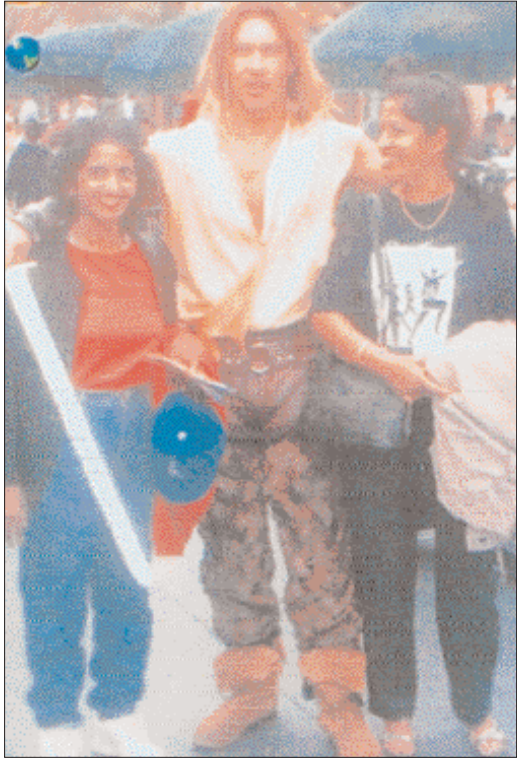


Carrol Wickramaratne, Co-ordinator, Sujatha Vidyalaya Primary Section, Nugegoda, told me that her ambition is to develop the standard of English, Drama and Scrabble at the school.

She is heavily involved in Scrabble they have a scrabble club in the school, but it was not functioning. So, Carrol's Managing Director, Lukshman Kuruppu asked her to take it over and today the girls are participating in tournaments too. She says she's very grateful to her Managing Director for all the support and encouragement provided.

Carrol was educated at Bishop's College, Colombo up to Grade 5 and continued her education at St. Anthony's, Colombo.

She then proceeded to Florida College International as a Montessori teacher. This was her first appointment after obtaining her Diploma in Child Care and Primary Training. In addition to her teaching career, she also managed the school for seven years. During this period, she also lectured prospective Montessori teachers and provided 'In House' training for teachers. After a short period, she joined the College of World Education to teach in the Primary Section. She then proceeded to California and continued her teaching career. She says she loves



A broad with Tarzan at USA Univasal Studios, California



Carrol Wickramaratne



The family

Carrol Lady of Fame

California and she wish she could go back.

After returning to Sri Lanka, she joined Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda (English medium). She also conducted private English classes at home and did very well as there were many children who wanted to learn English and was proud to say that those whom she taught are young men and women today, most of whom reside abroad.

Talking of her career at Sujatha, at a recent All Island Drama Festival conducted by the Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance and Speech, which is affiliated to the British and International Federation, the drama presented by Sujatha Vidyalaya - 'Cinderella' - was adjudged the best devised drama for 2009. The cast mainly comprised nine-year-



Yvonne F. Keerthisinaha

olds.

The drama was produced and directed by Carrol. The adjudicator, Paul Bench, was full

of praise for Carrol Wickramaratne for all her efforts and dedication. This is something which she will never, ever forget. You're great! Congratulations. You've brought credit to our country.

Carrol also loves music and looking at her one can say she definitely has music, rhythm and kindness written all over her. She revels in dancing the Cha-cha and the Twist. She loves Ballroom too, so do I said I am also mad about dancing and that I still dance till the wee hours of the morning, although I am a slow walker.

Now Carrol tells me a little about her family life.

"When you go out dancing, what does your husband say?"

"Oh, he says nothing at all. He is probably the most understanding husband in the world. For us to get married, we had to climb many many, mountains, but we did climb all those mountains, because it was No, No, from all sides. But with a lot of help from the late Bishop, Lakshman Wickramasinghe, we were able to tie the knot, which we did 38 years ago and today, we are so very happy."



Devised Drama Group-17 to 18 years - All Island winners

The Travelling Circus on the move

Ten years ago, three young actresses decided that the Sri Lankan English theatre scene needed a new dimension, feeling that an alternative was necessary to the commercial musicals and drawing room comedies that were the staple diet of theatre-goers in Colombo at the time. And thus, The Mind Adventures Theatre Company was born: its mission was to experiment with theatrical genres, new trends and alternate venues.

