

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

## A holiday camp at the Russian Centre

Dec 10

A holiday camp will be held at the Russian Centre in Colombo from December 10 to 21 from 8.30 am to 1 pm for the age group between 4-11 only on week days.

The camp will include chess, singing, computer, art/handwork, kids cookery, children's films, library reading/story telling, drama and theatre workshop and outdoor games. For further details please



contact Chandi Aluvihare at Russian Centre in Colombo, No.10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7. Tel: 011 2685429 or 011 2685440, e-mail: [colombo@ruscent.com](mailto:colombo@ruscent.com)

## 'Puja Pallattara Sumanajothi Nahimi Dharma Deshana' to be launched

Dec 11

Ven Borelle Kovida Thera's latest book on Buddhism entitled 'Puja Pallattara Sumanajothi Nahimi Dharma Deshana' will be launched at Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on December 11 at 10 am.



It is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

## SOSL Family Christmas Concert at Ladies

Dec 15

Join the SOSL for an evening of seasonal and popular delights to get you in the festive mood. The much awaited SOSL Family Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday (December 15) at 7 pm at the Ladies College hall is a fitting finale to the orchestra's 55th season.



The programme has something for all, from traditional music to favourite hits.

Light Classics will include - Pomp & Circumstances No. 4, Voices of Spring and Laughing Song while Popular music will include - Tico Tico, Bridge Over Troubled Water, The Sound of Silence, Mrs Rob-

inson - Medley Hello Dolly, St. Louis Blues, Saints Go Marching and What a Wonderful World - Medley.

Box plan and tickets are now available at the Lionel Wendt theatre on weekdays and weekends from 10 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 5 pm.

## 'Natha Chalitham' at ICC auditorium

Dec 12

Indian Culture Centre, Colombo is organizing a Bharata Natyam Dance programme 'Natha Chalitham' by Thivya Sivanesan at 6 pm on Wednesday (December 12) at ICC auditorium. Thivya Sivanesan a disciple of Legend Prof C V Chandrasekhar (Chennai) has learnt the Nattuwangam, Vocal Music, Violin and Miruthangam and completed her Teacher's Grade Dance & Mirunthanga Exam with Distinction. She was awarded Bharatha Kalavithagar & Mirunthanga Kalavithagar by the North Ceylon Oriental Music Society.

She has performed in major venues all over Sri Lanka, as well as participated in prestigious dance

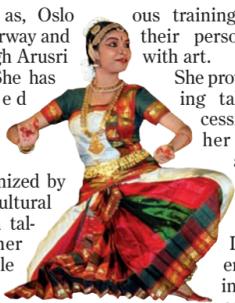
festivals such as, Oslo Mela 2006, Norway and in India through Arusri Art Theatre. She has contributed immensely towards the cultural programmes organized by the Hindu Cultural Ministry. As a talented teacher and a versatile dancer Thivya Sivanesan choreographed many dance programmes which were highly appreciated.

Sivanesan's special interest and skill in Tamil poems is highly commendable and she runs her own dance school Abhinayakshetra School of Dance in Colombo creating a room for a modern guru-kulam where the students are getting benefitted by gaining vari-

ous training to improve their personality along with art.

She proved her teaching talent by successfully staging her students' arrangements. She received the award Best Dance Coach in Sri Lanka in year 2010 and Natya Kala Ratna award by Samathana Darma Peetam. As a teacher, Choreographer and performer she is producing a very high quality contribution to the dance field in Sri Lanka.

The admission is free on first come first served basis. For further details please contact the Indian Cultural Centre on telephone no: 2684698 or Email: [iccrcolombo@gmail.com](mailto:iccrcolombo@gmail.com).



## 'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man) at Negombo Town Hall

Dec 10

'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man), the latest comic stage drama of well versed film, television and stage drama actor Sriyantha Mendis will have its special show on December 10 at 6.30 pm and 6.30 pm at Negombo Town Hall with a host of popular actors such as Sriyantha Mendis, Kusum Renu, Sarath Kothalawela, Wasantha Vittachchi, Malkanthi Jayasinghe, Sujeewa Priyalal, Mihiri Priyangani along with many more artists performing in it.

Music will be provided by professional music director Anthony Suren-dra while popular Derana dream star Upeka Nirmani will brighten up the drama with her singing. This drama will be choreographed by senior lecturer Ariyaratne Kalu-arachchi.

Polished with Wasantha Vittachchi's make up and Nipuni Mendis's costume designs. Stage lighting will be by Upali Weerasinghe, stage management of 'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man) is done by Himashi



Vithanage and Sameera Hettiarachchi with the assistance of Neil Ravindra.

