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#### **Two Spicy Masala**

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Next Avant invited International artists from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and India to create a successful blend for our production Two Spicy Masala\* (\*a powdery mix of herbs and spices) which added flavour and taste to the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2002.

October 2002

#### **CERES 2002**

. . .

Also Avant as part of its community and cultural initiative, partners with CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies) a community environmental park to cultivate the idea of multiculturalism and cultural cohort among school children. Avant advocates the nuances behind cultural practices and the understanding and appreciation of arts of Asia to understand and appreciate the other members of the community.

2002 Avant among many other cultural and ethinic groups participates in the Annual Harvest Festival organised by CERES on an annual basis. Our debut performance was in CERES 2002 Harvest Festival where Avant staged a dance performance by Ms Pushpavalli who enacted the longing for the man, to rejoice during the golden harvest festival in South India province.









#### மெல்பர்னில் ரவீந்திரன் நாடகக் குழுவினர் விவல



ஆங்கிலத்தில் மேடையேறும் "புலம்பல்" நாடகத்தில் ஒரு காட்சி. சந்திரலேகா, கலைச் செல்வி, வனிதா, மல்லிகா ஆகியோர் இந்த நாடகத்தில் நடிக்கின்றனர்.



அமராவதி, புஷ்பா, சந்திரலேகா, கலைச் செல்வி, வளிதா, மல்லிகா ஆகியோர் தழக்கும் "பிரசயம்". நகைச்சுவை நாடகமாக உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது இந்த நாடகம்.

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பெல்பிரச்சில் மேடைப்பெறுக்கு இடங்கள் காடைக்கள் பொரைச் பாண்ணர் அரச்சில் தாடகங்கள் அம்போரு நாகும் அம்போர் நாட்கம் அம்போரு நாகும் அம்போர் நாட்கம் அம்பாரு நாகும் அம்போர் நாட்கர் அம்பார் நாகும் அம்போர் அம்பக் ஆர்க்கு கலின்பை வழக்கில் நாடக்குறைகில் ஆர்க்கு கலின்படுத்தில் நாடக்குறைகில் ஆர்க்கு கலின்படுத்தில் நாடக்குறைகில் அம்பார் அம்பக்கி மிருந்த சட்டு மேறு நாடகம் பிரச்சல் எதித்தில் அம்பக்கி மேற்ற சட்டு மேறு முறிய மானவர் கூறும் இது நாடக்களில் மடித்திலிறது மேல்பிரசில் படக்களில் மடித்திலிறது மேல்பிரசில் படக்களில் மடித்திலிறது மேல்பிரசில் படக்களில் கலைகுக்கில் முறில் முறில் முன்றைக்கும் நாடக்களையும் இதுக்குரி



நாக்ஸ்டானு, ஆனந்தக்கண்ணன், நாகராணி நடிக்கும் "குறுகிய வட்டம்".

# S'pore Tamil group stages plays in Australia

#### By SUHAILA SULAEMAN

AS THE curtains at the Monash Stu-dent Theatre in Melbourne, Australia, part tonight, Singapore's Ravindran Drama Group (RDG) will score anoth-er "first" for homegrown Tamil the-atra

are. In section of the first are the first tamil the street group here to have its own website. It now breaks new ground by being the first group to stage Singapore Tamil plays in Australia.

stage Singapore Tamil phays in AustraAlthough it has performed in Malayata before, the Australia show is the
biggost project in the 13-year history
For the past 21- months, sight actors, including TV artistes like Amarastaty, Nagarani and Ananda Kama,
have been rehearsing diligently for the
three-day run in Melbourne.
From tonight till Sunday, the group
will be presenting to its target audience of Tamil-speaking Indians a 1have been rehearsing diligently for the
layer Karuguya Vattam, Prasawam
and Lamenting.
While Kuruguya Vattam, a whodunnit, and Prasawam, a comedy, are delivered in Tamil and in the more conventional style of acting, director
Selvantahan is taking calculated
risks with the English-language play.
White Nor Pura Armungam La-

risks with the Enginsi-anguage pmy.
Lamenting.
Written by Puva Arumugam, Lamenting focuses on the lives of three women on the fringes of society. It was first performed at The Substain in November list year under an SAA mining the state of the control of the substaint of the su



A triple-bill of homespun plays will be presented by the group.

abstract piece that concentrates on the physical rather than the verbal. This version of the play has its intensity conveyed through what actress Vanitha can only describe as "werfur doverments and signs". Selvanathan, 33, who has sought advice from playwrights and disectors in Melbourne, is confident all three plays will be well-received. It was sometimes to be a superior of the says of the says of the says of the train plays and wa've definitely got that in the Tamil plays.

"In the case of experimental theater, it appears the community there

are, it appears the community there has not really been exposed to it, so this is a chance for them to see things from a different angle."







#### Chakra

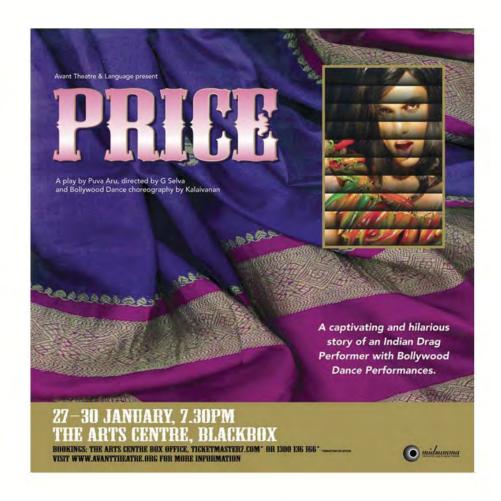
. . .

Four days of overwhelming support and encouragements from 2002 festival has given us the inspiration to work once again on another venture. For Melbourne Fringe Festival 2003, we are happy to partner with another Melbourne based devise theatre company, The Laughing Ostriches to present yet another enrapturing double-bill. A variety of young and budding talents tackled a wide spectrum of issues that teased, enticed and challenged the audience thinking. Asian art forms such as Bhutto from Japan, Wayang Kulit from Indonesia and Bharathanatyam from India and modern body art were explored in a movement piece where women share their inner deep dark secrets that shocked many.

October 2003















#### **Price**



As part of 2005 Melbourne Midsumma Festival, we staged PRICE. PRICE is a captivating and sexily hilarious Indian Drag Performer's story that threw light on controversial issues affecting minorities. Issues such as how the gay community is looked upon by the Asian community in this time and age were explored in greater detail.

January 2005

#### **CERES 2004**

. . .

Avant was part of the CERES Harvest Festival 2004 where we presented the Harvest Festival of Punjab through the famous Bhangra dance performed by Mr Kalaivanan and Ms Lavanya Nair. This was followed by a dance demonstration workshop conducted by Selva and Puva with audience participation.





#### **CERES 2003**

. . .

Avant as part of its community and cultural initiative partners with CERES to cultivate the idea of multiculturalism and cultural co hort in Melbourne Australia. Avant represents the Indian cultural and arts advocating the nuances behind cultual practices and arts of India and Asia. Avant Performed a Folk Dance item performed by Mr Kalaivannan, Ms Pushpavalli and Ms Lavaya Nair . Later a workshop was also conducted by Selva & Puva on some of the Indian folk Dance techniques, which was much appreciated by the crowd.



Avant Theatre & Language partnering with The Laughing Ostriches presents



An enthralling and enrapturing double bill depicting the permanence in-flexibility, happiness in sorrow, turmoil in enjoyment and the vernacular mainstream in the ever-changing circle which one experiences in Life's Chakra. Catch the best of both worlds as the East meets the West in this year's Melbourne Fringe where two Melbourne based theatre groups, Avant, Theatre and Language and The Laughing Ostriches collaborate in merging Asian and western art forms in their One Wheeled Bull Cart and Samuthra.



One Wheeled Bull Cart explores Women, Premarital Sex, Men and the Culture. Higher education, raised economic status, independent personalities - are these issues a threat to traditional Asian masculinity? Is the notion of a patriarchal world being challenged? She's blonde, blue eyes and independent. It's ok for her to have sex though she's not married. But you're Asian for god's sake!!!! They are living so far away from hot and humid Asia, but why are they still tormenting themselves with uncompromising customary traditional bondage? Meet these young people grappling with the notion of identity and cultural ennui. Join in their roller-coaster journey that tests their cultural roots in their new and exciting contemporary world.

<u>Samuthra</u> flows straight from the inner deep dark secrets of women who have dared to move from the East to West but with their lives still revolving around an incomprehensible third space. This movement piece interweaves monologues that will shock and tantalise you and taunt your visual appetite with various Asian theatrical dance/art forms such as Japanese *Bhutto* and Indian *Bharatha* Natiya dance tableau tapered with Indonesian Wayang Kulit. True dark secrets have been adapted for stage and will be shared to the privileged few. Both performance will challenge, shock, shake and move your senses with issues that are sensitive, intimate and repelling.

#### CHAKRA is being performed

© 96F (96 Flinders Lane- Mel way: 2F J4- 03 9656 3180 Wheelchair Access: yes - Licensed: yes)
7.00pm - 8.15pm (2 plays back to back with 15 min Interval)
4th October - 5th October 2003 & Matinee on 5th Oct 03 - 3.00pm - 4.15pm

Tickets \$18 (Full) and \$15 (Conc.)

8412 8777 or www.melbournefringe.com.au

9402 65 3088 or www.ayanttheatre.com

26 September-12 October

Tickets and information Telephone 03 8412 8777 melbournefrings.com.au



The Laughing Ostriches
a devised theatre or



#### Avant, Singapore

. . .

Here at Avant Theatre, we are always looking to explore and merge the boundaries between the performers and the audience. Various acting techniques and approaches are also introduced to the performers every now and then.

Each and every production is not just a challenge to us but also an endorsement in creating unexplored performance presentations for audience of all ages.

Avant Theatre also seeks to collaborate with overseas partners to present overseas performance presentations.





Polygamy is set in Southeast Asia and tells the story of two women, a Hindu and a Muslim, married to the same man. The man has since converted to Islam after his second marriage and has taken a vow to treat his wives equally. Yet, the women sense partiality in this equality. The play exposes the double standards practised within a patriarchal society using religion as an excuse, leading to the re-construction of identity of the marginalised gender. The women fight with each other and yet protect one another as they recognise that they are still the victims within the society. This play will tease you, prompt you to think and also make you wonder why these two women are still married to this man when their marriage is anything but a marriage.

2nd, 3rd & 4th October 2008 at 8 pm
The Guild Theatre, Melbourne University
Tickets: \$25 (adult), \$20 (concession)
and \$22 each for group of 10
Contact 0431377464 for more information
Tickets can be booked via www.melbournefringe.com.au
or by calling 9660 9666 after 3 September 2008.

Written and directed by Dr Puva Arumugam Cast: Puva Arumugam & Sheersha Perera

Dance Choreography: Sameer Kazi (Bollywood Dance Choreographer

melbOURne FRINGE festival



### Polygamy

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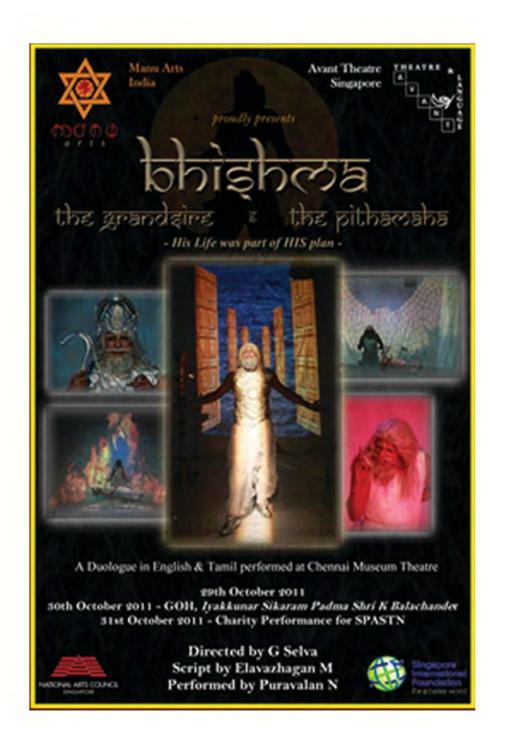
In September 2008 Polygamy was staged as an independent project. Polygamy explored patriarchy, religion and identity of the marginalised.

September 2008









#### ROMz & JULz

. . .

Romz & Julz was an abridged and transcreated work inspired from William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. This play was presented as a concept theatrical piece in Tamil. The story explores the struggle between the love of one Capulet and a Montague.

