

SINHALA CINEMA

Kelum Palitha's Nilambare doing well



Veteran television producer Kelum Palitha Mahirathne's maiden film *Nilambare* is playing in cinemas successfully. The film was based on the popular novel *Nilambare* of Sujeewa Prasannarachchi.

Ranjan Ramanayake and Dilhani Ashokamala play the lead roles while veteran actors Ravindra Randeniya, Veena Jayakody, and Sanath Gunathilake play promising roles in this film.

Apart from them Semini Iddamaloda, Kanchana Kodithuwakku, Anjula Rajapaksha, Anton Jude and Seetha Kumari play the other roles in this film.

Fine cinematography of Ruwan Costa has really added colour to this production. Navarathne Gamage has also come up with some scintillating melodies superbly mingled with the picturesque images of the hill country.

Nilambare is the debut production of Upul Jayasinghe of Nilwala Films. Kelum Palitha Mahirathne has been a television producer for more than 15 years and he works at Swarnavahini presently.

TAMIL FILMS

Srikanth going all out



Actor Srikanth has one regret — his good looks and talents have not shot him to the top. Youngsters who came after him have gone beyond him — Arya, Jeeva and Bharath. Unless, he pulls off a fast one, staying in the field may be difficult. He has therefore instructed the producer of *Kizhaku Kadarkarai Salai* to dump money, no matter how much, into the project. He has also instructed Stanley, the director, to concentrate on the story.

Naan Kadavul to kick off



Bala-Ajith's much expected *Naan Kadavul* is all set to start rolling. Since Bala is ready with a complete script, and the cast and the crew are almost finalised the film is set to hit the floors. Initially there was some confusion regarding the production house and the terms. Now it has been decided that Bala would produce and direct the film for P. L. Thaanappan on first copy basis. The film is expected to hit the screens on 2007 Pongal or Tamil New Year.

A. R. Rahman in support of maestro



You cannot miss A.R. Rahman at an event. There is always the customary adrenalin-charged atmosphere when he walks in although the guy himself is cool as cucumber. He attended the launch of *Sakkarakatti* recently.

What is special about this film is that it would be a collaboration between two second-generation film folks. K. Bhagyaraj's son, Shantanu, makes his debut as hero while the director is Prabu, son of noted producer Thanu. Kalaippuli Thanu is the producer. Talking about his association with the project, ARR said that he had known both Bhagyaraj and Thanu and was excited to be in *Sakkarakatti*, the sequel to Shekar Kapur's Oscar-winning *Elizabeth*.

Bollywood

Mystic mask rules in Krrish

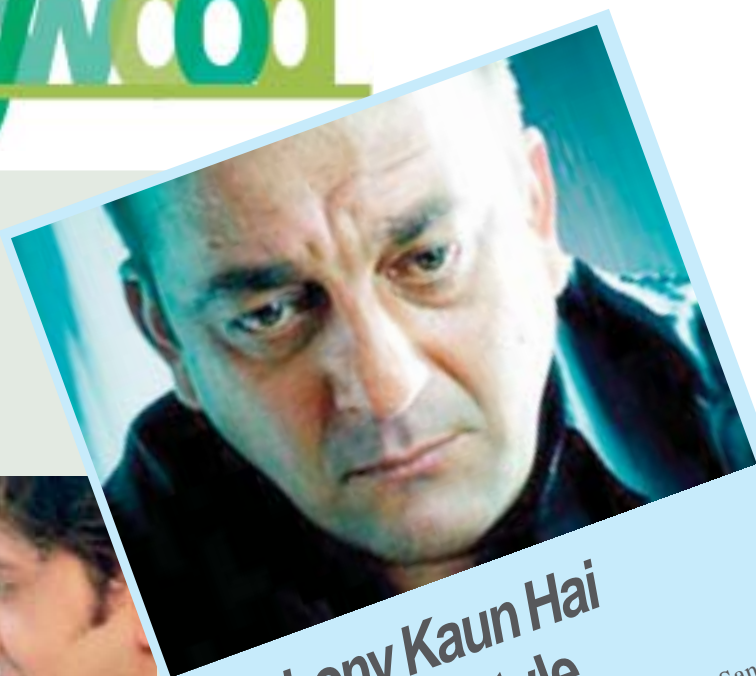


While the alien creature *Jadoo* played an important role in *Koi Mil Gaya*, in its sequel *Krrish*, a mysterious, specially designed mask plays a significant character throughout the narrative. The introduction of the mask comes at a juncture, when a circus tent catches fire and thousands of lives are in peril.

