THE 1ST TIME!

The legendary Barbadian calypsonian, The Mighty Gabby joins an exciting group of artistes who will be performing at the 2nd Rupununi Music & Arts at Rock View, Annai between September 18 - 20. Gabby, as he is affectionately known, has been writing calypsos for over forty (40) years and has penned more than seven hundred (700) songs, winning the calypso crown in Barbados at the tender age of nineteen in 1968. Since then he has won the Calypso King titles in 1969, 1976, 1985, 1999, 2000 and 2010. He was awarded Folk Singer Of The Year in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

"I've been to Guyana on many occasions and I love the country but I've never had the opportunity to perform there before. I am very much looking forward to being there and to being a part of this exciting camping festival in the Rupununi", says Gabby at his home in St. Michael, Barbados.

Gabby joins a vibrant mix of other international performers as the world music theme of the festival continues in Year 2 with interesting, entertaining and spiritual offerings from Native American flautist and story-teller J J Kent, with the popular group from Suriname MAYA, with a dynamic collection of Brazilian performers including the young quintet ReggioJazz, the mixed Group Capoeira Angola Palmares, visual artist Isaias Miliano and Samba choreographer Wilkinson Oliveira.

To complement the international artistes, Guyana is not to be outdone and adding to the weekend's cultural experience, home grown performers and workshop leaders include the pan maestro, Ras Camo Williams, the Georgetown Jazz Project, O B E lead by Gavin Mendonca, the youth and exuberance of dancers from the Nachgana Academy of Dance, the percussive 'Chuckie' from The Buxton Fusion, the sublime choreographer and highly skilled dancer Kavita, the soulful talented Josi and the talented Surama Cultural Group spearheading traditional Amerindian dances involving many of the local communities in and around Annai.

And there's more, with practical dance workshops in African Caribbean Movement lead by Tracy Douglas, Yoga with Monica Brinn and a wide range of traditional Amerindian arts and crafts, workshops and displays.

"Without a doubt" says Festival Director Dr. Bob Ramdhanie, "2015 will be an excellent event. As you know, developing an innovative programme like this in the grasslands in Annai will always present challenges and we still face some of those. However, we have made positive strides since last year and there are many new and exciting additions to the weekend".

One of the festival's Patron, the internationally renowned visual artist and archaeologist George Simon is waxing lyrically about his meeting with and sharing ideas with JJ Kent some years ago and being excited about renewing that acquaintance and participating in this year's event.

Throughout the weekend there will be an eclectic range of music; a variety of arts and craft stalls, participatory workshops in visual arts, traditional arts & craft, music and dance plus a series of 'information sharing sessions' with the EU in Guyana, Conservation International, Republic Bank and the President Youth Award Republic of Guyana, all combining to make the camping event a family oriented, fun-packed, entertaining weekend.

The festival opens on the evening of Friday 18th September with a slice of traditional Amerindian culture and that theme seeps through the entire period of the weekend adding flavours from around the world and getting you involved. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, be prepared for some unusual musical preludes as you are invited to rise early, quite early, to greet the sun and share in sacred and soothing musical mini performances...from atop Inspirational Rock at Rock View and then to gently integrate this external peace to your inner self with yoga and capoeira open sessions.

The festival greatly appreciates the support of the Government of Guyana, the private sector, all of its sponsors and volunteers and especially the people of Annai and its environs as they all join together to celebrate the 2nd Rupununi Music & Arts Festival.