

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 amid 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 15 >> 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, hand work, 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 until August 19 from 8.30 am to 1 pm. For further information call the Cultural Office at the Russian Centre, No.10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.



August 19 >> Photographic exhibition

An exhibition of photographs by L.H.R. Wijetunga will be held at the Lionel Wendt Gallery, Guildford Crescent (Dr. Kemasiri Premadasa Mawatha), Colombo 7 from August 19 to 21.

August 19 >> Balloth Ekka Be

Two special shows of the hilarious comedy "Balloth Ekka Be" written and directed by Ravindra Ariyaratna will be staged on August 19 (Friday) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the Borella Nani Malani Puncti Theatre.

Starring are Vijaya Nandasiri, Koshan Pilapitaya, Gihan Fernando, Saman Hemarathna (Leelassana), Kumara Thirimadura and Anusha Dissanayake. Music is provided by Shantha Peris, stage set designed by Lavolin 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 by Ranga Samarakoon. Make up of Saman Hemarathna will create an unforgettable visual experience. Jude Srinial is the chief organizer of the play and the drama is presented by Sugath Jayasinghe on behalf of Easl J. Lanka Computer School.



August 20 >> "Step by Step"

"Step by Step" presented by Dance Works Centre directed by Kanthi Ranjithgoda will be held at the Lionel Wendt, 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7 on August 20 and 21.

August 20 >> Japanese Cultural Month

"Japanese Cultural Month" organised by the Embassy of Japan will be held during 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.

The Cultural Exhibition will feature Ikebana, Bonsai, Origami and Calligraphy together with demonstrations of these typically Japanese arts and will take place at the Lionel Wendt on August 20 and 21.

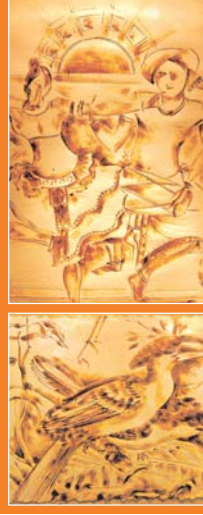
The "Yosokoi Dance" will be held at the University of Peradeniya, E O E Pereira Theatre (Faculty of Engineering) on August 23 and at the New Town Hall, Colombo 7 on August 27. The "Yosokoi Dance" will feature "Hokuto-gumi", which is an elite unit of Team Yamabiko, a Yosokoi dancing team which mainly performs at Kobe. "Yosokoi" 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 19 >> "Margins"

An exhibition of paintings by S.M.J. Samarathunga will be opened on Friday, August 19 at 6.30 pm by Tikiri Kobekaduwa, Governor Central Province at the Alliance Française Gallery, 612 Peradeniya Road, Kandy. The Exhibition will continue till the August 29, from 9 am to 6 pm. S.M.J. Samarathunga is an Art teacher presently working at Galagatara Central College. He has been trained at Giragama Aesthetic teacher's training College and, on drawing and painting at Vibhavi Academy of Fine Arts. Further he has studied fabric painting and pottery painting at the Kandy branch of the National Design Centre. He has undergone training on Jewellery designing conducted by the Gem and Jewelry Authority. He has been trained at "SCALY" the Institute of International Artists, in Larnaca (Cyprus). He received training on fruit, vegetable, butter and ice carving from Asia Hotel School. As he is very much concerned about nature, he was able to bring forward an eco friendly method of art, called "Burning Art". Actually it is a prevailing method which is confined to wood, but he was able to do it on paper. With this method, it is possible not only to do paintings but also greeting cards. His aim is to find new avenues to make painting a novelty.

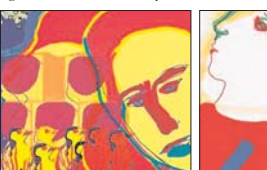


August 15 >> Memories, Maps and Dreams

Josephine Balakrishnan will hold 'Memories, Maps and Dreams' an exhibition of paintings at the Barefoot Gallery, No 704, Galle Road, Colombo 03 until 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 colours 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 color sense collected from backgrounds and travels in India, Sri Lanka and Europe. Often 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.



August 15 >> Young Explorer Holiday Camps

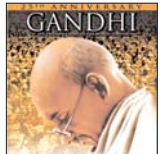
Give your child the best holiday camp experience at the Young Explorer Activity Centre, 388, Beddagana South, Pita Kotte. The camps will be held until August 31, from 9 am to 1 pm. Events children can take part in are painting, pottery, craft fair, cookery, camp for teens, team building activities through fun games and puzzles, puppetry and theatre, gardening, nature study "Selam Geden" and story reading sessions by famous authors.



