

**Hunter College Education Abroad Program:
Winter 2015**

Performing Arts of India

THEA 397.73 (undergrad); THC 725.85 (grad)
Claudia Orenstein and Boris Daussa-Pastor

Location: Bangalore, Cheruthuruthi, Mumbai India

Dates: December 29, 2014- January 20, 2015

Credits Offered: 3 Credits

Program Description

During three weeks in India, students in this Education Abroad program will be introduced to a wide variety of Indian performing arts through lecture-demonstrations, participatory performance classes, performances, readings, presentations, and group discussions. They will experience dance forms such as *bharata natyam*, *kuchipudi* and *mohiniyattam*, dance-drama traditions including *kathakali* and *kuttiyattam*, and many varieties of puppetry. Students will spend the first week in Bangalore attending a puppetry festival, seeing local attractions, and taking workshops. The following two weeks of the program will take place in the small rural town of Cheruthuruthi, in the southern state of Kerala, where students will live communally and have daily performance classes, lectures, attend performances, and interact with traditional artists. An optional side trip to take part in the Indian Society for Theatre Research conference in Mumbai will be available to graduate students for an extra fee. The program offers students a unique, intimate experience of Indian performance, drawing on the organizers' personal connections to members of the arts communities throughout India and invites students to connect closely with Indian culture and lifestyle.

Requirements

Undergraduates

In India:

- **Participation in all programs. Engagement with Indian arts and culture: 45%**
- **Two short written tests on Indian performing arts materials. 20%**

On Return from India

- **5pg. Reflection paper on Indian Experience: 15%**
- **Choice of : 20%**
 - **completing a final exam on Indian Arts**
 - **Individual final project based on Indian experience, crafted with the help of the Instructor**
 - **A final 8page research paper on a topic**

related to the course materials.

Graduate Students:

In India:

- **Participation in all programs. Engagement with Indian arts and culture: 45%**
- **Two short written tests on Indian performing arts materials. 20%**

On Return from India (due date TBA)

- **15page research paper on a topic related to the material of the course or individual final project based on Indian experience, crafted with the help of the Instructor : 35%**

Program Schedule

Bangalore (Dec 29-January 5)

Hosted by Dhaatu Puppet Company and Bangalore International Puppetry Festival

December 29

All Students meet in Bangalore. Location TBA

December 30

Morning – talk on *Natyasastra* with Dr. R. Ganesh at Dhaatu

4:00pm - Festival curtain-raiser performance at Festival venue

December 31-

Morning- Workshop on relationship of puppetry and classical Indian dance.

With Prakriti Hoskere and Kuresh at Bagaluru at Metro Gallery space.

Evening: Build puppets and help with puppet parade preparations at Dhaatu

January 1

Morning Finish puppet building and parade preparations

3:00pm assembly of Parade

4:00pm Puppet Parade through Bangalore

5:00pm Dedication of Puppetry Bus Station

Dinner with festival participants

January 2

9:30-1pm- scholarly talks on puppetry and storytelling

Lunch at venue

2:30-5:00pm corridor performances

5:00pm Inauguration of the Festival

Evening performances
8:30 end
Dinner at venue

January 3

9:30-1- scholarly talks on puppetry and dance
Lunch at venue
2:30-5:00pm short corridor performances
5:00- 8:30pm Evening performances
Dinner at Venue

January 4

9:30-1- scholarly talks on puppetry and rasa (Indian performance aesthetics)
Lunch at venue
2:30-5:00pm corridor performances
5:00-8:30 pm Evening performances
Dinner at Venue

January 5

Trip to folk arts museum
Trip to shadow puppeteers in Andhra Pradesh border town

Overnight train Bangalore to Cochin

Cheruthuruthi, Kerala (January 6-20)

Mornings Training in *kathakali* or *bharata natyam*

Afternoon Workshops or Lecture Demonstrations on various artforms, including *tholpavakoothu*, *mohiniyattam*, *kuchipudi*, *kutiyattam*, *othan thulal*.

Free Time

Evenings Performances

Other possible programs include local trips to Cochin, Thrissur, Guruvayur Temple and interaction with students at the performing arts academy in Thrissur and at St. Thomas College.

Optional Extra Program for Graduate Students: January 14-17

XI International Conference of Indian Society for Theatre Research

“Semiotic Encryption of Global Conflict and Idea of Modernity in Folk Theatre: India and the World” at Mumbai University, Mumbai.

Extra Budget:

Conference Fee: \$125 (includes all events, meals, and accommodation)

Travel cost: TBA

Total: TBA

Course Reader for All Students

for Purchase before leaving TBA

Course Reader Contents (Some Readings May change this year):

