

# **MARGI**

## **TWENTY EIGHTH REPORT – YEAR ENDING 31.3.1999**

### **THE MARGI KALIYOGAM**

#### **KATHAKALI**

Margi is functioning as a Kaliyogam from 1994-95. The important features of the Kaliyogam system are:

1. Grading of artistes under different categories like Upadeshtavu, Adyasthanam, Onnamkida, Idatharam and Kuttitharam as against the old system of Teaches and Stipendiaries, who were paid only stipends for 10 months in the year and had to leave the institution on completion of the time bound course like 4 years, 6 years etc.
2. Continuous training and performance side by side throughout the life time of the artistes and staying together as a well knit cohesive unit, which leads to high level production values.
3. This system is the one most suited to restore the arts to their former glory by enabling revivals, creative elaboration through poetic treatment, etc.
4. There is a constant challenge to the creative talents of the artistes in every production and performance.

The artistes get training in the higher aspects of the art on a continuing basis; the themes for study are mention below.

#### **Nalacharitha series.**

The late Shri D.Appukuttan Nair developed staging of Nalacharitha into a newformat altogether. This magnum opus of Kathakali has infinite theatrical scope; drawing upon the related literature and developing the sequences, giving emphasis to the poetic aspects of this all time great literary creation. Shri D.A.Nair did an immense amount of research on this and wrote down a very detailed performance manual. According to this format, Nalacharitha 1<sup>st</sup> day itself will take about 12 days to complete.

The performance manuals for days 1 and 2 have already been printed by Margi and is available for the use of art lovers. Day 3 is being printed.



Another programme of Margi, as may be well known by now, is the presentation of currently popular themes (usually presented as abridged versions lasting anything between 45 minutes to 3 hours) in their entirety, as conceived and intended by the playwright. This takes a long session of successive stagings to complete a play. In the process, creative interpretations are also added to such sections of the play which provide the required scope for such poetic embellishments and elaboration. In this format, each session is a new presentation, a creative challenge for actor, singer and percussionist alike to continuously hone their respective creative talents and greatly helps to revitalise the art.

'Ravana Vijayam' was rehearsed and performed in full during the year, in the above manner.

The late Sri.D.A.Nair had also brought out performance manuals for the Ramanattom plays like Vischinnabhishekom & Khara Vadhom. Sri.S.Ganesa Iyer added to this series by providing a detailed performance manual for another Ramanattom play viz. Sethubhandanam (The text for Vischinnabhishekom has already been printed). These three plays constitute a new set of revivals of Kathakali scores which were very popular in the olden days. (considered as the hey day of the art). The three Ramanattom plays have already been staged once in great detail, in previous years.

During the year under report, Vischinnabhishekom was staged again (vide list of programmes attached)

#### KOODIYATTOM & NANGIARKOOTHU with support from the Kendra Sangeet Nataka Akademi

The weekly Koodiyattom shows, as per ongoing programme of support by the Kendra Sangeet Nataka Akademy, continued during the year. This is the eighth year of the SNA supported scheme and 48 programs were staged during the year, covering a wide range; drawing from the vast repertoire built up in Margi during the previous years. (Please see list of programs). There was significant achievement in taking this art to a wider audience. Programs staged in the city colleges were very successful in spreading the art among the younger generation of lovers of classical theatre.



A national seminar on Koodiyattom was held at the Kerala Kalamandalam at Cheruthurithy in August 1998 under the auspices of the Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademy, in which Koodiyattom artistes from all over Kerala took part. The Vice Chairperson, Dr. Premalatha Sharma, the Secretary Ms. Sarbari Mukherjee, Sri. Jayanth Kastuar etc. were present. Margi presented Nangiarkoothu by Margi Sathi and the group presented Mayasitankom (a Margi Production). Margi Sathi also contributed a paper titled "Sthreeveshoms in Koodiyattom" for the technical sessions of the seminar.

Another welcome sign is the demand for staging of Koodiyattom in several temples in South Kerala such as Sree Krishna Temple, Kottarakkara; Bhagavathy temple, Mullakkal, Alleppey, Sree Mahadever Temple, Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum etc. (Though Koodiyattom is essentially a temple art, it never found a place in temple festivals; particularly in South Kerala). The response was very encouraging and more temple programmes are likely to be staged in the coming years; a true sign of revival of this ancient art form.

