

Moorthy Palani

Born on 20th May, 1993

Co-founder of Sri Krishna Kattaikkuttu Theatre company

Sri Krishna Kattaikkuttu Company

Founder-member of one of the highest paid Kattaikkuttu companies, Moorthy is a highly acclaimed performer for both comedic and heroic roles, with a huge fan base.



Moorthy is one of the youngest recipients of the Ramachandra Kavirayar award for upcoming Kattaikkuttu artists, 2016, given by Kalai Elakkiya Valarchi Arakkattalai association, Chennai

Katradi

Moorthy is a part of the Katradi initiative of the NGO, Wind Dancers Trust. He facilitates projects for underprivileged youth using Kattaikkuttu in the domain of education, empowerment and social transformation.

BACKGROUND

Kattaikkuttu is a traditional form of Tamil dance-theatre performed all night long with stories from the great Indian epics Ramayana, Mahabharata and more. Moorthy born in 1993, trained under Thiru Perungattur Rajagopalan at the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam, a unique theatre school founded by him and his wife Thirumathi Hanne M. De Bruin in Kanchipuram District. In 2010, Moorthy graduated from the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam as the first Kattaikkuttu performer. He worked as an assistant teacher at the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam until 2014.



Pictures from top to bottom:
Sakuni (Pakatai tukil),
Kattiyakaran (Kuravanchi),
Duryodhanan (Pakatai
Tukil), Dharman
(Rajasuyagan), Kattiyakaran
[Narrator-Clown]

In 2014 he founded Sri Krishna Kattaikkuttu Company along with five co-artists. In 2015, he joined the NGO Katradi as a design team member and facilitator to use Kattaikkuttu for empathy based social transformation. He has facilitated many workshops on gender, sex abuse, substance abuse and worked on Tamil literacy all using Kattaikkuttu. He also works with differently abled children using his art form.

EDUCATION

- Studied at the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam from 2002 to 2010
- Graduated as the first male Kattaikkuttu performer with a major in acting/singing and a minor in *mridangam/dholak* (musical instruments that form part of the Kattaikkuttu ensemble)
- Passed his S.S.L.C. Exam (Tamil Nadu State Board) in 2008
- Passed his 12th standard Public Examination (Tamil Nadu State Board) in March 2010
- B.COM, Annamalai University (Correspondence Course)

AWARDS

- Ramachandra Kavirayar award for upcoming kuttu artist, 2016, given by Kalai Elakkiya Valarchi Arakkattalai association, Chennai

ADDITIONAL ARTISTIC TRAINING

- Contemporary dance workshops by **KS. Deepak**, Attakkalari, Bangalore and **Mira Rau**, Bangalore
- Story-telling and Theatre workshop with Craig Jenkins
- Dance workshops (Bharata Natyam, African dance, choreography) by Chennai-based dancer **Sangeeta Isvaran**
- Carnatic vocal classes as part of the outreach programme of **Kalakshetra**, Chennai
- Acrobatics and juggling, clowning and pantomime by Katja Groll, Stefania Mariano and Dominique Huber from the **Dimitri Scuola**, Switzerland
- Voice training by opera singer **Liesbeth Riemersma**, Netherlands
- Photography workshop by **Marinde Hurenkamp**, Netherlands
- Circus skills by **Masha Dimitri**, Switzerland
- Clown workshop by **Clowns Without Borders**, Alliance Francaise, Chennai
- Street Dance by **W-ISH dance company**, Bangalore
- Acting by English-based actress **Kelly Williams**
- Workshop on expressing the basic facial emotions of Kutiyattam (the only surviving Sanskrit theatre tradition from Kerala) with Kutiyattam artiste, **Kapila Nagavallikkunnel**.

PROFESSIONAL & MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam professional development curriculum (2010-2012)

- A course in Basic Finance to look after the finances of a theatre company
- A course in Communication
- A course in Arts Management (running your own theatre company)
- A course on the History of World Theatre

Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam Apprentice Program (2012-2014)

- Social media training

- Spoken and written English training
- Personal and artistic development
- Assisted in the office of the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam and gained skills in finance, office duties, office etiquette and communication
- Effectively managed operations and accounting of organization's cafeteria (which feeds up to 100 people per day)

KUTTU REPERTOIRE

Full-Night Performances:

Vilvalaippu (Bending of the Bow)
Rajasuyagam
Pakadai Thukil (Dice and Disrobing)
Kuravanchi
Abhimanyu
Thiripurakali
Karna Mosham
Thakkayagam
Veriyattam (Sacrifice Play)
Subadhra's Marriage

