

Children's festival

Children's Festival at ICC

February 26

Indian Culture Centre (ICC), Colombo is organising a Children's Festival in association with Children's Film Society, India from February 26 to March 1 at ICC auditorium, No.16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7.

The festival conceived to engage children in the activities that enhance their creativity and imagination.

The four day festival is designed with everyday orientation programme on a subject and to be followed by screening of a children's film.

'Neralu Uyana' to be launched

February 26

Award winning author Jayakody Seneviratne's latest Sinhala novel 'Neralu Uyana' will be launched at the Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on February 26 at 10 am.

Seneviratne is the author of several other novels including 'Kumarihami,' 'Kirigedara,' 'Vajirapani,' 'Urachakramalaya,' 'Panchakalyani,' 'Swarna Varna,' 'Rubara Doni,' 'Hituvakkari' and 'Ridisela.'

'Neralu Uyana,' is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

Cultural Diary

SARASHI SAMARASINGHE

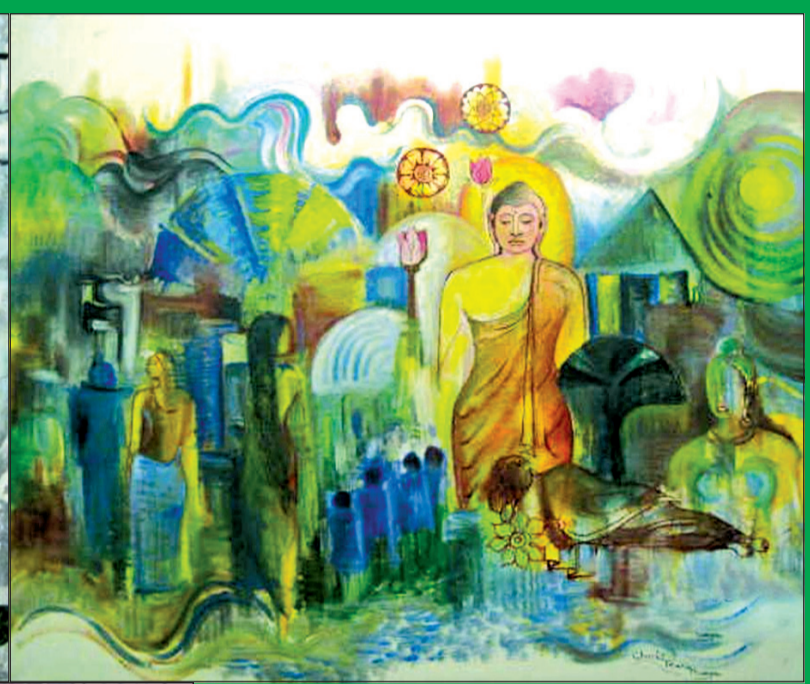
This week's 'Cultural Diary' brings you details about several other fascinating events happening in the city. Take your pick of stage plays, exhibitions or dance performance and add colour to your routine life. You can make merry and enjoy the adventures or sit back, relax and enjoy a movie of your choice. 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.



A lecture/discussion at ICES auditorium

February 27

International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Colombo invites you to a lecture/discussion on 'What Ails Higher Education in Sri Lanka?' by Principal Researcher, Point Pedro Institute of Development, Point Pedro, Muttukrishna Sarvananthan Ph.D. and Head, Department of History, University of Colombo and President, Federation of University Teachers' Associations, Dr. Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri on February 27 at 4pm at the ICES auditorium, 2 Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. For further information please contact ICES on Tel- 011-2685085.



Big screen

The Pursuit of Happyness



The Pursuit of Happyness (2006) will be screened on February 26 at 6 pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 117 minutes)

The rousing, true-life story of a single dad who went from living on the streets to owning his own brokerage firm is brought to the big screen by superstar Will Smith, appearing for the first time opposite his real-life son Jaden Smith. Set in early-'80s San Francisco, this academy award nominated film charts the hard times and eventual comeback of Chris Gardner, a suddenly single salesman who has custody of his son, but finds that providing for the two of them is a challenge in the increasingly unstable economic climate. He struggles to work his way from unpaid intern at Dean Witter to something more substantial, even as life continues to offer him setbacks.

