

Today's 'Cultural Diary' brings you details about several fascinating stage plays and events happening in the island nation. Take your pick of stage plays, exhibitions, or dance performance and add colour to your routine life. You can make merry and enjoy the adventures or sit back, relax and enjoy a movie of your choice. 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 2429652. Have a pleasant week.

Daily News Cultural Diary

March 25

Women Sharing Life

@ Alliance Française de Kotte

The photography exhibition 'Women sharing life, water, pots and jars in Sri Lanka and Sudan' by Christine Robichon, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and Anoma Rajakaruna, Sri Lankan filmmaker and photographer, will be held from until March 25 at Alliance Française de Kotte (139, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05) to coincide with the International Women's Day which falls on March 8 and the International Day on Water on March 22.

Christine Robichon, Ambassador of France in Sri Lanka and the Maldives states her thoughts..

"In Sudan a saheb (Arabic word which means 'way' and also 'public fountain') is an installation created and maintained by a person to provide free drinking water for the passers by and travellers. The Muslim people who take the initiative to build a saheb, do it, some-times, for religious purpose, seeing it as a way, recommended by prophet Muhammad, to reach heaven for themselves or for a person dear to them. It is also an act of solidarity and the will to share water which is scarce yet vital in a very hot and dry climate.

The central element of a saheb is the terracotta jar, regularly refilled with water, where everybody can quench their thirst. The forms and the techniques of making the jars vary according to the regions.

A saheb consist of one, two, three or a full set of jars, of the same or different form, kept on the ground or on stands made of wood, metal or brickwork. Lots of efforts are made to keep away the heat from the jars and their previous content. The jars are placed in well ventilated places, under the shade of a tree, sometimes fixed between the branches or protected from the sun by small covers. They can also be wrapped in pieces of cloth.

When a family decides to build a saheb, the choice of the jars belongs to women. The jars live, breathe, per-

spite and allow grass and plants to germinate at their feet. In time, the jars acquire a patina and are covered with silt and mosses. The other elements of a saheb are the cups, often tins, to draw water. Sometimes, lids prevent sand, dust and insects to enter into the jars.

In Sudan, the water jars, which were in use for more than 5000 years, are part of the landscape in towns and villages, but the rich travellers, who go aboard in air-conditioned four wheel vehicles, do not pay attention to them. As I admired the efforts made by thousands of people to give water to poor and to keep the water cool, I was charmed by the simple beauty of the sahebs and as I hear that they will disappear, in the cities, in a few decades, I felt like taking pictures of the ones I saw while I was travelling. Later, I thought that I could make use of my pictures to make the people of other countries aware of the Sudanese sahebs and through them, show how drinking water in the world is rare.

Anoma Rajakaruna presents the Sri Lankan view

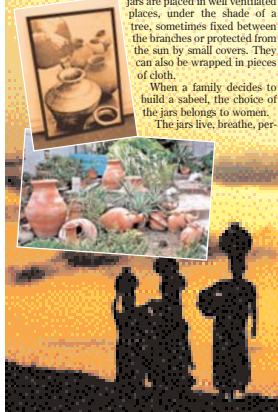
In everyday life we see women as water bearers. Women mould clay carefully into pots. They walk miles fetching water each day.

But what interests me as a photographer is how they share life. In a society, women are told not to speak out or not to laugh aloud they share a smile or a tear, near a well or on a river bank and sometimes around an urban public tap.

They share life bathing, washing, and carrying water.

Water is life. Women share life. It's time to celebrate "Women sharing life"

You can experience these thoughts and see how they touch your life at the exhibition "Women Sharing Life". Christine Robichon and Anoma Rajakaruna invite you to view this wonderful exhibition about this precious natural resource. Be it scarce in Sudan or abundant in Sri Lanka water is essential for life and is linked with the vital and the generous gesture of sharing.



March 11 >> Book discussion

@ Sri Lanka Press Council
Seetha Mahendra's short story collection *Samugath Subadmiya* will be discussed at Sri Lanka

Press Council (close to Mel Medura and Lanka Sunithiyala in Horton Place) on March 11 at 4 pm. *Samugath Subadmiya* is Seetha's 10th book. The discussion will be moderated by Dr Praneeth Abhayasundara. The session is organized by Press Council Media course students.

March 11 >> Dance Forum

@ Goethe Hall
German lighting technician and light designer Konstan Krause will conduct a workshop on theatre lighting at Goethe Hall/British School Auditorium on March 11.

Krause was working for several important theatre houses in Berlin before he started his own company Lightview. He added architecture and event lighting to his portfolio and is now successfully working in different projects worldwide. Krause will give a theoretical introduction into the field of light engineering and also share his practical experiences in setting up a light design on stage for the specific needs of a dance theatre production. For information call 2694562.

March 12 >> Signspeak

@ British School Auditorium
Experience another electrifying performance from natanada dance theatre of Sri Lanka. 'SIGNSPEAK' is an exploration of the world of the hearing impaired. This production is a collaboration between dancers who can hear and youngsters with hearing impairments. It marries the breathtaking choreography of Kapila Palihawadana and his eclectic choice of music with the surprising abilities of young dancers who feel rather than hear the music.

