

Civil and Cultural Activities of Ronald De Alwis (1941 to 2023) 82 years

Kala Keerthi Lt. Col. (Rtd) Ronald de Alwis, BA(cey) JP -All Island

DOB : 22nd October 1935 (87+ Years Old)
NIC : 352960446V - Name: Herman Ronald Lukshman de Alwis
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- **Ronald as a Magician - Cultural Activities - Magic as a Performing Art**
CURRENTLY OPERATES AS A VETERAN MAGICIAN IN ALL 3 LANGUAGES, CEO OF MAGICANA ENTERTAINMENTS PARTY MAGIC, SCHOOL OF MAGIC, ADVISOR ON MAGIC
- Magician Ronald de Alwis is a 2nd Generation Magician. Father was Late Linden de Alwis, (Prof. D'Alvo) Founder Member of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle on 18th February 1922 & Senior Vice President at his demise on 10th Jan 1978.
- 1947 to 2022 - A Veteran Artiste with 75 Years as a Professional Magician
- 1941 Onwards assisted his Dad, Prof D'Alvo in his Island Wide Magic Shows as a six year old! Practiced Magic at home with Dad
- 1947 Ronald's 1st Public Appearance was at St. Mary's College Hall, Chilaw as the Magician at 12+ years
- 1947 to 1952 - Performed at Colombo Youth Clubs and Birthday Parties
- 1952 Joined the Association of Ceylon Magicians, the fore runner of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle (SLMC)
- 1952 Ronald was placed Runner Up at the 1st Ever Open Public Junior Magic Contest in 1952 organized by Showman Donovan Andree
- 1961 Was 1st Runner Up at the coveted Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S. Amarasekera Challenge Shield at the Magician of the Year Contest
- 1962 Ronald won Coveted Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S. Amarasekera Challenge Shield at the Magician of the Year Contest.
- 1965 Onwards was an active Council Member of the SLMC
- 1976 Hony Treasurer - SLMC
- 1977 to 1982 - Active Council Member - SLMC
- 1983 to 1995 - Vice President - SLMC
- 1985: Onwards was an Active Council member of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle till 2022
- 1990: Contributed successfully to celebrate the 75th SLMC Anniversary
- 1995 to 2000: Executive Vice President - SLMC

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P.2

- 2001 to 2004: President - Sri Lanka Magic Circle
 - . a) During which period Ronald's efforts to obtain a Property for SLMC dawned. .
 - . Ronald got SLMC a 7.6 Perches of Land at 156 Templars Rd, Kalapura, Mt.L
- b) Registered SLMC with Registrar of Companies and Appointed Corporate . . .
- . Affairs (Pvt) Ltd as the SLMC Secretaries.
- 2007 to 2014 - President - Sri Lanka Magic Circle
- 2015 to Date - President Emeritus (Sri Lanka Magic Circle)
- 2021 - Registered SLMC with the Cultural Dept as a National
- . Arts Society in Magic vide Ref:DCA/NCAS/2021/OCAS/010
- 2022 - Chairman, Centenary Committee, SLMC
- 2023 - Invited as SLMC Presidential Advisor

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### Honoured as Magician of Repute

- 2002: Elected as the 3<sup>rd</sup> President - SLMC
- 2005: Honoured as the first "Kala Bushana" Magician in Sri Lanka by the Cultural .
- . Ministry
- 2014: Honoured with the "Choor Mantar Award". as a Magician at the Choor Mantar .
- . Int'l Magic Convention in Secunderabad, Hyderabad, India.
- 2014: Honoured with the Sarasavi Award for Magic by the Divisional Secretariat, Sri .
- . Jayawardanepura, Kotte.
- 2014: Sri Lanka Magic Circle honoured Ronald as a "Hony.Life Member"
- 2015: Sri Lanka Magic Circle honoured Ronald as President Emeritus for services . .
- . rendered since 1952 after 63 years membership.

