

MARGI

ANNUAL REPORT 1993-94

The Managing Committee takes pleasure in presenting the 23rd Annual Report and statement of accounts for the period 1.4.93 to 31.3.1994.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING 1992-93

The Annual General Body meeting for 1992-93 was held on 29.6.1993 at Margi, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram.

MEETINGS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

The Managing Committee met twice during the period. (Dates of meeting are 29.6.93 and 21.12.93)

THE MARGI PROGRAMME

From 1991-92 onwards Margi is functioning as a 'Kaliyogam', the time honoured system under which Kathakali developed during its hey-day and became the great art that it is today. (ie. about 150 years ago). Under this system the artistes work well-knit group with training and performances going alongside. Artistes are not sent out after a regimented training course of four or six years, nor are new students enrolled every year. The training is full time and perpetual. The artistes are graded into Upadheshtavu, Adyasthanam, Onnamkida, Idatharam and Kuttitharam. Following this pattern, the Margi Kaliyogam functioned with Ooor Kochugovinda Pillai as Upadeshtavu. The 'Adyasthanam' artistes are S/S. Inchakadu Ramachandran Pillai (Veshom) V.N. Haridas (Pattu), Raman Namboothiri (Chenda), Kalanilayam Babu (Maddalam) and R.L.V.Somadas (Chutty). Shri Somadas functioned as the Manager also for co-ordinating the functions of the various departments as well as for arranging programmes.

Among the 'Onnamkida' artistes are persons with great talent and promise like Margi Vijayakumar, Margi Madhu (Koodiyattom), Margi Sathi (Nangiyarkoothu), Kalamandalam Krishnankutty (Kathakali Pattu), Kalamandalam Krishna Das (chenda), etc.

The performances staged in Margi are really extensions of the training which the artistes undergo in the Kaliyogam and presented to the public. The selection of programmes is with an eye on the highest aesthetic fulfillment in view and designed to sustain perennial interest in Kathakali and Koodiyattom, which are without question, very great arts. To provide added variety, innovation within the classical frame work is liberally resorted

to. For plays on the current performing schedule, emphasis given to the portions with high aesthetic content, by insisting on their slow and deliberate unfolding, together with elaboration of the 'attoms'; drawing liberally from related Puranic sources. Examples of this type of presentation are Narakasuravadhom, Banayudhom, Nalacharitham, etc. Another line pursued is the revival of plays which are part of the established repertoire, but which have ceased to be performed in recent times. Under this category comes Kottarakkara Thampuran's Vischinnabhishekom, 'Khara Vadhom' etc..

In Koodiyattom, great strides have been made by extending the repertoire phenomenally during the last few years. The revival of the 'Ascharyachoodamani' Acts such as 'Ashoka Vanikankom' 'Maya Seethankom' and 'Anguleeyankom', in particular, are examples, which alone was performed over a period of about fifty days. Such a stage presentation of 'Anguleeyankom' acknowledged to be the last word in 'Abhinaya', had not been attempted in our living memory (say 100 Years).

The Koodiyattom programmes were staged every Friday in the Natyagriha in Valiyachalai and has been hailed as a unique cultural event by the cultural elite. Our special thanks to the Kendra Sangeet Natak Academy, for its all out support to the Koodiyattom programme of Margi, are here by placed on record.

The Kathakali and Koodiyattom programmes staged by Margi, on an average of one each every week, has attracted a regular stream of visitor from abroad who are either students of theatre or others seeking to know more about the Indian Cultural ethos.

The list of programmes staged during the year is appended.

THE NATIONAL KATHAKALI FESTIVAL AT NEW DELHI- NOV'93

A Kathakali Festival, the first of its kind ever, was held in New Delhi during November 1993, Under the auspices of Kendra Sangeet Nataka Academy in close collaboration with Margi. All the performing artistes of Kathakali, numbering over 80, performed in this festival and presented a rich, varied and truly traditional fare. The performances got up in the Margi style, achieved its true objective of instilling the aesthetic appreciation of Kathakali among the cognoscenti of the whole country. This great art achieved a new understanding and reverence at the national level after this festival.

