

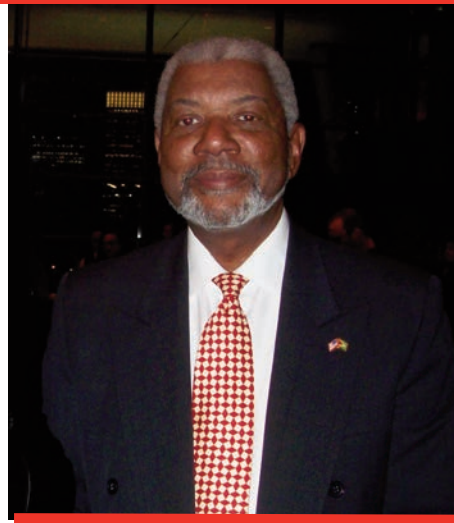
Honoring Excellence In Education, The Arts, Resilience Community Service & Innovative Technology.

A fascinating feature of the 2018 group of Awardees is the awe-inspiring presence of education in the success of the youth and adults. Their accomplishments were achieved through dedicated individual action; the commitment of cultural and education enablers, pioneers, and change-making ingenuity. Our heritage arts and contemporary digital technology have influenced and supported initiatives that promote stronger community service. The latter provides more resilience for residents in need. Increasing opportunities for all requires changing perceptions and affecting behaviors and much of the work of the Awardees has had that impact. .

We summarize the accomplishments of honorees whose profiles are published in the program Journal with their respective photographs.

- Theatre artist’s pioneering work molded definitional pedagogy and performance techniques; created courses in Caribbean cultural performance studies which teach students the cultural significance of ethnic rituals and festivals such as Masquerade, Divali, Carnival and Kwe Kwe
- A cultural ambassador in a singing career of twenty-five years; winnings of top level awards across various genre: shanto; calypso; soca; and chutney.
- Change maker educator - innovative implementation of musical performance to increase mathematics education.
- Visual artist in sculpture, ceramics, painting and graphic arts; ug lecturer
- A storyteller, puppeteer, photographer presenter of folk heritage to school children
- Decades-long contribution to Guyana’s performing and festival arts especially to Mashramani
- An extensive career in the performing arts as a singer and composer.
- Definitive work in pursuit of uniting guyanese through art; increasing knowledge of social and cultural history.

Increasing opportunities for all requires changing perceptions and affecting behaviors and much of the work of the Awardees has had that impact.



