

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.

'Nihalsinghe Purogami Theveni Esa' to launch at BMICH

February 12

Cinema has always been close to his heart. This is no surprise considering his background. As the son of seasoned journalist and former 'Sarasaviya' Editor A D Ranjith Kumara and renowned songstress Damayanthi Jayasuriya, Nuwan Nayanajith has been familiar with the local and global arts scene from his tender years.

Treading along familiar territories once again Nayanajith has taken steps to bring forth his ninth book 'Nihalsinghe Purogami



Theveni Esa' (Nihalsinghe: Pioneer of the Third Eye), a biography and critical study of the seasoned director and film industry pioneer. The book launch will take place at the BMICH on February

12 at 3 pm. Though he launched several books between 2010 and 2013, Nayanajith has spent three years scripting his ninth work.

"Film has yet to be recognised as a subject for the university degree. It is mostly taught as part of Mass Communication though it is a globally recognized topic in the world. One of the reasons for this is that there is no research done on film in Sri Lanka. I felt that it is part of my duty to probe into the matter, fill the gaps and make way for the subject to be brought to university education," he explained.

'Elavalu Guna' to be launched

February 12

Rajakeeya Panditha William Alwis's 'Elavalu Guna' (fourth edition) will be launched at Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on February 12 at 10 am. It is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

'Ravana' at Lumbini theatre

February 12

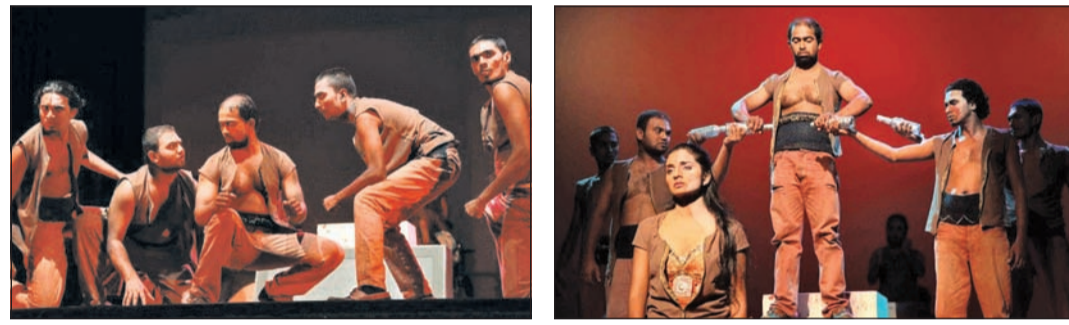
'Ravana - at the breath of love,' the latest direction of young drama maestro Akhila Sapumal will be staged at the Lumbini theatre, Colombo 5 on

February 12 at 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

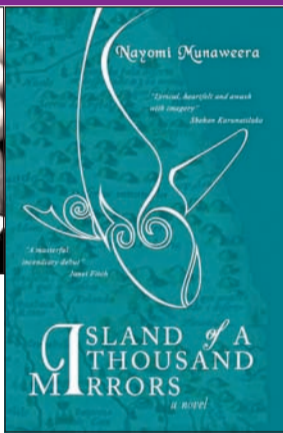
The cast will include Saman Malalasekera, Samantha Paraniyanage, Vijitha Bandara, Stephan Dilruk, Jayampathy Guruge and Prabhath Mahendra along

with many others. Music will be by Lahiru Madivila.

'Ravana - at the breath of love' will be organised by the Leo Club of Mahanama College, Colombo. Tickets will be available at the gate.



'Island of a Thousand Mirrors' to be launched



February 14 International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Colombo invites you to a Literary Evening With Nayomi Munaweera On Writing War, Imagining Peace:

A Conversation with author, Nayomi Munaweera about her novel, 'Island of a Thousand Mirrors' (long-listed for Man Asia Literary Prize) on Thursday (February 14) at 5.30 pm at the ICES Auditorium, No.2, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8.

Nayomi Munaweera is a Sri Lankan-American author. Growing up in Nigeria and California, Munaweera spent months in Sri Lanka witnessing the devastation wrought upon her country of birth by civil war. These experiences led her to write her first novel, Island of a Thousand Mirrors, which was published by Perera Hussein Publishing House in late 2012. The book has received rave reviews from sources such as mother Jones and Psychology Now.

It was long-listed for the Man Asia Literary Prize 2012 being thus hailed as one of the 15 best books out of Asia that year. She lives in Oakland, California. Book will be on sale at a discounted price. For inquiries please contact ICES on Tel:011 2685085.

'Sokari' at HCC

February 15

'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 Tuesday (February 15) at 8.15 am and 10.45 am at Hindu Cultural Centre (HCC) in Kandy.

This play which was performed throughout the nights for seven days in the past will be 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 Rajapakse and the main organizer is Jude Srimal.

For inquiries please contact Jude Srimal on 077 7363633.



