To longer, warmer, sunnier days this May!

My homeland, Guyana, will be celebrating 50 years of independence from its British colonizer on May 26, 2016. The region, located on the north coast of South America, was first called Demerara, a word of the indigenous people. Demerara is also the name of one of the three largest rivers and one of the three counties in Guyana (before its independence the spelling was Guiana). In the mid 19th century (from 1831 to 1966), the three counties, Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara, became a British colony.

British Guiana supplied the world with Demerara Gold Sugar. My ancestors were part of the three million Africans who arrived in British Guiana (Demerara) on slave ships from as early as mid 17th century to work as slave laborers on sugar plantations previously owned by the Dutch.

Slavery was abolished in 1833 in British Guiana but by 1838 ships from India were arriving with thousands of indentured servants to work the sugar plantations for next to nothing.

British Guiana ("BG"), was also known for its gold. In the late 19th century, some of my ancestors headed to BG on their own from various parts of the Caribbean in search of El Dorado, the name synonymous with the lost city of gold or any other place where one can quickly obtain wealth.
I chose *Demerara Gold* as the title of my solo play because I wanted to intertwine the stories of my ancestors with mine. Whether in bondage or by choice, our history is of a people uprooted, of us as migrants in search of betterment... even if that meant going into the deepest most forbidding rain forest in the world, or leaving our young children behind and journeying to a foreign land. *Demerara Gold* is a testament to our journey and struggle to keep our core identity intact.

Happy 50th Anniversary, Guyana!
Celebrate and Shine!

~Ingrid Griffith

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Ingrid sharing *Demerara Gold* with other women authors at the Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center

Ingrid at a Fundraising Event at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn, NY where she read an excerpt from *Demerara Gold*.

This event celebrated the life of Keisan Griffith-Roberts and raised funds for the Book Scholarship program for Howard University School of Business.
Ingrid with some DEMERARA GOLD Audience Members in April:
Get ready New Jersey, Demerara Gold will be in South Orange on Saturday, June 4th!

See below for more details and click on flyer to purchase tickets!
DEMERARA GOLD, a Solo Play in two Acts, is now a published book!!!
Read the play then come see a performance... or the other way around. Click on Amazon or Lulu to purchase your copy.

"Ms. Ingrid Griffith is a GREAT Guyanese talent. I saw Demerara Gold TWICE, and I plan to see it yet again whenever it comes to my neck of the woods. As a retired Director of Drama at the Ministry of Culture in Guyana, I highly recommend this one-character play – and the book – to everyone."

- Francis Quammina Farrier

"Demerara Gold is a fascinating play that provides a realistic account of the pain and ecstasy endured by immigrants. Ingrid Griffith is among a growing number of Caribbean playwrights and intellectuals who brings a rare intimacy to her work born of experience."

- Les Ford, Artistic Director, Nia Production Company
Take DEMERARA GOLD With You...

We’ve created a DEMERARA GOLD KEEPSAKE PROGRAM and it will be on sale at the upcoming show in New Jersey on June 4th.

This beautiful, 43-page booklet includes:
We Want to Bring the Show to You

Do you know of a theatre, auditorium, or community space where you are? Or a group, alumni association, church, college, or high school whose audience would be interested in seeing a performance of Demerara Gold?

We want to continue touring Demerara Gold throughout the U.S. and abroad and we’d love to get your help. Please email us and let us know: info@demeraragoldtheshow.com

Ingrid's Favorite Quote for May

"We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

-T.S. Eliot

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