

Lokadharmi

Established in October 1991, Lokadharmi was started by twenty-five theatre enthusiasts and today includes a theatre training school, a repertory, and a theatre laboratory. Some of its important productions include C.N.Sreekantan Nair's *Lankalakshmi*, Bhasa's *Karnnabharam*, William Shakespeare's *Tempest* and *Macbeth*, K.N.Panikkar's *Poranadi*, K.Damodaran's *Pattabakki*, Indira Parthasarathy's *Nandan Kadha*, G.Sankara Pillai's *Abhayarthikal*, Dharmaveer Bharathi's *Andha Yugam*, H.S.Shivaprakash's *Madhura Kandanam*, *Bhagavadajjuka – Mathavilasam* a juxtaposition of two Sanskrit comedies by Bodhayana and Mahendra Vikrama Varman and *Innalathe Mazha* an environmental production. Its productions have won the National as well as International acclaim for their design, direction, and acting at various multilingual theatre festivals including Bharath Rang Mahotsav at NSD New Delhi. Lokadharmi performed Euripide's *Medea* at the International festival on Ancient Greek Drama in Greece in 2001, and its *Karnnabharam* won awards for the best play, Scenic design, and Costume design at the META festival in 2008. Lokadharmi dreams the emergence of a village theatre culture and its characteristic energy rooted in Indian ethos and tradition and depicting contemporary Indian realities.

Chandradasan

Chandradasan the founder and artistic director of Lokadharmi and Mazhavillu is a designer, director, actor writer and translator. He has directed about 35 plays in Malayalam, English, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil languages that include *Medea* (Euripides); *Poranadi* (K.N.Panicker); *Karnnabharam* (Bhasa); *Lankalakshmi* (CN Sreekantan Nair), *Pattabakki* (K.Damodaran); *Abhayarthikal* (G.Sankara Pillai); *Two mothers at the Realm of Death* (A Finnish/Malayalam production co-directed with Tuire Hindika), *Madhuve Hennu* by H.S.Shivaprakash, and the children's plays *Oru Kootam Urumbukal* (G. Sankara Pillai); *Vishnu Maya* (K.N.Panicker); *Charandas Chor* (Habib Tanvir), *Bommanahalliyile Kinnara Yogi* (self, based on the Kannada poem by Kuvempu); Chandrasekhara Kambar's *Aalibabavum 40 Thirudarkalum* (in Tamil for NSD, RRC), among many others. He has participated in the International on Ancient Greece drama in Greece, 2001; in the international seminar on Ibsen at Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2006; and has also participated in many National and International Festivals in different parts of India including the Bharagam organized by NSD New Delhi. He has is the recipient of awards like Mahindra Excellence in Theatre award (META) for best play in 2008, and National awards for best play, Direction

and Acting, from the Multi-lingual Theatre Festivals at Cuttack, Patna, Vizianagaram and Thiruvananthapuram. He also received the Kerala State Sangeetha Nataka Academy award for his contribution to theatre in 2004..

Draupadi

This play analyses the living relationship between a contemporary girl living in an Indian town, with the epic character Draupadi. It is a search into the multiple layers by which the motif of Draupadi is living inside the psyche of an Indian lady and also in the reality of her life.

This performative analysis makes use the novels *Yajnaseni* written by Prathibha Ray, *Ini njan urangatte* by PK Balakrishnan, *Randamoozham* by MT Vasudevan Nair, the critical studies *Bharathaparyadanam* by Kuttikrishna Marar, and *Women of Mahabharata* by Chaturvedi Badrinath.

Draupadi s wedded to five great men who are embodiments of all virtues, and is the love of Krishna, the universal lover. So it seems that she might have been the happiest lady on earth. The play looks into the reality .In fact all her husbands have their own priorities and perception about Draupadi's life; none of them acknowledged her individuality and self, her potentials/needs as a human person, and not even her sexuality. She was another pawn in the game of politics, and has to sacrifice her ideals, dreams, and life itself for the men around her. The play looks into these aspects and is extending the experience of Draupadi transcending through the ages to the life and conditioning of a contemporary girl.

Draupadi is a woman of deep understanding and intelligence very well aware of her circumstances. She choose to keep silent and go through whatever came her way with the full knowledge that it was unjust and that she deserved better than what she got. Even when she rebelled against the odds in her own individual ways, she was also not all that empowered to break out of the constraints and abandon the people who she believed were her family. This is where she becomes the representative of the contemporary Indian woman who is aware but also tied into the archetypes of family and morality fed into her by the collective conscience of her roots.

The performance structure keeps the fluidity in its narrative; the actors are performers as well as characters, shifting from one persona to the other. The role of Arjuna and Krishna are enacted by one actor, and that of Yudhishtira, Bhima and Dussasana by another actor. In

between they transform to stage hands, narrators, puppeteers, and musicians so as to take the performance dynamics ahead and are in tune with the tradition of Indian theatre.

The play uses paintings, music, movement, puppets, properties and lights to enhance the performance and is in tune with the mode and aesthetics of Indian art.

