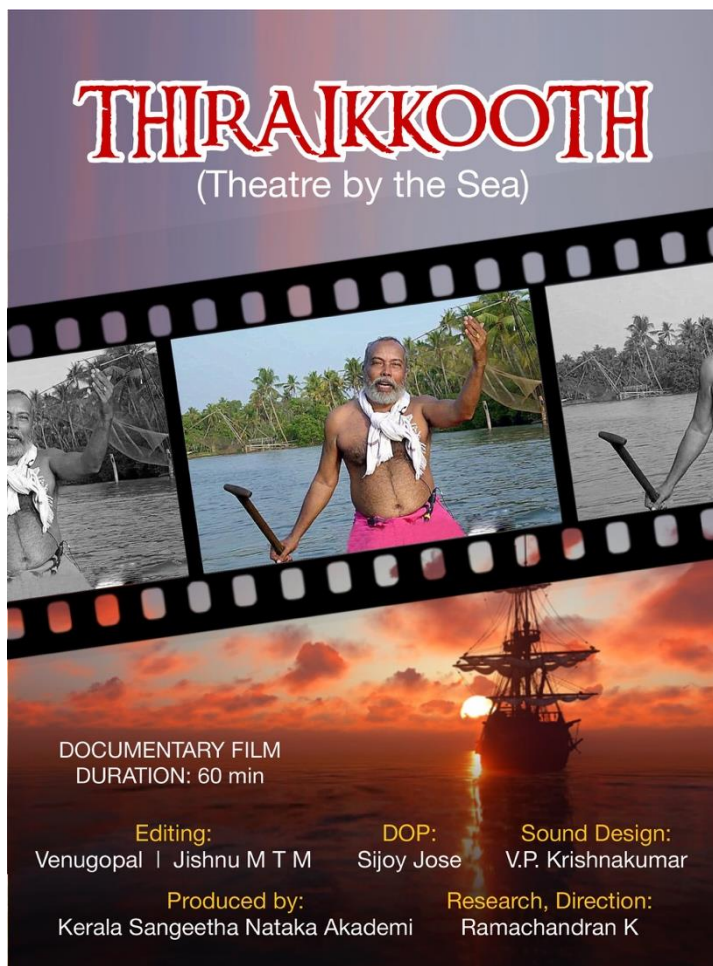


EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



CAVITTUNĀTAKAM ON SCREEN

FILMS & DISCUSSIONS (HYBRID)

-  Dates: 7th, 9th & 11th April 2025
-  Time: 16:30–18:00 hrs (CEST)
-  Venue: Room 028, Brechtbau || Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/94419542622>
Meeting ID: 944 1954 2622

Films & Filmmakers

Thiraikkooth (Theatre by the Sea) — Directed by Ramachandran K

The Fragments Of Illusion — Directed by J Bibin Joseph

Song Of Roland — Directed by Shijin Govind

FILM SCREENING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR

OPEN TO ALL

Asien-Orient-Institut | Abteilung für Indologie



About films:

- **Thiraikoothu (Theatre by the Sea)**
Director: Ramachandran K

Screening on 07.04.2025
Duration: 59 Mins

Thiraikoothu (Theatre by the Sea) is a documentary film on Chavittunatakam, the only surviving maritime theatrical tradition in the world, still practiced in the coastal regions of Kerala. Its content and early form were introduced to India through maritime trade routes from Portugal in the 16th century. Over time, it merged with native performance traditions, evolving into an indigenous theatre form that combines European content, Western costumes, vigorous footwork, hand gestures, and facial expressions influenced by Tamil folk musical drama and Kerala's performing arts. Preserved by the fisherfolk of Kerala's coastal communities, Chavittunatakam remains the world's only surviving maritime theatre tradition, making India its sole custodian. The film transforms the myth of this art form into real-time history through the voices of artists, historians, and live performances. The diversity of the tradition is highlighted through multiple performances, showcasing its distinctive foot-stamping dance, combat sequences, and fencing. In earlier times, a performance was only considered truly successful if the stage collapsed under the force of the stamping.

- **Fragments of Illusion**
Director: J Bibin Joseph

Screening on 09.04.2025
Duration: 56 Mins

Charlemagne, father of imperial Europe, has a disparate identity in a small coastal village, called Gothuruthu located in south Indian state Kerala. Charlemagne and his tales are part of the culture of the common people of this village. Charlemagne is locally known as "Karalmaan"; revered and cherished by those people. They perform a musical drama where Charlemagne appears as the main character. There are several tales about Charlemagne spread as folk tales throughout the village. This documentary discusses the story of Charlemagne and its relevance in the context of Gothuruthu in the light of directors' personal experience there.

- **Song of Roland**
Director: Shijin Govind

Screening on 11.04.2025
Duration: 19 Mins

In 'Song of Roland,' we follow Abhilash, a Chavittunatakam artist known as Roland, as he passionately performs the character of Roland on stage. However, his performances raise questions about why this art isn't widely accepted. This leads him on a journey to understand who decides if an art form is 'folk' or 'classical,' despite having all the qualities of a classical art. Our film explores his quest to challenge the authorities that define these categories and offers a thought-provoking look into the world of art.