Stage settings done by Luvolin Vandawall. 'Gabbar Minisa' (Pregnant Man) is an adoption of Ajith Mendis from the book written by W S Wijesinghe. This drama will be presented and organized by Jude Srimal.

## Ladies' College OGA Christmas Dinner at Galle Face Hotel

Dec 10

The Ladies' College Old Girls' Association Christmas dinner will be held at the Galle Face Hotel Grand Ballroom on December 10.

The event promises to be an enjoyable evening with carol singing, buffet dinner and exciting games. A treasure trove of prizes and surprises will undoubtedly make the event a memorable one.

The table plan is available at the OGA secretariat which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 1pm (Tel: 2575469). Please make sure to buy your tickets early in order to avoid disappointment.

## Harsha Abeyaratne to perform at Carnegie Hall

Dec 14

Known as an artist who performs with "verve, passion, and creative flair" and whose playing is "mature and expressive," pianist Harsha Abeyaratne maintains an active career as a performer and pedagogue in the United States and his native Sri Lanka. His numerous recitals include performances in such cities as Manhattan, Chicago, Charleston (WV), Jacksonville, (FL), and Portland (OR). On December 14 he will make his debut at the prestigious Carnegie Hall's Weil Recital Hall in Manhattan, New York.

Abeyaratne has included Robert Muczynski's exciting "Third Piano Sonata" in this celebrated programme to honour the distinguished American composer who passed away two years ago. In October of this year, he performed this recital-programme at Grace Lutheran Church (Ohio), Muskingum University, and Ohio University in Athens.



## '21 1/4 Hill Street' to be inaugurated

Dec 11

The first show of Nihal Suranji's '21 1/4 Hill Street' Sinhala stage drama will be inaugurated in Lumbini theatre, Havlock Town on December 11 and 12 at 6.30 pm.

## 'Ganeshism 3' at the Barefoot Gallery

Dec 16

'Ganeshism 3' is a celebration of Lord Ganesh in art, through an exhibition of paintings at the Barefoot Gallery, Colombo, No.704, Galle Road, Colombo - 3 from 10 am to 8pm on Weekdays and 11 am to 5pm on Sundays until December 16. It is the third show of its kind since 2008 by Sri Lankan artist Mahen Chanmugam.

Mahen has been painting for over thirty-five years and has devoted the last eighteen years to portraying Lord Ganesh. The paintings in this year's show are part of a collection that attempts to present, not only the symbolism and iconography surrounding Lord Ganesh, but also the artists view of the powerful energies that Lord Ganesh represents, in the world around us, and within ourselves.

For Mahen Chanmugam painting Lord Ganesh, the deity with the elephant



head, is a personal journey that was inspired by his spiritual connection to Lord Ganesh. In 1994, while working and living in Singapore, Chanmugam began a study of the iconography and symbolism of Lord Ganesh. He started exploring the classic forms, postures and the iconographic principles of perfect poise within the 32 forms Lord Ganesh appears in and translated these into contemporary representations.

The intensity of the search for new content in classic form has added an intellectual ambivalence to his work. Whereas the

image topic is constant, the paintings now capture a range of emotions and themes. Today his art looks at Lord Ganesh's iconography as a philosophical template that symbolizes liberation from ego, acceptance and the laws of cause and effect.

Paintings like the Thousand Petaled Lotus of Light and Lord Ganesh with a Flute visualize the deity as a force that enables consciousness to evolve from its lowest to its highest. Deep, mesmerizing eyes gently look down from many of his paintings, reflecting his inspiration of love and awe from a single

form that is so eloquently described in Progress of the soul by John Donne: Nature's great masterpiece, the elephant, the only harmless great thing, the giant of the beasts.

Chanmugam has worked with all types of media, having mastered, then abandoned, oil painting and airbrush illustration for the translucent brilliance of acrylic. He now works on materials as varied as canvas, wood, glass and mirror and sometimes, even on rice bags and other industrial packing material.

He has had five solo exhibitions in Singapore and Sri Lanka and he paints



and lives with his wife, two children and cats in his home studio, amongst the water monitors and bats in Nawala.

For further inquiries please contact BAREFOOT Gallery on Tel: 011 2505559, e-mail: [barefoot-gallery@gmail.com](mailto:barefoot-gallery@gmail.com) or on web - [www.barefootgallery.com](http://www.barefootgallery.com)

## Big screen

### Miracle on 34th Street

*Miracle on 34th Street* (1947) will be screened on December 11 at 6pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 96 minutes)

At the Macy's Department Store Thanksgiving Day parade, the actor playing Santa is discovered to be drunk by a whiskered old man. Doris Walker, the no nonsense special events director, persuades the old man to take his place.