Cast



SUKANYA SHAJI – Concept, Script and Actor - Actor in Lokadharmi for the last 7 years. Major plays include CN Sreekantan Nair’s *Lankalakshmi*, G.Sankara Pillai’s *Abhayarthikal* and K.Damodaran’s *Pattabakki*. Awarded with the senior scholarship for advanced training in theatre from the department of Culture Govt. Of India. Studying law at CUSAT.



VR SELVARAJ. Actor, director and musician in theatre since 1980. Acted in plays including Karnnabharam, Poranadi and Lankalakshmi. Also acted in films including Kuttisrank by Shaji N Karun. Won state award for acting in theatre and Fellowship from Department of Culture, govt of India for a study of masks in theatre.



SHAIJU T HAMZA Actor in Lokadharmi for the last 5 years. Major plays include CN Sreekantan Nair’s *Lankalakshmi*, G.Sankara Pillai’s *Abhayarthikal* and Bhisham Sahni’s *Madhavi*. Performed in major theatre festivals all over India including Bharangam 2012.



ADITHYE K NARAYANAN Actor, in plays including Lankalakshmi and Two mothers in the realm of death. Joined Lokadharmi in 2010. Performed in major festivals including Bharangam 2012, at New Delhi.

Credits



Music Director: SREEVALAN J MENON – Reputed vocalist in Carnatic style and a composer of many innovative albums, theatre and films. He has received several awards including from Madras Music Academy, He has also participated in Music Transcends, a symphony held at Washington DC in 2004, integrating Western and Indian classical music. He has given performances throughout India, the Middle East, UK, US, Canada and Africa.



Music control: LATIF CEEPEE –A designer and graphic artist by profession, he has a keen and thorough interest in theatre, music, sound, and films.



Live percussion: KISHORE NK A percussionist who can play many instruments, and has associated for the music of many plays. He was part of the music ensemble of the play Two mothers in the realm of death, an Indo Finnish project. He has visited Greece with Lokadharmi with the play Medea. He is part of the music band Down to Earth.



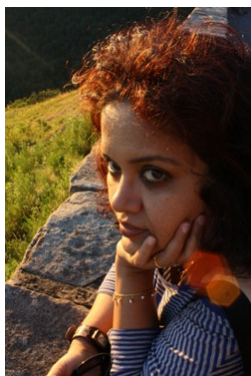
Vocal: RADHIKA NAIR An IT professional, Radhika is trained in Carnatic and Hindustani music by Shri. Perumbavur G Ravindranath and Prof. B Ramamurthy Rao(Chennai) respectively. As an artiste of AIR and Doordarshan in music and drama, she has participated in many of their in-house productions.



Set: JOLLY ANTONY In Lokadharmi for the last 8 years as an Actor, Light designer and set designer. Acted in plays including Lankalakshmi, and Karnabharam, and lights designer for the play *Abhayarthikal*.



Properties &Materials: PRAMOD GOPALAKRISHNAN Sculptor, and visual artist who has exhibited all over India. Holds a PG in sculpture- Also involved in theatre as an actor, art director and designer who has participated in major theatre festivals.



Art: SHOBHA MENON Shobha is an Indian artist based in Philadelphia, USA. She has an MFA in Art History and Aesthetics from M.S. University in Baroda, India. Shobha has won many awards and exhibited in numerous juried shows in USA. Also did many solo and group shows in USA and also in London. She captures moods and emotions internalized memories of myths and narratives, complexities and subtleties of human experience.



Make up: PATTANAM RASHEED One of the top most make-up artists from India who has been contributing his specialist services to the Indian film industry since the last three decades. He has the honor of being the first National film award winner in Make-up art and is also a winner of various state level awards. He established Pattanam designory which is an academic institution of make-up and fashion art



Lighting- SRIKANTH



Stills JIPSON SIKHERA



Production Assistance: CHANDRAN V A AROOKKUTTY – Actor and theatre activist Joined Lokadharmi in 2011.



Production in charge, & Media Management: MADAN KOLAVIL



Choreography: DEEPA KARTHA - a well-known danseuse who performs Bharathanatyam, Mohiniyattom and Kadhak who has performed widely in India. Was awarded with a Scholarship for advanced studies in Mohiniyattom from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Culture, Government of India. She is the founder director of Rudra Institute for Kathak & Other Classical Dances in Kochi.



Choreography -RANJITH TRIPUNITHURA



Physical Trainer and Costumes– CHARU NARAYANAN –Yoga and Kalaripayattu expert; actor in plays including ‘Two mothers in the realm of death’, *Innalathe Mazha*, and Lankalakshmi. In theatre since 2001. Winner of a Fellowship from Department of Culture, govt of India for the study of application of Kalaripayattu in theatre training.



Mask Characterization – Dr. Terry Converse Professor of theatre and director at Washington State University USA. Specialisation is in mask characterization and cross cultural drama. Awarded with a Fulbright fellowship. Major works include the Golden age (Louis Nowra), The Tempest, and The Shape of Things (Neil Labutte).



Script, Design & Direction - CHANDRADASAN
Presentation – LOKADHARMI, KOCHI, KERALA