

Nine contestants chosen from Hill Country



BY MAHES PERERA

The past week was loaded with speculation, excitement and happiness when the finalists for Mr & Ms Hill Country were chosen to be

forerunners for Mr & Ms Sri Lanka 2011-12. Fans were present in their numbers to cheer their particular contestant to win.

This is the first time that the Presenters have given the opportunity to those residing in the Hill Country region and not based in Colombo to be a part of the big image. Big Time Image Makers, the Present-

ers of Mr & Ms Sri Lanka should be applauded for making a definite effort to ensure that through regional events they have opened the doors for a wide spectrum of young girls and boys to participate.

At the selection of Mr & Ms Hill Country nine happy contestants will now vie in the Mr & Ms Sri Lanka contest.

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Amila Bogoda - a student in Fashion Designing and modelling, he hails from Lewella, Kandy comments "This is an opening to tap talent and make our dreams come true."



Dharshana Gamagedara - is a Marketing Executive from Peradeniya. An old boy of St. Anthony's College, Katugastota says, "in addition to my profession I like to be a model and an actor, so that's why I am a part of Mr Hill Country."



Dilan Chandraratne - is a Computer Science student and hails from Ampitiya, Kandy. "This regional event has enabled me to showcase my talent without having to base myself in Colombo."



Dihara Weerasinghe - a Customer Care Support Executive who works in Colombo hails from Matale. "I feel this is a good opportunity for the youth from the outstations. The grooming I have received so far has definitely helped me to enhance my personality."



Joanna Kanagarayer - the youngest competitor, she is just 17 years old and was educated at Hillwood College, Kandy. She hails from Katugastota. "Miss Hill Country is a stepping stone to Ms Sri Lanka. Miss Earth interested me specially as contestants should not only have beauty, but should also be able to give advocacy on environment."



Roshan Perera - educated at Kadugannawa National College, he is an undergraduate in Psychology and Counselling. "I feel that for any line of work, good personality and communication skills are important. I am learning these by entering for Mr Hill Country."



Geethma Rathnayake - Still a college student from Katugastota. "I was happy that petite women too could show their talent through Ms Petite Sri Lanka."



Yvonne Ratnayake - an announcer and dancer from Bogolawatte, she is an old girl of Swarnamali Girls' College. "My dream has come true to climb the ladder of professional modelling."



Jake Senaratne - is the youngest of the boys. "Although I am reading for a Degree in Electronics Engineering, following the footsteps of my father. I am keen to develop my confidence and personality within a short space of time. Mr Hill Country has taught me to walk tall."

Mr & Ms Sri Lanka 2011 is presented by Big Time Image in association with the *Sunday Observer* - the print media sponsor, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, Real Radio and the official film is FUJI.