

SINHALA CINEMA
with Chinthaka Fernando

Gamini's films on TV throughout October



Gamini Fonseka

It has been two years since Sinhala cinema lost its *Sakwithi*. Even though Sinhala cinema has gone through its paces during these two years the void left by the demise of its *Sakwithi* has constantly been felt.

September 30 marks the second death anniversary of Cinema *Sakwithi* Gamini Fonseka.

A *Dharma Deshana* and an almsgiving were held at his residence in Ratmalana on September 30, to mark the event.

Born on March 21, 1936 in Dehiwala he read his lessons at S.Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, which without a doubt laid a strong foundation for his character — a fine example of leadership, integrity and boldness.

He was a Thomian who possessed the real Thomian grit. Gamini was fortunate enough to start his cinema career as a technician in a historical creation of Sinhala cinema — *Rekawa* of Dr. Lester James Pieris in 1956.

He also worked as an assistant director for the world renowned filmmaker, David Lean in his film *Bridge On The River Kwai*.

Fonseka's acting career began with the film *Daiwa Yogaya*. However this was the beginning of his professional acting career as he played a small role of a patient in *Rekawa* before this film.

This film followed a series of films such as *Pirimiyek Nisa*, *Sandeshaya*, *Ranmuthuduwa*, and *Deewarayo*. He was the pioneer in abolishing the artificial acting style and the appearance of the hero.

His finest performances could be witnessed in films like *Nidhanaya Gamperaliya*, *Kaliyugaya*, *Yuganthaya*, *Hulawali*, *Sarungale*, etc.

He through his stunning performances in popular commercials like *Chandiya*, *Soorayangeth Sooraya*, *Soora*

Chauraya, *Yakadaya*, *Demodara Palama*, *Hatharadenama Soorayo*, etc.

Not only was he a terrific actor but also flourished as an award winning film director, whose directions include *Parasathumal* which is considered as one of the best 10 films ever made in Sinhala cinema. *Nomiyana Minisun*, *Uthumaneni*, *Sagarayak Meda*, *Mayurige Kathawa*, *Re Manamali*, *Koti Waligaya*, *Bandura Mal* and *Anthima Reya* were his other creations. Most of them carried very controversial political themes.

Gamini won a number of awards for best-actor, best-supporting actor, most popular-actor and best-director. He is the only person who has won awards for all above categories and also bagged the most number of *Sarasaviya* film awards.

Gamini Fonseka's name is significant in Sinhala cinema for another very special reason. He fought for the rights of the actors and technicians involved in cinema, at a time they were trampled under the iron boots of directors and producers.

It is not an exaggeration to say that every artist should be thankful to Gamini for the recognition they enjoy today.

Apart from being a film personality, Gamini was an artist, a singer, a pianist and a politician. He served as an MP, became deputy speaker and governor of the north-east.

True to one of his later films he is indeed a *Nomiyana Minisek* (An immortal man) in Sinhala cinema.

A retrospective film festival will be telecast on Sirasa TV throughout the month of October in commemoration of his second death anniversary.

The films include: Sept. 30 — *Parasathu Mal*, Oct. 1 — *Getawarayo*, Oct. 2 — *Satha Panaha*, Oct. 3 — *Hulawali*, Oct. 4 — *Deviyani Oba Kohida*, Oct. 5 — *Amal Biso*, Oct. 6 — *Seegiri Kashyapa*, Oct. 7 — *Kasthuri Suwanda*, Oct. 8 — *Sadahatama Oba Mage*, Oct. 9 — *Mal Kekulu*, Oct.10 — *Chanchala Rekha*, Oct. 11 — *Adarayai Karunawai*, Oct. 12 — *Pawana Ralu Viya*, Oct. 13 — *Hello Shyama*, Oct. 14 — *Adare Hithenawa Dekkama*, Oct. 15 — *Edath Sooraya Adath Sooraya*, Oct. 16 — *Chandi Shyama*, Oct.17 — *Rana Giraw*, Oct. 18 — *Sanasili Siwaya*, Oct. 19 — *Dehadaka Duka*, Oct. 20 — *Mee Messo*, Oct. 21 — *Raththaran Amma*, Oct. 22 — *Baduth Ekka Horu*, Oct. 23 — *Nille Soya*, Oct. 24 — *Hitha Mithura*, Oct. 25 — *Uthura Dakuna*, Oct. 26 — *Hondata Hondai*, Oct. 27 — *Sarungale*, Oct. 28 — *Seetha Devi* and on Oct. 29 — *Anthima Reya*.

