

Cultural Diary

RUWANTHI ABEYAKOON

'Cultural Diary' brings you details about several fascinating events happening in the country. This week the European Film Festival will move to Kandy to reach out the movie lovers there with a collection of award winning movies. Take your pick of exhibitions, fashion shows or dance performance and add colour to your routine life. Make a little space to kick into high gear amidst the busy work schedules to enjoy the exciting events happening at venues around the city. If there is an event you would like others to know, drop an email to eventcalendar@gmail.com or call us on 011 2429552. Have a pleasant week.

Big Screen

>> Chinese Film Festival

Filmgoers can enjoy the Chinese Film Festival which will be held from November 26 to 30 at the National Film Corporation (NFC) theatre Colombo. Organised by the Chinese Embassy and NFC the festival will provide the viewers with an experience of contemporary Chinese society. The films 'Gimme Kudos', 'Li Mi Conjecture', 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' and 'Cell Phone' will be screened at 3.30 pm and 6 pm on week-ends while 'The Volunteers' and 'The Knot' will be screened on November 29 and 30.

>> The European Film Festival

The European Film Festival 2010 - the biggest film festival in town will move from to Kandy this week. The screenings will take place at E.L. Senanayake Children's Library Hall at 1pm and 3pm.

The European Union Delegation, British Council, Goethe Institute, Alliance Française de Kotte, the French, Dutch, Swiss, Italian and Norwegian Embassies and Polish and Belgian Consulates in Sri Lanka, along with the National Film Corporation has organized this mega festival. The screenings are free of charge and open to all on a first-come first-served basis.

November 25

>> Nowhere Boy (UK) 1pm

Imagine John Lennon's childhood. A lonely teenager, curious and sharp, growing up in the shattered city of Liverpool. Two incredible women clash for his love. Mimi - the formidable aunt who raised him and Julia - the spirited mother who gave him up. Madly in Love (Switzerland) 3pm Devan, a young Tamil raised in Switzerland, wants to fulfil his father's wish of an arranged marriage. However, a few days before the traditional wedding, Devan falls madly in love with Leo, an European woman.

November 26

>> Chopin-pragnienie milosci (Poland) 1pm

The film describes the life of Fryderyk Chopin - one of the leading pianist and composers of our times. The film starts when Fryderyk Chopin is still a young man living with his parents and his two sisters in Warsaw where he frequently plays the piano and composes music for the decidedly unmusical Grand Duke Constantine.

>> Welcome (France) - 3pm

Bilal, a 17 year old Kurdish refugee has spent the last three months of his life travelling across Europe in an attempt to reunite with his girlfriend.

November 27

>> Storm Bound (Netherlands) - 1pm

Three boys embark on their first voyage across the ocean and find themselves shipwrecked on a tropical island.

>> Ma Che Ci Faccio Qui (Italy) - 3pm

Alex is a young eighteen year old with a dream of crossing Europe with his friends. The movie is about how this young man tries to pursue his dream.

November 28

>> Happy together (Belgium) - 1pm

Martin and Eline are the perfect example of a happy couple. They live in a beautiful house, together with their two kids. It's like living in a dream. But when they sign the deed to purchase a summer residence in Tuscany, their fortune starts to crumble. The only way out seems to be a drastic one.

>> Soul Kitchen (Germany) - 3pm

Zinos Kazantzakis (Adam Bousdoukos) runs a cheap restaurant in a run-down warehouse district that he calls the 'Soul Kitchen'. While the food isn't very good, it doesn't cost much and a regular clientele shows up each evening for cheap beer, filling food, and the company of their peers. Bad luck follows Zinos when his girlfriend, Nadine (Philine Roggan), runs off to China and he decides to follow, putting his brother (Moritz Bleibtreu) in charge of the restaurant.

November 29

>> Upperdog (Norway) - 1pm

As young children, the half siblings Axel and Yanne are adopted to Norway. They are separated on arrival. Yanne to material wealth on Oslo's West side and Axel to an average family on the East.

>> The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus (UK) - 3pm

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is a fantastical morality tale, set in the present-day. Dr Parnassus with his extraordinary travelling show 'The Imaginarium', offers to members of his audience the irresistible opportunity to enter their universe of imaginations and wonders by passing through a magical mirror.

>> Reflections 2010 'Living Images'



It is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into an aesthetically appealing shape by growing, pruning and training them in containers. Yes it is called Bonsai - a millennia-old art form which is still going strong today. In Japanese, bonsai can literally mean 'tray planting' but since originating in Asia, so many centuries ago - it has developed into a whole new form.

In Bonsai, the tree and the pot form a single harmonious unit where the shape, texture and colour of one, complements the other. It is not enough just to plant a tree in a pot and allow nature to take its course. Every branch and twig of a bonsai is shaped or eliminated until the chosen image is achieved.

