

La Faya Exhibition & Variety Concert

**A colourful & exotic
community celebration**

**Thank you for joining the
Mauritians & Rodriguans in Victoria to
celebrate
45+ years of successful migration
&
cultural diversity**



La Faya Festival @ Fed Sq
Photo courtesy of Clency Lapierre

Sunday 10 March 2013

**The Edge
Federation Square, Melbourne**

Program

1pm to 4pm:

Take a walk down memory lane...see the

- Free exhibition - Beyond the Postcard Image...Mauritians & Rodriguans in Victoria, Immigration Museum exhibition display panels
- Historic photos display
- Reading Corner + more



“People from Mauritius are often a puzzle to other Australians, they glimpse in their physical features the shades and characteristics of Africans, Indians, Chinese and Europeans who settled on these islands over centuries”
(Beyond the postcard image...Immigration Museum Exhibition panel)

Enjoy this journey of discovery about our rich and diverse cultural heritage, history, migration stories & journey...

"La Faya Variety Concert 2013"

Entry: Gold coin donation

(to help us cover part of event costs)

**Entry not guaranteed: Seats & Stand up space limited,
Subject to venue safety/maximum capacity**

Doors re-open @ 6.30pm

6.30pm: Mr Dynamite

Jean Marc Louise has been singing since he was 5 years old, he loved singing Mike Brant songs then. Back in Mauritius, when he was 10 years old, he went to a concert and was very much inspired to become a musician by the Mauritian singer who performed on that day. In Australia at 13 years of age, he learnt to play his first instrument; his cousin Renaldo taught him how to play the guitar. Now he plays different instruments.



Music is uplifting and soothing when Jean Marc does not feel well and life is challenging. As music lifts up his spirits he feels on top of the world; he is so passionate that he dreams about music and writes these when he wakes up!

Jean Marc's family members are also musically gifted, he feels that it is a blessing that he is too. Over the years, he has performed at weddings, birthdays, social gatherings and La Faya Festivals. In 2010, Jean Marc was inspired to write and produce the song "La Faya", his tribute to our community celebration that unites and brings together everyone.

7pm: Welcome Speech

Brittany Leo

Brittany Leo is an intense vocalist who is inspired by the likes of 'The Pretty Reckless' on the one hand and 'Kelly Clarkson' on the other. Although she is only 16 years of age she has already performed at numerous events around Melbourne and at great venues such as The Palladium at Crown Casino, The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, The Immigration Museum, The Royal Exhibition Building, Federation Square, Ormond Hall and Bennett's Lane. Brittany is a Master Student at David Jaanz School of Singing and she is also a dancer - hip hop, ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary and lyrical, and a musician she plays the guitar and piano.



Brittany has just completed her debut EP. It was written with singer/songwriter Michael Paynter and Michael DeLorenzis of MSquared Productions before being sent to New York to be mastered by the incredible Tom Coyne. Brittany was recently awarded a 2013 Holt Australia Day Award which recognises the significant contribution that exemplary members of the public make to the community.

The Mauritian Golden Age Line Dancers



The dancers are actively involved seniors from the MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE CLUB, they also call themselves Happy Feet Line Dancers as they are happy when they dance. They have performed at Noble Park Centenary Celebrations, the Multicultural Prime Timers events, for different clubs; they have also hosted a Line Dancing workshop during the Seniors Festival in 2010 and have been a feature act at LA FAYA, the Mauritian community festival held at Federation Square and City of Casey Cranbourne Australia Day events organised by CHARM Vic.

Leo Grancourt



Since he was 18 years of age, Leo's passion has been volunteering. First as a fire fighter then leading on to community building through his passion for love, music, arts and culture in general.

Leo migrated to Australia in 1972. He has a heightened sense of family values and helping others in need. Leo found that he could reach out to people through music. He was the first Rodriguan to join a band at that time, the Islanders. He was passionate about his music and for all those who are home sick Leo would just bring their spirit up by singing french songs and sega.

