

Ken's choice #2 - for November 2005

GIMISTORY VII – The Cayman Islands – Nov 25th - Dec 3rd.2005

The most diverse and multi-talented parade of Caribbean and International Storytellers will share with their local counterparts the beaches, schools and village yards of the three sister islands.



BLACK SAGE (real name PHILLIP MURRAY) is one of Trinidad's top extempo calypsonian. Call any word to him and he will instantly sing an improvised eight-line rhymed on that word with a comical and witty end. This will be his fourth GIMISTORY appearance. He's nothing less than brilliant and one of the words you hear audiences describing him is "amazing"



THE STORYCRAFTERS – BARRI AND JERI. Husband and Wife duet tellers are much sought after throughout America for their humor and audience friendly telling/singing. They are thorough professionals with a widest repertoire of folk and personal stories and songs which they have recorded on three CD's. This will be their first GIMISTORY experience – one that will be very different to anything they have had before throughout the long and hectic careers.



SAMANTHA PIERRE is GIMISTORY'S perennial "MAMA STORY". She has been the central core of every GIMISTORY evening telling on Cayman's beaches and village squares since the inception of this unique festival seven years ago. She gets the audiences revved up for the night, keeps them hyped and introduces each teller with contagious enthusiasm. Samantha teaches drama at the University of the West Indies campus in Trinidad.



KEN CORSBIE is "CARIBBEAN VOICES". He is the "venerable one" of Caribbean storytelling with nine awards for his long and creative contributions to Caribbean culture and arts. Actor, Director, Stage Designer, Stand-up, Radio and TV personality, Ken now lives with his wife Elizabeth in Long Island, NY. He performs his story and humor magic throughout North America, and has been a fixture at all seven years of GIMISTORY.



ALEX NEPTUNE (Guyanese/American). Another regular at GIMISTORY, Alex brings a raw and urgent energy to his telling – his stories are often deeply influenced from his growing up in a "rootsy" part of Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. A New York insurer by profession, Alex's "other side" is released in his stories and his delivery.



She has been listening to stories from babyhood and telling stories practically from the time she could speak. But, says JEEVA RAGHUNATH (India). Every sentence she utters is so animated. Therein lies her power to relate. You can hardly recognize her voice as she starts on her story. A swirl of words sweeps the children off their feet and carries them to another world



AMINA BLACKWOOD-MEEKS is Jamaica's premier storyteller is making her sixth appearance at GIMISTORY 2005. She is an educator, entertainer, tv personality, actress, poet. Her performances are rooted in the Jamaican idiom – it's music, language, images, dynamics. She is a consummate teller of Anancy Story, but also writes/performs from her personal experiences of being Jamaican and a Jamaican/Caribbean woman.



EDGAR ORTIZ from Costa Rica is the "baby" of the festival tellers this year, but his resume and his professionalism puts him squarely into the thick of things. Lively, expressive, audience friendly, Edgar's one previous GIMISTORY participation has made him a hit with the Caymanian audience, and he made such an impression on the festival organizers that this year he is going to three weeks earlier to conduct a storytelling workshop for primary and highschool kids.



Experience the thrill of a performance by NOMUSA XABA - "MAMA NOMUSA"! Students and staff alike will take a break from day to day school work to share in her wealth of interactive stories, songs, raps, and games. A seasoned professional, Mama Nomusa has captivated audiences at many public and private school, museums, libraries, and universities throughout America. Her wonderfully easy style, playful sense of performance, and keen sense of awareness and respect for her audiences make her a highly sought artist nationally and internationally



Almost nobody outside of Trinidad knows "RELATOR'S" real name – WILLARD HARRIS is equally comfortable on stage as of' time calypsonian imitator, extempo expert, balladeer, up-to-date social commentator. He is a new face this year to GIMISTORY and will add yet another refreshing entertainment to an already loaded rostra of high-class storytellers. Relator has emceed and performed at countless Caribbean Comedy Festivals in the islands and North America.

GIMISTORY is an annual storytelling festival produced by the Cayman Islands National Cultural Foundation.
The artist director is Henry Muttoo and the Managing Director is Marcia King Muttoo director@candw.ky www.artscayman.org

Ken Corsbie is "Caribbean Voices" kcorsbie@optonline.net