

Mage Sihinaya at Nelum Pokuna

JUNE 12 Ministry of Culture & the Arts and the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka will be jointly sponsoring *Mage Sihinaya* (My Dream) the world renowned drama presentation spear-headed by 39 Chinese disabled artists on June 12, 13 and 14 at the Mahinda Rajapaksa theatre in Nelum Pokuna.

This drama is presented under the distinguished patronage of the Prime Minister, D M Jayaratne, Chinese Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Wujianghao and Defense Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa on the invitation of the Cultural & the Arts Minister, T B Ekanayake.

The presentation which will be put forward by the Chinese artists will portray key Chinese cultural series including the *Bodhisatva* drama.

Mage Sihinaya was exhibited in 1987 in over 150 different cities in China and in over 25 countries in the world and had hit the zenith of world acclaims.



Launching of Veeduru Mandira

JUNE 14 Newton Gunasekera's latest Sinhala novel *Veeduru Mandira* will be launched at the Public Library auditorium, Colombo 7 on June 14 at 3.30 pm.

Prof. J B Dissanayake will preside over the launching ceremony. Prof. Chandrasiri Palliyaguru, Chinthana Ranasinghe and Dr. W A Abeysinghe will address the gathering.

Veeduru Mandira is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.



IAAC exhibition at Art Gallery

JUNE 16 Text and picture by RUSAIK FAROOK

The Colombo District Ahadiyyah Federation and All Ceylon Young Mens' Muslim Association (YMMA) Conference will jointly organize an Islamic Art and Arabic Calligraphy (IAAC) exhibition to mark the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Central Ahadiyyah Federation and of the All Ceylon YMMA Conference will be held on June 16 and 17 at the National Art Gallery, Colombo from 9 am to 7 pm.

Students of Ahadiyyah Schools in the Colombo District will participate and display their exhibits on this subject.

Winners will be awarded with cash awards and mementos.



Big screen

It Happened One Night

It Happened One Night (1934) will be screened on June 12 at 6 pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 105 minutes)

Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert light up the screen in Frank Capra's classic screwball comedy.

An out-of-work journalist kidnaps a spoiled heiress at her own request in order to help her reunite with her husband against her father's wishes. He hopes to get an exclusive interview as a reward, but everything that can go wrong does.



Balloth Ekka Ba at Punchi theatre

JUNE 15 Special show of the hilarious comedy *Balloth Ekka Ba*, written and directed by Ravindra Ariyaratne will be staged on June 15 at 3.30 and 6.45 pm at Namel Malani Punchi theatre, Colombo 8.

Starring are the renowned Wijaya Nandasiri, Roshan Pilapitiya, Gihan Fernando, Kumara Thirimadura, Saman Hemarathna (Leelasa) and Anusha Dissanayake.

Music will be by Shantha Peiris, stage set designed by Luvolin Vandervol and stage management will be by Asoka De Soya and Shantha Udayakumara. The costumes will be designed by Gihan Fernando

and Demal Fernando. The lighting effects will be by Upali Weerasinghe and make up will be by Saman Hemarathna which will create an unforgettable visual experience.

Balloth Ekka Ba is presented by Sugath Jayasinghe on behalf of East

J.Lanka computer school while Jude Srimal is the chief organizer. Tickets are available at Sarasavi book shops - Nuggeoda, Sadeepa book shop - Borella, Salaka Senkada - Townhall and Sakya book shop - Baththaramulla.



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.

Sokari at Negombo Town hall and at NYC

JUNE 13 *Sokari*, an old folk drama staged once again with a new set of actors enhancing the characteristics of the play such as motion and makeup with special attention given for background and costume designs as well. *Sokari* runs for two hours and thirty minutes and it contains of ancient characteristics that could be appreciable to everyone.

This play is directed by state award winning director Jaliya Rajapakshe and the main organizer is Jude Srimal. Tickets are available at Sarasavi book shop Nuggeoda and Maharagama.

Sokari, an old folk drama in Sri Lanka, which was formed according to the rural traditions of shanthikarmas that were performed to goddess paththini seeking fertility and prosperity will be staged on Wednesday (June 13) at 8.30 am and 10.45 am at Negombo Town hall theatre and on Friday (June 15) at 8.30 am and 10.45 am at Maharagama National Youth Centre (NYC).



Lectures by Prof. Radha Chakravarty

JUNE 11 Prof. Radha Chakravarty is a well-known Indian scholar, author and writer who teaches English Literature at Gargi College, University of Delhi.

She co-edited the largest anthology of Rabindranath Tagore's works available in English, published by Harvard University Press to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Tagore. She is the visiting Indian Scholar to deliver lectures on literature in the Universities of Colombo and Peradeniya. Prof. Chakravarty will be delivering her lecture on *Tagore's Short Stories in English* at 12 noon on June 11 at the Department of English of the University of Colombo. The lecture is organized by the Indian

Cultural Centre in association with the Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies and the Department of English, University of Colombo. Her second lecture will be on *Representations of the body in stories by South Asian Women* at 4 pm on June 13, at the seminar room of Faculty of Arts at University of Peradeniya.

