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THIS COMEDY SPACE STRUGGLES TO STAY ALIVE

Evam's weekend shows at a local hotel are back but the revenues aren't big since the state allows only 50% seats as per its pandemic rules

The pandemic has hit hard, the world of arts. And the artistes whose lives depend on the pay or the remuneration that can be wayward most ordinary times too.

A small community, catering to recent needs and tastes are the stand-up comics. Live shows are what bring them much attention and some profit too.

But if making people laugh is serious business, managing the comic shows is hard.

And that is what Evam, the city-based entertainment company is learning now, as it gingerly re-opens its shows in the city.

Evam has this exclusive space in Hotel Savera on Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai that hosts shows that make you laugh and have a good time while you also get to snack or have a drink.

SOCO – South of Comedy, it is called and is located in the Bamboo bar space at this hotel.

SOCO had to close six months after it launched due to the pandemic last year. It opened again in early October and got a good response to the first run of shows here by local comics.

But Evam's Karthik Kumar has little to celebrate though on social media he told SOCO fans that the first set of shows were sold out.



Karthik Kumar

Says Karthik, "Full house is half capacity (as per state rules). We are operating at 50% capacity and hence the rental numbers are difficult to achieve as before. Even if I fill the 50% capacity it barely breaks even."

Karthik has lined up more shows on weekends, hoping that the current conditions also allows his company to experiment and shuffle plans, even cancel a show that costs big.

But he and the comics who make this small community of artistes hope that the pandemic conditions improve further and this allows the state to okay 100% capacity in entertainment spaces like SOCO.

Mylai Madha feast at San Thome Cathedral



The annual feast of Our Lady of Mylapore was celebrated over a short period, Oct.18 onwards at St Thomas Cathedral in San Thome. A sizable number of people attended the first evening's service.

The image of Mother Mary is located on an altar in the south-east side of the cathedral and is a vintage one and is said to have been installed a few centuries ago and saint Francis Xavier, when he was here, is said to have prayed before it. This Mary has now got the avatar of Mylapore Madha.

Quibble Island Cemetery gets ready for All Souls Day

But church-goers unsure if state will allow visits, prayers

By Our Staff Reporter

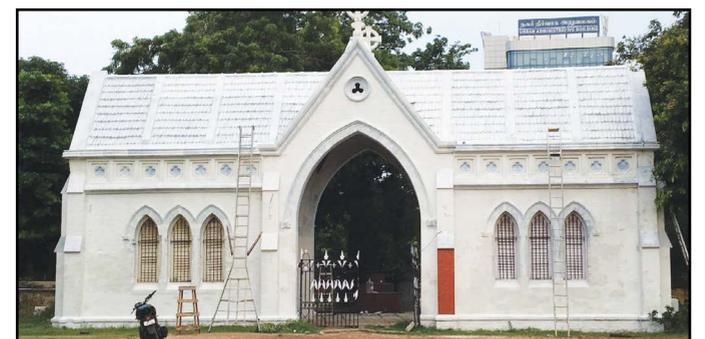
The vintage building that serves as the entrance and office of Quibble Island Cemetery in R. A. Puram is getting a fresh coat of paint. And it is to be painted red; it used to be a deep blue.

Inside, workers are busy clearing wild vegetation around the graves.

Said Fr. Arul Raj, parish priest at San Thome Cathedral who oversees this management of this cemetery, "We want to prepare the cemetery for the annual All Soul's Day when people come here and pray for the dead."

The cemetery does not have space now to accommodate the dead and only recycles old family graves. It has two sections – one for Catholics and one for Protestants.

Church goers are still not clear if the state's pandemic time rules will permit them to visit cemeteries on Nov.2. As of now, such gatherings are not allowed.





Vidyarambham

A steady stream of couples with their little children was seen at Sri Ayyappan Temple in MRC Nagar on Vijayadasami morning, here to take part in the Vidyardham ceremony.

They bought a Rs.250 ticket and five couples, with their kids at a time, were let into the space where a temple priest took them through the ritual. Protocols were followed here.

This project of slokas, chants and stories for children has grown



By Our Staff Reporter

Dr. Vaishnavi Poorna started taking Sloka classes and value education on Vijayadashami day in 2019 at R. A. Puram. What started off as a small group of 5 children has now grown into a group of more than 20 children from India as well as abroad.

During the pandemic lockdown time, she started taking online classes, and now has over four batches of students. Vishnu Sahasranamam, and Nama Ramayanam classes are taken, along with the sharing of stories from Ramayana, Mahabharata and other puranas.

The age of students ranges from 3 to 12, and age appropriate activities are curated to keep the students engaged via the methodology called Theatre Arts for Holistic Development, created by Dr. Ambika Kameshwar.

