

RUWANTHI ABEYAKOON

Happy Valentine's Day to all those who are celebrating it out there! This week many events will take place with Valentine's Day in heart. Amid the many celebrations you can also enjoy the art exhibitions, dramas and musical recitals that take place within this week. Read the Cultural Diary and know where to head to break away from the busy work schedule. 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 ventcaendard@gmail.com or call us on 011 2429652.



FEBRUARY 27
Barefoot Gallery

Once Upon a time

The illustrations of unwritten tales of an unwritten history- 'Once upon a time' by Alex Stewart will take place at Barefoot Gallery, 704, Galle road, Colombo 3, until February 27. This exhibition follows on from the paintings Alex showed at Barefoot in 2002. When presented with the written word, our minds create images for the words. But in reverse that is when there is an image and no words, we struggle. What does it mean, what is being said, are two of the most often asked questions. In this

show Alex wants many viewers to free their thoughts, invent connections and discover present day myths. None is wrong as none is correct. They are all part of the meaning to be shared. Imagine finding in an old suitcase, a collection of drawings and paintings, there are angels, three wheelers, forms that are based on betel cutters, jungle and ruins. All familiar, but no words beyond enigmatic titles, you are left to decipher the image for yourselves. These new paintings also reflect something of Alex's deepening recollections of travelling in Sri Lanka over the last 15 years - watching the street life, reading the papers, listening to the stories and experiences of those around him. Alex will surely take these memories home to the UK, and over time images build until they appear on the paper. They grow and feed each other into a body of work ready to be shown, triggering new stories and histories waiting to be discovered by the viewers. For more information call ☎ 2505559.

FEBRUARY 20
Lionel Wendt

Clear Waters

Eshantha Peiris who has been actively involved on the local music scenes as a collaborative musician and music director will once again step into limelight with 'Clear Waters' - recital which will be held at the Lionel Wendt 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7 on February 20. Eshantha, who is currently a principal conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, co-director of the Old Joes Choir and director of Contempo Choir, in addition to being the keyboardist of the fusion band ThriLoka will couple

up with Flautist Celina Charlier, a native of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Celina has been friends with the distinguished contemporary Brazilian composer Edmundo Villani-Ca rtes since 1991. Exemplifying the idea of human relationships generating music, Celina and Villani have performed together frequently and Celina has commissioned and premiered several of Villani's compositions for flute.



FEBRUARY 27
Bentota Beach Hotel

Reverberating rhythms

The rhythmic tika-tika of eclectic beats will penetrate the southern air as the local maestros of drumming take the stage at Bentota Beach Hotel on Saturday, February 27 from 8.30 to 11 pm. The evening promises to be a refreshing break from the usual unting a myriad of Sri Lankan drumming traditions from across the country and also featuring the well known 'Elephant Foot' and 'TriLoka' with the aberrant flare of Pabalu. Twenty handpicked young professionals from around the island will represent folk drumming from the Northern, Southern, Central and Sabaragamuwa traditions. Known collectively as 'Rhythms of the Isle', this group represents a hapsody of Sri Lankan rhythms that tell the story of the age old tradition of percussion which is original and eclectic. 'TriLoka' lives up to its name of three words by amalgamating the traditions of Sri Lankan folk music, Indian raga, jazz and rock. The band officially entered the field in 2006 and since then

TriLoka has gained recognition not only for its distinctive beats but also for the use of unique musical instruments. The band partnership is made with Harshan Gallage on drums, Uvindu Perera on bass, Sarani Perera on guitar, Eshantha Peiris on Keyboards and Pabalu Wijegoonawardane on percussion. As the night thickens rhythmic beats of the transcending styles of drumming will resonate. 'Elephant Foot', a collaboration in the neighbouring shores of Hikkaduwa is influenced by the multitude of drumming styles found globally. Pioneering into the world of fusion drumming the irrefutable technique and talent of this group has won the nod of approval from many. Be entertained by the multitude of talent displayed by the three performances and enjoy a night of the traditional rhythms and fusion drumming. For more details call John Keells Hotels Reservations ☎ 2439049 - 51

FEBRUARY 18
Lionel Wendt

Art Exhibition

An Exhibition by Ravindra Dissanayake will take place at the Lionel Wendt 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7 from February 18 to 20.

FEBRUARY Every Saturday and Sunday
Lionel Wendt

'Never Ending'

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

Indian Film Festival

Indian High Commission's cultural unit, together with National Film Corporation, will be organizing an Indian Film Festival at NFC Auditorium, 3030, Baddalawa Mawatha, Colombo 7 from February 18 to 24. The event is put together to celebrate India's 64th Independence Day. A mixture of latest movies as well as old hits will be screened at the event. The inauguration of the Film Festival will be held on February 18 at 6 pm in the presence of Mass Media and Information Minister Kehelwa Rambukwella and Indian High Commissioner Ashok K Kantha. Rajkumar Hirani's *3 Idiots* starring Amir Khan, Madavan, Sharmam Joshi, Kareena Kapoor and Boman Irani will be screened after the reception. The event is open only for invites.

February 18 at 7 pm
☐ **3 Idiots**



Two friends embark on a quest for a lost buddy. On this journey, they encounter a long forgotten bet, a wedding they must crash and a funeral that goes impossibly out of control.

