

SINHALA CINEMA
with Chinthaka Fernando

Sewwandi — Sangeetha's 49th film

Award winning actress Sangeetha Weeraratne recently joined the band of actresses-turned-producers. *Sewwandi*, the first film she produced was directed by yet another award winning director, Wasantha Obesekara.

Sangeetha herself plays the lead role in the film whereas the cast includes some prominent personalities like Kamal Addaraarachchi and Ravindra Randeniya. Popular vocalist Dayan Vitharana makes his debut as an actor in this film. *Sewwandi*, will also be released in Tamil language in order to cater to the wide audience of Tamil filmgoers in Sri Lanka.

Sangeetha Weeraratne was born on December 13, 1973. Her father is Timothy Weeraratne, a well-known film and camera director in the Sinhala cinema industry.

She started her acting career in Dr. Lester James Pieris's teledrama *Golu Hadawatha*. She made her debut in the film industry through an English film named *It's A Matter Of Time* directed by film director Roy De Silva.

Sewwandi will be Sangeetha's 49th film as an ac-



triss. She has won several prestigious awards in her film career. She won the *Sarasaviya Award* for the best- newcomer for the role she played in the film *Saptha Kanya* in 1993.

She then annexed the *Sarasaviya Award* for the best-actress for the film *Nomiyana Minisun* directed by Gamini Fonseka in 1994. In 1995 she won a merit award for her role in the film *Maruthaya* directed by Wasantha Obesekara, whom she has offered to direct her first film production.

In 1996 she won two Best Actress awards in two film festivals for the role she played in the film *Dorakada Marava* — Critic Award for Best Actress and the OCIC award for best-actress were those two awards. In 1999 she won the Presidential Award for best supporting actress for her role in the film *Pavuru Walalu* directed by Prasanna Withanage.

She annexed the best actress award again in the year 2000 for the film *Aswesuma* directed by Bennet Rathnayake. She was also adjudicated as the most popular actress at the *Sarasaviya Film Festival* in year 2002 and 2003.

Action-packed Dharma Puthra on screens



Dharma Puthra, an action film directed by Louis Vanderstraten is now being screened in the MPI circuit. The film is a production of Nimal

Sumanasekara. The cast includes Vasantha Kumarawila, Anusha Damayanthi, Buddhika Rambukwella, Nimal Sumanasekara, Dayananda Jayawardena, Raja Fernando, Vimal Jayakody, Janaki De Silva, Aravinda Irugalbandara and Hemantha Rathnakumara.

The film was originally titled as *Buddha Puthra* but later it was changed upon conditions imposed by the National Film Corporation.

The camera was handled by Dinesh Kumara.

M. S. Aliman edited the film. Rohana Kumara was the art director whereas Leon Vanderstraten worked as the assistant director of the film.

Channa wins award for Best Cameraman

Channa Deshapriya, an extremely talented young camera director, won the award for best camera direction at the 27th Durban International Film Festival. He won this award for his work in the award winning film, *Sulanga Enu Pinisa* of Vimukthi Jayasundara.

So far Sri Lanka has won only two international awards for camera direction. And both awards have been won by Channa Deshapriya — a significant achievement indeed. Earlier he won an award for his work in Inoka Sathyangani's award winning film *Sulang Kirillee*.

The film, *The Peter Pan Formula*, directed by Korean film director Cho Chang Ho was adjudicated as the best film at the festival. The best-director award was won by Shian Lue, who directed the film *Grain In*



TAMIL FILMS
It's laughing time with Vijay in Pokkiri



Vijay, when he started his career in the cine industry was a man of few words. In fact, one can see his emotions and moods only in front of the camera. People even believed that he was a very snooty person though it is not true. But now the scene is totally changed and it is definitely for the better. People owe this behaviour of his to his daughter Divya Sasha.

In the sets of upcoming *Pokkiri* directed by Prabhu Deva, he is said to have let his hair down and is very cool. He is thoroughly enjoying himself. He plays the fool in the sets and Asin, the heroine of the movie is at the receiving end most of the time.

This has even made director Prabhu Deva to make a note and he has changed the story line to accommodate these comedy scenes. Vijay's teasing Asin and her reactions have been included in the movie and of course with a few changes.