La Cérémonie

The movie, *La Cérémonie* (1996) by Claude Chabrol will be screened on Tuesday, February 26 at 3pm and Wednesday, February 27 at 6.30pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7. The upper-class owner of a gallery, Catherine Lelievre, hires the efficient and quiet maid Sophie to work in the family manor in the French countryside. Her husband Georges Lelievre, who is an opera lover, her daughter Melinda and her teenage son Gilles welcome Sophie and appreciate her work. Sophie soon befriends the postmistress Jeanne, who is a bad egg and encourages Sophie to rebel against her employers, but the maid stays submissive. However, Sophie is ashamed of a secret and feels uncomfortable in many situations, finding a way to hide her secret.... The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.

Les parapluies de Cherbourg

Les parapluies de Cherbourg by Jacques Demy (1964) will be screened on February 27 at 6pm at Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS)-BMICH, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo-7.

The film that helped launch Catherine Deneuve to international stardom, the wonderful *The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg* has a slender story: a pregnant shop girl Geneviève (Deneuve) is separated from her mechanic lover Guy (Castellnuovo), when the latter is drafted into military service during the Algerian war. But director Demy conjures up a work of sheer cinematic delight, transforming the dreary port of Cherbourg into a pastel-coloured fairytale world, in which every line of dialogue is sung to Michel Legrand's memorable score. Stars: Catherine Deneuve

About Elly (Iran)

About Elly (2009) by Asghar Farhadi will be screened on February 28 at 3 pm and 5.30 pm at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) auditorium, 02, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8. (Running Time: 114 minutes)

From the Oscar winning director of *A Separation* comes a gripping tale of secrets and lies amongst a tight-knit group of friends holidaying on the Caspian Sea. A group of middle-class friends from Tehran to spend the weekend at the seaside. Sepideh invites Elly, who is her daughter's teacher to travel with the three families in order to introduce her to their recently divorced friend Ahmed, now living in Germany. The next morning, the two women go shopping in the town and Elly says that she has to return to Tehran because her mother has been recently admitted to hospital for heart surgery, but Sepideh asks her to stay and hides her luggage. The children are playing in the sea and one mother asks Elly to watch them. Out of the blue, Sepideh's daughter calls to some men playing volleyball to rescue one of the children from the water. After rescuing the little boy they seek out Elly, questioning whether she has drowned or returned to Tehran. What has happened to Elly? *About Elly* is really absorbing picture, powerfully acted, disturbing and suspenseful. Like *A Separation* it challenges the sexual politics of contemporary Iran and further shows how different Farhadi is from the older generation of Iranian masters such as Kiarostami and Makhmalbaf.

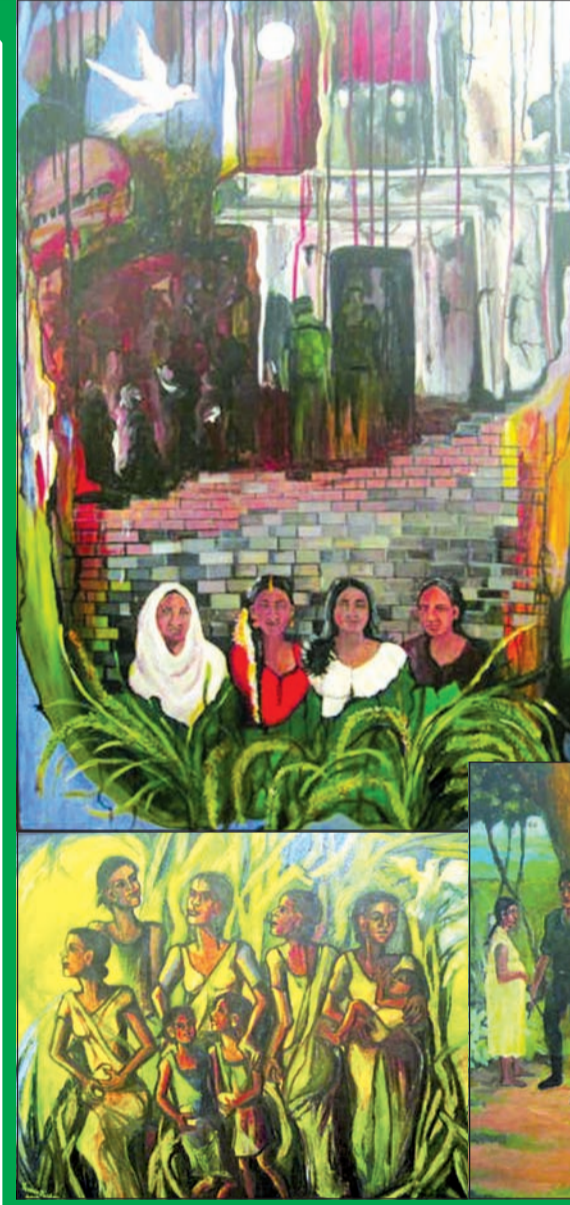
'Celebrating the Beauty of Diversity' at Casa Serena

February 27

This exhibition is called 'Celebrating the Beauty of Diversity.' Which is an idea jointly from the embassy of Italy and the Art Gallery of Casa Serena. After the conclusion of the war a new path for development in the country is unfolding. How can Art be a part of the move for reconciliation?

