considered as this acceptance/dismissal frames the reception of the personal story as a specific culture of expression and its place/potential in the space of the theatre, which is accepted as a culture of dialogue and of shared experience.

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"Burst" of the Northeast Monsoon season in Sri Lanka

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The sudden increase in wind strength and rainfall has led to the term 'burst'. Low pressure waves gave rise to a monsoon 'burst' during the recent Northeast Monsoon in Sri Lanka which occurred from December 2010 to February 2011. Unceasing monsoon rains have exacerbated the crisis causing more than a million people to be affected by Sri Lanka's deadly floods. As rains continued after a brief lull, the government reported that more than 20% of the country's rice crops had been destroyed, which creates problems for Sri Lanka's longer-term food security.

Rainfall is the most important climatic factor of weather and climate in Sri Lanka. Based on the relative dominance of the causative factors, the rainfall year in Sri Lanka (March to February) can be divided in to four seasons.

(1) First Inter-monsoon season (March to mid May)

(2) Southwest monsoon season (Mid May to September)

(3) Second Inter-monsoon season (October and November)

(4) Northeast monsoon season (December to February)

The distribution pattern of rainfall in Sri Lanka within an average year which reflects this seasonality can be quantified following Domroes (1974): first Inter-monsoon season, 21%; Southwest monsoon season, 38%; second Inter-monsoon season, 16%; and Northeast monsoon season, 25%. The two monsoons therefore account for a little less than two-thirds of the total annual rainfall.

As interesting feature arising out of the orographic effect of the central highlands due to the reversal of direction of the two air streams is the change of the windward and leeward sides according to the rhythm of the monsoon change. However the windward-leeward difference is much less evident during the northeast monsoon due to the difference in the nature of the slopes and the structure of the two monsoon air streams. During this season the surface pressure and circulation patterns experience a complete reversal from that of the southwest monsoon season. . The northern easterlies, or north-easterlies, on reaching the Sri Lanka region as northeast monsoons, gives heavy rainfall predominantly to the north and northeastern parts of the country and the eastern slopes of the central highlands. But no parts of the country can be considered to be free of the rains during this season. When compared with the total space-averaged rainfall amount yielded by the southwest monsoon, that due to the northeast monsoon is normally relatively less. This can be attributed to the nature and structure of the northeast monsoon air streams, which can be relatively less moist, stable air-flows of less vertical extent. But the northeast monsoon rains are more widespread over the country than the southwest monsoon rains, of the condition of lesser effectiveness of the northern and northeastern slopes of the central highlands as an orographic barrier compared with the southwest ‘slopes’ on the southwest monsoon. Often, the northeast monsoons are accompanied by tropical disturbances mostly

of the depressional type, which have little or no regard for the physiography of the country. When a 'burst' of the monsoon occurs over the country such a disturbance develops very close to the country.

With this brief preamble the present study aims to answer two research questions. The first question is whether there are significant changes of rainfall totals in the recent past northeast monsoon season. The second is, what are the reasons for the significant changes of rainfall totals? Analysis methods used to answer the first question are percentages of totals, monthly rainfall and rainfall dispersion calculated using Microsoft Excel. The geographic information system (GIS) is used for mapping the spatial distribution. These analysis methods are used for three time frames: 1971-2000 averaging period, from 2009 December to 2010 February and from 2010 December to 2011 February. Firstly, the aim is to compare the first and the third time frames and secondly, the second and the third time frames. Rainfall data were obtained from the Department of Meteorology, which contained data collected from 21 meteorological stations which are located throughout the country. Monthly rainfall totals were collected for the months December, January and February. Theoretical subject knowledge and the information gathered from the Department of Meteorology in Sri Lanka were used to answer the second question.

The findings of the present study show that all the selected meteorological stations recorded higher monthly rainfall totals during the recent past northeast monsoon season when compared with the monthly rainfall totals for the 30-year averaging period and the previous northeast monsoon season. It can be seen that the Batticaloa meteorological station shows the highest differences. Also it is evident that La-nina phenomenon is the key factor of these significant changes.

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Environmental health issues associated with the disposal of municipal solid waste in Kurunegala

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Kurunegala is the capital of the Northwestern Province of Sri Lanka. It is situated about 116 km from Colombo, and 42 km from Kandy. The District covers an area of 4,816 km^2 which is 7% of the total land area of Sri Lanka and 61% of the province. The topography of the Kurunegala town is a plain area with the exception of surrounding rock outcrops. The northern part of the town is slightly higher than the south. The Kurunegala Lake adorns the town. The climate is tropical and hot all throughout the year. The surrounding rocks play a major role in determining Kurunegala's weather since these rocks increase and retain the heat of the day (WASPA, 2007). During the month of April the temperature can rise up to about 35 degrees Celsius. Major soil types are red yellow podzolic soil with strongly mottled sub-soil, red yellow low humid gley, reddish brown latosolic and regosol.

Kurunegala comprises of 30 Divisional Secretariats and 47 Grama Niladhari Divisions, of which 12 are within the Municipal Council (MC). The MC area is 11.34 km^2. The Kurunegala MC is responsible for overall administration, sanitary, welfare, and other general activities of the city. The Kurunegala MC consists of a population of approximately 37,500. It has nearly 7,500 households and the daily floating population is more than 200,000. The average population density is 27.10 person/ha (JICA, 2008).

Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW) is one of the serious environmental issues in the Kurunegala urban area and is a result of rapid urbanization, economic and infrastructure development activities and population growth. Currently, unplanned and improper ways of dumping of solid waste have become the most significant environmental issue. The absence of a proper management of waste has a severe impact on the environment and human health. The most common practice in handling municipal waste is open dumping without any precautionary measures, which is a great threat to the environmental health. A