Dubbing trouble for Vivek's Solli Adippen



After the stupendous success of Vadivelu starrer *Imsai Arasan*, Vivek wants to complete his film *Solli Adippen* where he is paired with Chaaya Singh as hero.

Actually the shooting for this film started long back but the movie went into rough weather later. This film is supposed to be set in the typical Vivek comedy mould in the first half and suspense and thriller in the second half.

When the movie went on the floors, Vivek was very sure about its success. But later the film was stalled due to financial reasons and a host of other reasons too.

Hilton caught up in Playboy scandal as look-alike poses as Paris



Bosses at *Playboy* magazine have got Paris Hilton's handlers hopping mad again by calling on her look-alike, Natalie Reid, to pose naked — as the hotel heiress.

Under the headline *One Night As Paris*, Canadian doppelganger Reid bares all while striking the

socialite's famous pouty poses and holding Hilton's favourite accessory, a Chihuahua.

The resemblance to blonde Hilton is striking, which has upset the *Simple Life* star's aides — the same people who objected to a *Playboy* cover shot of the socialite in March 2005.



Walters harshly scolds co-host on The View

Veteran newswoman Barbara Walters hit out at co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck live on air last week after a disagreement over the morning-after pill.

The panel on talk show *The View* were discussing the day's 'hot topics' — in-

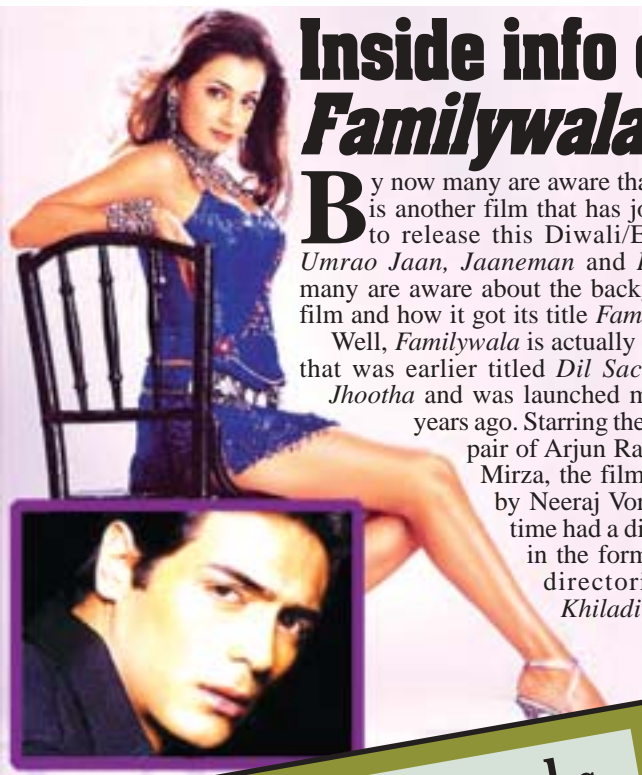
cluding the Food and Drug Administration's plan to consider selling the morning-after pill over the counter — when the debate became heated.

The politically conservative Hasselbeck could barely contain herself as the topic was introduced saying, "My heart is almost out of my chest right now — I feel very strongly about this" before venting her fury.

Guest co-host Lisa Loeb tried to step in and disagree, calling Hasselbeck's views 'extreme.'

Walters desperately tried to reign Hasselbeck in as she went on her rant, but was repeatedly cut-off.

Inside info on Familywala



By now many are aware that *Familywala* is another film that has joined the fray to release this Diwali/Eid alongside *Umrao Jaan*, *Jaaneman* and *Don*. But not many are aware about the background of the film and how it got its title *Familywala*.

Well, *Familywala* is actually an old project that was earlier titled *Dil Sachcha Chehra Jhootha* and was launched more than two years ago. Starring the *Deewanapan* pair of Arjun Rampal and Dia Mirza, the film was directed by Neeraj Vora who at that time had a disappointment in the form of his debut directorial vehicle *Khiladi 420*.