### Services Rendered to SLMC

- 1995: Using personal influence conducted SLMC meetings & many Magic Contests at .
- . the Lyceum Int'l School, Raymond Road, Nugegoda till 2007
- 2002: Uplifted the image of the SLMC by initiating discussions to obtain a 7.6 Perches
- . of a bare land at 'Kalapura' Zone at 156 Templars Road. Mt.Lavinia from the
- . Tower Hall Theatre Foundation & Ministry of Cultural Affairs.
- 2002: Registered SLMC with Registrar of Companies & Corporate (Pvt) Ltd as SLMC .
- . Secretaries
- 2002: Submitted Building Plans to Commence a building for a 1,176 Sq Ft, Ground
- . Floor of the SLMC & raising fund raisers.
- 2008: Commenced SLMC Magic Meetings at the Kalapura Magic Site
- 2004: Resigned as President to pave the way for infusion of new blood
- 2007: Was re elected as President, SLMC
- 2008: Commenced & Conducted SLMC Get Togethers at current premises in the 80%
- . completed building !

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P.3

- 2008: Conducted a massive Magic Convention and Gala Show in association with the Swiss Embassy & raised Rs.500,000 for the completion of the SLMC building project
- 2012: Conducted the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SLMC successfully
- 2014: Obtained the Certificate of Conformity for the SLMC building
- 2014: Passed the Mantle of Leadership & Retired as President SLMC
- 2014: Ronald retired as President SLMC to pave the way for others.
- 2014: SLMC honoured Ronald as a Honorary Life Member
- 2014: Ronald was honoured with the 'Choor Mantar Award' for Magic in Hyderabad at "The International Magic Convention" for his Magic & Lecture Demonstration
- 2015: SLMC honoured Ronald as the 'President Emeritus' considering his long dedicated services, rendered since 1952
- 2017: Ronald was honoured as the first Kala Keerthi Presidential Award Holder as a Professional Magician and for boosting Magic as a Performing Art by His Excellency Hon. Maitripala Sirisena at Nelum Pokuna.
- 2015 to 2022: Ronald served the SLMC Council as an Advisor.
- 2021: Ronald was appointed as Chairman, Centenary Celebration Committee to conduct the Ceremonies in 2022 at the BMICH and Bishop's College Auditorium as follows:
  - a) In March 2021 Initiated successfully to get the SLMC registered & recognized as the "National Arts Society" for Magic as a Performing Art by the Dept. of Cultural Affairs vide Ref;DCA/NCAS/2021/OCAS/010
  - b) Initiated successfully by getting the PMG's approval to print 1,000 Sri Lanka Magic Circle Centenary Postal Stamps and officially issue on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at the BMICH.
  - c) Initiated successfully in getting a group of 27 Indian Magicians and Magician Hoerbi Kull of Switzerland to participate at the 2022 International Sri Lanka Magic Circle Centenary Celebration together with Sri Lankan Magic Dealers at the BMICH and Bishop's College Auditorium from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
  - c) Initiated in successfully collecting a Cash Inflow of Rs.2 Million Fund Raiser on solo for conducting the Centenary Celebrations in 2022
  - d) Initiated the writing of the History of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle from 1922-2022 from historical original docs & photographs.
- 2023: Ronald's experienced services were required as Presidential Advisor, SLMC in mid August 2023

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Ronald has completed 75 years as a Professional Magician and as an Administrator of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle for 50 years.

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## Education

### Primary Education

- 1940 -1943: Sinhala & English Tutored at Home because of 2<sup>nd</sup> W'War
- 1944 to 1955: St. Mary's College, Chilaw up to HSC 1<sup>st</sup> Year
  - Awards Won:
    - a) Under 16 & Junior Athletic Champion
    - b) Won the Bronze, Silver & Gold Medals at Oratorical Contests under Juvernile, Junior & Senior Contests
    - c) Won the 25 Miles Cycle Marathon Race.
    - d) Literary Awards for English, Geography, History, Ethics
    - e) Played Tennis
- 1956: St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa up to HSC 2<sup>nd</sup> Year
- 1957: to 1960: University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Arts Faculty, Inmate of Ramanathan Hall.  
Read English, Economics, Western & Ceylon History
- 1960 Graduated as a Bachelor Of Arts (BA)

