

# Postgraduate Department of English & Centre for Research & IQAC



**BASELIUS COLLEGE, KOTTAYAM, KERALA**

NAAC Re- accredited with A++ Grade,  
3.51 CGPA (4th Cycle)  
in collaboration with



Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Organize a  
**TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR**  
on

# **NATAKSHALA** (Re) Generating Knowledges



 **2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023**

 **10.00 a.m.**

 **Dr. A. P. Mani Media Centre,  
Baselius College, Kottayam, Kerala**

# Concept Note

The scriptocentricism of academia is often seen to reiterate the imperialist ideals and ideas of knowledge, history, and culture which often ignores or dismisses the lived and embodied “texts” of culture. *Natakshala* aims to spotlight the performance paradigm that can help shift this skewed status quo of “the written word” and to (re)generate knowledges. The appeal of Performance Studies lies in its attempt to elevate the body to the same status as the word, tracing performatives of identity, culture, history, myth, and more, offering a holistic critique of culture through this smorgasbord.

The possibility of a performance space to construct, interrogate and intervene discourses makes it a very relevant cultural tenet. The way theatre turns into a discursive space of cultural traits makes it an important text in Performance Studies. Theatre makers at present, ranging from actors, directors, playwrights and so on, regard Theatre as a craft that consists of aesthetic involvement. Theatre Studies owes much to performance and the art of performance. Many actions that are not viewed as performance or art earlier are now considered so. Thus, everyday life also becomes a performance. Theatre and Performance Studies, encompass a broad range of aesthetic, social and everyday performances across theatre, dance or live art and the stage, to the performance dimensions of politics, sports, cinema and popular culture. With the coming of modern alternative theatres, Theatre Studies have opened up a plethora of discussions and debates among academicians and theatre practitioners.

The seminar proposes to examine studies on theatre and performance in varied forms as is seen in literature and society. Writers/Playwrights/ Artists across the globe contribute much to this genre. They experiment with theatrical form, style, structure and address multiple issues concerning society and humanity in general. The issues of class, race, culture, gender and identity presented in theatre and modes of performances, along with its socio-political outcomes are the prime concerns of Theatre and Performance Studies.

The dimensions of *Natakshala* with its myriad expressions of experience, and the diverse performances ranging from theatre, sports, dance, music and other art forms and performances in everyday life that are based on bodily kinesthetic will be explored in the seminar.

**Prof. Dr. Biju Thomas**  
Principal

**Ms. Elsa C. Maria Sebastian**  
H. O. D. in charge

**Ms. Susanna Thomas**  
**Ms. Meera Elizabeth James**  
Coordinators

## Thrust Areas :

Gender & Performance, Theatre & Space , Folk Theatre, Theatre and Culture, Theatre Adaptations/ Revisions, Dance & other Art forms, Space & Performance, Sports, Games & Performance, Identity, Sexuality & Performance, Violence & Trauma in Theatre/ Performance, Role of Spectacle in Contemporary Theatre, Music in Theatre, Dramaturgy, Theatre and Technology, Theatre & Everyday Life, Queer Theatre, Politics of Performance, Post Pandemic Theatre

## RESOURCE PERSONS

Day 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 (F.N.)

Inaugural Address

Dr. A.P. Mani Media Centre at 10.00 a.m.

**“My Journey as a Theatre - Maker” - Mahesh Dattani**



Mahesh Dattani, a celebrated Indian director, writer, essayist, critic and actor, is the first playwright in English who received the Sahitya Academy Award. His play *Dance Like a Man* has won the award for the Best Picture in English, awarded by the National Panorama. As an ardent theatre practitioner, he has formed his own theatre group that embodies his experimental theatrics. His interest in other Performance Arts has made him a classical dancer. His plays, with its unconventional portrayal of themes on myriad human relationships, also address pertinent social and gender issues. To quote his words:

*“The function of the drama, in my opinion, is not merely to reflect the malfunction of the society but to act like freak mirrors in a carnival and to project grotesque images of all that passes for normal in our world.”*

Day 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> February (A. N.)

**Play: Mannathitheyyam - Sreeja K. V.**

**College Auditorium (Mar Dionysius Hall)**



Sreeja K. V., a well known Malayalam Playwright and Theatre Practitioner, was born at Arangottukara, Thrissur, Kerala. As organic farmers she, along with her husband, C. M. Narayanan, cultivates different crops with other members of Patashala Trust. Founded in 2005, the trust has two divisions, Krishi Patashala and Kala Patashala. Krishi Patashala focuses on organic farming and Kala Patashala holds cultural activities and comes out with plays based on agriculture and nature.

C.I Parameswaran Pillai Memorial Endowment Award, Kerala Sahitya Academy Award, C.N. Sreekandan Nair Saketham Award etc. are some of the awards she received for her meritorious contribution to Malayalam Literature. **Her play Mannathitheyyam will be staged on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at Baselius College, Kottayam, Kerala.**

**Day 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 (F.N.)**

Keynote address

**Dr. A. P. Mani Media Centre at 10.00 a.m.**

**“Classical Dance & Literature: A Performer’s Perspective” - Dr. Neena Prasad**



Dr. Neena Prasad, an acclaimed classical dancer and scholar, is a leading Mohiniyattam exponent in India. Fervently following her research pursuits along with her performances and teaching responsibilities, she has achieved proficiency in Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam and Kathakali. She was awarded PhD from Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta, for her thesis on “The Concepts of Lasya and Tandava in the Classical Dances of South India-A detailed Study”. She was also awarded a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the AHRB Research Centre for Cross Cultural Music and Dance Performance, University of Surrey.

**Day 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 (A.N.)**

**Paper Presentations**

## **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

**Offline registration starts at 9.30 a.m. at Dr. A. P. Mani Media Centre.**

*Institutional ID cards are preferred for registration.*

### **Registration Fee**

**Participation:**

Faculty : ₹500  
Research Scholars: ₹500  
Students: ₹300

**Paper Presentation:**

Faculty: ₹1000  
Research scholars: ₹1000  
Students: ₹500

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Dr. Biju Thomas, Principal  
Prof. Dr. P. T. Baburaj, DCDC, M. G. University  
Prof. Dr. Jyothimol P, Vice Principal  
Ms. Elsa C. Maria Sebastian , Head of the Department  
Ms. Jeejamol P. M, IQAC convener

### **Seminar Coordinators**

Ms. Susanna Thomas & Ms. Meera Elizabeth James

### **Technical Team**

Dr. Jyothi Susan Abraham  
Dr. Vidya Merlin Varghese  
Ms. Anju John  
Dr. Kavitha Gopalakrishnan  
Mr. Jithin John  
Dr. Viju Kurian  
Ms. Helena Philip  
Ms. Anju Suresh

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