



**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC**

# **Spring Ball 2024**

## **Gala Dinner Dance**

**Saturday 19 October 2024**  
**Waterview, Bicentennial Park**





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## Message from the President Kalinga Wijeyewardene

The Association was founded in 1972 as a home for all those of Sri Lankan origin living in New South Wales. It was open to all, irrespective of ethnic origin or religious beliefs and affiliations. It was not limited to Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher or Malay communities or those following Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Christianity.

In November 2023 when I was elected by you as the President of the Sri Lanka Association, I stated in my inaugural address that I wish to reinvigorate the founding principles of our Association and to go back to our roots.

In pursuing this vision, the Association under my leadership reached out to all communities and religious groups.

For the first time in the history of our Association, we participated in an Iftar event during Ramadan organised by the Austra Lanka Muslim Association (ALMA) attended by over 400 Sri Lanka Muslims living in Sydney. We also participated in Vesak Bakthi Geeta programme of the Lankarama Buddhist Vihara. We participated in the Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations organised by the Sinhala Cultural Forum. We reached out to the Tamil and Hindu community and the Sri Lanka Catholic Association and the Sri Lanka Malay Association by supporting and participating in their events.

During the year we organised the Sri Lanka Independence Day celebrations in the absence of the Sri Lanka Consulate in Sydney with the active collaboration of the Sinhala Cultural Forum in the presence of a large gathering. We also held the HSC High Achievers Felicitation and Awards day together with the Seniors Lunch with music and entertainment which was well attended.

The Association is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation devoted to community work for all Australians in New South Wales and contributes to charities in Sri Lanka and Australia. Its programme of community and charitable work includes organising Blood Donation campaigns, feeding the Homeless by providing cooked meals, raising funds to purchase lifesaving medical equipment for paediatric hospitals in Sri Lanka, economic upliftment of poor families in Sri Lanka, and scholarships for poor rural children in secondary schools in Sri Lanka

I am happy to state that we have built a firm foundation for the Association to go forward in the coming Year. I thank the members of my committee for their support during the year and the membership of the Association for supporting and participating at events organised by the SLA.



Kalinga Wijeyewardene  
President, Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc





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## Sri Lanka National Anthem

Article 7, Schedule 3 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka

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Best wishes from....



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**Dr. Suvithini Somasundaram**

MBBS, FRACGP, DCH

**Dr. Devaranee Magesan**

MBBS, FRACGP

**Dr. Abdul Usham**

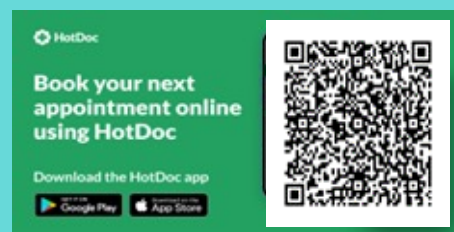
MBBS(Hons), FRACGP

**Monday – Friday: 9:30AM – 5:30PM**

**Saturday: 9:30AM – 1:30PM**

**(Sunday & Public Holiday Closed)**

**Lunch Break: 1:30PM – 2:30PM**



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**Dr. Abdul Usham**

MBBS(Hons), FRACGP



## Premier of New South Wales Australia

### Sri Lanka Association of NSW

I extend my sincere best wishes to everyone attending the Sri Lanka Association of NSW gala dinner dance in Sydney Olympic Park.

This black-tie event is a welcome opportunity for our State's Sri Lankan community to connect with family and friends, while raising funds for a worthy cause.

Since its establishment in 1973, the Sri Lanka Association has helped meet the needs of the growing Sri Lankan community in NSW.

I applaud your longstanding commitment to charitable activity - from organising blood drives, and tackling food insecurity, to supporting the elderly.

The gala dinner dance will help ensure these activities continue long into the future. I hope the gala dinner dance is a great success!

**Chris Minns MP**  
Premier of New South Wales





*With Compliments from*

ARJUNA RANADEVVA

&

PRISILA GODAHEVA





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இலங்கை சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசின் உயர் ஸ்தானிகராலயம்

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

### Message

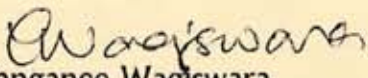
I am indeed happy to send this message to be published in the souvenir, for the Spring Ball 2024, organized by the Sri Lanka Association of NSW.

I recall that last year the Association celebrated 50 years of existence. As you continue to build on the past and, continue to undertake projects and programmes for the benefit of the Sri Lankans and Australians in NSW and elsewhere, your commitment to the Association is recognized and appreciated.

