

# 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.



## Rathnavali to be staged

June 24

'Rathnavali,' a Sanskrit drama of Sri Harshadeva directed by Lalitha Sarachandra will be staged on June 24 at 9.30 am and 11.30 am at the Town hall in Badulla. The drama is included in the G C E (A/L) Sinhala, Aesthetic and also in the external degree syllabus.

Performing and singing is done by Sanath Wimalasiri, Janaka Munasinghe, Rajitha Hewathanthrige, Nihari Wickramarachchi, Shirani de Costa, Tharanga Kumari, Lakshani Amarathunga, Ganga Paranavithana, Surangi Kosala, Vindya Wimalachandra, Upamali Ranathunge, Anushika Madhumali, Jagath Kumara Jayasinghearachchi, Lakmali Chaminda Fernando, Upul Mahanama including many other prominent figures.

Choreography is by Upul Mahanama, lighting by Upali Weerasinghe and stage management by Dhanapala Bogoda.

'Rathnavali,' is chief organised by Priyantha Ranjan. For inquiries please contact Priyantha Ranjan on 071 4822890 or 077 6240033.



## Mirisaveti Maha Chaitya Varnanava to be launched



June 25

Gayan Chanuka Vidanapathirana's latest book on Buddhism titled 'Mirisaveti Maha Chaitya Varnanava' will be launched at the Dayawansa Jayakody bookshop, Colombo 10 on June 25 at 10 am. It is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.

## A discussion at ICES auditorium

June 25

International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Colombo invites you to a discussion on Managing Religion and Rights in Plural Societies: Malaysia and Indonesia in Comparative Perspective by Dian Shah (Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina) on Tuesday (June 25) at 4 pm at the ICES auditorium, 2, Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8.

Dian Shah is a doctoral candidate at Duke University Law School.

She graduated with an LL.B from Warwick University and an LL.M from Duke University. Her research interests span the fields of comparative constitutional law and design, and international human rights, with a focus on plural and ethnically divided societies. Shah's doctoral dissertation examines constitutional arrangements and political structures that define the protection and enforcement of fundamental rights across several plural societies in Asia. She focuses on the freedom to practice, manifest and express religious beliefs.



## A Public Forum at Goethe Library

June 28

A Public Forum on Conflicting Perspectives on Co-existence and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka will be held at the Goethe Library on Friday (June 28) at 3.30 pm.

The three decades long war came to an end in 2009. Yet, issues of co-existence and reconciliation persist.

This is evident from the prevailing tensions and conflicts between ethno-religious communities over contentious issues. At an ideological level, the main division appears to be between liberal and ethno-nationalist perspectives. Can these ideological differences be narrowed? More importantly, what prevents the country from adopting policies and other interventions to promote ethnic harmony and national reconciliation?

## Nari Bana and Jasaya saha Lenchina at Punchi theatre

June 29



'Nari Bana' and 'Jasaya saha Lenchina' two popular dramas of Dayananda Gunawardena's will stage its special shows on Saturday (June 29) at 3.30 pm and 6.45 pm at the Nari Malini Punchi theatre, Borella.

The cast includes popular artists such as Bandula Wijeweera, Rodney Warnakula, Sarath Kulanga, Tharanga Kumari, Rathnasheela Perera, Sunil Thilakarathne, Nilmini Kottegoda, Jayanath Bandara and Indika Jayasinghe.

Music will be by Pubudu Walpita. The drama will be organised by Jude Simal and tickets are only available at Nari Malini Punchi theatre, Borella. All seats have been box planned.

## A lecture on 'Language on Coins & Bank notes of Lanka'

June 27

The 52nd lecture in the monthly lecture series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be held on 'Language on Coins & Bank notes of Lanka' by Dr. Kavan Ratnatunga at the HNB Auditorium, 22nd Floor, HNB Towers, 479 T B Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 at 6.30 p.m. on June 27. The lecture will be simultaneously transmitted to the E L Senanayake Children's Library Hall at Kotugodella Veediya, Kandy.

Coins and Bank Notes of Lanka reflect the long history of language used as well as politics in the island over a period more than two Millenniums.