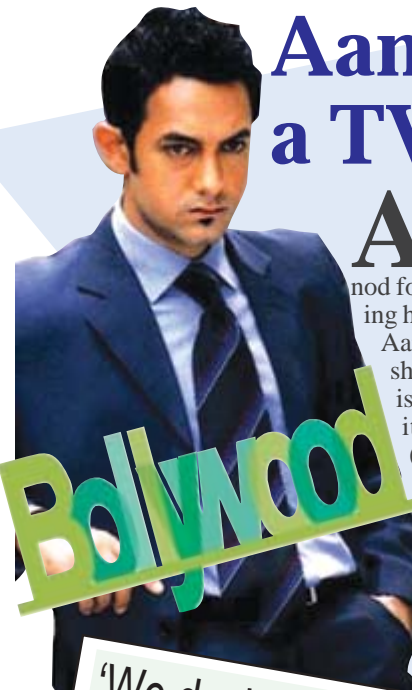
Kumarasinghe's Double Game

Suresh Kumarasinghe's latest direction *Double Game* was launched at the Savoy cinema and the CEL circuit. *Double Game* introduces a new young actress, Aameehsa Kavindi to Sinhala cinema, who plays the lead role in the film. The rest of the cast comprises Arjun Kamalanath, Buddhika Rambukwella, Rajitha Hiran, Cletus Mendis, Sriyani Amarasena, Premadasa Vithanage, Melani Asoka, Kapila Sigera, Dhanushka Irolika, Nirasha Abeysinghe, Shiromi Siriwardena, Inoka Perera, Geethanjali Perera, Trenis Fredrik and Maneesha Kumarawila.

Art direction is by Wimalajith Indigahawatte. Musical score is by Asela Indralal. Editing is handled by Kumarasiri De Silva while Dinesh Kumara handles cinematography.

Double Game is a production of Ananda Liyanage.

Aamir to host a TV show



Aamir Khan is a busy man. Apart from basking in the accolades for his movie *Rang De Basanti* getting a nod for the Oscars this year and spearheading his next production *Taare Zameen Par*, Aamir is also going to be hosting a TV show. Yes, you heard it right! The show is called *Rang De Basanti Salaam* and it will go on air on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) on Star Gold.

The show will recognise the individuals whose actions have affected society in a positive manner and who symbolise the spirit of humanity. The winners have been chosen from common folks who have voted their hero in their community via sms and mail.

Navin Nischol rising from the ashes



Actor Navin Nischol was bigger than Amitabh Bachchan at one point of time. Difficult to believe! But it's true.

His films like *Saawan Bhadon* and *Victoria No 203* had catapulted him to the status of a star to be reckoned with.

And he had been offered the role of Vijay in Yash Chopra's *Deewar* that catapulted AB to dizzying heights.

But fate had other plans for him. The actor who had been recently incarcerated in his wife's suicide case along with brother Pravin Nischol pulled off a decent performance in the recently released *Khosla Ka Ghosla* where he performed an impressive cameo of an art house theatre *guru* who helps out one of his disciples.

'We decided to forget the old Don' — Mohanan, cinematographer of Don

What has caught the imagination of viewers who have had a dekho at *Don* — *The Chase Begins Again* is the sleek look of the film. And the man responsible for that is cinematographer Mohanan who has captured the moments in frames hitherto unseen. Over to the man on what prompted him to take on the sub-



ject and what was his approach towards filming the remake. "I have never been a big Bollywood follower but nevertheless wasn't ignorant enough to not have seen *Don*. Farhan called me and we talked about it at length, we discussed the story, the mood, and the feel and soon we realised we both were on the same page."

Krrish celebrates 100 days



Sooraj Barjatya goes back to his lucky mascots

Hum Aapke Hain Kaun is a film that redefined the art of film making in Bollywood. The man responsible for that, Sooraj Barjatya, is now back with his film about a 'journey from engagement to marriage' — *Vivah*.

While the film has Shahid Kapoor and Amrita Rao as the young lead actors, what is noticeable is the support cast which is practically derived from *Hum Aapke Hain Kaun*. Alok Nath, Anupam Kher and Mohnish Behl are the actors in question who all come together in *Vivah* again.

Biggest grosser of the year so far, *Krrish*, now has another reason to rejoice. It now celebrates 100 days at the box office.

In an era where the biggest of the films start losing steam after first four weeks, *Krrish* has enjoyed a long run for the sheer reason of being patronised by children and elders alike. Also, the film has benefited from the repeat

value, something which has been missing in many other successful films (barring RDB and LRM) this year.

Krrish has already made around 65 crores at the box office and is still counting on. The only film released so far, which may cross these collections is *Lagey Raho Munnabhai*, which is doing an unprecedented business across the globe.

TAMIL FILMS
Vikram recovering



Vikram, who was down with a virus a week ago is fast recovering. But as a result of his illness, the actor was forced to cancel the shooting for his *Bheema*, produced by A. M. Rathinam and directed by Lingusamy.

In spite of his illness, Vikram managed to take part in the audio release function of *Veyyil* being produced by director Shankar and the grand celebrations organised to felicitate the Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium last week.

When contacted, Vikram, said, "I am recovering fast. But still feel very tired. I should be back in a week to resume shooting."

