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PURISAI DURAISAMI KANNAPPA THAMBIRAN
PARAMBARAI THERUKOOTHU MANRAM

presents

KALAIMAMANI KANNAPPA THAMBIRAN
MEMORIAL THEATRE



Festival -2026

Date : October 2, 2026

Venue : Purisai Village, Cheyyar Taluk
Thiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu



02-10-2026 (Friday) Venue: Purisai Therukoothu School 2:30 pm 3:00 pm 3:15 pm Mangala Isai Inauguration Kalaimamani Kannappa Thambiran Lifetime Achievement Award Awarded to Kalaimamani Mr. M.Munusami, Periya Melam Artiste, Su.Papampaadi Village, Thiruvannamalai District Award will be presented by Mr. B.Hemanathan, Deputy Director (Art Education & Schemes) Government of Tamilnadu Blessing Address: Dr. Mu.Ramasamy, Nija Naataka Iyakkam Mr. Praveen, Magic Lantern Mr. Kumaravel, Actor Ms. Chandra, Actress Mr. R.Loganathan, Correspondent, Cheyyar ITI Dr. C.Karthikeyan, Assistant Professor, Department of Drama, Tamilnadu Open University, Chennai 4:15 pm Inheritage Solo ‘How are things...?’ Contemporary Dance by Ms. Preethi Athreya, Chennai Venue: Periyakulam, Purisai Village 6:00 pm Tribal Music by Dholkattai Irular Kalai Kuzhu, Seiyoor Group Leader – Ms. S.Rani	7:00 pm Needu Thuyil – Solo Performance by Vekkai Kalai Ilakkiya Panpaatu Veli, Thoothukudi Directors: Mr. Karthik Rajendran, Mr. Youkesh Babu Venue: Koothu Medai, Purisai Village 8:00pm Jikkattam by Star Sikkata Kalai Kuzhu, Pollachi Group Leader: Mr. Mahendran 9:00 pm Lavanyavati (Marati & English) by Kali Billi Productions, Mumbai Director: Ms. Savitri Medhatul 10:30 pm Mallar Kambam by Kaikodukkum Kai Maatru Thiranaaligal Mallar Kambam Kuzhu, Villupuram Group Leader: Mr. Aathi 11.15 pm Munnadiyor by Tamilnadu Model Schools Director: Ms. Muthamizh Kalai Vizhi Play Wright: Mr. Anish Anto 12:30 am Pathinettam Por (18 th Day of War) by Purisai Duraisami Kannappa Thambiran Parambarai Therukoothu Manram Guru: Padmashri Dr. P.K.Sambandan Crafting your Puppet: Dr. Aazhi E.Vengadessin and Dr. Jone Linton will conduct a Cover Puppet making Children’s Workshop open to every one on 2nd October at 10.00 am	 Kalaimamani Thiru. M.Munusami Kalaimamani Thiru. M.Munusami born in 1948 in Su.Papampaadi Village, Tiruvannamalai District, learnt the traditional art of Periya Melam from his grandfather and father, Thiru. Muthan, from an early age. With over 58 years of dedicated practice, he has devoted his life to the preservation, practice, and promotion of this rich musical tradition. Through his distinctive artistry, he has enriched the majestic sound of Periya Melam and established a unique place for himself in the tradition. A dedicated teacher and practitioner, he has trained more than 350 students, contributing significantly to passing this art on to future generations. He has taken Periya Melam to national and international platforms, performing in Andaman, Dubai, and Thailand, and has participated in major cultural events including Thanjavur Dalit Art Festival and Chennai Sangamam. He has been honoured with the Kalai Sudarmani and Kalai Mudhumaamani awards, and received the prestigious Kalaimamani Award from the Government of Tamilnadu in the year 2025.	Our Sincere Thanks to: Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi Department of Art and Culture, Govt. of Tamilnadu, Chennai Purisai Village Panchayat Prakriti Foundation, Chennai Narthaki, Chennai Mr. Gurunathan, Chennai Indianostrum Theatre, Pondicherry Mr. Pasupathy, Chennai Mr. Vijay Sethupathi, Chennai Mr. V.Krishnan, Chennai Mr. Rajiv Krishnan, Perch, Chennai Mr. Krish Dayal, Chennai Mr. Praveen Kannanur, Chennai Ms. Preethi Athreya, Chennai Mr. M.Rajesh, Ponneri Mr. J.Vinoth, Chengalpet Ms. Vino Supraja, Dubai Ms. Archana, Chennai Ms. Akila, Chennai Mr. Logesh Baskaran, Chennai Mr. R.Loganathan, Purisai Mr. Sivakumar, Purisai M/s. Baskara’s Lights, Chennai Mr. N.Prasanna Kumar, Chennai M/s. Kadhambari Studio, Chennai M/s. Suraa Prints, Chennai
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Therukoothu Payirchi Palli

Purisai Duraisami Kannappa Thambiran Parambarai Therukoothu Manram is a traditional Therukoothu ensemble that has carried forward its artistic journey across five generations. Through changing times, the Manram has remained committed to preserving its rich heritage and artistic traditions while continuing its long-standing cultural journey.

For many years, the Manram has nurtured a vision of creating a dedicated space to pass the tradition and knowledge of Therukoothu on to future generations. An important step towards realising this vision is the Therukoothu Training School, envisioned as a simple yet strong learning platform for preserving and transmitting this living artistic tradition.

With this vision, the Therukoothu Payirchi Palli was established in Purisai in 2007. Since then, various training programmes, workshops and artistic initiatives have been conducted to introduce and pass on the art of Therukoothu to younger generations.

Through these initiatives, Therukoothu has reached diverse communities, transcending boundaries of caste and language. We now seek to take this effort to the next level by developing the school into a continuous and structured learning space dedicated to Therukoothu.

The school offers full-time and part-time training in Therukoothu, along with the traditional knowledge and practices associated with the art form, including music, dance, physical movement, story telling, costume and make-up.

The school aims to provide an open and accessible space where students and art enthusiasts from both rural and urban communities can learn, engage and explore the arts. Through this initiative, we hope to ensure that Therukoothu remains not merely a memory of the past, but a living and evolving art form that continues to engage with the present and inspire future generations.

Kalaimamani Kannappa Thambiran Memorial Theatre Festival

The Festival has its roots in the ‘Purisai Theatre Festival’ and ‘Summer Festival’, which were conducted in 1989 and 1990. The present Memorial Theatre Festival has evolved as a continuation of these long-standing cultural and artistic initiatives.

Kannappa Thambiran made a significant contribution to the preservation, practice and transmission of Therukoothu, one of Tamil Nadu’s distinctive traditional performing art forms. His artistic journey and dedication to Therukoothu remind us that an art form is not merely a mode of performance, but also a living medium that carries the memories, cultural practices, lived experiences and creative spirit of a community. His creativity and erudition contributed significantly to contemporary theatre in Tamilnadu and in India. Other than his teaching interventions at the National School of Drama, theatre groups like Koothu-p-Pattarai and Magic Lantern have been perennially inspired by his contributions.

The festival, held in his memory therefore, is not merely an occasion to preserve and celebrate a traditional art form. It has evolved into an open and dynamic space for dialogue between tradition and contemporary artistic thought.

At its heart is a simple belief in the importance of creating an open space where artists are free to think, create, experiment and perform, while allowing tradition and contemporary artistic expression to meet, interact and evolve.

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All are welcome

Padmashri Dr. P.K. Sambandan
President
&
Purisai Duraisami
Kannappa Thambiran
Parambarai Therukoothu Manram