

# **NGC Sanfest 2015 Launch**

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2015**

### **Prepared by Mr. Winston Bramble- Festival Director**

Today, we officially launch the 45<sup>th</sup> Edition of NGC Sanfest and first and foremost we give thanks to Almighty God for his blessings on all who have contributed to the success as well as the development of this festival over its many years of existence.

NGC Sanfest continues to provide our young people with a festival that features the arts in the widest sense of the word- Performing, Visual and Literary.

The Arts in Education has found itself over the years in a most peculiar position as arguably the most undervalued field of study in the world. With that in mind, societies all over the world have put themselves in a similarly unfortunate position, having for years undervalued the field of study that may very well hold the answer to increase educational success for our children.

We often believe for instance, that focus on the Arts hinders students from focusing on what we often argue are 'more important subjects'.

Be that as it may, NGC Sanfest in 2014 attracted a total of 171 schools- up from 131 in 2013. This increase in participation demonstrated in no uncertain manner the importance which NGC Sanfest plays in the lives of our talented young people by providing and nurturing them with the opportunity for exploring their creative ability.

NGC Sanfest 2014 paid tribute to Mr Slinger Francisco the Mighty Sparrow for the tremendous contribution he has made to Arts and Culture in the field of Calypso Music.

The undisputed Calypso king of the world was our guest for the Pan Ensemble finals, Mr & Ms Sanfest as well as the Command Performance.

NGC Sanfest benefitted tremendously from the visit of Sparrow and the media coverage, the excitement, the interest all contributed to the success story that was NGC Sanfest 2014.

For 2015, tribute will be paid to an outstanding San Fernandian- Ms Joyce Kirton. Ms Kirton was a teacher by profession and founded the Les Enfants Dance Company in 1962. With several awards to her name, Ms Kirton also received the prestigious Humming Bird Gold Medal in 1993.

The Music and Dance Categories continue to attract the most entries for the festival. Students truly blessed our hearts with outstanding performances. It is the festival's intention to take Sanfest to uncharted waters- regionally and perhaps internationally.

The Mr & Ms NGC Sanfest Competition is yet another of the categories which has the potential to achieve stardom. The Delegates possessed a tremendous amount of talent and this augurs well for the future of the festival.

For the last 12 years, we have been extremely fortunate to be sponsored by the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago. They have indeed been a source of inspiration and encouragement to us all. Their involvement in Sanfest has been a blessing to us and we truly owe them 'a debt of gratitude' for providing the resources and expertise which the festival has maintained over the years.

Special Thanks also to the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, School Supervisors, Principals, Teachers, Choreographers, Arrangers, Resources Persons, Parents, Well-wishers, Media Persons, Steering Committee, Executive Members and most of all, our young talented children who continue to give us hope that our beloved country of Trinidad and Tobago remains in good hands.