The students are grouped in small groups of 3 to 8, to ensure personal attention. A part of the proceeds go towards the empowerment of differently abled young adults and adults of RASA – Ramana Sunritya Aalaya Trust based in R A Puram. Dr. Vaishnavi Poorna can be contacted at drpoorna@rasaindia.org

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LEGENDARY TAILOR

Now in his 80s, 'Eros Tailor' has clothed Rosary Matric students over five decades



By Our Staff Reporter

When college lecturer Bhanu of Mylapore located the tailor who always stocked school uniforms for Rosary Matric girls, hoping she would get two sets for her daughter quickly, she was directed to a space less known in Luz.

A nook in the mezzanine floor of the shopping complex on R. H. Road which houses the popular

shops, Mohan Jewellery and Gani Dresses.

The tailor was not present but a friendly shopkeeper gave her leads on how to reach him.

Bhanu shared this information and that is how we got to know one of Mylapore's most iconic tailors. A tailor who has clothed Rosary Matric School students over the past 50 years.

Moiuddin is in his late 80s. We are given his

phone number and told to be patient in the conversation - because the old man's hearing is not too good nowadays.

He now lives in Porur, since his San Thome house is being re-developed. And he says he wants to retire for good. So if he can sell the last sets of uniforms to Rosary girls going back to school this November, he will shut shop.

Moiuddin doesn't have

a shop space; he uses a friendly tailor's space.

But once upon a time, Eros Tailors was legendary, at least among the Rosary School community. His shop was in the now defunct Shanti Vihar complex in Luz.

As bhai's story got posted on the social media page of Mylapore Times,

Said Kalpagam Jaikumar; I am an old student of Rosary and eventually every year I used to visit him for new uniform measurements... he even used to support all other school events for costumes

Said Kalpana Rajasekaran: Eros Tailor has stitched my uniform from 1965 to 1978. Nostalgic

now: remember giving my measurements for my uniform.

Said Auxilia Miranda: Can't believe he is still stitching for our school ... He was such an active man .. remember the days he used to be at the school campus taking measurements for costumes for all school events

Said Rajashree Sharath; Nostalgic!

He has stitched my uniforms from 1968 to 1982 and then for my daughter Shruti Sharath from 1991 to 2005 . We owe a lot to him

Said Sheetal Mehta; Nostalgic...I had my uniforms stitched by him from LKG to 12th Std.....I passed out in 2000.

Eros Tailor can be reached at 7358341754.



dozens of comments, all from the school alumni popped up.

Said Uma Balasubramanian: I am in my 70s. When I was in college, I used to get my blouses stitched by him. A very sincere tailor. Even in the sixties, he was considered one of the best tailors and used to stitch perfect fitting frocks and blouses.

MYLAPORE TIMES KOLU CONTEST WINNERS.



Rajee



G. Harithradevi



R. Sandhya



S. Priyanka



Kalyani Muralidharan



K. Usha



Nirmala Krishnakumar



Vijayalakshmi Sailapathi



Bhanumathi Balasubramanian



Subramaniam

The ten best kolus in the annual Mylapore Times Kolu Contest were decided last weekend. Mylapore Times manager Shanthi personally awarded the gift and certificate to the winners.

The best were chosen for sticking to tradition in the core kolu and decorating it in a pleasing style. The judge was Gayathri Sankaranarayanan. All submissions were made online, with participants sending two photos of the kolu.

The winners – 1. Vijayalakshmi Sailapathi, Mandaveli. 2. G. Harithra Devi, R A Puram 3. Subramaniam, R A Puram. 4. Rajee & Shreya, Srinivasa Road, Mylapore 5. S. Priyanka, Mylapore 6. Kalyani Muralidharan, Thiruvengadam Street, Mandaveli 7. Nirmala Krishnakumar, MRC Nagar 8. R. Sandhya, R K Mutt Road, Mylapore 9. K. Usha, St. Marys Road, Mandaveli 10. Bhanumathi Balasubramanian, North Mada Street, Mylapore

Three videos featuring all the kolu contest entries are posted at the Mylapore Times channel – www.youtube.com/mylaporetv



Gayathri transplanted a bit of Mylapore in her kolu in Kovai

By Our Staff Reporter

Many people have taken a piece of Mylapore with them as they move on. So did Gayathri Balasubramanian.

This Navaratri she found a place for her Mylapore at her kolu at her Coimbatore residence.

The Mandaveli resident just couldn't be parted with 'her Mylapore'.

So what did she do?

She made simple models of her favourite shops and joints around Sri Kapali Temple zone and incorporated them into her kolu.

Amutham Fancy store on South Mada Street, Srividya Manjal Kumkumam on North Mada Street, Karpagambal Mess on East Mada.

Add to that display all this – a newspaper shop, a poo kadai and a elaneer kadai besides a panchu mittai hawker seen during the temple's annual Panguni festival are now part of Gayathri's kolu in Kovai, far away from her Mylapore.

She says she wanted to feature Giri Trading and Kalathi Rosemilk but it was beyond her.

Says Gayathri, " I did this to cherish my memories back there. It feels as if I took a piece of Mylapore with me."

■ WATCH ALL NAVARATRI FEST VIDEOS at www.youtube.com/mylaporetv

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Dance Festival

R R Sabha in Mylapore is currently hosting a classical dance festival for the Navaratri season. Two recitals every evening, featuring some well known artistes too.

