

Cultural Diary

SARASHI SAMARASINGHE

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 eventcalendar25@gmail.com (Please be mindful to send only the essential details). Have a pleasant week.

Festival of Carnatic Music

February 17

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Hindu Educational Society is organising *Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana*, an annual musical festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on Friday (February 17) at 5 pm at Saraswathie auditorium, No. 17, Lorenz Road, Colombo 4.



Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka will come together and render Pancharatna Keerthanas (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana. All Carnatic musicians consider Thyagaraja as their inspiration, source and touchstone of their musical creativity. Thyagaraja, one of the trinities of Carnatic music com-

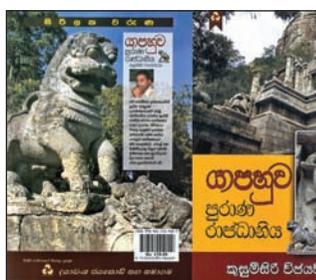
posed nearly 700 compositions, two musical plays in Telugu, the Prahalada Bhakti Vijayam and the Nauka Charitam.

The commemorative weeklong music festival *Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana* is held in the months of January to February every year at Thiruvaiyaru in Thanjavur district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India in honour of Thyagaraja.

A large number of leading exponents and lovers of Carnatic music converge at

his Samadhi on the banks of the river Cauvery in Thanjavur district to pay homage to him.

In 2011, the 'Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana' was held and Governor of Northern Province, Major General G. A. Chandrasiri was the Chief Guest. Impressed by the popularity of the *Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana* organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, the Governor had later organized a *Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana* in the Northern Province. The musicians who would like to join the Aradhana may approach the Indian Cultural Centre, 16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo. The rehearsals for the event will be held on February 15 and 16. All are welcome to participate and attend *Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana*. For further details please contact the Indian Cultural Centre on telephone no: 2684698 and email: iccrcolombo@gmail.com.



Launching of Yapahuva Purana Rajadhaniya

February 14

Kusumsiri Wijawardhane's latest history book *Yapahuva Purana Rajadhaniya* will be launched at Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on February 14 at 10 am. It is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

Doing it the traditional way

NIPUNI WIMALAPALA

Giving chocolate on Valentine's Day really screams "I Love you".

Valentine's Day is a golden chance to refresh long lasting relationships, start new ones, rekindle old ones or remind that special someones how wonderful they really are.

Thanks to Chocolante, this Valentine's Day would mean much with latest chocolate tastes as it's not just special for Valentine's



Pictures by Lalith C Gamage

couples but even more so for cocoa lovers with its gourmet treats. Chocolante brings together some of

the best Valentine's Day chocolate offerings under one roof, in a space that is beautifully styled.

With an infusion of rich cocoa and the highest quality ingredients, Chocolante's treats are as tempting as the forthcoming evening.

Chocolante offers both sweets and savory foods while it offers drinks including coffee, milk shakes and even ice-cream.

Meeyo nathuwa ba at Tower Hall

February 15

Meeyo nathuwa ba (Can't without me), a hilarious play directed

by Keerthi K. Rathnayake will be staged on Wednesday (February 15) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the tower hall theatre in Colombo 10.

With a host of popular artists such as W.Jayasiri, Ravindra, Madani Malwattage, Mahesh Umagaliya, Ishara Wickramasing-



he, Sudarshana Bandara, Samith Warnakula, Chamari Nisansala, Nayana Malithi, Ruvini Dilanthi, Devran Livera, Aruna

Sri Kasun and Chanidu Theniya Rathnayake, music composition will be by Pradeep Muthukudaarachchi and stage settings by Roshan Warnakulasooriya. Stage management by Chandana Nishantha and Susantha Kahandawala while costume designing by Suvineetha Perera. Makeup by Wasantha Vittachchi and lighting by Saman Malalasekera.

Meeyo nathuwa ba, is presented and organized by Jude Srimal.

Sanda Kiranin 4

February 19

A variety of artistes lead by Latha Disanayake will hold *Sanda Kiranin 4*, a musical concert at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Convention Hall (BMICH) on February 19. Priyankara Perera, Ishak Beg, Keerthi Pasquel, Dhammika Wijayarathne and others will

take part in the event. Chandana Wickramasinghe's students will provide dance items for the show while Samantha Perera is in charge of the music.

Latha had battled with cancer while she was residing in Canada in 2010. *Sanda Kiranin 4* had enthralled the audience in Canada. This is the first time that the show will be staged in Sri Lanka.



Balloth ekka ba 300th show

February 19

Balloth ekka ba, the most popular stage drama written and directed by Ravindra Ariyaratne will stage its 300th special show on Sunday, (February 19) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the tower hall theatre in Maradana.

With a host of popular artist such as, Wijaya Nandasiri, Gihan Fernando, Kumara Thirimadura, Roshan Pilapitiya, Saman Hemarathne and Anusha Dissanay-

ake. The music composed by Shantha Peiris while Luvoline Vandawall will add more to the play with his background creations and stage management by Asoka De Soyza and Shantha Udayakumara. Costume design by Gihan Fernando and Demal Fernando while make up by Saman Hemarathne and lighting effects by Upali Weerasinghe.

Balloth ekka ba is produced by Asle J. Lanka Computer Training Institute. Jude Srimal is the main organizer of the drama.



Sunila Wila presented to Sunila Edirisinghe

February 15

Sunila Wila, a lyrics compilation of the songs, edited by Pushkara Wanniarachchi

will be presented to veteran singer Sunil Edirisinghe to coincide his music concert at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre on February 15. The concert will be directed by Dr Rohana Weerasinghe.

The compilation contains the whole collection of songs Sunil Edirisinghe has sung from 1970 to 2011.

The songs, totaling into 498, are categorized as simple, patriotic, religious, cinema, teledrama, stage, ballads, those meant for special programmes, felicitations, Tamil, research and other singers' songs. Edirisinghe has sung. The songs are penned by 172 lyricists while music is composed by 70 musicians. Kumaradasa Saputantri has penned the most number of songs. Rohana Weerasinghe has composed music for over 272 songs. *Sunila Wila* is a Sarasavi publication.

Big screen

Ed Wood

Ed Wood (1994) will be screened on February 14 at 6pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 127 minutes)

Johnny Depp stars as the real-life filmmaker Ed Wood, considered by many to be the worst director of all time. Cheerfully oblivious to his absolute lack of talent, and surrounded by a cast of truly bizarre people (including screen legend Bela Lugosi), Wood continues to make his films despite numerous setback. Director Tim Burton finds a surprising tenderness in this tale of relentless if misguided optimism, and the



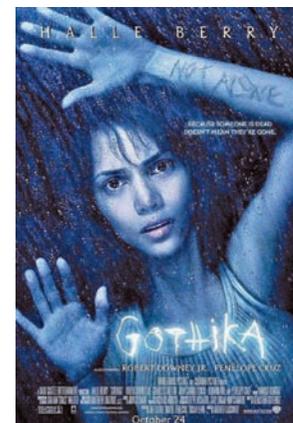
result is an oddly inspiring film that provides a touching epitaph to the real Ed Wood's life and career.

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

Gothika

The movie, *Gothika* (2003) by Mathieu Kassovitz will be screened on Tuesday, February 14 at 3pm and Wednesday, February 15 at 6.30pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

A criminal psychologist awakens to find herself a patient in the institution where she works, with no memory of the murder she's accused of committing. As she tries to regain her memory - and her freedom - a vengeful spirit manipulates her.



The movie is most suitable for mature audience and is subtitled in English.