Chairperson, Awards Committee

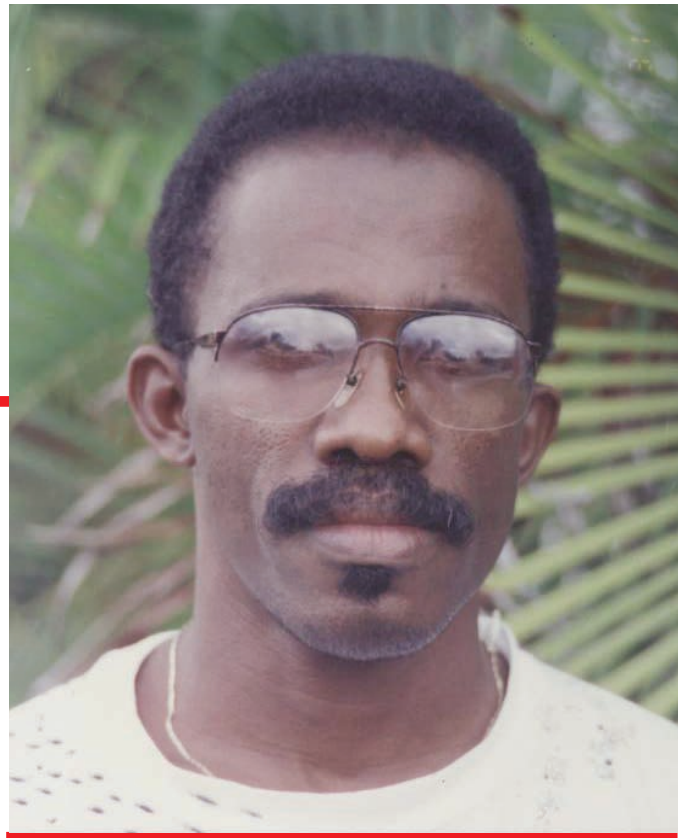
Ronald H. Lammy

- Indefatigable cultural enabler spirit in the successful presentation of cross-genre performing and festival arts.
- Preserves Guyanese cultural attributes; promotes Caribbean community cohesion
- An illustrious singing career in Guyana, Barbados, and Canada; celebrating 50th anniversary
- Pioneer with the introduction of the Phagwah and the Diwali festivals in Queens, NY
- Education enabler in formalizing and expanding “expressive arts” in Guyana’s school system.
- Business supporter of the arts as a cultural enabler.
- YOUTH - High scholastic achievement in primary school and extracurricular activities.
- YOUTH - Impressive scholastic accomplishment at the end of your primary school time.
- YOUTH - Scholastic achievements at tertiary level; pioneering body painting artistry.
- YOUTH - Perfect score in the National Grade Six Assessment examination.
- YOUTH . Excellence in tertiary scholarship; innovative in digital technology and creative arts.
- YOUTH - Emphatic Community Service Founder; children resource to develop their resilience.



**GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

**Eugene F.
Williams**



Eugene F. Williams is recognized for an outstanding career in Theatre, Cultural and Performance Studies. As a theatre artist he found his calling from involvement in seminal works that championed the charting of Caribbean identity based on the cultural crucible in the native lands of the Caribbean people. He has applied his academic achievements, including being a Ford Foundation and a Fulbright Scholar, to create definitional pedagogy and performance technique.

As a member of the faculty of the Edna Manley College in Jamaica and later Director of the School of Drama, he spearheaded the development of curriculum with a Caribbean focus. At its core, it embraced community development and theatre creation that reflected the cultural traditions of the region. In his leadership position, he created ground-breaking courses in Caribbean cultural performance. These were designed to expose students to the cultural significance of ethnic rituals and festivals such as Masquerade, Carnival, Diwali, Khali Mai, Kwe Kwe, Nine Night and others.

His academic research and laboratory work with cultural forms progressed from the philosophical influence of icons like Guyanese Wilson Harris. This inspiration led him to explore and codify a performance technique that emanates from the Guyana Masquerade and rhythms of other traditional forms.

Mr. Williams has been recognized for his work in Drama Education with a Silver Musgrave medal from the Institute of Jamaica and has been inducted into the Caribbean Hall of Fame for his work in Anglo-Caribbean Theatre. He earned his MFA in Directing at Brooklyn College, CUNY and the MA in Performance Studies at New York University. After 34 years as a theatre artist, administrator and lecturer he retired in 2016 but continues to teach part-time and direct theatre productions.

**AN OUTSTANDING CAREER
IN THEATRE, CULTURAL
AND PERFORMANCE
STUDIES.**

GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION EXEMPLARY AWARD

Roger Hinds

"Young Bill Rogers"

Roger Hinds, known as "Young Bill Rogers" started singing as a young child and has been singing professionally as a Calypsonian, for the past 25 years. His father and mentor was the late legendary icon, Bill Rogers.

Roger Hinds (Young Bill Rogers) was introduced by his father to a children's show called " On Show Young Guyana " where for the first time, he sang his father's ever popular "Weed Song" Roger Hinds is a two time Calypso Monarch, two time Health Song, Competition winner, five time Shanto King, and the first and only non Indian in Guyana and the Caribbean to win the Chutney Competition twice in 2013 and 2015.

Roger Hinds is a cultural ambassador of Guyana. Over the last twenty-five years he has confirmed that credential in a swath of performing arts activities that have some incomparable features. In the contemporary setting, he stands in an exemplary position for accomplishments in his singing career. He has won top level awards across various genre: Shanto; Calypso; Soca; and Chutney. The latter is noteworthy given its predominant affiliation with one ethnic group of which is not.

Another significant established distinction of his career is his use of his performance talent in drama. He, singularly, and as a member of the Caribbean Vizion band address public health issues. They toured schools across the Caribbean islands, and in Guyana, to promote positive health behaviors and combat domestic violence. Roger was the lead actor in the dramatic performances. A very distinguishing element that led to his successes is his courage and business astuteness to cross boundaries in the racial, social, and cultural conditions in Guyana.