Romz & Julz was a unique drama styled in a way that allowed the audience the total access to the entire theatrical process both on and off stage. The drama had its conceptual roots in Total Theatre. Total Theatre presents the audience with option to watch the performance on stage or the process of the performance through real time video streams of the dressing room, foyer, wings and scenic runway. The audience can choose to attach themselves to either the Narrative or Process of the play.

Dec 2011

# Moksha Trilogy's First Chapter: Bhishma The Grandsire (English) & Bhishma The Pitamaha (Tamil)

. . .

The Moksha Trilogy explored three personalities from Mahabharatha. Each personality a chapter on its own, dissecting their emotions and the incidents that involved them, each mounting to the story and plot of our play.

The first chapter explored the inner secrets, trials and tribulations of Bhishma, a central and prominent character in Mahabharatha. He is respected as one of the Gurus not just during his period but also in his actions, then which reflects the truth in our lifestyles today ones that reflect a righteous living. When observing the play closely, we go through his steps and path that he crafted for himself and we question, why then did he fall? A thought provoking play bridging the past and present styles of thinking.

Bhishma is a duologue that was presented in English and Tamil by the same actor with a fifteen minute interval between each performance in Singapore in 2011.

Sept 2011

### Moksha Trilogy's First Chapter: Bhishma The Grandsire (English) & Bhishma The Pitamaha (Tamil) (Presented in India & Sri Lanka)

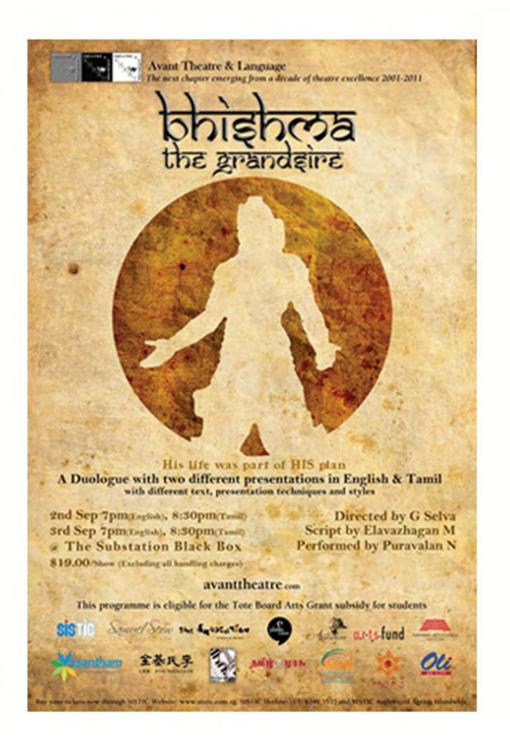
. . .

After the successful staging of Avant Theatre's maiden presentation Bhishma, The Grandsire & Bhishma, The Pitamaha in Singapore, Avant Theatre was invited to perform in INDIA and SRI LANKA. A tribute performance as Avant Theatre celebrated its 10 year artistic journey since 2001. Having seen Avant Theatre's quality presentations, Manu Arts (India) invited the team to restage, Bhishma in Chennai India and Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Both the Bhishma plays were presented in front of high profile famous names from Tamil Cinema like actor SUPER STAR Rajini Kanth & Director K Balachandar, Director Charan, Music Director M S Viswanathan, Music Director Bharadwaj, Actors Naseer, Parthieban, Pandiarajan, Pasupathy, Dancer Sutharani Ragupathy, Dance Doyens Mr & Mrs Dhananjayans, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Minister Douglas Devananthan of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Mayor Pathmavathi of Jaffna, Sri Lanka and the list goes on with many other important Dignitaries witnessing the three performances over two days in Chennai 2011.



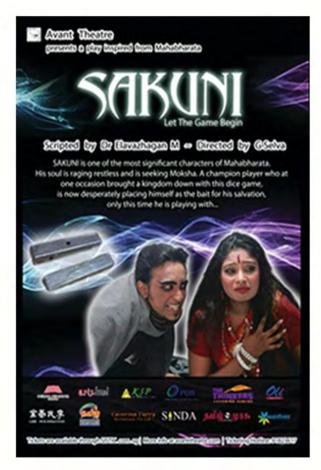














# Moksha Trilogy's First & Second Chapter: Bhishma The Pitamaha & Sakuni - Let the Game Begin (Presented in India)

. . .

Avant Theatre was once again invited by Manu Arts to perform, Bhishma - The Pitamaha & Sakuni – Let the game begin, in Tamil in different states of India like Chennai, Erode, Selam and Trichy. Sakuni as a singled out was presented in both English & Tamil exclusively for Chennai audience due to popular demand. Exclusive invitation to performed in Dhakshan Chitra Heritage Centre, Chennai and YGP's Bhaarath Kalachar an honour not to go unmentioned.

Oct & Nov 2012













### Moksha Trilogy's Second Chapter: Sakuni - Let the Game Begin

மோக்ஷா நாடக விழாவின் இரண்டாம் அத்தியாயம் சகுனி - ஆட்டம் தொடங்கட்டும்

. . .

The second chapter of the Moksha Trilogy focused on Sakuni one of the most significant characters of Mahabharata. Often portrayed in a negative shade, this character seeks the ultimate statelessness through from Draupadi, a representation of the Goddess herself after his death.

In this drama, the audience witnessed the magic of stage illusion through the live multimedia showcase of the dice game which Sakuni challenges Draupadi to. This drama focused on providing a more balanced interpretation of Sakuni's character based on the incidents in Mahabharatha. Sakuni was premiered in English and Tamil in Singapore in 2012 and also in different districts in South India as well.

Aug 2012

#### 12 A M

. . .

Twelve Angry Men is a highly acclaimed novel by Reginald Rose that depicted the reality of the American legal/jury system then. Avant Theatre's trancreation of this play highlighted the unknown strength and potential of all 12 actors on stage each being versatile with all twelve roles unknown till it is offered to them by the audience just before showtime.

12 A M was presented as an Audience Mediated Play where the audience become the directors. The actors prepare themselves for all 12 characters in the play and the audience choose the role for the actors just before they enter the auditorium. The artists were also made to double character changes during a performance to prove their versatility and confidence of attempting any of the 12 roles, at any point. Avant Theatre's reputation in the theatrical circles has been significantly enhanced for depicting shows that were challenging not just for the artiste but also for audience intellectual appreciation.

Dec 2012

### Fourlies (English)



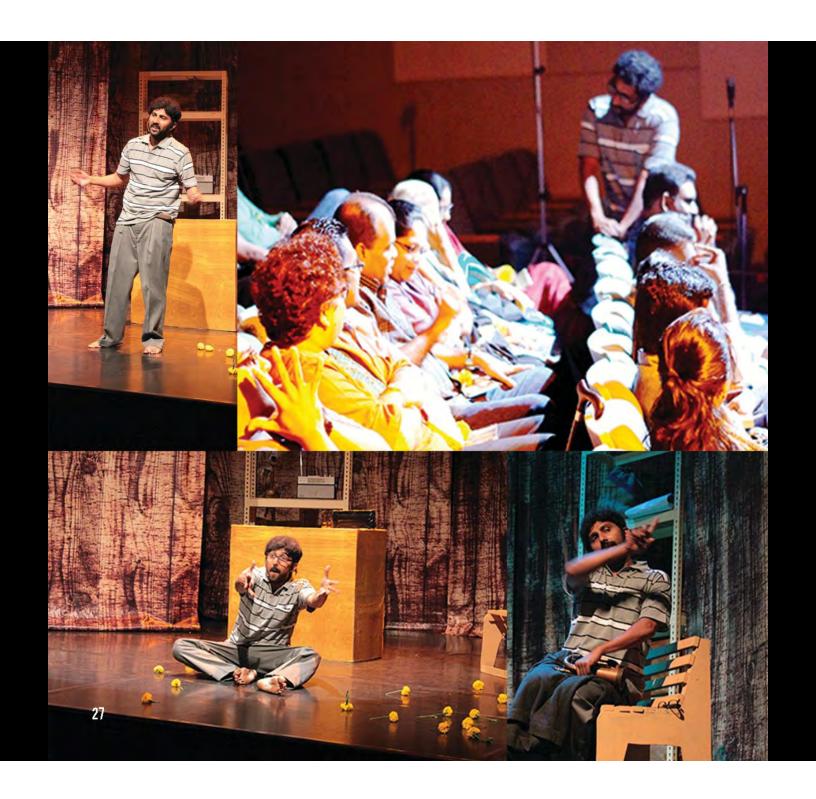
What if a certain story's character takes the liberty to re-orchestrate the story to suit one's own end? What if the other characters protest to this interpretation? What should the writer's main priorities be: accuracy, artistic freedom or the financial success of a book? Fourlies is an original Singapore styled and flavoured script that attempted to answer these questions through a play.

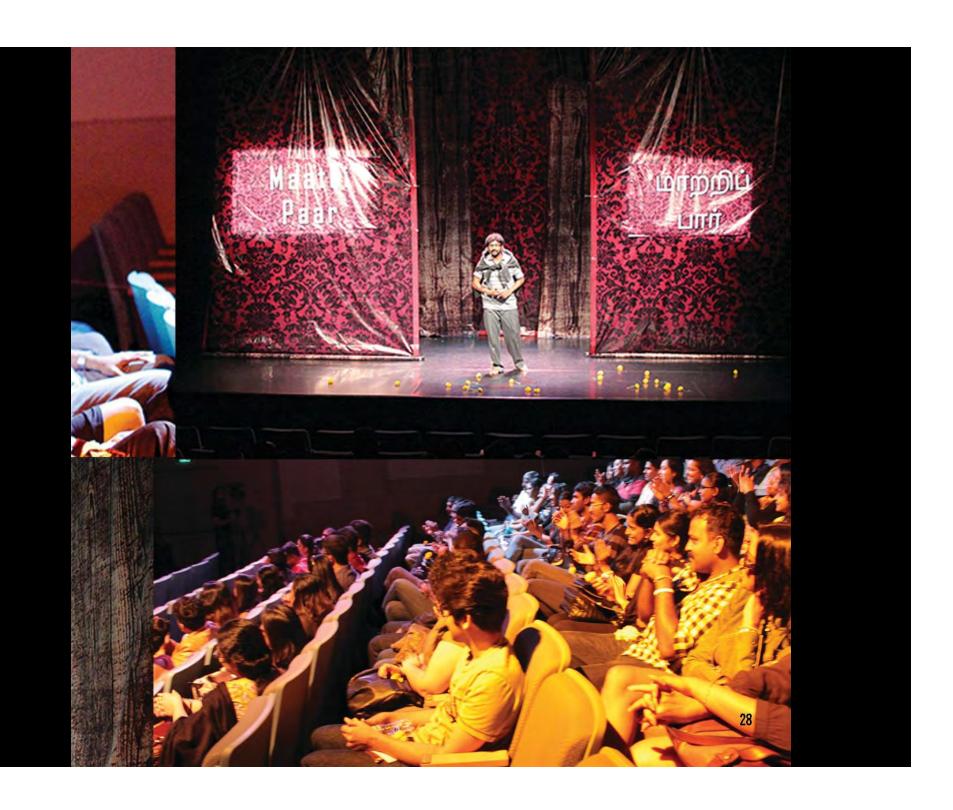
Jun 2013

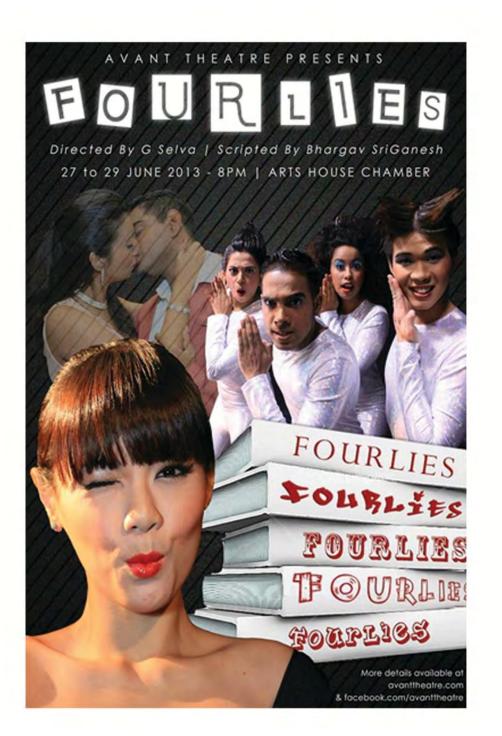












#### Adagu



Adagu, was an interactive theatre presentation presented through a monologue a first ever attempt in Tamil Singapore Theatre. The monologue speared through the fundamentals of beliefs and filial piety as it questioned the basis of humane values that has changed in the modern years. This interactive theatre presentation is another attempt at merging boundaries between audience and performers. The protagonist presents a narrative on stage and does a character shift to interact with the audience in between the flow of the play. Throughout the entire drama, there were clearly two tracks on stage. Both the tracks were carefully intertwined with period acting styles and an interactive contemporary talk show format.

