

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Athipathi International Theatre Presents “13th Thisaivegam” –
The Longest Running Tamil Drama Festival in Singapore**

 Athipathi International Theatre presents
13th Thisaivegam- Tamil Drama Festival

THISAIVEGAM

திசைவேகம்
Festival of Tamil Dramas

Coming Soon

Performed in Tamil with English surtitles

Shows

Date : Friday 18-07-25 Time: 3.30pm Venue: UPTLC Auditorium Student Price: \$20 Public: \$30 Early Bird \$20	Date : Saturday 19-07-25 Time: 8pm Venue: UPTLC Auditorium Student Price: \$20 Public: \$30 Early Bird \$20
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தமிழர் பேரவை

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Singapore, May 31, 2025 – **Athipathi International Theatre** proudly announces the return of Thisaivegam, Singapore’s longest-running Tamil drama festival, now in its 13th celebrated edition. A cornerstone of the local arts scene, 13th Thisaivegam continues its tradition of spotlighting original short Tamil plays, showcasing the rich talents of Singapore’s theatre community.

This year’s festival takes on a special significance as it embraces the theme of Singapore’s National Day, offering audiences a heartfelt and dramatic reflection on identity, unity, and the nation’s vibrant multicultural spirit, each play promises a unique perspective, blending culture, creativity, and patriotism on one stage.

Artistic Director of Athipathi International Theatre, Pugalenthii shared, “Thisaivegam has always been a platform for emerging and established Tamil voices in Singapore. This year’s edition is particularly meaningful as we celebrate not just theatrical excellence, but also our nation’s journey and values.”

The festival will feature a diverse line-up of performers, writers, and directors, making it a must-attend event for theatre lovers and cultural enthusiasts alike.

Event Details: A Must-Watch for students and teachers

Performance Dates & Times:

- July 18, 2025 – 3:30 PM

1. Education Is the Goal, Not Just Grades [கல்வியே குறி, மதிப்பெண்கள் அல்ல]
2. Vote: Difference & Indifference [வாக்கு வித்தியாசம்]
3. Udayasuriyan [உதய சூரியன்]
4. Rabbit Tale [முயல்-வோம்]

- July 19, 2025 – 8:00 PM

1. Singapore Pledge [சிங்கப்பூர் உறுதிமொழி]
2. Kerani [கிராணி]
3. Question Mark [கேள்விக்குறி]
4. Let's Feast! [வாங்க சாப்பிடலாம்]

Venue: UPTLC Auditorium, 2 Beatty Road, Singapore 209943

Ticket Prices:

- Students: \$20.00
- Public: \$30.00
- Early Bird Offer: \$20.00

Reserve Your Seats Today!

Secure your tickets now at <https://forms.gle/bDLQEK8yzZhVxKhN9>

For More Information or Group Bookings:

Contact: Athipathi.theatre@gmail.com

Contact: Ooviya at **9026 7937** or email ooviyasampath284@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.athipathi.com/>

A Production Rooted in Excellence & Cultural Heritage

About Athipathi International Theatre:

Athipathi International Theatre Ltd, established in 2013, is a non-profit organization committed to producing high-quality Tamil dramas and fostering theatre talent under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Pugalenthii. Renowned for its innovative productions, Athipathi holds the distinction of staging Singapore's longest play, *Kavasam*, which ran for an impressive 28 hours and 20 minutes.

The organization also takes pride in organizing *Thisaivegam*, Singapore's longest-running Tamil Drama Festival, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2022. Over the years, Athipathi has produced more than 50 plays, including original works like *Silapathikaram*, *Avvaiyar*, *Vikramathitan*, *Periyar & KOSA*, *Adukku Veetu Annasamy*, *Minannuvan*, *Winmalumme*, *Siddar 42*, and *Bharathiyum Naanum*, displaying a diverse range of themes and styles.

Athipathi actively collaborates with Schools, Community Clubs and Narpani Pearavai to bring Tamil theatre to heartland audiences and students, ensuring accessibility and cultural relevance. Central to its mission is the *Winmeengal* project, supported by the Tamil Language Council, which trains over 300 aspiring actors, playwrights, and directors annually. Additionally, the *Winmeengal Theatre Project* offers free weekly workshops, empowering young artists and leaders through creative expression.

Their motto, "Tamil Theatre is FUN," reflects their vibrant and inclusive approach to theatre. Athipathi aims to expand globally, highlighting Singapore Tamil theatre internationally and establish itself as a beacon of Tamil theatre excellence worldwide

Why You Shouldn't Miss This Theatrical Spectacle

- ✓ **A Celebration of Singapore Through Tamil Theatre** – Experience a vibrant collection of short Tamil plays that reflect the heart and soul of Singapore, in honour of National Day.
 - ✓ **A Platform for Local Talent** – Witness the creativity and passion of Singapore's diverse Tamil theatre community as they bring original stories to life on stage.
 - ✓ **A Tribute to Heritage and Identity** – 13th Thisaivegam proudly continues its mission of preserving and promoting Tamil culture while embracing the shared identity of all Singaporeans.
 - ✓ **A Meaningful Cultural Experience for All Ages** – Whether you're a student, family, or theatre enthusiast, this festival offers an engaging and thought-provoking experience filled with emotion, humour, and local flavour.
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Join Us for an Unforgettable Theatrical Experience!