Hrithik Roshan, playing Krishna, who later transforms

into *Krrish*, spots a mask and when he wears it, he gets a supernatural power, which he uses for the welfare of humanity.

Krishna hides behind the mask to protect his real identity and this concept is one of the USPs of *Krrish*.



Anthony Kaun Hai kicks off in style

A few days back we had mentioned about Sanjay Dutt's ONIB becoming AKH. For starters, ONIB that stands for *One Night In Bangkok* has Arshad Warsi pairing with Sanju Baba. The film was quick in the making and is now getting ready for release. Starring Minissha Lamba and Anousha Dandekar as leading heroines and Raghuvver Yadav and Gulshan Grover in the supporting cast, AKH has Himesh Reshammiya as the music composer.

The first look of the film has made quite a splash as it features suited booted Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi standing tall (and short respectively) while wearing designer shades and red ties. With polished black shoes to match and a gun with a silencer in tow, Sanju looks deadly as ever! But guess what the real fun part of the film is? Its title that is as simple (and innovative) as it gets.

RGV shows his funny side again



If there is one film maker who has never felt shy of criticising his own work and made a promise to come up with better results in his future ventures, it is Ram

Gopal Verma. This time around it is the turn of his experimental film *Darna Mana Hai*. And he uses none other than his latest release *Darna Zaroori Hai* as a platform to create all the fun.

The story in question is the opening sequence directed by Sajid Khan that has Manoj Pahwa as the lead protagonist who loves to watch a movie *First Lady Last Show* for some special reasons.

Sheen faces legal battle with dead porn star's mum



Charlie Sheen's legal woes continue to mount up — he's now being linked to the death of a porn star. Chloe Jones, a former Penthouse Pet, was found dead in her Houston, Texas, home last June — just months after going public with a steamy affair she had with Sheen. And now the X-rated star's mother Donna is considering filing a wrongful death suit against the actor because she thinks he drove her daughter to take her own life.

Speaking to the tabloid *Globe*, Donna Jones says, "I've seen a lawyer about filing a wrongful death suit against Mr. Sheen. I think he didn't slip her the pills — but he drove her to it with death threats.

"She'd (Chloe) call me 10 times a day telling me of her fears. She was terrified to death of the guy." And the actor's estranged wife Denise Richards has her doubts too — in explosive legal papers filed last month, the former Bond girl admits she confronted Sheen about Jones' death when she learned the mother-of-three had died from liver failure after taking an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

Hollywood

Star salaries coming down in Hollywood?

Poor Jim Carrey. His movies have raked in nearly \$2 billion at box offices, but now a leading entertainment magazine says the comedian's asking price of \$25 million a film has become "a bit of a gamble."

In its issue out this week, *Entertainment Weekly* rates top stars on whether they are worth the money.

Among those whose asking prices have become too high are Carrey, Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell and Eddie Murphy, the magazine said. It added that after years of ever-rising star salaries, the prices for top talent are now coming down because the cost of making movies is going up, among other issues. "It's long overdue," former Twentieth Century Fox Chairman Bill Mechanic told the magazine.

Entertainment Weekly quoted several studio executives as saying the rising cost of production has led many stars to take large parts of their fees from revenue and profit participation that may never materialise if films flop at box offices.

Carrey, star of hits like *Bruce Almighty*, had been a big beneficiary of the 1990s' salary run-up during which he saw his paycheck hit the \$25 million mark.

Rishi-Shoma unite after 23 years

Remember the tender romance of Rishi Kapoor and Shoma Anand in *Coolie* that released way back in 1983? Though the movie was a hit, it was known more for Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Rati Agnihotri and of course Puneet Issar who came into the limelight due to an unfortunate accident on the sets.

No one thought of pairing Rishi and Shoma after that and while Rishi went on to do dozens of more romantic films, Shoma more or less settled down in *bhabhi* roles only to re-emerge as a middle aged woman with good comic timing in films like



Hungama and *Kya Kool Hain Hum*. Almost 23 years after they first came together, Rishi and Shoma would now be seen together in yet another comic outing *Love Ke Chakkar Mein*.

