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Soul-Stirring Performances Expected as UG’s Got Talent 2024 Gets Down to the Wire on Thursday at Theatre Guild

The final showdown of UG’s Got Talent (UGGT) set for today, June 20th promises a spectacular display of creativity and skill where contestants will be showcasing their extraordinary talents in their quest to become talent ambassadors for the University of Guyana. The highly anticipated event commences at 18:30 hours at the Theatre Guild Playhouse in Georgetown.

The competition which began on May 8, 2024, with 19 hopefuls has proven to be an exciting journey thus far resulting in the selection of eight exceptional finalists who will now compete for the coveted top spots in the competition. Each contestant has captivated audiences with their amazing performances—from soul-stirring poetry and melodious songs to beautiful dance routines and riveting dramatic pieces.

The 12 semi-finalists—Joel Weekes, Zamani Collins, Lilian Rege, Onelley Holder, Jivon Weekes, Asiyon Kayum, Roshauna Fraser, Serena Hope, Nathania Hamilton-Samad, Kezia Nunes, Tirishatha Semple, and Cherise Roberts—embody the diverse and rich talent found at the University of Guyana. Their journey through the competition has been marked by dedication and a passion for their craft.

The stakes are high, with substantial rewards for the finalists. The first-place winner will receive G\$300,000 in cash and kind, while the second and third place winners will be awarded G\$250,000 and G\$200,000 in cash and kind respectively. Fourth and fifth place winners are also set to win G\$150,000 and G\$100,000 in cash and kind respectively. Additionally, the top five will have the unique opportunity to star in an original UG’s Got Talent production, further showcasing their talents and potentially launching their artistic careers.



Some of the contestants in the UG's Got Talent competition, along with host Ms. Joelly Valentine (extreme right) at the end of the semi-finals at the Theatre Guild in Georgetown.

UG's Got Talent is more than just a competition; it was created to support UG's Arts Programme, initiated in celebration of the university's 60-year milestone. This platform provides students and staff with a great opportunity to shine on a grand stage.

A special programme is set for late July to announce the winners. This will not just be a culmination of this remarkable journey but a new beginning for the stars of UG's Got Talent 2024. As they step into the spotlight, they carry with them the hopes and dreams of a university that believes in the power of talent, creativity and perseverance.

UGGT could not have been possible without the support of our sponsors - GTT, UMAMI, Eureka Medical Laboratory, Maggie's Catering & Snackette, and Miracle Optical.

Tickets for the finals can be purchased at UG's PACE office or the Theatre Guild. The show will also be streamed live on the University of Guyana's Facebook page for persons residing in Guyana. Persons from overseas can join via Pay Per View for 5 USD at <https://celebrateug60.com/uggt/>

About The University of Guyana

The University of Guyana, the national University of Guyana, now in its 60th year, was founded in October 1963, three years before Guyana became independent. "UG" as it is fondly referred to offers over 160 distinct programmes in over 60 disciplines from Certificates, Diplomas, Associate Degrees, Bachelor's Degrees, Master's Degrees to Ph.D.'s. These programmes are offered online, face-to-face or in blended formats. UG delivers through a Guyana-based system across eight campuses. This includes its 35-year-old community-based Institute for Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the second major campus at Tain in Berbice celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025. The University of Guyana's student population is over 11,000.

Through its 8 Faculties, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences which is ranked # 5 globally. “UG” has provided education, training and research for over 60,000 alumni over its 60-year history with significant national and global impact. Other faculties include the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the College of Behavioural Sciences and Research, the Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The University is also home to 10 Research Institutes including the internationally important Centre for Biodiversity, the Institute for Food and Nutrition Security, the Institute for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Energy Diplomacy, the Green Institute, the Institute for Human Resiliency, Strategic Security and the Future, and the International Centre for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic innovation and universal respect.

UG’s forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University’s future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. UG is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary with a renewed focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana. Visit UG at www.uog.edu.gy.

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