

culture

what's on



Marc your day

Kids can now take a peek into the life of the late Russian-French master artist Marc Chagall. As a part of their art appreciation series, Forum Art Gallery is organising a workshop for kids, where they will get to learn about Chagall's life and also explore his surrealistic works such as, *I and the Village*. February 18, 11 am and 1.30 pm. For ages 5-14. Details: 42115596



Uttarakhand calling

The Uttarakhand Festival at Dakshinachitra, which was postponed due to the cyclone last year, will be held next week. Besides folk dances by Sansak Sanskrutik and Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti among other performances, there will also be a crafts sale with alpan, copperware and more on offer. February 25-March 5. Details: dakshinachitra.net



Time to play

Take time out to catch two plays this weekend—Nagercoil Expressum Naadaga Companyum, directed by Vinodhini Valdyanathan, about a strange visitor who arrives on the Nagercoil Express, with a message for two of its passengers, Shankar and Chandru. In Nadaga Company, the Originally Boys' Company is in desperately in need of a makeover. At Alliance Française. February 19, 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Tickets from ₹200 onwards at in.bookmyshow.com



fusion

Zia & the Swing Mates



Ujjaynee Roy

A host of global artistes are set to take stage at a world music festival in the city this weekend

# Isai does it

FOR the last six years, the Global Isai festival has found a permanent spot in the city's musical calendar. While December has always been synonymous with the Marghazi music season, come February, world music finds a stronghold in the city.

With a list of 20 artistes from around the globe, the sixth edition of the festival promises a two-day mash-up of music from the blues and jazz to Carnatic fusion rock and hard rock covers on the gayageum (the Korean zither-like string instrument). "Global Isai was started to test the waters of the city's acceptance to different genres of music. Given the rapidly growing music scene, it has become permanent," says festival director, Edison Prithviraj.

High-strung lines

While the main attractions this year are the bands F-16s and Masala Coffee, making her India debut will be gayageum prodigy Luna Lee. While the traditional instrument is not likely to be the go-to choice for rock bands, the Seoul-



Luna Lee



Kom Zot



Ed DeGenero

based musician has mastered classic guitar riffs and solos on this 21-string instrument, including Deep Purple's *Smoke on the Water*, Dire Straits' *Sultans of Swing* and even Jimi Hendrix's *Voodoo Child*. "I used to listen to various genres as a child. Soon I found myself playing whatever I liked. It could be pop, jazz, rock or Western classical like Bach," says the 23-year-old. Catch her originals along with some Nirvana and Pink Floyd covers on the first day.

Curated medley

The fest will also host the blues band Zia & the Swing Mates and debutantes reggae artiste Kom Zot, all the way from Réunion Island. "We will be performing in Bengaluru

and touring Kerala following the Global Isai festival," says Zia, guitarist and lead singer of the band. Audiences can look forward to upbeat bebop numbers interspersed with laid back harmonies. Also among the festival's headliners is a second-timer—Mumbai-based Kathak dancer Aditi Bhagwat, who will fuse the forms of *lavani*, kathak, flamenco and Sufi music in a 45-minute performance. "The love we got from Chennai in my last performance was immense. Audiences were surprised at how a classical dance form could be fused with jazz. This time, they are in for a bigger surprise," she offers. Other bands to look out for are Elektrik Circus, Kuranagan, Thakara and Radiotronics.

At Phoenix Marketcity, Velachery. February 18-19. From 11 am onwards. Details: 9841 426951

—Rebecca Vargese

sticky music

# Setting the tone

Maria Roe Vincent uses her favourite actor's movies to get 'vera-level' lyrics

IF you're a Dhanush fan, definitely check out this song. Maria Roe Vincent's latest second single, *Konjam Vera Mari* weaves into its lyrics all of our favourite movie titles from *Anekan*, and *Uttama Puthiran* to *Maryan*, *Polladhavan* to *Velaiyilla Pattathari*. And guess what, we haven't even hit the chorus yet.

Just when you thought this was a tribute song though, you catch the #NotADhanushSong on the side. The singer, who recently lent her voice for *Bogan*, clarifies with a laugh, "I'm a big fan of Dhanush, and I was thinking of how best to incorporate some element of him in this song, but not overpoweringly." She adds, "So I thought of using his movie titles, song titles, catch phrases, etc, in the lyrics and seeing what it sounded like."

The experiment, with lyrics by Josh Vivian seems to have worked, with an addictive party vibe to up the fun. Musically, the tune is in stark contrast

to her usual sound—you've likely heard her a capella group El Fé sing on the background score of *Singham 3* or Maria's African vocals on Jayam Ravi's upcoming *Vanamagan*. Landing up at the studio to have Harris Jeyaraj ask her to sing in Swahili with a prep time of 15 minutes was a bit of a surprise, she admits. Fortunately Maria has been influenced by the African/American music since she was a child. "Lately, because my sister Maryann is an Afro-Beat dancer, we've gotten used to the African culture, language and tone," the 27-year-old tells us.

Of late, the artiste says she's also been keeping herself busy by extending her love for make-up to her brand new company GoGurlBeauty, which caters to fashion shoots and weddings. Of course, she might give you a discount if Dhanush is on the guest list. Listen to *Konjam Vera Mari* on iTunes, Wynk, Saavn and Google Music.

—Sonali Shenoy



SPY

A puppet show based on the Ramayana will be organised by Souful Pondy tomorrow. Conducted by R Kuppaswamy, a ninth-generation puppeteer, the show starts at 6 pm. At Lycée Français de Pondichéry. February 18. Details: 9790344873