

# Cultural Diary

This week's 'Cultural Diary' brings you details about several other fascinating events happening in the city. 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.

RUWANTHI ABEYAKOON

August 08

## >> Japanese cultural events

'Japanese Cultural Month' organized by the Embassy of Japan will be held during the month of August featuring several cultural events in Colombo and Kandy. The event will disseminate information on Japanese culture and lifestyle as well as its popular performing arts and aesthetics. The following events have been organized during the Japanese Cultural month.

August 2011

8: Contemporary Film Festival at the National Film Corporation Auditorium.

20 to 21: Cultural Exhibition at the Lionel Wendt.

25: Yosakoi Dance at the University of Peradeniya, E.O.E. Pereira Theatre (Faculty of Engineering).

27: Yosakoi Dance at the New Town Hall, Colombo 7.

The film festival will feature seven contemporary films including two animated movies namely, *Glass Rabbit* and *Chibi Maruko-chan*, a comedy entitled *Nabbi's Love* - a story based on an old woman's incubated passionate love, *A Stranger of Mine*, *Hotel Hibiscus* and *Slanger's* which are full of excitement, adventure and entertainment.

The cultural exhibition will feature Ikebana, Bonsai, Origami and Calligraphy together with demonstrations of these typically Japanese arts. The 'Yosakoi Dance' will feature 'Hokoto-gumi', which is an elite unit of Team Yamabiko, a Yosakoi dancing team which mainly performs at Kobe. 'Yosakoi' which means 'Come at night' is a unique style of dance which originated in Japan in the city of Kochi in 1954. The style of dance is highly energetic, combining traditional Japanese dance movements to modern music.

Admission to Japanese Cultural Month events are free of charge to the public and will be on first come first served basis.



August 08

## >> Arunawanna

Visharadha Arunawanna Katuawala will hold her maiden solo song festival, *Arunawanna* on August 8 at 1 pm at the New Art Gallery of the Colombo University. She is a final year student of the Arts Faculty, Colombo University and is the daughter of Visharadha Nandasena Katuawala.



August 08

## >> Summer camp at Russian Centre

The Russian Centre in Colombo comes out again with a Children's Holiday Camp for this summer holiday season. The idea of this camp is to develop the skills of the children and enable to spend their holiday usefully and happily.

This programme is mainly designed for the working parents. It will consist of an art workshop, story telling, handwork, computer studies, games, internet, e-mail, free style dancing, chess coaching camps, free library reading, famous film shows, outdoor games and much more. All these will take place during the weekdays from August 8 to 19 from 8.30 am to 1 pm. For further information call the Cultural Officer at the Russian Centre, No. 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.



August 08

## >> Young Sri Lankan Artists' exhibition

An art exhibition by Young Sri Lankan Artists organized by the Embassy of Italy will be held until August 10 at the Harold Piers Gallery, Guildford Crescent (Dr. Kemasiri Premadasa Mawatha), Colombo 7.

August 12

## >> Oh my goat

Enjoy twenty hours of the best electronic music, mind-blowing visuals and absolutely crazy freebies on August 12 at 4 pm at the Beach House, Mount Lavinia featuring Asvajit, Greve, Shiyam, Tareeq, Twigs and many more.



August 12

## >> Balloth Ekka Be

Two special shows of the hilarious comedy 'Balloth Ekka Be' written and directed by Ravindra Ariyaratna will be staged on August 12 (Friday) at the Piliyandala Town Hall at 3.30pm and 6.45pm. Starring are renowned Wijaya Nandasiri, Roshan Piliyandala, Gihan Fernando, Saman Hemarathna (Leeliasena), Kumara Thirumadura and Amusha Dissanayake.

Music is provided by Shantha Peiris, stage set designed by Lovulin Vandervel while stage management is of Asoka De Zoysa and Shantha Udaya Kumara. Gihan Fernando has designed the costumes for the drama while the lighting is done by Ranga Samarakoon. Make-up art of Saman Hemarathna will create an unforgettable visual experience. Jude Srimal is the chief organizer of the play and the drama is presented by Sagath Jayasinghe on behalf of East, I Lanka Computer School. The drama will be an experience too costly to miss. Tickets are available at Sarasavi Book Shop Piliyandala.

