

'Kalaimamani Ranganayaki Jayaraman's Dance Drama Method's ,Designs And Samavakara.

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1.Abstract:

In this article we will see the origin of Sri Saraswathy Gana Nilayam. The founder Smt.Lalitha who started the institution. The main goal of building the institution.

Leadership and nourishment of Sri Saraswathy Gana Nilayam under the leadership of Guru.Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman. The various compositions of Guru.Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman. The awards and titles that honoured the Guru. Her fascinating performance in abroad countries and the applause gained from the audience. Foreign association praised her wonderful choreography and provided sponsorship for her performance. The new concept of Harikathatil Bharatham that was created by Guru.Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman in praise of Lord Hanuman. This was a new concept to joining both the beautiful and ancient arts named Bharathanatyam and Harikatha. A comparative study between Jeya Veera Hanuman with Samavakara (one among the ten types of dramas in NatyaSastra).

2.Keywords: Harikathayil Bharatham,Deiveega Vahanangal ,Bhakthiyin Shakthi,Dhana Vaibhavam, Krishnanjali, Kandhapuranam, Hari Hara Sangamam, Samavakara.

3. Founder of the Institution:

Sri Saraswathi Gana Nilayam (SGN) was founded in 1939 by Late. Smt.K.Lalitha to give training in Bharathanatyam, Veena and Vocal music to children in Triplicane neighborhood in Chennai. Later under the leadership of Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman Trustee SGN, the institution continued to spread the art all over the World.

Smt.K.Lalitha was a disciple of Kaatumannar Koil Muthukumaraswamy Pillai. She devoted her entire life for promoting the divine classical art among children. One of her main goal is to train the poor children who could not afford to spend for learning this art and this goal continuous even today.

4. About the Institution:

The SGN Nilayam is a divine place where great Legends like Madurai Mani Iyer, Ariyakudi Ramanujam, M.K.Thiagaraja Bhagavadhar, S.V.S.Narayanan, Madurai Venkatesan and many more have given performances.

SGN also promotes Drama and Theatre by providing its Lalitha Kala Mandhiram Hall.

Famous Cine and Drama artists who wrote and inaugurated their plays in this venue are Director K.Balachandar, Actor Pooranam Vishwanath, Director Nagaraja Iyer and Actor A.R.Srinivasan.

5. Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman:

Smt K.Lalitha transferred the leadership of the Institution to Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman in the late 80's.

5.1. Early life of Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman:

Ranganayaki Jayaraman was born on 19 September 1935 at Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu as the eldest daughter of Shri.Kannan Iyengar and Smt.Jayamma. Shri Kannan Iyengar was very much associated with SGN. She was the first student of SGN. Little Ranganayaki joined her hands with her father and came to SGN. Seeing her interest and involvement in arts, Smt.Lalitha took her as her first disciple and transferred the divine art into her. She started learning Bharatanatyam at the age of five. She got training in both Thanjavur and Pandanallur styles of Bharatanatyam.

She performed her Arangetram when she was 11 years old, in 1946. and got training in music from Professor P. Sambamoorthy at the Government College of Music, Chennai.



Smt Ranganayaki Arangetram was SGN'S debut arangetram. She stunned everyone with her mesmerising performance under the guidance from her Guru and Mentor Smt.Lalitha. After her arangetram she gave many performances both solo and group in many prestigious sabhas. She played leading roles such as Radha in Ashtapadhi, Queen in Kuravanji and Shiva in many thematic dance ballet. She became a renowned Nattuvannar. Her commanding Nattuvangam with outstanding Jathi korvai and her excellent voice was very much appreciated. Her versatility in Nattuvangam gave her the title "NATTUVANGA NAYAGI" from Kamala Ramanathan.

She performed and conducted many seminars and workshops in India and abroad including the USA and Middle East countries. During 2009 Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman led her group of 12 students to United States and staged Lalitha Prabhavam in almost 6 locations successfully. The performance was completely sold out in California Bay Area and other locations. In 2012 Sankrithilaya of San Jose CA, sponsored for her US tour again. She performed Deiveeha Vahanangal with 10 of her students at several locations across US.

Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman is a empanelled artist of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations). She presented Navarasa Nayaki Dance Drama with group of 7 students in ICCR and was a grand success.

She was a versatile artist with well versed Carnatic Vocal music Knowledge. She took training in vocal music from Professor P. Sambamoorthy at the Government College of Music, Chennai. She secured First Class in Lower Grade Examination in Music at the Government Technical Examinations conducted by the Government of Madras, in November 1943.

She also got First Class in the Higher Grade Examination in November 1944.

She was also an expert in playing Veena, Flute, Harmonium and Mridangam. Being an A Graded veena artist in The All India Radio and an expert in playing Veena has composed

1. Pancha Tala Priya Malika and
2. Pancha Raga Oudava Malika.

5.2. Group Choreography by Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman:

Since many can't offered to learn bharathanatyam Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman introduced many free programs and scholarships with which even the poor can learn the spiritual art.

She was the first person to introduce group Arangetram. Maximum of five students can join together and do an Arangetram. Here people who cannot spend for solo Arangetram can join together and share the total expenses between them. This paved way for many poor dancers to fulfill their Arangetram dreams.

She was specially known for her group choreography. Her unique and exclusive Drance Drama productions received outstanding appreciation from many for her excellent creativity and imaginative work. She was an expert in structuring a Dance Drama.

5.3. Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman's dance drama productions:

Smt. Ranganayaki Jayaraman has creatively composed many dance drama productions.

They are:

Sno	Production Title	Production Theme
1	Hari Hara Sangamam	This is penned in such a way that one group will say that Hari that is Lord Vishnu is the supreme by tell his story. Another group will say that Haran that is the Lord Shiva is the supreme by tell all his stories. Finally it's the conclusion that is the highlight of the production. They conclude that both Hari and Haran are sangamam that is they are incarnated into each other. They are not two but one.
2	Deiveega Vahanangal	A thematic ballet on how Gods like Shiva, Vishnu, Murugar, Ganesha, Saraswathi, Iyyapan got Nandhi, Garuda, Peacock, Moonjoor, Annam, Tiger as their Vahanams respectively.
3	Shakthi Prabhavam	Here the theme talks about the life of Goddess Durga
4	Navarasa Nayaki	This thematic dance ballet talks about the nine emotions in dance and does a comparative story for each of these emotions with Goddess Shakthi.



5	Bhakthiyin Shakthi.	This theme revolves around many kinds of Bhakthi such as Maatru Bhakthi, Pitru Bhakthi, Acharya Vhakthi, Mada Bhakthi , Desa Bhakthi
6	Dhana Vaibhavam	The highlight is Dega dhanam by Sibi Chakravarthy and concludes as Dhanam Nidhanam Samadhanam and finally attainment of Sannidhanam.
7	Krishnanjali	This talks about the mischievous deeds of Lord Krishna. It states Krishna eating sand and showing the entire universe in his little mouth to his mother Yeshoda, stealing butter with his friends, doing dance on the head of the King Serpent Kalinga known as Kalinga Nardhanam, dancing with the Gopikas and teasing them, Drowpathi Vastrabharanam that is giving cloth to his dear friend Drowpathi and saving her self respect when she was been humiliated in the court by the Kauravas.
8	Shanmuga Prabhavam	This talks about the life of Lord Murugan right from his birth as six babies and when Goddess Parvathi hugged him he became six face and one body Aarumugan, fighting with his brother Ganesha for Gnanapazham, marrying Devayanai after doing Soorasamharam, doing funny things with Valli and finally marrying her.
9	Santoshi Matha	Here the story run about the Goddess Santhoshi matha. Her divineness, the methods to perform Santhoshi Matha fasting.
10	Kandhapuranam	Here it talks about the life of Lord Kandan. His birth, giving wisdom to Avvaiyar the famous female poet in tamil, killing the Demon Sooran, marrying Devasena and Valli, leaving his family and going to Pazhani. This was staged for 7days depicting the entire life story of Lord Murugan.
11	Ayappan Charitham and	The entire story of Lord Iyyapan is depicted here. His birth, killing Mahishi the female demon, methods and rules to follow while going to Sabharimala, Aiyappan going to Sabharimala when he came to know that his step mother lied that she has headache and tiger's milk should be applied to get rid of the ache. Aiyyapan went and brought tiger's milk and finally came to know that it was a lie. So he left the kingdom and went to the mountain forest Sabharimalai.
12	Jaya Veera Hanuman –Harikathaiyil Bharatham	Here the beautiful story of Lord Hanuman is portraied along with the famous Harikatha. This includes exclusive stories like once when Sages presented Hanuman with a pearl necklace and Hanuman threw it as it did not have his lord Rama's name in it. Seeing these sages got angry and asked Hanuman to show his dedication towards his Lord. Immediately Hanuman opened is chest with his bare hands and showed Rama and Sita inside his chest.