Most of the indigenous coins of ancient Lanka had only symbols. The classic multi-symbol coin known as the Elephant and Swastika maybe a commemorative issue for the visit of Mahinda Thera, as the symbols are interpreted as events in the life of the Buddha. The rare lion and swastika lead coin has Brahmi text along the periphery around the railed swastika which is recognised as the Royal standard of the early Anuradhapura era. Deva Nagari text Sri lakviha appears on the 8th century gold kahavanu coin. The text was replaced by the name of the Monarch in copper massacoins issued during the

11th to 13th century. Setumassa issued by the AryaChakravartins in Jaffna between 1462 and 1597, are the first Lankan coins with Tamil text. Roman script first appears on a Portuguese coin which has S.LOVRENCO, as the Colombo port was named after Sao



Godard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Space Telescope Science Institute and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Highlights included the First in-situ sample of Field Halo K-giants in Galactic Halo (1983), and the First Quad Gravitational Lens discovered with NASA Hubble Space Telescope (1995).

Back in Sri Lanka his current interest includes increasing the information on Lanka on the Internet via his domain lakdiva.org and Archaeology with a special interest in Lankan Numismatics (coins.lakdiva.org). He writes freelance to the Sunday Times and is President of the Sri Lanka Numismatic Society. The National Trust - Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and 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.

Dr Kavan Ratnatunga, studied at Royal College and received a BSc Physics First Class in 1976 from University of Ceylon, Colombo. He qualified as an Astrophysicist in 1983 with a PhD from Australian National University, specialising in automated statistical analysis of astronomical data and digital images. His 25 year career abroad included research at Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria Canada, NASA

Lawrence. Dr Kavan Ratnatunga, studied at Royal College and received a BSc Physics First Class in 1976 from University of Ceylon, Colombo. He qualified as an Astrophysicist in 1983 with a PhD from Australian National University, specialising in automated statistical analysis of astronomical data and digital images. His 25 year career abroad included research at Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria Canada, NASA

Lawrence. Dr Kavan Ratnatunga, studied at Royal College and received a BSc Physics First Class in 1976 from University of Ceylon, Colombo. He qualified as an Astrophysicist in 1983 with a PhD from Australian National University, specialising in automated statistical analysis of astronomical data and digital images. His 25 year career abroad included research at Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria Canada, NASA

Lawrence. Dr Kavan Ratnatunga, studied at Royal College and received a BSc Physics First Class in 1976 from University of Ceylon, Colombo. He qualified as an Astrophysicist in 1983 with a PhD from Australian National University, specialising in automated statistical analysis of astronomical data and digital images. His 25 year career abroad included research at Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria Canada, NASA

## The Swan Lake at Russian Centre auditorium

June 28

The Swan Lake by Imperial Russian ballet artistic director, Gediminas Taranda will be staged on Friday (June 28) at 6 pm at the Russian Centre auditorium, No. 10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.

Swan Lake encapsulates the world of magic and mystical creatures with that of the real world to produce a story where betrayal and power are in the end conquered by the virtues of love and forgiveness. The Evil

Genius has bewitched sweet girls and turned them into graceful swans. This terrible spell will only be removed when someone falls in love with Odette, the Queen of Swans Prince Siegfried is so in love with Odette that he is willing to sacrifice his life for her.

Staggered by such amazing and profound feelings, the Evil Genius dies. Siegfried and Odette, surrounded by nymphs, sirens and naiads are carried away into the

temple of ever-lasting happiness.

The Imperial Russian Ballet Company will perform during their visit to Australia & New Zealand, Swan Lake... the most loved classical ballet of them all.

The masterpiece ballet is presented in three acts and follows the original storyline with the happy ending which was decreed by Soviet rule in the 1930's during the reign of then Russian Leader Stalin.

Subtle revisions and variations have been introduced by Gediminas Taranda, Artistic Director of the Imperial Russian Ballet Company.

Swan Lake crosses the world of magic and mystical creatures with that of the real world. It is a story where the virtues of love and forgiveness in the end conquer evil and betrayal. The full length classical ballet in three acts.

