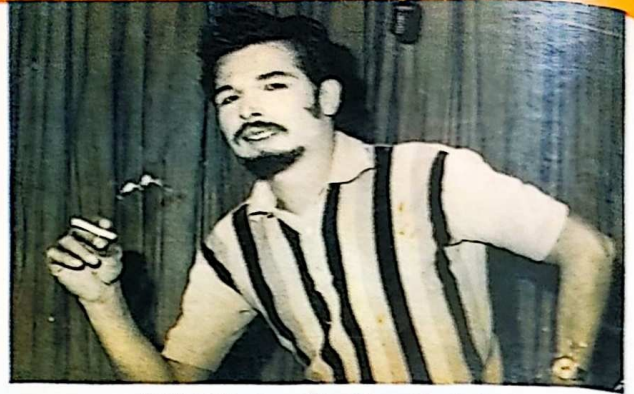


C K K Poduval



C K K Poduval in Kuppiakallukal

Mumbai's Veteran Stage Artiste

Veteran Malayalam stage actor and director C K K Poduval is a name to reckon with in Malayalam drama in Mumbai. He has been acting in Malayalam dramas since the sixties and is witness to the ups and downs of Mumbai's Malayalam Theatre.

C K K Poduval came to Mumbai as a 23 year old youth from Thrikkarippur in Kasarkode District in early 1961 in search of a job. His first home was at his cousin's place in Sewri. He joined Premier Automobiles within six months. At the same time, within a few months he had the opportunity to act in a Malayalam play 'entemannu' staged by the Kerala Kala Samithi. This was written by Cherukkara Padmanabha Pillai and directed by APN Pillai. This was enacted at the King George High School in Dadar.

"I consider APN Pillai as my guru," Poduval says. Subsequently he acted in many plays enacted by the Kerala Kala Samithi and thus his career as an actor was established. "Those days Malayalam Theatre was very active. I owe a lot to directors P V Kuriakose, A K Nair, M Chandran Nair, V V Achuthan, Venu, K G K Nair, and many others who helped and moulded me to become an actor and stay in the Drama scene for such a long time," Poduval adds.

From 1965 to 2000, Poduval acted and directed plays for Bombay Kerala Samajam, Matunga. Some of his plays during this period were *Iniyum Bhakiyanu*, *Ashtabandham*, *Vishamavriytham*, *Kadalppalam* and several others.

The first drama that Poduval directed was *Agnivalayam* in '76, staged by Nehru Nagar Welfare Centre in Kurla. In 1980 he directed and acted in *Athyanthadhunikam*. In 1983, he got the Best Actor Award at the all India National Malayalam Drama

competition for his acting in *Samadhi*. He also directed *kurushintevazhiye* and *jathichothichitillasodari* for Chembur Assisi Nagar residents. Another play which he directed and acted was *Anushtaanam*.

Poduval has directed about 10 dramas and acted in more than 60 Malayalam plays.

Poduval's most unforgettable role, he feels, was the one he played in *kattukuthira* where he acted the character Ana Raman Nair. This drama, directed by V V Achuthan, was enacted in six



C K K Poduval (right) and P C Cherian in "Ashtabandham"

stages between 2000 and 2002 and was a popular play. The artiste in him is still active and recently he has acted a double role in *Saptaswara's* historical play *Swati Thirunal*. He plays the role of Dewan Subba Row and Ummini Thampi. "It has already had three runs and on August 31 there will be another show of *Swati Thirunal* at Mulund at the inaugural function of Powai Youth Forum" he states.

"Some years back, it was very bad for Malayalam plays with Malayalees more interested in TVs and films and not caring for the Malayalam stage, unlike the 60's when the Mumbai Malayalam stage was vibrant. Now things are looking a little bright with the younger generation trying to revive the scene and attempting new themes. The Director must get into the essence of a play for it to be successful and fulfilling to the audience," Poduval says.

Poduval is an active member of many Kerala samajams and organisations ever since he came to Mumbai. In 1961, there was flood in Mumbai and Pune, and immediately this young man who had just come to Mumbai from Kerala joined the Bombay Kerala Samajam and assisted them in flood relief work.

He has been a member of Bombay Kerala Samajam ever since he came to the city.

"I consider the Samajam my *tharawad*," he says.

When he shifted to Chembur, he was actively involved with the social activities of Sree Narayana Mandira Samithi, holding positions of Chairman of their cultural committee and Council Member for a period of time. He is very active with the Keraleeya Kendra Sanghatana and Vice-Chairman, Public Relations Committee for its Golden Jubilee celebrations *Mahakeraleeyam* - continuing till November 2011.

In 2006 Poduval shifted to Bhandup and he is active in the Mulund Kerala Samajam. Currently he is one of its two Jt



C K K Poduval being felicitated at the staging of *Priyamanasam* at Ghatkopar

Secretaries. Poduval is a social worker helping Malayalees in whatever way he can.

Awards have come his way. In 2010, Whiteline Vartha bestowed on him the Lifetime Achievement Award. Many organisations have felicitated him including Kalanjali Chembur which honored him in August this year during the staging of *Priyamanasam*.

Poduval's parents are the late P Ambu Poduval and late Kunjammamma. His wife, Manikutty hails from Payyanur. They have two daughters, educated, married and working as lecturers. The elder daughter Bindu works as a lecturer teaching MBA students in Ernakulam and her husband Dr Madhusoodhanan teaches at the Cochin University. Their second daughter Sindhu teaches at a Junior College in Mulund and her husband Rajesh Nair is a businessman.



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