

**The Postgraduate Department of English
Christian College, Chengannur
(Re- Accredited with A Grade by NAAC)**

**Bridging the Cultural Gap: A Dialogue
with Ravindra Ranasinha**

October 11, 2013 Friday

at 10 am

Christian College, Chengannur



Ravindra Ranasinha, the eminent Sri Lankan literary figure, wears many hats. He is a dramatist, journalist, sociologist, educationist and a social worker. He writes profusely on the current political situation in Sri Lanka, highlighting the multicultural aspect of the society, to promote harmony and co-existence amidst its diversity.

Ranasinha's thinking is Post Modernist; his commentaries on the socio-political situation are frank and fearless. A keen observer of the many propagandist projects executed by the Sri Lankan State to subjugate the masses and lull them into accepting the current fascist regime, he regularly voices his discomfort against the 'ideological warfare' as he calls it.

Heavily influenced by the Frankfurt school, Walter Benjamin's writings have had a strong influence over Ranasinha's Neo-Marxist outlook towards life. He has translated Benjamin's 'Author as Producer' and 'Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction' enriching the Sinhala literature on art criticism. Other translated books include Michel Foucault (History of Sexuality) and Simone de Beauvoir (Second Sex).

Currently making a substantial contribution to develop the field of Drama Therapy in Sri Lanka, his holistic approach has helped many to sustain their mental well-being. His book 'Dramatherapy in Sri Lanka' is a pioneering document that empowers people to seek alternatives to enhance their wellness.

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