Most importantly, the time, energy and resources devoted to charitable work demonstrate the caring nature and generosity of the members of the Association. These are values that are essential in this day and age.

I have no doubt that you will be able to raise adequate funds through this Spring Ball which will contribute to the charities undertaken by the Association.

I take this opportunity to wish the Sri Lanka Association of NSW all the best and success. To all those present at the Spring Ball I wish you an enjoyable evening.

  
Chitrangene Wagiswara  
High Commissioner

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024



## Sri Lanka Independence Day Celebrations in Sydney Australia on 04th February 2024

The 76th Independence Day of Sri Lanka was celebrated by the Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc (SLA) and the Sinhalese Cultural Forum (SCF) with the active participation of Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Malay, and Burgher communities on 4th February 2024 at the Roselea Community Centre, Sydney.

In the absence of the Sri Lanka Consulate in Sydney, which was closed in 2022, the SLA and SCF took upon the task of celebrating Sri Lanka's National Day in an elegant and grand event graced by a large gathering of Sri Lankans from all ethnicities and well-wishers and dignitaries from the wider Australian community.

A highlight of the event was the blessings from the invited religious dignitaries from the four major religions Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam practised in Sri Lanka for a prosperous and united Sri Lanka.

The Independence Day Messages of His Excellency President Ranil Wickremasinghe and the Hon Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardene were read out in Sinhalese, Tamil, and English as well as the message of the Foreign Minister Hon Ali Sabry.

Among the highlights was hoisting of the Sri Lankan flag inside the hall by the President of SLA Kalinga Wijeyewardene and the President of SCF Champa Buddhipala amidst the beating of Magul Bera, the childrens choir singing the national anthems of Sri Lanka and Australia, and lighting of the traditional lamp by dignitaries.

In his address to the gathering President of SLA Kalinga Wijeyewardene said that the SLA was formed in 1972 with the sacred goal of unifying all Sri Lankans of all communities and religious faiths represented in New South Wales. It is the only organisation to truly represent all Sri Lankan origin residents in NSW. During its fifty years of service to the Sri Lankan community it has not only helped our community in NSW but also our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka during periods of adversity. SLA raised funds for Tsunami relief and most recently during the economic crisis SLA lobbied the Federal Government to assist Sri Lanka and as a result Australian Government assistance of \$50 million was provided through UN Agencies. SLA also raised funds and donated medical equipment and medicines to the Paediatric Unit of the Cancer Hospital in Sri Lanka during the crisis.

Another highlight was to commemorate the friendship between India and Sri Lanka two tree saplings were presented by the Indian Support Centre President Subba Rao Varigonda to the Presidents of the SLA and SCF.

Sri Lanka's diverse culture was showcased with several Sinhalese and Tamil music, dance and song items entertaining the guests.

Morning refreshments with Kiribath and traditional Sri Lanka food was served for the guests and lunch with Hoppers and Rice and Curry was served after the event.





## SLA Participation in Lankarama Temple Wesak Programme

The Wesak festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nibbāna), and death (Parinirvāna) of Gautama Buddha. It is a holy day in the Buddhist calendar and falls on the Full Moon day in May.

In Sri Lanka it is celebrated throughout the country by the Buddhist community with religious observances in temples, providing free food to people at roadside stalls (dansalas) and decorations with colourful lanterns and multi coloured illuminations in homes and commercial premises. People gather to watch and listen to the narration of Pandalis (illuminated giant paintings on the roadside) with several panels depicting stories from the life of the Buddha and stories from his past lives (Jataka stories).

In Sydney, Wesak is celebrated on a grand scale at the Lankarama Temple. This year several thousands of devotees gathered at the temple on Wesak Day. The Temple was decorated with colourful lanterns and mini Pandalis.

The Sri Lanka Association and its members participated in the celebrations and religious observances.

In particular the SLA participated in the Wesa Bakthi Geetha (Devotional songs) programme. A SLA choir of twelve including committee members sang the song “Mal Sugande Dham Sugande” before a large gathering. The song was well received and the audience commended the Choir.

A special thanks to Thilak Ekanayake for encouraging our members to take part in this event, organising several practice sessions and ensuring that the choir arrived on time for the event.



## Collaboration between Sri Lanka Association and Austra - Lanka Muslim Association during Ramadan

As part of President Kalinga Wijeyewardene's initiative to build bridges between the various Sri Lankan Communities in NSW, the SLA participated in an Iftar Event during the Holy Month of Ramadan organised by the Austra – Lanka Muslim Association (ALMA).

Iftar is the meal eaten after sunset following the breaking of the fast-following Maghrib prayers. Iftar or the breaking of the fast, is one of the most significant points in the day during Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar.

