

TAMIL FILMS

Simbu in crooning mode



Silambarasan has rendered his voice for a song in a movie titled *Nee Naan Nila*. The movie features two newcomers — Bharathan and London Ravi in prominent roles and is being directed by debutant Bharathan. Silambarasan has rendered his voice for a racy and catchy tune.

The song *Oyalae Kavuthuputalae* is a brisk and energetic number. Says Sivakumar, the director of the film, "Amidst his busy schedule, Silambarasan managed to find time to sing a song for *Nee Naan Nila*. The song has come out well and hopefully, it would be a major attraction in the movie."

Another dance master is a director now

Joining the long list of choreographers taking to direction is Cool Jayanth. Taking cue from the likes of Prabhu Deva and Lawrence Raghavendra, Cool Jayanth will wield the megaphone for a movie that would feature Sneha in a prominent role.

Balakumaran will pen the dialogues for the movie. Buzz is that Cool Jayanth has completed penning the screenplay and the script.



Search for a suitable hero is on. Apparently inspired by the catchy story-line, Sneha has accepted to do the role in the movie. Cool Jayanth is confident of rendering a hit in his maiden venture as director. "Having seen several directors from very close quarters, I have imbibed several qualities from them. "Hopefully, my movie would go on to become a big hit," he says.

Search on for Vadivelu's heroine

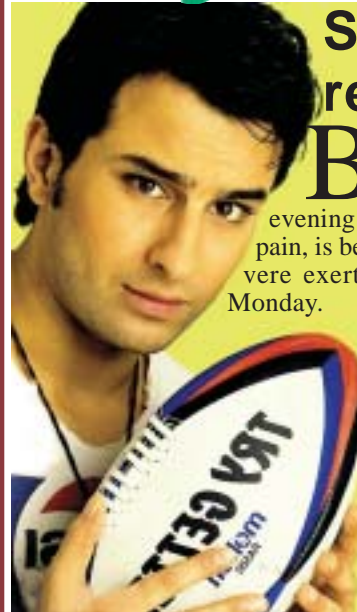


Vadivelu's *Indiralogathil Na Azhagappan* is all set to hit the floors. Supposedly a hilarious entertainer based on mythology, the movie will feature mythological characters Ramba and Urvashi.

According to director Thambi Ramiah, everything is set for the movie including songs penned by Kabilan.

They are in search of actors who can play the roles of Ramba and Urvashi. Thambi Ramiah is confident that *Indiralogathil Na Azhagappan* would better *Imsai Arasan 23am Pulikesi*. The movie will not be a replicate of *Imsai Arasan...* and it is filled with humour all through.

Bollywood



Saif Ali Khan recovering

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who was rushed to a city hospital here Sunday evening after complaining of chest pain, is better and recovering from severe exertion, hospital sources said Monday.

"Saif Ali is out of danger, but will be kept under observation for the next two days, said Lilavati Hospital' Dean N. Trivedi.

Saif, 36, was rushed to Lilavati Hospital Sunday evening after suffering a 'suspected' mild heart attack.

Abhay Rustum Sopori gets 'first' award



Abhay Rustum Sopori, the internationally acclaimed santoor maestro and music composer has been awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy's first 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar' for the year 2006.

This award is being constituted for the first time this year and is to be given to prominent personalities every year for their contribution and achievements in performing arts such as music, dance, drama.

This award consists of a cash prize of Rs.25,000 along with a citation. The award ceremony's date has to be finalised by the Sangeet Natak Academy.

Favourites oblige at Filmfare Awards



Bollywood stars Hrithik Roshan and Kajol won the 'Best Actor' and 'Best Actress' awards for their performances in *Dhoom II* and *Fanaa* respectively, at the prestigious Filmfare Awards ceremony held at Yashraj studios last weekend.

Rakesh Mehra won the award for 'Best Director' for the film *Rang De Basanti*. Abhishek Bachchan won the 'best supporting actor' award for *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna (KANK)* while Jaya Bachchan was given the lifetime achievement award. It was a rare moment when Amitabh gave away the award to wife Jaya while Aishwarya gave the award to Abhishek. Receiving the award, Abhishek said, "I thank my family for this."

Konkana Sen won the 'Best Supporting Actress' award for *Omkara*, Arshad

Warsi won the 'Best Actor in Comic Role' award for *Lage Raho Munnabhai* whereas Saif Ali Khan was adjudged the 'Best Actor in Negative Role' for *Omkara*.

