Ninasam Theatre Institute
Prospectus
Ninasam Theatre Institute was established in 1980. The main impetus behind it was the desire of imparting a formal theatre arts training to young enthusiasts of Karnataka, of harnessing a powerful medium like theatre to the specific needs of our contemporary cultural context, of activating the development of a large group of youngsters conversant with and engaged in theatre activities all over the state, and through all this, realising the dream of setting up a meaningful mass discourse.

Many of these objectives have been gradually and clearly concretising. Until 2015-16, the Institute has trained up about 575 persons, 418 male and 157 female, all from different districts of the state, and with an average age of 23 years.

A noteworthy fact is that of these 575 trainees, about 70% are now actively engaged in theatre. Of these about 50% are full-time theatre workers, another 20% are engaged in journalism & other professions.

A broad study of Kannada Theatre activities since 1980 reveals the evolution of two clear and vital tendencies - 'decentralisation' and 'professionalism'. The contribution of the Institute to this heartening development is also quite apparent. The Institute’s alumni have initiated and consolidated theatre activities in various remote areas of Karnataka. The professional repertory troupes of the state, Tirugana, Kinnara Mela, Janamadatta, Theatre Samarai, Atamata, etc., have a substantial number of our trainees as their members.

Another important aspect of the Institute’s achievement has been the application of an abstract, theory-centred subject like 'theatre training' to the specific realities of our cultural context, evolving, in the process, a practical training mode. It has always been the main aim of the Institute to explore in very practical terms a 'theatre language' fully suited to our present day needs, at the same time, however, giving due emphasis to equally important aspects like theories of theatre and mass communication forms. With this view, the Institute has, along these years, formulated and developed a scientific curriculum. It has prepared and published essential theatre literature in Kannada; has developed various modes for body, voice and acting training, and has built up an impressive library of print, audio, and material items relating to all the aspects of theatre.
Until 2015-16, the Institute has staged 146 major productions, and more than 205 exercise productions, which include the following:

**Sanskrit:** Oorubhanga, Bhagavadajjukiyam, Valivadhankam, Doota Ghatotkacha, Yajna Phala, Mrichakatika, Vidishey Vidooshaka, Abhijnana Shakuntalam, Matita Vilasa.

**Kannada:** Birudantembarra Ganda, Bectada Arasu, Yaaro Andaru, Poli Kitti, Smashaana Kurukshetram, Ahalye, Manjula, Sandhyaakala, Jaitoc, Tughaluq, Kadadida Necru, Mookabali, Dangeya Munchina Dinagalu, Gunamukha, Singarecva Mattu Aramanee, Prameelaarjuneeyam, AA Mani, Miss Sadarame, G.K. Maastara Pranaya Prasanga, Maharatri, Yashodhraa, Chandragupia, Bhattara Magalu, Hamsa Damayanti, Kantu, Etta Haride Hansa, Dharma Parakshe, Swayamvara Loka, Bharatha Yatre, Sethu Bandhana.

**Indian:** Ashad Ka Ek Din, Andhavyug, Adhe Adhure, Shantata Court Challoo Aahe, Andher Nagari Choupat Raja, Maharanir, Chandrabala Tharabala, Padmagandha, Kathe Kathe Karana.


**Other:** The Water Station, Death and the Horse-rider.
Besides its regular curriculum, blending both the theoretical and practical aspects as mentioned above, the Institute has from time to time organised special courses, workshops and study tours on related topics like film, literature, visual arts, music, company theatre, folk and traditional forms and children's theatre.

For the first two years of its existence starting from 1980, the Institute maintained itself on its own finances. The next two years it received temporary grants from the Government of Karnataka. Since being granted official recognition, it has been receiving regular Government grants. From 1991 onwards, the examinations are being conducted by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board.
DIPLOMA IN THEATRE ARTS
One year Course Offered by the Institute

The one year course, has been so designed as to provide a comprehensive theoretical and practical exposure to all aspects of Theatre. The emphasis there is on the needs of a theatre practitioner working in rural Karnataka.

