

# Activities

## Sri Lanka Centre of ITI (Asia/Pacific)

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Tower Drama School show  
Photo bzUdeni Alwis



### Activities 2014 – 2016

#### Creating a culture of qualitative dramas

- The Centre hosted 3-day workshops for developing drama productions for Sinhala and Tamil students and teachers in March, June and September of 2015
- An inter-schools drama competition was held to encourage the development of Sri Lankan schools theatre
- Commemoration programmes were hosted in Colombo in August and December 2014 to recognize creative dramatists, award prizes and make the public aware of their work
- In different cities and towns, the Centre hosted aesthetic programmes (May, June 2014 and 2015) to improve public appreciation of theatre
- Organised by the Department of Culture annually, the State Drama Festival (December 2014, January 2015) was held in Colombo and in other parts of the country with presentations in the categories of Short Drama, Long Drama and Children's Drama.
- The Youth Council Drama Festival held in 2014/15 seeks to contribute to the development of youth as exemplary citizens in the society by developing their sense of appreciation and attachment to the Art of Drama.

#### Establishing and preserving the Tower Hall Theatre

The Tower Hall Theatre in Colombo was established as the first theatre in Sri Lanka on December 16, 1911 and since then it has played a major role in building the

national theatre movement and in the presentation of the modern drama. An annual event commemorates its significance.

#### Commemoration Programme: 125th Anniversary of Anton Chekhov's Visit to Ceylon

To mark this anniversary, a Sinhala translation of "The Seagull" – named "Muhudulihiniya" was performed at the Lionel Wendt Theatre in Colombo on November 11, 2015.

#### Other activities

The Tower Hall Theatre Foundation and the ITI Centre engages in a range of other activities including

- Serving as a hub of knowledge in the field of theatre
- Conducting a drama and theatre school
- Providing extracurricular activities for school students
- Providing financial assistance and infrastructure to leading dramatists to produce their works
- Archiving and documenting traditional folk drama and contemporary Sri Lankan theatre
- Developing a social security scheme to support senior creators in the theatre industry
- Facilitating relationships with other countries and access to the technical knowledge and technologies that could be incorporated into Sri Lankan theatre
- Promoting drama and theatre as means of building social cohesion and mutual respect among Sri Lankans ethnic communities

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Above left, above right and middle right: Production Seagull, on the 125th Anniversary of Anton Chekhov's Visit to Ceylon, © Somipath Chamila  
 Middle left: Tower Drama School show  
 Photo by Udeni Alwis  
 Below left: Sakkayaditti Drama (Spanthan International Theatre Festival Odissa India 2014),  
 Photo by Mahesh Prasantha  
 Below right: Poster of Seagull



### Activities planned for 2016

- Opening a renovated hall at the Drama Museum in memory of an eminent Sri Lankan dramatist and singer, Rukmani Devi
- Launching various publications such as the Sinhala translation of "Medea"
- Producing "Medea"
- Providing social welfare services to aged artists e.g. "Eye Clinics"
- Hosting and supporting the State Drama Festival Final Round in March
- Hosting the All Island School Drama Contest for Sinhala and Tamil medium schools from March to June
- Celebrating World Theatre Day

### Board

- Director General: Lional Fernando
- Director, Administration and Development: Lal Rathnaweera
- Director, Drama Promotion, Education and Promotion: Saman Zoysa
- Assistant Director, Education, Research and Conservation: Sampath Perera
- Assistant Director, Administration and Development: Nipuna Dissanayake
- Assistant Director, Drama Promotion, Artist Welfare and Programme: Chanadana Bandara
- Assistant Director, Finance: Mr Indika Paranagamage
- Administration Officer: Ms Nayani Liyanage

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