

**Indian Cultural Centre
Colombo**

Activities - March, 2014

3 March Sri Thyagaraja Aaradhana - Festival of Carnatic Music and Dance

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo in association with the Hindu Educational Society and the Express Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd organized Sri Thyagaraja Aradhana, an annual musical and dance festival paying homage to the great Carnatic music composer Thyagaraja, on 3 March 2014 at the Saraswathie Hall Colombo 04.

Musicians, vocalists as well as instrumentalists and percussionists from all over Sri Lanka came together and render Pancharatna Keerthanams (five songs) of Thyagaraja on this occasion. The choral rendition of the five songs is an integral feature of the Aradhana.

In this year's festival in addition to the musicians, dancers also participated. While the singers sang the keerthanams and the dancers presented the dance describing the keerthanam.

The festival commenced with Pancharathna Keerthanam in raagam Naatai led by the faculty members of the Department of Music and Dance of the Swamy Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Batticaloa and continued with Pancharathana Keerthanam in raagam Gowlai led by the students of Muthukumarasamy Devasthanam Isai Nadana Kalalayam, Trincomalee and for this keerthanam the dance was presented by the students of Abhinayakshethra School of Dance, Colombo. The other three Pancharathna Keerthanams were led by the students of Sapthaswara school of Music in raagam Aarabi, the students of Arohana Academy of Music in raagam Varali and concluded with Department of South Indian Music, University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo respectively and dance for this keerthanam was presented by the members Aru Sri Art theatre.

Around 500 members participated in this festival including musicians, dancers and the music lovers.

















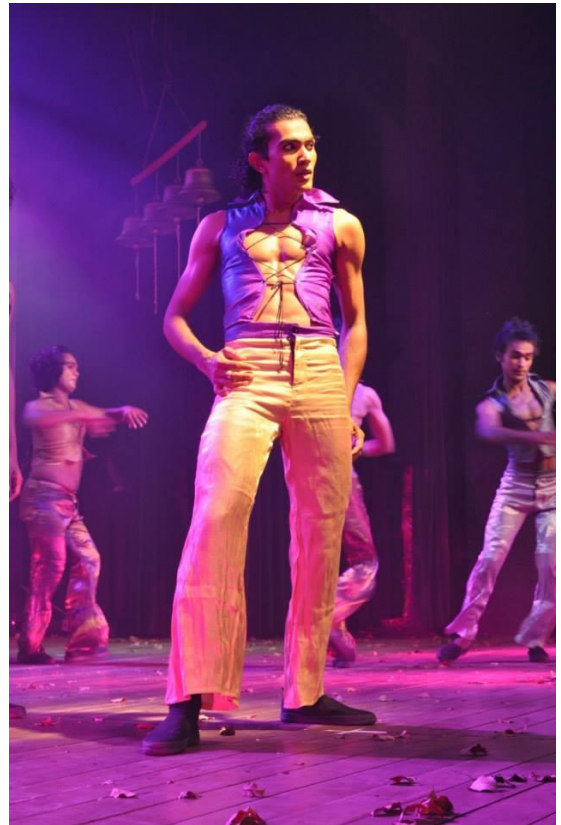


11 March Abhee – Film Choreography – Movement of Film Dance by Moksha Art of Dance

As a tribute to Indian Cinema, the India-Sri Lanka Foundation and the Indian Cultural Centre organized Abhee: a dance drama organized by Moksha Art of Dance on 11th of March 2014 at the Bishop's College Auditorium. The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, H.E. Y.K. Sinha, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, at the event.

Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya who received her Kathak dance training at Bhathkande Music Institute, Lucknow, India, along with her students, will be performing in this programme. The event will feature a fusion of the well known Indian dance form, Kathak, with modern free styles and folk traditions for an unforgettable combination of four Abhinaya's. This is an attempt to reinterpret the popular culture using the same iconography but fashioning it with colors of classical dance. Dance for the film songs from various Hindi films were presented. Around 750 guests attended the event.

