



சிலப்பதிகாரம்

Silapathikaram

An 1800 Year Old Masterpiece
Performed in Tamil with English Interpretation

6th & 8th December 2024
Drum Theatre, Dandenong

Written & produced by Mavai Nithianandan
Directed by Bakeerathy Parthiban



Synopsis

In the ancient city of Poompuhaar, the grand wedding of Kovalan and Kannaki marks the union of two wealthy merchant families, celebrated with lavish splendor. But their happiness ends when Kovalan falls for Mathavi, a mesmerizing dancer, and abandons his wife.

Heartbroken, Kannaki forgives him when he returns penniless, and they embark on a perilous journey to Madurai to rebuild their lives with the proceeds of selling one of Kannaki's precious golden anklets containing precious stones.

Fate takes a cruel turn when Kovalan, wrongfully accused of theft, is executed by the King's men. Devastated, Kannaki sets out to clear his name, confronting the King with the truth that the anklet was hers and not stolen from the queen's as hastily concluded by the king who ordered her husband's execution. Enraged by the enormous injustice suffered in this new place, she curses the city, condemns it to burn, sparing only the virtuous.

About the Play

Ilango Adikal, the author of *Silapathikaram*, written around 1,800 years ago, emphasises themes of fate, the virtue and resilience of women, and the pursuit of justice. The epic also highlights religious harmony that was then the norm in the Tamil land.

This play is a true adaptation of Poet Ilango's original work, presented without interpretation. The cast includes alumni of Bharathi Academy, along with a few current students and teachers.

Cast

Kovalan (1)	Saicharren Parthiban	Mangaddu Maraiyavan/ Guard	Vidhujan Sivasuthan
Kannaki (1)	Archana Athavan	Maadal Maraiyon/ Guard	Arathigan Thanabalasingam
Mathavi	Harshini Jegan	Kowsihan/ Guard/ King	Aaranan Mathiyalagan
Narrators/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Thenila Mullaitheepan	Shalini/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Vishali Gopinath
Narrators/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Puhalparuthi Kamalraj	Goldsmith	Puvisanth Rajakumaran
Narrators	Santhya Suresh	Thevanthi/ Arasi Tholi	Aburva Anurakumaran
Kooni	Aarabi Bhavantakumar	Aiyai/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Thenila Mullaitheepan
Vasanthamalai	Varooniha Rajeshkumar	Aayar Padi Pengal	Santhya Suresh
Kummi dancer	Subasini Marimuthu	Aayar Padi Pengal/ Veduvvar Pengal	Varooniha Rajeshkumar
Kummi dancer	Saranya Gunabalan	Aayar Padi Pengal	Manasshika Jaishankar
Kummi dancer	Narthani Thiruthikaran	Aayar Padi Pengal	Ashvika Thiruthikaran
Kummi dancer	Vathsala Thananchayan	Veduvvar/ Guard	Ahash Suresh
Kummi dancer	Raseetha Puvitharan	Veduvvar	Karish Jegan
Kummi dancer	Rathika Suresh	Veduvvar	Dhevesh Myouren
Narrator	Kavya Selvaruban	Veduvvar	Visakan Thiruthikaran
Kovalan (2)	Harejen Pasupathidasan	Veduvvar	Piradeesh Parthiban
Kannaki (2)	Mageesha Anandhan	Veduvvar	Pavankalyan Krishnamurthy
Narrator/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Praveena Sureshkumar	Veduvvar Pengal	Pranaya Athithan
Narrator/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Sahana Sureshkumar	Veduvvar Pengal	Amsana sasikaran
Narrator/ Arasa Sabai Dancer	Kavya Selvaruban	Veduvvar Pengal	Dusmika Balachandran
Mathari	Samarvily Prasanthan	Veduvvar Pengal	Vigashni Murugananda
King Pandiyan	Rohith Raguraman	Veduvvar Pengal	Puhalparuthi Kamalraj
Koperum Thevi	Nilaasha Sivackumar	AayarPadi Pengal	
Kavunthi Adikal	Aishani Murugananda	Narrator (2)	Sherlyn Antony

Production Team

Writer			Mavai Nithianandan
Director			Bakeerathy Parthiban
Production Support		Thamayanthi Subashkumar Sugarna Sivasuthan	Pirasha Athavan C S Yoganantham
Costumes & Props		Raji Pathmasiri	Pasupathidasan Cumaraswamy
Make-up			Sweta Tharmaseelan
Vocalists	Anuratha Sooriapirapakara Kurukkal	Sribalan Balasundram	Selvi Yoganantham
Instrumentalists			
• Miruthangam		Harishanth Mukunthas	Gana Maheswaran
• Violin			Vaishnavi Sivagnanasundaram
• Harmonium/SFX			Kanusanth Mukunthas
Stage Management		Sugarna Sivasuthan	Pirasha Athavan
Sound		Vasavan Panchadcharam	Venthan Ponniah
Lighting			Samudra Pathmasiri
Videography			TAZMO Media
Photography		Mathy Mathiyalagan	Thushyanthan Gunasingam

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