A. R. Rahman won the 'Best Music' award for *Rang De Basanti* whereas Prasoon Joshi won the 'Best Lyrics' award for *Fanaa*.

Sunidhi Chauhan won the 'Best Playback - Female' award for 'Beedi' from *Omkara* whereas Shaan and Kailash Kher won the award for 'Best Playback - Male' category.

'Critics Award for Best Film' was given to Rajkumar Hirani for *Lage Raho Munnabhai* and 'Critics Award for Best Actor' was given to Amir Khan for *Rang De Basanti*. Kareena Kapoor won the 'Critics Award for Best Actress' for *Omkara*.

Jiah celebrates in style

Jiah celebrated her 19th birthday on February 20 at a very hip-n-happening place, 'Aurus' at Juhu Beach.

Jiah's mother surprised her with a fireworks display that spelt 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY JIAH' in true New York style. Everyone close to her came to wish her, including RGV's entire *Nishbad* team, Praveen Nishchal (CEO of Adlabs films), Pankaj Kharbada and Prashant Raj who is in Ram Gopal Verma's *Sholay*.



Music video out for Rahman's hit single

Ever since one heard A.R. Rahman's single *Pray For Me Brother*, one waited with bated breath to see the music video for the track. The wait is over as the song can now be seen on prominent music channels.

A UN Theme song for poverty alleviation, the track has been unreleased but performed in live concerts over last couple of years.

The number has been composed and sung by Rahman along with Blaaze who has written the lyrics.



Music video for the same has been directed by Bharatbala who says, "The idea behind this is to spread the message of humanity. We will tell people to preserve humanity."

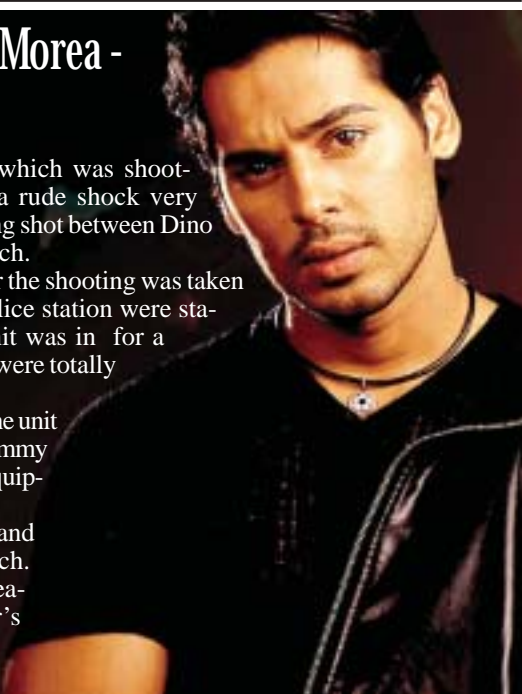
Local goons disrupt Dino Morea - Sheetal Menon romance

The unit of Magna films *Bhram* which was shooting at Gorai Beach was in for a rude shock very recently. A romantic shot was being shot between Dino Morea and Sheetal Menon at Gorai Beach.

All the necessary legal permission for the shooting was taken and three policemen from the Gorai police station were stationed for security purposes but the unit was in for a rude shock! three local mafia dons who were totally drunk came and disrupted the shoot.

They behaved very aggressively with the unit members and jammed the rickshaw on the Jimmy Jib and did considerable damage to the equipment.

They threatened the unit members and demanded cash for shooting on the beach. When one of the unit members tried to reason it out, the thugs beat up the Director's assistant Prasad.



