

SINHALA CINEMA with Chinthaka Fernando

Study programmes by School of Media, Arts

School of Media Arts and Management — an institution for education on cinema, television, drama, radio, newspaper and advertising is to commence several courses this month.

The six months study programmes include diplomas in cinema, television, direction, screenplay writing, editing (film and TV), creative communication and TV filming would be conducted by veterans in the field of cinema and mass communication.

The panel of lecturers includes Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja, Tissa Abesekera, Lalith De Silva, Nisha Karunarathne, Prof. Sunanda Mahendra and M. C. Mahindapala.

Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) and Neth FM will provide electronic media coverage. Applications are available at No. 44, Skelton Road, Colombo 5.

Roy's latest film — Sonduru Wasanthe



Roy De Silva

Prominent film maker Roy De Silva's latest direction, Sonduru Wasanthe will be released on July 7 at the Regal cinema and the cinemas of the CEL circuit. The film introduces a lot of new faces to the film industry including a new film producer.

The cast of the film comprises popular Chathurika Peiris, Arjuna Kamalanath, Tharindu Wijesinghe, Niroshan Wijesinghe, Anarkali Akarsha, Anusha Damayanthi, Nilanthi Dias, Mahinda Pathirage, Ajani Perera, Himali Siriwardena, Teddy Widyalkankara and Roy De Silva himself.

The musical score of the film is composed by Sangeeth Wickremasinghe and late Hemasiri Halpita has written the lyrics of all the songs. P. Nandasena has directed the cinematography of the film.

Roy's wife Sumana Amarasinghe has been in charge of the production management of the film. The assistant director of the film is K. D. Nicolas while Janaka Ranasinghe was make up director.

Sonduru Wasanthe is the debut production of Ajani Perera of Ajani Films Ltd.

Vocals of Latha Walpola, Champa Kalhari, Uresha Ravihari, Nuwan Gunawardena and Ananda Perera add colour to the creation.



Lester James Pieris

New film by Lester in its final stages

The latest film of Dr. Lester James Pieris is in its final stages of production. The film is being edited by the award winning editor Ravindra Guruge at the TVT editing studio.

The cast of the film comprised Malini Fonseka, Roshan Pilapitiya, Tissa Abesekera and Pradeep Dharmadasa, who incidentally makes his acting debut in this film. Tissa Abesekera comes to the silver screen after a lapse of over a decade.

The film is a production of Jagath Wijenaik. Maestro Premasiri Khemadasa is composing the musical score of the film.

The film revolves around the complex relationship between a mother and her son who is a Buddhist monk. A Buddhist monk should cut off all his ties when ascending the priesthood, but he fails in letting go of the relationship with his mother.

Successful screening of Mille Soya in USA, Canada

Mille Soya, the highly acclaimed, award winning film of Boodie Keerthisena, is presently being screened in the USA and Canada.

The film is being screened in New York, Washington and Toronto in Canada. Boodie has also gone to the USA to take part in this special screening.

A highly skilled cast which includes Mahendra Perera, Sangeetha Weeraratne, Jackson Anthony, Sanath Gunathilake, Ravindra Randeniya, Kamal Adaraarachchi and Roger Senevirathne put together a superb performance in the film.

Mille Soya won the award for Best Film at the Presidential, Sarasaviya and OCIC film festivals in 2005.



Amisha's b'day in Venice

Director Vikram Bhatt will celebrate Bollywood actress Amisha Patel's birthday in Rome (Italy) quietly. Yes, he wants to celebrate this in a romantic way.

And, no place could be better than Venice to be with his girlfriend on the latter's most auspicious day. Certainly Vikram knows this better than anyone else as Amisha has come to him in his second innings of lovemaking.

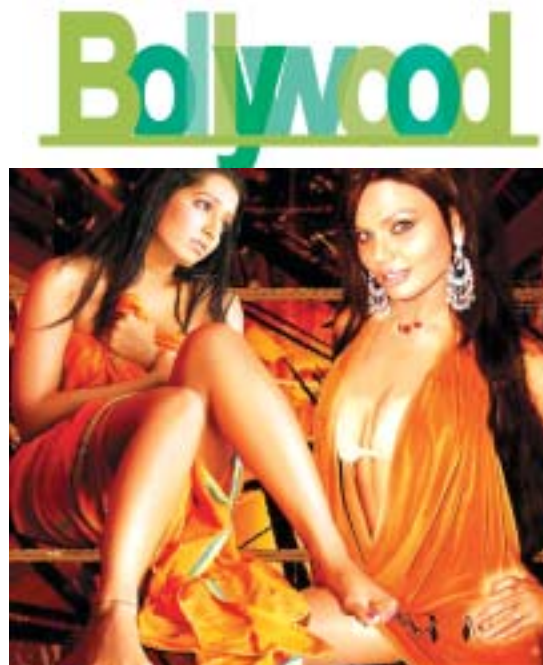
Rekha to play call girl

Evergreen actress Rekha will play a call girl for the third time. This time she will act in the National Award winning Director Gautam Ghosh's Yatri.