An interactive monologue that not only hit the audience guts with comedy but also with hard reality, while exploring and revolving around the central question of whar are we actually pawning in today's life.

Mar 2013





# Moksha Trilogy's First & Second Chapters: Bhishma The Pitamaha (Tamil) & Sakuni - Let the Game Begin (Tamil) (Presented in KL, Malaysia)

. . .

Avant Theatre, once again had the opportunity to perform the first two chapters from the Moksha Trilogy, Bhishma - The Pitamaha and Sakuni - Let the Game Begin, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the banner of Fenomena Seni Produksi (M) Sdn Bhd. All three day performances were well received by the theatre appreciating audience and premier show was graced by Malaysian Minister of Indian Affairs DATO SRI SAMYVELU.

Oct 2013





## Akka Dramatic Stage Read Performance

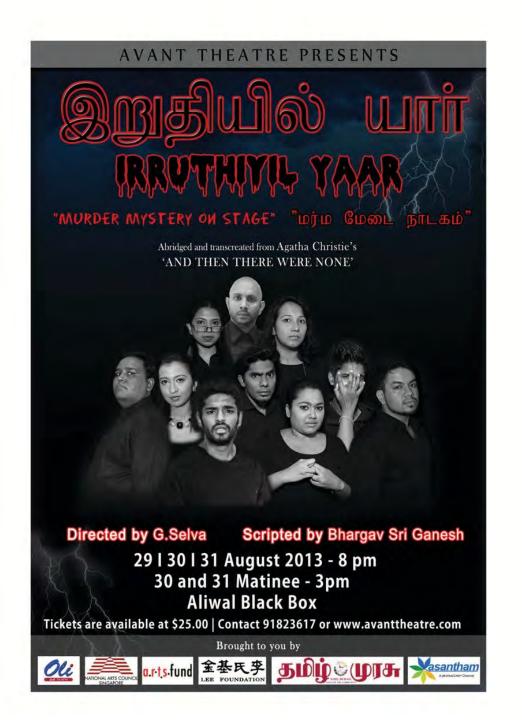
. . .

AKKA is the revisit of the 1991 script. Organized by IndigNation in association with The Purple Alliance & Avant Theatre, its stage readings were witnessed by two full house audiences - a very encouraging sign to reinforce the appreciation for past works that depicted issues that are still prevalent and relevant today.

This has prompted the desire for scripts / plays that deal with trans-gender appreciation and life style progression as stage plays that Avant Theatre would possibly explore in coming years.

Aug 2013

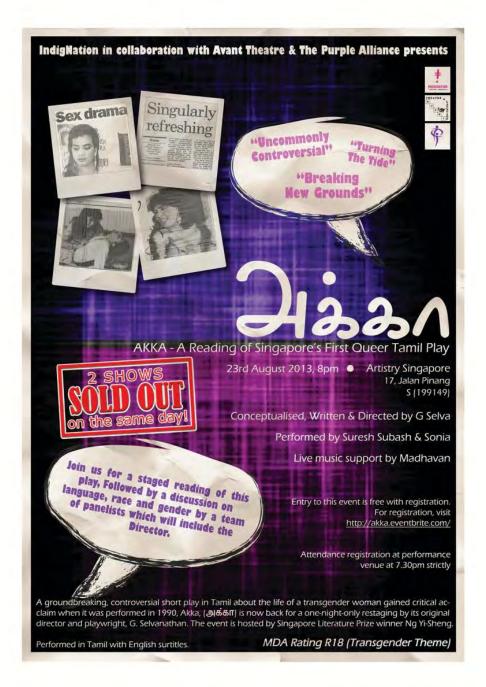












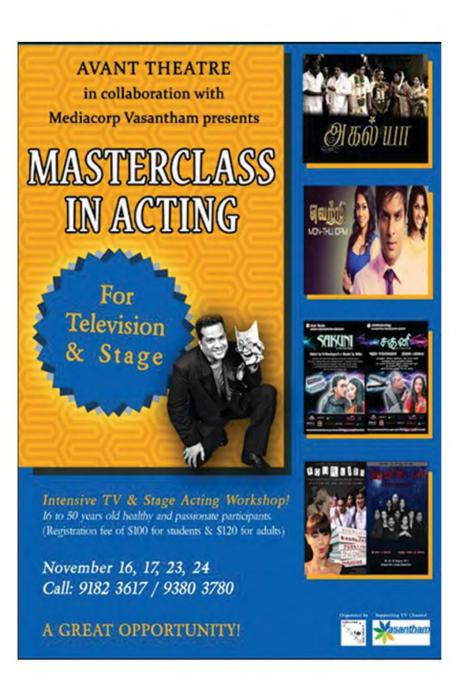
### Irruthiyil Yaar?

. . .

"Irruthiyil Yaar?" is a transcreation of Agatha Christie's murder mystery novel "And Then There Were None". Characters of this play share the darkest secrets of their wicked past, one by one and they all eventually die one by one. Who is telling the truth? Who is the last one standing? Who is the murderer? "Irruthiyil Yaar" is an "edge of the seat" thriller. Avant Theatre visualised the novel for stage appreciation in Tamil without losing the integrity of the novel holding the suspense and excitement of a murder mystery thrill for the audience.

Aug 2013











### Avant Workshop Series 2013: Speech & Drama Workshop

. . .

Masterclass in Acting for TV & Stage and Speech and Drama for Children' both programmes organized by Avant Theatre in collaboration with Mediacorp Vasantham for four full days. The programme incorporated intensive actors training module, technical understanding for television acting and understanding the media industry with visiting field experts in the Tamil television industry. These workshops were carefully created in pursuit to produce the next pool of actors for television and stage acting including children programmes like MAT YOYO.

### Avant Workshop Series 2013: Masterclass in Acting Workshop

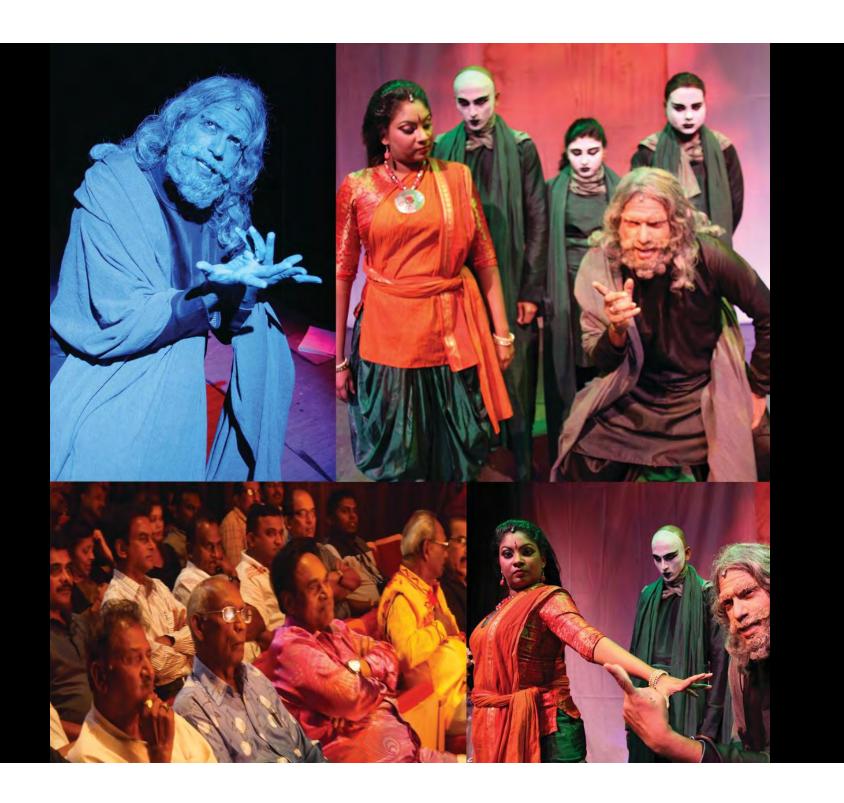
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Dec 2013







### YOU ARE INVITED TO A ROOF TERRACE PARTY.

AVANT THEATRE USHERS IN DEEPAVALI WITH A GALA FESTIVE THEATRICAL CELEBRATION!

# celebrate











- Henna & Face Painting
- \* Balloons & Bubbles
- ❖ Wet & Dry Activities
- Deepavali Goodies
- Live Music Recital
- Cultural & Theatrical
  - Performances
- Michael Jackson Impersonation
- \* Kanchana Enactment
- \* Many More Games!



### **AVANT THEATRE OPEN HOUSE 2012**

OCTOBER 20TH, 2012

1:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.



Capitaland organisation is featuring Avant Theatre as the main beneficiary for their flea market event this year 2012. Therefore, Avant takes this opportunity to showcase some talents and set up booths to sell some treats as our efforts to raise funds for Avant.

It is needless to say that this would be the perfect time to catch some of our local artistes who are patrons of Avant Theatre present at the open house! So come down, take photos, shake hands with the stars, enjoy the performances and treat your taste buds to some delicious food!

Thank you for supporting local theatre.

For More Information, call 9380 3780

### All the Rage on the Singapore Stage 17 AUGUST 2013



Selvananthan Ganesan Artistic Director Avant Theatre & Language

### Same essence, different elements: the state of Tamil theatre in Singapore

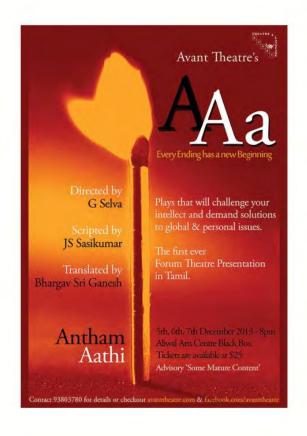
This presentation explores the state of Tamil Theatre in Singapore, with particular emphasis placed on issues of cultural and linguistic identity of the Singapore Tamils and the politics of performance-making in Singapore. The tension these factors create affects the artistic expression of this minority group, leading to a state of ambiguity yet creating a Singapore brand of Tamil Theatre.

**Selvananthan Ganesan** is an accomplished local theatre director. To date he has written, directed and acted in more than 50 plays in English and Tamil, including overseas productions. Selva started off as an actor in the 1980s and soon progressed to writing and directing his own plays. He has acted and directed numerous Tamil and English theatre productions.

Selva graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree in Media Arts and Drama from Deakin University, Melbourne in 2005.









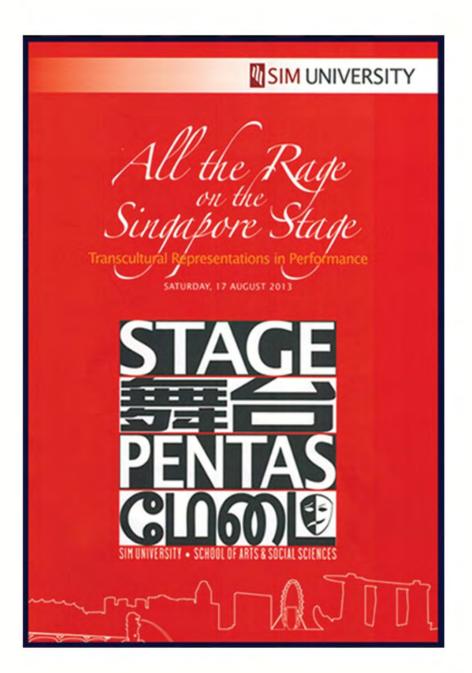


### Antham Aathi



Antham Aathi translates into a continuous flow where there is no end or start. Where we end another starts. Through this play, Avant Theatre hoped to create awareness of an interesting theatre genre - Forum Theatre presentation, one heading towards the theatre of the oppressed created by Augusto Boal. This would be the first ever to be explored in the Tamil Theatre arena in a clinical manner where audience would be invited to perform the roles to realise the many possibilities for resolution. This is an attempt to undo the traditional actor audience partition and bring audience members into the performance area through participation.

Dec 2013



### Avant Workshop Series 2016: Masterclass in Acting for TV & Stage

. . .