**A CULTURAL AMBASSADOR.
CROSS BOUNDARIES IN THE
RACIAL, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL CONDITIONS
IN GUYANA**

A CELEBRATION OF THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH STRONG CREATIVE GIFTS AND AS CULTURAL ENABLERS IN THE GUYANESE SOCIETY



**BIBI NATASHA
KHAN AZEEZ**

Bibi Natasha Khan Azeez is the dramatic storyteller who portrays Janie Gyal, a folk characterization of the folktale, Ole Man Pappie and Janie Gyal. An idea that came to life in 2012, this storytelling has been presented to many schools around Guyana with remarkable success.

With her dramatization of a folktale that is no stranger to Guyanese children, bringing Janie Gyal to life on the stage has been Natasha's passion. It is of utmost importance to her that Guyana's folklore and childhood fantasy be preserved and sustained.

Natasha works alongside Michael Khan (Ole Man Pappie) who applauds Natasha for her dedication and commitment. He attributes their success in numerous presentations - both within and outside of Guyana, at Carifesta and the Inter-Guianas Cultural Festival - to Natasha's dedication and sense of purpose.

An alumna of the School of Theater Arts and Drama and a skilled puppeteer, photographer and videographer, Natasha is also Director of Henna Designs, Customized and Traditional Creations, and Manager of Emeritus Professor Doris Rogers' Art Program.



**TERRENCE
BLACKMAN, PhD.**

Terrence Blackman, PhD., Dean of The School of Science, Health and Technology, Medgar Evers College is a number theorist connecting cutting edge mathematics to art and culture. He works in spectral geometry on Mark Kac's famous question "Can you hear the shape of a drum?"

A highly sought after lecturer for his ability to connect research mathematics to the experience of underrepresented, Dean Blackman is a dynamic advocate for innovation in teaching, learning, research and knowledge production. He has committed the institution to developing a scientific culture that will successfully and sustainably recruit, retain, develop and graduate highly competent, motivated students who can advance knowledge in science, health, technology in a manner that will best serve our community, our state, our nation and our world in the 21st century.

Conceived, developed and implemented with the support of Queen's College Alumni Association of New York, The Queen's College Summer Math Institute is one of Dr. Blackman's pedagogical innovations. This culturally resonant middle school enrichment experience engages young Guyanese in cognitively rich learning experiences that align with their cultural identities and place them securely on pathways to STEM excellence. It was the first of its kind in Guyana.



**WINSLOW
CRAIG**

Winslow Craig is one of the leading visual artists in Guyana and the contemporary Caribbean. He excels in sculpture, ceramics, painting and graphic arts, creating works which have given him visibility, recognition and rewards in a career that exceeds thirty years.

His oeuvre is, arresting, forceful, rhythmic and, most of all, inspirational. His common theme is humanity and, because Craig's own humanity resides in his Guyanese being, his works speak, through imagery, directly and eloquently to the larger Guyanese community - of struggle, faith and hope. Without employing words, these powerful images silently urge the engendering of community, while reminding us of the horrors of our past.

Quoting Winslow "When I look at what is going on in society today, everything we as a species would have done to scar and destroy the face of nature is very sad" Winslow Craig has been honored by the Government of Guyana with the Golden Arrowhead for his contributions to art and he was a recipient of the Anthony Sabga Award for Creativity and his contributions to the arts in the Caribbean.



**COMPTON
"Coody" HODGE**

Compton Hodge (Coody) has an extensive career as a versatile singer and composer in Guyana. His love for singing dates back to his younger years when he attained impressive lasting experiences performing at school concerts and popular radio programs such 'Teensville' and 'In Search Of A Star'. He performed with several popular band including Playboys Band, Curtis and the MG'S, Nite People and The Dominators Band. His wealth of experience came when he toured extensively with the Chronicle Atlantic Symphony Steel and Brass Orchestra, Mingles Band, GT Music Machine and Jazz Plus Band both locally and Internationally. Over three decades we has composed and recorded many hits. Among them are. 'De Trailor Coming Down', 'Jam Down T.O' and 'In this Land' He crossed over to Soca and Calypso and in 2002 and 2003 Coody won the Road March Crown in Guyana with 'Extra Soca' followed by his biggest hit 'Umbrella Party'. In 2004 he won the first held Soca Monarch in Guyana with another hit 'Baloon City'. Compton is the receiver of several awards in recognition of his sterling performances over the years, the latest being in 2016. The Appreciation Music Award.



