

SINHALA CINEMA
with Chinthaka Fernando

Malaka's film screened in Tel-Aviv



Transparence, a film by young short-film maker Malaka Devapriya was screened at the 11th Tel-Aviv International Student Film Festival. This film carries the theme of gender equality. It represented Sri Lanka in the competitive section of the film festival held from June 2-11.

Japan's 'Short' Short-film Festival in 2004 and Netherland's Cinestud Student Film Festival in 2005 hosted Devapriya's *Transparence* before it was hosted by Tel-Aviv.

The cast comprises of Anuruddhika Padukkage and Aruna Priyantha. The film was edited by yet another young person, Harsha Dissanayake. Nuwan Vithanage directed the music of the film while Senarath Dissanayake handled the make up.

The Tel-Aviv Student Film Festival is acknowledged as one of the largest and most renowned student film festivals in the world. Both students and professionals take part in this event which is considered a unique feature of this film festival.

This allows film enthusiasts from all over the world to get together, share knowledge and get a lot of practical experience.

The festival, which spans over a week, includes professional activities, special screenings, workshops, master classes, retrospectives and social activities.

Joe Dambulugala no more



Former chairman of Lanka Kala Sangamaya and veteran film actor Joe Dambulugala passed away on June 11.

He was a very gifted art director and an arts teacher apart from being an actor. The OCIC award for the film *Arunata Pera* in 1985, Kalapathi Award in 1987 and Kala Bhooshana Award in 1994 were some of the prestigious awards he received.

The films he took part in both acting and art direction were *Sikuruliya*, *Poojithayo*, *Apeksha*, *Yuganthaya*, *Sasaraka Pethuma*, *Deveni Gamana*, *Siripala Saha Rammenika* and *Valampuri*.

He was a well-known arts teacher who taught at various government schools and overseas international schools. Hundreds of students learned art under him in the *Dambulugala Kalayathanaya*.

Veteran film producer Asoka passes away



Prominent film producer Asoka Perera passed away recently. He produced some of the most significant films of Sri Lanka such as Dr. Lester James Pieris's *Wekanda Walauwa*, Chandran Rutnam's *Poronduwa* and *Madara* of Gladwin Fernando.

Asoka is the producer who introduced Jayani Sarala, the main child actress of Deepa Mehtha's film *Water*, to cinema.

He was the managing director of Film Location Service Ltd. His brother Bharatha Perera is also a film director who created the film *Bambara Geethaya* and is the uncle of Inoka Sathyangani, one of the most prominent contemporary filmmakers in the country.

The cremation took place at the Borella cemetery last week.

Yasodha-Neeta take to film production



Popular young actress Yasodha Wimaladharmasari will be taking to film production, which is another healthy sign for the future of the Sinhala cinema. She will be joining veteran actress cum producer Neeta Fernando in a co-production under the name of Pathma Production.

The film is based on the English script *Silent Owner* written by Yolanda Weerasinghe. The film's director Thanuj Anawarathne later translated it in to Sinhala. One of the special features of this film is that it brings back veteran actress Shanthi Lekha to Sinhala cinema.

The cast of the film comprises of Shanthi Lekha, Irangani Serasinghe, Neeta Fernando, Damitha Abeyrathne, Nimmi Harasgama, Kanchana Mendis, Chandra Kaluarachchi, Jayani Senanayake, Angela Senevirathne, Anarkali Akarsha, Rozanne Dias and Saumya Liyanage.

Harsha Makalanda will do the musical score. Suminda Weerasinghe will be in charge of cinematography while veteran Ravindra Guruge will edit the film.

Neeta Fernando's earlier production *Pauru Walalu* became an international hit, which won her the best actress award at the Singapore National Film Festival.

Bas Ek Pal — a film about urban relationships



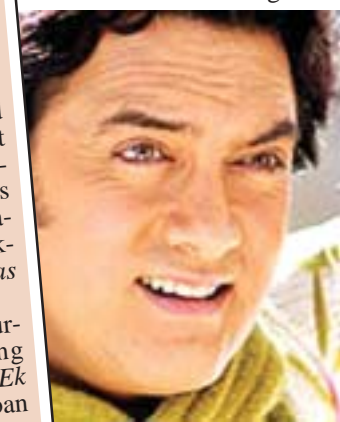
After the critically acclaimed *My Brother's History* that would go down in the history books as one of the first films to tell a sensitive tale about alternative sexuality, director Onir is making fast progress with his next *Bas Ek Pal*.

