

NAGARIKA

Online Archival Project

on classical and contemporary dance in India.



DVD-ROM volume 1 Bharatanatyam (2006)

DVD-ROM volume 2 Kalarippayattu (2011)

<http://nagarika.attakkalari.org/>

<https://www.fondation-langlois.org/html/e/page.php?NumPage=347>

<https://bit.ly/nagarika>

NAGARIKA is conceived as an online archival project that aims to collect and record sessions of education, practice, creation and performances as well as scholarly conversations, discussions, discourses and talks pertaining to dance, theatre and other genres of performing arts as well as somatic practices such as martial arts and body care systems. These digital contents will be categorised, archived and made accessible through interactive online platforms for students, teachers, artists, researchers, scholars and general public. This comprehensive Online Archival Project will help to document culturally, historically and aesthetically important practices in the realm of folk, ritual, classical, contemporary and other strands of performing arts and

somatic disciplines and make them available for current and future generation of artists, researchers, students and general public.

We will undertake this activity in phases. To begin with relevant works that we host on Attakkalari Culture Port will be considered for recording and archiving. We will also try to host the existing **NAGARIKA** DVD series on Bharatanatyam and Kalarippayattu on this online archive platform. These DVDs are interactive information systems that provide access to concepts of body and principles of movements embedded in Bharatanatyam and Kalarippayattu through physical demonstrations by practitioners of the forms along with detailed explanations by the masters and necessary contextual information. This interactive digital system has a user-friendly information architecture, easy navigational tools, exquisite videos and well-designed look. Once the initial phases of the project is set up and the system becomes robust, then we will work towards expanding the scope of the project in the ensuing months and years. We will develop this online platform in modular fashion that can increase its capacity as the storage and access demands increase.

Attakkalari has worked with a team of artists to prepare the **NAGARIKA** DVD including German Digital artist Christian Ziegler, who has worked on the acclaimed Improvisation Technology DVD on choreographer William Forsythe's movement systems. We will consult him on the new phase of this Online Archive in the beginning remotely and afterwards by being resident at Attakkalari. We request Goethe Institute to give us seed funding for this project. We will also approach other funding agencies for the subsequent development of this large project. As and when we are able to raise enough resources, the scope of the archiving and access provisions can increase much more.

Leveraging the existing facilities of Attakkalari Culture Port and continuously upgrading its technology, expertise, storage capacity and access mechanisms the Archival Project will develop a mobile archiving team that can provide its services to artists who might not have agency to get their practice and artistic works recorded. This is particularly relevant for many folk performances, ritual traditions, somatic practices, martial art forms, body care systems. Even some artists from classical and contemporary strands also might not have enough resources and capacity to document their works.

The proposed archive has the potential to help many educational and research initiatives in the performing arts. It can be linked to existing courses at Attakkalari and other educational institutions and arts organisations that provide performing arts education.

To work on classical and contemporary dance footage we also need to build up a Cultural Port, providing infrastructure for Digital Research Projects, a Digital Art House Video Recording Studio and Motion Tracking Facilities.

Partners:

Concept, Content:

Jayachandran Palazhy (IND), ATTAKKALARI Artistic Director

Concept, Design:

Chris Ziegler (GER), Digital Artist/Theater Director

Concept, Head of Programming Team:

Matsuo Kunihiro (JPN), Designer/Programmer



Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts is India's premiere contemporary dance organization. Invested in education, training, research, choreography,

productions, performances, festivals, stage technologies, transdisciplinary exchanges and collaborations, Attakkalari has developed strategic global partnerships for projects and events. Driven by its motto 'Traditional physical wisdom, Innovation and Technology', Attakkalari has successfully brought together knowledge from Indian physical and performance traditions and blended them with contemporary information and skills.

Attakkalari India Biennial is South Asia's largest contemporary dance festival and its Diploma programme is a comprehensive programme while its Professional Development Programme (PDP) offers career advancement opportunities. Its Incubation Centre for Arts & Media (ICAM) forges international partnerships and collaborations to facilitate the creation of new works.

Attakkalari has succeeded in transforming Bangalore into a hub for contemporary dance in South Asia and is working towards establishing a new "Centre for Innovation in Performing Arts" (CIPA) in the city. For further information:

www.attakkalari.org