Fourth year in the running, Avant Theatre and Vasantham have grown together supporting one another in developing artistes for our mutual benefit. It is through your endorsement as supporting the channel that we have reached our community outreach once again embarking on our yearly initiative 'Actors Training Masterclass & Workshop's that we collaborated with Vasantham the last three years. This is the fourth year and the programmes have proved its success with many of our trained talents now doing main roles in many drama and telemovies for the channel and have also been nominated in the recent Pradhana Vizha 2016. Avant has designed 3 different workshop series that will cater to a specific and specialized audience.

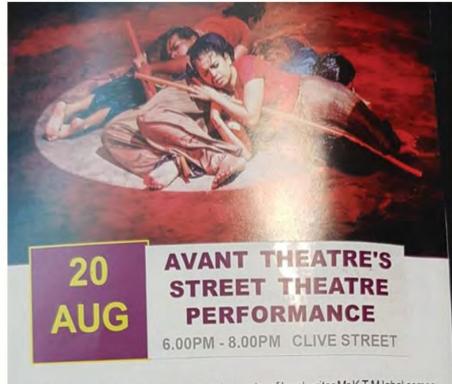
### Poli Street Theatre Performance

. . .

Through music and theatrical movement, the poetry of Mr K T M Iqbal came alive in vivid colous as we paid homage to one of the greatest writers to have graced our local literary scene. The performance was a mix of classical literature and contemporary stylistics as the simple facts of life unfolded in elegance on stage.

Aug 2016





Through music and theatrical movement, the poetry of local writer Mr K T M Iqbal comes alive in vivid colours as we pay homage to one of the greatest writers to have ever graced our local literary scene. As we flip through the annals of his life through his poetry, be mesmerised by the lilt of his classical language and the charm of his contemporary style as the simple facts of life unfold in elegance on stage. Avant Theatre is proud to pay tribute to the beauty of the written word and the mind behind its conception. As we flip through the annals of his life through his poetry, be mesmerised by the lilt of classical language and the charm of contemporary style as the simple facts of life unfold in elegance on stage. Avant Theatre is proud to pay tribute to the beauty of the written word and the mind behind its conception.







# **AVANT WORKSHOP SERIES**

15, 16, 22 & 23 NOVEMBER 10AM TO 8PM \$150 FOR ALL 4 SESSIONS (STUDENT PRICE-\$120)

15, 16, 22 & 23 NOVEMBER 10AM TO 8PM \$120 FOR ALL 4 SESSIONS

20 & 21 NOVEMBER 10AM - 5PM FOR 7 TO 9 YRS OLD (\$100) 2PM-6PM FOR 4 TO 6 YRS OLD (\$80)



IN ACTING FOR TELEVISION & STAGE FOR AGES 15 & ABOVE

- · 4 Full Days of Fun filled Activities
- Sharing Sessions by Media & Theatre Experts
- · Meet & Interact with Vasantham Artistes
- · Well knowledge Trainers & Facilitators
- · Actors Headshots for production houses
- Television Acting opportunities
- · Certificate endorsed by Vasantham & Avant Theatre
- · Lunch will be served





For enquiries, call Mr Raj at 9899 3002 or email admin@avanttheatre.com For further updates, facebook.com/avanttheatre



### Avant Workshop Series 2016: Speech & Drama for Children

. . .

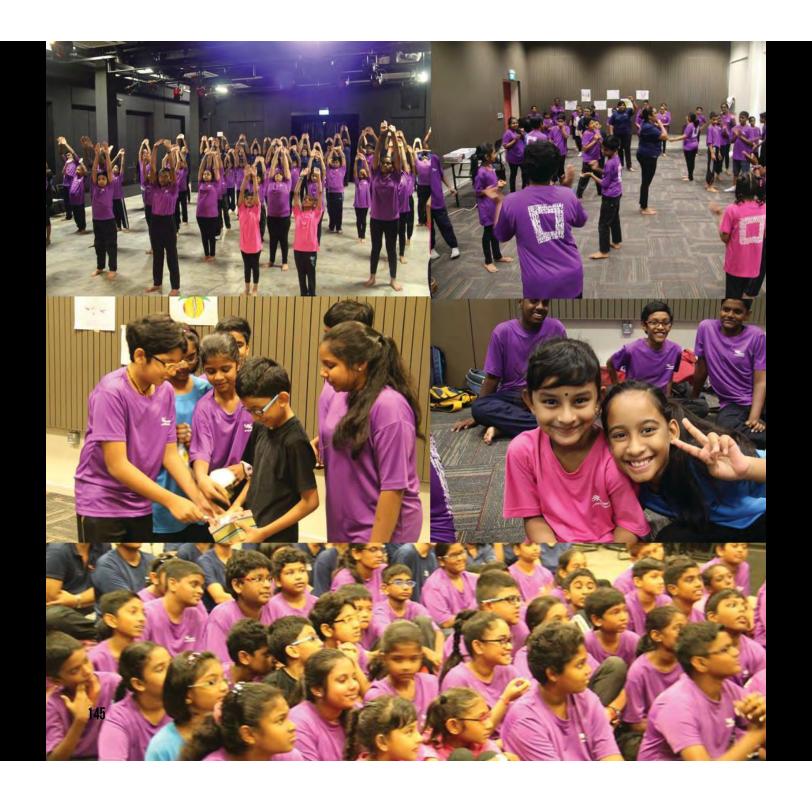
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# AVANT THEATRE IN COLLABORATION WITH VASANTHAM PRESENTS

### **AVANT WORKSHOP SERIES**

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## **MASTERCLASS**

IN ACTING FOR TELEVISION & STAGE FOR AGES 15 & ABOVE

# SPEECHE DRAMA

MUSICE MOVEMENT



- · 4 Full Days of Fun filled Activities
- Sharing Sessions by Media & Theatre Experts
- · Meet & Interact with Vasantham Artistes
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- Actors Headshots for production houses
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### Singapore Writers Festival 2017 Beedam - Abstract Performance

. . .

This play is a creative reimagining and transcreation of the Novelette Beedam (The Pedestal), written by renowned writer, Mr Rama Kannabiran. Mr Kannabiran's works are heavily influenced by the social happenings in our society, cleverly capturing the political and socio-economical climate of local Tamils. It is quite amazing that Mr Kannabiran's writing allows for such seamless transference into an organic performance that appeals to our literary audience.





## Parasu Dramatic Stage Read Performance

. . .

The play aims to understand the energy and emotional transcendence of the human inside this Avatar and will attempt to unravel the essence of the Avatar. As a warrior, his most expressive emotion was fighting. Hence, the play also seeks to experimentalize the various martial art forms displayed by Parasurama, Kalaripayattu being the predominant one. Through Kalari, which also is associated with the flow of energy through one's system - both inwards and outwards, the play expounds the emotional flow of the protagonist as he travails through his life across epochs. The play also emphasizes the unique paradigm that there is always an exchange of the energies between the fighters in any fight – be it physical or verbal, be it literal or figurative.

Jul 2017

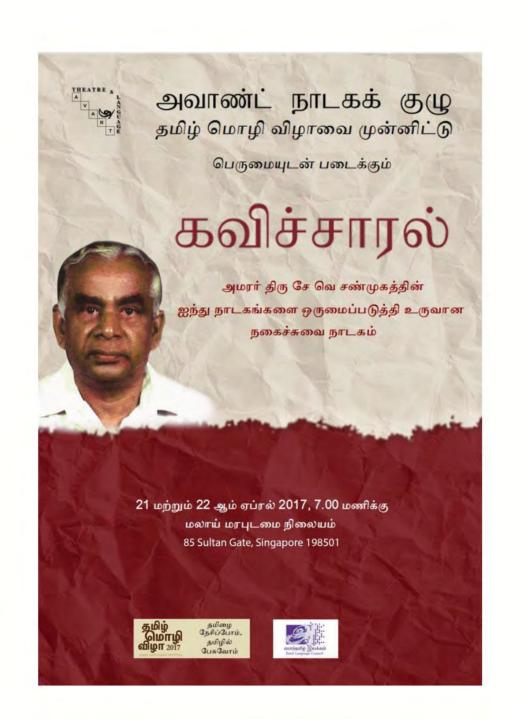


#### **Kavichaaral Series 2017**

. . .

Kavichaaral is a series of celebrating local writers in dramatic & theatrical platform. This year we showcase the works of Se Ve Shanmugam, a cultural medallion and a popular writer.

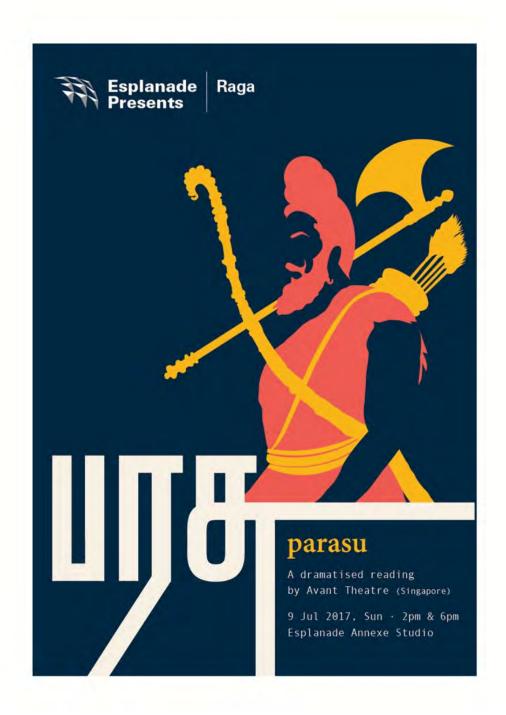
Apr 2017













#### Avant Workshop Series 2017: Masterclass in Acting for TV & Stage

. . .

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#### Tamil Seithi Awards 2017

. . .

Tamil Seithi organized and held its inaugural Community Awards. For its services in the local arts comunity, Avant Theatre was awarded the 'Kalai Chudar' Award under the Arts Category.









AVANT THEATRE PRESENTS

#### **AVANT WORKSHOP**

### MASTERCLASS IN ACTING

Masterclass in Acting have been revised to focus on the details necessary for an actor to spark and further induce the deep interest and knowledge necessary for making a mark in an acting career.

- 2 Full Days of Fun Filled Activities
- Revised Curriculum To Teach The Knowledge For Making A Mark in Acting Career
- Holistic Learning Experience
- Certificate Endorsed by Avant Theatre
- Lunch & Tea Will Be Served

FOR AGES 15 & ABOVE 18 & 19 November 2017 Allwal Arts Centre 10 AM to 8 PM \$150 FOR 2 SESSIONS (STUDENT PRICE - \$120)



2014 Graduates



2015 Graduates

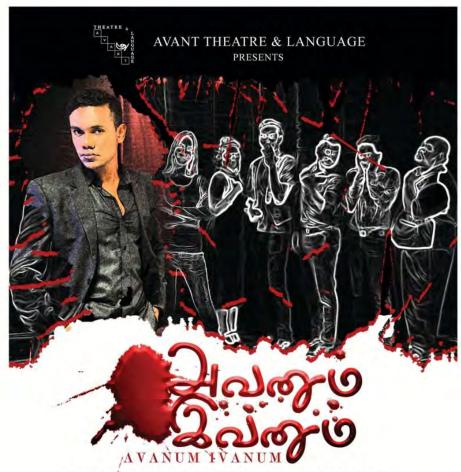


2016 Graduate

#### Avant Workshop Series 2017: Music & Movement for Children

. . .

