



CREDITS

FEATURING

Pala Pothypitiye
Priyanthi Anusha
Pothypitiye Acharige Somasiri
M A Podihami

PRODUCER

Malaka Talwatte

DIRECTOR

Theena Kumaragurunathan

SET PRODUCER

Amila Galappatthi

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Striner Adams

WRITERS

Vindhya Buthpitiya
Theena Kumaragurunathan

EDITOR

Theena Kumaragurunathan

MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN

Isuru Kumarasinghe

COLOR GRADING

Hashan Sampath Marasinghe

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mohammed Siraj

ASSISTANT PRODUCER

Saman Kalubowilage

FOCUS PULLER

Gayan Geethapriya

AUDIO TECHNICIAN

Aruna Sanjaya

LIGHTING

S Rajendran

GRIP

Harsha Lakmal

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Mohammed Siraj
Amila Galappatthi
Theena Kumaragurunathan

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ranjith Abeywardana - Chief Custodian,
Southern Lanka Cultural Cooperation
Foundation

DANCERS

Dhanushka Madushan Pradeep
Wasantha Galle Lal Kahanda Wijerathne
Weligama Sumathipala Dewundara
Chamara Akurugoda Dulana
Hulandawa Milan

DRUMMERS

Henegama Siripala Thihagoda
WimalSENSA Heramba Isuru

ARCHIVE MATERIAL

Iffat Fatima

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE

Riyal Riffai

SOUNDTRACK

අඬන්නෙ ඇයි සුදු මැණිකේ
(Why Do You Cry, Maiden?) Lyrics:
Dharmasiri Gamage Music: Mohammed
Salih Singer: HR Jothipala

TRANSLATIONS AND SUBTITLING

Dilina Pathirage (English and Sinhala)
Anusha Sivalingam (Tamil)

IMAGE POST

Digital Post Services

KEY BIOS

Pala Pothupitiye

The winner of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2010, Pala's art confronts the political issues raised by colonialism and conflict in Sri Lanka – issues such as caste, tradition and modernity are regular motifs found in his work. A highly conceptual artist, he also incorporates materials and philosophies from his background in traditional fine art and ritual dancing. His work has been exhibited internationally in the US, UK, EU, China and India.

Vindhya Buthpitiya

Vindhya is an anthropologist working at the intersection of politics and visual culture. Her research is focused on war, photography, death and resistance in northern Sri Lanka, and examines the local and global aftermaths of civil conflict through the making and moving of images

Malaka Talwatte

Malaka Talwatte is an entrepreneur and art collector. Over a span of over 25 years Malaka has collected a cross section of art and antiquarian works related to Sri Lankan interests including fine art, first edition books, and maps and prints. He is the Chairman of the the George Keyt foundation, a foundation whose missions is promoting the arts in Sri Lanka.

Theena Kumaragurunathan

Theena is novelist-filmmaker. His debut novel 'First Utterance', a work of speculative fiction, was awarded Sri Lanka's National Literary Prize in 2016. Pala is his first feature film.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

'Pala' is a cinematic thovil ritual befitting my subject, the Sri Lankan contemporary artist Pala Pothupitiye.

Pala Pothupitiye's artistic journey is rare tale: he was born to a family of traditional healers in southern Sri Lanka. In their practice, this community engages a multi-sensory experience of sound, movement and visuals constituting a complex and collective ancient art form focused on community, wellness, and restoration.

A thovil is a ritual that is performed with the intention of healing all manner of physical, spiritual and social afflictions. Pala inherited this knowledge from his grand-uncle and father who proudly upheld these rapidly diminishing pursuits despite continuing caste-based discrimination and marginalization.

Growing up amid the upheavals and hardship of rural poverty, insurgency and war in 1980s Sri Lanka, Pala would go on to obtain a place at university to study fine arts, locating what is now his inimitable style and expressly political repertoire of

painting, sculpture and performance that draw on the sacred knowledge and aesthetics of his lineage.

I imagined Pala's story as a cinematic ritual and ode to the sensory intricacy and catharsis of a thovil. Every aspect of the film - its writing, photography, music, and the choices made in the editing bay - were done so with this in mind.

This film is a kaleidoscopic audio-visual conversation between these ancient and contemporary artforms coupled with insights from artis, his wife Priyanthi, and his parents to share with the viewer Pala's extraordinary journey to becoming one of Sri Lanka's most well-regarded artists.

Importantly, it is an endeavor to honor Pala's community and inheritance, and echo his singular and vocal manifesto demanding recognition for the creative, social, spiritual and intellectual value of these traditional art forms that have long-been dismissed into the realm of folk art and craft.

– Theena Kumaragurunathan





CONTACT DETAILS

Email:

palafilmk@gmail.com

Phone:

+94 773 017571

Website:

thepalafilm.com

Instagram:

[@palafilmk](https://www.instagram.com/palafilmk)