

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM KAVITHALAYA KRISHNAN

30th November 2018

Respected Mrs. Amudha/Chettinad Players!

CHENNAI is unique in a lot of ways. After all it is indeed the cultural soul of our country. Art is its ethos, its identity and its character. One such uniqueness is the annual music season in December when art is celebrated across the city. Chennai atmosphere fills with music, dance, theatre, literature and the mood of holy ambiance that is infectious. December is a pilgrimage time for art lovers, but to me this journey starts earlier - in November when Chettinad Players offer their annual prayer at the altar of Iyal, Isai, Naatiyam and Nadakam.

Chettinad Players presented their yearly mythological extravaganza *Parasurama* this year. As always, it was typically a thunderous presentation of theatre in its purest form. Theatre is the cliff the actor must jump from, without a parachute or a safety net. The actor must weave his net in freefall from strands of the applause and the knots of the stronger silences. It is the fire that tempers the raw ore of character and turns it into steel. It is the cultural child conceived in the womb of imagination, it is the sanest of life's creative madness, the cleverest of its creativity, the most unassuming in its pursuits, pure audacity in its bravado - theatre is exciting! Addictive! Yet it is life sustaining, charmingly romantic but also quite unreasonable in its demands. It can give you a high as well as a heart burn. It builds character, sows confidence, develops personality and this is the profound theatre that Chettinad players conceive and execute year after year, with a panache and an aplomb that can only be called, for lack of any other word – magical, magnificence.

Naming individuals would be unfair. Theatre is indeed a team game but it is that pinch of spice, and slice of flavour that makes a great meal become exciting!! Thotta Tharini's kitten Rohini promises to be just a tiger as her father is. The set was exquisite. Mrs. Amudha Lakshmi and her team have waved some wand and created another ancient world with their costumes. I appreciate their high level of motivation and hats off to their perseverance and patience, to their self belief and their passion for fine arts. Pursuit of excellence seems to be a part of their routine and staple diet.

Director Jayakumar is a master in theatrics and his rapport with the students is truly laudable. The work of the Kumaravels is as exemplary as ever. The language is easy on the ears and kind on the tongue of the characters. The lights, sound, stunts and dance add value to the spectacle. While the children will carry this experience all their lives, their parents will rejoice at that extra dimension in their children which will teach them better values, make them better people and induce respect for our epics. And behind all this goodness, the epitome of grace, charm, dignity and spirituality, the matriarch Mrs. Meena Muthiah is the monarch who surveys, supervises and

blesses all. Watching *Parasurama* is a humbling experience for ex-stage actors like me. My salutes to the team for keeping theatre as part of their curriculum.

A tree is valued by its fruits, a culture is valued by its art, a school is valued by its students -
Need I say more?

God bless Chettinad Vidyashram and Chettinad Players!

Kavithalaya Krishnan

		<p>The K Balachander award jointly instituted by Meena Aunty and Kavithalaya Krishnan in memory of the veteran director was presented this year to Sai Sanjana Edara, a proficient dancer from class 12.</p>
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