

Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Report– August 2015

6 August Anjali – A tribute to the legendary Bharatha Natyam exponent and guru Late Padmashree Adyar K. Lakshman

"Anjali", a programme was organised by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in collaboration with Media Mantra as a tribute to the legendary Bharathanatyam exponent and guru Late. Padmashree Adyar K. Lakshman on 6th August 2015.

To commemorate his first death anniversary, his pupils and leading Bharatha natyam exponents in Sri Lanka presented a dance recital, as a tribute to their late guru. Smt. Krishanthi Raveendra, Smt. Padmini Selvendrakumar, Smt. Vyjeyanthimala Selvaratnam, Smt. Vasugy Jegatheeswaran, Smt. Subithra Kirubaharan, Smt. Vasanthi Kunchithapatham, Smt. Jeeva Ratnaraja, Smt. Geethanjali Sudharshan and Sri. Jayantha Karunasekara presented the dance items. Around 150 guests attended the event.

Adyar K. Lakshman was an outstanding Bharathanatyam artist and guru, who was groomed at the Internationally reputed "Kalakshethra", institute of fine arts, under the direct guidance of the founder of Kalakshethra, the legendary Shrimathi Rukmini Devi Arundale. Padmashree Adyar K. Lakshman's contribution as an artist at Kalakshethra was immense. Later, he founded his own dance institution "Bharatha Choodamani" in Chennai. As a guru, dance and music composer, he had created generations of Bharathanatyam artists who are nurturing this divine art around the world.

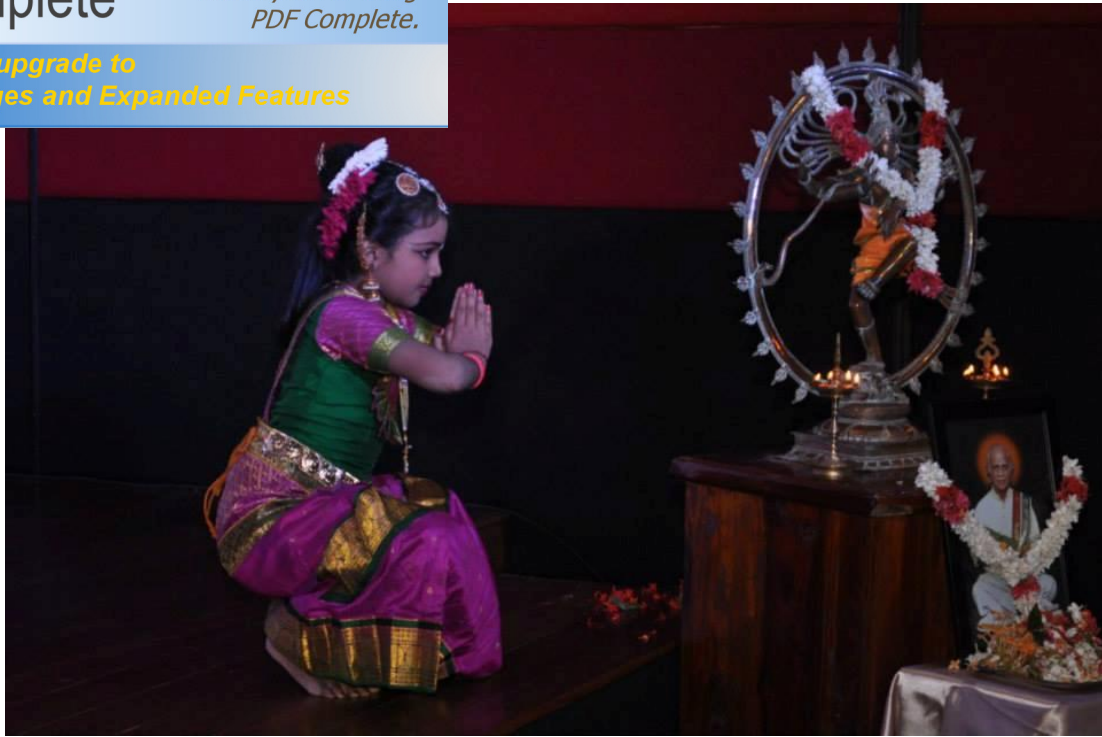




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Hindi in India

Each year 10 scholarships to Sri Lankan students are awarded for studying Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (Central Institute of Hindi) at Agra. This year the students who have been selected visited the High Commission on 7 August 2015 and met His Excellency Y.K Sinha, the High Commissioner of India along with Mrs. Rajashree Behera, Director of the Indian Cultural Centre and Ms. Shirin Qureshi - Long Term Hindi Chair of the Centre before their travel to India to pursue one year course in Hindi.

The Indian cultural Centre, Colombo publicized, conducted and interviews and facilitated the students for the travel.





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for the Sri Lankan students travelling to India

An orientation programme was conducted for the students who were awarded the scholarship to study Hindi in India. The programme was conducted by the Hindi teachers and the past Hindi scholars at the Centre on 7th August 2015.