Mind Adventures has been pushing the boundaries of what is accepted as the norm or status quo in the realm of theatre ever since, producing thought-provoking theatre in unusual, quirky venues ranging from nightclubs to garden cafés. It has introduced many 'firsts' in terms of theatrical genres and concepts, whether it be the first instance of promenade theatre in the country (Fefu And Her Friends) which had the audience rotating between four different stages, or the first physical theatre show (Ubu Rex) in which, amidst the mayhem, the

working with renowned theatre producer Akhry Ameer since the inception of Mind Adventures to create productions that are well-known today for their perfect combination of conceptual genius and technical precision.

For its 10th anniversary production, Mind Adventures ventures once again into new territory: that of devised theatre. With no script to rely on, the actors and director Holsinger have collaborated to create the dialogue, characters and plot using story-telling and improvisation techniques. So when The Travelling Circus comes to town this November, it would be best to expect the unexpected. The hour-long production is inspired by a short story titled The Boy Who Spoke In Numbers by Mike Masilamani (MASii). Beginning in the Small Village of Fat Hopes and following the fortunes of its inhabitants, the play is a darkly humorous, allegorical piece which examines the plight of displaced and alienated people.

The Circus consists of a group of experienced



audience and actors engaged in a water balloon fight. They have constantly challenged the idea of safe theatre with shows like 3 Star K, Death and the Maiden and Chatroom which have dealt with uncomfortable truths about society and politics that we'd rather not talk about.

The Artistic Director of Mind Adventures is Tracy Holsinger, a name synonymous with experimental theatre in Sri Lanka. She has been described over the years by a range of theatre critics including Sonali Samarasinghe, Neloufer Pieris, Sinharaja Tammita-Delgoda and Sanjana Hattotuwa, as being the most avant-garde director in English theatre today. She has been

and versatile actors who'll sing, dance and tell a rather unusual story about a rather unusual boy. The ensemble cast consists of Tracy Holsinger, Gihan de Chickera, Prasad Pereira, Ryan Holsinger, Brandon Ingram, Tehani Chitty, Subha Wijesiriwardena, Ruvini de Silva, Tracy Jayasinghe and Nuzreth Jalaldeen.

The Travelling Circus will be staged from November 26th - 30th 2009 at the awe-inspiring and spectacular new outdoor venue, Nuga Sevana, located on the Cathedral Grounds on Baudhaloka Mawatha.

Visit www.daytripper.wordpress.com or email daytripperinfo@gmail.com for more information.

'Oldest working petrol pumps'

A set of rusty petrol pumps owned by a 65-year-old mechanic are thought to be the oldest working set in the country.

Battling against the rise of modern supermarket stations buying and selling fuel for much less than he can, owner Bernard White has done everything in his power to keep the old relics working.

The same pumps have stood on the forecourt of Laurel garage in Ramsbury, Wiltshire, since the early 1950s.

The nozzles have been specially adapted to fit modern cars while seals around the hose are replaced regularly to prevent

leaks.

And they survived the imperial measure clamp down when the European Union tried to enforce metric-only labelling on all sellable goods.

"Strangers do not realise they are still operational. The site looks a bit long in the tooth so they are surprised to discover we are still selling petrol," said Mr White, 65.

Fuel at this garage will cost £5.53 per gallon - slightly more expensive than normal because of the garage's remote location.

The old Avery Hardoll pumps are limited to counting a maximum of just 20 gallons at a time. After that the gallon counter dial

goes back to zero.

While the pumps run off electric motors - just like modern-day pumps - the face resembles a clock with hands telling the motorist how much fuel is being pumped.

Mr White, who lives with 86-year-old mother May in the bungalow opposite the site, is now searching for spare parts so he can keep the pumps going as business has been declining.

"We used to get the pumps filled once every few months, now it is getting less and less."

"We have about 10 customers a week. Some are just passing by but others are regulars because they like using the pumps. For some people petrol stations are so



These rusty petrol pumps are believed to be the oldest working set in the country

few and far between they are glad to see us.

"I will keep going as long as I

can. We have no intention of stopping at the moment even though we don't make much money on

petrol sales."

© The Telegraph Group London 2009