

Name: T. Dharmendra Babu

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Experience Summary:

Playwright, fiction writer, film critic, translator, freelance journalist and independent film maker. Have traversed a broad terrain of fields ranging from literature, philosophy, theatre, cinema, history and socio-political issues within the Tamil social-cultural context for the past 25 years.

Published two books: 1) A translation work titled “The abolition of work” in 2004. 2) A short work “The Politics of Music” (in Tamil) in 2007.

Have organized seminars, conferences and workshops on history, cinema, literature and story-telling projects for children.

Seminars and Workshops:

Organized seminars on “Media and Civil Society” and “Smart phones and Pedagogy” in collaboration with the Visual Communication Department of Loyola College Chennai, in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Organized 9 monthly seminars on various academic topics, as convenor of New Tamil Studies in 2015 -16.

Curated an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, photography, along with theatre and music performances, film screenings and poetry reading sessions titled “Serene Perceptions”, 16 August – 22 August, 2007.

Curated “Classical Documentary Film Workshop”, screening 15 documentary classics, organized by the Madurai based film society *Yadhartha*, 12.02.07 to 15.02.07.

Curated a screening of three films, *Powers of Ten* by Charles Eames, *Soldier Girls* by Joan Churchill and Nicholas Broomfield and *Full Metal Jacket* by Stanley Kubrick with an introductory lecture on different modes of documentaries and the relation between reality (in documentaries) and fiction at the Film Festival organized by the Department of Performing Arts, Pondicherry University on the eve of their BI-decennial celebrations and Inauguration of Audio- Visual Unit on 11th October 2006.

Curated a documentary film festival in Chennai screening around 60 documentary classics in March 16-25, 2006, with the support of Visual Communication Department of Loyola College, Alliance Francaise, Chennai, Department of Tamil of University of Madras, MGR Film and Television Training Institute, Chennai, and DIBICA Chennai.

Conducted a 10-session story telling workshop for children organized by “Katha Foundation” in 1998.

Translations:

Translation of “Early Writing System – A Journey from Graffiti to Brahmi” a research work on Archaeology by the renowned academic Prof. K. Rajan, Department of History, Pondicherry University, commissioned by International Institute of Tamil Studies, December 2015 – May 2016.

Translation of two articles, “The Abolition of Work” by Bob Black and “The Right to be Lazy” by Paul LaFarge published as “Uzhaippai Ozhippom” (The Abolition of Work) published by Adayalam Publishers, Jan’ 2004.

A series of translated articles on the politics and cultures of Islamic societies:

“The Islamic counter-reformation” by Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na’ im from *New Perspective Quarterly*, Winter 2002 in Kavitha Charan, July-August and May-June issues, 2003.

“The Islamic Awakening’s Second Wave” by Hassan Al- Turabi from *New Perspective Quarterly*, Winter 2002 in Kavitha Charan, May-June, 2003.

“Islam: The Postman of Civilization” by Haris Silajdzic from *New Perspective Quarterly*, Winter 2002, in Kavitha Charan, Nov-Dec’ 2003.

“Osama bin Laden: Financier of Desert Islam” by Gaber Astour from *New Perspective Quarterly*, Winter 2002, in Kavitha Charan, Nov-Dec’ 2003.

“Political Islam” by Samir Amin from *Frontier*, April 20-26, 2003, in “*Ner*” (The Straight Path) a theoretical journal in Tamil, January 2004.

Editor of the Literary Supplement: 4, May 1998 of *Nirapirihai* as a special issue on Afro-American Literature including translations of:

“The Elbow Room” a short story by James Allen Macpherson.

“The Man who killed his shadow” a novella by Richard Wright.

Folk Stories collected by Zora Neal Hurston, from the Norton Anthology of African-American Literature, ed. by Henry Louis Gates. Jr, and Nellie Y. Mckay, W.W. Norton & Company, 1997.

and

Poems by Gwendolyn Bennet, Nikki Giovanni, Audre Lorde Dorris L.Harris and Rita Dove.

Creative Works:

Short film titled “Pen Selvam” for the Department of Social Welfare and Women’s Empowerment in April 2022.

Short film titled “En Arumai Kannukkutti” for the Department of Social Welfare and Women’s Empowerment in June 2021.

Short film titled “Shiva: The Third Eye” for UNESCO in 2007.

A short story titled “Vedhalam Solla Marandha Kadhai” (The tale that the zombie forgot to tell) published in the Tamil entertainment magazine “Ananda Vikatan” published July 2019.

“Chellammal – An Epilogue” - A meta – fictional short story published in the Tamil Ezine tamil.com, May 1999.

