

# Cultural Diary

This week's 'Cultural Diary' brings you details about several of our 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](mailto:eventcalendar@gmail.com) or call us on 011 2429652. Have a pleasant week

RUWANTHI ABEYAKOON

## September 12 >> Morning Melodies

An Indian slide guitar recital  
Indian Cultural Centre has organized an Indian slide guitar recital by Amano Manish accompanied by Uday Ramdas Deshpande (on Tabla), a disciple of U. Alla Rakha at its auditorium (Indian Cultural Centre, 16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 07) at 10.30 am on Monday, September 12.  
Amano Manish is a gifted slide guitar player trained in the Senia Maihar Ghazana tradition, which was founded by Acharya Allauddin Khan Sahib. Uday Ramdas Deshpande started his education in Tabla at tender age of 12 from Vamanrao Bhavne. In 1990 the legendary Tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha accepted him as his disciple.

## September 13 >> Che Guevara and the future of socialism

A discussion on 'Che Guevara and the future of socialism' will be held at the National Library and Documentation Services Board, Nidahas Mawatha, Colombo 7, on September 13 at 4 pm. Dr Nirmal Ranjith Dewarath (University of Colombo) and Pubudu Jayagoda will initiate the discourse.  
A collection of essays titled *Samajawadaya Sila Minisa Sila Venath Kachana* (Socialism, Man and Other Essays) written by Che Guevara and translated by Jayatilake de Silva will also be launched at the event.

## September 14 >> Deyyoth Danne Ne

*Deyyoth Danne Ne* the first stage drama directed by well versed cinema, television and stage actor, Sarah Kulanga will be staged at the Tower Hall on Wednesday, September 14 at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm.  
The play will consist of a host of popular actors such as Wijaya Nandasiri, Sarah Kulanga, Kumara Thirimadura, Ananda Athukorala, Sadeka Uthpalakandage, Thushari Gunaratne, Thanaka Upendra and Bandula Fonseka. The script is written by Ajith Mendis and the play is produced by Jude Srinial of Nirmala Prakashini. Tickets are available at Sarasavi Bookshop Nugegoda, Sadeepa Bookshop Borella and Tower Hall and Elphinstone.

## September 14 >> Saandhy Geet

Indian Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Department of Hindi, University of Kelaniya is organizing Hindi Diwas celebrations titled Saandhy Geet. The programme comprises of renditions of Hindi poetry, music and dance of the students of Kelaniya University. The programme will commence at 10.30 am on Wednesday, September 14 at Indian Cultural Centre, 16/2, Gregory's Road (opposite to Australian High Commission) Colombo 7.

## September 15 >> Act Before You Think Season 2

Act Before You Think is the exciting Theatre-Games event hosted by Mind Adventures Theatre Company. Returning on the heels of its resounding success last year, *Season 2* promises to be funnier, quirkier and more challenging for both participants and audiences alike.  
Teams can sign-up now by emailing [dattirperinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dattirperinfo@gmail.com). We require teams of four and one reserve, no age limits, no criminal!  
The event will take place on Thursday, September 15 at 6pm to October 20 at 10 pm at Warehouse Project Maradana.

## Until September 12 Buddhadeb Dasgupta retrospective film festival

The Asian Film Centre will present a retrospective festival of films by the world renowned eminent Bengali based Indian film-maker Buddhadeb Dasgupta on September 12, 13, 15, 16 and 19 at the Russian Centre, Colombo 07. Films will be screened at 6.30 pm daily and each film will be introduced by Buddhadeb Dasgupta. All films are subtitled in English and entry to the screenings is by purchasing of ticket on the film. The film to be screened on September 12 (today) is an early work of Dasgupta, 'Bagh Bahadur' (Tiger Man / 1989 / 90 mts / colour) deals with the human and artistic crisis in the life of a grass-roots performer, Ghunuram, and his struggle to prevent his descent into a life bereft of love and pride.

*Uttara* (The Wrestlers / 2000 / 97 mts / colour) will be screened on September 13. The film is based on a short story by Samarsh Bose. The film contrasts violence, human vices and lawlessness in a seemingly peaceful setting, in a quiet village in Purulia district in Bengal. The film scheduled for September 15 is 'Mondo Meyer Upakhyay' (A Tale of a Naughty Girl/2002/50mts/Colour). The film is based on a short story by Bengali writer Prafulla Roy, the central idea developed by director Dasgupta, tells the story of a girl, Lati, whose mother Rajani is a prostitute living and working in a brothel in rural India. On September 16, the film scheduled for screening is 'Kashpurush' (Memories in the Mist/2005/120mts/Colour). It is a story of a father and a son and the women in their lives.

'Ami Yasin Ar Amar Madubala' (The Voyeurs/2007/104 mts/Colour) will be screened on September 19. The Voyeurs tells us a story about human values. To coincide with the festival Asian Film Centre has been made arrangements to conduct a Master Class on 'Creating Images on Celluloid and Video' in Colombo with Dasgupta.

## September 15 >> A Return to Sri Lanka

'A return to Sri Lanka' - images of Sri Lanka from British Collections (1640-1900) will be held from September 15 to 28 at Lionel Wendt Gallery.  
This is a travelling exhibition produced by the British Library and the British Council.

