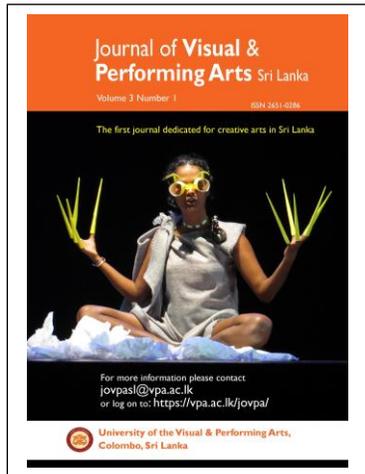


Peer Reviewed Journal Published by the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka



The **Journal of Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka (JOVPA-SL)** is a biannual research journal published by the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This journal intends to capture a wide scope of visual and performing arts related research, and also encourage multidisciplinary approaches in humanities and social sciences. JOVPA-SL also embraces academics and practitioner-researchers who are currently working in arts based research that enables wider discussion and critical approaches to creative arts practice and research. This journal further acts as a forum for critical enquiry, innovative practice, and creative pedagogy, addressing themes that may be domain-specific (e.g., dance, drama, performance studies, music, visual arts), or situated at the convergence of two or more disciplines.

The journal invites original, significant, and rigorous inquiry into all creative arts and performance studies within or across disciplines. It encourages debate and cross-disciplinary exchange across a broad range of approaches. The spectrum of topics includes theatre studies, performance studies, dance studies, ethnomusicology, music education, popular culture, dance and movement analysis, art history, art theory, visual and cultural studies, crafts, digital arts and design, films studies and fine arts.

The journal presents an innovative platform for researchers, students, practitioners, and educators to learn from and contribute to the field. All articles are subject to an initial editor screening, and a rigorous double-blind peer-review process before publication. The editor in chief of the journal is a member of the RIC committee member, Prof. Saumya Liyanage. The coordinating editor is Dr Anasuya Subasinghe.

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Sri Lankan Martial Arts ‘angampora’ and Performance Research

A three year research project was initiated at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA) Colombo in 2020 to explore means and ways of adapting some basic elements to tailor an actor training methodology to train contemporary actors for stage and screen. This project was titled ‘Lamp in a Windless Plays’: Developing an Actor Training Methodology through Sri Lankan Combative Arts was funded by the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and Highway, Sri Lanka.



This Research project was conceived and conducted by Prof. Saumya Liyanage and his research team, consisted of two research assistants, Lyudmyla Hocharova, Banduka Premawardhana, Project deputy coordinator Dr Samith Herath, two team members, Natasha Hillary, Samal Hemachandra and the project assistant, Sachini Athapaththu. Both research assistants reading two Phil degrees under the supervision of Prof. Liyanage exploring martial arts and actor training for theatre and films. An actor training laboratory is set up in Colombo with sixteen actors and dancers to learn Sri Lankan martial art angampora under a traditional martial arts teacher, Guru Karunapala. The Research team is intending to publish a series of papers, interviews and actors reflective journal entries in the journal titled *Mise en Abyme: International Journal of Comparative Literature and Arts*, edited by Prof. Armando Rotondi at Institute of the Arts Barcelona. The project concludes with a full fledged performance with the actors trained under martial arts Guru and this performance will be open for the public. In addition the research team the project will publish a monograph based on research findings and documentation of laboratory work. This project further develop an online digital repository with the material gathered through the research work consisted of photographs, video documentation, interviews, traditional martial arts teaching, and actors testimonies for future research.

Performing Arts in the time of Corona (PATOC) International Webinar at the Faculty of Dance and Drama University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo

A three day international webinar was organized by the Faculty of Dance and Drama, University of the Visual and performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka 21-23 December 2021. The title of the conference was ‘Performing Arts in the Time of Corona’: The Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on Performing Arts education and practice (PATOC). PATOC international conference invited practitioners, academics, students, and researchers all over the world to present their abstracts on the theme. The online conference started with the welcome speech by Dr Indika Ferdinando and he further presented the objectives of the conference. The chief guest of the conference, the Vice-Chancellor of UVPA, Senior Professor Rohana P. Mahaliyanaarachchi delivered the inaugural speech about the therapeutic value of performing arts. There were three keynote speeches on both days: Prof. William Peterson from Flinders University, Kalakeerthi Ravibandhu Vidyapathy and Professor Adrian McNeil from Monash University delivered their keynote speeches.



Prof William Peterson
Flinders University, Australia



Kala Keerthi Ravibandhu Vidyapathy
Sri Lanka



Prof Adrian McNeil
Monash University, Australia

Figure 3: Keynote speakers of the conference – PATOC 2020, UVPA Colombo

The first event of the PATOC conference was the keynote by Prof. William Peterson from Flinders University, South Australia and this session was chaired by Prof. Saumya Liyanage. Prof. Peterson discussed how a group of artists challenges the codependency of Covid-19 and suggests new ways of living, and practice creative arts in this pandemic time. The afternoon session of the day started with the keynote speech of one of the eminent dance practitioners and artists in Sri Lanka, Mr Ravibandhu Vidyapathy. Mr Vidyapathy suggested that dance practitioners should move to open spaces, use basic technical devices to create minimalist dance that glorify the aesthetics of artistically extended human movements and celebrate the dance art. This keynote session was chaired by Dr Anasuya Subasinghe. The second day of the conference started with another keynote speech delivered by Prof. Adrian McNeil from Monash University, Australia. This keynote session was chaired by Dr Priyeshni Peiris. Prof. McNeil discussed the impact of Covid-19 on the music industry considering two music festivals: *St. Kilda Festival* in Melbourne and the *Swar Samrat* Festival in Kolkata. Taking them as case studies, he concluded that universities have responsibilities to sustain and practice diverse musical heritages and find ways to cope with social and natural catastrophes.



Prof Saumya Liyange



Prof Adrian McNeil



Dr Or Kittikong



Prof William Peterson



Dr Chinthaka Maddegoda

Figure 5: *Conference final day panel members – PATOC 2020, UVPA Colombo*