



Department of Performing Arts  
School of Performing Arts  
Pondicherry University



Presents

PROF. DR. K. A. GUNASEKARAN'S

# "BALIYADUGAL"

(The Sacrificial Goats)

-the first tamil dalit play-

On the occasion of

**Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar's**

125th Birthday Celebrations



Script, Design and Direction

**PROF. DR. K.A. GUNASEKARAN**

Dean & Head

Department of Performing Arts

School of Performing Arts

Pondicherry University

**Venue:**

Studio Theatre

Department of Performing Arts

Pondicherry University

**Date:** 14-04-2015, Tuesday

**Time:** 11.30am

**All are Welcome**

Felicitation:

**Dr. T. Marx**

Associate Professor

Co ordinator – Study India Programme, PU

**Dr. Sujatha Vijayaragavan**

Professor

Dept. of English, PU

**Dr. A. Praveen**

Assistant Professor

President, SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, PU

## “பலியாடுகள்- நாடக நிகழ்வு”

கே.ஏ. குணசேகரன் எழுதி இயக்கியுள்ள பலியாடுகள் நாடகம். இது தமிழில் வெளிவந்த முதல் தமிழ் தலித் நாடகம் ஆகும். தமிழகமெங்கும் அறியப்பட்ட நாடகம் இது. பல்வேறு பல்கலைக்கழகங்களிலும், கல்லூரிகளிலும் இந்நாடகம் பாடத்திட்டமாக உள்ளது. இந்நாடகம் ஆங்கிலத்திலும், மலையாளத்திலும் மொழிபெயர்க்கப்பட்டு மேடையேற்றப்பட்டுள்ளது. டாக்டர் அம்பேத்கார் அவர்களின் 125-வது பிறந்த நாளான 14-04-2015 அன்று முற்பகல் 11.30 மணிக்கு இந்நாடகம் புதுவை பல்கலைக்கழக நாடகத்துறை அரங்கில் நிகழ்த்தப்படவுள்ளது. அனைவரும் வருக.

## "BALIYADUGAL"

(The Sacrificial Goats)

– a Tamil Play is based on a stone inscription found in a temple in Kongunadu –

### A Brief of the Play:-

Play is gut wrenching. Strong in the theatre elements, it gives you a graphic picture of the atrocities perpetrated on this section of society by the Caste Hindus. There is not a member of the audience who is not disturbed at the images, it unleashes. Using a variety of symbols and dramatic techniques and drawing richly from the folk arts, 'Baliyadugal' (The Sacrificial Goats) written and directed by Prof. Dr. K.A. Gunasekaran is Dalit Theatre at its most moving.

The Play, inspired by a historic inscription, from just after the Chola period, tells a horrific story. When the temple car (Chariot) of Amman (Devi) breaks down during a temple festival, expiration is sought for the deity. The chief priest pronounces that a human sacrifice alone can assuage the anger of the Goddess and atone for the lapse. The almost enslaved dalits of the village watch helpless as the priests, like birds of pray, zoom in on a dalit youth. The paly towards the end, converts itself from a dalit text into feminist text. The playwright handled this conversion very brilliantly and subtly.



## About the Playwright and Play Director

Dr. K.A. Gunasekaran was born in 1955. His father, Karuppan Alagan, was a teacher in a school located in a village of Maranthai. Gunasekaran attended a three-month course in drama at the Gandhigram Rural University. They were introduced to the work of B.V. Karanth, Bansi Kaul and Ramanujam. He completed his M.A., in Tamil Literature in 1980 and was awarded a Ph.D., in 1987 for his work on the Folk Songs and Dance of the East Ramnad District. He was a Reader and then Professor, HOD & Dean of School of Performing Arts in Pondicherry University till now. By 1981 Dr. K.A. Gunasekaran was staging his own plays and even took some of them to Delhi. His works include many small Poems and Lyrics with Marxist Ideas. He was very much affected with Mandal Movement and realised the importance of a Dalit Point of View, a Dalit Ideology, a Dalit Theatre. He was interested in the work of Augusto Boal, then developed the idea of Dalit Theatre. His first play, 'Baliyaadugal' (Scape goats) was performed in 1981 and published in a special issue of 'Niraprikai' in 1994. An actor who works both in Theatre and Cinema, he has also lent his voice to a number of Films and Tele Programmes. He developed several well-received plays, some of which have subsequently been published. Among them are 'Sathiya Sothanai' (Experiment with truth, 1988) and 'Pavalakkodi Allathu Kudumba Valakku' (Pavalakkodi, or Family Dispute, 2001) – based on workshops conducted – and 'Todu' (Touch, 2005). His well-received autobiography, 'Vadu' (Scar) appeared in 2006. Other significant publications include 'Cheripuraviyal' (Dalit Lore), and 'Dalit Arangiyal' (Dalit Theatre). He has published over two dozen books on Folk Arts, Modern Theatre History, Music and Sangam Literature, and more than sixty academic articles. He has also directed several memorable Musical Theatrical Productions like Sankaradoss Swamigal's 'Valli Thirumanam'. He has vast administrative experience and has served on the academic bodies of a number of Universities and also served as a Director in International Institute of Tamil Studies, Chennai. He has organized and convened so many National and International Conferences on Tamil Literature, Performances and Culture.

# CASTING

## On Stage

Aswani Subash  
Bremnath.V  
Devapattabiraman.P  
Kanthanthan. M  
K. Mahalakshmi  
Mohammed Shameem. KK  
Mythili. K.S  
Rengaraj. P  
Ranjitha Raj

Shravan. J  
Sushma. R  
Srinivasa. P.K.  
Stella Marie Dimanche. K  
Suthan. S  
Veeramani. V  
Vidhya. S  
Vipada Petchot

## Off Stage

### **Lighting**

Tharamalingam. T  
Yukthiraj. V

### **Dance Choreography**

Lavanya Sirra  
Marthandam. K

### **Technical Assistants**

Krithika G Ganesan  
Jeyaprakash. S

### **Music**

Dr. Gandhidass,  
K. Kamaraj  
Mudiyarasan  
Venkatesan

### **Publicity & Public Relations**

Thuyavarman. K

### **Make-up, Costume, Set & Properties**

Dr.L.V. Nagabushana Rao

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## SCRIPT, DESIGN & DIRECTION

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