## September 15 >> Bakamuna returns to the Tower Hall

Rajitha Disanayake's latest political satire *Bakamuna Veedi Basti* (Owl in the Street) returns to Tower Hall on popular demand on September 15 at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm. With a cast of experienced actors like Shyam Fernando, Jayani Senanayaka, Dharmapriya Dias, Prasad Sooriyaarachchi, Sampath Jayaweera and Priyankara Ratnayaka, the drama exposes the audience to diverse power struggles seen in today's political arena. Tickets are available at Sarasavi Bookshop Nugegoda, Sadeepa Bookshop Borella and Tower Hall.



## September 17 >> Bahuranga

*Bahuranga* - a concert of music and drums will be held on September 17 at the Lionel Wendt, Colombo 7.

## September 18 >> Rite of spring

'Rite of spring' - a ballet presented by Ravi Bandu and Samantha Dance Ensemble will take place on September 18 at the Lionel Wendt Theatre.

## October 14 >> Walks of Life

*Walks of Life* - photo exhibition by Nadya Tissera will be held until October 14 at the American Center, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

## September 30 >> Art exhibition by Chaminda Gamage

An art Exhibition by Chaminda Gamage will be held till September 30 at the Banford Gallery, 704, Galle Road, Colombo 3. Over 30 latest paintings by Chaminda have been selected for this exhibition. Chaminda Gamage begins to show an interest in paintings from his childhood. From the early 90s, he was being recognized as an upcoming artist in the arts arena. Since then, his dedication had driven him for numerous awards; one was the State Award for the Most Outstanding Painter of the Year - 1996.



## Fight the Power Casablanca



*Casablanca* (1942) will be screened on September 13 at 6pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 03 at 6pm. (Running Time: 102 minutes) *Casablanca*: easy to enter, but much harder to leave, especially if you're wanted by the Nazis. Such a man is Resistance leader Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid), whose only hope is Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), a cynical American who sticks his neck out for no one, especially Victor's wife Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), the ex-lover who broke his heart. Ilsa offers herself in exchange for Laszlo's transport out of the country and bitter Rick must decide what counts more - personal happiness or countless lives hanging in the balance. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served.

## To kill a Mockingbird

The youth movie, *To kill a Mockingbird* (1962) will be screened at the American Centre on September 17 at 3.30pm.  
To kill a Mockingbird is based on a novel by Harper Lee published in 1960. It was instantly successful, winning the Pulitzer Prize, and has become a classic of modern American literature. The plot and characters are loosely based on the author's observations of her family and neighbours, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936, when she was 10 years old. (Running Time: 129 minutes)



The movie *Le Placard* (2000) by Francis Veber will be screened on Tuesday, September 13 at 3pm and Wednesday, September 14 at 6.30 pm at Alliance Francaise de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. (Duration - 84 minutes)  
Francis Pignon, a very bland sort of man who works as an accountant in a rubber factory, is about to be fired. His new neighbour comes up with an idea to prevent such a thing to happen; he speaks the rumor that he's gay so that the factory management might be afraid they'll be used for sexual discrimination. Of course, nothing happens as it should, but the changes in Francis Pignon's life and other people's too - is drastic! The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.



## Alexandr III (part 3)

*Alexandr III* (part 3) will be screened on September 14 at the Russian Cultural Centre Cinema Hall, No 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7 at 6 pm.  
Movie highlights  
\* The most Russian Czsr, \* Restrictive laws, \* The town Kushka, \* The triple Alliance - Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Epoch of savings, \* The royal train crash, \* Sergei Witte, \* Turgenyev - the most famous Russian writer in Europe, \* P. Chaiikovsky and Marinsky Theatre, \* Death at the Lyadvaya Palace in Crimea  
Entrance to watch this movie is free and all films are subtitled in English.

## The fils de l'epicier



*The fils de l'epicier* by Eric Guiraud (2008) will be screened on September 16 at 6pm at AF de Kotte, 139, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05.  
Antoine, a thirty-year-old young man, left his village ten years before in order to start a new life in the big city, but now that his father, a travelling grocer, is in hospital after a stroke, he reluctantly accepts to come back to replace him in his daily rounds. Back in the village, accompanied by Claire, a young woman he loves but who hesitates to commit herself, he does the job half-satisfactorily. Too blunt, not in harmony with the locals, he offends them more than he serves them. Fortunately Claire, who has more business acumen, helps him to improve his skills. On the other hand, the relationships are tense with his brother Francois and even worse with his father, who despises him. So when the latter is back in the village, the situation deteriorates... Stars: Nicolas Cazalé, Clotilde Hesse, Jeanne Goupil. Entrance free and movies are subtitled in English.

## La Promesse



*La Promesse* (The Promise - 1996 - 1 hour 33 minutes) will be screened on September 17 at 3.30 pm.  
Igor and his father, Roger, are making a decent living renting apartments to illegal immigrants and sometimes working them illegally (among other scams).  
But when the building inspector pays a surprise visit and Amidou falls off a scaffold in his hurry to hide things start to unravel, particularly when Igor makes a promise to the injured Amidou that ultimately exposes the different values of Igor and Roger, and Amidou's wife, Assita.