Lopez to appear on American Idol

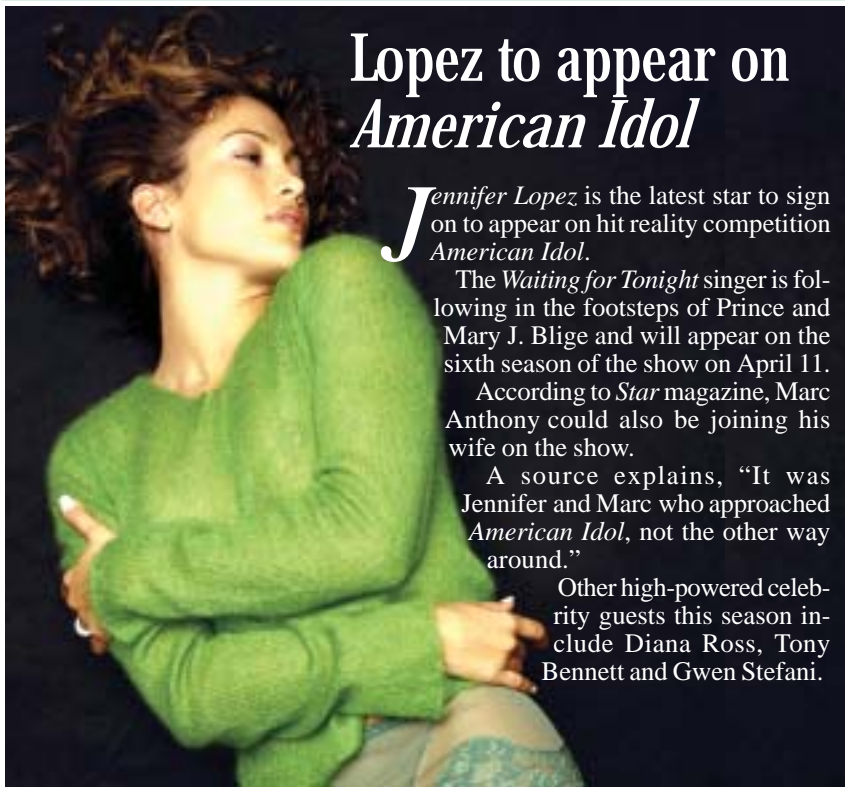
Jennifer Lopez is the latest star to sign on to appear on hit reality competition *American Idol*.

The *Waiting for Tonight* singer is following in the footsteps of Prince and Mary J. Blige and will appear on the sixth season of the show on April 11.

According to *Star* magazine, Marc Anthony could also be joining his wife on the show.

A source explains, "It was Jennifer and Marc who approached *American Idol*, not the other way around."

Other high-powered celebrity guests this season include Diana Ross, Tony Bennett and Gwen Stefani.



Hollywood

Movie world with Arthur Wamanan and Warren Balthazaar

Prankster handcuffs Hugh Grant



A prankster handcuffed herself to Hugh Grant at the Dutch premiere of his new movie *Music And Lyrics* last week.

The actor was left stunned when Cielke Sijben, a journalist working for Dutch TV network 101 TV, leaped forward as he walked the red carpet at the Amsterdam Pathe and clamped a metal handcuff on his wrist, attaching herself to him.

The confused star had to stand for 10 minutes while police detained Sijben and fire-fighters were summoned to free him from his captor.

After the cuffs were cut off, the calm 46-year-old returned to his red-carpet duties, promoting the film—in which he stars alongside Drew Barrymore—while Sijben was arrested by police.

Would Spears be the next Smith?

Britney Spears' first husband Jason Alexander amongst many others fear the pop superstar will end up like late actress/model Anna Nicole Smith if she doesn't curb her wild lifestyle.

The *Toxic* singer—who stunned fans when she shaved off her locks last week—checked into the Promises treatment center in Malibu, California last week a night after two failed attempts in the past week to seek counselling for her ongoing problems.

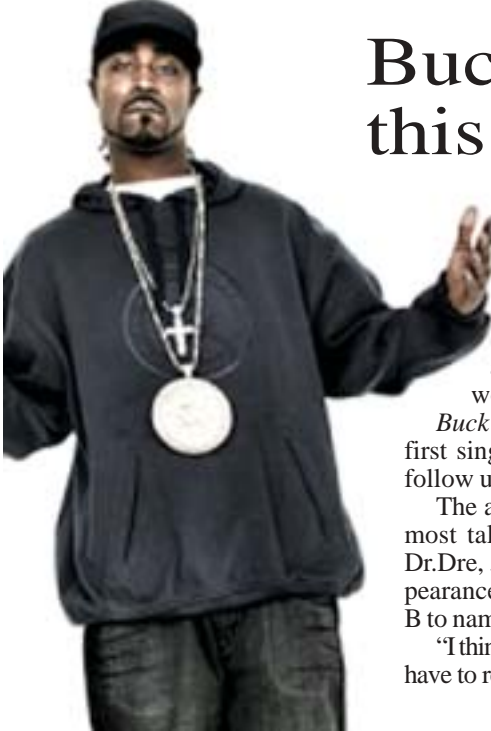
And Alexander, whose brief marriage to the 25-year-old was annulled 55 hours after tying the knot in Las Vegas in January 2004, is worried she will follow tragic Smith to an early grave if she doesn't complete her latest spell in rehab.

