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A SLICE OF THE RUPUNUNI MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL.....

.....*GEORGETOWN CONNECTION!*....

Exciting, entertaining, fun-filled and affordable, the 'after-Mash' Rupununi Music & Arts Festival comes to **Thirst Park, (Banks DIH)** in Georgetown on **Saturday March 4, 2017**.

From 3.00 pm, **Thirst Park** will be buzzing; will be alive with sounds and smells, laughter and lights - music, dance, spoken work and comedy as The Rupununi Music & Arts Festival comes to Georgetown. Artistes from Barbados, St. Vincent and the UK will join forces with artistes from Guyana to share some 'Festival slices' and celebrate life. The ***Georgetown Connection*** promises to be an exciting entertainment event with food and fun for the whole family.

From Barbados, ***The Mighty Gabby***, youngest ever and nine times calypso Monarch of Barbados will headline the weekend. His international hits include "The List", "Jack", "Boots", "West Indian Politician", "Emmerton" and many more. Gabby, as he is affectionately called, will be accompanied by international Barbadian writer, theatre director and spoken word artiste, ***Winston Farrell***. The Caribbean spoken word team will

also include the well-known academic and spoken word artiste from St. Vincent, ***Phil Nanton***.

Guyana too will present some of its best in music, spoken word, comedy and dance. ***Dave Martin & Friends*** will spearhead the local team. Dave "Born and raised in Guyana is known across the Caribbean as the leader/songwriter of the popular Tradewinds band founded in 1966. He was awarded Guyana's Golden Arrow of Achievement in 1981 for contribution to music". He will be amply supported by the popular, vibrant, rock band, ***Feed The Flames*** plus ***Collage, Nachgana Academy of Dance, "Chuckie & Gavin Mendonca", Surama Cultural Group*** and many others still to be announced! To add to the world flavour of Caribbean and regional music, the international Guyanese flautist ***Keith Waithe*** will make a special appearance at the event. A variety of local food, arts and craft, book sales, games and inter-active fun events for the young at heart and some scouting activities will be there to seduce you as well.

A special feature of the ***Georgetown Connection*** will be a "TALK TENT". Programmed for afternoon/early evening, in a small, intimate space, these sessions will be relaxed and informal, sharing conversations with some of the artistes. You will have the opportunity to listen to, ask questions, learn more about the artistic journeys and meet some of the artistes who will be performing during the day!

For Festival Director, Dr. Bob Ramdhanie, "Including Georgetown in the Rupununi Music & Arts Festival programming has been integral to the festival's strategic plan since inception, and so March 4 is simply the 1st of many events to be staged annually in Georgetown. The

Georgetown Connection will provide a slice of what you can expect when you join us in August this year in the Rupununi”.

The Rupununi Music & Arts Festival which is a world-music, camping based festival began in 2013 at Rock View, Annai and will be moving this year to a new location (Manari Ranch, Region 9) for this year’s festival (August 18 – 20, 2017). Long-term plans are to create a vibrant ‘Festival Village’ in the Rupununi, offering a range of educational, music and arts related training programmes. Gavin Mendonca, the Guyanese musician, sees the huge potential that a festival like this can bring to Guyana and adds, “The festival in the Rupununi is a real opportunity for Guyanese people to appreciate the beautiful country that Guyana is, and to do so listening to great music is an added experience”

The festival, including the **Georgetown Connection** event, is a genuine Government, private sector and NGO partnership and is supported by The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Banks DIH Ltd, Rent-a-Tent, Giftland Mall, Republic Bank, Cara Lodge, Silverbait Design Inc., Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), THAG, Air Services Ltd (ASL), NAMILCO Inc., Trans Guyana Airways (TGA) and others, who collectively help to make the event a very special treat.

Further information, artistes’ biographies and photographs from:

Sandrine Haguy:	sandhaguy@gmail.com
Rupununi Festival website:	www.rupununifestival.com
Tel nos:	616 3953/629 4535
Tickets (Georgetown):	Giftland Mall & Gizmos and Gadgets