Bollywood



Shabana walks the ramp

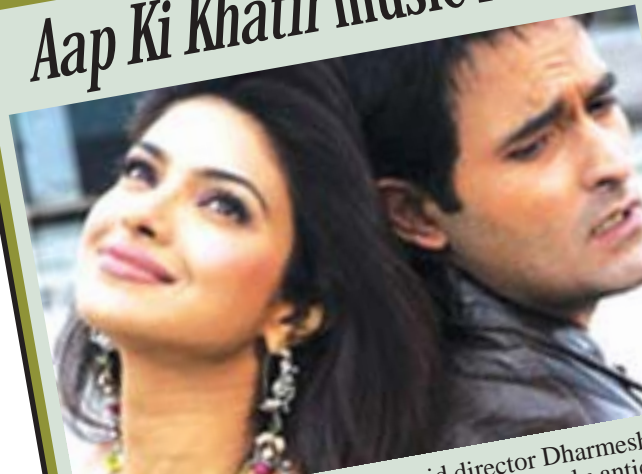
Shabana Azmi is a stylish woman. A multiple national and international award winning actress, she is the true ambassador of Indian cultural diversity.

She is currently working on two diametrically different subjects in *Honeymoon Travels* and *Umrao Jaan*. In the latter she is playing the role of mother in Muzaffar Ali's classic.

It's a role very close to her heart and she jocularly fought tooth-n-nail with director J. P. Dutta to grab the part where she is the motherly figure around Aishwarya Rai.

Apart from enacting powerful performances, Azmi is a style statement in her own right when it comes to garbing 'different' designer clothing. Be it her favourite chicken kurtas or simple embroidered sarees, Shabana carries them with grace.

Aap Ki Khatir music rocks



"It's a Popcorn-Cola film," said director Dharmesh Darshan at the music launch of his eagerly anticipated film *Aap Ki Khatir* at J. W. Marriott Hotel recently. "It is not a classic — it's not aimed at being a cult film either. It's a breezy romantic film that would entertain you and you shall go back home happy," he added further. Leading stars like Akshay Khanna, Priyanka Chopra, Sunil Shetty, Dino Morea and newcomer Bhumika lent their glittering presence to the gala event as he is away in USA. Reshammiya couldn't attend the event as the promos of an audio visual presentation showcasing the promos of the songs was a rocking affair. The music is very promising. No matter how much the critics may want to pull down Himesh, he continues to surprise with his energy levels.



Abbas-Mustan's next is titled Mr. Fraud

After introducing characters like *Khiladi* (funny), *Baazigar* (scary), *Soldier* (heroic) and *Tarzan* (comic book), director duo Abbas-Mustan promise to con the audience with their next that is titled *Mr. Fraud*.

A thriller starring Sanjay Dutt, Ajay Devgan and Anuj Sawhney

in the lead along with Bipasha Basu and Tanushree Datta, *Mr. Fraud* is a production of Shree Ashtavinayak Cinevision Pvt. Ltd. who have made a name for themselves with *Maine Pyaar Kyon Kiya* and *Golmaal* in spite of a slow start in the form of *Fun2ssh* and *Agnipankh*.

Lost star caught cheating?

Lost star Naveen Andrews has been photographed on a California beach kissing a mystery blonde — just hours before describing his long-term relationship with actress Barbara Hershey as 'good and pure.'

The 37-year-old star, who plays former Iraqi soldier Sayid on the hit show, has had a rocky relationship with Hershey since they started romancing in 1998.

In January he admitted to fathering a son with another woman during a brief 2005 split from the actress, who is 21 years his senior.



Foster offers Gibson her support

Jodie Foster has come to the defence of her troubled *Maverick* co-star and friend Mel Gibson in the pages of the *Los Angeles Times*.

The *Silence Of The Lambs* star agreed to take part in a campaign to boost the actor's tarnished image following drunken, anti-Semitic remarks Gibson made during a traffic arrest last week.

The *Mad Max* star blasted Jews in front of a Jewish highway patrolman, who had arrested Gibson for driving drunk in Malibu, California.

Gibson has since apologised for his remarks and called for Jewish community groups, who are furious with him, to help him save his good name.

And now, amid all the criticism, levelheaded Foster has offered the troubled star, who checked in to rehab earlier this week, her support.

Griffith caught in smoking scandal



Actress Melanie Griffith has sparked outrage after being photographed lighting her 17-year-old daughter Dakota's cigarette in Los Angeles, as the legal age for smoking in the US is 18.

The pair were spotted outside trendy Beverly Hills boutique Maxfield last week taking a smoke break.

Griffith was seen with a lit cigarette hanging out of her mouth, and was using a lighter to help her daughter spark up her own cigarette.