He says, "It freaked me out when I saw she had shaved off her hair—that was clearly a cry for help. The pictures have become increasingly disturbing. I have never said anything about Britney and drugs before but I am very, very concerned about her. I am really worried that she will wind up like Anna Nicole Smith and be found dead."

Alexander also thinks Spears needs to re-examine her life and go back to her Louisiana roots.



Buck the world this month



Young Buck will release his sophomore solo album, *Buck The World*, on March 20.

It's been two and a half years since the Tennessee titan released his platinum plus solo debut *Straight Outta Cashville* and he is more than ready to prove it was worth the wait.

*Buck The World* is loaded with bangers like the first single *I Know You Want Me* and the rowdy follow up single *Get Buck*.

The album features production by some of the most talented producers in the game, Eminem, Dr.Dre, 50 Cent, Hi-Tek and Jazze Pha. Guest appearances include Snoop Dogg, TI, 8Ball and Bun B to name a few.

"I think I created a masterpiece here. You know you have to reinvent yourself every time you come out.

Cohen withdrew from Academy Awards ceremony

Sacha Baron Cohen did not be a presenter at last week's Academy Awards ceremony, because he could not appear as his famous character Borat Sagdiyev.

Cohen has been reluctant to make appearances as himself, preferring to do interviews as the star of the faux documentary *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*.

Oscar broadcast producer Laura Ziskin tells the *Los Angeles Times*, "He

was asked, but he declined."

There had been speculation that the comedian's participation in the ceremony would bring a welcome shot of excitement to the broadcast.

Cohen's acceptance speech at the Golden Globe ceremony last month was one of the most talked-about events of the night.

When he won an acting award, he paid homage to his co-star Ken Davitian's naked backside, which was part of a memorable moment in the film.



Sex And The City movie version underway

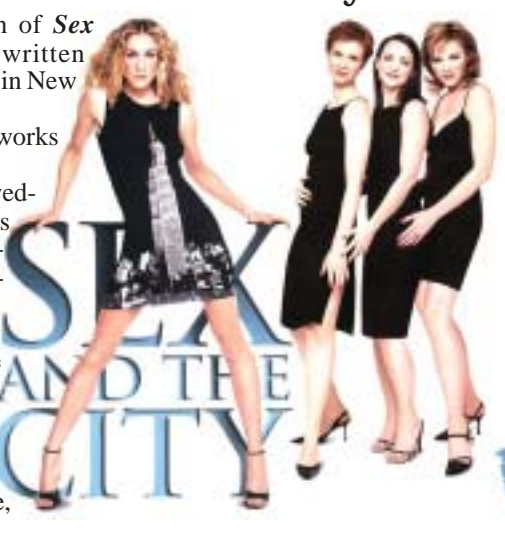
Script for the feature film version of *Sex And The City* is currently being written and could begin filming later this year in New York City.

The movie has been rumoured to be in the works since the hit TV series ended in 2004.

Mario Cantone, who played Charlotte's wedding planner Anthony on the series, confirms the show's screenwriter, director and executive producer, Michael Patrick King, is working on the script.

He tells Australian Associated Press, "I know the script is being written and I know it will be brilliant because Michael Patrick King is writing it."

"I know that I'm in it. I have a nice part in it, I'm told. If it happens, we should film it in early fall, I think, but I hope it stays on course, because I would love to do it."



Raising Kanye out on Mother's Day

Kanye West's mother Dr. Donda West, is slated to release a book about her son, entitled *Raising Kanye*, on Mother's Day.

According to the *Chicago Sun-Time*, Dr. West, a former professor of English at Chicago State University, started writing the book last October after she was approached by publishing house Simon & Schuster. "I always planned to write a book, since I've taught English all of my adult life, but I didn't know it would be about my son," she said. "Folks kept asking me why don't I write a book, and Simon & Schuster approached me about writing one."

Author and journalist Karen Hunter, who has worked on books with Ma\$e and radio personality Wendy Williams, is the book's co-author. Dr. West says her son encouraged the idea.