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WRITTEN BY: RAMESH VENKAT, WASHEEM MOHAMED, RUBINI SHREE & JS SASIKUMAR

DIRECTED BY: G SELVA

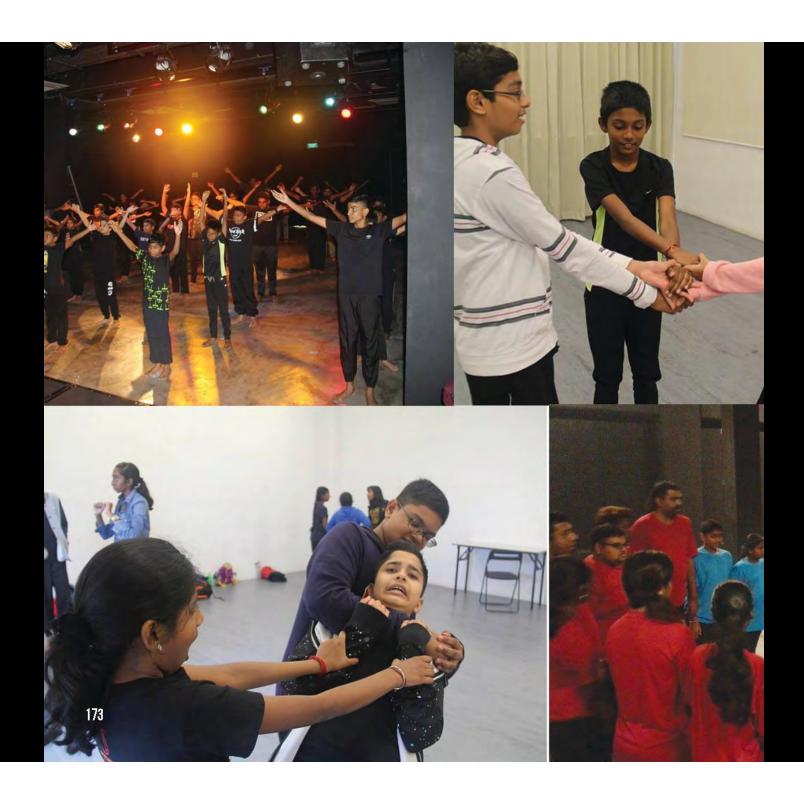
FRI, 8TH DEC 2017 | 7.30PM SAT, 9TH DEC 2017 | 3.00PM & 7.30PM MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE BLACKBOX

TICKETS AT \$25.
CONTACT 9181 6737 OR VISIT AVANTALEVENTBRITE.SG
ADVISORY (SOME COARSE LANGUAGE)

#### Avant Workshop Series 2017: Speech & Drama for Children

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#### **AVANT WORKSHOP SERIES**

## SPEECH & DRAMA

This Speech & Drama has been improved to incorporate not only the confidence building through **Creative Theatre Acting** modules, but also **Capacity Building**. These two components are strategically taught to participants using various skills necessary for staging a performance and the technical knowledge for a performance creation.

These On-Stage and Off-Stage elements that participants experience will inculcate the holistic learning of the craft and the deep understanding of performance making at large.

- 4 Full Days of Fun Filled Activities
- Includes Activities for Confidence Building, Creative Thinking & Capacity Development
- Certificate Endorsed by Avant Theatre
- Lunch & Tea Will Be Served

FOR AGES 9 - 14 YEARS OLD 18 , 19 , 25 , 26 November 2017 Allwal Arts Centre 10 AM to 8 PM \$120 FOR 4 SESSIONS











2013 Graduate

2014 Graduates

2015 Graduate

2016 Graduat

SUPPORTED BY





For enquiries, 9181 6737 | admin@avanttheatre.com | facebook.com/avanttheatre



#### **Avanum Ivanum**



Using Bertolt Brecht's notion of "Spass", the play involved audience members having to find out who the murder of the play is! Paying careful attention during the play and meeting all the characters. Audience would guess who the murderer was and fill in the given voting slip. At a crucial point, the play would be paused and the voting slips collected. At the end of the play, those who guessed right were announced

Dec 2017





AVANT THEATRE PRESENTS

#### **AVANT WORKSHOP SERIES**

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Music 6 Movement workshop series will focus on learning the Tamil Language through interactive songs and stories using a variety of theatrical movements Experienced facilitators will engage the children in a two day workshop that will ensure that they go home with an ignited passion for the Tamil Language.

- 2 Full Days of Fun Filled Activities
- Learning The Tamil Language Through Interactive Songs & Stories Using A Variety of Theatrical Movements
- Experienced Facilators To Ignite Passion For Tamil Within The Students.
- Certificate Endorsed by Avant Theatre
- Lunch & Tea Will Be Served

FOR AGES 4-8 YEARS OLD 25 & 26 November 2017 Aliwal Arts Centre 10AM to 2PM \$100 FOR 2 SESSIONS









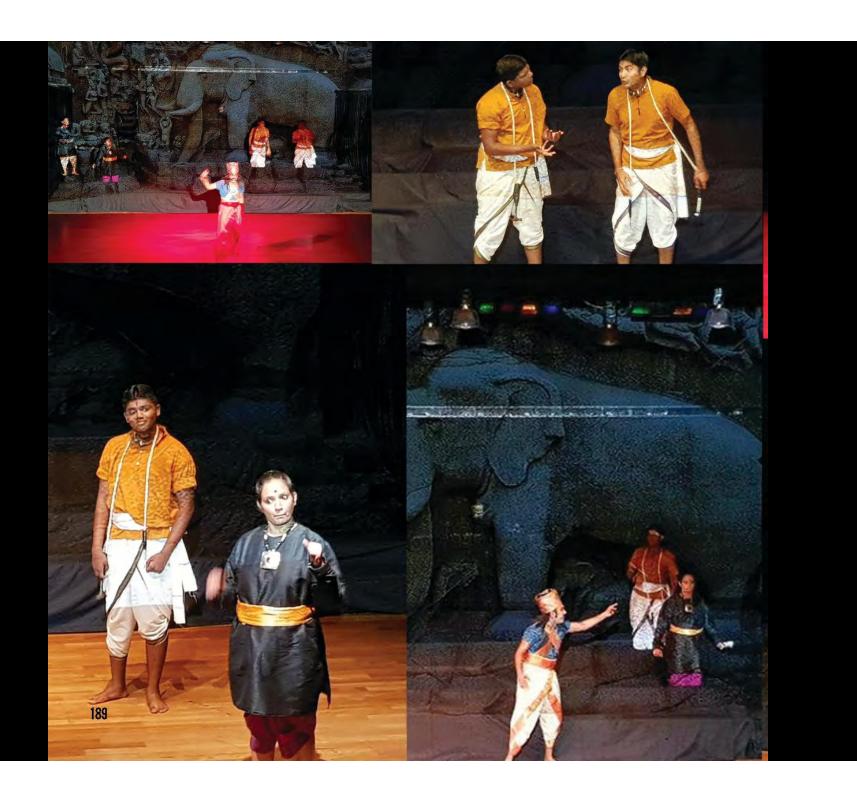
2014 Graduate

2015 Graduates

2016 Graduates

For enquiries 9181 6737 I admin avant the atre com I facebook com/avant the atre







#### Avant Theatre presents a **Comedy** in Tamil for **BuySINGLIT Festival 2018**



"The Groom is here" (Maappillai Vanthar) is a full length comedy interwoven through artistic integration of 5 plays written by the late Mr Se Ve Shanmugam. Mr Shanmugam's plays are heavily influenced by the social happenings in our society with the infusion of art and cinema in his writings, cleverly capturing the social climate of the Singapore Tamils in the 60s and 70s era of last century.

அவாண்ட் நாடகக் குழு பெருமையுடன் படைக்கும், அமரர் திரு சே வெ சண்முகத்தின் ஐந்து (மாப்பிள்ளை வந்தார்: கல்யாணமாம் கல்யாணம்: மீன் குழம்பு: அதுதான் ரகசியம்; நாலு நம்பர், நாடகங்களை ஒருமைபடுத்தி உருவான நகைச்சுவை நாடகம், *பொப்பிள்ளை விந்தார்* உள்ளூர் கவிஞர்களை கௌரவிக்க வேண்டும், அவர்கள் எழுதிய பசுசுளை வித்தியாசமான முறையில், புதிய பரிமானத்தில் படைக்க வேண்டும் எனும் முயற்ச்சியில் உருவானதே மாப்பிள்ளை வந்தார் நகைச்சுவை நாடகம்.

> 10th March 2018 (90 min with no intermission) 7.30pm Night Shows & 3pm Matinee Show Malay Heritage Centre

Tickets @ \$12.00...WhatsApp 91816737 or write to admin@avanttheatre.com



Presented by

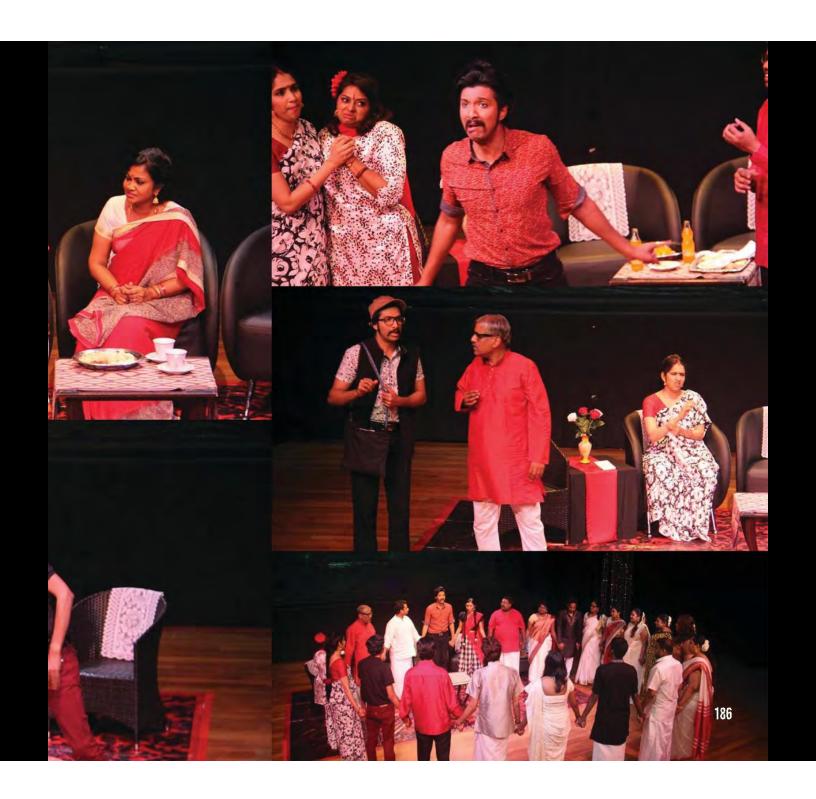
as part of



supported by









## Kavichaaral Series 2018 Beedam - Full Length Theatrical Performance

. . .

This play is a creative reimagining and transcreation of the Novelette Beedam (The Pedestal), written by renowned writer, Mr Rama Kannabiran. Mr Kannabiran's works are heavily influenced by the social happenings in our society, cleverly capturing the political and socio-economical climate of local Tamils. It is quite amazing that Mr Kannabiran's writing allows for such seamless transference into an organic performance that appeals to our literary audience.

Apr 2018

# The Groom Is Here (Maapillai Vanthaar) For SingLit Festival

. . .

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Mar 2018







## அவாண்ட் நாடகக் குழு

நாடக வடிவில் படைக்கும்

திரு இராம கண்ணபிரானின் குறுநாவல்

பீடம்

AVANT THEATRE PRESENTS

### BEEDAM

A NOVELETTE BY MR RAMA KANNABIRAN, ABRIDGED AND TRANSCREATED AS A PLAY

> 27TH & 28TH APRIL 2018 MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE





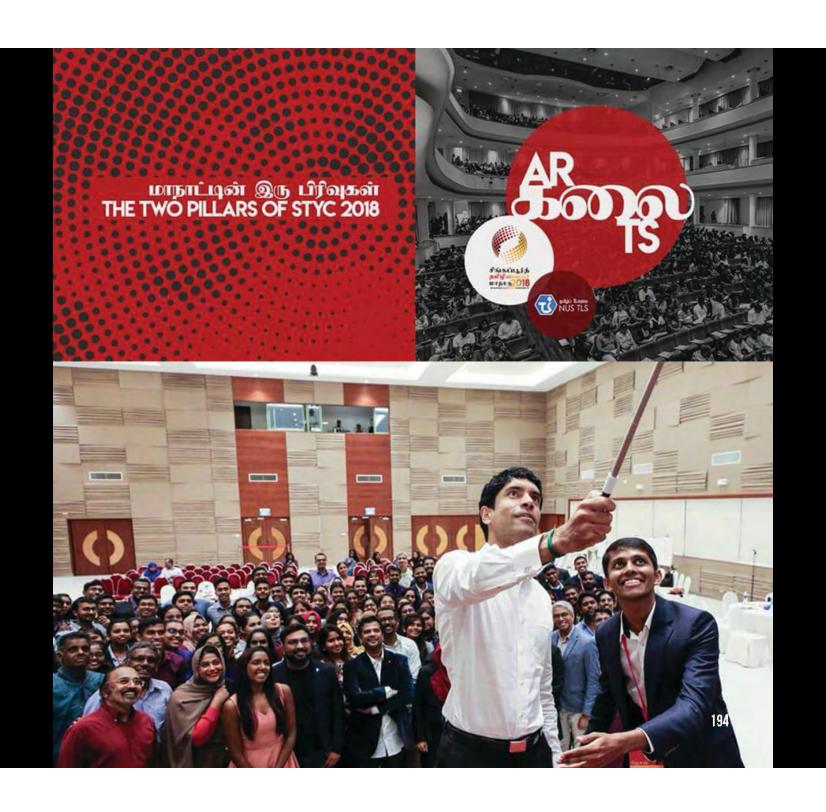
## Singapore Tamil Youth Conference 2018: Conference Panel Discussion on Arts

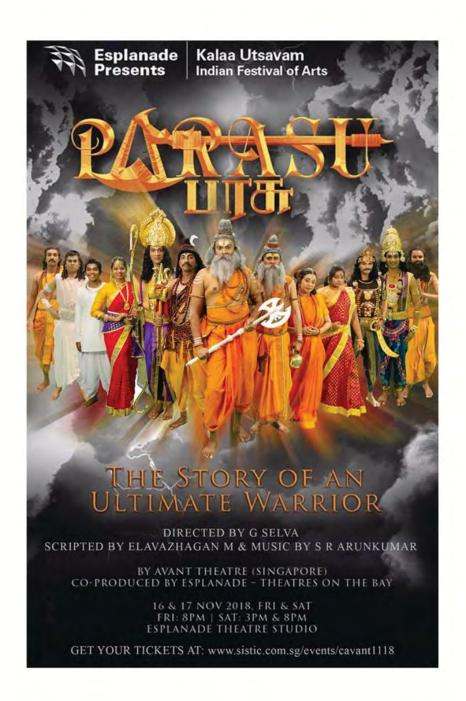
. . .

