

Exhibition celebrates Indian life

The Durban Art Gallery will host an 1860 tribute exhibition until early next year.

BY MYRON NAICKER

Indian influenced art highlights the impact Indian life has had in a broader South African context. In celebration of Indian art over the last 150 years, the Durban Art Gallery (DAG) will hold an exhibition called Samsara: A continuous pursuit, from 26 November to 26 February.

The DAG curated the exhibition of contemporary art in association with the 1860 Legacy Committee. Most of the work on exhibition is drawn from the DAG's permanent collection alongside loans from other South African museums and galleries.

Work from independent artists from all areas of the country are also included in the display.

The exhibition was coordinated and curated by Jenny Stretton and Liesa Hillar in collaboration with Selvan Naidoo, an art teacher at Northwood School and National Design Examiner. According to the Director of the DAG, Jenny Stretton, The exhibition enables the viewer to see the establishment

of cultural traditions juxtaposed against current social preoccupations.

"Many of the works on the show engage identity, legacy and heritage. Diverse works by older visionaries sit alongside younger cutting edge artists exploring similar themes and motifs. Over arching themes have been identified and explored to unpack political, religious, cultural and social practice.

The majority of work is by artists of Indian descent and we have sought the participation of artists who have been influenced by symbols and identities associated with Indian culture," she said.

Approximately 50 works will be on view spanning a wide range of media including painting, photography through to video and installation.

The exhibition will showcase works from Kiren Thathiah, Zen Marie, Reshma Chhiba, Usha Seejarim and Sharlene Khan who deal directly with family histories, expectations and ritual through new media.

Indenture movie a Legacy

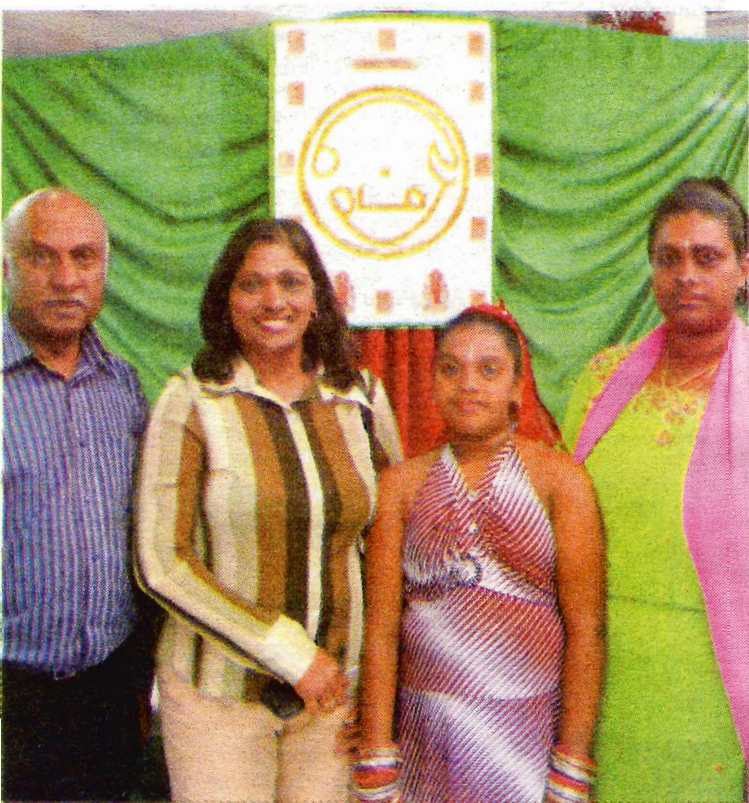
THIS week as South African Indians commemorated the 150th anniversary of the first indentured labourers arrival in the country, 'White Gold' the first big screen movie, about the indenture story was released at Ster Kinekor Gateway, the exact day of their arrival. Seen at the event are:



Kumeren and Viloshini Pillay.



Roshnee Naidoo, Alan Chetty and Drisha Pillay.



Hirsch's Umlanga celebrated 150 years of Indians in SA in conjunction with their shopping evening recently. Cultural dancer Tashini Naidoo entertained customers and guests with her dancing and the staff cooked up some Indian delights. Seen at the celebration: Bobby and Nalini Sahdeo together with Tashini Naidoo and Tresha Naidoo.

WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT BEING INDIAN

November 2010 culminates the 150 year commemoration of the arrival of Indentured Indians in 1860. Today they form an integral part of all things that make South Africa a rainbow nation. The Eastern Express took to the streets to see what makes you proudly Indian and what you love about your community. Here's what you had to say about the culture and the commemorations.



Savy Naidoo said, "Definitely the food, compared with others that are quite bland. We have a huge selection and variety of dishes. We can make a meal out of any fruit or any vegetable."



Design Moodley said, "I like Indian women, their beauty and personalities. I love Indian food, the spices, the curries and the briyani. Also how our customs and beliefs are vast and conservative."



Salome Nair said, "I really like the big family functions, especially the weddings. We Indians always find an excuse to celebrate the togetherness of families."



Kristen Naidoo said, "I especially like the curries. The music in the movies and the clothes are nice and shiny and brightly colored. And I like the dots."