While the plot of the film is currently under wraps, the young writer-director discloses that *Bas Ek Pal* is a film that looks into urban relationships. Promising to be yet another sensitive tale, BEK is produced by Manohar Kanungo (whose *Anjaan* is waiting for a release) and Shailesh R. Singh.

Aamir lends a helping hand

The moody superstar Aamir Khan has changed his plans to fit in good friend Amol Gupte. Khan had said that Mani Ratnam's film after *Guru* will be his next venture. But considering that

Guru is still under production, the star of such blistering hits of the year like *Rang De Basanti* and *Fanaa* is all set to moonlight long time friend Gupte's film about a bond between a father and his 12-year-old son who is afflicted with Dyslexia. If Gupte is to be believed then this film which will be Aamir's second home production after *Lagaan* will roll in a month's time.



A painter and writer by profession Amol Gupte had been working on the script of this film for the last seven years. In fact he has also done a small role in Ketan Mehta's *Holi* where Aamir was seen in cinema for the first time. He had also assisted Mehta during *Mirch Masala* (1985).

Irrfan Khan and Deepal Shaw pair up for Tumse

It's time for unusual pairings! On one hand Rahul Bose and Mallika Sherawat would be seen steaming up the scene in *Pyaar Ke Side Effects* while on the other hand an 'intelligent woman sex symbol' Irrfan Khan has paired up with sensual Deepal Shaw for *Tumse*.

But hold on before you think that it is a titillating film starring the *Kabhi Aar Kabhi Paar/Kalyug* girl! It's far from that because as per Deepal, *Tumse* is basically about human psychology and emotions with love as its backdrop. It shows how people react to different situations and repent later. It's about how love creates hassles in their lives, while rescuing them from various situations at the same time. It's like when love ceases to be a secret, it ceases to be a pleasure



Bollywood



Jimmy Shergill's film stuck again

This has been happening with Jimmy Shergill for a long time now, especially in the recent months — his films being stuck in the cans due to reasons beyond the actor's control. One of the recent examples has been Karan Razdan's *Umar* that saw a huge delay before release and when it eventually did, it vanished without a trace.

Now unfortunately his upcoming *Rehgar* too has been waiting for long to see the light of day, this too after the fact that a few months back the film's promotion followed by a music launch happened. Since then, this film directed by Faruq Masudi with Saloni Aswani as a female lead has hardly been in the news with promotion coming to a standstill. Some of his other films that are either stuck or ready for release since long are *Love In Kashmir*, *Dum Dum Diga Diga*, *Prateeksha* and *Khaffa*.

Rajpal Yadav does it again

After you venture out of *Chup Chup Ke*, the actor you remember most is not Shahid, not Kareena, not even Paresh Rawal but Rajpal Yadav.

The real 'star' of the film, Rajpal Yadav has managed to steal the thunder away from right under the noses of so many other immensely talented actors. The first half

of the film runs entirely on his small shoulders. He gets the best dialogues to mouth, best scenes to enact and best situations to make them



more funny. Priyadarshan and Rajpal Yadav had first created similar magic in *Hungama* where the second half of the film was a riot primarily due to Yadav's presence.

TAMIL FILMS
Navya's sincerity



Navya Nair, who is impressed with actor-director Cheran's approach towards film-making, has gone a step further and has joined hands with him to float a production company. The two have come together to start a production house called Lights and Shadows.

As a first step, they have acquired the rights of *Aadam Koothu*, a movie being directed by D.V. Chandran featuring them.

The film's production had dragged for such a long time that the producer has decided that it isn't worth the expenses.

He was concerned too because the costs had exceeded the budget. Finally, the producer decided to walk out of the film.

Success brings them together



Sundar C's debut venture as hero with *Thalainagaram* has been well accepted by the masses. The movie has managed to collect good revenue and he has enough offers pouring in his kitty to act.

Thalainagaram directed by Suraj, a one-time associate of Sundar C, was produced by Oscar Films.

The success of *Thalainagaram* has resulted in the production house signing yet another movie featuring Sundar C as hero and Suraj wielding the megaphone.

Says Suraj, 'It would be a hilarious entertainer unlike *Thalainagaram*. The movie would go to floors soon.'