There are 10 paintings from 10 different artists spanning various religions, geographies, ethnic groups and races. The artists who submitted paintings were given different themes. The theme was: "How can you as an Artist portray a United Sri Lanka; people living in harmony?"

Six men and four women were chosen and the embassy produced the materials. The exhibition will be until February 27. From the artists there are three Tamils, one Muslim and six Sinhalese. Two Tamil Hindus, one Tamil Catholic, five Sinhala Buddhists and one Sinhala catholic.



'Flags of Ancient Sri Lanka' at HNB auditorium

February 28

The 48th lecture in the Monthly Lecture series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be held on 'Flags of Ancient Sri Lanka' by Prof. Nimal de Silva at the HNB auditorium, 22nd Floor, HNB Towers, 479 T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 on Thursday (February 28) at 6.30 pm. The lecture will be simultaneously transmitted to the E.L. Senanayake Children's Library Hall at Kotugodella, Kandy.

Flag is an art created through identity, dignity, power and devotion where the usage goes back to the earliest days of civilization.

The Sinhalese being one of the earliest civilizations with a documented history of over 2500 years; have created and used flags and this tradition was integrated with their culture and way of life.

Prof. Nimal de Silva has discovered more than 300 original flags mainly belonging to the Kandyan period. These specimens had been used during the 17th to 19th centuries and were found preserved mainly in Buddhist temples, Devala shrines and at the National Museum.

Prof Nimal de Silva is an Emeritus Professor of Architecture, University of Moratuwa. He was Dean of the Department of Architecture of the University of Moratuwa and Director of the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya. He was Chairman of the National Design Centre and Director General of the Central Cultural Fund.

Prof De Silva is an Art Historian, Conservation Specialist and has done research on traditional Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Wall Paintings, Art History, Flags and Heraldry. He is the author of many books and research publications.

The National Trust - Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and to the public at a nominal fee.

Further information could be obtained from the Trust Office at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.

Tel: 2682730, the events of the National Trust - Sri Lanka are principally sponsored by the HNB Sustainability Foundation.



'Angara Ganga Gala Basi' at Lionel Wendt

February 27

The new production of 'Angara Ganga Gala Basi' the popular drama of the 80s, directed by Ranjith Dharmakeerthi, with its rich music by the late Master Premasiri Kemadasa along with songs of Dr. Ajantha Ranasinghe will stage its premier show on February 27 and 28 at 6.30 pm and on Saturday (March 2) at 3.30 pm and 7 pm at the air conditioned Lionel Wendt theatre, Colombo 7.

The cast include Sampath Thennakoon, Rajitha Hewathanthrige, Anuradha Mallawaarachchi, Seneviratne Rodrigo, Theruni Ashansa, Ama Wijesekera, Thushari Chamila, Mihiri Priyangani, Pinsara Samarasekera, Nishan Dewapriya, Sasitha Senanayake, Aruna Aththanayake, Sujith Wijesinghe, Lakshani, Madhuwanthi and Ashinsa Rodrigo. Shantha Peiris will steer the music that was once by the late Maestro Premasiri Kemadasa.

Singing will be done by Soorya Dayaruvan, Vishva Prabath, Dhananjaya Hettiarachchi, Chamath Kalansooriya, Isuru Lakmal, Chamith Senanayake, Suranga Pradeep Edirisinghe, Anushka Vithanage, Navodi Jayasena, Ishanka Nishshanka, Nadeesha Sandamali, Nadeeka Harshani, Thushari Chamila Gunarathne and Ama Wijesekera. Stage set up will be by Lalith Jayalal and costume designing by Suwinitha Perera. Assistant direction will be by Prasannajith Abeysooriya.

'Angara Ganga Gala Basi,' is organised by Jude Srimal. Tickets are available at Lionel Wendt theatre. All seats have been boxplanned.

