

Abhimana Lanka mesmerizes Toronoto Audience



Chief incumbent of the Toronto Maha Viharaya Ven. Dodanduwe Sirikara thera, Director of the drama Irangani Kaluthanthri and Production Manager Deshapriya Perera light the traditional oil lamp while Sri Lankan Consul General in Toronto Bandula Jayasekera looks on.

General in Toronto Bandula Jayasekera graced the occasion as distinguished chief guest.

It is with our utmost pleasure we announce the accomplishment of all three objectives, of presenting "Abhimana Lanka".

To explore the talents, skills and capabilities of the Sri Lankan expatriates, living distanced from the cultural

background and life in Sri Lanka, providing a forum and offering opportunities for them to manifest their talents in the creative arts.

Secondly, to facilitate pooling talents and ideas of all professional artistes in Toronto towards a major project, which ran over two months, to perform together, share their experiences and to further enhance the knowledge in the field of drama.

Thirdly and most importantly, to support a very deserving cause, with the lofty objective of sponsoring scholarships for the children of the war victims in Sri Lanka.

It was encouraging to note the capacity, commitment and united effort of the Sri Lankan expatriates to get together, in a spirit of friendly togetherness to make this event a success. A bank draft worth CAD was donated for this worthy cause through The consul General in Toronto Bandula Jayasekera.



Nilupul Fernando and Natalia Jayaweera as Daskon and Pramila

The Can-Lanka Theatre Company proudly presented its maiden artistic creation "Abhimana Lanka" on December 6, 2008 at Don Bosco Auditorium, to a receptive audience.

This exceptionally remarkable performance held the audience spellbound for nearly three and a half hours. It made it a night full of energy, joy and rising nostalgic feeling, for the mother country. There were five short dramas, such as, Pramila-Daskon, Andare, Kalagola, Elovin Banek and Kusk Paba.

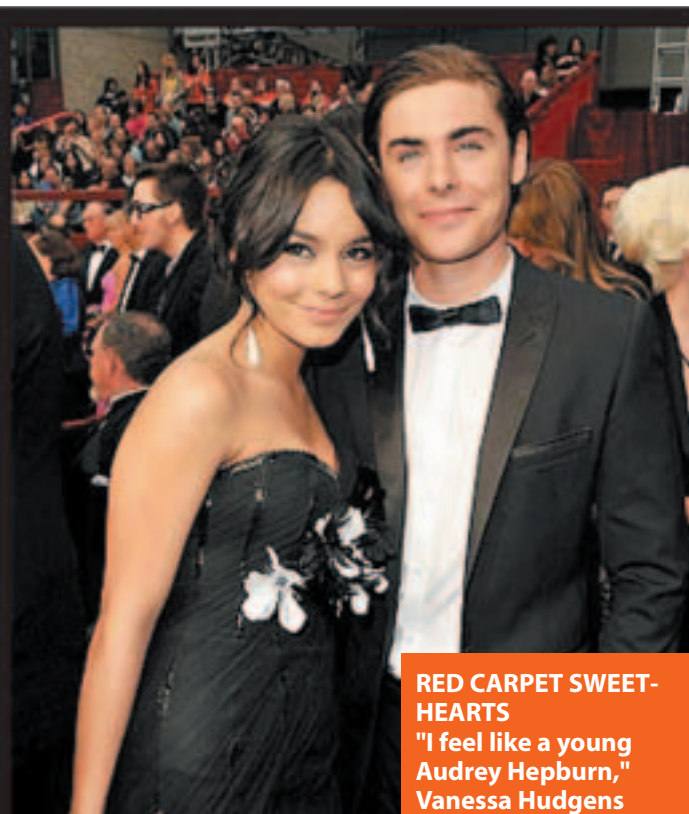
The director of the superb drama creation is Desha Kala Keerthi Kala Bhooshana, Irangani Kalutanthri, from Ottawa, a former Sri Lankan teacher and principal of schools, the director, organizing committee and the cast had been super busy, these recent three months, committed to this gigantic creation with such diligence and perseverance and seem really delighted with the end prod-

uct. The splendid performance by the mainly amateur cast, leaving the audience in awe, is very commendable. Their capacity for acting stunned the audience. The beautiful lyrics and melodies linger long in the ears. The exotic costumes took the audience to ancient times.

The Consul



Kate Winslet and Meryl Streep
There were no hard feelings between Best Actress winner Kate Winslet (in Yves Saint Laurent) and nominee Meryl Streep—who already has two Oscars of her own—in (Alberta Ferretti) at the Vanity Fair party. The evening was a family affair for Kate, who formed an impromptu conga line with husband Sam Mendes and her father when it came time to take her leave.



RED CARPET SWEET-HEARTS
"I feel like a young Audrey Hepburn," Vanessa Hudgens said of her black Marchesa gown, which coordinated with boyfriend Zac Efron's sleek black tuxedo outside L.A.'s Kodak Theatre



"Has anybody ever fainted here? Because I might be the first one."
— Penélope Cruz, breathlessly accepting her first Oscar, for Best Supporting Actress (for Vicky Cristina Barcelona)



"She's beautiful, and I love her, and she can like, adopt me if she wants to."
— Miley Cyrus, on Best Actress nominee Angelina Jolie, to E! host Ryan Seacrest



Eva Longoria Parker
Also in attendance at the Montblanc Signature for Good gala, Eva Longoria Parker celebrated the unveiling of her Gone With the Wind-inspired portrait, part of a series that had famous actresses channeling classic movie stars. "They told me to show up, put the dress on and be Scarlett O'Hara," laughed Longoria Parker, in Reem Acra. "It wasn't that hard!"



DOG' POSSE
Arguably the youngest attendees at the Academy Awards, the children of Slumdog Millionaire, (clockwise from top left) Ashutosh Lobo Gajiwala, Tanvi Ganesh Lonkar, Tanay Chheda, Ayush Mahesh Khedekar, Rubiana Ali, Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail) smile sweetly for the cameras.