Pals fear for slimming Holmes

New mom Katie Holmes has sparked fears for her health after shedding an astonishing 28 pounds since giving birth to baby Suri on April 18. The actress' strict diet and exercise regime has been slammed by health experts who insist she should be losing weight more leisurely.

But pals of the former *Dawson's Creek* star reveal she's desperate to regain her pre-pregnancy figure before marrying Tom Cruise and will keep pushing herself until she's back to her svelte former self.

A friend tells British tabloid the *Daily Star*, Katie has embarked on a hardcore fitness regime and does 200 sit-ups a day, combined with two hours of cardio work before pilates.

"She has eaten healthily since giving birth but now her friends are worried she has dropped two dress sizes in too short a period of time. She is rushing around all of the time and is on hand for the baby 24 hours a day. Her weight is just rapidly falling off.

It can't be good and has got to be very stressful."

Simpson gave up alcohol during film shoot

Jessica Simpson used her recent location shoot in New Mexico to purge her body of toxins. The pop star/actress asked pals to come with her and make sure she stuck to her teetotal tester.

Simpson was shooting *Employee Of The Month* and wanted to take the time during the shoot to get

healthy. She explains, "I didn't drink for, like, three months.

"My friends and I were like, 'OK, we're out of L.A., away from everything. Let's cleanse ourselves from boys and sidekicks and email.' We worked out all the time and drank so much green tea. I'm definitely a lightweight now."

'Idol' winner tops bachelors list



American Idol winner Taylor Hicks has topped a new list of eligible celebrity bachelors in the US.

The gray-haired soul man beat out Jamie Foxx, Idol host Ryan Seacrest, actor Wentworth Miller, Jake Gyllenhaal and Nick Lachey

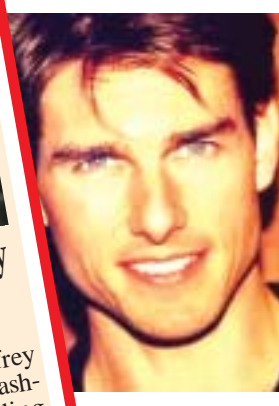
to claim the cover of *People Magazine's* Hottest Bachelors issue.

The mag also names newly single Matthew McConaughey, who was recently branded *People's* Sexiest Man Alive while he was dating Spanish actress Penelope Cruz.

Movie world with Jamila Najmuddin and Arthur Wamanan

Hollywood

Cruise tops Forbes celebrity 100 list



Tom Cruise has topped the annual *Forbes* magazine Celebrity 100 list. Angelina Jolie is the cover girl for the much-anticipated publication, which hits news stands last week — but it's Cruise's movie successes and his romance with Katie Holmes that propels him to the top, with an estimated \$67 million fortune.

It is the second time the *Mission: Impossible* actor has topped the list, but his reappearance in the number one spot came as a surprise in light of recent bad press over his controversial Scientology beliefs and exaggerated display of love for Holmes in the infamous *Oprah Winfrey* couch-jumping exhibition.

However, movie earnings and column inches in the press have re-earned him the title five years after he first snatched it. A *Forbes* wealth expert says, "He is the only celebrity to ever make the number one spot twice. In a weak year for Hollywood, Tom Cruise is the only film star to make it to the top ten."

Hilton gives Spears paparazzi tips



Oprah upsets wedding party by crashing the ceremony

Media mogul Oprah Winfrey has come under fire for crashing an Oklahoma wedding with a camera crew.

The TV talk-show queen stunned newlyweds Heather and Ben Klein and their guests at the June 3 ceremony in Tulsa when she made a grand entrance and toasted the speechless couple.

But the groom's mother has since blasted Winfrey for stealing the big day from her son. A family member says, "The family's a little angry that it happened. Oprah had no right to crash a private wedding just to make her TV show." Winfrey's wedding-crashing exploits will appear in an upcoming *Oprah* show.

Paris Hilton insists pop star Britney Spears should try and cooperate with the paparazzi and not antagonise them. The hotel heiress, who appeared on talk show *The View*, claims she sympathises with Spears' battle with the media, but that the best way to handle the pesky photographers is to smile and work with them.

She explains, "(The paparazzi) annoy me, too. I can understand going to a press event or a premiere that's fine, they're there, but

when they're waiting outside your home every morning and following you around every single day it's hard."

