

Feel Negombo

Feel it, Experience it and Live it

One of the special highlights of the Fest is the senior citizens program where Sri Lankans abroad will have the opportunity to pay for a day trip for their parents living here. Transport, buffet and various activities made to entertain them will be all organized for them

DEMI HEWAMANNA

Feel Negombo 2009, an event like no other is getting ready to sail its way across the golden sandy beaches of Negombo this Christmas season to give a fun filled three days of activities, adventure, music and entertainment suitable for the whole family.

Feel Negombo 2009, a family oriented event is set to take place from December 11 to the 13th along the Negombo beach stretch and create a vibrant and attractive image of Negombo as a popular destination for local and international tourists.

"We feel that Sri Lanka lacks events and were thinking that Sri Lanka

needs more events than it has and we have already targeted some cities. Colombo is known for its Jazz Festival, Galle for the Literary Festival, Hikkadawa for its Beach Fest and other cities in the list are Kandy and various other places to promote activities.

There is a huge line up of events ready to take place and most of them are first of a kind in the country. Some of the activities are Water Walking and Zorbing, Water sports, boat rides, canal tours, diving, paint ball, 4 x 4 races on the beach, street parade and many more.

"Negombo has gotten

beaches and there was a request from the people to focus on Negombo, to create awareness locally and internationally and to make it a destination point", Minister of Tourism Promotion Faiszer Musthapha said at a press briefing recently.

The main attractions of the night will be beating of the amazing drums of Ravi Banda Vidyapathi, Triloka, Naardo, Elephant Foot and Hurricane.

The international highlights will be from DJ Acee flying down from Switzerland spinning the Hip Hop round, DJ Miss Match from Australia will be mixing up RnB and Reggae, DJ Eric Carver coming from Canada will bring the roof down with pure House, Manipuri drummers and Bikram with Naalrahma will also be coming down to join in the Drum Festivals.

The Sri Lanka tourism promotional campaign was launched recently and President Mahinda Rajapaksa has declared the year 2011

as the Visit Sri Lanka year and has a target to attract around 2.5 million tourists by the year 2016.

"If we properly manage, promote and invest we will also be able to employ young boys and girls and attract them to the travel industry", Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau Chairman Bernard Goonetilleke said.

So start counting the days guy and watch out for the TV advertisements along with Radio on-air promotions as well get more information as to where to purchase tickets and everything.



Minister of Tourism Promotion Faiszer Musthapha speaking at a press briefing recently regarding Feel Negombo 2009, a family oriented event is set to take place from December 11 to the 13th. Picture by Sulochana Gamage

Swimming upstream with lyrics

JAYANTHI LIVANAGE

Wasath Kalaya, a CD of twenty popular songs and Millennium Penwathun, a CD of twenty new songs, together with the book of lyrics *Wasath Kalaya*, will be presented to the public on December 2 at 3.30 pm at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute.

For new generation lyricist Ravi Sirwardhana, this store of lyrics amassed over ten years, is yet another step of swimming upstream to be heard over his seniors, as he feels that 'there is a vacuum in the Sinhala music

scene in which fresh lyrics are not heard enough'. Lyrics sung by yesterday's veterans possess the power to survive even in the new millennium, he observes, going by the songs sung at TV competitions. His task is to lift new lyricists to the same heights.

"Four songs Ravi wrote for me became very popular", singer Dayan Witharana said.

Wasath Kalaya Manaram and *Obe Sasam Pavan* are among them. "He did not allow himself to be swept with the commercial tide and destroy the natural quality of his compositions", Witharana said.

Actor and politician Roger Senewiratne commented on Sirwardhana's contribution to 'the process of inculcating a lyric literature within the local listener ship'. His lyrics

are meaningful, brimming with energy, Senewiratne added.

Sirwardhana is the winner of 1997 *Mahagamaskera* award and 1999 Youth award given to the best young lyricist. He composed the poetry books of *Nagud Tharuwa* and *Philsandara* and compiled *Lankeseya Sangeethaye Rohana Lakuna*.

His lyrics have been sung by artists spanning different generations, namely Nanda Malini, Sunil Edirisinghe, Somathilaka Jayamaha, Karamaratne Divulgane, Edward Jayakody, Deepika Priyadarshani, Pradeepa Dharmadasa, Krishantha Erandaka, Janaka Wickramasinghe, Kirithi Pasqual, Dayan Witharana, Neta Adikari, Rashmi Sangeetha, Kasmu Kalhara, Uresha Ravihari, Amal Perera, Rohan Bulegoda, Lakshman Hewawitharana, Ranjan Saliya, Sumithi Mandanayaka, Kelum Wijesuriya, Nuwan Nayanajith, Shanika Sumanassekera, Suranji Shyamali, Harris Wijesinghe, Chirath Weerasinghe, Sangeetha Kaluhovila and Danodya Yapa.

Dr. Saman Chandra Ranasinghe, musician Rohana Weerasinghe and film-maker Somaratne Dissanayake are expected to elaborate on selected lyrics at the launch.



Pic: Ravi Sirwardhana.