5.4. Awards received by Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman:

Sno	Award and Title	Given by	Year
1	Natyakala Bhooshani	Sankarabharanam Trust	1992
2	Natana Kalai Vithagi	Pollachi Sabha	1994
3	Mahathana Penmani	Vaanavil Panpadu Maiyam	2018
4	Vocational Excellence Award	Rotary Club of Madras, Chennai	1995
5	Peacock Par Excellence Award	Lions Club Interbational	1997
6	Natya Acharya	Kapali Fine Arts	2001
7	Natya Kala Sarathy	Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha	2004





8	Acharya Kala Bharathi	Bharath KAlachar	2007
9	Meritorious Award	International Dance Alliance	2008
10	Nrithya Kala Nipuni	Mylapore Fine Arts	2009
11	Bheeshma award	Smt. Latha Rajinikanth and Ashram school	2010
12	Nrithya Rathna	BharathiyaVidhya Bhavan	2011
13	Scroll of Honour	Saila Sudha	2011
14	Vocational Excellence Award	Rotary Club Of Madras, Chennai	2011
15	Kala Sirinmani	VDS Arts ACedemy	2011
16	Madhura Murali Puraskar	VIPANCHEE (academy dedicated to Indian Classical Dance and Music)	2012
17	Natya Kalandidhi	ABHAI (Association of Bharathanatyam Artistes of India)	2012
18	Nrithya Kovida	Naada Brahman (Monthly Journal)	2012
19	Acharya Deepam	Smt.Padmini Krishnamurthy (Sri Saraswathy Natyalaya, Muscat)	2013
20	Lifetime Achievement Award	Dr.Mrs.Meena Muthaiah Chettinad Kalaikoodam	2013
21	Nrithya Rathnakara	Bhairavi Fine Arts, Cleveland Aradhana	2013
22	Natana Rasa Mamani	Lions Club and Rasa	2014
23	Natiya Thendral	Podhigai	2016
	Government Awards		
1.	Sangeet Natak Acedemy Award	Sangeet Natak Acedemy Government Of India	2015
2.	Kalaimamani	Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, Govt of TamilNadu	1995

6. Harikathayil Bharatham:

Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman is a versatile exponent in Bharathanatyam and Harikatha.

She is well trained in Hari Katha Kaalatchebam and has given more than 100 performances all over India. She had performed in the presence of various esteemed personalities like Late Pandit Sri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1953, Ex- Vice President Dr. Sir. S. Radhakrishnan, in the year 1955 at Delhi, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Judge A.S.P. Iyer, C. Rajagopalachari, Mr. T.L. Venkatrama Iyer and Moodharignyar Sri Rajaji.

She received the titles such as

1. HARI KATHA SIRONMANI from Sengalipuram Anantharama Dikshadar
2. KALA RATHNAM from Ambattur Mounaswami,

She made an excellent attempt in combining both the arts. She created a new concept named as Harikathayil Bharatham. She created a theme in praise of Glory of Hanuman. The presentation was made with the blend of both bharathanatyam and Harikatha.