Experience the Magic of Timeless tales – Live on Stage!

Mark your calendars, grab your tickets, and prepare to be enthralled!

The next page contains the synopses of the plays.

Synopsis Thisaivegam 2025

Education Is the Goal, Not Just Grades

கல்வியே குறி, மதிப்பெண்கள் அல்ல

Kundavai, a high-achieving student, explodes when her groupmates Yusof and Tara modify her PowerPoint without permission. Her harsh words expose her obsession with grades over teamwork, leaving them hurt and defiant. When they quit the project, she realizes her mistake—school isn't about scoring 'A's but learning collaboration and discovering passions. The clash forces her to reflect true education shapes character, not just marks. "The wise wield humility as their greatest strength." Will Kundavai mend bridges, or will her pride cost her more than a grade? A lesson on ego, respect, and the real purpose of learning.

Playwright Kaushik

Directed by Pooja and Harshita

Singapore Pledge

சிங்கப்பூர் உறுதிமொழி

What if the Singapore Pledge was just empty words? This gripping play-within-a-play reveals the shocking truth when students explore this theory. As they abandon the Pledge's principles, their classroom society crumbles racial tensions erupt, privilege divides friends, and harmony shatters. Why is the Pledge our nation's bedrock?

This isn't performance - it's a mirror held to our future. The Pledge was never just words. It's the active choice we make every day to be "one united person." Will you leave reciting - or believing?

Playwright and Directed by Pugalenthii

Kerani கிராணி

Ayyavu, a humble sweeper, endures humiliation from his arrogant supervisor, Maniyan, yet finds dignity in his labour. His sacrifices bear fruit when his son, Ilango, rises to a high-ranking position. But pride turns to restraint—Ayyavu fears his lowly status might shame Ilango. A moving story of silent struggles, parental love, and unspoken societal chains and how Education uplifts a person breaks societal hierarchies and chains. A raw, emotional storm of pride, shame, and the unbreakable chains of class. How far must a father go to set his child free?

Story by Pon.Sundaraju

Dramatized by Pugalthii

Directed by Saran

Question mark கேள்விக்குறி

After hitting rock bottom, betrayed by family, haunted by a tragic accident, and rejected by society, a broken youth wrote a suicide letter to his late mother. But in pouring out his pain, he awakens to a revelation: true love demands nothing in return. With newfound strength, he chooses life, vowing to rebuild himself with compassion and purpose.

Playwright Gajendran and Shiva

Directed by Vigneswaran and Gajendran

Vote: Difference & Indifference வாக்கு வித்தியாசம்

Vijayalakshmi's lies made her leader—her rival's reputation in ruins, her victory built on deceit. But when her father, Arasu, uncovers the truth, her empire of lies begins to crumble. Can a leader forged in dishonesty ever truly win? In a fiery clash of ambition and morality, one apology could redeem her... or destroy everything. Power is fragile. The truth is not. Will she fall from grace—or rise with integrity?

The play explores complex themes such as the impact of social media, the temptations of power, and the need to uphold ethical values in leadership roles. It raises important questions about the boundaries of ambition and the long-term implications of our actions.

Playwright Pooja

Directed by Anbarasan

முயல்-வோம் Rabbit Tale

Koko, a shy rabbit, falls in love with Panpan, a rabbit from a different burrow. When Panpan moves in to join Koko's family, their parents resist due to their differences. With the help of friends Mottu and Pattu, Koko and Panpan try to bring their families together. This heartwarming story shows how friendship can overcome prejudice, teaching even rabbits to hop beyond boundaries and embrace acceptance.

Playwright Dr. Umayal

Directed by Kaaveya and Roopa

Let's Feast! வாங்க சாப்பிடலாம்

At a lively condominium BBQ, expats, and PRs—Oviya, KaviNila, and Sahana—bond over otak-otak and satay while dissecting Singaporean life. From navigating "kiasu" culture to decoding HDB rules, they share laughs and struggles, revealing how they're adapting (or resisting) the city's relentless pace. They joined Parasu and Guru.

A humorous, heartfelt take on belonging in Singapore's melting pot.

Adapted from Pugalenthii's *Kavasam*

Directed by Ambika and Kumutha

Udayasuriyan உதய சூரியன்

Udayasuriyan nervously awaits his online crush, Kalaivani, at Fort Canning Hill, clutching a watermelon rind for identification. A case of mistaken identity leads him to Sathyavani, whose boyfriend, Mayandi, arrives dressed like a ruffian and acting cheaply. Disapproving, Udayasuriyan subtly advises Sathyavani that she deserves better—someone presentable and respectful and she breaks off their relationship.

Later, he meets Kalaivani who agrees to have coffee with him and her eight cousins.

When a devastated Mayandi appears, Udayasuriyan helps him realize that dressing well and behaving properly are key to being respected in a cosmopolitan society. The humorous yet meaningful encounter highlights the importance of self-improvement for Indian youths seeking acceptance in a modern, multicultural world.

Playwright Pugalenthii

Directed by JJ Darshan