Parattai — for the family



The shooting for Dhanush's *Parattai Engira Azhagu Sundaram* will begin on the auspicious Vijayadasami day. The movie features Dhanush, Meera Jasmine and former national award winning actress Archana in the lead roles.

A remake of Kannada hit *Jogi*, the movie is produced by Keyar and directed by noted choreographer Raju Sundaram. The movie had a grand *muhurat* a month ago in which the who's who of Kollywood took part.

According to Keyar, "We have planned to commence the shooting on Vijayadasami day. Initially scenes featuring Dhanush and Archana would be shot and beginning October 11, Meera Jasmine would join the sets of *Parattai Engira Azhagu Sundaram*."



Actress Amanda Peet marries

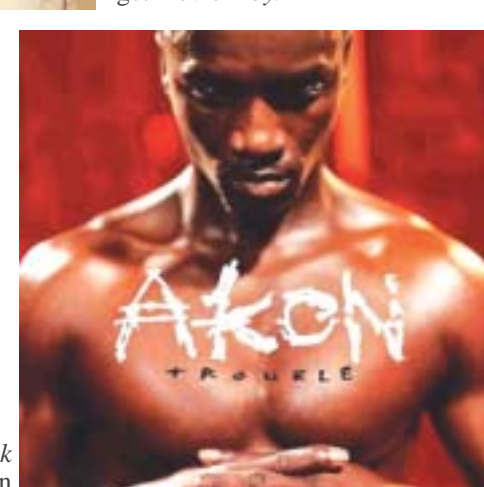
Actress Amanda Peet, a star in the new NBC series *Studio 60* on the Sunset Strip, married her fiancé, screenwriter David Benioff, in New York on Saturday, *People* magazine reported.

Earlier this month, Peet said she was pregnant with her and Benioff's first child. She announced her wedding plans on CBS' *Late Show With David Letterman* on Wednesday and said she was about four months' pregnant.

People said Peet, 34, and Benioff, 36, were married at her alma mater, *Friends Seminary*, a Quaker school founded in 1786.

Peet has appeared in such films as *Syriana* and *Something's Gotta Give*. Benioff's screenwriting credits include 2004's big-budget movie *Troy*.

Akon heats up as he Smacks That with Eminem



The new song *Smack That* is popping up on charts nationwide. The singer/producer originally from Africa has been all over the radio for the last year. His sophomore release, *Konvicted*, is set to be in stores on November 21. *Konvicted*, was primarily produced by Akon and features guest appearances by Eminem, T-Pain, Snoop Dogg and Styles P.

Multi-platinum selling singer/songwriter/producer Akon scores big with his new single, *Smack That*, featuring Eminem. In addition the song has been listened to over one million times in just two weeks on Akon's website.

The talented singer/songwriter/producer established himself as the premiere production and writing wizard over the past couple of years. He has produced, written, and/or appeared on hit songs for Young Jeezy (*Soul Survivor* was also written by Akon), Elton John, R. Kelly, Gwen Stefani, Beenie Man and T-Pain. With the success of a multi-platinum record under his belt and with his artist T-Pain on Jive Records, Akon recently secured a label deal through Interscope Records called Konlive Records where one of his acts will include Chilli from super girl group, TLC. His first release on Konlive is due early 2007.



Longoria splits from boyfriend

Actress Eva Longoria and her sports-star boyfriend Tony Parker have ended their 18-month romance, according to reports.

The couple's split comes at an awkward time — they've just bought a house together in Los Angeles and they've spent much of 2006 renovating a dream home in Texas.

A friend close to the couple tells *Life & Style Weekly* magazine, "Eva decided in the end that Tony was not the right one for her."

The insider tells the publication that one reason Eva, 31, decided to call off the relationship was their seven-year age difference: "She just decided he's too young."

Hollywood

Movie world with Arthur Wamanan and Warren Balthazaar

Irwin believed he would die young

TV naturalist Steve Irwin was convinced he would die at an early age, but never believed he would be killed by an animal, according to his widow Terri.

In an interview with Australia's Channel 9, which aired last week, Terri admitted the risk-taking TV star's early death expectations 'prepared' them for the worst.

But despite his dangerous antics with deadly creatures, he believed he would die in a car crash.

Terri says, "I never thought it would be an animal, he never thought it would be an animal."

"I thought he would fall out of a tree, he thought it would be a car accident."



Johansson lands 'sexiest woman alive' title

Scarlett Johansson has been named another major honour after being named *Esquire* magazine's Sexiest Woman Alive.

And the 21-year-old actress shows off what made editors give her the 2006 title on the cover and inside the November issue of the men's style publication.

The *Lost in Translation* star wears a bra and a white Calvin Klein mini-dress on the cover, and then sends temperatures soaring inside with a series of scantily clad poses as an 'enigmatic trailer-park temptress.'

But Johansson isn't totally impressed by her new title, explaining, "What about my brain? What about my heart? What about my kidneys and my gallbladder?"

