

Daily News Cultural Diary

Travel around the city with the *Cultural Diary* which brings you details about fascinating events that are happening during the first week of the New Year 2011. You can also enjoy a delicious meal with your loved ones in this holiday season. Know about what is taking place at various venues this week and take your pick. You can also enjoy the movies that are screened at well-known venues. If there is an event you would like others to know, drop an email to eventcalendar@ymail.com or call us on 011 2429652. May your 2011 usher joy and prosperity.

RUVANTHI ABEYAKON

January 06 >> Magic strings of Sitar

Celebrating the homecoming of Pradeep Ratnayake

In all that he does, he attempts to internationalize Sri Lankan music and reach a global audience giving them access to a new kind of music. While being a world-class musician, he remains a Sri Lankan at heart. He is Pradeep Ratnayake, the famous sitarist who conquered the world with the sound of his sitar. His journey began at the age of five, playing with his father's Sarai, he let go of the bow and began to pluck it of its strings. His father, an amateur musician himself, seeing the boy's attempts, brought home a little sitar for his son. Since then the sitar has been an inseparable companion of Pradeep's life. Pradeep Ratnayake after a long absence from his homeland is now ready to offer an unforgettable musical experience to all fans in Sri Lanka. Two concerts will be held to celebrate the homecoming of virtuoso sitarist after his Fulbright tenure at Colombia University, New York from 2008-2010.

The concerts will be held on January 6 and 22 at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

During his time as Fulbright student, Pradeep performed and worked with an array of New York musicians. Now all Sri Lankan music lovers will have a chance to hear the magical sounds of the sitar virtuoso.

Pradeep will be joined by the brilliant tablaist Nitin Mitta from New York to give a concert of classical Hindustani music on January 6 at 7 pm at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

The Duo has performed at the Well Hall, Carnegie in November 2009 among other many venues. The concert is sponsored by the U.S.-Sri. Fulbright Commission and the American Centre, Colombo. On January 22, a concert of fusion music will take place at the same venue.

The concert will feature many of Sri Lanka's leading artists including Ravinduru Vidyapali, Rathnam Rathnadurai, Eshantha Prieth.

Aliston Joachim, Upula Madhusankha, Sumudu Suraweera, Chandimal Amarakoon, Surekha Amarasinghe and Menaka de Fonseka choir. The event will be sponsored by HNB Assurance.

Pradeep who is not merely a performer but a composer and a music director will present you uncharted territories of sound at his concerts.

The tickets for the concerts are available at the Lionel Wendt, 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7.



January 06 >> Vision 21

Vision 21 - An exhibition of paintings by Dr Jack Kulasinghe will be held at the Lionel Wendt Art Centre, 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7 on January 6 at 5 pm. The exhibition will continue till January 9 and will be open from 9.30 am to 8 pm.

January 06 >> International Tamil writers' conference

The International Tamil Writers Union in Colombo under the sponsorship of Lanka born Australian writer L. Murugapopathy and others will hold the International Tamil Writers' Conference at Colombo Tamil Sangam at No 07, 57th Lane (tail end of Ruera Mawatha), Wellawatta.

The event will take place on January 06, 07, 08 and 09. Tamil writers from many parts of the world are scheduled to participate at this conference.

The conference will include seminars (from 8.30 am to 1 pm) and cultural events from 5 pm to 8 pm.

On Sunday (09-01-2011), the cultural events will take place from 5 pm to 8 pm

at the Wellawatta Ramakrishna Mission Hall.

Only registered participants are allowed at the conference. Registration can be done at the Colombo Tamil Sangam.

The Seminar includes the following: Computing and Web Network, Lankan Tamil Literature, Documentation, Children's Literature, Translations, Little Magazines, Feminine Forum, World Tamil Literature, Refine Literature, Performing Arts and Multi-Studies. Renowned Lankan, Indian, European, Australian, Canadian and American writers are scheduled to participate at this event.

January 15 >> Tharawo Igilethi

Lucian Bulathsinhala's *Tharawo Igilethi* will be staged on January 15 at 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm at the Gampaha Bandaranayake Vidyalaya.

Every Saturday Sunday >> '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 10.30 am, to 7 pm. On weekdays the paintings will be shown on prior appointment for anyone interested by calling ☎ 2854737.

] Big Screen [

Inception



Inception (2010) will be screened on January 4 at The American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 6 pm (Running Time: 148 min) Leonardo DiCaprio (Actor), Ken Watanabe (Actor), Christopher Nolan (Director). Acclaimed filmmaker Christopher Nolan directs an international cast in this sci-fi actioner that travels around the globe and into the world of dreams.

Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) is the best there is at extraction: stealing valuable secrets inside the subconscious during the mind's vulnerable dream state. His skill has made him a coveted player in industrial espionage but also has made him a fugitive and cost him dearly. Now he may get a second chance if he can do the impossible: inception, planting an idea rather than stealing one. If they succeed, Cobb and his team could pull off the perfect crime. But no planning or expertise can prepare them for a dangerous enemy that seems to predict their every move. An enemy only Cobb could have seen coming.

