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Contact: Kanchan Paser

Tel: 212-963-0343

Fax: 212-963-1395

e-mail: kanchan@sunshineawards.com

For Immediate Release

SUNSHINE Awards® Bids Sad Farewell to Calypsonian Daniel Emmanuel Jardine Gilchrist (Young Killer)

Teaneck, New Jersey, 24 September, 2001..... The SUNSHINE Awards® organization today released the following statement:

Members of the SUNSHINE Awards® organization learned with great sadness that Daniel Emmanuel Jardine Gilchrist, better known in the world of calypso as Young Killer, died on Friday, October 26 after suffering a long illness. Young Killer had a very special relationship with the SUNSHINE Awards®. He was the uncle of its founder and chairman, Gilman T. Figaro, Sr. He was also an ardent supporter and friend of the Awards and made it a point never to miss an Awards program. Our organization is very saddened by his death and he will certainly be missed.

Young Killer was a member of that elite group of calypsonians, which included The Mighty Sparrow, Lord Kitchener, Lord Melody, Lord Christo and Bomber. He began his career in 1956 in south Trinidad and later moved on to Port of Spain, where the following year, he had his first hit, "Tight, Tight Pants". For the next ten years, he had the distinction of having 2 hits every year with songs such as "Bad Talk", "Doctor Say to Buy Local", "Little Eight" and "Millie Rawls versus Killer". His calypsos dealt mainly with social issues of the day and reflected his wonderful sense of humor. An example was one of his popular songs, "Confusion - A Black Woman named Miss White".

In 1967, Young Killer was selected to represent Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada in the Montreal Exposition. The following year he migrated to the United States, where he performed extensively throughout the country. He was one of the many calypsonians who performed on the Calypso for Africa Project in 1985 to assist the drought victims in Ethiopia. For his outstanding contribution to calypso and Caribbean culture, Young Killer was inducted into the SUNSHINE Awards® Hall of Fame by Dr. Hollis (Chalkdust) Liverpool in 1999.

Chalkdust on hearing of his death said, "This is a very sad day. Young Killer was a dear friend and a wonderful calypsonian, who has made significant contribution to calypso and steel band music. He stands among the elite calypsonians, whose music has influenced generations of younger performers. Perhaps more importantly, he was a good and kind individual, who never spoke negatively of anyone and, as result, he was loved and respected by all. I shall personally miss him tremendously. The world of calypso has lost one of its true elder statesmen."

Pannist Dane Gulston recently recorded a couple of Young Killer's calypsos on a CD, which Gil Figaro is currently producing in honour of his uncle. It is aptly titled "Then and Now" and has a selection of songs by his uncle and some of his own. Dane, who also visited and played for Young Killer had this to say, "It was an honour and a pleasure for me to meet and play for Young Killer. His music reminds me of Kitchener's. It fits into any period of time. Speaking with him gives me a better understanding of the roots of calypso, a better idea of where it is actually coming from."

Young Killer leaves behind his wife, Yvonne, five children, ten grandchildren, two great grandchildren, four brothers, three sisters and a number of nieces and nephews, including the Founder of the SUNSHINE Awards, Gilman T. Figaro, Sr. The SUNSHINE Awards® organization shares with them the grief and sorrow caused by his passing and takes this opportunity to extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to each of them. A viewing will be held from 4:00pm to 6:30pm on Thursday, 1 October at the First Baptist Church, Eastern Parkway (corner of Rogers Avenue), Brooklyn, New York followed by a service.