*Programmes staged during the year (vide list of programmes appended)*

**Kathakali** 16 Programmes were staged during the year at Trivandrum and 75 programmes in various temples, mostly in South Kerala.

**Koodiyattom** 48 programmes were staged under the support scheme of the Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi

### RECOGNITION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The programmes staged at Margi were invariably watched by a good number of foreign tourists; Particularly during the tourist season. The tourists consisted of both casual visitors as well as theatre persons. While the former were very much impressed by the power and depth of the histrionics of Koodiyattom, the latter kept coming back to know more about the finer aspects of the art.

Mention has been made in the last annual report about the cross cultural shows (including Koodiyattom from India) like 'Dragon Bond Rite' staged at such prestigious centres like the Kennedy Centre in the US (June 1997). The Asian premiere of this show was held in Hong Kong during November 1998. The Koodiyattom artistes - Margi Madhu and Unnikrishnan Nambiar performed in this show.



Another noted theatre group titled 'Theatre work' based at Singapore (artistic Director Mr. Ong Keng Sen) visited Margi during December 1997. They watched the rigorous training schedules of Koodiyattom and Kathakali and interacted with the artistes. They were very much impressed by the theatre potential of both Kathakali and Koodiyattom for being featured in fusion of arts festivals at the global level. Their production titled "Flying Circus Project 1998" featured also artistes from Korea and Myanmar. The venture had a month long series of workshops, seminars and performances at Singapore during December 1998, in which Koodiyattom artiste Margi Madhu participated.

### **INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT GRANT**

The grant to the Margi Kaliyogam from 1994-95 to 1997-98 was Rs.5 Lakhs. This amount is meant for paying salaries to 42 artistes. Naturally the salaries were far below fair living wages. (The highest salary for artistes who have put in more than 20 years' service in Margi is a paltry Rs.1800 PM; the lowest Rs.750 PM)

With such low salaries and without any increase for the last 4 years, the artistes were in great difficulty.

We are glad to state that the budget provision for grant to Margi for 1998-99 was raised to Rs.10 Lakhs and the amount was released during the year, bringing in some long awaited and much needed relief to the artistes. The committee would like to place on record our deep sense of gratitude, on behalf of the artistes of Margi, to the Government of Kerala, Department of Cultural Affairs.

### **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GRANT**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture was kind enough to extend grant assistance to Margi. The assistance, which was available to 6 artistes from 1994-95, has been raised to 12 artistes from 1997-98. The quantum of grant was also raised from 1.4.1998. The Committee's sincere thanks to the Government of India is hereby placed on record.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to acknowledge its deep debt of gratitude to the Government of Kerala, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture; the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi; The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Travancore Devasom Board.

Our sincere thanks are due to the Press in General and in particular the leading papers like Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhumi, Kerala Kaumudi, The Hindu, The Indian Express etc. for their regular coverage of the programmes of Margi.

In conclusion our sincere thanks are also due to all the members of Margi for their unstinted co-operation.

**Dr.A.D.Damodaran**  
Secretary

Thiruvananthapuram  
22nd June 1999

## THE MARGI MANAGING COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	<b>Prof S.Guptan Nair</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Dr. A.D.Damodaran</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Sri.P.Rama Iyer</b>
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<b>Sri.S.Ganesa Iyer</b>	<b>Dr.P.Venugopal</b>
<b>Sri.A.N.Janardhanan Pillai</b>	<b>Sri.C.R.Hari</b>
<b>Sri.G.Krishnan Namboodiri</b>	<b>Sri.S.Sasikumar</b>
<b>Sri.S.S.Kaimal</b>	<b>Sri.N.S.Madhavan</b>
<b>Sri.P.Narayana Kurup</b>	<b>Sri.Madhavan Nair</b>
<b>Sri.R.Ramakrishnan Nair</b>	