G Selva from Avant Theatre was invited to be a part of a conference panel discussion on the progress of Tamil theatre and the sustainability of its development in the future.

Organized by NUS Tamil Language Society, STYC 2018 focused on 2 pillars, Education and Arts. STYC 2018 optimizes the structure of having round-table discussions by accentuating youth's ability to identify problems and propose ideas with possible methodology on pertinent issues in Singapore Tamil community. The conference will expose youth delegates to specific problem statements of the pillars and engage them in intriguing discussions.

Jul 2018





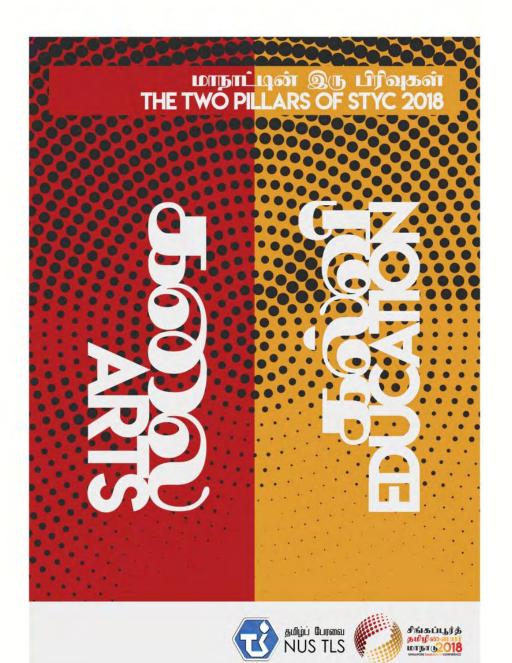


## Parasu Full Length Theatrical Performance

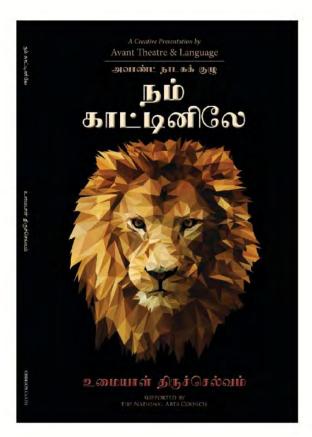
. . .

The play aims to understand the energy and emotional transcendence of the human inside this Avatar and will attempt to unravel the essence of the Avatar. As a warrior, his most expressive emotion was fighting. Hence, the play also seeks to experimentalize the various martial art forms displayed by Parasurama, Kalaripayattu being the predominant one. Through Kalari, which also is associated with the flow of energy through one's system - both inwards and outwards, the play expounds the emotional flow of the protagonist as he travails through his life across epochs. The play also emphasizes the unique paradigm that there is always an exchange of the energies between the fighters in any fight – be it physical or verbal, be it literal or figurative.

Nov 2018











# Avant Book Publication Num Kaatinilley

. . .

Num Kaatinilley" is indeed a landmark production for Avant Theatre. It's our first attempt on the much demanded children's play after we started our Avant Workshop Series in 2013. Staging a children play was the next step after training them in every aspect of acting and performance making. This idea was mooted long ago and many times by the management team and also by the children who attended our workshops. After reviewing the performance portfolio of Avant Theatre, as its Artistic Director at some point we have to do one on this genre and felt very recently that we had the expertise and resources for a fine children play.

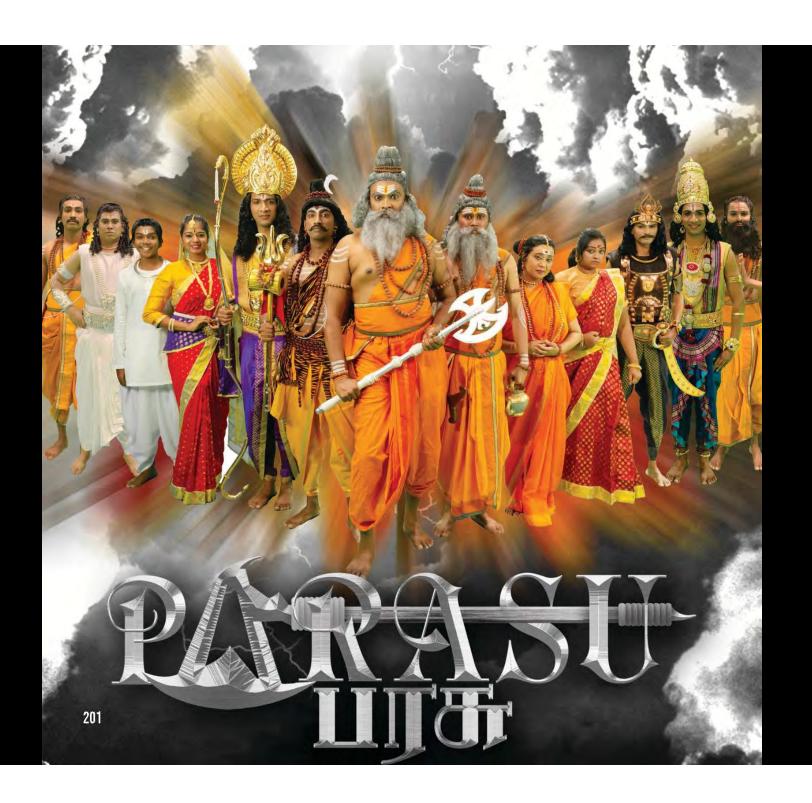
Jul 2018

## Gandhari & Venice Vanigan Dramatic Stage Read Performance

. . .

There is still a confusion on the types of Stage Reads. Dramatised Stage Read, which Avant introduced and follows, comes with a certain degree of expressive acting without elaborate sets, light and sound effects. I hope this will encourage many theatre producers to explore a little more grandness in this genre with the full-length scripts in their possession. Gandhari, mother of Kauravas, one of the lesser known characters in Mahabharata. In this presentation, we find Gandhari commenting on some of the incidents that she experienced during her lifetime in the epic. Venice Vanigan is a transcreation of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. It is a much-loved script, not just by me, but also by the many literature lovers and students who either love or hate Shylock. We present this as a Dramatised Stage Read for an enhanced experience and we hope that this would progress to be presented as a full-length play soon.

May 2019







#### AVANT THEATRE & LANGUAGE AS PART OF #BUYSINGLIT2019 PRESENTS அவாண்ட் நாடகக்குழு #BUYSINGLIT2019 காக வழங்கும்

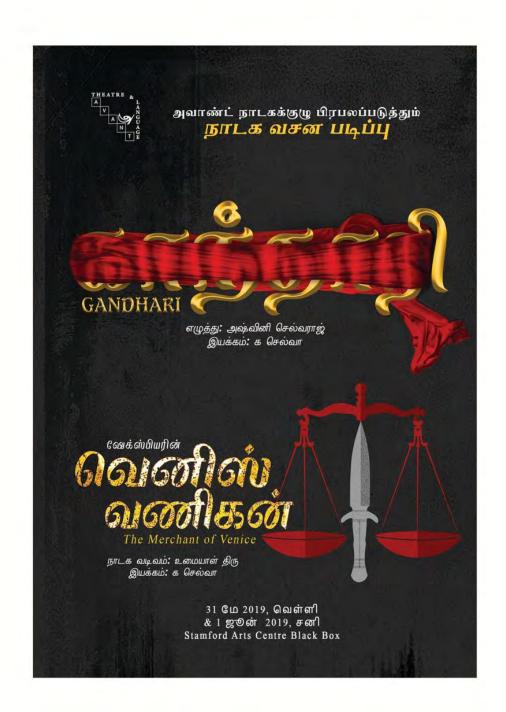


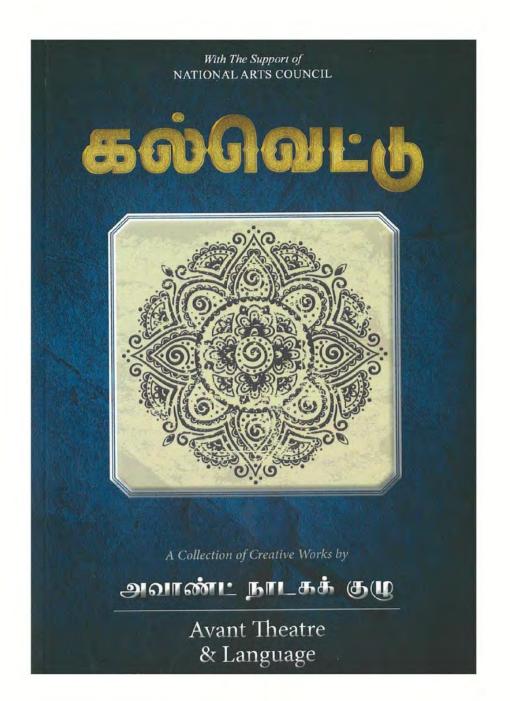
### Nammavar For SingLit Festival

. . .

Avant Theatre showcases Local Female Writer on spotlight, throwing light on Feminism in Tamil Writings. We explore the works of Ms Latha, a pioneer writer in the Tamil Language who has published numerous books both in Tamil and translated in English for wider audience. We present three of her short stories and discuss how it projects feminism and female identities in her stories and other writers' works in a discourse.

Mar 2019







# Avant Book Publication Calvet: A Collection of Creative Works

. . .

In collaboration with National Arts Council's literary wing, Avant Theatre launched Calvet, a year long writing programme in 2014. The written works were published in 2019.

2019

#### Reservist

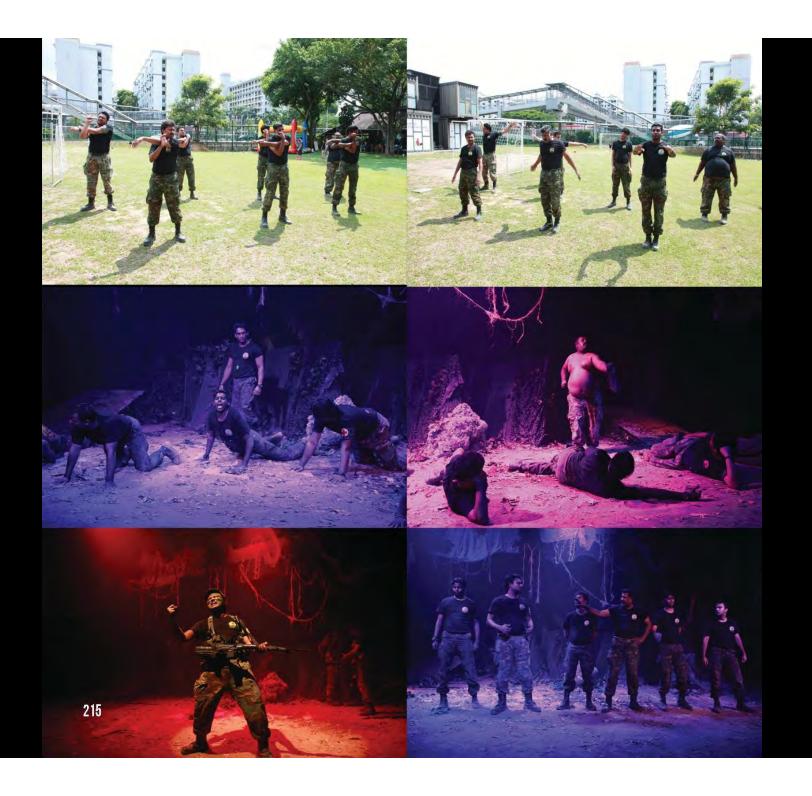
. . .

