

SINHALA CINEMA with Chinthaka Fernando

Baddegama on small screen



The doyen of Sinhala cinema, Dr. Lester James Pieris's yet another classic creation *Baddegama* will be telecast in Rupavahini on July 30 at 12 noon.

The film was an adaptation of the famous novel *The Village In The Jungle* (1913) by Leonard Woolf, a one time AGA, Hambantota.

Cast of the film comprised Joe Abewickrama, Malini Fonseka, Vijaya Kumaratunga, Henry Jayasena, Tony Gunasekara, Trilicia Gunawardena, D. R. Nanayakkara, Tissa Udangamuwa, Navanandana Wijesinghe, David Dharmakeerthi, Geethal Perera, Indira Abeywardena, Vincent Vass, Stanley De Silva and Asoka Peiris.

Dr. Arthur C. Clerke also played the role of the magistrate in the film.

The film was produced by Wilfred Perera. The adaptation of the novel into a successful script was done by Prof. A. J. Gunawardena, who later compiled the biography of Lester himself. Cinematography of the film was handled by veteran Willy Blake while Gladwin Fernando edited the film. Nimal Mendis and Sarath Fernando directed the music while Hemapala Dharmasena performed as the art director, bringing back the settings of 1913 into 1980s.

Baddegama was highly acclaimed internationally on the contrary to the local acclamation. In Sri Lanka it was highly criticised as it has deviated from the central theme and the flaw of the book. However the film won the award for the best-screenplay at the OCIC Film Festival.

Internationally, it was featured in the Quinzaine de Realisateurs (Directors' Fortnight) segment of Cannes International Film Festival — the first Sri Lankan film to be so recognised.

NFC calls entries for film festivals

The National Film Corporation (NFC), calls for entries for the two internationally acclaimed film festivals. Films could be submitted for the 21st Isfahan Film Festival in Iran, which would be held on October 30 and to the 25th Fajiri Film Festival next February. Further details could be obtained from the Development Unit of the National Film Corporation.

Buddhi reproduces Sujatha for TV

Veteran film producer Buddhi Keerthisena has started producing his very first teledrama. The film *Sujatha* will be reproduced as a teledrama by Buddhi. The teledrama will be directed by V. Sivadasan.

Baptist Fernando felicitated

Senior actor, producer and director, Baptist Fernando was felicitated in a special ceremony organised by Sri Lanka Jathika Kala Sansadaya on July 22 at John De Silva Theatre

Warnakulasuriya Mahalekange Baptist Fernando was born in 1933 in Negombo. He obtained the chance of playing a dual role in the film *Perakadoru Bena* while he was still a student at Joseph Vass College, Wennappuwa.

At the beginning he was restricted to the role of a villain, which he performed really well. *Satha Panaha*, *Ohoma Hondada*, *Sahanaya* and *Thushara* were some of the films in which he played superb roles as the villain.

Thereafter he played the lead role in the film *Duppahage Hithawatha* which was highly accepted by the audience. This was quite an unlikely incident as only very few actors who played the role of the villain later became popular as a film-hero during those days.

He produced a lot of films such as *Sahanaya*, *Tikira* and *Duppahage Hithawatha*. *Angulimala* was the first film he directed. Baptist who is fondly known as 'Batty' was a onetime Treasurer of Sri Lanka Actors and Actresses Association.

Launch of Athmabadda Cinema Rupa

A book written analysing Prasanna Vithanage's cinema was launched yesterday (25) at 3 p.m. at the Mahaweli Centre.

The book written by W. S. A. N. J. e. e. w. a Pushpakumara is titled *Athmabadda Cinema Rupa* (Cinematic images engraved in the souls). Prof. Carlo Fonseka graced the occasion as the chief guest. Lectures were delivered by Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe and cinematographer, M. D. Mahindapala.



Filmmaker Vimukthi visits Delhi confab

One of Sri Lanka's most promising young film makers, Vimukthi Jayasundara will be participating in a conference held under the theme of 'The parallel voice of Indian cinema' in New Delhi.

This ceremony is organised to mark the 80th anniversary of the prominent Indian filmmaker late Ritwik Ghatak. Ghatak's wife Surama Ghatak will participate the conference as the chief guest.

Vimukthi is the only non-Indian filmmaker to take part in the conference. Sanjay Leela Bansali, Yash Chopra, Sunil Doshi, Rita Khan Ghatak, Adhur Gopal Krishnan, Rajan Kapur, Mani Kow, Ameer Khan, Keithan Methna, Sharmila Thagore, Kumar Sahani are the other Indian filmmakers who would take part in the conference.