Prof. Chakravarty has translated several of Tagore's works, including *Gora*, *Boothood Days*, *Chokher Bali*, Farewell Song: *Shesher Kabita* and *The Land of Cards: Stories*, poems and plays for children. Other works in translation include *Bankimchandra Chatterjee's Kapalkunda*, *In the Name of the Mother* by Mahasweta Devi and *Crossings: Stories from*

Bangladesh and India. She has edited *Bodymaps: Stories by South Asian Women* and co-edited *Writing Feminism: South Asian Voices* and *Writing Freedom: South Asian Voices*. She is also the author of *Feminism and Contemporary Women Writers* (2008) and *Tagore and the Modern Novel* (Routledge, forthcoming in 2011). Her essays and review articles have appeared in a number of books and periodicals worldwide.

For further details please contact the Indian Cultural Centre on telephone no: 2684698 and Email: icccolombo@gmail.com or Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Colombo (CCIS) on telephone no: 2591610 and Email: directorccis@gmail.com



Nari Burathi at New Town hall

JUNE 16 *Nari Burathi*, the latest hilarious drama written and directed by Sarath Kothalawala, will stage two special shows on Saturday (June 16) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at New Town hall theatre, Colombo 7.

With a host of popular artists such as Sarath Kothalawala, Kumara Thirimadura, Pubudu Chaturanga, Mihira Sirithilaka, Hemantha Iriyagama, Chinthaka Peiris, Janaka Ranasinghe and Wajira Kodithuwakku along with Premalal Liyanages' stage settings.

Music composition and stage management will be by Wimalaith Dombagahawatte while Upul Sampath, Harsha Malinda and Indika Niroshana will assist in the stage management.

Costume designing will be by Pushpa Samanthi Kothalawala and makeup by Janaka Ranasinghe.

With Chandana Nishantha Peiris' sounds and Upul Weerasinghes' stage lighting this thrilling drama will be organized by Jude Srimal. Tickets are available at Sarasavi book shop Nuggeoda, Sadeepa book shop Borella and Salaka Senkada - Townhall.



A musical performance by Abaji and Pradeep

JUNE 15 A musical performance by Abaji from France and Pradeep Ratnayake from Sri Lanka will be held on Friday (June 15) at 7 pm at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Baddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, open air theatre and on Sunday (June 17) at 5.30 pm at Rahula College, Matara.

Abaji is a multi-instrumentalist, of Lebanese origin, now working in France. In his fifth album, released in 2009, he sings in the five languages spoken by his family: French, Arabic, Turkish, Greek and Armenian. His compositions are also the reflection of multiple influences extending from the Occident to the Orient.

Pradeep Ratnayake is a sitarist whose skills are as a musicians and composer have gained worldwide recognition. His extensive musical knowledge, based on exhaustive research, has enabled him to compose pieces reflecting a wide range of influences, including

Sri Lankan, Indian, European and North American.

Abaji will also conduct some workshops in collaboration with the Departments of Performing Arts of the Colombo and Kelaniya Universities, respectively.

For further information on Matara performance please contact Alliance Française de Matara/Galle. Tel: 041 2232060 or Email: alframat@sltnet.lk



French Spring in Kandy

JUNE 15 'French Spring Festivals' already exist since more than 20 years, in several South Asian capitals. They are organized annually by the French cultural network and local partners with the aim of strengthening the links between local and French artists, and to present high quality artistic projects and performances to the public. This year, for the first time, a French Spring Festival is organized in Sri Lanka with the objective of reinforcing the cultural links which already exist between our two countries.

The event will be sponsored by the French Embassy and the Hotel Suisse, and organized by the Alliance Française de Kandy and the Kandy Music Society - will be held on the June 15 at 6.30 pm at Hotel Suisse.

A classical evening will be presented in the Hill Capital with the exceptional contribution of the French artist Frédéric Pelassy - one of the world's finest violinists of his generation - and the well known Sri Lankan pianist Bridget Halpé.

The programme will include works by Beethoven, Massenet, Debussy, Paganini and Saint-Saëns. Entrance free.



AF Colombo presents Fête de la Musique

JUNE 16 Alliance Française de Colombo, the premier French Language and Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka since 1955, is once again organising *Fête de La Musique* (International Music Day) on (Saturday) June 16 from 10 am to 5 pm at their air conditioned auditorium at No.11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

This unique musical event has a long and colourful history, beginning in France on June 21, 1982. Today this celebration of music is held all over the world and every year professional and amateur musicians alike take to the streets and parks on this day to celebrate the arrival of Summer after a dismal Spring. It is free of charge and thousands and thousands of people flock to these parks and streets to witness performers embracing all kinds of music from jazz to hip-hop and nothing is out of place.

Here in Sri Lanka, This is your chance to expose your hidden musical talents, it is for everyone amateurs, professionals (No Age Limit-Children as well as Adults), and you can Sing in any language of your

choice... Individuals, School Bands, Schools Music Clubs, Interact Clubs, Music Groups, Ballet Schools or Groups, Dancing Schools, Music Associations etc. are all welcome! So... if you can sing, dance or perform this day is for YOU to shine alongside numerous professional artistes!

Its Free of Charge and the Organisers Alliance Française de Colombo will provide the hall, sound systems and also background music by the timeless and ever popular Annesley Malewana and Super Chimes free or you could play your Own musical instrument or have your Own music or group.

It is going to be a day full of fun and entertainment from morning till evening with a carnival atmosphere. Entrance is free of charge and food and soft drinks are available at reasonable rates.

For more information please contact the Alliance Française de Colombo at No.11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7 - Tel 2694162 / 2693467 to Obtain application forms.

