

Maname plays to a full house in Greater Washington DC

Dr. Ediriweera Sarathchandra's *Maname*, the classic drama, which revolutionized Sri Lankan theatre, was staged in Maryland recently to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the drama. Organized by Apekattiya, *Maname* was a tremendous hit among the Greater Washington DC Sri Lankan community and the drama was played to a full house. The Chief Organizer of Apekattiya, Mr. Dias Amarawardana said that despite many challenges, every aspect of the show was fulfilled to satisfaction.

As the audience watched the stage production complete with intricate lighting and smooth change of scene in the classic dramatization of a Buddhist Jataka tale, they were mesmerized by the magical lyrics that ran through the entire drama and the professionalism of the dramatists. Even though traditionally, *Maname* had been an anti-feminist moral fable, Dr. Sarathchandra's version had intricately transformed this to a story in which the audience actually pities the woman.

As the final curtain drew on the show, Mrs. Lalitha Sarathchandra, the widow of Dr. Ediriweera Sarathchandra spoke to the audience and informed them that part of the cast comprised young Sri Lankan expatriates in California. She said that Sri Lankan expatriates in the US should be proud of these talented young people. Her emotional words seemed a fitting finale as the cast fell at her feet.

Maname was also staged in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.