

Cultural Diary

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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.

Workshop for Colombo Dance Platform

JUNE 25

Goethe-Institut and Colombo Contemporary Dance Forum are jointly having a workshop in preparation of the second edition of the *Colombo Dance Platform*, from June 25 to July 1 at Goethe hall, No 39, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7. It will feature a wide spectrum of contemporary dance productions in November this year. This year's programme will be curated by Ong Keng Sen.

Ong Keng Sen, artistic director of TheatreWorks in Singapore, is a well-known theatre director and has actively contributed to the evolution of an Asian identity as well as the subsequent transglobalisation of the Asian aesthetic in contemporary arts. He has studied intercultural performance with the Performance Studies Department at Tisch School of the Arts, NYU and holds a law degree. Keng Sen is the founder artistic director of In-Transit, an annual interdisciplinary arts festival in Berlin (2002 & 2003). He also curated the *Insomnia* season for the Insti-



tute of Contemporary Arts in London (2005) and the *Politics of Fun* exhibition at the House of World Cultures, Berlin (2005). He curated the immense Night Festival for the National Museum/Singapore Art Museum in 2010.

A walk through Anuradhapura with Ashley De Vos

JUNE 28

The 41st lecture in the monthly lecture series of the National Trust of Sri Lanka, *A walk through Anuradhapura with Ashley De Vos* will be held at the HNB Auditorium, 22d Floor, HNB Towers, No. 479 T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 at 6.30 pm. on Thursday (June 28).

The evolution of Anuradhapura as a city from its early beginnings, depicted in the recorded history of this land, bears witness to its episodic development

over a period of many centuries, first from a small village, a town and eventually to a City. Many significant events some good, some bad, were carefully and faithfully woven into the narrative recorded on Ola and stone. Ashley de Vos worked for close to ten years in Anuradhapura. Come walk with him and experience the Anuradhapura he discovered.

Nostalgie02 – snapshots of France at the Lionel Wendt

JUNE 30

The Alliance Francaise de Kotte presents *Nostalgie02*, an exhibition of black and white photographs by Kumar de Silva, at the Harold Peries Gallery of the Lionel Wendt Arts Centre, Colombo on Saturday (June 30) and Sunday (July 1).

Sponsored by Canon Metropolitan, *Nostalgie02* takes visitors through random scenes of Paris and across different parts of France and is open to the public from 10 am to 7 pm on both days.

It will be inaugurated under the distinguished patronage of Minister of International Monetary Cooperation Dr. Sarath Amunugama, himself a Francophone. Chief Government Whip and Minister of Water Supply and Drainage Dinesh Guna-

wardena will be the Guest of Honour.

This exhibition is a sequel to last year's successful *Nostalgie* which showcased France and her multi-dimensional splendour through the inquisitive and probing lens of the photographer. Kumar de Silva who describes himself as "an incurable francophone cum francophile" has had a long association with France, for more than quarter century, when he made his debut on the little screen with the legendary, French television programme *Bonsoir* on ITN in 1986.

"That journey which began 26 years ago has enriched my life, my love for France, her culture and the arts, and has broad-



ened my horizons. Yes of course, speaking the language has always enabled me to get a totally first-hand experience of all that France has to offer. It is perhaps my experience as a television producer which makes me look at the world around me in French, both their natural

composition and their sometimes discordant feel. It is this that inspires me to freeze sights and scenes on camera, which I thoroughly enjoy doing".

Says the Representative of the Fondation Alliance Francaise de Paris in Sri Lanka and Director of the Alliance Francaise de



Kotte, Bertrand Dufieux, "We are very happy to present this exhibition of photographs on France. Our long time friend Kumar de Silva has a definite penchant for France and always presents our country in the most amicable manner. We thank him, as a recognised commu-

nity in Sri Lanka, for his generous vision and his sense of celebration".

The Alliance Francaise de Kotte is affiliated to the Fondation Alliance Francaise in Paris and enjoys the full patronage of the Government of France and the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka.



JULY 07

Soul Cages at Bishop's College Auditorium



A *Bharata Natyam* Dance Theatre titled *Soul Cages* by celebrated *Bharata Natyam* exponent, Savitha Sastry in association with Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo will be held on Saturday (July 7) at Bishop's College Auditorium, No.11 Perahera Mawatha, Colombo 3 from 6.30 to 7.30 pm.

The *Soul Cages* is an artistic experience that captures the cycles of life and death as a journey, rather than an end itself. This unique presentation

is structured on the imagery and narrative of a story, told through the fluid grace of the classical Indian dance form of *Bharatha Natyam*. The connoisseur of this art form will be enthralled by the sophistication and nuances employed in the presentation, while the uninitiated will fall in love with art itself.

However, unlike traditional *Bharatha Natyam* performances, *Soul Cages* does not showcase stories from mythology or reli-

gion. Instead it presents a novel story, relevant in all times, not limited to any particular religion or belief system. We honestly believe that this performance stretches the very boundaries of thematic presentations.

Sastry is leading exponent of *Bharatha Natyam*, the dance form of Southern India that has its cultural roots in ancient history. She brings alive the classical traditions of the dance, sensitively nuanced with a creativity that

imbues relevance and meaning to this art form in its current age. Sastry is known for enthralling audiences with performances that embody perfection in form and joy in expression, an intelligent fusion and joy in expression, an intelligent fusion that comes from years of rigorous training, dedicated practice and passion.

