

Daily News Cultural Diary

RUWANTHI ABEYAKOON

Travel around the city with the 'Cultural Diary' which brings you details about fascinating events happening this week. You can also enjoy a delicious meal with your loved ones. Know about what is taking place at various venues this week and take your pick to relax and enjoy life. You can also go for the thrilling movies that are screened at well known venues. If there is an event you would like others to know, drop an email to eventcalendar@gmail.com or call us on 011 2429652.

January 31 >> Making characters live and breathe

© British Council hall

One of Britain's most talented contemporary writers will hold a workshop for creative writers in Colombo. 'Making Characters Live and Breathe' a creative writing workshop for those aged 17 and above will be held today from 3 pm to 6 pm at the British Council hall, Colombo. Workshop will focus on some new fun ways to create characters and how to make a person seem real, not paper-thin.

Some writing experience is required, but the main requirement is the willingness to experiment and an open mind. Registration fee is Rs 500 and will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis at the Library Help Desk. For details call Ramnani on 4521538.

'Messing with people's lives' the perils and pleasures of writing stories based on fact: readings from The Great Lover, is the other program that will be conducted by Jill Dawson. This event will take place on February 1 at 6 pm at the British Council hall Colombo and will be followed by a Question and Answer session. Admission to this event is free and open to all.

Jill Dawson began publishing at the age of 22 by winning first prize in a national short story competition. She went on to win an Eric Gregory Award for poetry, and published her first novel, *Trick of the Light*, in 1996. She is the author of six novels, editor of six anthologies of poetry and short stories, and has published one poetry pamphlet. Fred and Edie, her third novel, was shortlisted for both the Whitbread and Orange Prize, and was voted one of 50 essential novels by a living author. She has held many fellowships, including the British Council Fellowship in Amherst, and the Creative Writing Fellowship at UEA, where she taught on the Writing MA. In 2006 she received an honorary doctorate in recognition of her writing and her work with new writers. Jill Dawson has taught creative writing on a freelance basis since 1988, both nationally and internationally, and currently she is an advisory fellow for the Royal Literary Fund and the Founding Director of *Gold Dust*, a unique mentoring scheme for new writers in the UK.



January 31 >> Colombo Colombo

© Tower Hall theatre

Colombo Colombo will be staged today at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the Tower Hall theatre, Maradana. The tragic-comic musical play is fast-paced, theatrical and bursting with energy while constantly attempting to tap into the imagination of the audience to create an exciting theatre experience. Colombo Colombo was the representative of Sri Lanka at the South Asian Women's Theatre Festival 2010 and the Kathmandu International Theatre Festival 2010. The play has won several awards including Best Play of the Year Award at National Theatre Festival 2010. Tickets are available at Sarasavi Bookshop Nugegoda, Sadeepa Bookshop Borella, Elphinstone and Tower theatres.

Indika Ferdinando

February 01 >> Cory Wallia in Sri Lanka

© Bishops College

Renowned Bollywood makeup artist and hairstylist Cory Wallia will be in Colombo to conduct a special workshop. The workshop will focus on grooming the skills of Sri Lankan make up artists and hairstylists for the National Awards 2011 to be held in February. Wallia will visit Sri Lanka on the invitation of SLAHAB. The workshop will kick off with "look and learn seminar" at the Bishops College hall (January 31) from 10 am. Hands-on workshops for a limited number of participants will be held on February 1 and 2 from 9.30 am to 4 pm. Special focus will be on bridal makeup, its modern techniques, preserving makeup and much more. For more information contact Dilhani on 011 5631597. SLAHAB (Sri Lanka Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians)

February 05 >> Ethical Fashion Week

'Messing with people's lives' South Asia's first Ethical Fashion Week will kick off on the second day (February 5) of HSBC Colombo Fashion Week. Ethical fashion designers from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia will showcase at this first edition.



February 07 >> Never Ending

'Never Ending', an art exhibition by S. H. Sarath will be held at the Artist Gallery at 18A Saranavi Gardens, Nawala Road, Nugegoda every Saturday and Sunday from 10.30 a.m. to 7 pm. On weekdays the paintings will be shown on prior appointment for anyone interested by calling 2854737.

February 12 >> New World Concert

© Ladies' College

The Symphony

Orchestra of Sri Lanka will present the New World Concert on February 12 at the Ladies' College Hall with the participation of some exceptional musical personalities.



Gregory Rose

Gregory Rose, the British Conductor who conducted the SOSL in the memorable performance of Verdi's requiem in 2009, will be back to conduct the Orchestra. Gregory Rose has developed a warm rapport with both the orchestra and local audiences over the years and has the happy knack of inspiring the players to draw on all their reserves and reach greater heights. The concert will also feature international flute soloist Celine Charlier from Brazil, who will perform a Flute Concert with a distinct Latin American flavour composed by Brazil's foremost living composer, Villant-Cortes. Charlier has premiered many flute compositions written for her and is certain to use her considerable experience and skill to make this vibrant composition come alive. The New World Concert will also present the outstanding soprano, Tharanga Gonetilleke, an old girl of Ladies' College, who has thrilled many audiences with her fabulous singing.

Tharanga is currently performing with the New York City Opera Company after training at the Juilliard School of Music and completing a stint with the Juilliard Opera company. She is certainly no stranger to the Colombo stage and returns to perform a range of operatic arias by Puccini, Mozart and Lehár.

The grand finale will be a performance of Dvořák's much loved Symphony No 9 in E Minor 'From the New World'.