Bollywood

'The Killer' opens to good reviews all over



The Bhatts seem to be on a winning spree! While their last *Gangster* was the classiest ever coming from their production house, their on-the-road-hardcore-masala-flick *The Killer* too seems to have found a flavour amongst the critics at least. Though audience reaction would be known once the weekend is through, the critics seem to have given a thumbs-up to this Raksha Mistry-Hasnain Hyderabadwala debut flick inspite of *The Collateral* inspiration.

The director duo has ensured that the basic plot is sprinkled with Indian 'masala' and presented as pot-pourri that would work amongst the masses.

Except for one or two publications/sites which are habitual of snubbing every Bollywood movie week after week, regardless of its credentials or actual box office fate, practically every other website, publication and independent critic has agreed that the film needs to be looked as a time pass entertainer, in which aspect it comfortably succeeds.

Road clears for Omkara

Will just about 10 days back there were uncertainties around the number of releases lined up on every week before the arrival of *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* on August 11.

With releases rescheduled in a big way with films like *Rocky — The Rebel*, *Ahista Ahista* and *Aryan — Unbreakable* (yet again) moving ahead, the maximum benefit has passed on to *Omkara* with the road being cleared for its release.

Though there were murmurs (albeit for a short duration) about its release date being pushed from July 28, the fact remains that it is indeed arriving on the scheduled day and now has a big added advantage of being a sole release for the week.

With only two releases to follow in the subsequent week (*Anthony Kaun Hai*, *Shaadi Kar Ke Phans Gaya Yaar*), it could not have



been better for *Omkara* to enjoy a decent first two 'all-important' weeks at the box office!

Shahrukh is a cripple



Gotcha! Right... Well, the rumour has now been confirmed. SRK has a slight cripple in one of his legs in KJ's *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna*.

It's not as if he always had this though in life after having played his share of football and basketball, a la *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*. An accident gives him a limp-in-the-leg. And he gets crippled in the mind owing to this setback.

It would be interesting to watch SRK in a role where he is made out to be a bit of a weakling. With due respect to all the critics one should

stop pestering Shahrukh with this allegation that "Hey he does the same thing again and again."

There's no variety. He can't go out of his comfort level of a Raj or Rahul. What no one should forget is that each time SRK gets on the screen; he is dynamite.

There's something that is magnetic about him that pulls people to the big screen and inspires millions to watch him woo his heroines. I guess it's a seasonal thing where as people say good things about one and not so good things about others. But I am not guessing when I say that SRK season is about to begin. And it will last the year end for sure.

TAMIL FILMS

Dasavatharam gets a heroine



Kamal Haasan is all ready to begin his *Dasavatharam*, the movie that will feature him in 10 different roles.

The big news on that is that Asin is said to have walked away with the role of his heroine in the film. Now this is a major achievement from Asin. For, she seems to have pulled the rug from under the feet of Trisha, Vidya Balan and Shriya.

Dasavatharam is to be directed by K. S. Ravikumar, dialogues are by Crazy Mohan, and music is to be from a group of musicians including Himesh Reshammiya and Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy.

Imman — busy as a bumblebee



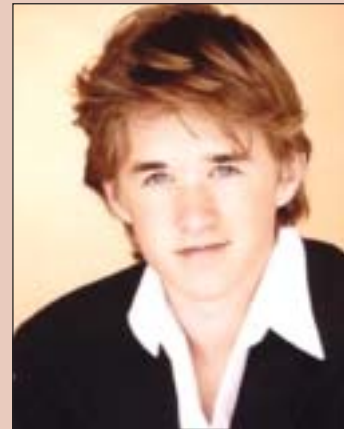
Young music composer Imman is a happy man now for he is flooded with offers.

He is currently scoring music for over half-a-dozen movies including Selvah's *Nenjal Jil Jil* Arjun starrer *Vathiyar*, Arunkumar's *Thavam* and a movie to be produced by Sathyaraj starring his son Sibiraj in the lead role.

An elated Imman says, 'I thank Almighty for the success. I am more committed to give quality music and keep my fans happy.'

Imman, who made his beginning with *Thamizhan*, in a short span of time has established a name for himself in Kollywood. With his tunes in movies like *Whistle*, *Thaka Thimi Tha* and *Kovai Brothers* making it to the top of the audio charts, Imman is confident that he can continue his winning streak.

Cops suspect Osment was drunk when he crashed



Los Angeles police suspect Haley Joel Osment was under the influence of alcohol when he crashed his car last week. The 18-year-old suffered a broken rib, fractured right shoulder blade, cuts and abrasions when he crashed his 1995 Saturn station wagon into a pillar and flipped it in the community of La Canada-Flintridge.

The *Sixth Sense* star was not charged by police, but L.A. County Sheriff's sergeant

Mark Slater admits "we suspect alcohol played a role in the accident."

