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## Indian Cultural Centre Colombo

### Activities in September 2011

#### 1-5 September at NFC Cinema, Colombo

#### **Celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore Tagore Film Festival**

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of noble laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Sri Lanka, a 5 day long Tagore Film festival organized by the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo focusing on works of Gurudev Tagore was inaugurated yesterday evening at the National Film Corporation Hall by Senior Minister Dr Sarath Amunugama in presence of High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. Ashok K. Kantha. The films being screened in this festival are Pathar Panchali, Ghare Baire, Agantuk and Charulata directed by Satyajit Ray and Chokher Bhali directed by Rituparno Ghosh. A documentary on Tagore made by Satyajit Ray in 1961 when Tagore's 100th birth anniversary was commemorated worldwide will also be screened at the Festival.

Speaking at the inauguration, High Commissioner Kantha highlighted that Gurudev Tagore was a towering personality who straddled the world of literature, art, music and intellectual discourse and contributed in a very meaningful manner to the cultural renaissance of India, Sri Lanka and other countries of Asia and specially recollected Tagore's strong association with Sri Lanka, which he had visited thrice in 1922, 1928 and 1934 and strong association of many prominent Sri Lankan artists like Ananda Samarakoon, Chitrasena and Sunil Shantha with Visva-Bharati University.

High Commissioner emphasized that Tagore's universal humanism and constant enquiry into the human condition reflected through his novels and short stories, remain as relevant today as they were in the first half of the previous century and that it was befitting that some of Tagore's works have been re-interpreted by two of India's finest directors, Satyajit Ray and Rituparno Ghosh. The films being screened in the film festival are not only an articulation of Tagore's depiction of the human spirit, but also the visual creativity of icons of film in India. 4.

High Commissioner also outlined the events already held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Tagore in Sri Lanka which included release of a special postal stamp by the Government of Sri Lanka and a commemorative volume "Remembering Rabindranath Tagore" on 7th May 2011. High Commissioner also underlined that the events planned during the course of the year include re-staging of

staged in 1934 in Sri Lanka and which Gurudev Tagore himself had acted, exhibition of digital reproductions of Tagore's paintings and a photographic exhibition on life and travels of Tagore. High Commissioner also highlighted the strong bondage between Satyajit Ray and Dr. Lester James Peiris, whom Satyajit Ray had described as his closest relative in Asia.

In his remarks, Senior Minister Amunugama said that not only Lester James Peiris was the closest relative of Satyajit Ray but India and Sri Lanka were also the closest relatives. He highlighted the uniqueness of some of the masterpieces from Satyajit Ray which still continue to be admired by cine-lovers and compared Satyajit Ray and Lester James Peiris to famous Japanese Director Kurosawa.

The films being screened in the film festival were:

**Pathar Panchali** (Song of the Little Road) is a 1955 Bengali film was the directorial debut of Ray. The first film of The Apu Trilogy, it depicts the childhood of the protagonist Apu in the rural countryside of Bengal in the 1920s. Was the first movie from independent India to attract major international critical attention. Pather Panchali won "Best Human Document" at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival, establishing Satyajit Ray as a major international filmmaker. Pather Panchali is today considered one of the greatest films ever made.

**Ghare Baire** (The Home and the World) is a 1985 film by Satyajit Ray, based upon the novel of same name by Tagore. Ray prepared a script for it in the 1940s, long before he made his first film Pather Panchali. It deals with a subject that has often appeared in Ray's work; the emancipation of women.

**Charulata** (The Lonely Wife) was the director's favourite. Ray described the film as the one which has the least defects. In an interview with 'Cineaste' magazine, when asked about his most satisfying film, Ray said, "Well, the one film that I would make the same way, if I had to do it again, is Charulata." In Charulata as in Ghare Baire, Satyajit Ray explores the emergence of the modern woman in colonial India.

**Agantuk** ("The Stranger") is a 1991 Bengali film directed by Satyajit Ray. It was also Ray's last film, and is based on one of Tagore's short stories, Atithi (The Guest).

**Chokher Bali** is a Bengali film based on the novel of same name by Rabindranath Tagore. Directed by Rituparno Ghosh in 2003. It elaborately records early 20th century Bengali society, through its central character, the rebellious widow, who wants to live a life of her own.

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## Guitar Recital by Amano Manish accompanied on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized an Indian Slide Guitar Recital by Amano Manish accompanied on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande at its Auditorium.

Amano Manish is a gifted slide guitar player trained in the Senia Maihar Gharana tradition, performed in the Cultural Centre with the accompaniment on Tabla by Uday Ramdas Deshpande the legendary Tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha. Amano Manish rendered morning ragas such as Nat Bairav in his rendition which was enriched with tuneful intricate glides and melodic phrases blended with various staccato patterns. Around 40 guests participated in the event.



### 14 September Saandhy Geet – Hindi Diwas Celebrations

The Indian Cultural Centre Colombo in collaboration with the University of Kelaniya, Department of Hindi organized Saandhy Geet. The programme included Hindi Poetry, Hindi Music and Dance. Around 75 guests attended the event.

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**14 September Meet the Director  
Buddhadeb Dasgupta followed by screening of his film**





The Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a programme Meet the Director with the prominent Indian film Director Buddhadeb Dasgupta followed by a talk by the Director on Wednesday, 14 September 2011 at ICC Auditorium. It was followed by screening of his Film "Lal Darja (Red Doors)" (Bengali with subtitles in English). Around 100 guests participated in the event.

Buddhadeb Dasgupta is a poet and prominent contemporary Indian filmmaker, most known for films like Bagh Bahadur, Tahader Katha, Charachar and Uttara. Five of his films have won the National Film Award for Best Film, Bagh Bahadur (1989), Charachar (1993), Lal Darja (1997), Mondo Meyer Upakhyan (2002) and Kaalpurush (2008), while Dooratwa(1978) and Tahader Katha (1993) have won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali. As a director he has won National Film Award for Best Directing twice, for Uttara (2000) and Swapner Din (2005). Over the years he has published several works of poetry including Govir Araley, Coffin Kimba Suitcase, Himjog, Chhaata Kahini, Roboter Gaan, Sreshtha Kabita, and Bhomboler Ascharya Kahini Ananya Kabita. Lal Darja (Red Doors)

**September 20**


**Film: Living Stories – Story telling traditions of India**



ies of 3 outstanding women

**30 September      Carnatic Vocal Music Recital  
By Bagawathssingh Nithyanandan**





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Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo organized a Carnatic Vocal Music Recital by **Bagawathssing Nithiyanandan**. Nithiyanandan completed his Diploma in Carnatic Music at the Swami Vipulananda Music and Dance College, Batticolao. At present he is working as Producer in Sri Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (Nethra TV). Nithiyanandan has presented several Carnatic Vocal recitals. He sang several ragams, keerthanams and devarams. Around 60 guests participated in the concert.