Independence Day Celebrations

As part of the 69th Independence Day celebrations of India, the Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo presented a musical programme "BANDISH FUSION" by the Grammy nominated and internationally acclaimed percussion Maestro Pandit Subhen Chatterjee, along with his fusion band KARMA. This musical extravaganza was held at Bishops College Auditorium on 14 August 2015 at 7 p.m. The programme was organized with the support of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi; the Ministry of Culture and the Arts, Government of Sri Lanka; and Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo.

The group also gave a performance on 15th August 2015 at India House during the flag hoisting ceremony.

Pandit Subhen Chatterjee is an accomplished Indian percussionist and tabla player, who has developed a unique and distinctive style that draws upon his knowledge of multiple music "Gharanas". In 1985 he created the fusion band Karma, with a team of some of the top ranked musicians of India. One of the oldest bands in India, Karma plays unique fusion music that combines Indian music with elements of contemporary Jazz, Afro-Cuban and Mediterranean music. Bandish Fusion is a soul-stirring experience of sheer melodic beauty, fused with incredible rhythms.

Pandit Chatterjee was accompanied by Dipannita Acharya (vocal), Sambit Chatterjee (drum), Suvam Moitra (guitar), Arnab Chakraborty (Bass Guitar), and Subhas Mondal (keyboard).

Pt. Subhen Chatterjee and group performed to a packed audience at Colombo for both the programmes. The concert was of outstanding quality and was very well appreciated by the august gathering. Around 750 guests attended the concert on 14th August including NRIs and Heads of other Diplomatic Missions. 35 Diplomats including 7 Ambassadors and High commissioners, Secretary, Ministry of Port Govt of Sri Lanka, representatives of UN organisations, representatives of Deptt. Of Culture, Govt of Sri Lanka, GM Taj Samudra, Deputy Director, SAARC Cultural Centre and many more dignitaries along with High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner of India graced the occasion.



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Performance on 15th August 2015 at India House





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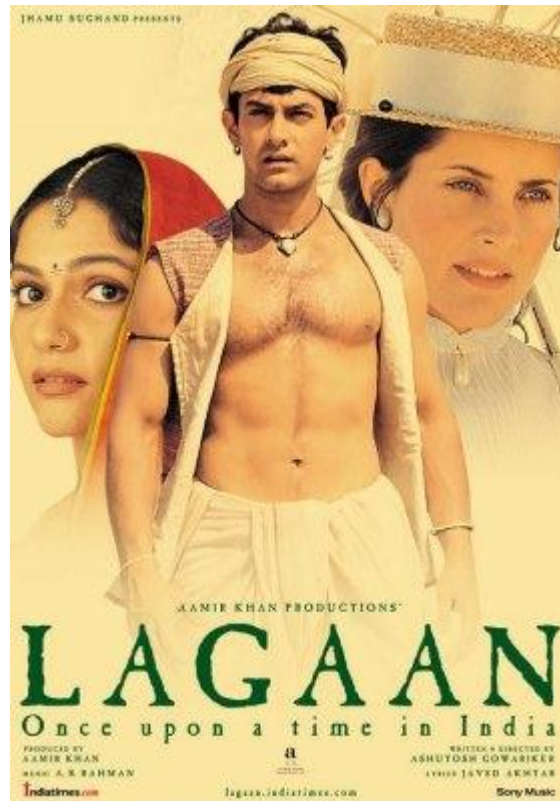
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17 July Film Screening: Lagaan

Indian Cultural Centre screened Lagaan on 21st August 2015 at its auditorium. The film was written and directed by Ashutosh Gowariker and produced by Aamir Khan. Around 35 guests attended the screening.



28August

Sri Lankan Emotional Dance by Nilan Maligaspe and ACDD Academy

Indian Cultural Centre organized a dance recital by Nilan Maligaspe and ACDD Academy on 28 August 2015 at its auditorium .

Nilan and his academy presented their new production “ **Sri Lankan emotional dance**” along with two other unique contemporary items choreographed by Nilan Maligaspe. Around 120 guests attended the event.

The Arpeggio Creative Dance Academy was initiated by Nilan **21 years ago, to train underprivileged young girls and boys free of charge**, in Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Hip-Hop, Creative Dance and Traditional Dance and Drama. Nilan began to explore the possibilities of expression through Contemporary Dance and was invited to participate in the Master Classes at the Attakkalari India Biennale held in Bangalore, where he worked with well known choreographer Janet Lily and contemporary dancer and performer Khamlane Halsackda.

Some of Nilan's well known productions are 'Kadatholu Nimeshaya' in 1998, 'Rahiru Pathama Kirula' in 2003, 'Another Tempest' which was first staged at the Colombo Dance Forum in 2010, 'Kuveni' which was sponsored by India Sri Lanka Foundation which was held in Ladakh India.

He has received many awards and accolade such as Award for Best Mime Performance in all island from the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa at the National Youth Awards Ceremony in 1989, Merit Award at the same festival in 1991 for break dance, first ever live Sri Lankan performance to the music of Bollywood singers – 'Mega 95' Sri Lanka's largest music festival, Best Performance, Best Choreographer/Director and the Best Stage Designer at State Ballet , Best Choreographer at the Derana Music Awards 2011 and many more.



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