



Samanalaya 2010 takes flight!



After many months of preparation the enthusiastic participants of Sunera Foundation are ready to get on stage to perform in the biggest event of the Sunera calendar, the Samanalayaya Drama Festival.

The festival which began in 2005 is the result of the workshop activities conducted by Sunera, during which every workshop participant performs on stage, in front of their family and community.

27 dramas were held at regional level and of these, the best six will be staged in Colombo towards the end of the month of November.

The dramas set to go on stage on Friday November 26 will be "Avasarane" by the participants of the Thalawa Sunera Workshop, "Manu Satha" by the Dehiwala Sunera workshop and "Oba Ma Athara" by the Kurunegala Sunera Workshop.

The Badulla participants will be performing "Sanhinda Pamula," the Anamaduwa Workshop will be performing "Heta Davasa" and "Api Nodanna Ingreesi" will be performed by the participants from the Akuressa workshop on Saturday November 27.

Over the years, Sunera has seen a steady increase in the number of those

participating in the Samanalayaya Drama Festival and this year, over 900 participants will be seen on stage.

Samanalayaya 2010 is sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and stage on November 26 and 27 at 4.00pm

at S. De S. Jayasinghe Hall in Dehiwala.

For more details regarding the event, contact the Sunera Foundation office on 250-4041, 250-4043 or via e-mail on suneramedia@yahoo.com or sunera@sltnet.lk



by Yasmin Lee Arpon
The Nation (Thailand)/ ANN

The three women directors of Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner share a bad habit: None of them eats proper meals, because they're so busy. That was, of course, no bar to the acclaim they received when the movie had its world premiere on Saturday during the closing weekend of the eighth World Film Festival of Bangkok.

In the three separate love stories set in Nanjing, Bangkok and Singapore, the female

lead is always named Mei, the late Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto is always mentioned, and the line "Will you marry me?" recurs.

Chinese director Wang Jing, who wrote and directed Breakfast, was initially stumped when she was asked to do the movie's opening segment.

"I don't eat breakfast!" she said, with the picture's Singaporean producer, Tay Bee Pin, serving as interpreter.

"People who work in the arts work really long hours and wake up very late, so when I was asked to do Breakfast I was kind of

lost... breakfast doesn't mean anything to me.

"I talked to friends, though, and I realised a lot of people don't eat breakfast ... it has something to do with their environment."

Wang's story revolves around two lovers' rendezvous in Nanjing.

"I wanted to do a story about love and space," she explained, noting that the highways, trains and bridges featured in her film all denote the space and environment where her two protagonists move around, and how these elements changed them.

Wang's first movie, Crossways, premiered at the Rotterdam Festival in 2008.

Anocha Suwichakornpong, who directed the Lunch segment, presented her debut movie Mundane History at last year's World Film Festival. Lunch is considerably lighter, a study of two teenage students skipping their afternoon classes.

"I wanted to make something light-hearted, like a light lunch," she said. "The concept is like lunch as the middle meal. You're always coming from somewhere, from work or school, and you take a break to have a quick lunch and then you go back to your work."

"I wanted to capture the passage of time, when everyone seems to be in a hurry except for these two kids, and also the line being friends and being lovers. I wanted to capture this fleeting moment and show that they didn't want this moment to end... that's why they kept on eating snacks, which is another kind of lunch for them. So it ends like a very long lunch."

Tay said Anocha was the first of the three directors to finish her work. The others took more than another year, and only then could the movie as a whole be reviewed to ensure smooth transitions.

World's smallest woman's joy at Guinness award



Hatice Kocaman – the world's smallest woman at just 28 inches tall and weighing 15lbs – suffers from a rare bone disease that means that, at 21-years-old, she has the body mass of an eight-year-old baby.

Hatice was officially granted the title of world's smallest woman by Guinness earlier this year, second only to Nepalese man, Khagendra Thapa Magar who at 25.8 inches is the world's smallest person.

"I always hoped that one day the world would recognise me," she said. "It was hard when I was a child because all my classmates used to tease me for being small."

"But now I am famous because of my size. So it makes me feel like I am much taller. I hope to travel and to meet lots of people including the tallest man in the world."

"God made me the way I am and I am proud of that. I hope I can find someone who will love me one day."

Living with her parents Ibrahim and Hatun in Kadiri, Turkey, it wasn't until a few years ago that doctors were able to diagnose her type of dwarfism.

"There were no problems in my pregnancy with her and I gave birth naturally," said her mother Hatun Kocaman.

"She weighed 3lbs 10oz when she was born and was a normal baby. We never noticed any problems until she was one. Then we noticed she seemed to be growing more slowly than other babies."

Mr and Mrs Kocaman, who also have a normal-sized son, took her for tests but doctors could not tell them what was wrong with their daughter.

Hatice continued to develop into a little girl and learned to walk and talk, but she hardly grew at all.

"She seemed to always stay the same size," said Mrs Kocaman.

"By the time she was four it looked like she had stopped growing. We asked the doctors to help, but they couldn't tell us what the problem was."

"We hoped she might start growing later on, but she never did. By the time she was ten, we realised she would always be this way."

Mr and Mrs Kocaman said Hatice went for general medical checks every few years, where she was weighed and measured.

Finally they were told her condition may be due to a bone disorder caused by faulty genes carried by both parents.

The family live in a tiny home in a poor and remote area of the country. They do not have a car and could not afford to travel to seek help for their daughter.

Hatice suffers from hip dysplasia and has a back problem, but has never received treatment for this.

Surgeons in the region are not skilled enough to operate on Hatice because of her size.

Hatice has always dreamed of becoming famous and news about her tiny size began to spread as she got older.

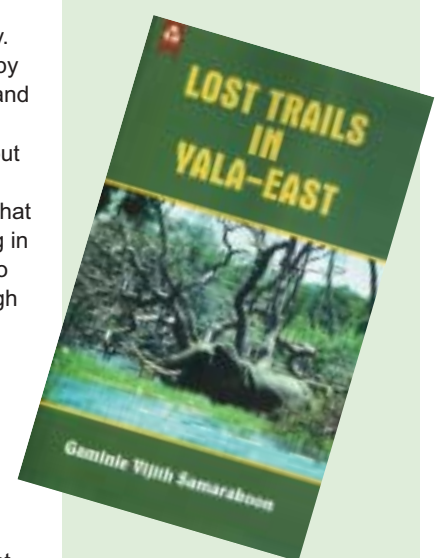
Finally an investigator for the Guinness Book of Records visited the area to see the family.

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A diet of great cinema



"Lost Trails in Yala East" launches on Nov. 23



Gamini Vijith Samarakone's "Lost Trails in Yala - East" will be launched at Dyawansa Jayakody Bookshop, Ven. S. Mahinda Mawatha, Colombo 10 on November 23 at 10 a.m.

"Lost Trails in Yala - East" is the English translation of "Yala Negenahira Ahimi Vanaman". The book is edited by Lalith Seneviratne.

"Lost Trails in Yala - East" is a Dayawansa Jayakody publication.