Written four plays: 1) “Paramapadham” (The Lord’s Feet) – a retelling of Mahabaratha from the point of Sakuni – a Nietzschean critique of resentment in 2005; 2) “Vamsavadham” (Slaughter of a Vamsa) – on the Genocide of Sri Lankan Tamils in 2008; 3) “Kadukka Legiyam” (The medicine of Kadukka) – on education system in 2011 and 4) “Seema Chaami” (The God of the West) on Koodankulam Nuclear plant in 2012.

Journalistic Works:

Editor of the magazine “Thulir”, published by the CSR department of Michelin, March, 2018.

Editor of Tamil ezine “New Tamil Times” in 2014 – 15.

Bureau Correspondent for the month of April, 2014 to Maharajah TV, Sri Lanka providing Indian Election News updates in English.

Editor of “Maiam” – a web magazine planned to be launched by Actor Kamal Hasan, March – November 2010.

Editor of truthdrive.com August 2009 – February 2010.

Contributed articles on current affairs, political theory and film criticism to online platforms of Tamil news outlets and magazines The Tamil Hindu, Nakkheeran, Ananda Vikatan and Minnambalam.

Lectures and Seminars:

“Technology and Education – An Overview” – Paper presented at the seminar “Smart phones and Pedagogy” organized by “Vinaithogai” in collaboration with the Visual Communication Department of Loyola College, September, 2018.

“Media Convergence – Some Concerns” – Paper presented at the seminar “Changing Media Landscape” organized by the Department of Visual Communication, Loyola College & St. Pauls Institute of Communication Education, Mumbai, at Loyola College, Chennai on December 20, 2017.

“Delimitation of Civic Space by the Media” - Paper presented at the seminar “Media and Tamil Civil Society” organized by “Vinaiithogai” in collaboration with the Visual Communication Department of Loyola College, December, 2016.

“Archaeology and the Writing of Modern History” – Paper present at the national seminar on “Keezhadi Archaeological Findings and New Directions in Tamil Culture”, organized by the Tholkappiar Chair of International Institute of Tamil Studies and New Tamil Studies, October, 2015.

“The World of Vision of the Cinematic Apparatus and its Alternative Possibilities” - Monologue presented at the National Seminar on Tamil Journalism and Mass Communication, organized by the Department of Tamil, Government College of Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala on 08.02.07.

“The Relevance and Limits of Subaltern Studies and Post-Colonial Studies” - Lecture presented at the University Grants Commission’s Refresher Course for P.G. level Teachers under the topic “Literature, Language and the impact of Globalization” at the Academic Staff College, University of Madras on 25.09.06.

“Towards a Historiography of Subversive Histories” - Paper presented in the Seminar on Subaltern Studies organized by the Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras on 09.09.2006, critically evaluating the achievements of the Subaltern Studies anthologies and charting out the possibilities of having a radical rupture with “History” as conceived and practiced by the western academia, in a move towards writing alternative histories of the subalterns and the marginals.

“Back to the Text” - critical appraisal of the play “Prahalaadha Charitram” directed by Gill Alan and staged by Koothu-p-pattarai in the Tamil journal for theatre, Kattiyam, October 2004.

“What is that thing called post-modern novel? Why doesn’t anybody talk about it?” - critical article on the rise of the post-modern novel in the west, situating it in the trajectory of Romanticism and High-modernism, in the Tamil literary magazine, Theera Nadhi, November 2003.

“Why Art?” - critical appraisal of the paintings and installations of the artist Ms. Benitha Perciyal in the light of a philosophical reflection on the function of art from a Nietzschean perspective, in the literary magazine Panmugam, July – September, 2003.

“Critical remarks on Philosophy, Praxis and Art” - monologue from the perspective of “Critical Performance” in the little magazine Kavitha Charan, January – February 2003.

“Dravidian Movement and the Concept of Citizenship in the Tamil Political community” - monologue presented at the seminar on Dravidian Movement organized by Madurai Research Centre on May 24-25, 1997, published in Nirapirihai Issue No: 9, November 1997.

“Re-inscribing Subaltern Studies from a Post-Structuralist Perspective” – monologue presented at the writer’s meet on Subaltern Studies, organized by Nirapirihai, held 16-17, November 1996 at Kumbakonam, later included in the anthology “Dominant Discourses in Tamil in the light of Subaltern Studies”, in Tamil.

Personal Information

Date of birth:	25.01.1971
Gender:	Male
Marital status:	Married
Education:	MA English Literature
Languages known:	Fluent in Tamil and English