

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.

Punchi theatre going HD

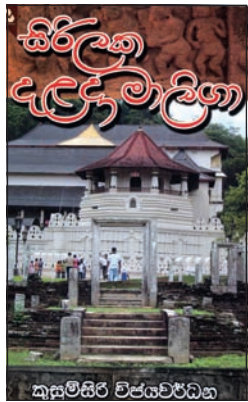
The Namel Malini Punchi theatre is going to be a HD cinema from July 5. Many dignitaries of the film industry will grace the occasion.

JULY 05

Sirilaka Dalada Maliga will be launched

Kusumsiri Wijayawardane's latest book on history entitled *Sirilaka Dalada Maliga* will be launched at Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on July 4 at 10 am. It is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

JULY 04



Cantando Cello Ensemble at the Lionel Wendt

JULY 04

The *Cantando Cello Ensemble* is a unique string ensemble comprising of 12 cellists, most of whom are members of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka, and its junior orchestra. The ensemble is preparing for its annual concert in Colombo, which will take place at the Lionel Wendt on July 4 at 7 pm.

The Cantando concert is an event that is

looked forward to by music lovers in Colombo, and the ensemble has steadily been gaining a reputation as one of the foremost string ensembles in the country. It is directed by Dushyanthi Perera, cellist, teacher and conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka.

In previous years, The ensemble has been invited to perform in Bombay and Bangalore, and has done so to highly appreciative Indian audiences. Outside Europe, it is rare indeed to

find an ensemble that performs repertoire written especially for this configuration of instruments.

This year's programme highlights include Hasitha Pathirana's performance of Handel's Oboe concerto No. 3, backed by the cellos. You will also hear the familiar strains of Rossini's Barber of Seville overture and Strauss' pizzicato polka. Cantando will also perform an arrangement of one of the most beautiful slow movements that Mozart ever penned—the Adagio from his Gran Partita. Receiving its premier performance in Sri Lanka is legendary cellist Pablo Casals' Sardana for Orchestra of cellos.

Box plan and tickets are available at the Lionel Wendt.



Natalie Soysa (www.facebook.com/nataliesoysa.creative)

Darkness into Light at Sapumal Foundation

JULY 07

Yasmin Buckman's third solo exhibition *Darkness into Light* would be held at the Sapumal Foundation, Barnes Place, Colombo 7 on July 7 and 8 at 9.30 am to 6.30 pm.

Born into a conservative Muslim family, Buckman has managed to creatively balance her urge to paint and live the life of a true artist, without disturbing too much the sensitive fabric of her social and religious obligations.

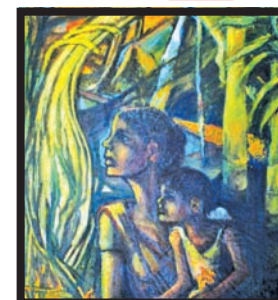
She attributes the discovery of her creativity with paint to Vinitha Fernando, her art teacher at Methodist College.

She has only exhibited twice so far. She lives in Kandy with all her paintings, dreams, schemes and bucket list.

In these paintings, Buckman without doubt captures the true emotions, empowerment and hopelessness of the people in them.

She has surely seen their pain, their will to survive and forbearance in spite of their obvious poverty.

Boy with Bull is a young shepherd, stout



stick in hand, herding cattle through a quagmire of surreal trees and undergrowth; intent, anxious and committed.

It is the texture of her brush strokes that makes you look again and again – set against thorns, horns and arms, and perhaps a tinge of sensuality that comes at you from the trees and undergrowth.

Man with Buffaloes is a stunning painting of man amidst beast with rope draped and dangling around him, holding them back or setting them free.

Displaced can be either a post tsunami or a war zone moment. Children in the midst of two determined mothers with ghostly shadows of human anguish and destruction hovering

around them: easily one of her best.

Fisher Boy is a wonderful profile of a boy with his catch and tattered hat. So truly Sri Lankan.

Together with her new paintings, which none of us have seen, her other paintings which will impress any genuine art lover are: *Woman carrying pot*, *Boy playing flute*, *Dove*, *Woman carrying firewood*, *Butterfly*. Buckman is a courageous and true Sri Lankan artist who has been consistently painting beautiful pictures from the depths of her simple heart and soul. What is interesting (and intriguing) is her sometimes spontaneous forays into the surreal world which may give us a glimpse of her other Buckman side.