August 14

## >> Piano and violin recital

Piano and violin recital by Eshantha Peiris and Manjima de Saram will take place on Sunday, August 14 at the Lionel Wendt, 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7.



# Big screen

## The Royal Tenenbaums

*The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) will be screened on August 9 at the American Centre, No. 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 6 pm. (Running Time: 110 minutes) Wes Anderson's award-winning comedy deals with the Tenenbaums, a family of child prodigies whose lives become disappointing after they are left by their father, Royal. Quirky, funny, sad, and wildly inventive and original, *The Royal Tenenbaums* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served.



## Boyfriends and Girlfriends

*Boyfriends and Girlfriends* (1987) by Eric Rohmer will be screened on Tuesday, August 9 at 3 pm and Wednesday, August 10 at 6.30 pm at Alliance Francaise de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration - 103 minutes).

Middle-class Parisian suburbs: Blanche and Lea, office worker and student, meet and become friends. Lea is going out with Fabien, but is thinking of leaving him. Blanche falls for Lea's handsome and witty friend Alexandre, but is tongue-tied whenever she meets him. Lea goes on holiday and Blanche, still smitten with the dashing Alexandre, begins to get to know Fabien.

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



## La marche de l'empereur

*La marche de l'empereur* (March of the Penguins) by Luc Jacquet (2005) will be screened on August 12 at 6 pm at AF de Kotte, 139, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5. (Duration - 1 hour 25 minutes)

Every year, the emperor penguins leave the ocean that has been their home during the summer months and walk across the frozen Antarctic wastes to their breeding ground on a safe plateau of ice. The annual courting ritual culminates in the laying of an egg which the parent penguins must protect assiduously over the harsh winter months. Whilst the father penguin stays in the breeding colony, keeping the egg warm with his body heat, the mother undertakes the 70-mile long trek back to the sea to fetch nourishment for their chick once it has hatched. For some, this ordeal is rewarded with the birth of a healthy young penguin, and the cycle of life continues. For others, there is a less happy outcome...

Stares: Morgan Freeman, Romane Bohringer and Jules Sitruk. Entrance free and movies are subtitled in English.

## Nikolai I (part 1)

*Nikolai I* (part 1) will be screened on August 10 at the Russian Cultural Center Cinema Hall, No. 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7 at 6 pm.

Movie highlights  
 \* The Decembrists riot. The first day of the 'Nicolas Era'  
 \* Russian classics - Pushkin, Glinka, Brullov  
 \* Russian - Persian War. Griboedov assassination  
 \* Russia on railway  
 \* Power of bureaucracy  
 \* Anti-Russian campaign in Poland

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

August 13

## >> Memories, Maps and Dreams

Josephine Balakrishnan will hold 'Memories, Maps and Dreams' an exhibition of paintings at the Barefoot Gallery, No 704, Galle Road, Colombo 03 from August 13 to August 28.

In eastern culture a dream can be a map; the dreamer a vehicle of the Divine. In western culture dreams refer to the psyche's expression of the ego. In 'Memories, Maps and Dreams', Josephine Balakrishnan deciphers the mystery of dreams. "We see the western symbols that unlock the psyche and the messages," Balakrishnan ponders. "Do we live to dream, or dream to live?" The prints and paintings in this body of work address the question, "Why do we need maps when we always have a thread of memories and a myriad of dreams to lead us through each passage?"

With colors and birds flying, this show provides not only maps of moons, images of lovers walking, and references to the past and future, but seeks to reveal our own internal maps. Balakrishnan uses symbols, societal themes, and often scene collected from backgrounds and travels in India, Sri Lanka and Europe. Older Balakrishnan's work encompasses a story, a narration that needs a sense of more than one culture to decipher. Each painting is a narration that tells a story.

