

Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

Activities in March 2011

March 4

Film: Mahabharat (Volume VII) – India's greatest epic

March 9

Kuchipudi Dance Recital by Nrutya Ratna Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo is organized a Kuchipudi Dance Recital by Nrutya Ratna Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri (Hansa Awardee) from India on Wednesday, 9th March 2011 at the ICC Auditorium.

Emerged as a child prodigy Smt. Maddali Usha Gayatri is a disciple of Natyacharya Bharatakala Prapoorna, late Sri Vedantam Jagannadha Sarma. She is also a Scholar & Teacher of Kuchipudi Dance. She also holds a Masters Degree in Dance from the Central University, Hyderabad, India. She is also a recipient of Hansa Award and Nrutya Ratna Award. As a dancer she has choreographed many dance ballets taking up subjects of traditional and social mores.

Ms. Gayatri presented several items which lasted for an hour and half which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Around 75 guests participated in this event

March 11

Kathak Dance Recital by Ms. M.M. Deepa Kure

Ms. M.M. Deepa Kure is a disciple of Shasthrapathi Achini Lanka presented a Kathak Dance Recital at the Indian Cultural Centre. Deepa Kure is one of the known teachers of Kandyan and Low Country dances. She holds a Diploma in Kandyan dance and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Kelaniya. She also has vast experience of traditional Indian dance Kathak. She has presented a number of stage performances all over Sri Lanka. She performed Tarana, Tumri and dance for bhajans on various deities such as Lord Krishna and themes. Around 125 guests attended the event.

March 15

Film: Purva Uttara (Past Forward) – A series of unusual films on historical sites of India directed by Shyam Benegal

March 24

y Mr. Chandragupta Thenuwara

Mr. Chandragupta Thenuwara, Senior Lecturer at the University of Visual & Performing Arts delivered a Slide Lecture – Reflections on Art at the Indian Cultural **Centre**.

Mr. Thenuwara completed his BFA at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya and MFA at the Moscow state Art Institute and obtained his M. Phil from the postgraduate Institute of Archaeology. Mr. Thenuwara has exhibited widely in Colombo, New Delhi, Moscow, Vienna, London, Melbourne, Liverpool, New York and many other cities of various countries.

Mr. Thenuwara shared his experience in the field of Art and spoke about his works. Several slides of his works were also projected for the audience view. Around 50 guests attended the event

March 25

Film: Purva Uttara (Past Forward) – A series of unusual films on historical sites of India directed by Zafar Khan

March 28

An evening of Tagore Songs by Rezwana Choudhury Bannya



High Commission of India and High Commission of Bangladesh jointly organized an evening of Tagore songs (Rabindra Sangeet) on March 28th 2011 at Lionel Wendt Theater by renowned artiste Rezwana Choudhury Bannya to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev

. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka, Mr. Dilan Perera, Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion & Welfare, Sri Lanka, Mr. Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, H.E Mr. Mahbub Uz Zaman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh and H.E. Mr. Ashok K. Kantha, High Commissioner of India lighted the traditional lamp to inaugurate the evening event which was well attended by the lovers of the Rabindra Sangeet in Sri Lanka.

Tagore, a poet, music teacher, playwright and visual artist, was one of the major witnesses and protagonists of the beginning of the industrial era and of the first half of the twentieth century. His significant work provides us with a philosophical system emblematic of Asian civilizations.

A contemporary of Gandhi and Nehru, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, friend of Einstein and of many artists and scientists, this humanist in search of the universal is at the core of a galaxy of intellectuals and creators from Asia and continues, moreover, to have an impact on the international community as a whole.

Tagore visited Sri Lanka thrice and discovered the beauty and the elegance of the Kandyan dance, raised its stature and inspired a renaissance of Sri Lankan culture. Gurudev also laid the foundation of Sri Palee, an Institute modeled on the lines of Santiniketan.

A number of events are on the anvil to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka including release of a special postal stamp, publication of a commemorative volume including articles on Tagore, exhibition of paintings by Tagore, photo-exhibition on Tagore and a film festival of the films based on the stories of Tagore, etc.





March 28

Nav Pratibha 2011

Nav Pratibha – A display of new talents in Indian classical music & dance - performances on sitar, violin, tabla, Carnatic vocal music, Hindustani vocal music, Bharata Natyam & Kathak dance recitals by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre was held at the Kularathne Hall, Ananda College on 31st March. The event was presided over by the Deputy High Commissioner Shri Vikram Misri. Managing Director of the Express newspapers Mr. Kumar Nadesan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The evening started off with a classical sitar recital in which the students trained by Dr. Normal Kumara Rodrigo presented an item, "Sitar Sandhwani" a composition based on raag Kalawathi set to Madhyalaya and Drutha Teental. The classical sitar recital was followed by Hindustani Vocal music recital. The students trained by Dr. Premadasa Mudunkotuwa sang classical bhajans based on raag Kedar and Dadra based on raag Khamaj. The students trained by Carnatic music maestro Kalasuri Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan presented a Keerthanam "Sri Jalandhara" in raag Natai set to Aathi taal, followed by "Shanthi Nilava Vendum" in raag Thilang and concluded with a Thillana in raag Thilang. It was followed by a Hindustani Violin recital by the students trained by their guru Visharadh Somasiri Illesinghe. They presented an item based

Next was a Tabla recital by the students of the Centre trained by their guru Visharadh S.W.Randoowa. Many aspects of Tabla percussion were displayed by the students. A Tabla duet was another performance.

The instrumental and vocal music recitals were followed by dance recitals. The students trained by Kalasuri Vasugy Jegatheeswaran commenced the dance recital with "Kurai Ondrum Illai" followed by a dance item for the songs "Nandhalala" and "Aaja nachle". The Kathak dance students trained by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya presented a "Tharana". Thereafter, there was a Bharata Natyam dance recital by the students trained by their guru Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan. They started with a dance performance for the song "Neethani" and concluded with a Thillana. Shri Kumar Nadesan, Chief Guest of the occasion felicitated the teachers.







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