

**Title:** 12 Lankan Children Cast in Cinnamon Life's The Sound of Music

**Date:** January 2018

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Over 375 young theatre enthusiasts, ranging from ages to 5-15, signed up for the auditions to play the parts of the von Trapp children in South Asia's first international theatre performance of Andrew Lloyd Weber and David Ian's West End production of **The Sound of Music**, presented by Cinnamon Life. Renowned as one of the most critically-acclaimed productions in history, this iconic musical will be brought to life in Colombo by one of the world's best entertainment and live touring bodies this February.

The judging process took place with the Associate Choreographer/ Children's Director Johnny Bowles, of The Sound of Music and theatre professionals from Sri Lanka, namely Soundarie David, Anushka and Natasha Senanayake, Umeshi Rajendra and Shanuki De Alwis. The children were judged to play the parts of Freidrich, Louisa, Kurt, Brigitta, Marta, and Gretl, all of whom presented an impressive display of talent.

The casting of the 12 children for Sri Lanka's largest international theatrical performance to be presented yet, took place over a rigorous process spanning five days, significantly due to the precise look, sound and personality each character is required to portray. To be a part of the much-awaited musical, the children were put to the test with their ability to sing, harmonize and synchronize with each other. The challenge, according to Bowles is to be able to be quick and efficient learners as the children merely have 30 days to put on the show of their lifetime. In addition to vocals, the auditioning process consisted of choreography, expression and composition through an elimination process that selected 12 children to play these roles.

Speaking on the auditions, Bowles commented, “The selection of 12 candidates from the incredible talent of 375 children was a difficult task. I am very grateful to the local theatre professionals for their tremendous support throughout the process which involved evaluation on vocal ability, dancing ability, sense of character, projection, tone and style and energy among many other attributes that were assessed during the auditions.”

In a few short weeks, the young artistes from Sri Lanka will take the stage as West-End's London Palladium production of the Sound of Music is performed live in Sri Lanka at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapakse Theatre in Colombo. The sets, production equipment as well as cast and crew members and orchestra will be flown in especially for this performance. Fans of this timeless musical are promised a magical live experience of a well-loved classic.

This family-themed classic will be staged from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre. Tickets for the show can already be booked on 011 2161161 or through [www.cinnamonboxoffice.com](http://www.cinnamonboxoffice.com) and are fast selling out. Fans are cautioned to book their seats early to not miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Cinnamon Life presents Andrew Lloyd Webber and David Ian, the Really Useful Group production of The Sound of Music - In Association with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, powered by Nations Trust Bank American Express and Mercedes Benz from DIMO, Airline partner SriLankan Airlines, Skills Development Partner British Council. Banking Partner Nations Trust Bank Private Banking, Inbound Travel partner Walkers Tours, Print Media and Web partners Sunday Times, Daily Mirror, Daily FT, Life online, Daily Mirror.lk, Hi Magazine and HI TV, Radio Partner YES FM and Legends 96.6, Creative partner JWT, Print partner Anim8 , Outdoor Media partner Emerging Media Tea Partner Dilmah Tea, Telecommunication Partner Dialog Pay TV partner Dialog TV, Cinema Partner Scope Cinema and Official Photographer Sagara Lakmal Photography.