



PRESS RELEASE..PR

RUPUNUNI MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL MOVES TO MANARI RANCH!

The adrenalin flows; the excitement grows, as the volunteer team unfolds the plans for the 3rd Rupununi Music & Arts camping festival as it relocates to a new site at Manari Ranch, nr. Lethem in Region 9. There is a real buzz but it's equally tempered with the knowledge that in any new development, especially with the recreation of a new festival site on the grasslands of the Amazon, there will be hiccups and unforeseen hurdles. Nonetheless, spirits are extremely high as the festival galvanizes into a new phase of development in the Region and looks forward to welcoming visitors between February 16-18, 2018.

This 1st year on a new site however, will be a pilot programme but with several interesting new additions laying the foundation for the future. The weekend will be fun-filled with activities and music to satisfy almost everyone. A group of scouts will have a presence, creating interesting opportunities for young and old alike; for the

early risers, it will be music and movement as the Brazilian team offers yoga, capoeira and Zumba to stimulate body and mind and during the day teams of creative artists will be offering a mixture of 'hands on' interactive workshops to engage you – music, dance, arts & crafts, visual arts. Additionally, visitors to the festival will have opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the region through pre-booked tours and even take the opportunity to do some shopping in Lethem! As the sun sets, the music begins with live music filling the space for over six hours every night throughout the weekend and those late romantics, who still wish to enjoy the beauty of the area, can sit around the festival's camp fire and be at one with nature!

Conversations are still taking place with artistes from Canada and Jamaica but what is certain, the festival will be welcoming a strong team of over 20 Brazilian and Venezuelan performers and they will be complemented by a dynamic range of locally produced Guyanese artistes with rock from Feed The Flames, insights from Jazz and Poetry on a Stool, folk from Chuckie and Gavin plus Charlie De Freitas, dance from Nach Gana Academy of Dance, tassa drumming with Dubraj Tassa Troupe and more from Chowpow, Trevaun Selman, Ruqayyah and Jackie Jaxx! A more detailed list of all the artistes and a programme will be available on the festival's website in the near future. (www.rupununifestival.com)

The Manari Ranch location will be the 'home' for the festival in the foreseeable future and the idea is to create a Festival Village with some permanent structures that reflect the heart and soul of the Rupununi. It is envisaged that the site will be

completed by 2020, creating a unique, aesthetically pleasing space that will add to the attractions in the Rupununi.

Establishing an open-air camping festival on the grasslands in the Amazon requires resources, vision, team spirit, creative artistes, volunteers and a range of partners and the festival team is hugely thankful to all its volunteers and artistes who give generously of time and talent, and to our sponsors, the Government, NCN, the media, GTA, the Forestry Commission of Guyana, ASL, Banks DIH, Cara Lodge, Fly Jamaica, Giftland Mall, Rent-A-Tent, Republic Bank, Silverbait Design and TGA and the many individuals who contribute to make the event a success.

Festival Launch event: **Friday 9th February @ 10.00 am @ Colgrain House,
Camp Street (RSVP attendance)**

Festival weekend: **Friday 16th to Sunday 18th.**

Further information from:

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