## Ecstasy and Truth at Goethe Hall

June 24

Ecstasy and Truth a Werner Herzog Documentary Film Week

will be held at the Goethe Hall from June 24 to 30. Film screenings will be from June 24 to 28 at 6 pm and on June 29 and 30 at 3 pm.

The Curator of the event will be Anomaa Rajakaruna.

Werner Herzog is considered one of the greatest figures of New German Cinema. He is a director, producer, screenwriter, actor and an opera director. Since 1962 Herzog has made more than 25 documentaries. In June, a wide selection of his documentaries will be presented for the first time in Sri Lanka during 'Ecstasy & Truth'; Werner Herzog Documentary Film Week.

## INTUITION 2013 at Park Street Mews

June 28

An exhibition on latest collection of functional ceramic titled as 'INTUITION 2013' will take place on June 28, 29 & 30 from 9.30 am to 8 pm at Park Street Mews, Colombo 2 by master potter Ajith Mohan Perera whose first love, passion, career and inspiration of life for decades has been pottery.

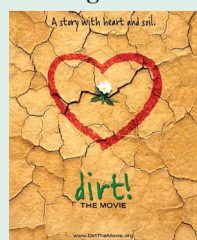
As a pioneer in introducing the art of studio pottery to Sri Lanka, he has worked tirelessly to establish the industry and turning it to profitable venture to anyone shows interest and commitment towards it.

Perera's work has been acknowledged by both local and foreign art lovers and bodies around the world. Receiving coveted 'Bunka' award by Japan Sri Lanka cultural fund, speaks volumes of the quality of his work. With his business venture 'Anuradha Ceramics' & 'The Pottery Shop', Perera has taken his love the art into a totally different level. Evolving the pieces of art into the form of functional ceramic for everyday's use has broadened his appreciators beyond art.



## Dirt! The Movie

*Dirt! The Movie* (2009) will be screened on June 25 at 6pm at the American Centre, No 44, Galle Road, Colombo 3. (Running Time: 80 minutes) DIRT! The Movie is an astonishing, humorous and substantial look at the glorious and unappreciated ground beneath our feet. Dirt feeds us and gives us shelter. Dirt heals us and makes us beautiful. Dirt regulates the earth's climate. Why do we humans ignore, abuse, and destroy our most precious living natural resource? Consider the results of such behavior: Mass starvation, drought, floods and global warming. Seating is limited and is first-come, first-served.



## Hors de prix

The movie, *Hors de prix* (2006) by Pierre Salvadori will be screened on Tuesday, June 25 at 3pm and Wednesday, June 26 at 6.30pm at Alliance Française de Colombo, 11, Barnes Place, Colombo 7.

Jean, a waiter timid of a big hotel, pose as a billionaire in the eyes of Irene, a carefree type. When she discovers Jean who really he is, she quickly flee from him.

But Jean was in love put himself in pursuit of her to find her finally on the French Riviera. He, on the verge of ruining himself, ended up adopting lifestyle he likes most that of a businessman in a splendid luxury hotel. This new statute draws him closer to Irene who finally accepts his companionship. The movie is for general viewing and is subtitled in English.

## The illusionist

*The illusionist (L'illusionniste)* (2010) by Sylvain Chomet presented by Alliance Française de Kotte in Colombo will be screened on June 26 at 6 pm at Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) auditorium, BMICH, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7. (Running Time: 80 minutes)

The Illusionist is one of a dying breed of stage entertainers. With emerging rock stars stealing his thunder in the late 1950s, he is forced to accept increasingly obscure assignments in fringe theatres, at garden parties and in bars and cafés. Then, while performing in a village pub

off the west coast of Scotland, he encounters Alice, an innocent young girl, who will change his life forever. Watching his performance for the excited villagers who are celebrating the arrival of electricity on their remote island, Alice is awestruck by his show and believes his tricks are real magic. Though they don't speak the same language, the two lonely strangers quickly bond through small kindnesses. Fascinated by The Illusionist, Alice stows away on his departing ship and follows him to Edinburgh.

Entrance free. An Introduction and Refreshments will precede the screening!

Big screen

Back