

# ABHINETRI

The Strīśārādhi of Nāṭyāyaṇa

Usha Nangiar



English  
**ABHINETRI**  
The Strī sārādhi of Nāṭyāyaṇa  
(Study)

by **USHA NANGIAR**

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### USHA NANGIAR

Daughter of the late Mizhavu maestro Chathakkudam Krishnan Nambiar and Kumaranelur Ezhumamatom Saraswathy Nangiār, Usha Nangiar was the first female disciple of Ammannur Mādhava Cākyār at the Ammannur Cācu Cākyār Smaraṇa Gurakulam. She continued there for seventeen years and received rigorous training under Ammannur Mādhava Cākyār and Ammannur Kuṭṭan Cākyār.

Usha taught at Ammannur Gurakulam for seven years. She had also taught for short term courses at Aṭṭakkalari, Bangalore and Adisakthi, Pondicheri. Presently she is working as a member of the teaching faculty in the Department of Theatre at Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady.

Usha Nangiar had presented papers in many national and international Seminars and Conferences besides organizing a number of Kūṭiyāṭṭam Workshops. She has contributed a lot towards the modification and development of Kūṭiyāṭṭam and Nañnyārkkūttu, her main contributions being the composition of the acting manuals and the presentation of 'Devimāhātmyam' and characters like Draupadi, Maṇḍodarī, Subhadra, Kārtiyāyani and Ahalya on stage.

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'The main contribution of Abhinethri is the performance manuals of Maṇḍodari's entry in Aśokavanikāṅkam which is the fifth act of Āścaryacūḍhāmaṇi and the entry of Kārtiyāyani in the fifth act of Subhadrādhanañjayam. The discerning lovers of art will be eternally thankful to Ūsha Nangiar for her penance like efforts and commitment in bringing these two characters who had not appeared on the stage in living memory on to the contemporary Kūṭiyāṭṭam stage. These performance manuals compiled after minutely examining several old texts including those written on Palmyra leaves, and consulting a number of scholars and exponents are undoubtedly an invaluable addition to the available literature on Kūṭiyāṭṭam. Subhadra's Purappāṭ and her Nirvahaṇa consisting of 55 verses have been included in the concluding part of the book. There is no doubt that Ūsha Nangiar's relentless efforts to take the art of Kūṭiyāṭṭam to greater heights will be lauded by art lovers just as they venerated the legendary floating Nangiar.'

- Dr. K V Vasudevan

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