Ghosh believes that only Rekha could do justice to this role as a call girl of Lucknow.

Others in the cast of Yatri are Deepti Naval, Anandi, Nakul Vaid and Nana Patekar.

This is to recall that Rekha played such a character first in 1981 in Muzaffar Ali's Umrao Jaan and later in 1984 in Shashi Kapoor's Utsav.



Traders donate sarees for Rakhi, Meghna

Saree traders from Varanasi (Banaras) have decided to send about two dozen pieces to the item girls of Bollywood — Rakhi Sawant and Meghna Naidu and donate sarees for the item girls.

The volunteers from Sangharsh Samiti, a social organisation, went around the saree market early this week carrying posters of scantily clad Rakhi Sawant and Meghna Naidu and 'begged' the traders to donate sarees for the item girls.

Numerologist forecasts Rs. 660m for Krrish

Rakesh Roshan released this year's biggest movie Krrish starring his son Hrithik opposite Priyanka Chopra, and along with evergreen Rekha, with very high hopes.

Before the movie's release, Rakesh left no stone unturned to see that the movie succeeds at the box office. Rakesh also consulted a senior numerologist and also accepted his advice by modifying its title with the addition of one 'r' to Krish.



Bips in new avatar

Isn't Bipasha Basu playing a double role in Abbas-Mustan's next venture, starring Ajay Devgan and Sanjay Dutt? Yes, she will be seen in a new avatar in his mentor's untitled movie.

She will surprise her fans as she has got her beautiful long hair cut short for this movie. After all, it was Abbas-Mustan who launched her in his Ajnabee, and Bips has never looked back since.

However, this time it is Abbas-Mastan's comedy unlike Ajnabee in the past, when she played a gray character.

Junior B endorses Omega watches

Abhishek Bachchan has added one more feather in his cap as he has become the brand ambassador of an international watch company, Omega. During a function in the Indian capital last week, Omega announced that Abhishek would be the new brand ambassador of Omega watches.

"I have been using Omega watches for a very long time and find these excellent. So, I accepted to become their brand ambassador," Abhishek said.

He added, "I endorse only those products which I am used to."



TAMIL FILMS

Vettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu — Hope springs eternal



Finally there is a little hope for Kamal Haasan's fans to see Vettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu on the screens.

The actor has dubbed for the post-interval scenes of the movie following his return from America recently. It is expected that all post production work would be completed and the movie would hit theatres soon.

Producer Manickam Narayanan is keen on getting the movie released at least this time. However the only hitch maybe some distributors, who claim that they have got the distribution rights from Khaja Mohideen, who was initially slated to produce the movie.

