

අබා

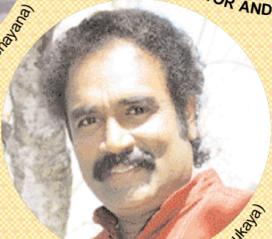
A journey back to the heroic period



Malini Fonseka (Baddhachathayana)



DIRECTOR AND SCRIPT WRITER: Jackson Anthony



Shriyantha Mendis (Parumukaya)



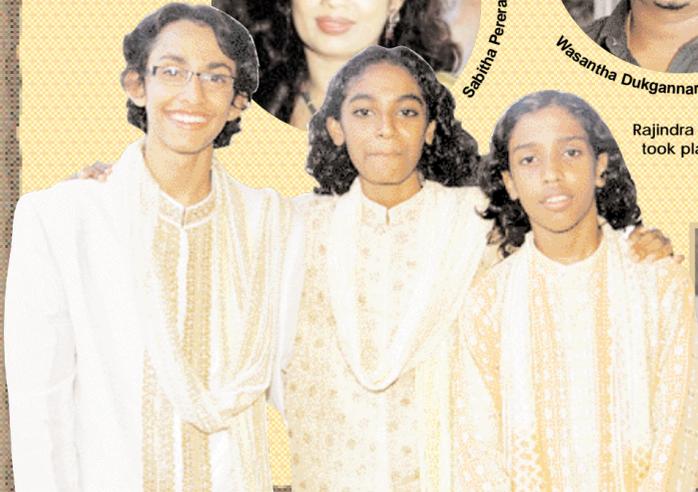
Ravindra Randeniya (Panudula Baddha)



Sabitha Perera (Egillio eperuna)



Wasantha Dugannarala (Wesala Panakkil)



YOUNG TALENT: Kasun Chamara, Sajith Anuththara and Janith Banuka



STAR GATHERING: Irangani Serasinghe, Pandith Amaradeva and T.R.P. Sooriyaperumma

CINEMA: Fifty years of Sri Lankan cinema and a gift of 1062 films from *Kadawuna Poronduwa* to *Sankara*. Among its variety of themes, it is surprising that only six films (*Asokamala* 1947, *Sirisangabo* 1952, *Sandeshaya* 1960, *Sigiri Kashyapa* 1966, *Weera Puranappu* 1978 and *Weera Maddumabandara* 1984) have been based on the rich and legendary past of Sri Lanka. More than two decades later another historical movie will join their queue. Unlike its predecessors this will not be a tragedy. This is *Aba*, the tale of the Ruhunu era. The heroic story of a prince destined for the throne. This brings forth the myth and mystery connected with the birth of prince Pandukabaya - a birth which rocked a whole kingdom and brought a whole line of princes to establish Sri Lanka's richest era in history - the Ruhunu kingdom. This is the story behind Jackson Anthony's newest film. Sajith Anuththara, Ravindra Randeniya, Malini Fonseka, Sabitha Perera, Kanchana Kodithuwakku, Saumaya Liyanage, Shriyantha Mendis, Dulani Anurada, Lushan Bulathsinhala, Madumadava Aravinda, Bimal Jayakody, Wasantha Dugannarala, Wasantha Moragoda, Kasun Chamara, and Janith Banuka are among the main cast. This film is produced by Justin Belagamage and Rajindra Gunasekara. The *Muhurath* ceremony of *Aba* took place at the Water's Edge on June 1. Pictures by **Palitha Gunasena and Malan Karunaratne**

Culture & Arts

Compiled by Ruwini Jayawardana

If you have an event worth following, we will publish it on this page. Write to the **Features Editor, Daily News, Lake House, Colombo 10**. You can even drop an e-mail at features@dailynews.lk or fax us at **011-2343694**.