**WINFIELD
JAMES**

Dedicated, committed, a consistent interest in Mashramani, contributing at every level to improve the festivity, are words used to describe the work of Winfield James. Winning designer of King and Queen of the Bands for several years, this crusader for Guyana's festival maintained a "near-religious" commitment to Mashramani with exotic depictions of the festival.

Born in Trinidad to a Guyanese mother and Trinidadian father, James' quest for high standards delighted parade-goers over several years. He embodied the spirit of Mashramani each year with such fervor, his skillful depictions earned him overwhelming recognition from several local agencies who clamored for his attention to design floats for them.

James credits his rudimentary skills in calypso from listening at an early age to the calypso greats who visited with his father. The skillful integration of this introduction to the art-form with social issues of the day won him the crown in 1998.

James' dedication to the arts earned him the Jaycees' Hands Across the Caribbean Award in 1985. He has held a series of designing workshops for children in Guyana and is the host of the annual Tribute to Mothers show.



**GUYANA
UNITED ARTISTS**

Guyana United Arts (GUA), has distinguished itself for its definitive work in pursuit of the noble goal of uniting Guyanese through art. It is an organization of young Guyanese artists which was founded by Linden Jemmoth, Desmond Alli, Vincent Griffith, Aubrey Estwick, Peter Edwards, Ras Ita, Ras Iha, Ohene Koama and Gary Thomas. GUA was formally launched in January 1997 under the theme "Unity in Diversity". Its admirable hard work over two decades have helped many contemporary artists increase their knowledge of Guyana's social and cultural history.

A precursor initiative to GUA's formation was the group's courageous 'Unity Marches'. The founding members walked for eighteen months up to December 1997. The message was taken across Guyana starting in Georgetown. Visits were made to the West Bank and East Coast Demerara, New Amsterdam, Corentyne and Linden.

The GUA has developed into a prominent institution through exhibitions. It is an invaluable resource for individual artists to be identified and to communicate as co-exhibitors in diverse locations. They display their creativity to wide and varied audiences at the National Gallery and cultural centers. In 2002 GUA was presented with the Walter Rodney Trophy for promoting the ideals of National Unity Nationwide.



**CARLO
LACHMANSINGH**

Carlo Lachmansingh was raised under strong Guyanese influences of multiculturalism. His schooldays were multiethnic and these characteristics molded his future. Today he is an exemplary Guyanese cultural enabler. Mr. Lachmansingh has displayed an indefatigable spirit in the successful presentation of cross-genre performing arts and festival arts. They are secular and religious. Notable accomplishments are evident in the sustainability of programs for decades. Inclusivity and partnerships are key elements in his community initiatives. The 25th Anniversary of "The TwinCitiesCarifest" is a manifestation of his leadership.

Carlo joined Bumble and the Saints as a drummer. At age 15 he was a member of one of the premier music ensembles in the country. Migration to Minnesota permitted him to display his artistry in two different groups. The Macumba Caribbean Musical Group's repertoire was primarily jazz genre with Caribbean influences. In 1994 he joined Tropics Steel Drum Band and enjoyed his longest performing career until 2017. During that period "The TwinCitiesCarifest" was born. Carlo has functioned as a lead event coordinator for its existence. Central to the leadership role was his ability to manage diverse racial and Caribbean immigrants. At the Minnesota Shree Gyaatri Mandir he is the Public Affairs representative for various Hindu celebrations that display Festival art.