- Allen, Matthew Harp. "Rewriting the Script for South Indian Dance," *TDR (1988-)* 41, no.3 (Autumn, 1997): 63-100
- Ashley, Wayne. "The Teyyam Kettu of Northern Kerala," *The Drama Review: TDR*, Bharucha, Rustom. "A Collision of Cultures: Some Western Interpretations of the Indian Theatre," *Asian Theatre Journal* 1, no.1 (Spring, 1984): 1-20.
- Brandon, James R. "A New World: Asian Theatre in the West Today," *TDR (1988-)* 33, no.2 (Summer, 1989): 25-50.
- Daugherty, Diane. "Fifty Years On: Arts Funding in Kerala Today," *Asian Theatre Journal* 17, no.2 (Autumn, 2000): 237-252.
- Daugherty, Diane. "The Pendulum of Intercultural Performance: *Kathakali King Lera* at Shakspeare's Globe," *Asian Theatre Journal*, vol. 22, no.1 (Spring 2005) pp.52-72.
- Daugherty, Diane, and Marlene Pitkow. "Who Wears the Skirts in Kathakali?," *TDR (1988-)* 35, no.2 (Summer, 1991): 138-156.
- Erdman, Joan L. "Inside Tradition: Scholar-Performers and Asian Arts," *Asian Theatre Journal*, 8, no.2 (Autumn, 1991): 111-117.
- Free, Katharine B. "Greek Drama and the Kuttiyattam," *Theatre Journal* 33, no.1 (Mar., 1981): 80-89.
- Ley, Graham. "Aristotle's Poetics, Bharatamuni's *Natyasastra*, and Zeami's Treatises: Theory as Discourse," *Asian Theatre Journal* 17, no.2 (Autumn, 2000): 191-214.
- Lukose, Ritty. "Consuming Globalization: Youth and Gender in Kerala, India," *Journal of social History*, Summer 2005: 915-935.
- Mlecko, Joel D. "The Guru in Hindu Tradition," *Numen* 29, Fasc.1 (Jul 1982): 33-61.
- O'Shea, Janet. " "Traditional" Indian Dance and the Making of Interpretive Communities," *Asian Theatre Journal* 15, no.1 (Spring, 1998): 45-63.
- Ohtani, Kimiko. "Bharata Natyam: Rebirth of Dance in India," *Studia Musicologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* 33, fasc. 1/4 (1991): 301-08.
- Panikkar, K. M. *A History of Kerala: 1498 -1801*. Annamalainagar (India): The Annamalai University, 1960.
- Richmond, Farley P., Darius L. Swann and Phillip B. Zarrilli, ed. *Indian Theatre: Traditions of Performance*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990
- Schechner, Richard "A Reply to Rustom Bharucha," *Asian Theatre Journal* 1, no.2 (Autumn, 1984): 245-253.
- Zarrilli, Phillip B. "Kalarippayatt, Martial Art of Kerala," *The Drama Review: TDR* 23, no.2 (Jun., 1979): 113-124.

Web Information Included:

"Summary of the *Mahabharata*"

<http://www.dharmakshetra.com/literature/summary%20of%20mahabharata.html>

"*Ramayana* Summary" <http://www.mythome.org/RamaSummary.html>

"Shadow Puppets" <http://puppetindia.com/shadow.htm>

OTHER USEFUL REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN COURSE PACKET

- Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization* (Public Worlds, V. 1). USA: University of Minnesota Press, 1996
- Balakrishnan, Sadanam P. V. *Kathakali: A Practitioner's Perspective*. Kozhikode, Trissur, Kottayam, Thiruvananthapuram (India): Poorna Publications, 2005.
- Bharucha, Rustom "A Reply to Richard Schechner," *Asian Theatre Journal* 1, no.2 (Autumn, 1984): 254-260.
- Bharucha, Rustom *Theatre and the World: Essays on Performance and Politics of Culture*. Columbia, MO: South Asia Books, 1990.
- Bolland, David. *A Guide to Kathakali: With the Stories of 35 Plays*. New Delhi, India: Sterling Paperbacks, 1996.
- Jones, Betty True. "Kathakali Dance-Drama: An Historical Perspective." In *Performings arts in India*. Edited by Bonnie C. Wade. New York: University Press of America, 1983.
- Menon, A. Sreedhara. *A Social and Cultural History of India, Kerala*.
- Mulholland, Moyra K. "The Indian Theatre, Its Origins and Its Later Developments Under European Influence," review of *The Indian Theatre, Its Origins and Its Later Developments Under European Influence*, by Ramanlal Kanaiyalal Yajnik, *Pacific Affairs Book Reviews* 44, no.4, Winter 1971-1972, 631-632.
- Pilaar, Agatha Jane. *Kathakali plays in English: Vol. I*. Kôttayam, Kerala: D.C. Offset printers, 1993.
- *Kathakali plays in English: Vol. II*. Kôttayam, Kerala: D.C. Offset printers, 1997.
- *Kathakali plays in English: Vol. III*. Kôttayam, Kerala: D.C. Offset printers, 2000.
- *Kathakali plays in English: Vol. IV*. Kôttayam, Kerala: D.C. Offset printers, 2003.
- Woodcock, George. *Kerala: A Portrait of the Malabar Coast*. London: Faber and Faber, 1967
- Suresh, Vidya Bhavani. *Demistifying Fine Arts – Volume 11: What is Bharatanatyam?*. Chennai, India: Skanda Publication, October 2002.
- *Demistifying Fine Arts – Volume 15: What is Mohiniyattam?*. Chennai, India: Skanda Publication, August 2003.
- *Demistifying Fine Arts – Volume 16: What is Kuchupudi?*. Chennai, India: Skanda Publication, September 2003.
- Zarrilli, Phillip B. *The Kathakali Complex: Actor, Performance & Structure*. New Delhi (India): Abhinav Publications, 1984.