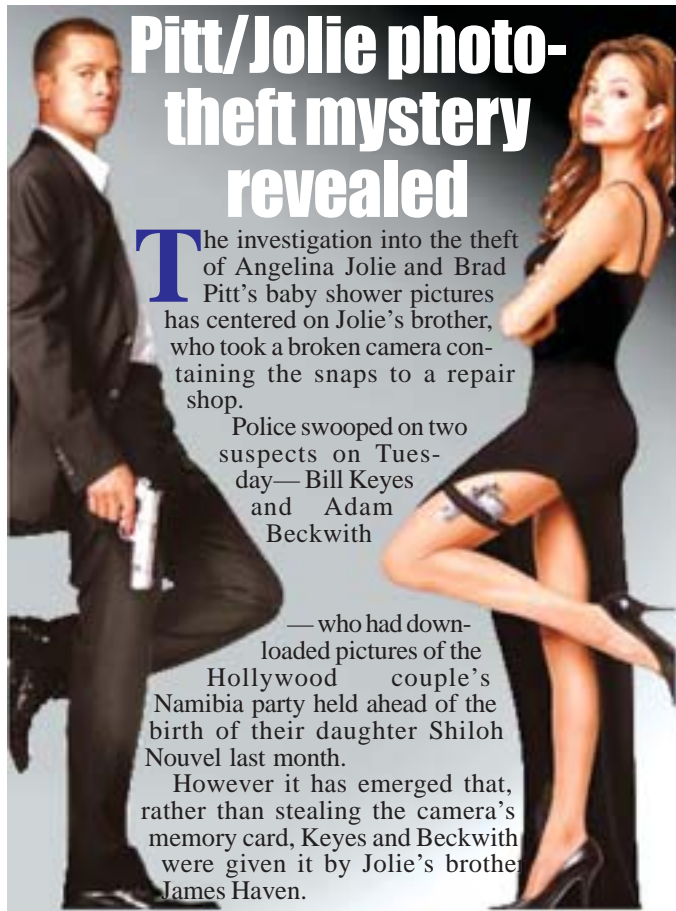
Pooja takes wing



When heroines from Malluwood are arriving in droves to Kollywood, there is also some sort of reverse migration. Some Tamil heroines are trying to get a foothold in Malayalam movies.

Pooja has recently completed shooting for a Sinhalese film. After Sneha, who acted with Mammootty, it is the turn of the busy Pooja to get signed up for a Malayalam movie.

Pooja, who is on a high after the success of Pattiyal and Thambi, is slated to play the heroine in a movie titled Don. Shaji Kailash would handle the movie. It also features Sai Kumar and Niju Menon.



Pitt/Jolie photo-theft mystery revealed

The investigation into the theft of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's baby shower pictures has centered on Jolie's brother, who took a broken camera containing the snaps to a repair shop.

Police swooped on two suspects on Tuesday — Bill Keyes and Adam Beckwith

— who had downloaded pictures of the Hollywood couple's Namibia party held ahead of the birth of their daughter Shiloh Nouvel last month.

However it has emerged that, rather than stealing the camera's memory card, Keyes and Beckwith were given it by Jolie's brother James Haven.

Superman primed to take box office in single bound

It's a given that the Man of Steel will lead this weekend's box office as Superman Returns moves into 4,065 engagements on Friday.

The Warner Bros. Pictures feature flew into 3,915 venues in North America last week and racked up \$21 million in gross receipts. The first-day total includes an estimated \$3 million from previews — which began at 10 p.m.

Superman marks the first time in 19 years that the superhero has graced the silver screen. Bryan Singer directed from a script by Michael Dougherty and Dan Harris. Brandon Routh throws on the red cape, Kate Bosworth is Lois Lane, and Kevin Spacey is Lex Luthor.

The first-day gross of Superman Returns, budgeted at more than \$200 million, bested another caped crusader under the Warner banner: the Dark Knight.



Hollywood

Naomi Watts on baby watch?

King Kong star Naomi Watts is expecting her first baby, according to Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper reports it was the second time Watts had been spotted visiting the clinic and that she was 'sporting a definite glow' when she attended the Shakespeare in the Park gala in New York City's Central Park with beau Liev Schreiber last week.

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Rumours circulated after the stylish star was seen wearing a series of baggy garments and photographed leaving a Brentwood, California, fertility clinic.

Spelling family hits back at Tori

Candy Spelling has hit back at estranged daughter Tori for causing a media circus

around the death of legendary TV producer Aaron Spelling.

The family released a statement in direct response to Tori's interview in the new issue of US Weekly magazine, in which she says the news of her father's death came as a complete shock.

The statement, released last week, says, "We are deeply saddened that, during our time of loss and grief, we are forced to respond to the media frenzy caused by the mean-spirited and surprising comments made by Tori to the press, just two days after the passing of Aaron.



Kutcher's brother caught up in suicide riddle

Ashton Kutcher's twin brother Michael has been caught up in a suicide mystery after his ex-wife called medics to report her former husband's plans to take his own life.

Melissa Kutcher reportedly called emergency services in Iowa after her ex failed in his bid to win her back while her new boyfriend was serving jail time.

But Michael Kutcher's publicist, Leslie Sloane Zelnick, who also represents his famous brother, insists reports of the suicide attempt are overblown.

She says, "It's true that the police were sent to Michael's home after a call saying he had tried to commit suicide, but it was a false call made by his ex-wife."



Brosnan back as Bond?

Pierce Brosnan looks set to follow in the footsteps of Sean Connery by teaming up with movie mogul Kevin McClory for a rival 007 film.

Brosnan, who was unceremoniously dumped as James Bond last year, is the favourite to play the superspy in Never Say Never Again producer McClory's new movie, which is set to compete with an upcoming Bond film.

McClory, who owns the rights to 1965's Thunderball, remade that film as Never Say Never Again in the early 1980s, and now he plans to have yet another go at the Bond film — with Brosnan as a returning 007.