Adam Lambert argues 'I'm not a babysitter'

Adam Lambert defended his controversial American Music Awards performance on The Early Show this morning, telling host Maggie Rodriguez the AMAs were filled with content that wasn't kid-friendly. "I think it's up to the parents to discern what their child is watching on television. Lady Gaga smashing whiskey bottles, Janet Jackson grabbing a male dancer's crotch, Eminem talking about how Slim Shady has 17 rapes under his belt, there was a lot of

very adult material on the AMAs this year and I know I wasn't the only one."

Lambert was the only star to face a major backlash following the ceremony, which aired from 8 to 11 p.m. ET on ABC Sunday night.

After ABC received 1,500 complaints over Lambert's simulated oral sex and make-out session with a male bandmate, the network nixed his appearance on Good Morning America. Lambert argued that female pop stars wouldn't have received the same scrutiny, and that being gay and a man was a 'double whammy' because audiences 'haven't seen that before'. He concluded, "I'm not a babysitter. I'm a performer."

Lambert admitted his final performance didn't precisely mirror rehearsals, and that ABC was rightfully taken by surprise by some of his racy details. But he said he had "no clue" the performance would grab so many headlines. "I admit I did get carried away, but I don't see anything wrong with it."

I do see how people got offended, and that was not my intention." Arguing he didn't consider young fans would be watching because "it was a nighttime show."

Rolling Stone

The Margarita Blue Brandy and Belle join Aquarius



Brandy and Belle from the Philippines have joined Aquarius who will be performing at the Margarita Blue Pub of the Galadari Hotel.

The talent, charisma and stunning looks of the Filipino girls have been a huge draw at the Margarita Blue for over a year and the popular band? Aquarius has been teaming up with many talented artists from the Philippines having great success drawing crowds who comes through the doors of the Margarita Blue to enjoy great music and entertainment.

With the festive season beginning in just a few weeks the hotel's resident band, Aquarius, have revamped themselves to dish out those sizzling hot sounds and fever-pitch excitement, generally associated with the festivi-

ties. At the Margarita Blue, four nights of the week - Wednesday to Saturday. Aquarius have also made a line-up change - bringing in Sanjeeva Udayanahewa as a replacement for keyboardist Ray. Sanjeeva is also a flamboyant frontline

singer, with years of experience, having first performed with Dreamteam. With Sanjeeva in the scene, plus two Filipino female singers, the atmosphere at the Margarita Blue will certainly heat up to the maximum as the season approaches. The Margarita Blue is open seven days a week from 11.00am to midnight on weekdays and from 11.00am to 2.00am on weekends and is open for Lunch and Dinner.

The beverage menu consists of many varieties of local and imported Beers, Spirits and others. Happy Hour is from 12noon to 1.30pm and 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

The Pub offers games such as Darts, Snooker and Pool while you enjoy the best and latest in sports on giant screen.

Hype of Hypnotization

DEMI HEWAMANNA

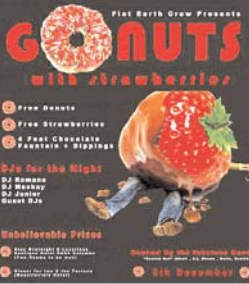
From the long boring, tiring, exhausting and unbalanced weather that has got many people under the sheets, wouldn't you just wish to be in just one trance that will take all the stress away and make you focus your mind on just one thing to have unlimited and pure fun just dancing the night through.

Well then, what you need is a dose of Hypnotism coming all the way from Down South with five of the best up coming DJs from down under Sri Lanka consisting Damith, Dr. baby, Gayan, Prabash and Sajjad.

Organized by Valentinos, DJ Ranga along with Rachith, Dishan and Shiran D are ready to hypnotize all you stressed out party people with pure and simply the best Hip Hop, RnB, house, tribal, electro and progressive dancing tunes till the break of dawn with the exclusive dancing troop that will rock everyone

body out all night TONIGHT at Club Zouk, Galadari from 9pm.

So what you waiting for, hope you are getting ready to be HYPNOTIZED as free cocktails await the ladies from 9 to 12midnight along with fantabulous surprises, prizes, giveaways to the best dress and sexiest couple. For tickets and more information you can call 0770857442. See you all there!



Go nuts with Donuts and Strawberries

DEMI HEWAMANNA

Ever dreamed of going totally nuts over unlimited amount of Donuts, and helping yourself to an unlimited amount of fresh juicy strawberries dipped in your favourite sweet sauces like whip cream, chocolate and vanilla fountains?

Dream no more because you get all that and a whole lot more this coming December 5 at the one and only Little Hut at the Mount Lavinia Hotel where you get to go Gonuts with Donuts and Strawberries. Christmas is coming in exactly 27 days and what way to celebrate it than treating yourself this delicious addictive temptation!

Once again fat earth crew is back to give all

the lovely party people something mind blowing, fantabulous and different this season. There will be a four feet massive chocolate fountain to make your taste buds (mine is already tasting it) to go wild and crazy while you guys party all night long. The Donuts will be available in 15 flavours and introducing the all new CHRISTMAS DONUT will be launched on this particular occasion.

One of the Islands best band Souled Out will be performing to rock the party people through the night featuring Shaif, C.J, Shean, Dulls and Sunith along with the best DJs of Colombo as well named DJ Romano, DJ Junior, DJ Mackay and other famous Guest DJs.