The film is directed by B.H. Tharun Kumar who made a moderately successful *Naye Padosan* a few years back that still enjoys a decent re-run on small screen.

Kangana creates huge impression

If promos were any indications, Kangana Ranaut, the heroine of *Gangster* — *A Love Story*, was always a star in the making. To top it all, everyone from Mahesh Bhatt to Mukesh Bhatt to Anurag Basu never got tired of appreciating her superb acting skills.

Though to some, it seems like yet another publicity gimmick from the house of Bhatt, those who had seen rushes of the film were quite sure that she is the future star in the making.

The thought has finally become reality with the release of *gangster!*



Inspite of Shiney Ahuja's intense presence and Emraan Hashmi's popularity amongst the young crowds, Kangana has still managed to stand tall and create a huge impression in her very first outing.

Wrong timing for Payal Rohatgi?

Are back to back releases turning out to be a bad thing for upcoming actress Payal Rohatgi?

Just when coming Friday sees the release of her first biggie *36 China Town*, the news of her long delayed sleaze flick *Men Not Allowed* comes at the most opportune time.

While *36 China Town*, a murder mystery that features her in an important role, followed by Madhur Bhandarkar's *Corporate* that has her playing a film actress, promise to put her in a good position in Bollywood circles, her earlier signed film *Men Not Allowed* dealing with same sex relationships also threatens to hit the screens soon.

Movie world with Jamila Najmuddin, Arthur Wamanan and Chinthaka Fernando



Anna Nicole Smith pregnant?

Anna Nicole Smith has sparked speculation she is pregnant after refusing to deny rumours of her pending motherhood. The former Playboy Playmate remains coy about the claims she is expecting her second child. Her publicist Howard K. Stern says, "If Anna Nicole is pregnant she obviously doesn't want anybody to know yet."

"If she is not pregnant she's not denying the rumour because she thinks it's funny how much of a stir it's causing. She'll leave it up to you to guess which one it is." Meanwhile, Smith is celebrating after the Supreme Court this week awarded her the right to continue her legal battle in pursuit of her late oil tycoon husband's millions.

The 38-year-old married billionaire J. Howard Marshall in 1994 when she was aged 26 and he 89. His 1996 death triggered a decade-long legal battle between Smith and her stepson E. Pierce Marshall.



Aniston interested in Mr. T's mansion

Jennifer Aniston is still chasing her dream of moving to boyfriend Vince Vaughn's home estate of Illinois — she has her sights set on former *A-Team* star Mr. T's Lake Forest mansion. The actress, who recently went public with her plans to move out of Hollywood, has spent months reportedly looking for property in and around Chicago. And now she's showing interest in Mr. T's Tudor-style mansion.



Lohan called on Ono for support amid death threats

Lindsay Lohan was so worried about death threats she received after signing on to star in a film about John Lennon's killer, she called on the late Beatle's widow Yoko Ono for help. The *Mean Girls* star admits her family and friends all advised her against playing a Fab Four fan who befriends Mark David Chapman in Chapter 27 — and she quickly discovered why they were concerned.

But the support she received from Ono helped her get through the shoot and ignore those who criticised her for agreeing to star in a film that humanises Chapman.

Hatcher's dad accepts blame for molestation

Teri Hatcher's father has accepted his part in the actress' child molestation hell, admitting to the *Desperate Housewives* star he should have been more affectionate towards her. The actress stunned her parents when she came forward to testify against her uncle Richard Hayes Stone after he was linked to the suicide of teenager Sarah Van Cleemput in 2002.

Stone was accused of molesting the 14-year-old in 2002 but there wasn't enough evidence to jail him until Hatcher plucked up the courage to come forward and reveal her

uncle had molested her as a child.

Hatcher insisted on anonymity when she testified against Stone, but she recently went public about the ordeal in an interview with *Vanity Fair* — and that prompted her to sit down and talk to her parents about the whole thing.

And she was left speechless when her father blamed himself, in part, for childhood problems that led to her molestation hell. She says, "He said that he really consciously, because of his upbringing, withheld affection from me because he didn't want me to be a brat."