Diary

'Colombo Artists' at Lionel Wendt

EXHIBITION: 'Colombo Artists,' an exhibition of paintings, sculpture and installations, the work by Kingsley Gunatillake, Chaminda Gamage, T. P. G. Amarajeewa, Upul Chamila Bandara and Anuradha Henakaarachchi, will be held at the Lionel Wendt on June 6 and 7 from 9.30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

'Humanity and Biodiversity' at Alliance Française

EXHIBITION: The Alliance Française is organising a conference on "Humanity and Biodiversity" at the Alliance Française auditorium on June 7 at 6.30 pm. The conference is based on a poster exhibition that Alliance is having currently. The Alliance Française decided to have this exhibition because Sri Lanka is a country with one of the largest biodiversities in the World. It is also relevant in the French context as France has a large number of overseas territories in the Tropical zone. This conference will also be a good opportunity to discuss the importance given to Biodiversity in a globalising World.

The exhibition "Humanity and Biodiversity" will be presented with 15 posters, each with a different theme. The exhibition will continue till June 8.

'Flashes of Colour' at Lionel Wendt

PAINTINGS: An exhibition and sale of paintings, 'Flashes of colour' by students of Latifa Ismail will be held at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery on June 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The participants of this exhibition are Natasha Nimalasiri, Rushka Silva, Sucheshi de Zoysa, Anuki Bogahawatta, Niruth Bogahawatta, Razia Usuf Ali, Abhishek Aryasinghe, Amra Ismail, Dilanika Kulatunga, Lahiri Jayetilleke and Dulanji Beneragam. The participants are between 7 to 14 years.

The sale proceedings of this exhibition will be donated to the Thalassemia patients at the Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya.

Makka at Elphinstone

STAGE DRAMA: *Makka*, a stage drama by Thilak Weerasooriya will go on boards at the Elphinstone theatre, Maradana, on June 14 at 3.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.



Aaganthukaya to be screened soon

CINEMA: *Aaganthukaya* (Outcast) directed by Wasantha Obeysereka and produced by the film Corporation Development Fund and A.P.A Films (Anura Abeysereka) is scheduled to be screened at Regal cinema, Colombo and island wide.



Nadagam and Nurthi workshop

WORKSHOP: The Tower Hall Foundation will be launching a *Nadagam*, *Nurthi* and acting workshop for participants below 30 years free of charge. UNESCO association will sponsor the event and those who do well in the workshop will be offered a chance to take part in *Nurthi* festivals.

Batik: the Living Art



CREATIVE ARTIST: Pushpadeva Dharmawardena



EXHIBITION: Pushpadeva is the son of Batik artist of International fame, Vipula Dharmawardena. He was the first to dress the Dalada Maligawa elephant Raja for the Perahera.

The huge batik hangings in the atrium of the former Lanka Oberoi was also his creation and he had hosted the largest number of Batik exhibitions throughout the world.

Pushpadeva is one of Sri Lanka's top garment printers. He works on brands such as Nike, Addidas, Marks & Spencer and Next.

Having grown up with his dad's creations from childhood and with in-born traits of an artist, he used his knowledge of garment printing, dyes and chemicals coupled with art to innovate a new concept in Living Art.

He works not only with wood, but also cement, metal, fibre and ceramic.

Gandhara hosted one of artist's exhibitions with the backing of Mas Holdings to promote Batik artistes.



BEST ACTOR AND ACTRESS (SINHALA): Anoja Weerasinghe (*Diriya Mawa Saha Age Daruwo*) and Thusitha Laknath (*Mang Diya Wela*). Weerasinghe and Madhani Malwatthage (*Denuwara Dennake*) were joint recipients for the best actress award.

Night of the 'National Drama Festival 2007'

STAGE DRAMA: The presentation of awards of the 'National Drama Festival', organised by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Drama Panel of the Sri Lanka Arts Council was held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall on June 4 at 6.00 p.m. Prime Minister, Rathnasiri Wickramanayake was the chief guest.

Pictures by **Sudath Nishantha**



BEST ACTOR (TAMIL): T. Shanmuganadan (*Enthaiyum Thayum*). D. Vanitha (*Thamil Pen Thadai Nandikiran*) won the award of best actress.



BEST DIRECTOR (TAMIL): M. Karunakaran (*Thamil Pen Thadai Nandikiran*)



BEST DIRECTOR AND BEST DRAMA (SINHALA): Thanuja Vanniarachchi (*Mang Diya Wela*)

CAPTIVATING ENTERTAINMENT: A dance performance during the event