The old man proves to be a sensation and is quickly recruited to be the store Santa at the main Macy's outlet. While he is successful, Ms. Walker learns that he calls himself Kris Kringle and he claims to be the actual Santa Claus.

Despite reassurances by Kringle's doctor that he is harmless, Doris still has misgivings, especially when she has cynically trained herself and especially her daughter, Susan, to reject all notions of belief and fantasy. And yet, people, especially Susan, begin to notice there is something special about Kris and his determination to advance the true spirit of Christmas amidst the rampant commercialism spirit of Christmas amidst the rampant commercialism around him and succeeding in improbable ways.

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



### Home



The movie, *Home* (2008) by Ursula Meir will be screened on Tuesday, December 11 at 3pm and Wednesday, December 12 at 6.30pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

In the middle of a quiet and deserted stretches of sight highway inactive neglected since its construction. The edge of the asphalt, a few meters of safety barriers, is an isolated house where a family lives. Work will resume and we announce the upcoming opening of the highway traffic ...

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

### The Deep Blue Sea

*The Deep Blue Sea* (2011) will be screened on December 15 at 3pm at the Centre for Performing Arts, Jaffna. (Running Time: 98 minutes)

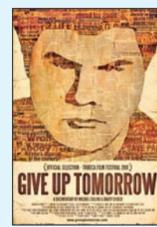
Set 'around 1950, The Deep Blue Sea tells the story of Hester Collyer, the younger wife of High Court judge Sir William Collyer, who has embarked on a passionate affair with Freddie Page, a handsome young former RAF pilot troubled by his memories of the Second World War. Freddie throws Hester's life in turmoil, as their erotic relationship leaves her emotionally stranded and physically isolated. For Freddie, that tumultuous mix of fear and excitement that was once in his life seems to be no longer missing.

The movie is strictly for adults. Admission to this film is free of charge. For more details on this film please visit the website [www.britishcouncil.lk/eff2012.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.lk/eff2012.htm)

International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) Presents the International Human Rights Film Festival from December 10 - 12.



### Give Up Tomorrow (Philippines)



*Give Up Tomorrow* (2011) by Michael Collins will be screened on December 10 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) auditorium, 02, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. (Running Time: 95 minutes)

When a teenager from a political family in the Philippines is accused of a double murder, the country's entire judicial system is put to the test after years of alleged corruption.

This documentary film is a piercing case study of political and judicial corruption involving some of the most politically prominent and powerful families in the Philippines. The film won 15 awards in festivals worldwide.

### Goodbye Bafana (Germany/France)

*Goodbye Bafana* (2007) by Bille August will be screened on December 11 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) auditorium, 02, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. (Running Time: 113 minutes)

Based on an inspirational true story, *Goodbye Bafana* tracks the unlikely but profound relationship between James Gregory a racist South African jailor and his prisoner, Nelson Mandela.

Gregory is ordered to spy on Mandela because he understands Mandela's native language. No one expected that a friendship would grow between these two very different men. Though Mandela's influence, Gregory's world will change forever. Powerful and uplifting, *Goodbye Bafana* delivers a moving message of hope, courage and humanity.



### Constant Gardner (United Kingdom)



*Constant Gardner* (2005) by Fernando Meirelles will be screened on December 12 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) auditorium, 02, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. (Running Time: 129 minutes)

The film is a love story set against a conspiracy of power and dirty deeds.

In London Justin Quayle meets and falls in love with outspoken leftist Tessa a beautiful young activist who persuades him to take her back with him to Africa. Quayle is a shy low-rung British diplomat and horticultural hobbyist posted in Kenya, and one to avoid making a fuss until he learns that his wife has been murdered at a crossroads along with her African driver.

As the mystery surround his wife's death unfolds, Quayle is radicalised in his determination to get to the bottom of his wife's murder.

He is soon running up against a drug corporation exercising their power to both ignore the easily treated diseases of the third world and use African's 'disposable' population for unofficial research and development.

### Khuda Kay Liye (In the name of God)

*Khuda Kay Liye* (In the name of God) (2007) by Shoab Mansoor will be screened on December 10 at 5.30 pm at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo 7. (Running Time: 167 minutes)

The film is about the difficult situation in which Pakistan in particular and the Muslims in general are caught up since 9/11.

There is a war going on between the fundamentalists and liberal Muslims.