**THE LOCATION** - The Institute is situated at Heggodu, a small village about 350 kms. from the state capital, Bangalore, 80 kms from the district headquarters and 10 kms from the taluka town, Sagara.

**THE STAFF** - Teachers who are creatively involved in Theatre, mainly drawn from the alumni of the National School of Drama and other such centres, are on the Staff of the Institute. Other theatre experts from Karnataka as well as from outside visit the Institute from time to time and provide special guidance to the students.

**THE FACILITIES** - The Ninasam Theatre Institute has an office, a library, a classroom, a rehearsal hall-cum-mini Theatre as well as the Shivarama Karantha Rangamandira, well-equipped prosenium theatre with a seating capacity of 600. Separate hostels form boys and girls and a guest house for the visiting experts are also on the Campus.

The Institute Library has more than 15,000 books on Theatre Arts, allied arts and subjects of related interest. The Library has also a large collection of audio-video tapes, CD/DVDs, slides, posters etc.,

In collaboration with Akshara Prakashana, the Institute has published a good number of books in Kannada. These as well as other literature are used as text materials for the course.

The Institute has the Stagecraft equipment required the Institute productions. An extensive wardrobe has also been developed for this purpose.
**THE INSTITUTE CALENDAR** - The course duration is of one year, divided into two terms—from 15th July to 15th December and from 31st December to 15th May. There is a winter Vacation usually between 16th and 30th December. The final examinations are conducted in April/May. The Institute does not follow the general calendar of holidays but has its own calendar suited to the nature of its work. The Institute works six days a week and classes are normally held between 7 am and 9 pm with appropriate breaks. Rehearsals and practical work are extended to Sunday when necessary.

**FITNESS AND ATTENDANCE** - The students must have the necessary physical and mental stamina to put in rigorous theoretical and practical work during the course. A minimum attendance of 80% is required to take the examinations. In exceptional cases this can be relaxed by the Director, to the extent of 5%.

Students should also abide by all the rules of discipline, time-table and general conduct. As this is a full time residential course, all the students are required to stay in the Institute hostels. Leave of absence is granted one in unavoidable situations.

**THE LANGUAGE** - The medium used in the course is Kannada and all the productions including acting classes are conducted in Kannada. However, English is used as a medium of instruction wherever conditions so demand. Thus, this course will not be useful to those who cannot read and write Kannada fluently.
ADMISSION - The basic academic requirement to join this course is a pass in SSLC, with a preference given for graduates, and those with a genuine interest and background in Theatre. Fluency in Kannada is essential and a working knowledge in English would be very useful. Normally candidates above the age of 30 are not selected.

Applications are called for through advertisements in the months of April and May prescribed application forms can be had from our office and on Ninasam Website. Applications accompanied with copies of necessary certificates and testimonials should be sent to the Director, Ninasam Theatre Institute.

Selections will be made though an interview at Heggodu on a notified day, usually in the first week of July. No TA/DA will be paid to candidates. Selected candidates will be informed in due course and they have to join the Institute on the first working day itself.

Fees and Scholarships
A maximum of 20 students are selected for each year’s training. The selection is made in three categories - 15 students who get scholarships from the Dept. of Culture, Govt. of Karnataka; 3 to 5 students who get External Scholarships; and 1-2 students from the teachers’ category. The details of the fees charged for these three categories are given in the attached paper that is sent to the applicants. The category and fee details are also available at the Ninasam website.
THE BOND TO BE EXECUTED - All the students are required to execute a bond when they join the Institute to the effect – a. that they will abide by all the rules and regulations of the Institute and will complete the course b. that they will pay back the total stipend in case they leave the course before completion and c. that they will work at least for one year in Ninasam Tirugata, the repertory company of the Institute, if they are invited.

SCHEME OF STUDY & EXAMINATION - The Course consists of six papers and the evaluation is based on both the written examination at the end of the year and internal assessment during the year. Each paper carries 100 Marks, 50 for theory exam and 50 for internal assessment. For a pass, a minimum of 40% is required. 50% and above is II class, 60% and above is I Class.