Big screen

Gandhi

Gandhi, a film directed by Richard Attenborough will be screened at the Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, 1622, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7 on August 19 at 5.30 pm. (Duration three hours). Admission to all programmes is free and on the first come first served basis.



The Dark Crystal

The children's movie 'The Dark Crystal' will be screened on August 20 at 3.30 pm at the American Centre, Colombo (Duration - 93 minutes). Jim Henson ventures into Tolkien territory in his all-Muppet fantasy feature The Dark Crystal. The titular Crystal maintains equilibrium in a mythical kingdom. When the Crystal is broken, the evil Skeksis take over, killing off the good-guy Gelflings and enslaving everyone else. Two of the Gelflings have survived: Jen was raised by the all-knowing Mystics, while Kira grew up amongst the swamp-dwelling Podlings. Jen and Kira join forces to "heal" the precious Dark Crystal and restore order to their world.



25th hour

25th hour (2002) will be screened on August 23 at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 6 pm. (Running Time: 135 minutes) Director Spike Lee presents a powerful story of a man's last day of freedom before going to prison. Set against the backdrop of New York City on September 11, the film explores themes of loss, regret, and the consequences of our actions. 25th hour is widely considered one of the best American films of the 2000s. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served.



L'enfant (The Child)

L'enfant (The Child) a film directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (2005) will be screened at Alliance Française de Kandy on August 20 at 3.30 pm. (Duration-1h 30 minutes) Bruno, 20, and Sonia, 18, are surviving on her welfare checks and Bruno's petty crimes when Sonia becomes pregnant. Bruno sells their baby to a black market adoption ring to make some quick cash. Faced with Sonia's shock, he regrets his mistake and buys the child back at a premium - but, after being turned away by Sonia, his mounting debts and desperation lead Bruno down a quick path to prison. L'enfant succeeds not because it illuminates anything about a black market for children (the characters' motivations are entirely personal, not social), but in the way a finely detailed character study pays off in its final redemptive moments. The movie won the Palme d'Or at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival.



Before Sunset

The movie Before Sunset (2004) by Richard Linklater will be screened on Tuesday, August 16 at 3 pm and Wednesday, August 17 at 6.30 pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, No. 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration - 80 minutes) Jesse, a writer from the US, and Celine, a Frenchwoman working for an environment protection organization, acquainted nine years ago on the train from Budapest to Vienna, meet again when Jesse arrives in Paris for a reading of his new book. As they have only a few hours until his plane leaves, they stroll through Paris, talking about their experiences, views and whether they still love each other, although Jesse is already married with a kid. The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.

Nikolai I (part 2)

Nikolai I (part 2) will be screened on August 17 at the Russian Cultural Center Cinema Hall, No.10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7 at 6 pm.

Movie highlights

- Establishment of the "Rapid reaction force": The Gendarmierie
- The Patriotic riad - spirit, power and the unity of Czar and people
- "God save the Czar!" - New Russian anthem
- The "Slavophiles" and "Westernizers"
- Caucasian War
- Alexandr Herzen and his periodical "Kokolok" ("Bell")
- "Special operation" in Hungary
- "Austere Beauty": Kruglov, Ton, Avazovsky
- Crimean War

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



Mort dans un jardin anglais

Mort dans un jardin anglais (Death in a French Garden) by Michel Deville (1985) will be screened on August 19 at 6 pm at AF de Kotte, 139, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5. (Duration-101 minutes) A young teacher, David Aurpeth, agrees to give guitar lessons to Vivianne, the daughter of a wealthy bourgeois couple. Straight away David finds himself the object of unbridled desire for Vivianne's mother, Julia. But a few weeks into their passionate love affair, David's life begins to take a dark and potentially deadly turn. One evening, he is assaulted by a stranger, but is saved thanks to the intervention of another stranger, Daniel, who reveals that he is a hired assassin. Daniel's target turns out to be Julia's husband, who may possibly have covered his wife's infidelity and may be planning to kill David. Meanwhile, David receives a video recording of his hot romantic liaisons with Julia and suspects that Julia's mysterious neighbour, Edwige, may be implicated. If nothing else, one thing is clear. Someone is about to be killed.

Stars: Anémone, Richard Bohringer, Nicole Garcia
Entrance free and movies are subtitled in English.