This is the first time a dance company has worked closely with deaf children. The project has given the children a unique opportunity to express themselves and displays some extraordinary talent. SIGNSPEAK is a deeply moving blend of music and movement that will raise the hairs on the back of your neck. The event will take place on March 12, 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30pm at the British School Auditorium. Tickets are available at Alliance Française de Kotte (139, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05).



Big screen

The American Centre will screen movies under the theme 'Women's History Month' during March. Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. March has been set aside as this month in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In India, this month is celebrated in October and corresponds with the celebration of Persons Day, which falls on October 18.

>> The Colour Purple

The Colour Purple (1985) will be screened on March 8 at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 6 pm (Running Time: 154 min)

Danny Glover (Actor)
Whoopi Goldberg (Actor)
Steven Spielberg (Director)
Annie Reed is heading to see her family on Christmas Eve and is listening 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 radio 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. Scoring is limited and is first-come, first-served.



>> Shark Tale

The American Centre will also screen youth movies every Saturday. On March 12, you can enjoy watching *Shark Tale* at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 3.30 pm (Running time - 90 minutes)

Shark Tale is a 2004 CGI comedy film produced by DreamWorks Animation. In the story, a young fish named Oscar (voiced by Will Smith) falsely claims to have killed the son of a shark boss to win favour with the boss' enemies and advance his own community standing. The film additionally features the voices of Jack Black as Lemmy, Renee Zellweger as Angie, Angelina Jolie as Lola, Martin Scorsese as Sykes and Robert De Niro as Don Lino. Its original title was *Sharkslayer*, but the producers thought that this might provoke a degree of misunderstanding among the target audience of the film, children and families. *Shark Tale* is also one of the first three feature-length films to be made into a Game Boy Advance Video. It was released into theaters on October 1, 2004.

>> La femme de l'avaiteur

(French Movie)

La femme de l'avaiteur by Eric Rohmer (1981) will be screened on Tuesday, March 8 at 3pm and Wednesday, March 9 at 6.30 pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration-108min)

A postal worker, Francois, is about to visit his girlfriend, Anne, early one morning when he sees another man leaving her apartment. When she is confronted by Francois later that day, Anne tells him nothing about the incident. In fact, the mysterious man was one of Anne's former lovers, an airline pilot named Christian, who only visited her to say goodbye after deciding to return to his pregnant wife. The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.



>> The Driver for Vera

The Driver for Vera is a drama produced in 2004. (Running time 114 minutes).

This movie will be screened on March 09 at the Russian Cultural Centre Cinema Hall, No 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7 at 6 pm. In the year 1962, General Serov returns from a trip to Moscow with his villa near the Black Sea port Sevastopol together with a young driver Victor, just hired for the job.

The General tries to arrange personal life for his daughter Vera, who has a small physical defect - she

limps. Victor is unaware of the real reason of his transfer to the Crimea, quickly makes friends with the General's adjutants, guards and servants.

The young man is going to play the major role in the sequence of events about to happen in the house. The movie has won 7 awards.

Entrance to watch this movie is free and all films are subtitled in English.

>> Short & Sweet

Bringing something to life or putting soul into it is what animation is all about.

When you watch the artistic animated films in the programme 'Short & Sweet' you will see that the featured artists not only bring materials, puppets and paintings to life but they create worlds that could hardly be more different with regard to the way they were made. Selected animated short films from Germany (2000-2007) will be

screened at this film forum. The cinematic techniques used include animated drawings, layering and puppet animation and paintings, clay and sand animation through to 3D computer animation. Many films feature a combination of various techniques.

The films have their own unique signature. The great variety proves that, in animated films, the filmmaker's creativity and imagination has no boundary. *Short & Sweet* will be held at the Goethe-Hall on Wednesday, March 9 at 5.30 pm. The film forum is moderated by Anoma Rajakaruna. For information call 2694562.

>> Un Coeur en Hiver (French)

'Un Coeur en Hiver (1992) by Claude Sautet will be screened on March 11 at Alliance Française de Kotte (139, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05) at 6 pm.

Stephane and Maxine are partners in a successful business that makes and repairs violins. Maxine falls in love with one of his clients, an attractive young violin performer. Camille and plans to marry her. However, Camille finds herself attracted to the quiet and unresponsive Stephane. When Stephane shows no signs of reciprocating her growing attraction for him, Camille becomes deeply upset... The movie is subtitled in English. Entrance free.

>> ICES celebrates International Women's Day

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) Colombo will celebrate the International Women's Day, now in its 100th year at the ICES Auditorium, 2, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8 from March 9 - 11. A panel discussion and a three days film festival have been arranged to celebrate this event.

The panel discussion is titled "Local Government and Women" and will be held on Wednesday, March 9 at 4.30 pm and the speakers are Mariyam Saheed, Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan on "Political Quotas for Women in Pakistan," Chulan Kodikara, Research Associate, ICES on "Representation of Women at Local Councils" and Kumudini Samura, Co-Director, Women and Media Collective on "The Struggle to Secure Nominations for Women."



Following award winning films will be screened at this film festival:
March 9 at 6.15 pm - "The Lemon Tree"
March 10 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm - "The Japanese Wife"
March 11 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm - "Desert Flower"