

THE SUNSHINE AWARDS

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

The Nineteenth Annual SUNSHINE Awards Pays Tribute to the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

New Jersey, USA, May 29, 2007 ----- The Sunshine Awards organization announced that the 19th Annual Sunshine Awards, which will take place on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at the New York Sheraton in New York City will be dedicated to ***“The 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.”***

The abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade two hundred years ago signaled the end of the most cruel and barbaric act against humanity. Millions perished during the trade as humans were used as cargo to enrich the economies of Europe and the United States. The trans-Atlantic slave trade had a global impact, which is still being felt today by blacks throughout the world.

The Founder of the Sunshine Awards Gil Figaro, Sr. said, *“Every year we dedicate the Sunshine Awards program to an important event which has impacted the lives of people of the Caribbean or Caribbean-American community. This year, we will continue that tradition started in 1989 by dedicating this year’s program to the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. It is important for us to know and be enriched by our history. Without knowing where we came from, we cannot appreciate where we are today and the distance we still have to travel. The Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards will pay tribute to our ancestors, those who were torn from the bosoms of their heritage and whose blood enriched foreign soils. So I invite everyone to join us on Sunday, October 28, for a night of reflection and celebration -- reflection on that dark period of our history and celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.”*

The co-founder of the Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame, historian, calypsonian and author, Dr. Hollis “Chalkdust” Liverpool, who consistently denounces slavery and its evils in his writings and lectures, made the following comments, *“It is important that all of us, as descendants of slave traders and the enslaved, understand how our ancestors shaped our world for us in their time. It is important that we, the descendants of the enslaved, understand how much our world today owes to the struggles and vision of our forefathers. The Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards, by focusing on the abolition of the slave trade, is attempting to help us comprehend those two important realms of our world.”*

Dr. Slinger Francisco, better known as the Mighty Sparrow, when contacted by telephone, yesterday said *“It is an excellent idea and the right thing to do. The Sunshine Awards organization always bring to the forefront the people, things and events we tend to forget, who have made significant contributions to our lives. To celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade” on one hand brings joy and on the other, sadness. Although I never personally experienced the cruelty of slavery, when I reflect on my family tree I tell myself that I was also enslaved. It is fitting for Brother Figaro and the Sunshine Awards organization to remind us where we came from.”*

Dr Marcia Keizs, President of York College of the City University of New York, and who was the first recipient of a Sunshine Award for contribution to education remarked, *“Two hundred years ago, one of the most abominable acts against humanity came to an end with the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Today, the complete story of the long-lasting, devastating impact of this institution of slavery on the history of humankind remains incompletely documented and only partially understood. This year, as we mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of this insidious trade, we can look back with thanksgiving at the progress we have made, and remind the scholars among us that there is much work to be done in unearthing the stories and chronicling the histories. I congratulate the Sunshine Awards for [its] vision in dedicating this year’s event to the 200th anniversary and reminding us of our mission to reveal the truths left buried.”*

The Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards is sponsored in part by Caribbean Airlines, the official airlines of the Nineteenth Annual Sunshine Awards. Tickets for the black-tie event can be purchased by calling **201-836-0799**, or by fax **201-836-4440**. Reservations can also be made by email at info@sunshineawards.com