Osment — who was driving alone — could not be breathalysed at the scene, but a blood sample was taken after he was admitted to Huntingdon Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California.

Slater tells the *New York Daily News*, "The results will not be ready for another three weeks. There is going to be a full investigation."

Movie world with Jamila Najmuddin and Arthur Wamanan

Hollywood

Colin Farrell confronted by woman on TV show

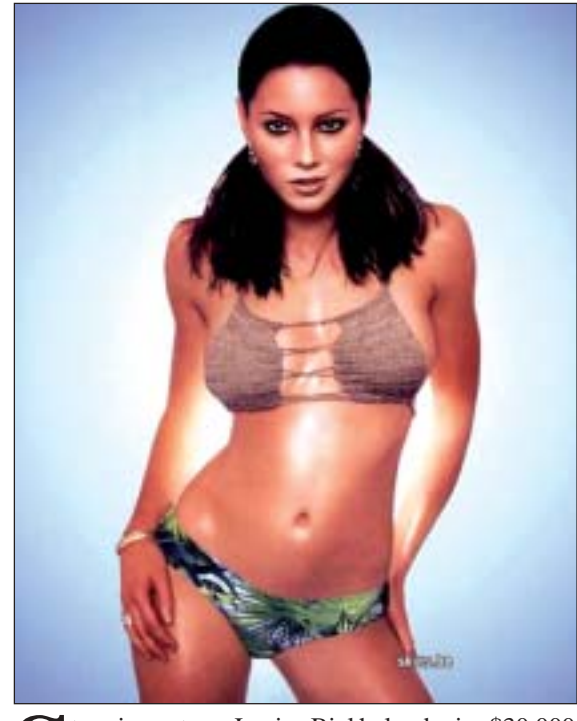
Irish actor Colin Farrell was confronted by a woman who leapt up from the audience as he was taping an episode of *The Tonight Show* With Jay Leno on NBC in Los Angeles, a police spokesman said last week.

No one was hurt during the incident and it was initially thought to be part of a skit, Sgt. Neil Gunn of the Burbank Police Dept said.



When it became clear that her intentions were less than friendly, the woman was hustled away by the show's security staff. A policeman on the scene advised her not to come back or she would be arrested for trespassing, Gunn said.

Biel 'auctioned' for \$30,000



Stunning actress Jessica Biel helped raise \$30,000 for an ailing teenager after she auctioned herself off for a date with the highest bidder. *The Blade: Trinity* star, 24, offered to share a lunch date in a bid to raise money for Colorado teen Molly Bloom, who was left with high medical bills after she lost her leg and part of her pelvis in a limousine accident on her high school prom night in May.

Biel's father Jonathan says, "Jessica has this opportunity to create a buzz that would provide some support and she's more than happy to do that." The lucky bidder, known as John, made the bid at the auction in Denver.



Chinese censors remove scene from MI 3

Mission Impossible 3 finally opened in China last week after censors removed a scene which they believed portrayed the Chinese military in a negative light.

In the action-packed segment, Tom Cruise's character, Ethan Hunt, distracts a

unit of Chinese soldiers by throwing a baseball before killing them all.

The spokesperson felt the scene gave the impression "common Chinese people were... insensitive to a hostage situation." A total of six minutes of J.J. Abrams movie were left on the Chinese editing room floor.

Police pick up Campbell for breach of the peace

Supermodel Naomi Campbell was arrested last week after reportedly screaming at her ex-boyfriend Badr Jafar outside his London home. The 36-year-old, who has just separated from Arab prince Jafar, arrived at his exclusive Belgravia property to pick up some of her belongings.

And, when he refused to let her in, Campbell allegedly began shouting so loud she woke up his neighbours, who called police.

Cops arrested Campbell for breach of the peace, before driving her to a nearby road and de-arresting her once she had calmed down. They then returned to Jafar's house to collect her belongings.

Campbell made the headlines when she reportedly caused \$54,000 worth of damage to Jafar's yacht following an argument with an Italian chef.

She is also currently fighting three lawsuits, all filed by former employees who claim the supermodel assaulted them.

Hanks celebrates his 50th by visiting ballparks

Tom Hanks is celebrating his 50th birthday by visiting seven baseball parks with his pals.

The movie star, who celebrated his big day earlier this month, came up with the sporting tour as a gift to himself and asked *The Da Vinci Code* director Ron Howard and comedian Dennis Miller to join him.

The trio made their third stop at a Cincinnati Reds vs. New York Mets game in Ohio last week and followed that with a trip to a Detroit Tigers game. Hanks insists he won't



be revealing the ballparks he still hopes to visit, stating he plans to arrive without fanfare.

He says, "This is the dream you have all the way back."

Having comedian Miller along for the ride came in useful last week when the crowd in Cincinnati during a two-hour rain delay.