This great composition was written during Dvořák's time as the Director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York.

The influence of American musical heritage is clearly identifiable in the rhythms and the melodies of the symphony. It is a favourite with the musicians and audience loves it.

Tickets for this New World Concert, which is co-sponsored by the DFCC Bank and Brandix, supported by the Deva Surya Sena Trust, will be available at Titus Stores, Liberty Plaza from the January 29. Call 2501209 to reserve your seats in advance.

February 07 >> Iranian Film Week

© National Art Gallery

National Day celebrations

As part of the national day celebrations, the Cultural Section of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will present a cultural week, comprising an exhibition of miniature paintings and handicrafts at the Art Gallery, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, and a Film Week at the NFC Cinema, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7. The chief guest for the film week will be Mass Media and Communication Minister Keheliya Rambukwella. The Exhibition of Miniature Paintings and Handicrafts will be declared open by Cultural and Arts Minister T B Ekanayake, at 10 am on February 7 at the National Art Gallery, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 7.

The miniature and Handicrafts exhibition and the Iranian Film Week will be enriched by the presence of three artists from Iran at the exhibition and the film screenings.

The world renowned Iranian woman film director Puran Derakhshandeh, will be here to participate in the inauguration of the film week as a guest of the National Film Corporation.

She is also scheduled to meet the local cinema personalities and conduct a workshop for the film enthusiasts at the NFC. Jafari and Sami are the two experts of Iranian Arts, who will exhibit their talents in person at the Art Gallery. Entrance will be free. See also page 18

February 07 >> Feel Sri Lanka

© Galle Face Hotel

'Feel Sri Lanka' the weekly cultural extravaganza initiated by Sri Lanka Tourism to enable foreign visitors to witness authentic traditional Sri Lankan dance forms in Colombo will synergize with the Colombo City Tour, a unique venture by Sri Lanka Tourism and Ebert Silva Holidays this month onwards. Every Friday evening a sightseeing tour in the Colombo City will commence from Galle Face Hotel at 4 pm picking up guests from city hotels en-route.

The Tour on the striking red open-deck double-decker will take the tourists to most of Colombo with a live commentary on board by a professional guide and a brief stop at the Independence

Square. The Colombo City Tour will then arrive at the Hotel School Auditorium 78, Galle Road, Colombo 3 (opposite Cinnamon Grand) in time for the 'Feel Sri Lanka' show commencing at 5.30 pm. It is a one hour, back to back show consisting of traditional dances of Sri Lanka with a few fusion acts based on traditional steps. Tickets and more information on Colombo City Tour will be available at all city hotels and on hotlines 0777 599 963 and 0777 772 595. Information on 'Feel Sri Lanka' can be obtained from Sri Lanka Tourism 0777 4885870. Nimanthi 071 987 2028 and Gayan 077 2544 117.

Big Screen

The Wedding Planner

As the month of February begins with love in the air, the American Center will bring best loved romantic comedies for all movie lovers. The Wedding Planner.

The Wedding Planner (2001) will be screened on February 1 at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03 at 6 pm (Running Time: 103 min).

In The Wedding Planner Lopez is Mary, a lovable woman who believes "those who can't do, teach. Those who can't wed, plan!" Her slapstick moments are light-hearted and she is spot-on as the controlling, compulsive-yet-sweet planner.

The bad news is Lopez didn't get much of a vehicle in which to test drive her newfound comedic skills. Mary's life is her career. Planning other people's weddings takes all of her time, leaving no room for a love life of her own. Her only personal life is a Scrabble club, to which she and her father (Alex Rocco, whose wandering Italian accent is painful to listen to) belong. When a handsome young doctor (Matthew McConaughey) saves her from a collision with a runaway dumper, she is instantly wooed by his quiet charm. Too bad he's the fiancé of Mary's biggest client, Fran (Bridgette Wilson-Sampras), the job that will launch Mary as a partner in her firm.



Orfevres (French Movie)

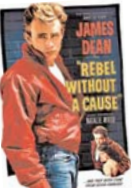
36 Quai des Orfevres by Olivier Marchal (2004) will be screened on Tuesday, February 1 at 3 pm and Wednesday February 2 at 6.30 pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration-110m).

underbelly of the Parisian criminal world, the Police are frustrated by a gang committing a series of violent robberies. Leo Vinks and Denis Klein are two cops seeking promotion and the imminent departure of the Chief sets the scene for them to compete for the vacant throne. Their competition between them becomes increasingly ruthless and blurs the usual lines of morality until there seems no difference between the police and the criminals they chase. The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.

Rebel without a cause

Namel Malini Punchi Theatre Film Club will present Nicholas Ray's 'Rebel without a cause' on January 31 at 6.30 pm. Starring James Dean, Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo and a host of great artists, the movie is wrenchingly powerful.

In one of the most influential performances in movie history James Dean plays the new kid in town whose loneliness, frustration and anger mirrored those of postwar teen and still reverberates since 1955 when it was made. The movie has won three academy awards. Namel Malini Punchi Theatre Film Club was formed three years ago with the intention of screening classics of the yester years which have not been seen by the younger generation. Some of these films are not even heard by present generations. The artistic 'quality' of these films is marvelous and incomparable and memorable. Puchi Theatre invites new members to join and enjoy its fruits monthly. Details can be obtained from the Puchi Theatre, 37, Dr. N. M. Perera Mawatha, Borella, Colombo 08. 2672121 or 0773731017



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