

stages theatre group

GREASE YAKA - ARTIST CREDITS AND ARTIST BIOS

This document is the COMPLETE CREDITS LIST and ARTISTS' BIOS of the Director and Writer in the Opening Show of GREASE YAKA – in Colombo, Lionel Wendt Theatre, 8TH and 9TH August 2014

GREASE YAKA – CREDITS

Directed by - Ruwanthie de Chickera

Written by - Ruwanthie de Chickera and Rajitha Hettiarachchi

Designed and
Choreographed by - Jayampathi Guruge

Original Music by – Ranil Goonewardene

Produced by - AnandaDrama and Stages Theatre Group

PRODUCTION TEAM: Nishantha de Silva

And

Asith Hettiarachchi
Rehana Dole
Prauda Buwaneka
Anisha Dias Bandaranaike
Pasan Ranaweera
Ashan Munasinghe
Deshan Tennekoon
Sanjeewa Weerasinghe
Vinu Wijemanne
Shevandra Wijemanne

Lights Operated by – Thushara Hettihamu

Sounds Operated by – Harshana Molligoda

Make up by - Duminda Alahendra
Sumedha Haggalla

Performed by - Eraj Gunawardena
Nandun Dissanayake
Thilina Udayaratne
Minul Muhandiramge
Charith Dissanayake
Gavin Ranasinghe
Tharkana Kulatunga
Pemanthi Fernando
Rajitha Hettiarachchi
Ravin Hettiarachchi
Miranga Ariyaratne
Eshani Seneviratne
Lakshitha Edirisinghe
Dinoo Wickramage
Vidura Manoratne

Stage Managers – Ruwan Malith Peiris
Ishtartha Wellaboda

Set, Costumes & Props by - Vishan Gunawardena
Kasun Gunawardena
Eraj Gunawardena

Crew – Kanishka Herath
Devmith Athulathmudali
Shevandra Wijemanne
Sasanka Kulatunga
Chirantha Kolonne
Dinuka Samarakoon
Govinda Pallallage

GREASE YAKA – ARTIST BIOS

RUWANTHIE DE CHICKERA – Writer/Director – GREASE YAKA

Ruwanthie is a playwright, screen writer and theatre director from Sri Lanka. Her plays have been produced in Sri Lanka, the UK, Japan, India, Australia and the Philippines. Her first play won the British Council International New Playwriting award in 1997 and was the first Sri Lankan play to be performed in London's West End (at the Royal Court Theatre). In 2000 she was awarded the Gratiaen Prize for best creative writing in Sri Lanka for one of her play scripts and in 2005 was Chairperson of the Gratiaen Judging Panel. In 2013 again, a play she co-wrote – KALUMAALI - was shortlisted for this award. She was awarded the 2014 Eisenhower Fellowship and in 2001 won the Presidential Scholarship for theatre from the govt of Sri Lanka and the 2006 Theatre Pasta award for her contribution to international theatre.

Ruwanthie's first screen play '*Machan*', produced in 2008, has won several international awards, including the award for Best Film at the 2008 Venice Film Festival ('Last Days' Section), and Best Feature at the Palm Beach Festival. She also received two Best screen play awards for '*Machan*', from the Sarasavi Film Festival, and the Durban International Film Festival. The film, which is a tragicomedy which examines issues of illegal immigration, has been screen in over 50 international festivals to date – including the Toronto, Brussels and Dubai Film Festivals, and released in over 10 countries.

Ruwanthie has an Honours degree in English Literature from Colombo University and a Masters Degree, First Class with Distinction, in Applied Theatre from Manchester University. She has served on the National Drama Panel and Literature Panel of Sri Lanka, and worked as a Visiting Lecturer at the National University for Visual and Performing Arts for several years.

Ruwanthie has written and directed several plays, her most recent ones being the critically acclaimed 'WALKING PATH' and 'GREASE YAKA'.

In 2001, Ruwanthie co-founded the youth theatre company 'Stages Theatre Group' of Sri Lanka – which has been critically acknowledged as one of the cutting edge theatre groups in the country. Stages Theatre Group is committed to promoting Sri Lankan plays and also discovering new creators of theatre and forms of theatrical expression. She continues to be its artistic director.

JAYAMPATHI GURUGE – Designer/Choreographer – GREASE YAKA

Jayampathi Guruge is most well known as the director of 'WALKING PATH – a play without words', the recent hit play in Sri Lanka, which was critically very well received. It has been hailed as a new dimension to Sri Lankan theatre.

His entrance into the theatre has been through design and acting, and he is a well respected multidisciplinary artist – having received critical acclaim (and several local awards) working as an actor, set designer, costume designer, lighting designer, stage manager and makeup artist since 2002.

He has a First Class degree in Drama and Theatre from the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, and recently toured India as a part of the artistes' training programme of Stages Theatre Group. There, he conducted workshops in Acting, Choreography & Make up.

Jayampathi worked as a designer in "Sellotape", "Kalumaali", "Putu 11" and "Agamemnon" among others. He was assistant director for "Kalumaali" (2012), co-director for "Sanni 18k" (2011) and directed "Frames" (2012).

Jayampathi is a core member of Stages Theatre Group, which he is helping set up as a full time professional theatre company in Sri Lanka.