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### Civil Service

- 1960: Appointed as a Graduate Teacher at Ku/Pannala Maha Vidiyalaya
- 1962: Appointed as Acting Principal, Ku/ Maha Vidiyalaya, Ingaradula Narangoda, off Pannala-Kuliyapitiya Road.
- 1964: Kurunegala Education Dept, Seconded Ronald for Service at the Inland Revenue Dept as 1<sup>st</sup> Batch, All Island Investigating Officer by Commissioner, Inland Revenue.  
Passed all exams in Tax Laws, Financial Accountancy & Admin
- 1966: Appointed by the PSC as an Assessor of the Inland Revenue.  
Passed all exams in Tax Laws, Financial Accountancy & Admin & Office Procedures
- 1976: Followed a 06 Month British Council Scholarship at the British Inland Revenue Head Office, Somerset House, London W13 in Administration, Tax Laws & Accounts course.
- 1979: Resigned as Assessor of the Dept of Inland Revenue

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**Mercantile Service**

- 1979: Joined the Mercantile Sector as follows;
  - a) 1979 to 1982 General Manager of Tour Operator LTU Ltd
  - b) 1979 to 1982 Treasurer Association of Group Tour Age
  - c) 1982 to 1988 General Manager of Aset Ltd ( Rent a Car-Service - A Subsidiary of Aitken Spence Ltd )
  - d) 1990 to 1992 General Manager, HPT Ltd, Colombo 08
  - e) 1993 to 1995 General Manager, Ceylon Essences Ltd
  - f) 1998 to 1999 General Manager, BBS Ltd, Colombo 08

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Government Honours

2016: Ronald was appointed a Justice of the Peace (Whole Island) Vide Gazette . .
No:1,991 of 28th. October 2016 no:326

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**Magicana Entertainments' & School of Magic**

- Ronald as the CEO of the registered 'Magicana Entertainments' in Dec 1993 has other professional magicians and many Party Activity artistes for any occasion.
- Ronald had trained 28 magicians and got them registered as SLMC members. Some of them had won Awards in Magic thereafter. Some are as follows:  
Yolani Fernando, Nissika Pereira, Prasan Fernando, Palitha Fernando, Emile Eranga, Asanka Pathirane, Vihan Perera, to name a few.  
In addition Ronald continues Short Professional Courses in Magic and Entertainment for Kids and Adults on a One to One basis.

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Officer of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force Activities.

All Appointments were by Gazetted Notices

- 1965: Enlisted to the 2SLASC Unit as a 2nd Lieutenant after Training at the ATC, Diyatalawa Army Cantonment
 - 1966: Promoted as a Lieutenant
 - 1968: Recalled for Army Duties on account of the Port & CTB Strikes
 - 1971: As a Lieutenant served in Thalladi Army Camp, Mannar & as OC in Thodavil Army Camp, Mannar on TAFFI Duties.
 - 1972: Promoted as a Captain
 - 1977: Promoted as a Major
 - 1978: Promoted as the 2nd in Command of 2SLASC
 - 1982: Promoted as a Lt. Colonel & Commanding Officer, 2ndVol SLASC (Transport & Supplies Regiment) at Panagoda Army Cantonment.
 - 1983: Appointed as the Operational OIC, to cover Tamil Refugee Camps in Colombo (Total Tamil Refugees were approximately 01 Million, at the Ratmalana Hindu College, 2 Bambalapitiya Kovils, Sirimavo College, Mahanama College, Colombo 03, President's College, Rajagiriya, The Cathedral Kotahena,
 - 1984: Regular Visits to 2SLASC personal serving in Jaffna, Pt. Pedro, Chavakacheri, Palali & Chunagam Army Camps,
 - 1985: Posted to the SL Army Reserve on retirement as a Lt. Colonel.
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