**"LADY IRA"
LEWIS**

"Lady Ira" Lewis is a prominent figure when it comes to promoting the cultural awareness of New Jersey's Guyanese American community. Over the past twenty years Lady Ira has dedicated her energies towards the development of organizations and events that benefit the Guyanese American communities within the New Jersey diaspora. Lady Ira's determination to establish a Guyanese American Network is driven by her desire to foster and maintain the Guyanese Culture wherever Guyanese resides. For a quarter of a decade, Lady Ira has organized and spearheaded the annual Guyana American Carnival of East Orange, NJ which has brought not only Guyanese American together, but other members of the West Indian and Caribbean communities. Lady Ira has worked tirelessly serving and mentoring members of the Guyanese American community as well as other West Indian and Caribbean groups, while creating foundations and programs such as the Guyana American Heritage Foundation, the Caribbean American Fun Day, Health Screening programs for Women and many other programs that provide invaluable assistance to the community.



**AUBREY
MANN**

Aubrey Mann began his professional singing career in 1968 with the band, "Cosmonauts" followed by the groups "Curtis & The MG's" and "Combo 7". Aubrey immediately became one of the top singers in Guyana, but in 1973 he migrated to Barbados and by 1974 he was a household name singing with the very popular Barbadian band, "Lunar 7".

Together they recorded Aubrey's first two hit songs, "I Can't Make It Alone" and "Here I Am Baby". In 1979, he signed his first recording contract and recorded his first album entitled, "Feeling Good" and that changed his life. The very first cut on the album entitled, "Stealing Love On The Side".

Aubrey Mann is recognized for his illustrious singing career in Guyana, Barbados and Canada. We acknowledge two remarkable milestones in the Performing Arts, His signature recording "Stealing Love On The Side" has sold 2.5 million copies worldwide. This year 2018 he is celebrating his 50th Anniversary in Entertainment.



**DHARMAACHARYA
PANDIT RAMLALL Ji**

The Honorable Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall ji is a priest, scholar, teacher, humanitarian; a most remarkable son of Guyana. He lifted himself up from a poor orphan boyhood to be one of the most respected Pandits globally and is held in esteem in the many countries he has visited. He has received the highest accolades for his spiritual and humanitarian work, and his respect for all mankind regardless of religion, race, or ethnicity.

Pandit Ramlall, a patriot, was a fierce leader of Guyana's struggle for independence. He continues through his 90 years on this earth with his inter-faith work and his special concern for children, and the underprivileged. He lights the way for all peoples as he lives by his humanitarian ideals. Pandit Ramlall is the founder of the Arya Spiritual Center. He is the pioneer of the Phagwah Festival Parade and the Diwali Festival in Queens. They ensure that Guyanese living in the Diaspora can experience the Hindu celebrations that are part of the fabric of Guyanese experiences.

The Honorable Dharmacharya Pandit Ramlall ji is unquestionably a man of the highest principles, as a believer in faith and positive harmony. His mission is to share divine knowledge and wisdom with the world.



**BERNARD
RAMSAY**

Art has been Bernard's passion from childhood and it led to an extensive and impressive career in the Creative Arts. He was inspired by the late Godfrey Chin costume bands designs. They worked together decorating commercial buildings for the holiday season. After training and work experiences in Britain he returned to Guyana in 1973 and became involved in Mashramani. It allowed him to put his creative talents to work. While working with floats he became involved in costume design, winning in several areas of the competition throughout the years. He also took his designing skills to Antigua where he resided for a few years. In 2003, Bernard started his own company Tribal Vibes which produced a t-shirt collection based on the petroglyphs of the Amerindian Tribes. Of notable mention are the outstanding designs for GUYSU-CO which gave him "designer of the year" recognition on several occasions. Bernard is very proud to see the many corporate logos that he designed are still prominent. During a period of expanding creativity, Bernard redesigned the National Chair into a more comfortable 'Berbice Chair' fully upholstered. He has been involved in several Theater productions, mainly for Ron Robinson's The Theatre Company which included stage and costume design.



SUBRAJ SINGH

Subraj Singh is a fiction-writer, playwright, director, educator and cultural journalist. His celebrated works include the short story *Rebelle* for which he won the inaugural Walter Rodney award for Creative Writing. He uses his fiction to address the realities of young people within the Caribbean. His work has had readings at the University of Guyana, the University of Iowa, the New Orleans Centre for Creative Arts, and the Kirkwood Community College.

