



Meet Miss Sri Lanka for Miss World 2011

The excitement to wear the crown heightens



Uddima Oshadi

Uddima participated in last year's pageant and made it to the top 20. My performance was cemented by making it to the final twelve of this prestigious pageant this year, says Uddima with a smile. "I used the last year to improve myself and I am already feeling the results of all that hard work," she said.

"I am a fiercely independent person; my parents have always supported me in whatever I wanted to do. Therefore, I am very conscious about not exploiting the freedom they have given me. Every child must make an attempt to convince their parents of their passion and have their support to prosper in their careers," she said.

"Good communication skills, especially in English are an added advantage in pageants like this. It is the international language and knowing it can take us all a long way. But our mother tongue should never be compromised. We must aim at being bilingual. The pageant is a great experience, I am enthralled about having the opportunity to have come all this way and I am determined to make my own mark," she said.

Pix: Thilak Perera



The greenery of the Serenity Village in

Kalatuwawa was set ablaze on March 11 as the girls clad in casual wear, evening wear and swim wear posed to contest for 'Miss Photogenic', one of the most prestigious titles of this year's 'Miss Sri

Lanka for Miss World 2011' contest. Renowned fashion photographer Arantha Sirimanne's camera lenses were on full alert on the day to ensure that they don't miss even a fraction of the best poses.

All twelve finalists will walk away with a professional portfolio regardless of being crowned 'Miss Photogenic' of Miss Sri

Lanka for Miss World 2011. Send in your votes for your favourite contestant to be crowned Miss Popularity Contestant - Miss Sunday Observer 2011. So, hurry, fill in the coupons and vote for your favourite girl. Now to the final three interviews of this year's contestants.



Sashika Herath

Sashika is not new to walking the ramp. The girl who hails from Kandy has many Bridal Show appearances to her credit and has appeared in many television dramas too, but for some reason I had to convince my father a lot to participate in this pageant, says Sashika.

The former Management Accounting Executive is currently a student of beauty culture and says that, self belief is vital to keep one's head above water in the industry's deep waters. "I wanted to enter the pageant last year but missed the application deadline. It is a great industry to work in as long as you know what you want, it can be quite disheartening otherwise," says a determined Sashika.

"The pageant has given us all a great opening, it exposes the girls to professionalism and puts us through a tough regime to follow, but it's all worth it when you compare the merits and demerits. It does get tough as it is not all about looking glamorous, it demands a significant amount of discipline and commitment from us too. "I hope to make the most of the opportunity and make this a platform to explore my career," she said.



Nimasha de Silva

Nimasha entered this year's pageant after being convinced by a friend. She participated in the Miss Perfect pageant early this year and says this pageant is not a walk in the park.

"I have learnt a lot from being part of this pageant. I had inhibitions facing the camera before but I have put them all to rest and I am willing to explore the dimensions of this trade. This is a hectic pageant but my parents are very understanding and accommodating. They make me feel very accepted all the time and that is a blessing any child can have," she said.

"Famme is inevitable in this trade, but I believe it is my responsibility to use that Famme to my betterment with care. I am quite clear about what I want. Winning the coveted title will mean a lot to me, but the experience of participation will surely go a long way. Thankfully, I am programmed to expect the unexpected, so I am able to cope with both surprises and shocks. I have achieved immense progress from the time I entered the pageant and I am glad such pageants are available for youngsters of this day and age to harness their personality," she said.

Who will wear the Miss Sunday Observer crown?..... Make sure your favourite contestant is the winner! Send in your votes fast!

Vote Count

1. Shimalka Bodaragama	1,474
2. Charitha Waidiyasiri	1,296
3. Champa Godage	1,291
4. Piumi Perera	1,188
5. Pushpika de Silva	1,154
6. Uddima Oshadi	1,099
7. Namasha de Silva	1,047
8. Thushen Vimalaratne	902
9. Nishuka Jayawardena	852
10. Aloka Weerasinghe	788

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Contestants



Shimalka Bodaragama



Nimasha de Silva



Chamupa Godage



Charitha Waidiyasiri



Anne Piyumali



Sashika Herath



Piumi Perera



Nishuka Jayawardena



Uddima Oshadi



Aloka Weerasinghe



Thushen Vimalaratne



Pushpika de Silva

Pix: Chinthaka Kumarasinghe