Reservist was initiated in 2016. A light hearted, nobrainer, laugh out loud comedy kind of a play. Also, because there was a lack of male audience especially men after their National Service not attending many theatre plays for various reasons. After much deliberation I wanted to bring this category of audience to theatre. Reservist, the play was the outcome of that. To capture the true feelings, innuendos and emotions of the play we requested the play to be rated R18, due to the course language.

July 2019







### Azhagiya Asuran & Chandramukhi Dramatic Stage Read Performance

. . .

The Dramatic Stage Read platform gave us the avenue to surface many interesting, multi-scene scripts that were created during Avant Theatre's Calvet, a writing initiative conducted in 2014 and 2015 cycle. Chandramukhi elaborates on the love dilemma of the protagonist named Chandramukhi. From the tone in the language to the subtle movements that is incorporated and the short poems invokes a tender yet beautiful pain that fits perfectly for this script emotional content. Azhagia Asuran explores the life story of an infamous protagonist who is seen as God to many even today and yet proclaimed as a villain in Ramayana. Research revealed that his biography is riveting and might interest stage going audience. This Ravana is not the Ravana from Ramayana but depicted from Ravanna Kaviyam and a book entitled Asura.

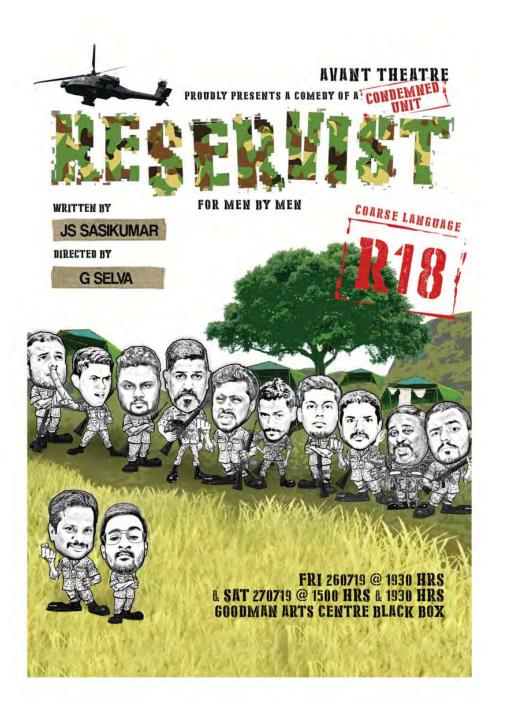
Sept 2019

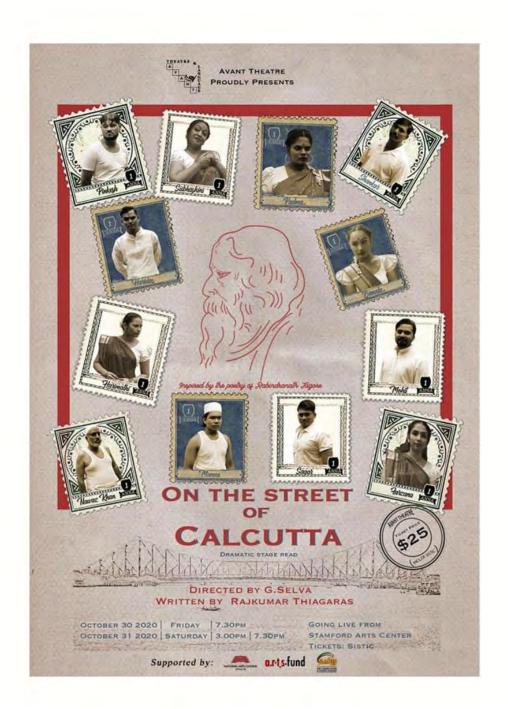




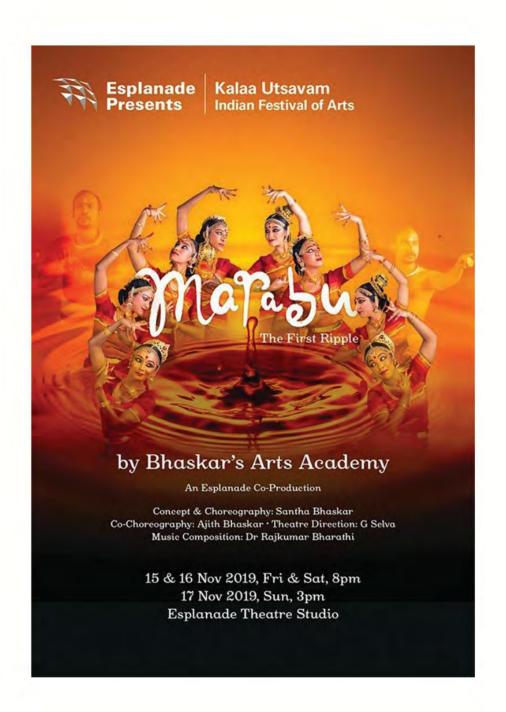












2020 has been a tumultuous time for many in various aspects of performance making. The world that we once knew, has been propelled into one that's rather peculiar. Despite seeming gloom, the pandemic still offers its silver lining - it has brought to the forefront the importance to sustain in difficult times by engaging with communities to co-create changes and new developments through the arts. This pandemic has affected our society deeply, and it is more necessary than ever for us to foster strong communities bonding and perseverance to excel in the New Norm in building a stronger, warmer and more inclusive society.

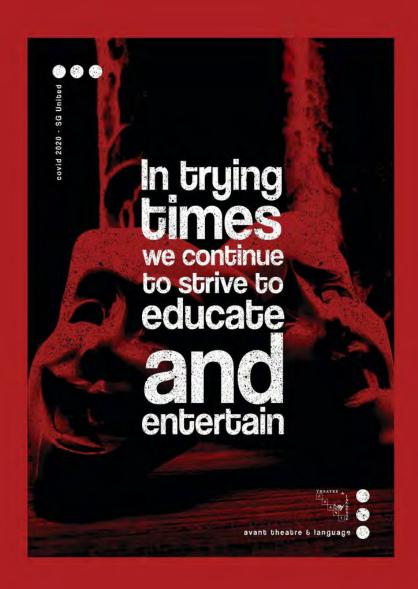
#### On the Street of Calcutta



Presented as part of Avant Theatre's Signature Dramatic Stage Read for 2020, On the Street of Calcutta is an original full length production presented to on-line audience. It throws light on the social and political happenings in Calcutta, India in the 1930s. Poems and some characters portrayed were inspired from Rabindranath Tagore's poems, novels and short stories with a 12 cast member.

October 2020





## Marabu A collaboration with Bhasker's Arts, Suvarna Fine Arts & Avant Theatre

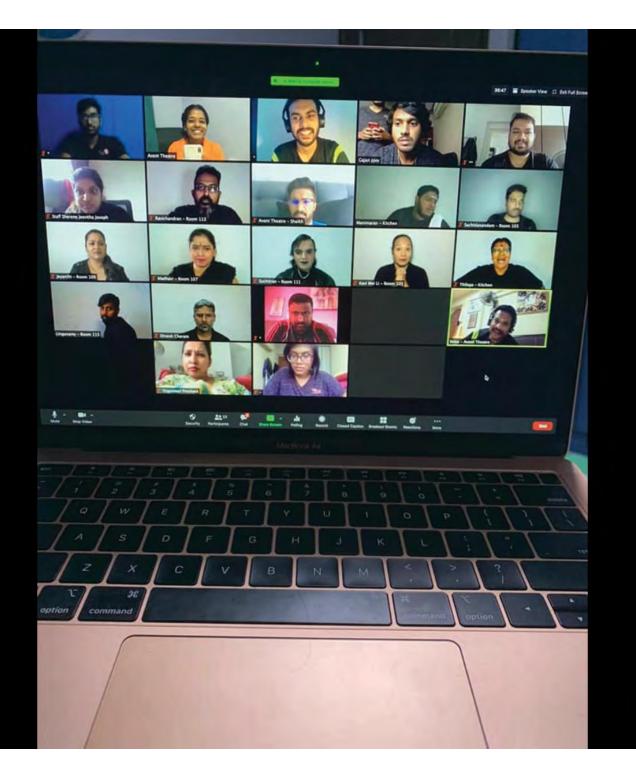
. . .

Presented as the first chapter of a trilogy, the dance-theatre performance is set in the zenith of the Srivijayan empire and traces the passage of the Indian community from India to the Malay peninsula. The series intends to capture pertinent moments of the Singapore Indian community and their shared history with other communities. Created specially for Singapore's bicentennial celebrations, the work will be presented as part of Esplanade's Kalaa Utsavam 2019 and sees veteran artist and Cultural Medallion recipient Santha Bhaskar teaming up with co-choreographer Ajith Bhaskar and theatre director G Selva.

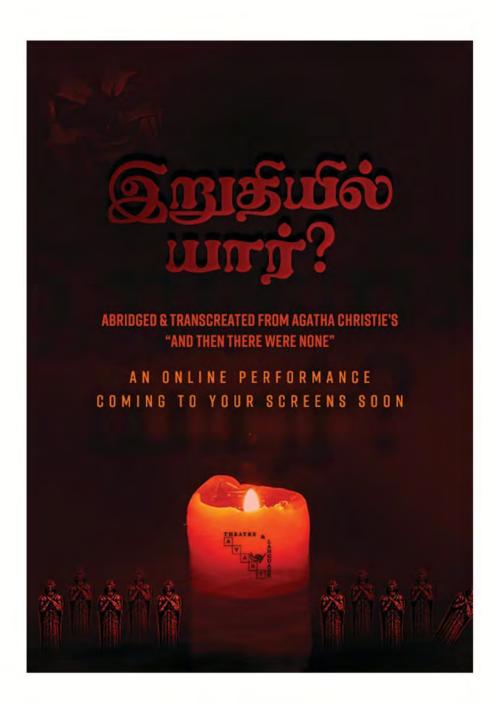
Nov 2019











#### Online Performance Irruthiyil Yaar

. . .

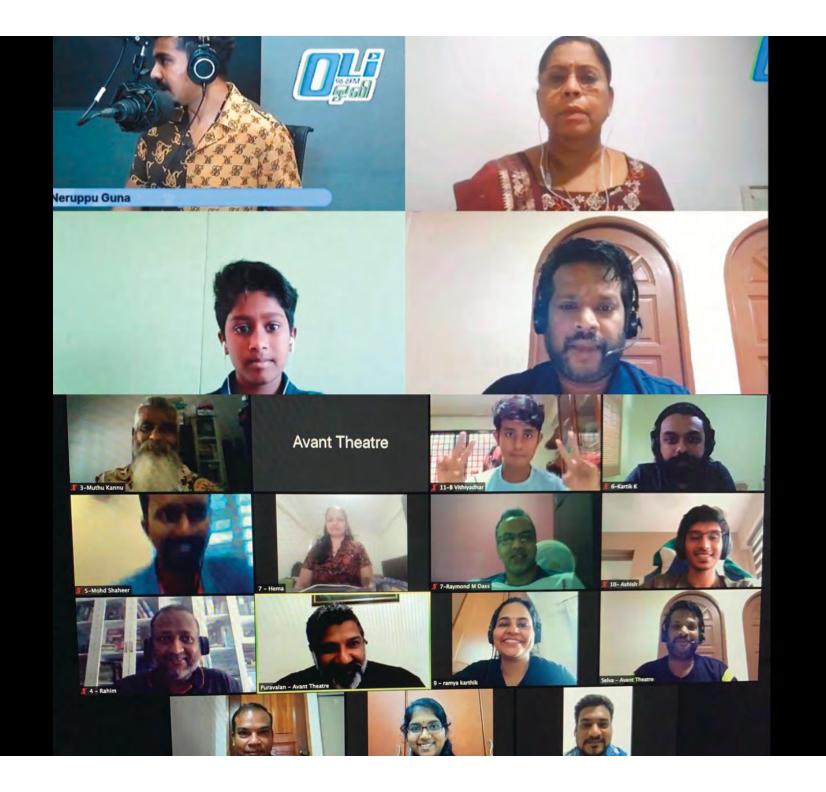
The first of its kind for Singapore Tamil Theatre especially during Covid 19 Stay-Home situation A murder mystery was staged online during the pandemic period. This tester for online theatre performance for Tamil audience was well received and overwhelmingly supported which only promts us to think of innovative online future presentations.

