



Preservation...
through
Presentation



KRIYA

NATYASALA

(CENTER FOR KUTIYATTAM RESEARCH & PRACTICE)

THE IMPORTANCE OF ART PERFORMANCES

“The heart of art lies in the body and mind of the artist and the connoisseur. And it comes to life on the stage and in the classroom. Our glorious artistic heritage, handed over to us through generations, survived only because of our performance tradition. That is why stage presentations and classroom studies are considered the foundation stones that sustain our art forms.”



KUTIYATTAM

Kutiyattam is a form of Sanskrit theatre traditionally performed in the state of Kerala, South India. It is officially recognised by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Kutiyattam has won worldwide acclaim as a unique form of acting in its perfection. It is the only surviving relic of ancient Indian theatre, which has an uninterrupted history of more than 2000 years. Kutiyattam makes use of a stylized highly evolved mime language that emphasizes facial expressions and hand gestures. The stylized acting through 'Netrabhinaya' or the manipulation of the eye is of vital importance. The movement of eyes and power of expression are so refined, pervasive and wide - ranging that they can portray any situation, activity thought or feeling. Considered a complex inflexible and ancient art form requiring considerable patience and time at our disposal for a fine understanding, Kutiyattam has a way of growing on you. It is addictive enough to never to let you out of its spell for life.

KRIYA NATYASALA

Kriya Natyasala has been set up to facilitate the study, performances and research on Kutiyattam. Kriya's main focus is to nurture this great theatre tradition and pass it on to the next generation. Hence Kriya works towards presenting Sanskrit plays in their complete form which is the heart and soul of Koodiyattam. We organise performances of Kutiyattam and allied artforms such as nangiarkoothu, chakyarkoothu, padakam and mizhavu percussion ensembles. Besides we also organise interactive workshops, lecture demonstrations and abhinaya workshops for students and arts enthusiasts.



KALAMANDALAM SANGEETHA

After completing her diploma in Kutiyattam from Kerala Kalamandalam, Sangeetha did higher studies under Usha Nangyar in the traditional gurukula style. She also received advanced training in Nangiarkoothu from Margi Sathi for two years under the scholarship scheme of the central Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Sangeetha has also choreographed and directed the Sanskrit play Amba Prasasthi (Amba's Fame) written by Ennazhi Rajan. She has also presented in full several Nangiarkoothu plays. Sangeetha has also performed the entire Sreekrishnacharitam, the seminal text for Nangiarkoothu, several times. She has performed Kutiyattam and Nangiarkoothu in several venues in India and abroad. She has also conducted several Kutiyattam workshops and lecture demonstrations. **AWARDS** : Diamond Jubilee Fellowship from Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi in 2018, Nalanda Nritha Nipuna Award in 2014, Scholarship for young artists from the central government's Ministry of Cultural Affairs in 2011.



KALAMANDALAM RATHEESH BHAS

A Research Fellow at Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University, Ratheesh is the first to do research on the special features of playing the mizhavu drum. He had started his study of the mizhavu at Kalamandalam in 1996. He taught the art of playing mizhavu at Nepathya Centre for Excellence in Kutiyattam at Moozhikkulam for several years, and has also served as guest lecturer at Kalamandalam for a few years. His gurus are Kalamandalam Easwaranunni and Valappaya Chandra Marar. Ratheesh has been performing alongside master drummers and actors of Kutiyattam for the last 26 years. In the solo mizhavu percussion artform of Thayambaka, Ratheesh introduced playing the kooru segment in the native Kerala tala or rhythm pattern of 'Kundanachi'. Ratheesh has also conceived and directed musical fusion programmes involving different instruments of Kerala as well as led percussion ensembles such as mizhavu dhruva melam and ekachoozhathi Mizhavumelam. **AWARDS** : D Appukuttan Nair Award for Promising Youth from Nepathya Moozhikkulam in 2015, Painkulam Rama Chakyar Yuva Prathibha Award from Kalamandalam in 2019.



OUR ACTIVITIES

DEMONSTRATIONS
ACTING WORKSHOPS
KUTTIYATTAM
NAGIARKOOTHU
MIZHAVU THAYAMBAKA
CHAKYARKOOTHU
PADAKAM
ONLINE CLASSES



SCAN TO CONTACT US




WE ARE CONDUCTING
KUTTIYATTAM & MIZHAVU WEEKLY
CLASSES AT THRISSUR.

Join Kriya Natyasala to help keep our glorious
Koodiyattam tradition alive. Please Contact Us


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