He joined the Rodriguan Social Club of Victoria (RSCV) in 2006 and is now the longest serving member of the committee. Leo helps the club to participate in festivals and to promote the Rodriguan culture. In the spirit of cross cultural diversity, Leo also goes to other clubs to sing and entertain them, including some aged care home. He also helped the RSCV build their clubhouse, especially its kitchen as he is a professional carpenter. Leo is always available to help anyone in need and is a very hard worker.

Leo's way of helping everyone in the community is through his music and is always lending a helping hand one way or another.

Main show @ 8pm

Featuring:

Sega Down Under directed by Aniele Deojee



Sega Down Under (SDU) has been promoting Mauritian dance and culture in Sydney for 20 years. Director Aniele Deojee has run various Sega Music workshops around Australia including the WOMAD World Music Festival in Adelaide in 2008. Through singing, dancing, and audience interaction, Sega Down Under showcases both Authentic Sega and Modern Sega in a way that non Mauritian audiences can understand and feel the passion of the Mauritian culture.

Although SDU specialises in performing Sega, over the past 10 years they have also expanded their skills to incorporate dances and songs from other cultures. As a result they have created and performed many styles of dance including: Bollywood, Samba, Calypso, South African, Hula, country style line dancing.

Stella Hennequin



Stella is a Melbourne based, Mauritian born artiste who performs contemporary English, French and Creole/Sega songs. She is equally at ease performing for small intimate groups or large audiences and sings at weddings, corporate/private functions, cabarets, funerals or any special occasion.

Her first self-titled album released in 2008 met with great success, encouraging her to produce more albums; including a Christmas album, featuring songs of days gone by with simple lyrics, passion and love. She is inspired by her idols, Edith Piaf, Dalida, Mireille Mathieu, Shirley Bassey, Bette Midler and Doris Day as well as other contemporary artists. It does not matter whether she is singing French or English songs, Stella takes these songs and adds her particular brand/style and passion to tell the story and takes you back on a journey filled with joy, fun, laughter, pain and memories.



Marceau, an accomplished singer and musician, is now bringing to you his spectacular one man show. For the past fifteen years he has been thrilling audiences around the world with his performances and sensational selection of songs. Not only in trios such as Super Latino, Los Ambassadors Del Paraguay, but also as a solo artist. This all round entertainer exudes personality, looks great in his colourful costumes and has a natural ability to create spontaneous audience participation. During his performance, Marceau demonstrates his versatility by playing the guitar, the trumpet, violin, saxophone, clarinet, flute, banjo and also the quena (Andes Flute).

The flexibility of his voice and his ability to sing in several languages enables him to perform a variety selection of popular songs. From reproducing the great voices of the Mexican Mariachis such as "La Bamba", "Quantanamera" to country favourites "She taught me how to Yodel" and "Love Sick Blues. Caribbean favourites, "Day O" , "Island in the Sun" and "Jamaican Farewell".

"THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HIM MR VERSATILITY"

Over the years, both as a solo artist and in Trios, Marceau has performed on Cruises, Island resorts, Casinos and Clubs throughout Australia. He has toured the world - performing in The United Kingdom, Europe, America, South East Asia, Africa and Mauritius. As a member of Super Latino he has had the honour of doing a Royal Command Performance and was nominated for an "MO" award. As a solo artist he won the best artist award at the Wembley Country Music Festival in London.

Sindy Mu - Chinese Mu Lan Fan Centre



Sindy has learnt and practiced Chinese traditional Kung Fu Dance Mu Lan series for more than 10 years and has performed many demonstrations and shared Chinese culture at various events and with various audiences. Sindy now works as an entertainer and Kung Fu dance teacher demonstrating and teaching Chinese traditional dances and sharing culture.

**After the show, continue to “*la faya*” with us...
put on your dancing shoes
& join us on the dance floor**

**9.30pm: Catch a glimpse of the free
Moomba Fireworks on the Yarra
courtesy of
City of Melbourne**



The Mauritius-born Community in Australia

Early immigrants to Australia included Mauritian convicts, prospectors who came to the Victorian goldfields and skilled sugar workers who made a significant contribution to the development of the Queensland sugar industry. Sugar from Mauritius had been a major import to Australia in the 19th Century. In the first half of the 20th Century, the number of Mauritius-born in Australia fell steadily from 740 at the 1901 Census to 240 at the 1947 Census. With the end of the Second World War, significant migration to Australia recommenced. Most of those who migrated were Franco-Mauritians, as the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 introduced policies excluding non-Europeans from entry to Australia, requiring that prospective settlers be "at least 75 per cent European".