For further details please contact the Indian Cultural Centre on telephone no: 2684698 and Email: iccr-colombo@gmail.com

Nari Bana and Jasaya Saha Lenchina at Bandaragama, Chilaw and at Battaramulla



Nari Bana and Jasaya Saha Lenchina two popular dramas of Dayananda Gunawardena's will stage two school shows on June 26 and 27 at 8.30 am and at 11 am at the main hall of Bandaragama MMV and at Sudasana hall in Chilaw respectively.

For further details contact Priyantha Ranjan, House of Drama, B2, YMBA building, Colombo 8. Call - 071 4822890 or 077 6240033

Another special show will take stage on Saturday (June 30) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the *Janakala Kendraya*, Battaramulla with popular artists such as Bandula Wijeweera, Rodney Warnakula, Sarath Kulanga, Tharanda Kumara, Rathnasheela Perera, Sunil Thilakarathne, Nilmini Kottegoda and Indika Jayasinghe.

Music will be by Pubudu Walpita. The drama will be organized by Jude Srimal and tickets will be available at *Shakya* book shop, Battaramulla, *Ola* book shop, Thalawathugoda, *Sarasavi* book shop, Nugegoda, *Sadeepa* book shop, Borella and at theatre gate.

Sina Sayura to be launched

JUNE 28

Edward Chandrasiri a personality in the field of Sri Lankan theatre, will launch his first book on June 28. It is based on humorous stories, which we wrote to the tabloid *Rasadana* of *Silumina* newspaper.

The book titled as 'Sina Sayura' is a publication of M/s Sarasavi Publishers,

Nugegoda. The book launch will take place at the National Library Auditorium, Colombo 7 at 3.30 pm. Senior journalist, Tilakarathna Kuruwita Bandara will make the keynote address while Co-Editor of 'Silumina' newspaper, Sunil Mihindukula will chair the head table.

Bernardage sipirigeya at Lionel Wendt

JUNE 26

Bernardage sipirigeya directed by Priyantha Sirikumara will take stage tomorrow (June 26) at 7 pm at the Lionel Wendt theatre, no. 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7. The cast includes Kaushalya Fernando, Chandani Seneviratna, Duleeka Marapna, Chamila Peiris and Nadee Kammellawera. For inquiries contact 077 367708.



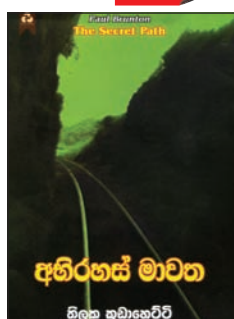
Abhirahas Mawatha to be launched

JUNE 26

Thilaka Kudahetti's latest book *Abhirahas Mawatha* will be launched at Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on June 26 at 10 am.

Kudahetti is the author of many other books such as *Raga Viraga*, *Kulagei Vilanguwa*, *Bharatha Yogin Saha Isiwarayin Samaga*, *Piramid Bhuthayin Igiptu Sannasin Ha Mantharakarawan Samaga*, *Bharatha Maha Ris Ramana*, *Ajan Cha Hamuduruwo*, *Sasara Sarisara*, and *Karma*.

Abhirahas Mawatha is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.



Big screen

The Searchers

The Searchers (1956) will be screened on June 26 at 6 pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 119 minutes)

The greatest Western of all time is one whose depth and complexity grow with time. On the surface *The Searchers* is an engaging adventure story about two cowboys on a quest to rescue a kidnapped girl. Dig deeper, though, and find a troubling and painfully insightful exploration of racism, justice, guilt and revenge. There is redemption, but it is hard-earned. John Ford directs John Wayne and Natalie Wood.



COCO avant Chanel

The movie, *COCO avant Chanel* (2009) by Anne Fontaine will be screened on Tuesday, June 26 at 3pm and Wednesday, June 27 at 6.30pm at Alliance Francaise de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

Several years after leaving the orphanage to which her father never returned for her, Gabrielle Chanel finds herself working in a provincial bar both. She's both a seamstress for the performers and a singer, earning the nickname Coco from the song she sings nightly with her sister. A liaison with Baron Balsan gives her an entree into French society and a chance to develop her gift for designing increasingly popular hats. When she falls in love with English businessman Arthur Capel further opportunities open up, though life becomes ever more complicated.

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



Four Days in September (Brazil)

Four Days in September (1997) by Bruno Barreto will be screened on June 29 at 6 pm at 3 and 5.30 pm at International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) auditorium, No. 2, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. (Running Time: 1 hour and 46 minutes)

The democratically elected government of Brazil was toppled and a military dictatorship took place. The junta ruled through terror and intimidation, torturing political enemies, controlling the press, and severely curtailing freedoms. A group of Che Guevara-worshipping Marxist radicals plotted to kidnap an American ambassador (Alan Arkin) to force the government to meet their demands. This is a thoughtful political drama with emotional depth, well-drawn characters, and excellent direction. Based on a memoir of one of the participants in the kidnap of the American Ambassador in Brazil in 1969. The film was honored with an Academy Award nomination.



Whole Train

Whole Train (2006) directed by Florian Gaag will be screened on June 27 at the Goethe hall, No39, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7 at 5.30 pm.

Florian Gaag tells the story of a crew of four 'writers' - David, Tino, Elyas und Achim - who observe the hierarchies, the values, the rules and the codes of the graffiti scene. Night after night they make off for the subway stations of the city, intent on leaving opulent images behind. But as another crew appears on the scene and the four feel challenged, a creative battle ensues, one that will change the lives of these young people for ever.

We are confronted with life taken to the limit. Constantly on the edge of legality. Always on the run from the law. Urban space must be reclaimed. Friends are made and lost. Unbridled creativity and doing things for the sheer love of it are watchwords too.

Whole Train is an exciting and emotionally gripping drama, one that explores for the first time the secret universe of the graffiti scene.

