



Kathakali Dance-Theatre

A Visual Narrative of Indian Sacred Mime

K.K. Gopalakrishnan

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- This book places Kathakali in its historical, social and caste context, delineating its 400-year-old journey with a rich and varied collection of photographs; the accompanying lists, tables, appendices and historical lineage maps are interesting and valuable additions to the book
- What makes the book stand out are the anecdotes from conversations with the masters of the art and the common legends that are part of its social fabric

Kathakali Dance-Theatre records the art of Kathakali comprehensively, right from the scenario that paved the way for Kathakali's origin and development to its present history. The book chronicles its various facets – the acting, music and costumes, crucial contributions of the masters, momentous incidences, evolution of styles, riveting anecdotes, and related socio-political issues affecting Kerala. The firsthand personal rendition of the author's experience and the detailed glossary make it immensely readable. Full of photographs depicting the masters of the art, green room activities and the vibrant theatre of Kathakali, this book will be a treasure trove of information for uninitiated readers, arts scholars, theater buffs, potential researchers and students keen about the art and its future.

K.K. Gopalakrishnan, a well-known writer-photographer and a connoisseur specializing in Kerala performing arts traditions, started writing for a host of periodicals like *The Indian Express* and *The Mathrubhumi Weekly* (Malayalam) at a very young age. In the past twenty-five years he has been writing mostly for *The Hindu* newspaper's supplements. He is the honorary Editorial Associate of Hyderabad-based *Nartanam Quarterly*, the only English dance journal in India having global readership. Choosing to resign from his post as officer at State Bank of India to focus on art studies, since December 2010 he has been serving as the Director of the Centre for Kutiyattam, Thiruvananthapuram, of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi, the national academy of music, dance and drama under the Govt of India, Ministry of Culture. He is also the Governing Body member of the South Zone Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Culture for the support of South Indian cultural traditions and a member of the General Councils of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi and Kerala Folklore Akademi (state academies for arts and culture).