Short Performances

Rama Ravana
Maya Kuthiray (The Magic Horse)
Parakadal (The Milky Ocean)
Vilaiyttain Vilaiivu
Azhiya Sothu
Ulagam Ullangaiyil
* All full-night performances can be done as short plays

PERFORMANCES

Moorthy began performing at the age of 10 with the Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam inspired by watching his father's performances since he was a young child. He is a prolific performer with more than a 1,000 performances to his credit and is currently a highly sought after performer along with his group Sri Krishna Kattaikkuttu Company at traditional village festivals. He adapts to both urban and rural platforms with ease and takes special pleasure in performing for and teaching in marginalised communities, performing in orphanages, shelter homes and institutions for the differently abled.

He has performed and taught at many other venues, both national and international.

NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **2016** 3 Performances for Iyal Isai Nataka Manram [the Tamilnadu State Government branch for Culture]
- **2016** Performances at the institution of Vidhyasagar for differently abled children
- **2016** Performances for the SOS Orphan Village Mother's Day
- **2015 Co-choreographer** in the creation of 'Lorry Lolaakku', an Indo-French production creating performances on top of a lorry celebrating the local histories of the kuppams or fishing villages along the coastline of Chennai for the celebration of Madras Week
- **2015** Performance at IIT, Madras
- **2014** Performance at Rukmini Devi Natyakshetra, Mogapair
- **2012** Performing for the National School of Drama, Kuttu Festival at Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam, Kanchipuram
- 2012 Performance at Kattaikkuttu Sangam of *Abhimanyu: Child Soldier* with Craig Jenkins
- **2010** Performance of *Subhadra's Marriage*, Kalakshetra, Chennai

- **2010** Performance at the Elliot's Beach, Chennai, on the invitation of the Commissioner of Department of Art and Culture, Tamil Nadu Government
- **2010** Adhishakti Festival, RamaRavana. Pondicherry
- **2009** Performance for Nalanda Way, Chennai
- **2009** Special programme for the Indo-Dutch Business Circle Chennai
- **2009** Special programme for Elsevier International Publishing Company, Chennai
- **2009** Special programme for IGAR, Kalpakkam
- **2008** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme of the Tamil Nadu Government
- **2007** Rabindra Utsav, Kolkata
- **2006** Prithvi Theatre Festival, Mumbai
- **2005** Rangayana Festival, Mysore

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **2015** Performance of 'Siryamma Siri', at the Kuala Lumpur International Festival, a production of The Aseema Trust showcasing the folk arts of southern India
- **2015** Participant in an Artistic Exchange programme between the Wind Dancers Trust and the Association Les Poussières, in Aubervilliers, France

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Moorthy has been teaching Kattaikkuttu since 2010 both in Tamilnadu and outside. He has also helped create and facilitate many innovative Kattaikkuttu modules in the domain of education, empowerment, gender equality and social justice.

- **2016** Training in Kattaikkuttu and kuttu make-up for renowned poet and actor Snehan for the forthcoming film, Bommi Veeran
- **2016** Facilitator of a unique curriculum to help children be critical thinkers and look at the past, question their history for DakshinChitra Museum, Chennai
- **2015 – 2016** Collaboration between the NGOs Wind Dancers and Schools of Equality to create and facilitate a unique series of classes talking about gender stereotypes, equality, and social justice using the arts in 4 schools in Chennai and 1 in Pollachi. Creation of a unique performance at each school.
- **2015** Facilitator to create performance with children at AIR kuppam Government School, Chennai
- **2015** Kattaikkuttu workshop at American International School, Chennai
- **2015** Kattaikkuttu workshop at S.S.Jain College, Chennai
- **2014 - 2015** Facilitator at Bridging the Gaps Youth Camps, using art and sport to bridge the gaps of gender, poverty, caste and economic status.
- **2014 – 2015** Teaching Kattaikkuttu at Child Children's Home 5 afterschool programmes of the NGO Pudiyador across Chennai. The classes were designed to reduce aggression, build confidence, self-expression and positive social skills
- **2012** Shell Company Corporate Workshop (2 workshops in August and December), Chennai
- **2010 – 2014** Assistant teacher in Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam

LINKS

Kattaikkuttu Sangam website: www.kattaikkuttu.org

Kattaikkuttu Young Professional Company: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv3C5XBzn3I>

CONTACT

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