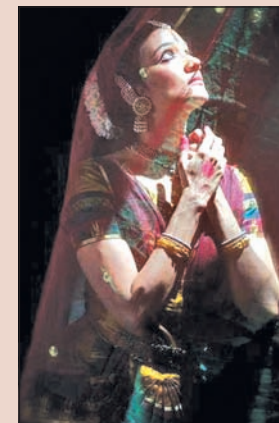
Soul Cages at Bishop's College Auditorium

JULY 07

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 religion. 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: icccolombo@gmail.com

Madura Jawanika, Weeraya Marila and Tharawoo Igilethi at Lionel Wendt

JULY 06

Madura Jawanika, an excellent drama of Dayananda Gunawardena's will stage two special shows on Friday (July 6) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the Lionel Wendt, no. 18, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7.

The drama will include popular artists such as Jackson Anthony, Rodney Warnakula, Bandula Wijeweera, Anula Bulathsinghala, Rathnasheela perera, Tharanga Kumari, Indika Jayasinghe, Wasantha Gunawardena, Buddhika Ranaweera and Jayanath Bandara.

Music will be composed by Kapila Pugalarachchi while costume designing will be by Irangani Gunawardena. Jude Srimal is the main organizer of the drama. Tickets are now available only at the Lionel Wendt theatre.

Rajitha Dissanayake's critically acclaimed drama *Weeraya Marila* (The Hero is Dead) will be staged at the Lionel Wendt theatre on Saturday (July 7) at 3.30 pm and 7 pm.

The play which has completed over 100 shows marks its 10th anniversary this year with a comeback run. When the play was first staged in 2002, it won five awards including 'Best play' at the State Drama



Festival. The plot revolves around a journalist who is caught up in a society increasingly influenced by the corporate media. The play takes a serious look at how a media driven purely by profit and lacking ethics, impacts people's lives and makes them victims of the system.

The cast for the July show comprises Priyankara Ratnayake, Dharmapriya Dias, Shyam Fernando, Prasad Sooriyarachchi, Dayadewa Edirisinghe, Sampath Jayaweera, Samadhi Laksiri, Gihan de Chickera, Dilini Sandeepika and Nalin Lusena.

Once again on request of a majority, Lushan Bulathsinghala's *Tharawoo Igilethi*, which was showed island wide



and cherished by many audiences in the 80s will stage two special shows on Sunday (July 8) at the Lionel Wendt.

With the captivating music of Gunadasa Kapuge and Suwinitha Subasinha's costume designs

Tharawoo Igilethi will host popular artists such as Harsha Bulathsinghala, Indika Jayasinghe, Niroshan Wijesinghe, Thilini

Randima, Sumith Rathnayake, Ferny Roshani Gamini Samarakoon, Anura Bandara Rajaguru, Ishara Wickramasinghe, Danushka Bandaranayake, Sujani Nisansa, Mahesh Priyanwatte and Renuka Padmini.

Tickets for *Weeraya Marila* and *Tharawoo Igilethi* are available at Lionel Wendt and all seats are box planned.



Janelen Paninnada at Nawa Nagara Shalawa and Kegalle

JULY 05

The best production, direction, actress, set design, stage management and script (second place) at the National drama festival 2011, *Janelen Paninnada* will be staged on July 5 and 8 at *Nawa Nagara Shalawa* and at Kegalle respectively at 3.30 pm and 6.30

pm. *Janelen Paninnada* is a directed by Dhanushika Nayanakumari and the script is by Thumindu Dodanthanne.



Big screen

American Centre will screen movies on the theme of Popcorn this month.

Everyone Says I Love You

Everyone Says I Love You (1997) will be screened on July 10 at 6pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 101 minutes)

Woody Allen directs an all-star cast in this charming and sweet musical comedy. The story follows a large family in its romantic adventures across New York, Paris and Venice.

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



Dans ses yeux

The movie, *Dans ses yeux* (2010) by José Campenella will be screened on Wednesday, July 04 at 6.30pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

1974, Buenos Aires. Benjamin Esposito investigate the brutal murder of a young woman. 25 years later, he decided to write a novel based on the case "closed" which he witnessed and protagonist. This work brings him back to writing this murder that obsesses so many years but also to love it was then at his colleague.

Benjamin and plunges in this dark period in Argentina where the atmosphere was stifling and the deceptive appearances. The movie is most suitable for mature audience and is subtitled in English.