May 2020









#### **Online Acting Workshop**

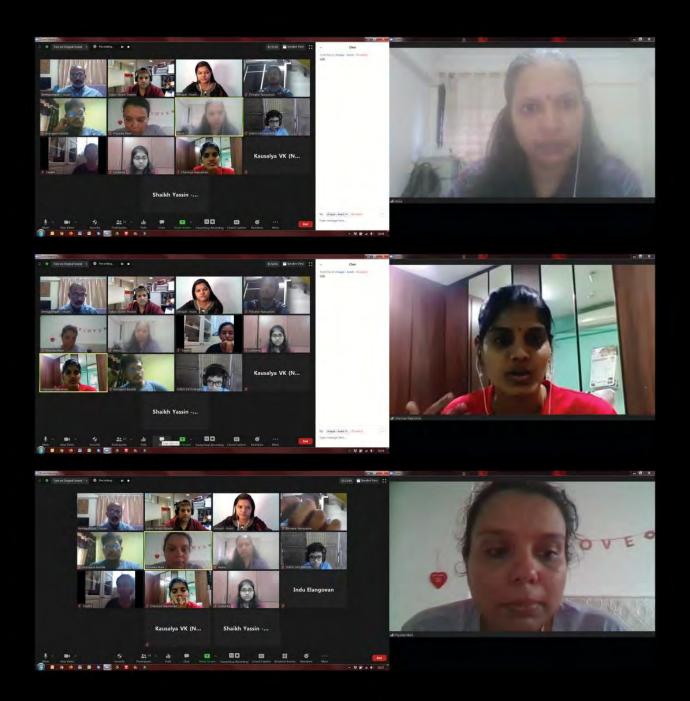
. . .

Despite the pandemic, Avant Theatre presented an online acting workshop. Initially targetted for only about 15 participants, the overwhelming support from public and students including children encouraged us to open up more sessions per category. The basic nuances of acting, body language and speech modulations were taught online. We thank Tamil Language council (TLC) for commissioning this workshop.

May 2020











#### Page To Stage Session

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Page to Stage is a Avant Theatre's signature workshop initiated annually with the support of Tamil Language Council (TLC)and Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee (TLLPC). This year we we explored Contemporary writing and Literary writing to encourage New Work Development at Phase 2 with smaller group of paticipants.

August 2020







# ONLINE ORATORICAL TRAINING WORKSHOP USING THEATRICS

Commissioned by the Tamil Language and Learning Promotion Committee (TLLPC)

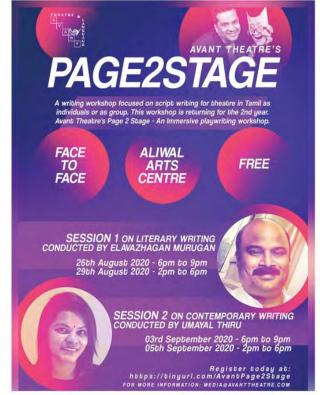
To prepare Secondary, Pre-U & JC Tamil students for Oral exam

Cost: FREE 29th & 30 June 2020 3pm to 6pm 25 Seats Only Book Early at: https://tinyurl.com/avantoral Commissioned by:

Cerificates will be awarded to participants who satisfactorily complete the full course







SUPPORTED BY:

















#### **Online Playwrighting Workshop**

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Supporting the Arts Community in exploring activities related to arts at large during Covid 19 period was the main aim of this workshop. Commision by National Arts Council. Avant Theatre was invited conduct a workshop on Tamil Theatre writing for thespians thereafter NAC's Capacity Development Funds could be applied to further enhance their sills. Small Number o participants was targetted and we successfully managed to receive some organic writing and some literary reflective work in Tamil.

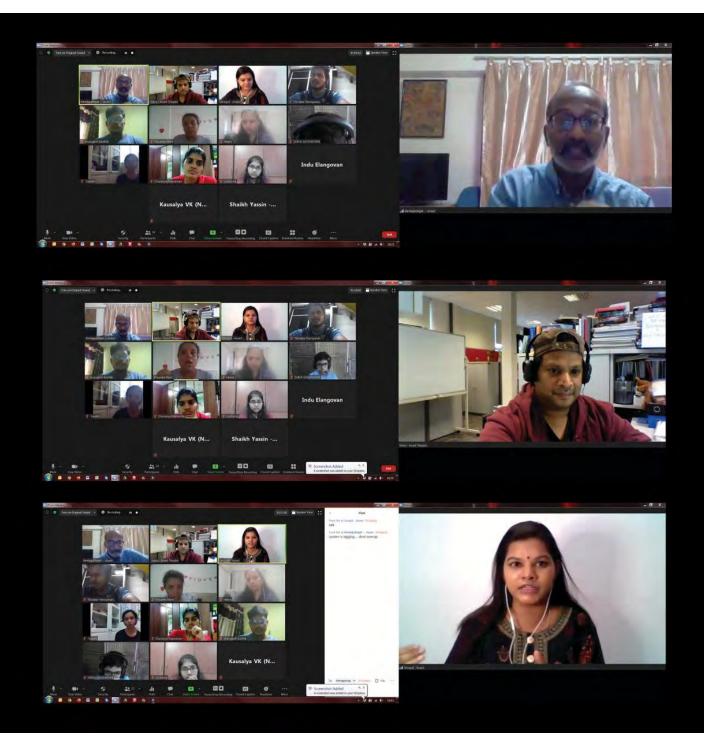
July-August 2020

## Online Oratorical Workshop using Theatrics

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Commisioned by Tamil Language and Learning Promotion Committee (TLLPC, MOE), this online workshop was specifically targetted for students who set for "O" level and "A" level Oral exams for the year. The workshop focused on empowerin students to initiate communication freely on general topics and current affair issues confidently.

June-July 2020





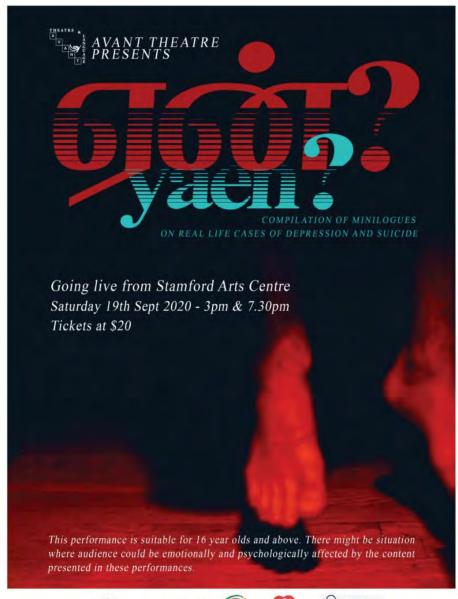


### Yaen? Live Performance Presented Online

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Targetted to reach out to "LIVE" audience but later changed because of Covid audience restriction Yean was presented as a Online presentation. As part of another Avant Theatre's signature presentation Dramatic Stage Read, YEAN was collaborated with Club 2 Care and explored the issues of depression and sucide during this difficult times. 6 monologues were presented dramatically with a Psychiatric and Psychologist present at the sessions to evaluate the situation presented in the monologue and thereafter explore the indepth issues and the possible solutions to the online audience, a first time initiative that Avant Theatre has explored social issues and mental illness theatrically.

September 2020





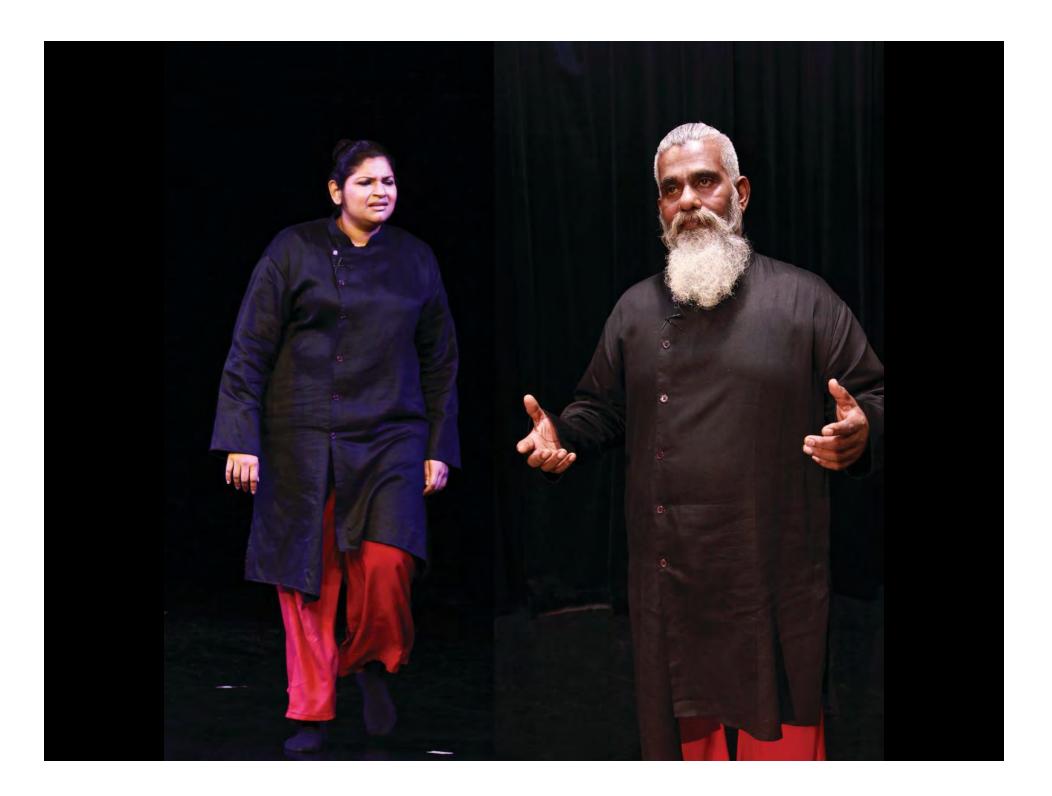












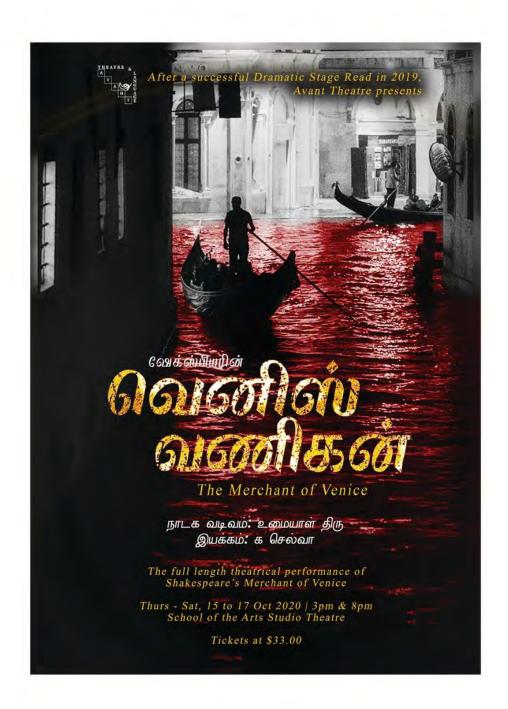


#### Venice Vanigan

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Planned as a large scale production with period style costumes and sets Venice Vanigan was made to be transpose a minimalist presentation because of Covid restrictions. Avant Theatre was later invited to be part of Ministry of Community Culture and Youth (MCCY) and National Arts Concil's (NAC) PILOT projects in slowly inviting the audience into theatre space to watch "LIVE" performance in Phase 2. Avant Theatre restructed this trancreation work rom Shakespears, The Merchant of Venice from a 2 hour production to 1 hr 20 mins abridged and abstract version and presented to 50 audience pershow for four remarkable shows. Two version of costume was explored, mainly the Traditional Indian and Modern Western style that awed the audience to encourge this effort. This signals the honour to still entertain the audience even during difficuly times.

October 2020



## வெனிஸ் வணிகன்

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மாப்பிள்ளை வந்தார்



### Venice Vanigan & Maapillai Vanthar For Online Pay-To-Watch Viewing

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As part of National Arts Council Digitalisation efforts Avant Theatre joined the wagon to produce two full-length plays, Maapillai Vanthar and the Dramatic Stage Read version of Venice Vanigan which was presented in 2019 as online entertainer archive. This productions will add to the pool of Tamil Theatre productions for future generation to enjoy and appreciate local works digitally.

#### October 2020

Productions are availble for viewing on vimeo.com.









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