This photo features the group of V. Balagurunathan. The recitals are open to rasikas but protocols are in place here. On till Oct.29.



This Vijayadasami, dance and music teachers were glad to be 'live'

By Our Staff Reporter

Vijayadasami day last weekend, for teachers of music, dance and the arts, was so different from what it was last year. All due to the ease of the pandemic situation.

And so, many teachers welcomed a good number of their young students to the puja and symbolic start of classes on that auspicious day.

Dancer and teacher Jayanthi Srivatsan who teaches dance at the Oppilal School based in Abiramapuram was happy to put her young wards through Bharatanatyam. (first photo)



Elsewhere in Mylapore, teacher Padma Raghavan, who runs Silambam dance academy, in the steps of her guru Sudharani Raghupathy, was also glad to have her space abuzz. (second photo)

Said she, "Unlike last year's online Vijayadasami, this year's pooja and dancing was so motivating and inspiring. This day began well with meeting my guru and receiving her blessings in the morning. Evening was dasami pooja time with my girls and my Silambam family.

At guru Sudharani Raghupathy's home off Luz Church Road, all her senior students, now artistes and teachers who were in town met up to receive her blessings. (3rd photo)



Obituary

Tamil Nadu Ranji cricketer from the 1990s, **Vasanth Chandrasekaran** passed away this morning (Oct.16) following a massive heart attack. He was 45.



He is survived by his father R. Chandrasekaran who played for the state in the 1960s.

His family said he had watched the IPL final last night with his father and

was happy with CSK's win.

Vasanth had a terrific Ranji trophy season in 1997-'98 scoring over 300 runs including two centuries. In 1999-2000, he played as a professional cricketer for Saurashtra in the Ranji trophy once again scoring over 300 runs in the season and topping the run list for that state. Overall, he played 22 first class matches.

Talking to Mylapore Times from Dubai, K S Viswanathan, CEO, CSK said that Vasanth was a very good cricketer with the correct technique and ability to score consistently for the team. "He came from a family of cricketers and sportsmen. I am really shocked to hear of the sudden demise."

Vasanth's father played for almost two decades for SBI while his uncle R Prabhakar played Ranji trophy cricket for TN.

Former TN allrounder S. Mahesh watched him right from the under-16 age group cricket and was part of the TN Ranji trophy team that played in 1997-98. He remembers the terrific Ranji century of Vasanth that was scored against Karnataka in Bangalore in Nov '97.

"He scored an excellent century against a strong Karnataka side comprising Dodda Ganesh, David Johnson and Sunil Joshi. He was naturally gifted, a classy opener and one of the sweetest guys in the team."

A couple of months later, in January 1998, Vasanth scored another century, this time against Goa. Former Ranji cricketer and now BCCI match referee J Gokulakrishnan played for Goa that season and was at the receiving end in that match facing Vasanth's batting onslaught "He was a terrific bat, superb timer and had a lazy elegance for a right hander. He had superb hands. He was a no nonsense guy and a loner most of the time."

Vasanth was a resident of Arun Flats, West Circular Road, Mandaveli. Chandrasekaran can be reached on 98844 36321.

- Reported by S. Prabhu

T. V. Sridhar, 61 years and a resident of 4th Trust Cross Street, Mandavelipakkam from birth,



passed away on October 10.

He did his schooling at P. S. High School, Mylapore and belonged to the batch of 1975.

He retired from Flowserve Sanmar after long service.

He was the son of senior violinist Thiruparkadal S. Veeraraghavan, and carried on the Carnatic music tradition, conducting violin classes at home.

His death is mourned by Vasudevan (son), Srijanani (daughter), Vibha (daughter in law), Jeyashri (wife), Jayalakshmi (mother), Giridharan (brother) and 3 sisters.

His son Vasudevan's contact - 99415 80178



R. Natarajan, 79 years old and a resident of Mylapore for the past 60 years passed away on October 6, 2021.

He worked in NCCF of India Ltd.

His family said he was an ardent devotee

of lord Ayyappa for more than 55 years and the guruswamy for a lot of people in and around Mylapore. He was also one of the persons in the Ardha jama goshti and was a regular at Sri Kapaleswarar Temple.

He is mourned by his wife, children and their families. Contact : 9444953952

- Reported by Sankar Ram



P. C. Rajagopal, retired AGM of Indian Overseas Bank passed away peacefully on Oct 9, 2021, at age 94, at his residence in Mylapore.

Rajagopal was the last of three generations who lived in Mylapore, beginning with his grandfather Justice P. R. Sundara Iyer (whose home is now the "Amrutanjan factory" in Luz Church Road), to his father, retired District Judge P.S. Chandrasekhara Iyer, who lived in Karpagambal Nagar.

Rajagopal is survived by his wife of 71 years, Padma, and by his two sons Ravi (now based in London) and Aravind (now based in New York City).

- Tribute filed by Arvind Rajagopal