His brand of theatre is experimental and has to do with Guyanese history and the postcolonial experience, geared towards improving race-relations in Guyana. In 2017, two of his plays were selected to represent Guyana at CARIFESTA XIII and were staged at venues in Barbados. Additionally, another of his plays was given a staged reading at the 'From Away Theatre Festival' in Maine by the Portland Stage Company. He has also directed plays not authored by himself – most notably, in 2016, when Nobel Laureate in Literature, Derek Walcott, granted permission for his *Ti Jean* and *His Brothers* to be directed by Singh alongside Al Creighton.



Unit of
Allied Arts

THE UNIT OF ALLIED ARTS

The Unit of Allied Arts is responsible for the integration of the “Expressive Arts – Dance, Music, Physical Education and Visual Arts” in Guyana’s school system. It has established and maintained a body of work for Guyana’s children. Over the years, the Unit of Allied Arts has been an incubator and promoter of the Festival Arts in all ten of Guyana’s administrative regions. A formal national Steelband Programme was recently introduced to expand a fledgling initiative in 2010.

Since 1992, the Unit has been responsible for the nation-wide Children’s Mashramani Program. The objectives of the program are to: promote the expressive arts through a national event; encourage schools, parents and the communities to work together in a creative artistic manner; provide an opportunity for the display of talents by students; and foster a sense of pride in our national identity. The national program is one of the popular aspects of the national Mashramani season. The costumes created by students and their teachers consistently earn high praise from critics and the wider public. In the process, the Children’s Mashramani program not only showcases innovation and creativity in the festival arts, but it also demonstrates the spirit of solidarity in Guyanese society.



CON EDISON

Con Edison operates one of the world’s largest energy delivery systems. Founded in 1823 as the New York Gas Light company, their electric, gas, and steam service now provides energy for the 10 million people who live in New York City and Westchester County.

Con Edison's Strategic Partnerships program builds empowered, educated, and inclusive communities through targeted impact initiatives in the communities they serve help to create opportunities and enrich lives. Con Edison awarded over \$10 million in 623 grants and reached 1.4 million people in 2015. Since 2015 GCA programs have been one of the recipients of Con Edison’s Arts and Culture grant awards.

As a result of the Con Edison Grant awards we have been able shape tomorrow's cultural landscape by offering over 500 talented youth the opportunity to develop their craft with dedicated professional coaches guiding them as they develop.

ABOUT THE GUYANA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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Ave Brewster-Haynes - Vice President
Edgar Henry - Vice President
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Patricia Jordon-Langford Assistant to the Secretary
Euston Duke Stephen - Financial Director
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Claire Goring - Cultural Director
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Claire Patterson-Monah
Malcolm Hall
Jackie Newton. Ashton Franklin
Francis Quamina Farrier. Errol Doris
Wayne Daniels

GUYANA

• Margaret Lawrence • Negla H. Brandis

LEGAL COUNSEL

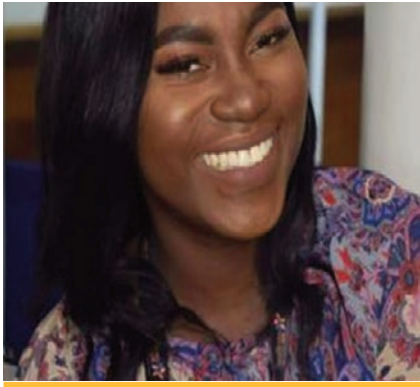
• Edward Meertins-George

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Ronald Lammy - Chairperson
• Claire Patterson-Monah & Verna Walcott - Co-Chairs
• Ave Brewster-Haynes. • Alex Neptune
• Gail A. Nunes • Allison Skeete
• Edgar Henry • Juliet Emanuel
• Claire A. Goring • Oswald Bobb
• Hilton Hemerding. • Clive Prowell

OUR MISSION

To document, showcase and celebrate the multiple roots of Guyana’s cultural heritage. Through our work we preserve our cultural heritage and make it available through various channels to inspire future generations of Guyanese at home and abroad. In short, our mission is to Preserve, Promote and Propagate Guyanese creativity.



