

MUDRA

DAILY KATHAKALI CENTRE

Mudra a project promoted by Sargakshethram School of Dance, Mevelloor, Kottayam is an initiative to introduce the tourists to Kerala's age old classical dance - Kathakali - in an authentic way. At "Mudra" you can witness the art form in full bloom before your very eyes, by professional artists from "KALAMANDALAM - The great School of Dance".

Training given to dedicated candidates.

DAILY SHOWS

4.00 p.m.	Make up
4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	1st Show
7 to 8 p.m.	2nd Show

TICKET RATE : RS. 150

- ☞ Children below 5 years free entrance
- ☞ Non Refundable
- ☞ Special shows will be arranged for groups on request
- ☞ Video Camera entry fees Rs. 200/-

Kathakali has a long tradition. It dates back to the 17th century. It was given its present form by Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon, who was the founder of the Kerala Kala Mandalam.

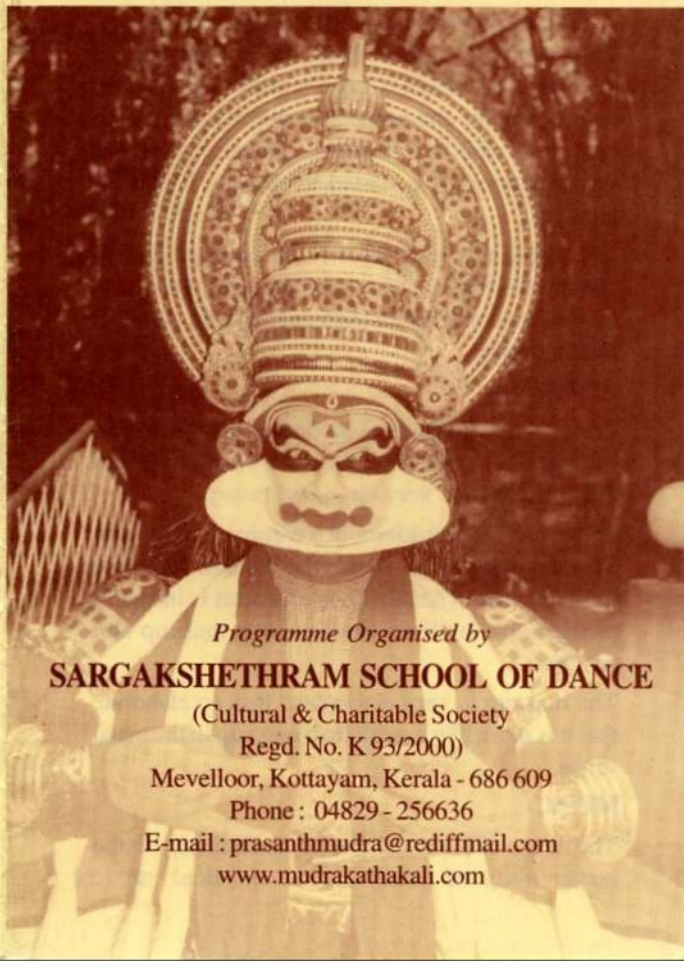
*Catch the Excitement
get the best of Kerala's
Great Art Form
"Kathakali"*

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DAILY KATHAKALI CENTRE

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Programme Organised by
SARGAKSHETHRAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

(Cultural & Charitable Society
Regd. No. K 93/2000)

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Kathakali, literally meaning 'story-play', is a dance-drama originated in the 17th century in Kerala. It is known for its large, elaborate makeup and costumes. The elaborate costumes of Kathakali have become the most recognised icon for Kerala.



Sathwika (hero),
Minukku (female)

The themes of the Kathakali are religious in nature. They typically deal with the Mahabharat, the Ramayana and the ancient scriptures known as the Puranas. This is performed in a text

which is generally Sanskritised Malayalam.

A Kathakali performance is a major social event. They generally start at dusk and go through out the night. Kathakali is usually performed only by men. Female characters are portrayed by men dressed in women's costume. However, in recent years, women have started to become Kathakali dancers.

The actors rely very heavily on hand gesture to convey the story. These hand gestures, known as mudra, are common through out much of classical Indian dance.

COSTUME-

The costume is the most distinctive characteristic of Kathakali. The makeup is very elaborate and the costumes are very large and heavy.

There are several kinds of costume. They are: Sathwika (the hero), Kathi (the villain), Minukku (females), and Thaadi. Each character is instantly recognisable by their characteristic makeup and costume.

The makeup is very elaborate. It is so elaborate that it is more like a mask than makeup in the usual sense.

MUSIC-

The music of Kathakali has some similarity to the larger body of South Indian classical music

(Carnatic sangeet); however the instrumentation is decidedly different. Its local colour is strongly achieved by the use of instruments such as chenda, idakka, and shuddha madalam.

One of the major distinguishing features of Kathakali is the absence of oral communication. A considerable part of the script is in the form of lyrics, sung by vocalists

Kathakali is a harmonious combination of five forms of fine art:

1. Literature (Sahithyam), 2. Music (Sangeetham)
3. Painting (Chithram), 4. Acting (Natyam),
5. Dance (Nritham)

Make-up:

The make-up, called Theppu in the bibliography of Kathakali, is also an art form in itself. The colourful faces are the results of hours of painstaking handiwork by expert artists.

Dance

Although dance is an important element in Kathakali, it is not the main feature. Pure dance sequences are limited to Kalasams, which punctuate acting segments.

The communication among the characters and to the audience, is through an intricate language of hand gestures, used in combination with facial expression and body movements.



Chuvanna Thaadi
(red beard)

Velutha Thaadi
(white beard)