By the early 1960s, there were about 1580 Mauritians living in Australia. About 14 000 Mauritians left their homeland between 1966 and 1972, some migrating to Australia. Numbers have increased steadily over the past 40 years. The 1971 Census recorded 7630 Mauritius-born living in Australia; and by the 2001 Census their number had increased to 16 910 making up 0.4 per cent of the overseas-born population. The Census in 2006 recorded 18 180 Mauritius-born people in Australia. Victoria had the largest number with 9050 followed by New South Wales. The 2011 Census recorded an Australia wide population of 23,279 Mauritius-born, with the majority, 11,600 residing in Victoria.

[Source: www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics]

People from the island of Mauritius are regarded as being peaceful and respectful multi-cultural members of the community. We have significantly contributed to Victoria's multi-cultural society. We have managed to move beyond 'tolerating' differences to genuinely respecting and understanding that each culture brings knowledge which help to shape the future. We are proud and delighted of our accomplishments and contribution to the wonderful state of Victoria. We wish to celebrate this, and share our experiences and cultural heritage with all.

Brief History of Mauritius:

Early European Colony:

While Arab and Malay sailors knew of Mauritius as early as the 10th century CE and Portuguese sailors first visited in the 16th century, the island was first colonized in 1638 by the Dutch. Mauritius was populated over the next few centuries by waves of traders, planters and their slaves, indentured laborers, merchants, and artisans. The island was named in honor of Prince Maurice of Nassau by the Dutch, who abandoned the colony in 1710.

Captured by the British: The French claimed Mauritius in 1715 and renamed it Ile de France. It became a prosperous colony under the French East India Company. The French Government took control in 1767, and the island served as a naval and privateer base during the Napoleonic wars.

In 1810, Mauritius was captured by the British, whose possession of the island was confirmed 4 years later by the Treaty of Paris. French institutions, including the Napoleonic code of law, were maintained. The French language is still used more widely than English.

A Diverse Heritage: Mauritian Creoles trace their origins to the plantation owners and slaves who were brought to work the sugar fields. Indo-Mauritians are descended from Indian immigrants who arrived in the 19th century to work as indentured laborers after slavery was abolished in 1835. Included in the Indo-Mauritian community are Muslims (about 17% of the population) from the Indian subcontinent.

A Shifting Political Power Base: Franco-Mauritians control nearly all of the large sugar estates and are active in business and banking. As the Indian population became numerically dominant and the voting franchise was extended, political power shifted from the Franco-Mauritians and their Creole allies to the Hindus.

Road to Independence: Elections in 1947 for the newly created Legislative Assembly marked Mauritius' first steps toward self-rule. An independence campaign gained momentum after 1961, when the British agreed to permit additional self-government and eventual independence. A coalition composed of the Mauritian Labor Party (MLP), the Muslim Committee of Action (CAM), and the Independent Forward Bloc (IFB) – a traditionalist Hindu party – won a majority in the 1967 Legislative Assembly election, despite opposition from Franco-Mauritian and Creole supporters of Gaetan Duval's Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD).

Independence Within the Commonwealth: The contest was interpreted locally as a referendum on independence. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, MLP leader and chief minister in the colonial government, became the first prime minister at independence, on March 12, 1968. This event was preceded by a period of communal strife, brought under control with assistance from British troops. Ramgoolam was awarded the United Nations Prize for the defense of human rights in 1973 for his handling of ethnic tensions between Muslims and Creoles on the islands.

Becoming a Republic: Mauritius was proclaimed a republic on 12 March 1992, having been a Commonwealth Realm for 24 years. Mauritius is one of Africa's success stories, having had a stable democracy and good human rights record.

(Source: <http://africanhistory.about.com/od/mauritius/p/MauritiusHist.htm>)

This event is proudly brought to you by

The Cultural Historical Association of Rodriguans & Mauricians in Victoria

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Sega Down Under (SDU)



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