The Iftar event at the Granville Community Centre in Sydney was attended by over 300 Sri Lankan Muslim community members. The SLA Committee and their spouses participated in the event and were warmly welcomed by Mohamed Rizme Cassim President of ALMA and the committee members of ALMA.

Both SLA President and ALMA President observed that this was an excellent opportunity to foster collaboration and mutual support between our organizations for the betterment of the Sri Lankan community in NSW and to understand and appreciate the culture and religious observances of the Sri Lanka Muslim community.

SLA President thanked SLA Vice President Jabeer Cader for taking the lead in organising the event on the decision taken by the SLA Committee to collaborate with ALMA.

This was a historic occasion as it was the first time that the SLA had participated in a significant religious observance of the Sri Lanka Muslim Community.



## **HSC High Achievers Awards 2024 presented by Sri Lanka Association of NSW**

The Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales (SLA) held the Annual HSC High Achievers Award Ceremony at the Don Moore Community Centre in Sydney.

The recognition, felicitation and honouring those HSC students of Sri Lankan origin by the SLA has been an annual feature and event in the calendar of the Sri Lankan Community of NSW for over 20 years.

Each year students who have performed to an exceptional high standard at the High School Certificate examination in that year and received an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 95 and above are recognised. The ATAR rank is used to offer undergraduate places by Universities in NSW.

The HSC High Achievers Educational Awards were open to HSC students of Sri Lankan origin on their performance at the 2023 HSC Examination.

Eleven students were nominated for the Award. It was pleasing to note that of the eleven students were from the Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim and Malay communities reflecting the major communities and religious groups Sri Lankan society.

The event commenced before a large gathering of well wishes and the families of the students.

Pride of place was given to the high achieving students as it was their day to shine. They were invited to light the traditional lamp following which the President of SLA Kalinga Wijeyewardene gave a speech underlying the fact that the cream of the Sri Lanka youth in NSW was gathered at the event to be honoured. He said that the Sri Lankan community was in good hands for the future with these high achieving students taking the lead in the Sri Lanka community in time to come. He invited the students to join the SLA and take up the challenge of steering it for the benefit of the Sri Lankan community into the future.

A keynote address was given by Professor Wije Ariyaratne Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Sydney and Adjunct Professor of Civil Engineering University of Technology Sydney. In his speech Prof Ariyaratne stated that entering a university marks the beginning of an exciting journey, one filled with opportunities, challenges, and countless moments that will shape the student's future. He also said to remember that university is not just about academics. It's a place where you will grow, explore your passions, and discover who you truly are.

Other speakers were Jenny Mai representing CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) who sponsored the event and Aubrey Joachim former President of CIMA

SPRING BALL 2024 GALA DINNER DANCE

### **The students who were recognised at the event were**

JASMIN USHAM

PRATIKSHAAH SATHEESAN

LAKNI DINARA KALUPAHANA

TAMIZ MAALIK RUMEY JIFFREY

SENUJA ENUKA MALLAWA

LARA NUNAN

BANUJA THENUKA MALLAWA

PARAMI KURUPPU

ZARFISHAN REHAN UDDIN

AAYSHA MANAAL FAHIM

BIMASHI CHAMODYA WICKRAMASINGHE

Each student was awarded a takeaway trophy inscribed with their name and individual ATAR score and a Certificate of Achievement. Jasmin Usham with an ATAR score of 99.60 had the highest ATAR score and was awarded the Ashoak Nanayakkara Perpetual Trophy.

The event concluded with the playing of the National Anthems of Sri Lanka & Australia.





## Participation at Sunfest Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations.

The Sri Lankan traditional New Year, generally known as Aluth Avurudda in Sri Lanka, is a Sri Lankan holiday that celebrates the traditional New Year of the Sinhalese and Tamil population of Sri Lanka. It is a major anniversary celebrated by not only the Sinhalese and Tamil people but by most Sri Lankans.

Sinhala and Tamil New Year is celebrated across Sri Lanka in April by the island's two main ethnic groups. Originally a harvest festival, this event marks the passage of the sun from the constellation Pisces to Aries. The holiday is celebrated with traditional rituals, merrymaking, feasting and fun and games.

The Sri Lanka Association participated in this year's Sunfest Festival celebrating the Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations organised by the Sinhala Cultural Forum. It was attended by a large gathering and featured traditional food, games and cultural performances.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Lanka Association President Kalinga Wijeyewardene thanked the Sinhala Cultural Forum for organising the event in a grand manner. He said that it is very important for the younger generation of Sri Lankans born in Australia to engage with their roots by participating in the traditional customs, food, games and dances associated with the New Year festivities so that they appreciate and value our traditional culture. It is also important as they are the future leaders of our community and they will be entrusted to carry forward these traditions in the years to come. He commended the parents for bringing their children to this event so that they would live and feel the cultural heritage that is theirs.