February 19 at 2.30 pm
☐ **Muqaddar Ka Sikandar**

Orphaned and abused at a very young age, a young boy faces the harsh side of life as he struggles to make a living by slaving day and night working in the house of a wealthy man named Ramnath. Ramnath does not like him; it is later revealed that another orphan had taken advantage of his kindness in the past,

hence his animosity. Ramnath's daughter Kaama, however, empathizes with the boy and they form a friendship. Directed by Prakash Mehra the movie stars Amitabh Bachchan, Raakhee Gulzar, Amjad Khan, Kader Khan and Vinod Khanna.

February 19 at 6 pm
☐ **Aawaara**

Raj lives a life of poverty as a result of being estranged from his vindictive father, a wealthy district judge. Judge Raghunath fears Raj's mother out of the house years earlier on suspicion of infidelity. The cast includes Prithviraj Kapoor, Nargis and Raj Kapoor. It is directed by Raj Kapoor.

February 20 at 6 pm
☐ **Aag**

The 1948 Bollywood film is produced and directed by and starring Raj Kapoor. It was also the first of many films he did with actress Nargis. Premnath, Nigar Sultana, Kamal Kapoor and Kamini Kaushal also starred in supporting roles. The movie is about pursuing one's dreams rather than bending to parental demands.

February 20 at 2.30 pm
☐ **Abhimaan**

Directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, the movie stars Amitabh Bachchan, his real-life wife, Jaya Bachchan, Asrani, and Bindu. The movie centers around a singer.

February 21 at 5.30 pm
☐ **Sangam**

The movie is produced by R K Films and directed by Raj Kapoor. It stars Raj Kapoor, Vyjayantimala and Rajendra Kumar.

February 22 at 5.30 pm
☐ **Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai**

Directed by Radhu Karmakar, the film stars Raj Kapoor, Pran and Padmini. It is a crime melodrama focusing on Raju, a man who travels India singing the praises of the river Ganges, using his songs to make peace and lift people's spirits.

FEBRUARY 18
Lionel Wendt

'Is he dead?'

'Is He Dead?' presented by Elizabeth Moir School will take stage at the Lionel Wendt, 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7 on February 18 and 19.



Big screen

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

Composition for Victory Day

'Composition for Victory Day' is a comedy produced in 1998. (Running time 107 minutes) This movie will be screened on February 23 at Russian Cultural Center Cinema Hall, No10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7 at 6 pm. On the eve of the Victory Day celebrations, three old wartime friends reunite in Moscow. But they don't get a chance to sit and recall their long-forgotten exploits. Chairman of the Veterans Organisation Kilo-



vator is accused of dealings with the criminal world and put behind the

bars. Former dissident Morgulis, now residing abroad, and participant of protest rallies Dyakov organize the release of their friend from prison. Confronted with the cruelty of their enemies who mastered the arrest of their wartime buddy, our heroes involve mafia and security service in the release operation, and then decide to hijack a plane. Entrance to watch this movie is free and all films are subtitled in English.

Sleepless in Seattle

"People who truly loved once are far more likely to love again. Sam, do you think there's someone out there you could love as much as your wife?"

Sleepless in Seattle (1993) will be screened on February 15 at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03 at 6pm (Running Time: 105 min)

Annie Reed is heading to see her family on Christmas Eve and is lis-



tening to a radio call in show.

One of the callers is eight year old Jonah who tells the audience that his dad needs a new wife. After it comes out that Jonah's mom died, and dad Sam is put on the spot to talk to the woman shrink on air, women all over the country fall in love with this man that loved his deceased wife so passionately.

Annie is determined to meet Sam because she feels a strong pull toward Sam and Jonah.

Scoop (French Movie)

Scoop by Woody Allen (2007) will be screened on Tuesday, February 15 at 3 pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration: 92min)

A young journalist student, Sondra Pransky, is in England. Her friend and she go to a magic show. When selected to take part in one of the acts Sondra is contacted by a recently deceased famous journalist who is deter-



mined to give her his last scoop. He tells her that

the son of Lord Lyman, Peter Lyman, is the tart card killer. Dragging along Sid Waterman, a kooky magician, Sondra attempts to discover who Peter Lyman really is and if he is a killer.

What she doesn't realize is that while she is trying to protect the country of England her heart might be what is really in jeopardy.

The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.

February 23 at 5.30 pm
☐ **Parineeta**

The Bollywood musical adaptation of the 1914 Bengali novel, Parineeta by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, the movie is Pradeep Sarkar's debut movie. It features Vidya Balan, Sanjay Dutt, Sati Ali Khan, Raina Sen and Divya Mirza. The film primarily revolves around the lead characters, Lolita and Shekhar. Since childhood, Shekhar and Lolita have been friends and slowly this friendship blossoms into love.

February 24 at 5.30 pm
☐ **Hum Saath Saath Hai**

Embodiment of the theme of unity and directed by Sooraj R Barjatya, the movie includes a star cast lead by Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Sati Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Neelam Kothari, Mohish Behl and Tabu. The story centers on a family headed by Ramkishan, his wife Mamta, and their three sons, played by the leading actors.