From then on, the image is maintained and improved by a constant regime of pruning and trimming. Overall, bonsai is a great interest, hobby or for some a profession to undertake. A few days of Bonsai will be uncovered at 'Reflections 2010-Living Images' which is scheduled to be held at the

Art Gallery, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07 on November 26, 27 and 28 from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm. The event is put together by The Sri Lanka Bonsai Association. His Excellency Kumio Takahashi, Ambassador of Japan will be the chief guest on the occasion.

For more information call 473249 0773124913

>> Ananda 124 Fun Fair and Trade Exhibition

Ananda 124 Fun Fair and Trade Exhibition, organized by the Ananda College Old Boys Association in aid of Ananda College Development Fund, will be held on November 25 to 28 at Sathuru Uyana, Colombo 07.

This unique event will feature Educational Stalls, Food Stalls, Trade Stalls, Government Stalls, Motor Shows, Kiddies Games, Fun Games, Fashion Shows and daily Musical Shows plus more fun and entertainment.

This event is primarily targeted at all levels of the society. It is expected to attract 10,000 to 12,000 individuals daily. The event will be held daily from 4pm to mid night.



>> Cupcake Fiesta

Experience the wonders of mouthwatering cupcakes presented by R.L. Clement, the pioneer in sugar craft which will be held on November 26, 27 and 28 at the 'Mihitaka Madura' BMICH. The Cupcake Fiesta, an unusual exhibition will amaze the crowd with breathtaking structures made out of cakes baked in cups-cupcakes. Clement using his innovative mind and creativity will present his grand event to capture the hearts of those who are interested in this craft.



>> Iconic Traditions

Soul Sounds will team up with Voice Print to ring in the seasonal cheer and enthrall the audience on November 26 at the Mount Lavinia Hotel.

The iconic traditions will begin with the choirs and the lighting of the Christmas tree. This year's Christmas tree is estimated to be the tallest ever tree to be lit in the country. The Christmas tree will be around 30 feet tall and will be made with environmentally friendly recycled materials. The hotel will also be offering the traditional Christmas drinks such as eggnog, Glüh wine and Kokito as well as other festive beverages from the around the world.



>> Bhagya Sadhana

'Bhagya Sadhana' tribute to Maestro Pundith Amaradeva - the Legendary Musician of Sri Lanka will be held at Excel College Auditorium No. 669, Peradeniya Road, Kandy (Opposite Sawsasana Pvt. Hospital) on November 27 at 6.30 pm. It will be an evening of Hindustani Classical Music, featuring young brilliant artists - Dr Thushara Rathnayake (B.Music, M.Music, D.Music (Banaras University, India) on Violin, Deshala Manoj Vaidya Nipun (Bhatkande) Shastrapathi (Lucknow) on Tabla and vocal by Asith Atapattu, Sangeetha Nipun (Bhatkande) Shastrapathi (Banaras University). Tickets are available at Excel College - Kandy, Digital Teleprint - Kotugodella Street, Kandy, Sirisena Tailors - Yatinuwara Street Kandy, Art Lanka - Getambe Kandy, and at the gate.



>> Voiceology

Unveiling a new era of choral music and original song. 'Voiceology' an anthology of song directed and choreographed by Ashanthi de Alwis and Umara Sihawansa will take place at the British School Auditorium on November 27 and 28 from 7pm. The event will feature guest performances by Ashanthi, Bathiya and Santhush, Dushyanth, Randir, Umara and Umara. It is a production of Ethno entertainment. For more information please contact 5743657/8

Tickets are available at the BAYLEAF CAFE, CHEE PARK STREET MEWS AND THE COMMONS COFFEE HOUSE



>> 'Feel Sri Lanka'

Attracting crowds of Free Independent Travellers? (FTIs) in addition to the diplomats, expatriates and conference delegates Feel Sri Lanka will take stage this Friday. Feel the warmth, experience the hospitality and embrace the breathtaking beauty of the pearl of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka. Tourism invites visiting delegates/tourists and expatriates to experience the rich culture of the island nation. 'Feel Sri Lanka', Sri Lankan traditional dances will be staged at Hotel School Auditorium 78, Galle Road, Colombo 3 (opposite Cinnamon Grand) from 5.30 pm onwards on every Friday. The recital includes a superb recital of Wes, Thelme, Sabaragamuwa, and Salupalya with one or two creative dances. For the Corporates who are hosting special delegations, Sri Lanka Tourism will undertake staging this on any other day for special groups including Meetings/Conference /Incentive delegates.

For further details and complimentary tickets for special guests contact Kumudu 071 4880570, Achini 071 4880571, Hasani 077 3627733 Namanthi 071 9872028 or Gayan 077 254417.

>> 'Never Ending'

'Never Ending', an art exhibition by S H Sarath will be held at the Artist Gallery at 18A Sarasavi Gardens, Nawala Road, Nugegoda every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 7pm. On weekdays the paintings will be shown on prior appointment for anyone interested.

Contact 2854737