## Annual Seniors Day Luncheon

The Annual Seniors Day Luncheon organised by the Sri Lanka Association was held with the active participation of over 120 seniors' family members and well-wishers.

A sumptuous lunch of Lamprias served buffet style was served to those attending the event at cost. Feedback from those attending the event was that the lunch was delicious and more than enough for second serves of food.

A full programme of entertainment was provided for those attending the event. Live performances by Lalith Fernando, violin recital by Sathmi Ranasinghe with popular tunes "Ganga Addara" and Kaffringha dance music, singing of popular western songs with audience participation by Sherine Prins playing the ukulele were the highlights. Dance music was also provided with Baila and other popular Sri Lankan tunes and songs by DJ Saliya Tennekoon.

Another feature was the Health presentation given by Angela Peris Director, Heart to Heart Wellness Centre on 'Heart Health' which was well received by the Seniors. Angela also provided 50 complimentary copies of her book 'Loving Your Heart' to the audience.

After lunch the audience enjoyed the entertainment and took to the dance floor to enjoy the day.



# Programme

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 7:00-7:20pm   | Welcome Drinks & Canapes served (Lake Terrace, Waterview)                      |
| 7:20pm        | Ballroom Doors Open (Lake Room) Canapes & Drinks continue                      |
| 7:20pm-7:30pm | Seating of Guests  |
| 7:30pm        | Entrees Served   |
| 7:35pm        | Acknowledgement of Country / Welcome / Housekeeping Rules by MC                |
| 7:45pm        | National Anthems of Sri Lanka & Australia                                      |
| 7:50pm        | Speech By Kalinga Wijeyewardene, President Sri Lanka Association of NSW        |
| 8:00pm        | Speech by Dr Harold Gunatillake, former President Sri Lanka Association of NSW |
| 8:10pm        | Introduction of the band “Ebony” by MC   |
| 8:10pm        | Dance Music by “Ebony”   |
| 8:45pm        | Dinner served  |
| 8:45pm        | AV Presentation (advertisers’ videos)  |
| 8:52pm        | DJ Music with AV Presentation advertisement slides, activity photos            |
| 9:00pm        | Introduction of Alston Koch by MC & Introductory video                         |
| 9:05pm        | Performance by Alston Koch   |
| 9:35pm        | AV Presentation (advertisers’ videos)  |
| 9:42pm        | DJ Music with AV presentation advertisement slides, activity photos            |
| 9:35pm        | Dessert Served   |
| 9:50pm        | Dance Music by ‘Ebony’   |
| 10:20pm       | Live Auction by MC   Raffle Draw   Door Prize                                  |
| 10:55pm       | Vote of Thanks by Mrs Anoja De Alwis   |
| 11:00pm       | Dance Music “Ebony”  |
| 12:00am       | Close of Event   |

# *Menu*

## **Pre-Dinner Canapés & Drinks**

### **Canapés**

Chef's selection of Canapés  
Chef's Gourmet Breadbasket With infused olive oil, aged balsamic and unsalted butter

### **Drinks**

Sparkling Wine Chain of Fire Sparkling Brut Cuvee / White Wine Chain of Fire Chardonnay / Red Wine Chain of Fire Shiraz Cabernet / Beer James Boags (on tap) / Hahn Premium Light (bottled) / Soft drinks / Soda Water / Orange Juice

## **Dinner**

### **Entrees**

Marinated Baby Octopus (served warm) with chorizo, roast potato, spinach and chili oil  
Pumpkin And Ricotta Ravioli (served warm) nut brown butter, sage and marinated tomato salad

### **Dinner Drinks**

Sparkling Wine Chain of Fire Sparkling Brut Cuvee / White Wine Chain of Fire Chardonnay / Red Wine Chain of Fire Shiraz Cabernet / Beer James Boags (on tap) / Hahn Premium Light (bottled) / Soft drinks / Soda Water / Orange Juice

### **Mains**

Barramundi Fillet with couscous, preserved lemon, broad beans and lemon emulsion  
Lamb shank on mash potato, green beans, orange gremolata and jus  
(Mains served with seasonal vegetables to share per table)

### **Dessert**

Chocolate Dome with liquid orange flavoured centre  
Strawberry And Vanilla Delight with chocolate birds nest

### **After Dinner**

Coffee, Tea and Chocolates



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**Dr Praneetha Amaranath  
&  
Dr Theresa Houwing**