'Kalukumari' at Lumbini theatre

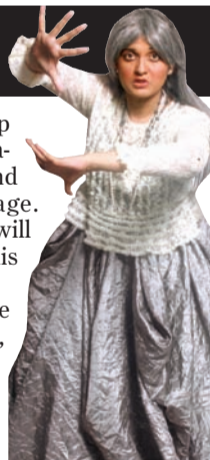
February 15

Peradeniya Sarasavi Mithuro will stage K B Herath's celebrated play 'Kalukumari' on February 15 at the Lumbini theatre, Havelock Town at 6.30 pm. Proceeds of this play will be spent entirely for student and alumni welfare.

Artistes such as Sumith Ratnayake, Madhini Malwatta, Nalin Pradeep Uduwala, Ferni Roshini, Chandrasoma Binduhewa and Bandula Vithanage are due to do the lead roles.

Music will be provided by Shantha

Perera and make-up artistes will be Buddhadasa Gallappathi and Prakash Galewalage. Bandara Eheliyagoda will be the producer of this play. Tickets are available at Sarasavi bookshop, Nugegoda and Sadeepa bookshop, Borella and at the gate on the day of the play.



'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man) at Punchi theatre

February 16

'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man), the latest comic stage drama of well versed film, television and stage drama actor Sriyantha Mendis will have its hundredth show on February 16 at 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm at Namel Malini Punchi theatre, Borella with a host of popular actors such as Sriyan-

tha Mendis, Kusum Renu, Sarath Kothalawela, Wasantha Vittachchi, Malkanthi Jayasinghe, Sujeeva Priyalal, Mihiri Priyangani along with many more artist performing in it.

Music will be provided by professional music director Anthony Surendra while popular Derana dream star Upeka Nirmani will brighten up the drama with her

singing. This drama will be choreographed by senior lecturer Ariyaratne Kaluwarachchi. 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. 'Gabbara Minisa' (Pregnant Man) is an adoption of Ajith Mendis from the book written by W S Wijesinghe. This drama will be presented and organised by Jude Srimal. Tickets are available at Namel Malini Punchi theatre. All seats have been boxplanned.



'Raja Sabhawa' to be staged in Galle

February 16

'Raja Sabhawa' a comedy directed by Gunadasa Madhurasinghe will be staged on February 16 at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm in Galle. The play will be organized by Priyantha Ranjan. The cast includes Gunadasa Madhurasinghe, Mahinda Pathirage and

Anushika Hansamali. The music will be by Priyantha Gamage, lyrics by Swarna Sri Bandara, Somadasa Sooriyaarachchi and Kiwulakale Kumara Kaviraja. Songs sung by Gunadasa Madhurasinghe, Mahinda Pathirage, Kumuduni Gunawardhana, choreography by Pradeepa Srma Kumari, sound management done by Suranga Fernando, stage lighting by Sahan Thilakarathne, costume designing and stage decorations by Mahinda Pathirage.

Stage management and production management by Siri Galappaththi. 'Raja Sabhawa' is presented by House of Drama.

For inquiries please contact Priyantha Ranjan on 071 4822890 or 077 6240033.



Rerun of Unearthed at Kotte

February 16

Unearthed premiered in December 2012, running for two nights with a total of five sold out shows. Created by Ruhanie Perera and Sally E. Dean in November 2012, Unearthed was an international and cross-cultural collaboration where a team of producers, costume designers and performers not just from Sri Lanka, but also Germany, Spain, Peru were an integral part. Due to the positive response and popular demand of the production in its first showing, Floating Space Theatre Company presents a rerun of Unearthed this month.

Unearthed in its initial run was made possible using public funding by Arts Council England and British Council and through the support of Floating Space



Theatre, Sally E. Dean Performing Arts, Inc. as well as individual backers.

Unearthed will be performed on February 16 and 17 at 5.30 pm, 7 pm and 8.30 pm (six shows) at Dharmapala Mawatha Madiwela, Kotte. (There will be a shuttle van organized for the 8.30 pm run for audiences who would require transport to and from the venue to Colombo city.) Tickets can be reserved through email info@floating-space.org or sms +94771529889.

'Ira Handa Tharu' at Musaeus College auditorium

February 18

Legendary singer/musician Dr Victor Ratnayake turns 71 on February 18. A concert will be held to coincide with this at Musaeus College auditorium at 6pm on that date. The show is named

as, 'Ira Handa Tharu - Victor Ratnayake Miyasi Dayadaya.'

Victor's four children Jayantha, Chandani, Manjula and Lelum will team up with their children to showcase talents. Victor too will unleash his golden voice on the day. Thus this will be an event comprising three generations. The show will have Sinhala, Hindi, Tamil and English songs plus dance items performed by Victor's children and grand-children.

Jayantha Ratayake, Victor's eldest son treading in the path Victor had created has already positioned himself as a music director. His maiden film music direction is in Bandu Samarasinghe's film Peter ONE, yet to be released.

A special remembrance will be done for Chitra Ratnayake, Victor's beloved late wife at the event.



'Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana' at New Kathireshan Hall

February 15

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo is organising 'Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana,' an annual musical festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on February 15 at 6 pm at New Kathireshan Hall (Hall II), No. 339, Bambalapitiya, 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.

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 13 and 14 at the Kathireshan Hall (Hall II).

All are welcome to participate and attend the Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana.

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