## List of programmes 1998-99

### KATHAKALI

- |     |          |                                                                                             |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 28.6.98  | Ravana Vijayam Part I                                                                       |
| 2.  | 29.6.98  | Vischinnabhishekam Part I                                                                   |
| 3.  | 21.7.98  | Kalakeyavadhom Part I                                                                       |
| 4.  | 22.7.98  | Kalakeyavadhom Part II<br>(D.A.Nair Commemorative programmes)                               |
| 5.  | 14.8.98  | Nalacharitham Day 4<br>(Guru Dinam - Kalamandalam<br>Krishnan Nair Commemorative programme) |
| 6.  | 15.8.98  | Ravana Vijayam Part 2                                                                       |
| 7.  | 28.9.98  | Ravana Vijayam Part 3                                                                       |
| 8.  | 29.9.98  | Vizchinnabhishekam Part 2                                                                   |
| 9.  | 30.10.98 | Ravana Vijayam Part 4                                                                       |
| 10. | 31.10.98 | Vischinnabhishekam Part 3                                                                   |
| 11. | 29.11.98 | Ravana Vijayam Part 5                                                                       |
| 12. | 30.11.98 | Vischinnabhishekam Part 4                                                                   |
| 13. | 29.12.98 | Nalacharitha Day 1, Part 1                                                                  |
| 14. | 31.12.98 | Vischinnabhishekam, Part 5                                                                  |
| 15. | 16.1.99  | Vischinnabhishekam, Part 6                                                                  |
| 16. | 17.1.99  | Bali Vijayam                                                                                |

### Overseas Programmes

24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1999 - Margi group presented 3 Kathakali and one lecture cum demonstration programmes in Sri Lanka. The tour was under the auspices of the ICCR.

### Programmes in Temples, Tourism Week Celebrations, etc.

Most Kathakali programmes connected with major temple festivals in South Kerala are staged by Margi; the number of programmes during 1998-99 was 75. Margi also staged Kathakali and Koodiyattom programmes for the annual Tourism festival during Onam, at Trivandrum.



## List of programmes 1998-99

### KOODIYATTOM

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|-----|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 8.4.98  | Ascharyachoodamani Act III – Mayasitankom at Thirunakkara Mahadevar Temple, Kottayam                          |
| 2.  | 11.4.98 | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act II – Nangiarkoothu                                                                   |
| 3.  | 21.4.98 | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act I – Chalakuvalayam, at Mamkompu Devi Temple                                          |
| 4.  | 29.5.98 | Chakiarkoothu at Theerthapadamantapam                                                                         |
| 5.  | 30.5.98 | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act II – Nangiarkoothu (Kamsavadhom) at International Centre for Kathakali, Tripunithura |
| 6.  | 31.5.98 | Ascharyachoodamani Act III – Mayasitankom at International Centre for Kathakali, Tripunithura                 |
| 7.  | 12.6.98 | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Usha                                                                                   |
| 8.  | 13.6.98 | Subhadradhananjayam – Sikini Salabham by Margi Raman Chakiar                                                  |
| 9.  | 17.6.98 | Chakiarkoothu by Pothiyil Narayanan                                                                           |
| 10. | 23.6.98 | Bhasa's Mantrankom by Margi Narayana Chakiar at University Centre, Kariyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram           |
| 11. | 24.6.98 | Ascharyachoodamani – Agnipravesankom – Day at Theerthapadamantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                  |
| 12. | 25.6.98 | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Sathi                                                                                  |
| 13. | 10.7.98 | Koodiyattom by Margi Artists                                                                                  |
| 14. | 17.7.98 | Asokavanikankom (Purappad) by Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar                                                       |
|     |         | Asokavanikankom (Nirvahanam) by Margi Raman Chakiar                                                           |

### *D.Appukuttan Nair commemorative programme series*

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|-----|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | 21.7.98 | Remembrance meeting (followed by Kathakali)                                                                                    |
| 15. | 23.7.98 | Jatayuvadhankom (Drama Part)                                                                                                   |
| 16. | 24.7.98 | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Usha                                                                                                    |
| 17. | 28.7.98 | Bhasa's Mantrankom by Margi Narayana Chakiar at University Centre, Kariyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram                            |
| 18. | 2.8.98  | Mayaseethankom by Margi Group at Cheruthuruthy in connection with the National Koodiyattom Festival by the Kerala Kalamandalam |
| 19. | 13.8.98 | Chakiarkoothu by Margi Narayana Chakiar                                                                                        |