The final Examination is conducted by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination board. The nature of the examination is 'open' i.e., the papers are given 2 days prior to the examinations. Recognised Diploma Certificates and mark sheets are issued by the Examination Board.
SYLLABUS

The syllabus is broadly divided into six subjects. The topics covered in each paper are as follows.

1. Theatre Concept - The different modes of communication; Theatre as language; Theatre and other arts. Aesthetics: Eastern; Rasa Theory and its variations; Aesthetics in traditional and folk theatre forms; Western; Poetics; Aristotelian Theories about drama; Modern approaches to Aesthetics.

2. History of Drama - Western: Greek and Roman; Morality plays; Renaissance and Elizabethan; Neoclassical; Romantic; Realism and Naturalism; Postrealistic trends; Epic, Absurd etc.; Sanskrit: Pre-classical; Classical, Post-Classical; Modern Indian & Kannada Drama: Beginnings; Early historical and Social plays; Various trends realistic, political etc., Trends in contemporary Indian and Kannada Drama.
3. History of Theatre - Western: Primitive; Greek and Roman; Medieval; Renaissance, Elizabethan and Neoclassical; Commedia del Arte; Illusionistic Theatres; Realism and Naturalism; Post realistic trends; Epic Etc., Contemporary trends in Europe and America. Eastern: Sanskrit Theatre; Pre-classical, classical and post-classical' Traditional and Folk forms: various stages of development; China and Japan. Indian/Kannada: Beginning of Modern Theatre; Parsi Theatre, Non-commercial Theatre; The Post-Independence Theatre; Political, indigenous and other trends; Development of Kannada Theatre.

4. Acting - Physical Culture & Movement; Yoga; Relaxation; Realistic and stylised movements; Yakshagana and other traditional movements; Free dance. Improvisation & Characterisation: Stanislavsky System; Improvisations, analysis of roles; Scene-work. Acting Theories: Bharata, Stanislavsky, Meyerhold, Brecht, Grotowski and others.

5. Stage Craft - Concept of Design; line, mass, texture, emphasis, colour etc.; designs for theatre. Scene Design: Plan, Sketch, perspective, elevation, working drawings, projections; designing a set for a production; styles of scenic design. Properties: Classification, preparing props, papermache work, Lighting: Electricity-connections, dimmers, control boards; methods of lighting for different kinds of plays. Costume: Basics; study of a play/production for costume design; realistic, authentic and stylised costumes. Make-up: Facial Anatomy; the artist's face and the role; Basic, realistic and stylised make-up.

6. Theatre Practice - Major Productions: Three major productions in a year – realistic, comedy or farce and classical, from Kannada, Indian and European traditions. Classroom Productions: Poetry renderings; Children's plays; Yakshagana etc.,

Workshops, Special Courses - Relating to appreciation of literature, film, visual arts, music, dance etc.
Sixty-seven years of devoted collective work of local enthusiasts has crystallised into -
Ninasam - A theatre group which has made a mark on the theatre map of India;
Shivarama Karantha Rangamandira - One of the most well equipped auditoria in rural Karnataka;
Ninasam Chitrarasamaja - the only rural film society in India to publish books on film-education and to conduct film appreciation courses besides screening films regularly;
Ninasam Theatre Institute - the first theatre school in Karnataka modelled on the National School of Drama;
Ninasam Janasapandana - a two-year rural theatre and film dissemination project undertaken with a aid of the Ford Foundation USA;
Ninasam Tirugata - a rural itinerant theatre repertory that has been regularly holding travelling-shows all over Karnataka since 1985;
Ninasam Culture Course - a week long workshop/festival on issues related to the culture and society conducted every October for cultural activists in Karnataka;

All these have been achieved by a rural mass that has been striving to realise its modern democratic ideals of concurrent individual and collective development. They signify a microcosm of the new rural India that is reaching out to establish a meaningful relationship with the macrocosm.