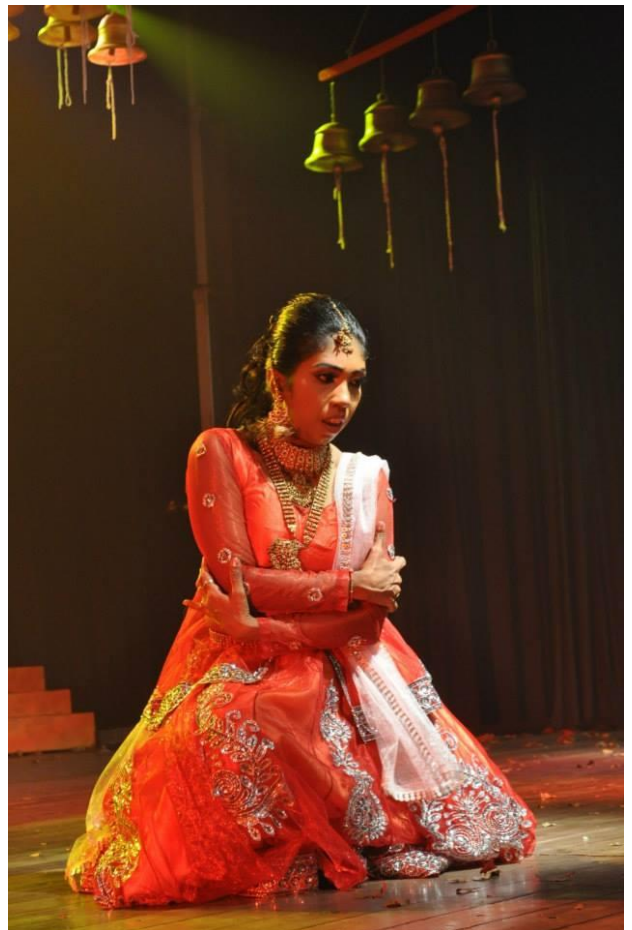




















19 March Lecture- Film Practice: Toward a cinema of conversation by Sumathy sivamohan

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a lecture by Prof. Sumathy Sivamohan on Film Practice: Toward a cinema of conversation at its auditorium on 19 March.

Ms. Sumathy spoke on dialogue patterns in films and the experiences she had in making her film "Ingirunthu" and the reasons behind making such film. The lecture was followed by an interactive session. Around 40 guests attended the event.

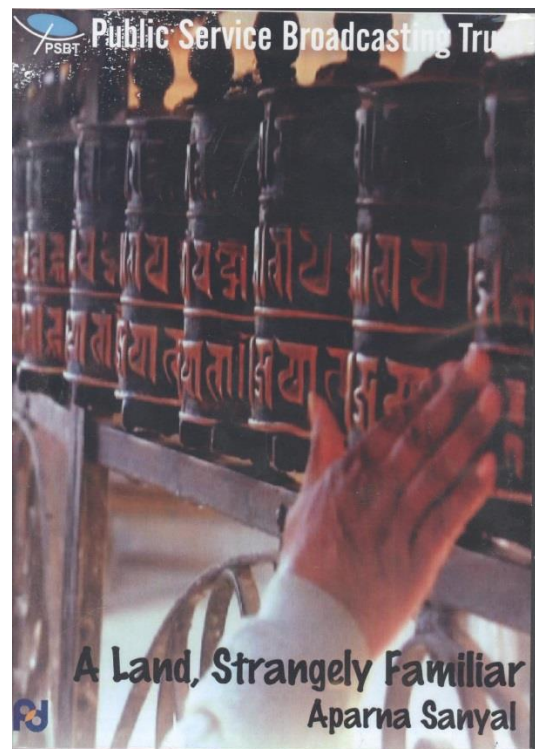
Prof. Sumathy Sivamohan holds a Doctorate from the Washington State University, USA. Her research and academic involvement includes publications and conference presentations on postcolonial literature and theory, women's movements in Sri Lanka, Performing Arts (theatre and film). She has authored Thin Veils: In the Shadow of the Gun & Wicked Witch Performing Act/ivism (2003), Militants, Militarism and the Crisis of (Tamil) Nationalism. Monograph, Marga (2003), like Myth and Mother: a Political Autobiography in Poetry and Prose. Colombo, Sirahununi (2008).

She has also translated books such as "A Tale of Three Cities" by Kalamogan from Tamil to English. She was member of the Drama Panel of the Arts Council of Sri Lanka and the Member of Performing Arts Society in Sri Lanka. She has also engaged herself in films such as Oranges (2006) and Piralayam (2005). She has published poetry in numerous Sri Lankan and international journals. Poet and author Sumathy Sivamohan is awarded the prestigious Premchand Fellowship 2011 by the National Academy of letters, India (Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, India).





26 March Screening of Documentary Film a Land, Strangely Familiar



Indian Cultural Centre screened a documentary film titled "A Land, Strangely Familiar" directed by Aparna Sanyal at its auditorium.

The film was an expression of the filmmaker's experiences as she travels extensively through the country of Nepal and finds stories of its relationship with India that go beyond the boundaries of history, politics and geography. Based on the vibrant relationship between the two countries, the film is a cultural tool that strives to evoke awareness against preconceived notions and support the development of inter-cultural empathy and cross-border exchange.

Aparna has worked extensively on documentaries and TV shows for both Indian and international televisions on a wide variety of subjects including the Indian polity and economy, sexuality, women's issues, the Indian youth, the partition of India, environment development and mental health. Tedhi Lakeer or The Crooked Line, co-directed by her, was one of the first films to be made in India to protest the criminalization of homosexuality in the country. Aparna is one of the jurors for the UNICEF ABA CASBAA International Child Rights Films Award. She is also the co-founder and Creative Director for Mixed Media Productions and Oasis Television. Her Film, A Drop of Sunshine, won the National Award for the Best Educational Film in 2012. Around 30 views attended the screening.

Scholarships in Fine Arts subjects for Sri Lankan students

In the month of February the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo called for applications for the ICCR Scholarships in Fine Arts subjects for Sri Lankan students by issuing Press Releases in various newspapers in the 3 main languages. 25 applications were received and interviews were held on 4 March 2014, after the interviews 15 were short listed and forwarded to ICCR, New Delhi.