Two artists narrate, sing and perform in typical Harikatha style and explain the story. The bharathanatyam dancers perform and enact the play.

It was truly fascinating and fantastic to watch the Bharathanatyam with Harikatha.

Here the concept, Music composition and Choreography was done by Guru.Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman and Lyrics were penned by Late.Sri.H.Vaidyanathan.

6.1. Jeya Veera Hanuman - Harikathayil Bharatham and Samavakara a comparative study:



1. Story:

Samavakara - Mythological story.

Jeya Veera Hanuman - Jeya Veera Hanuman is a mythological story. It is a tributary from the great river of Epic Ramayana.

2. Hero:

Samavakara - Well known person should be Hero.

Jeya Veera Hanuman - The Hero of this play is Veera Hanuman who is a well known and strong Hero.

3. Act:

Samavakara - It should have

Three Kapatras that is Deception (Due to a devised plan, Due to an accident, Due to the stratagem of enemy)

Three Vidravas that is excitements (Due to war or flood of waters, Due to storm, elephant run, Due to siege of the city).

Three Sringeras that is Love (based on Dharma that is piety, Motivated by profit of wealth, Actual by passionate attachment).

Jeya Veera Hanuman-

Three Kapatras – Deception:

Due to a devised plan - Hanuman Devised (invent from the existing principles) the plan of reaching Lanka through the waters by constructing RamSethu bridge and destructed the idea of Ravana the Lanka King that no one can sail upon the waters and reach his Kingdom Lanka.

Due to an accident - Hanuman thought that the Sun was a fruit and flew to it and ate the Sun and hence the entire world became dark. Lord Indra in order to save the World from darkness hit Hanuman with his thunderbolt called as Vajrayudha. This can be connected to the Kapata due to accident.

Due to the stratagem of enemy – When Bima wakes the sleeping old Hanuman to move away from the way Hanuman claims to be very old and couldnot get up. So he asks Bhima to move his tail from the path. Bhima in pride makes an attempt and alas he couldnot move Hanuman's tail even a bit. Then he realizes that it was not old monkey but a divine one and thus Hanuman strategises Bhima and removes his pride.

Three Vidravas – Excitements:

Due to war or flood of waters – Hanuman helps Rama in the war between Rama and Ravana and helps Rama in killing Ravana the demon King of Lanka. Thereby Hanuman aids in getting back Sita.

Due to storm, elephant run – Here we can consider Vayu the father of Hanuman hiding inside a cave as he got angry with Indra who hit Hanuman with his Vajrayudha for swallowing the Sun. After Indra pleads Vayu as the world was depriving with oxygen and by giving many boons to Hanuman finally Vayu came out of the cave.

Due to siege of the city - Ravana tries to kill Hanuman who came as a messenger to Lanka sent by Rama. Ravana sets fire on the tail of Hanuman and Hanuman warned him and set Lanka on fire. Thus Hanuman sieges the entire city and there by warns Ravana.

Three Sringeras – Love:

Based on Dharma that is piety – Hanuman love towards Rama was fantastically showed when the sages asked to prove his devotion towards Rama. Hanuman tears open his chest with his bare hands reveals Rama and Sita residing in his heart.



Motivated by profit of wealth – Hanuman introduces Rama to Sugreevan a monkey King and says that if Rama helps in Sugreevan by winning Sugreevan's brother Vaali, Sugreevan in turn will help Rama with his mighty monkey force to get back Sita and kill Ravana. This can be treated as motivated profit of wealth.

Actual by passionate attachment – Though there is no direct connection with this anka and Hanuman we can compare the story of Surpanaka the sister of Ravana the Demon King of Lanka, interested and infatuated toward Lakshmana the brother of Rama. When she tried to seduce him he chopped her nose and thereby resulted in Indrajeet killing Lakshmana in the war. Hanuman brought Sanjeevi mountain and saved Lakshmana.