JUBILANTE CUTTING

Jubilanté Cutting is a millennial who at age 20 has recorded outstanding achievements which include excellence in tertiary education and innovative work in digital technology and the creative arts. She founded Guyana Animation Network which confirms her strong social entrepreneurial and community service leadership features. They are exemplary for the focus on youth and the enrichment of their lives.

Ms. Cutting has been named as a winner of the coveted Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Awards for 2017 in the category of Youth Activist for her work with the Guyana Animation Network. She was selected from among 300 nominees worldwide. Ms. Cutting founded the organization which helps youth to develop skills in digital media and animation. It has engaged over 3,500 persons including children as young as six years-old.

Her motivation for this initiative came four years ago as she has explained. “The inspiration for the Guyana Animation Network came from my experience at the Animaé Caribe Festival in Trinidad and Tobago in 2014. I was amazed that such a festival existed in the region, and I wanted to help young people in my home country of Guyana to capitalize on the global opportunities in tech, animation and art”.



STEVE DOUGLAS

Steve Douglas, CEO of Bravo Arts is a multitalented young man making significant contributions to the cultural and arts landscape in Guyana. He is a pioneer in the field Body Painting, Special Effects makeup and is a self-taught photographer and video editor. Steve even wrote a few songs including “Guyanese Wine” sung and recorded by his mother, Michelle ‘Big Red’ King,

Steve enrolled in courses at the Burrowes School of Art to develop his drawing skills and immersed himself in learning the art of body painting and paint application techniques His intricate designs reflecting Guyana’s flora, fauna, folklore and birds were featured at his exhibitions at Castellani House under the Theme ‘Unearth Rediscovering Guyana through the medium of Body Art, Mashramani, Carifesta XI, XII and XIII.

He started an upcycling initiative, turning trash into functional household items and was awarded a National Youth Award of Excellence in 2014 by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport for his outstanding achievements in the field of Environmental awareness.

He also gained international recognition emerging as a finalist in the top five of the Hollywood Cinema Makeup School’s Next Level of Cosplay Scholarship Competition

Take a peek at Steve’s designs <https://bravoarts.webnode.in/photo-gallery>.



ANASIA FREDERICKS

DESPITE several disadvantages that communities in remote regions face across the country, there remain some students who rise above those challenges to show that they, too, are capable of excelling in various areas. This is the case of 12-year-old Anasie Fredericks, a student of the Tapakuma Lake Primary School, Tapakuma, Region Two, who placed fifth position in the region top one percent of the National Grade six assessment (Common Entrance) she obtained 513 marks and gained a position at the Bishop’s High School in Georgetown.

Apart from Fredericks’ academic performance, she had recently participated in the Regional Mashramani competition where she copped first. She also emerged fifth place in a recently-held Spelling Bee competition which saw the participation of 28 schools.

In her spare time, she reads novels and often requests more books as presents for her birthdays.



MARVA LANGEVINE

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NAILA RAHAMAN

Naila Rahaman is an 11 year old Muslim girl who excelled at this year’s National Grade six Assessment held in Guyana this past March. From a total of 14, 145 students who took the Assessment, Naila topped the country with an astounding 529 out of a possible 530 the highest points ever earned by any student. Naila credits her success to her dedication to her studies, her parents and teacher’s guidance and encouragement which piloted her to achieve and emerge as this year’s top student. Naila presently attends the Westfield Preparatory School in Georgetown. As a result of her outstanding performance, Miss Naila Rahaman will be attending Queens College, one of Guyana’s senior high schools.



NATALIA SQUIRES

She attended St Pius Primary school and was awarded 514 marks out of 529 this year’s common entrance exam and will be attending Queens College.

With hard work and perseverance, Natalia led her school St Pius, to first place in the Lions Club National Spelling Bee and was awarded Best Speller in June 2018. All through her school years at St Pius, her grades were in the 90s.

In 2015 she won the Read-A-Ton competition, sponsored by the Guyana National Library and the Ministry of Education. She is an active member of the Pathfinder program at her Seventh Day Adventist Church and volunteers as part of an outreach program to the Community through prayer walks and distribution of spiritual literature. She was the main feature at the Children’s day at her church and is involve in dramatic presentations at her church.

Natalia would like to become a teacher because of the need to motivate other students to strive for their highest goal.