

**SRI LANKA PARTICIPATION AT THE SMITHSONIAN FESTIVAL
OF AMERICAN FOLK LIFE – 2010**

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For full festival information go to:

<http://www.festival.si.edu/>

Watch a video: <http://www.festival.si.edu/>

For the first time in its history since founding in 1967, the festival will focus on the lives and experiences of the local Asian groups who make Washington DC metro area their home.

The theme is "Local Lives, Global Ties." The program will focus on what it means to be a person of Asian descent living in the U.S. today. Highlights will be cultural traditions and diversity whilst examining strategies for adaptation.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS TO YOUR FRIENDS, OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE ASIAN TRADITIONS THAT WILL BE A PART OF THIS CELEBRATION – see the web links above.

Date: SRI LANKA DAY WILL BE FRIDAY JULY 2, 2010.

Location: The National Mall - Sri Lanka will perform in the "Asian Fusion" Tent.

How to get there: Smithsonian Metro Station – Take the Mall exit. Parking is limited.

Other information: Due to the hot weather, dress appropriately and bring plenty of drinking water (also available on the grounds and in food outlets) and any other personal needs. If the weather is too hot and unbearable, the air-conditioned Smithsonian is close to the "Asian Fusion" Tent where our activities take place. Rest room facilities are open in the buildings.

If there are thunderstorms, visitors are advised to leave the grounds and go to the buildings. The festival will close and visitors are advised not to be in tents or under trees in a storm situation.

A First Aid station is available for emergencies. The elderly should be brought with wheel chairs due to the extent of the festival spread. The festival provides only a limited supply of wheel chairs.

Panel Discussions begin at 11:00 AM in the Talk Story tent

Sri Lankan performances will be in two sessions the first starting 1:40PM and the second at 4:55 PM. A cooking demonstration will be conducted in the special tent provided for the purpose.

Attractions include family activities, food and entertainment and a hospitality tent to meet people from other lands who have now become a part of the American Heritage.

The Sri Lankan performances will include the age old Virindu with English Translations, dance performances by three groups of dancers, traditional and modern music from Sri Lanka. The Serendib Band will entertain with songs in all three languages and visitors who wish to dance to Sri Lankan rhythms in this "Asian Fusion" environment will be encouraged to do as a dance floor is provided. The performers are all volunteers and represent many groups in the community not affiliated or sponsored by any single organization.

For further information, feel free to contact Mrs. Anjalika Silva who is the volunteer Smithsonian/festival liaison for the Sri Lankan events. AnjalikaS@aol.com or phone 301-793-6826. We are also looking at succession planning to involve more volunteers who are capable of and willing to take responsibility for continuing these activities for the community in the future.