

Kumar's labour of love for Irangani

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

It was an evening to remember. The beloved Dulsi Nona or Sudu Aachi of Doo Daruwo stood smiling bashfully before an audience comprising family, relatives, fans and well wishers at the simple ceremony of Irangani as told to kumardesilva book launch held at the Lionel Wendt theatre last week.

Gone were the drummers and dancing girls that usually decorate such events because the dame did not wish to add unnecessary frills or fancies to the occasion. Instead it was a refreshing change in which writer Kumar de Silva and Sharmini Serasinghe read out some of the amusing incidents from Irangani Serasinghe's life which revealed an entirely different portrait of the compassionate and patient grandmother that we are acquainted with on

screen! The witty lines flowing out of Kumar's pen but voiced by Irangani reveals that she has been quite a fiery character in her heyday and has many dare-devil escapades scattered down memory lane.

To add to the amusement Kumar related how he had to 'woo' Iranganiquite a number of times to reveal her biography to him. Later he related that Irangani had compared his attempts at charming the tale out of her to a 'leech' or 'tick' latching onto her for months till the last line of the biography has been voiced by her!

The project has been taken up as a labour of love by Kumar who has been one of Irangani's an ardent admirer and fans. Kumar was partnered in this project by Tharindra de Silva. Irangani as told to kumardesilva comes as a limited

edition volume. It is a Samaranyake publication and is available at all leading bookstores.

Sharing a few words with the audience the grande dame of the Sri Lankan theatre and silver screen said that she believes that biographies are usually written about people who have done great good to the world like Mother Theresa or people who have emerged as villains in history like Adolf Hitler.

"The most exciting thing I've done in my life is fall into a pig trough," she humbly noted while thanking the publisher Ranjith Samaranyake for choosing her as a worthy candidate to publish her biography.

A true nature lover she did not hesitate to spare a few words on behalf of her passion at the event. She stated that her love of poetry brought on her link with nature. She is the pioneer of Ruk Rakaganno (Protectors of the Trees) and loves to spend her time amid nature's beauty.



Senior Minister Prof Tissa Vitharana, Sumitra, Dr Peries, Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge
Pictures by Sarath Peiris



Kumar hands hands over a copy of the book to Irangani



Mr and Mrs Samarasinghe



Kumar



Denushka, Rochelle and Ayendree



Darshika and Dinushka



Sulochana and Priyanthi



Hiran and Sharmini



Jimydeem



Ravi Gamage



Vajira and Kumar



Priyanthi