**EASTWOOD MEDICAL CENTRE**

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Tel. 02 9858 0686

*With the compliments*

of

**Ananda Amaranath**

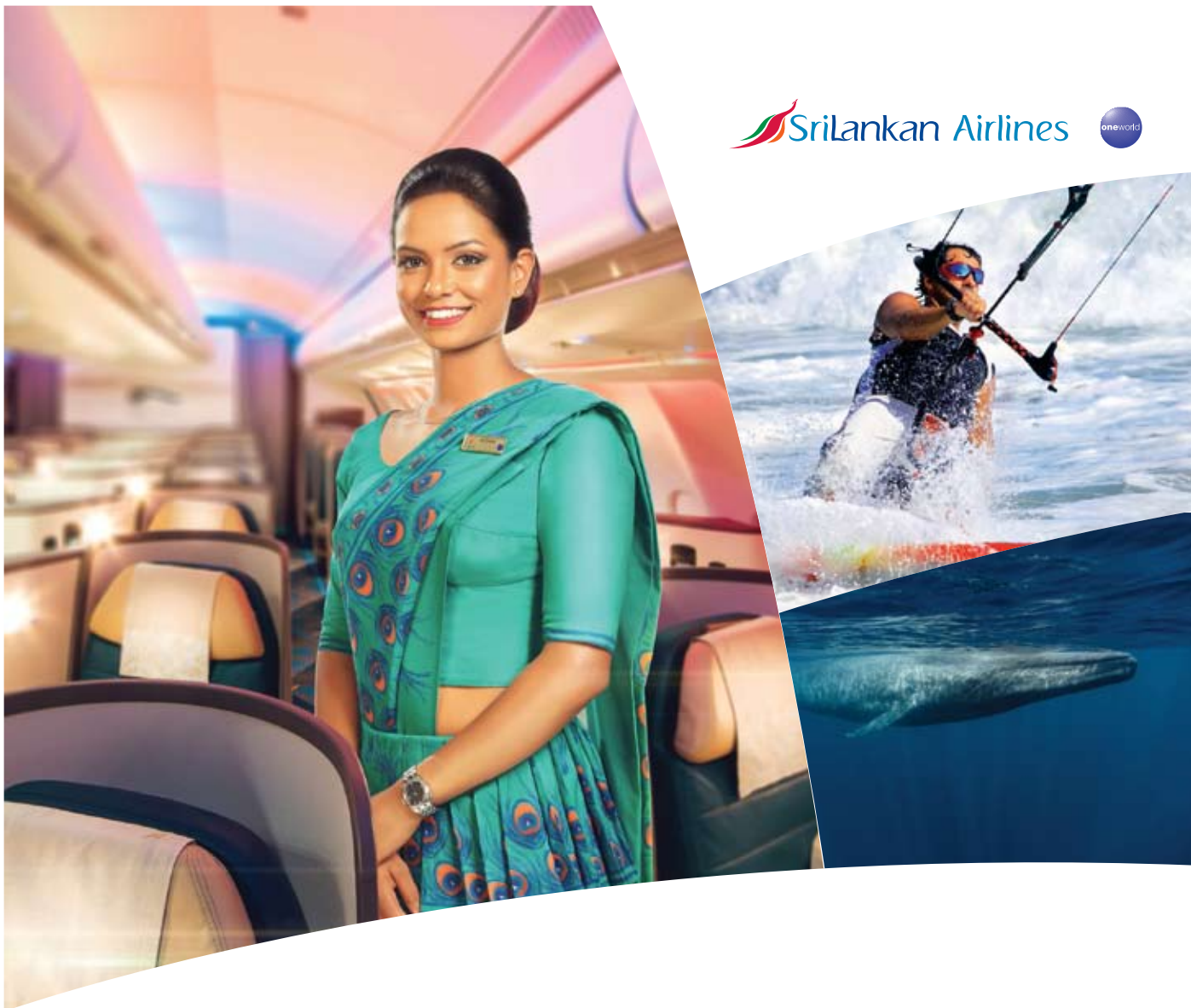
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## SANKHA RIDMA DANCE ENSEMBLE

BY DINESH PERERA

### CLASSICAL DANCING:

KANDYAN  
SABARAGAMUWA  
LOW COUNTRY

### TRADITIONAL DRUMMING:

GETA BERA  
YAK BERA  
DAWULA  
THAMMATTAMA

PORUWA CEREMONIES

TRADITIONAL NILAME COSTUME

TRADITIONAL DANCERS AND DRUMMERS

JAYAMANGALA GATHA SINGERS

EVENT COORDINATION

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY



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