An outstanding art tome was brought out by the renowned MARG

publications, Bombay to mark this national festival. This profusely illustrated volume, was edited by D. Appukuttan Nair and Dr. Ayyappa Panicker. It contained articles of great depth and erudition on several aspects of Kathakali; contributed by the editors and other Kathakali connoisseurs like Shri G.S.Warrier, Mrs. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Miss. Chitra Panicker, etc. and renowned Kathakali artistes. A publication of this kind in English, about Kathakali, has not been attempted before. Most of superb high quality colour photographs were taken in the Margi premises with our performing artistes by a professional photographer of international standing.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

From 1991-92 the grant to Margi is Rs. 3 Lakhs ;from which the remuneration that could be paid to the artistes is very low. The plan provision for Margi for 1994-95 is Rs. 5 Lakhs and it is sincerely hoped that Government will fix the revised grant to Margi and do justice to the Margi artistes by fixing a reasonable salary level (atleast at the same level as in comparable institutions like Unnaiwarrier Kalanilayam, Irinjalakuda, etc.)

OTHER PERFORMANCES

Promotion of Tourism: During the period, Margi arranged performances for outside agencies. A few of these were for the benefit of overseas tourists and tourists from other parts of India, under the auspices of the Tourism Department of Kerala, which in recent years is implementing several cultural programmes for acquainting tourists with the rich cultural heritage of our state. Margi also participated in the Tourism week celebrations of the Government under the Classical arts section (Kathakali, Koodiyattom, Chakiyarkoothu, Patakam and Nangiyarkoothu)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Managing Committee hereby conveys its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of Kerala, (Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Tourism & Department of Public Relations); Government of India, Department of Culture; Kendra Sangeet Natak Academy; Travancore Devasom Board, The Indian Council for Cultural Relations; the Ford Foundations; etc. for the valued assistance and co-operation extended to Margi in carrying out its programmes. The committee also wishes to thank all the members for the active interest evinced by them in the promotion of classical art forms.

Thiruvananthapuram
30/06/1994

(A.D.Damodaran)
Secretary

LIST OF PROGRAMMES STAGED AT THE MARGI ANKANOM, FORT
AND NATYAGRIHAM AT VALIYACHALAI DURING 1993-94.

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Kathakali (MARGI Ankanom, Fort) am, Valiyachalai)

19.4.1993	Nalacharitham II Day	
20.4.1993	Aschariyachoodamani - Anguleeyankom	
25.4.1993	"	"
26.4.1993	"	"
08.6.1993	"	"
09.6.1993	"	"
22.6.1993	"	"
23.6.1993	"	"
29.6.1993	"	"
30.6.1993	"	"
13.7.1993	"	"
14.7.1993	"	"
27.7.1993	"	"
28.7.1993	"	"
25.8.1993	Nalacharitham 3rd Day	"
14.9.1993	"	"
15.9.1993	"	"
28.9.1993	"	"
29.9.1993	"	"
12.10.1993	"	"
13.10.1993	"	"
18.10.1993	"	"
13.12.1993	"	"
14.12.1993	"	"
15.12.1993	"	"
20.12.1993	"	"
21.12.1993	"	"
17.01.1994	"	"
18.01.1994	"	"
24.01.1994	"	"
25.01.1994	"	"
09.02.1994	"	"
10.02.1994	Kharavadhom	"
21.02.1994	"	"
24.02.1994	"	"
27.03.1994	"	"
28.03.1994	"	"
29.03.1994	"	"

LIST OF PROGRAMMES STAGED AT THE MARGI ANKANOM, FORT
AND NATYAGRIHAM AT VALIYACHALAI DURING 1993-94.

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Koodiyattom (MARGI Natyagriham, Valiyachalai)

19.4.1993	Nalacharitham II Day	
20.8.1993		Ascharyachoodamani - Anguleeyankom
25.10.1993		"
26.17.9.1993		"
08.22.9.1993		"
09.01.10.1993		"
22.08.10.1993		"
23.15.10.1993		"
29.05.11.1993		"
30.12.11.1993		"
13.19.11.1993		"
14.03.12.1993		"
27.07.01.1994		"
28.14.01.1994		"
25.04.02.1994	Nalacharitham 3rd Day	"
14.11.02.1994	"	"
15.25.02.1994	"	"
29.04.03.1994	"	"
29.11.03.1994	"	"
12.18.03.1994	"	"
13.25.03.1994	"	"
18.10.1993		"
13.12.1993		"
14.12.1993		"
15.12.1993		"
20.12.1993		"
21.12.1993		"
17.01.1994		"
18.01.1994		"
24.01.1994		"
25.01.1994		"
09.02.1994		"
10.02.1994	Kharavadhom	"
21.02.1994	"	"
24.02.1994	"	"
27.03.1994	"	"
28.03.1994	"	"
29.03.1994	"	"