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| 20. | 23.8.98  | Asokavanikankom – Nirvahanam – 2 by Margi Raman Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                           |
| 21. | 24.8.98  | Asokavanikankom – Nirvahanam – 3 by Margi Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                        |
| 22. | 25.8.98  | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Usha Chakiarkoothu by Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                            |
| 23. | 24.9.98  | Ascharyachoodamani Act VII – Agnipravesankom – Drama Part at University Campus, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram                                          |
| 24. | 25.9.98  | Subhadradhananjayam Act I – Chalakuvalayam at Bhagavathy Temple, Chenthittai, Thiruvananthapuram                                                     |
| 25. | 27.9.98  | Ascharyachoodamani – Act IV Nirvahanam Day 4 by Margi Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort Thiruvananthapuram                             |
| 26. | 24.10.98 | Bhasa's Manthrankom – Prabhandham – Rakshasolpathi by Margi Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort Thiruvananthapuram                       |
| 27. | 25.10.98 | Ascharyachoodamani – Act III, Natakabhaga at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                                         |
| 28. | 26.10.98 | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Usha Ascharyachoodamani Act V Nirvahanam Day 4 By Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort Thiruvananthapuram |
| 29. | 29.10.98 | Ascharyachoodamani Act V Nirvahanam Day 5 by Margi Raman Chakiar                                                                                     |
| 30. | 22.11.98 | Ascharyachoodamani Asokavanikankom – Nirvahanam by Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mandapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                      |
| 31. | 23.11.98 | Mantrankom by Margi Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                                              |
| 32. | 24.11.98 | Ascharyachoodamani Mayaseethankom – Drama Part at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                                    |
| 33. | 27.11.98 | Rituals in Koodiyatom (University Malayalam Conference) at University Senate Hall, Thiruvananthapuram                                                |



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| 34. | 13.12.98 | Nangiarkoothu                                                                                                                                                        |
| 35. | 14.12.98 | Chakiarkoothy by Margi Narayana Chakiar at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                                                           |
| 36. | 15.12.98 | Ascharyachoodamani, Parnasaalankom – Drama Part - Margi Raman Chakiar, Usha at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                       |
| 37. | 16.12.98 | Bhasa's Manthrankom by Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar                                                                                                                     |
| 38. | 7.1.99   | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Sathi at Mahadevar Temple, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram                                                                                 |
| 39. | 8.1.99   | Ascharyachoodamani, Mayaseethankom Drama part at Mahadevar Temple, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram                                                                |
| 40. | 23.1.99  | Subhadradhananjayam Act I, Drama Part at Devi Temple, Chengannoor, Kottayam District                                                                                 |
| 41. | 11.2.99  | Subhadradhananjayam Act I – Chalukuvalayam by Margi Narayana Chakiar, Pothiyil Narayanan & Usha at Sri Abdheasramam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                        |
| 42. | 25.2.99  | Ascharyachoodamani – Mayaseethankom – Nataka Bhaga Pothiyil Narayana Chakiar, Margi Raman Chakiar, Usha And Sathi at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram |
| 43. | 28.2.99  | Bhasa's Pratijayougandharayanam – Mantrankom by Margi Madhu at Theerthapada Mantapam, Fort, Thiruvananthapuram                                                       |
| 44. | 11.3.99  | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act I at NSS College, Changanasserry, Kottayam District                                                                                         |
| 45. | 15.3.99  | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act I at University Centre, Kariyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram                                                                                    |
| 46. | 20.3.99  | Nangiarkoothu by Margi Sathi (Kamsavadhom) at Sree Krishna Temple, Kottarakkara                                                                                      |
| 47. | 21.3.98  | Ascharyachoodamani – Soorpanakankom Drama part at Sree Krishna Temple, Kottarakkara                                                                                  |
| 48. | 28.3.98  | Subhadra Dhananjayam Act I at Devi Temple, Pazhanchira (Thiruvananthapuram District)                                                                                 |