

BRIEF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2003-04

The year 2003-2004 is considered to be the year of growth and development. **Folkland** has initiated several research projects and production oriented workshops during this year.

Productions

Ottanthullal, a Kerala art form created by great satirist Kunjan Nambiar centuries ago is dealt with epics only. This is an art form in which songs dance music and humor involved. This can be used as a powerful communication medium to address the common people and the students against the social evils. We conducted a workshop to recreate this art form so as to suit the needs of the present day. A One hour Ottanthullal with the narrative songs and actions for water conservation and environment protection was considered to be the first of its kind.



Performance

About 125 artistes have performed the art forms like *Theyyam*, *Poorakkali*, *Velakali* and *Thidambunirtham* in various stages and other folk performing centers under our auspicious.

Velakali was performed with 25 artistes at Pattena, Nileswaram in connection with 27th Anniversary of Janasakthi Samskarikavedi.

A *Poorakkali* troupe consists of 20 members performed Ramayana at Viloppalli Bhavan Trivandrum 31st May 2003. It was sponsored by Dept of Culture, Govt of Kerala.

We had been invited by The Director, dept of Tourism, Govt of Kerala for performing *Theyyam* in connection with Onam celebrations during 9th and 10th September. 15 artistes performed *Kuttichathan*, *Gantakarnan* and *Pottan Theyyams* at Kanakakkuunnu, Trivandrum



We have performed *Poorakkali* and *Kolkali*, *Velakali*, in different stages in connection with *Isal Yathra* from 22nd to 24th September.

We have performed *Thidambunirtham* at Viloppalli Bhavan on 1st January 2004. It was a program conducted under the joint auspices of Sopanam and Folkland.



We have performed *Velakali* at Kasargod on 10th January in connection with the inauguration of Jalaparisthithi Swadeshi Yathra. It was inaugurated by Sri A.K. Antony, Hon; Chief Minister of Kerala..

Ottan thullal was performed 170 stages all over Kerala in connection with Jala Paristhithi Swadeshi Yathra during 10th to 26th January 2004.

Velakali was performed at Trivandrum on 5th March 2004 as a Tribute to MohanKunju Panicker who passed away recently.

Photo Exhibitions

A three day Photo Exhibition depicting the life and art of *mangalamkali* artist, Karichi, who died in her age of 104, was inaugurated by Sri G.Karthikeyan, Hon. Minister for Culture, Govt of Kerala

Another Exhibition was held at Vyloppalli Bhavan, Trivandrum during 31st December, 1st and 2nd January 2004.

A three day Photo Exhibition depicting the life and art of Mohankunju Panicker, doyen of *velakali* who passed away on 25th December 2003 was inaugurated by Sri G.Karthikeyan. Hon. Minister for Culture, Govt of Kerala.



Exhibition of Artifacts

We have conducted an exhibition of artifacts protecting from rain and sun. It was a three day exhibition from 1st August to 3rd August 2003 and it was inaugurated by Dr P.Narayanan, Regional Director, Handicrafts, and Govt of India. We have exhibited around 60 different Palm leaf umbrellas, Caps, Rain coats etc which were existed in the northern part of Kerala.



Folkland Summer School

Folkland has conducted a week long summer School from 2nd to 8th May 2003 at Guruvanam, Monacha near Kanhangad. We have taught the children the subjects like Folksongs, Folktales, Riddles, local knowledge,

Folk Painting, Environment protection, Heritage conservation etc. Field work and study tour were also given to the students.



Demonstration

We have conducted a demonstration of Russian Dance by an Eminent Dancer Anastacia On 10th June 2003 at Folkland Auditorium.



Workshops

We have conducted Two workshops during 2003-2004.the former workshop was on *Ottanthullal* a Trkaripur on 28th December and the latter was at Trivandrum on 31st December 2003 on *Thdambunirtham*.The above two workshops followed the Performances accordingly.

Collaboration

Folkland has collaborated Sardar Chandroth Smaraka Trust to stage a Drama performance by a Spanish Theater Group at Telassery on 20 th December 2003.They have performed Electra, a world classic.



Folkland has participated in the workshop on Digitisation at Gurgaon, Haryana from 4th to 9th November 2003.It was conducted under the joint auspices of ARC.

Commemoration

Folkland has held two programmes to commemorate Chand Pasha, Music director and Composer and Mohankunju Panicker ,Guru of Velakali who were died during the year 2003-2004.



Lecture on Folkarts

Mr V.Jayarajan, Chairman, Folkland was invited for a lecture on Kerala folkarts at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manava Sangrahalaya, Bhopal in the month of November 2003.



Acquisition

We have acquired several artifacts for our ethnological museum during this year. We have also compiled 300 hours of folksongs and 56 hours of CD contained rare art forms.

We have initiated the renovation of Theyyam museum with the replacement of costumes and ornaments.



Insurance coverage to the artisans

Folkland with the assistance of the Dept of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India extended the group insurance coverage under Jana Shree Bima Yojana to 89 Artisans of Folkland.