4. **Style:**

Samavakara - Verbal that is the Bharathi, Grand that is the Sattvati and Energetic that is the Arabati styles.

Jeya Veera Hanuman- Verbal style when Hanuman meets Rama and discusses methods to rescue Sita by killing Ravana.

Grand Sattvati is the war that happened between the Rama and the Ravana. It happened for a long period killing one by one and finally reaching the King of Lanka Ravana.

Energetic Arabati when the mighty ocean is been crossed by building the stone bridge called as Sethu Bridge by all together in an energetic manner.

5. **Subject matter:**

Samavakara - The Devas and Asuras constitute the subject matter.

Jeya Veera Hanuman- Here the entire story consists of Divine people like Devas, Asuras.

6. **Sandhi:**

Samavakara - It should contain 4 Sandhi's. It should not have Vimarsa Sandhi.

Jeya Veera Hanuman- Mukha the opening Sandhi. This occurs when the Sutradhara that is the harikatha people explains the story and the first scene starts with Hanuman's entry with a huge Gadhai in his hand.

Pratimikha the progression – This occurs when Hanuman meets Rama who was in search of his wife Sita.

Garbha the Development – When Hanuman joins Rama to cross the waters through Sethu bridge and enters Lanka and the war begins.

Nirvahana the conclusion – This happens when Rama brings back Sita from Lanka by killing Ravana.

Ref NS (pn 279 – 295)

7. Some of Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman's students status:

Shrimati Ranganayaki Jayaraman has imparted training in Bharatanatyam dance for more than seven decades and many of her students have become well-known performers now. Many of her students are shining starts today.

To name a few:

1. Renowned Dancer, Actress and Director Smt.Revathy
2. Kalaimamani Shri Binesh Mahadevan – Director Akshaya arts academy
3. Kalaimamani Smt. Padmalaksshme Suresh – Chair person Pamalaya school of Bharathanatyam
4. Smt Padmini Krishnamurthy – Director, Sri Saraswathi Natyalaya , Muscat,
5. Smt Padmapriya Prakash – Director Nardhanapriya , Dubai



தமிழ்நாடு திறந்தநிலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் இதழியல் (ம)
ஊடகப் பன்வி நாடகம் (ம)அரங்க கலைத்துறை மற்றும்
பிரணவ நுண்கலை ஆய்விதழ்
(மதிப்பீடு செய்யப்பட்ட சர்வதேச மின்னியல் ஆய்விதழ்)
இணைந்து நடத்திய பன்னாட்டுக் கருத்தரங்கம்
"இந்திய நாடக மாபு"
Special Volume 3 Issue 1



6. Television fame Smt Sarranyaa Sai Prashanth – Director Sarranyaa's Nrithya Vidhyalaya.

8.Conclusion:

Apart from the above said notes Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman was also an expert in choreographing Pinnal Kollatam. This is doing various model or patterns with a long strip of cloth that was tied above. It is a group performances. Here the technique and difficulty is the dancers should have perfect counting knowledge so that they can do a pattern and then they should also remove them with specified steps. Even today many dancers take her Pinnal Kollatam for their workshops.

Smt Ranganayaki Jayaraman was not only a great dancer and choreographer, she also provided various scholarships for the needy students. She also helped poor students to do arangetram either in free or with very less charges.

She passed away on 1.12.2021. Covid may have taken her body away from us but her compositions, creativity and teachings will always remain till the end of this World. They will be passed on and on to generations after generations by her Sishyas for ever.

It's hard to find talent and humanity within oneself and for which Smt.Ranganayaki Jayaraman stood as an example.

The Jeya Veera Hanuman Harikatha play matches with the Samavakara type of play. They both contains various rasas, acts, three Kapata, three Vidharva and three Sringara in them.

The Actors and the characters, the Bhavas, Subject matter, Style and the Sandhi's also matches with each other. So we can say that Jeya Veera Hanuman is a Samavakara type of Drama.

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