

# Kutiyattam Workshop 2016



05-14/August 2016 Thrissur Kerala

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

India has rich traditions of theatre and other performing arts. It is here where *Natyasastra*, one of the rare treatises on performance theory was born. Diverse forms and traditions of performance practices flourished across numerous languages and cultures of this land. Sanskrit theatre was significant one among them.

*Kutiyattam*, the tradition which is practiced in Kerala is the only one form that has survived as *Chakyars* and *Nambiars*; the hereditary practitioners preserved it with high degree of devotion. Believed to have a history of more than 2,000 years, *Kutiyattam* has a synthesis of Sanskrit classicism and local traditions. In its stylized and codified theatrical language, it focuses on the thoughts and inner feelings of the character. In 2001, it attained the status of 'intangible cultural heritage of humanity', proclaimed by UNESCO.

A *Kutiyattam* student would undergo years of rigorous training to transform into full-fledged performers having consummate control of breath and energy, subtle, precise and sharp facial expression to emote and thorough consciousness of his/her organic body. These skills make him/her capable to carry a situation or an episode to its minutest detail through which the he/she invokes *rasa* (sentiment); the fundamental objective of a *Kutiyattam* performance.

Intended to introduce the acting techniques and performance-making philosophy of this rich and ancient theatre form to the contemporary theatre performing artistes from other disciplines, Theatreconnekt organize workshops on *Kutiyattam* once in every year.

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## ***THE WORKSHOP***

The present WORKSHOP is specifically devised to introduce the acting techniques and performance-making philosophy of *Kutiyattam* to the contemporary theatre artistes, dancers and performing artistes from other disciplines.



The workshop, placed in the traditional *Gurukulam* environment is designed and formulated by Shri. Sooraj Nambiar (*Ammannur gurukulam*), who is an accomplished performer, pedagogue and trainer of Kutiyattam. In the workshop, Sooraj will be assisted by other artistes of Ammannur Gurukulam.

The workshop curriculum is designed to introduce the methodology, principles and systems of acting and theatre-making as practiced in *Kutiyattam*. For instance, the subtle and highly intricate use of eyes and its training, the language of hand gestures, control of breath, relation between voice and emotion, character analysis, invoking *rasa* (sentiment) and *bhava* (emotions), interpretation of text and character, the imagination of performer, concept and relativity between space and time etc will be explored in detail here.

Has emphasize on practical training supplemented with live performances by master performers in the evenings and lectures by eminent scholars from cross-disciplines, the program shall convert a participant familiar with the tradition and its fundamental approaches on performing of a play.

Taking place from 05 to 14 August 2016 will be residential in nature. The participation is limited to only 9 persons varying from an age from 20 to 40 years only. The participants will be short-listed from the applications received in prescribed form. The application form can be downloaded from our website.

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### ***THEATRECONNEKT***

Theatreconnekt is a group of people believe in the power of art, to challenge many of society's deepest assumptions. Among all art practices, theatre and performance art has proved to be a powerful medium of artistic expression capable to cut through complacency and apathy, inspire political actions, facilitate dialogues, empower individuals and communities, and stimulate social change through critical thinking and increased consciousness.

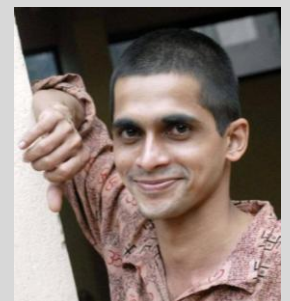
As the contemporary performance practices are undergoing multifaceted challenges, the role of intercultural and interdisciplinary collaborations are significant in cutting cross the existing boundaries of different artistic expressions in reinventing and formulating new languages. At Theatreconnekt, we intend to address this area by nurturing fresh and new aesthetic sensibilities, promoting innovative experiments and stimulating critical appreciation of theatre and performance-making art.

Visit <http://www.theatreconnekt.com> to know more.

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### ***SOORAJ NAMBIAR***

Sooraj Nambiar, the accomplished Kutiyattam performer is one of the senior disciples of Guru Late Padmabhushan Ammannur Madhava Chakyar, Ammannur Kuttan Chakyar and Venu G. He has performed in many prestigious venues in the country and abroad. He has been imparting training to performers of other art practices for more than a decade. National School of Drama, School of Drama-Calicut University and Spic-MACAY, are a few of them. He has also collaborated with eminent theatre makers of the country. For more details on Sooraj Nambiar, visit [www.ammannurgurukulam.com](http://www.ammannurgurukulam.com)





The 'Kiralloor Retreat' is a serene and silent space spread in approximately 0.75 Hectare of farm land in a peaceful hamlet located in the outskirts of Thrissur city. The Kiralloor Retreat is a newly constructed guest house with 3 large bed rooms with attached bath rooms. It has a large central foyer, drawing room, fully equipped kitchen and verandahs in front. The guest house has 24 hours water supply, solar water heater and Wi-fi connectivity.



The 'Kiralloor Retreat' is located in the village Kiralloor, approximately 14 Kilometers to North-West from Thrissur city. The nearest railway station is Thrissur. The nearest airport is Kochi (COK), which is at a distance of approximately 60 Kilometers. Learn more from our website.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Workshop Dates</b>	: 05 to 14 August 2016
<b>Age Group</b>	: 20 to 40 years
<b>Daily Schedule</b>	: 6.00am to 8.30pm
<b>Climate</b>	: Heavy rain akin to Kerala Monsoon
<b>Venue &amp; Accommodation</b>	: The 'Kiralur Retreat', Kiralur, Thrissur
<b>Type of Accommodation</b>	: 3 persons/bed-room. (Independent Camp-cots)
<b>Food</b>	: Breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks and dinner (Indian Vegetarian)
<b>Participatory Donation</b>	: Rs. 15,000.00 for Indian citizen Rs. 17,500.00 for foreign nationals & NRIs
<b>Advance Payment</b>	: 50% of participatory donation
<b>Last Date for submission application</b>	: 10 July 2016
<b>Date of Short-listing</b>	: 15 July 2016
<b>Payment of Advance</b>	: 20 July 2016
<b>How to Apply</b>	: Send applications to <a href="mailto:theatreconnekt@gmail.com">theatreconnekt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Contact</b>	: +91.98471.88288 (Kesavan)

**Disclaimer:** Theatreconnekt Performing Arts Society reserves the rights of admission. We reserve our rights also to either cancel or postpone the workshop due to reasons such as nonviable number of participants, natural calamities and similar eventualities which are beyond our control. On such circumstances, our liability is limited only to return their participatory donation to the applicant/s. No any other claims to this account will be entertained. The participatory donation will not be returned in any circumstances if the participation is withdrawn by the applicant him/herself once after the seat is confirmed by making the donation in part/full.

### Theatreconnekt Performing Arts Society (Regd.)

V/534, Kunnathangadi, Post Veluthur, Thrissur, Kerala: 680012

Phone: +91.98471.88288 Email: [theatreconnekt@gmail.com](mailto:theatreconnekt@gmail.com)

[www.theatreconnekt.com](http://www.theatreconnekt.com)